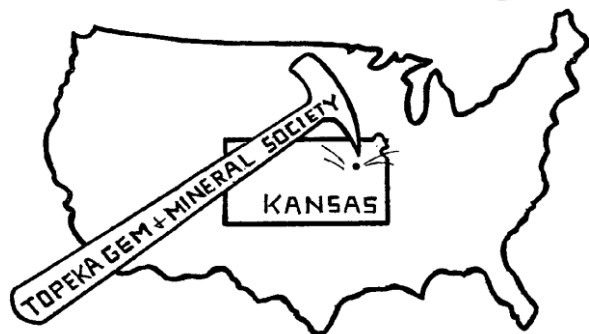


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



www.TopekaGMS.org or
 Facebook: Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Field Trips

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 Organized December 3, 1948

Member of Rocky Mountain Federation of
 Mineralogical Societies American Federation of
 Mineralogical Societies



The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 69, No. 5
 May 2026



The Purpose of The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society shall be exclusively educational and scientific: (1) to promote interest in geology and the lapidary arts; (2) to encourage the collection and display of rocks, gems, and minerals; (3) to encourage field trips and excursions of a geological, or lapidary nature; and (4) to encourage greater public interest and education in gems and minerals, cooperating with the established institutions in such matters.

Meetings: 4th Friday of each month, September to May, 7:15 pm, First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins Ave, Topeka, KS 66604. No meeting in December unless notified of a change. Picnic meetings are held, June, July and August.

Dues: Individual, \$15.00; Couple, \$20.00; Junior (under 18 years of age), \$5.00. Dues are collected in December for the following year. Send dues to: **Millie Mowry, Treasurer, 1934 SW 30th St, Topeka, KS 66611.**

www.TopekaGMS.org

2026 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Cab of the Month	Renee Rippetoe	314-280-6034
1 st Vice Pres.	David Dillon	221-4315	Cab of the Month	Jane Hanni	845-8590
2 nd Vice Pres.	Desiree Gardner	221-8862	Field Trip Coord.	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
Secretary	Stacy Haug	1-857-3350	Publicity	Donna Hedge	620-660-1651
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Welcome/Registration	Harold Merrifield	633-9745
Directors	Doria Skinner	231-9347	Property	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
	Jim Baer	1-256-2432	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	Jacob Gardner	221-4110	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Historian	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Show Chairman	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Federation Rep	Chuck Curtis	286-1790	Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	221-4315
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Librarian	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Jr. Rockhound Leader	Dennis Hippe	230-6729
Web Master	Chad Skinner	640-6617	Show Case Coordinator	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790

Area Code for all numbers is (785).

EXCHANGE BULLETINS WELCOME

For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above or email at rock2plate@aol.com.
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

May is here. Graduations, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, gardening, mowing and more! Our regular meeting is Friday May 22 at First Congregational Church. We have lots to discuss, so please join us. I hope you will pick up some show flyers & coupons for this year's show. Post them at work, hand out at gatherings, First Fridays and wherever you can, to help the club get the word out. With our venue change to The Woodshed Event Center we need to let the public know about this change. Starting in June our meetings will start earlier (6:30) for our pot-luck picnic's. They will be indoors at the church. Bring ideas about places for field trips. Hope to see you this month!

Cinda Kunkler TTGMS President

The TGMS monthly meeting for 05/22/2026 will be a silent auction. Please bring anything you would like to sell to be placed on the auction tables! Remember, all proceeds go to the club for these auctions. We like to keep items mostly rock/fossil related but feel free to bring homemade treats or anything else you think others would like!

We will set up auction tables with items and bid sheets before the meeting starts. Please remember, bidding does not start until after the club business part of our meeting is over. There will be an announcement with the start and end times before it begins. Any bids placed before the start of the action will not count so that we can make it fair for all members who attend!

Also, we are asking any member who attended the field trip to the Wamego MCM quarry on 04/26/26 to bring your favorite finds. We will have all those items displayed on the front table during the meeting for members to look at and for new members to see what sorts of goodies can be found on these field trips! If you can, bring a small piece of paper that identifies the item you found along with your name please!

-Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS

Greetings Fellow Field Trippers,

No Field Trip for May.

Chuck Curtis
Field Trip Coordinator

TTGMS Event Calendar

MAY 2026			June 2026		
1	F		1	M	
2	S		2	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
3	S		3	W	
4	M		4	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p and Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
5	T		5	F	
6	W		6	S	
7	T		7	S	
8	F		8	M	
9	S		9	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
10	S		10	W	
11	M		11	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
12	T		12	F	Board Meeting FCC 7 pm
13	W		13	S	
14	T		14	S	
15	F		15	M	
16	S		16	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
17	S		17	W	
18	M		18	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
19	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	19	F	
20	W		20	S	
21	T		21	S	
22	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15 Meeting 7:30 pm 1701 SW Collins	22	M	
23	S		23	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
24	S		24	W	
25	M		25	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
26	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	26	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 6:30 Pot-Luck Picnic 1701 SW Collins
27	W		27	S	
28	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p	28	S	
29	F		29	M	
30	S		30	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
31	S				

As A Reminder!

If you are wanting to take a class in Silversmithing or wire wrapping you are to call either Jim Baer at 785-256-2432 or email him at jimbaer73@gmail.com, the Monday before class to let Jim know you will be there. For wire wrapping contact Millie Mowry at 785-267-2849 or email rock2plate@aol.com, as she holds class at her house.

JR ROCKHOUND Classes & Reminders

Here are reminders of the next months of classes: **First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins Ave., Topeka, KS.** Sign in starting at 6:00 pm and classes starting at 6:30 pm. 1st Thursday of each month.



<https://www.facebook.com/TopekaGMSJuniorRockhounds>

To register for the Junior Rockhounds or any of the classes, email:

Dennis Hippe at: go.purple@hotmail.com

Next Class: June 4 2026, Sand, by Donna Stockton

Reminder: If you want to earn the patches from the classes that you have attended you need to turn in your homework assignments.

Rocks for Juniors

Reminder to bring any extra rocks you might have that you would like to donate to the Junior Rockhound Club. We are trying to let the kids go on a "field trip" after class. Some of them really don't have much of a chance to add to their collection. We will have a table set up at the back of the room that they can come to and let them each pick out four rocks that you have graciously donated. This way they can add to their collection. Thank you so much for your contributions. This wouldn't be possible without you.

Dennis Hippe

The TTGMS Library

In the TTGMS Library there are well over 100 books to choose from That cover a vast array of subjects of lapidary art and geology. The library has currently moved to the church storage area, contact Cinda if interested in checking out a book.

Dillons Community Reward Program

[MM1]

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society has enrolled with the Community Rewards with Dillon's Store. You can enroll your shopper's card at: www.dillons.com/communityrewards once you sign up it will take about 7 to 10 days to be activated and our Club to start earning the rewards. At the bottom of your Kroger receipt, you will notice "At your request, Kroger is donating to 'your organization name'".

If you have any other questions email DCR@dillonstores.com

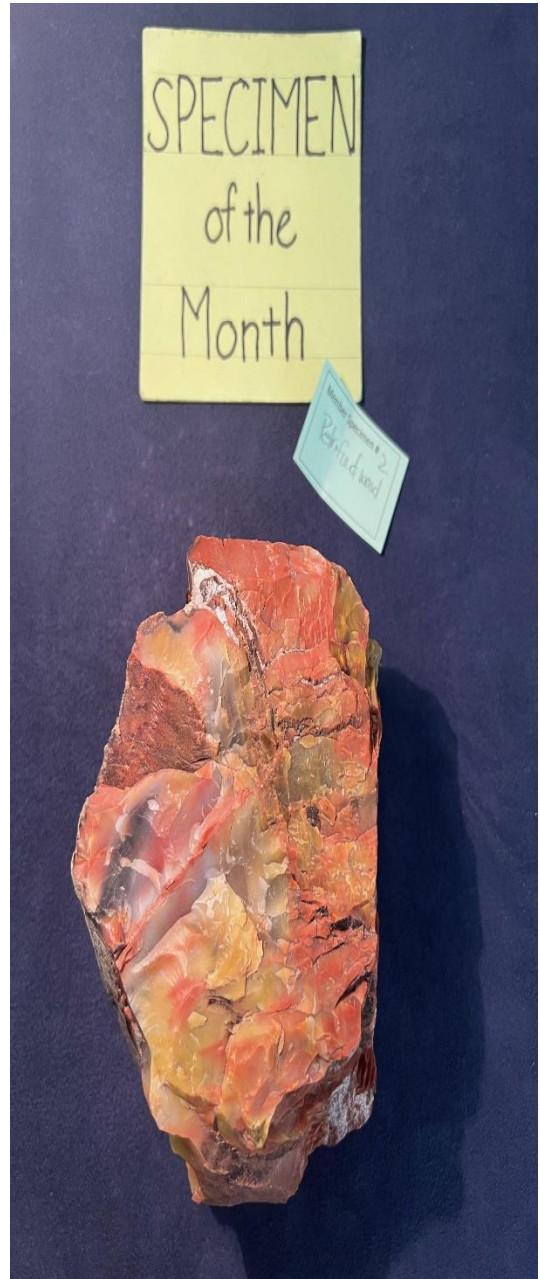
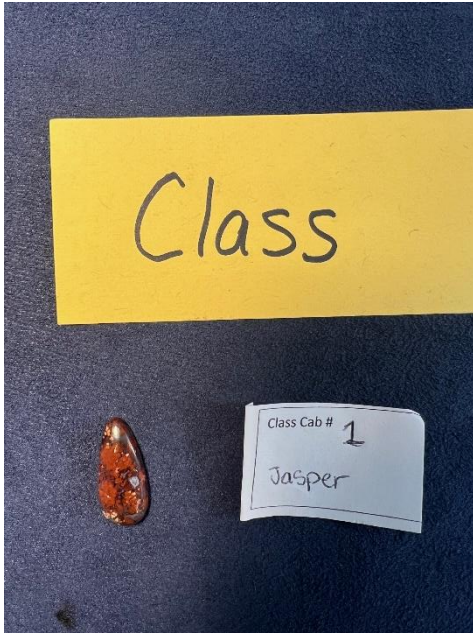
(You do not lose your fuel points).

Oct 2025 to Dec 2025.....Rebate amount \$37.33 (paid in Jan)

Jan 2026 to Mar 2026.....Rebate amount \$39.93

CAB
FOR

OF THE
MONTH
APRIL 2026



Emily Gonnolla

Matt Filby

Cinda Kunkler

Starting In June, July & August It's Pot-Luck Picnic Time

Bring your favorite covered dish to share, your own plate and silverware and drink. Your dishes can consist of a meat dish, casseroles etc. salads, deserts, vegetables to snack on or anything you like to eat at a picnic. We will eat at 6:30 p.m. at the same room as we hold our meetings.

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society
Executive Board Meeting, April 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Cinda Kunkler, Chuck Curtis, Dave Dillon, Jim Baer, Millie Mowry, Dennis Hippe, Stacy Haug, Dorea Skinner, Chad Skinner, Donna Stockton (on the phone)

Call To Order: President Cinda Kunkler calls the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Stacy distributes copies of the February and March board meeting minutes to members for review. Dave moves to accept the minutes as they are written, Chuck seconds. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Millie reports the club account balance. There are three round tables at the church tonight for sale for \$40 (or \$15/ea.) that Cinda asks if we might be able to use for the club. They could be used at the show, if needed. It is decided that we will purchase the tables. We haven't yet received anything in the mail regarding the rent increase at the church, but the fee will be increasing to \$100. Chuck moves to accept the increase in the rate, Dave seconds. Motion carries.

Old Business: None

Communications: Millie does have coupons available tonight. There was a mistake on the old coupons, so they will need to be destroyed if anyone has them. She has corrected the error and had them reprinted.

Publicity: Donna, Donna, and Janie are not here tonight. Donna Stockton sent photos to Dorea on Messenger to share with the group, but it was on her phone. These photos will be discussed at the next meeting on the 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Elmont. Cinda reports that Donna Hedge has been working on the flyer, which she needs to send to Cinda so that she can get it to RMFMS to put in their newsletter. Jane mentioned to Cinda on Tuesday that the man from Pineapple Dream wants to know what night in May we want to do the fundraiser, and approximately how many people we expect to attend. It will run from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Millie states that doing a fundraiser at a restaurant where people would come in and have a full meal might bring in more money. Cinda will be able to set up a table outside to hand out coupons and talk with people. The event at Pineapple Dream would be on a weeknight, Monday-Thursday; Cinda thinks a Wednesday would work best since we have classes on Tuesdays. Cinda suggests Wednesday, May 13th. This could be advertised on our Facebook pages. Dorea sent out an email to Jason about accessing the Facebook page, but she has not yet heard back from him. Donna Stockton will try to have some posters and will get in touch with Channels 27 & 13 to see if we can get someone on there.

Donna Stockton reports that she cannot read the green and hot pink highlighted items on the schedule page in The Drifter when she prints it out. It is noted that highlighted items on documents tend to print out darker than what they appear on the screen which might make it too dark to read. Jim suggests instead of using highlighting, a colored font could be used instead which should print out fine. Millie decides that she will not use the highlighting feature anymore.

Show: Dave hands out a list of 19 dealers he has sent contracts to. The first one listed is a new one - Thomas and Robert Schulz. Decker Fossil and Science Museum is interested in coming. Sand and Rose has sent some pictures to Dave that show the types of items they have, which are mainly crystals with a really nice setup. Spear T wants to come to our show, but the family may be obligated in California on the same weekend. Not everybody on the list is necessarily coming. Mr. Marv Faben (?) sent a letter to Dave that he reads out loud to the group. He will not be coming this year as he is semi-retiring and cutting down on the number of shows he will be going to. Peggy's Pearls retired last year. Purty Silver and Rocks, Minerals, and Things have both sent in checks so far. Dave mentions one concern some of the vendors have is what electrical will be available at the new location. They want to know if they can plug into things for displays on their tables. Dave would like to find out for sure what we and can't do there. Dorea notes that when we toured, the electrical was on the pillars and along the walls. Another concern some vendors have has to do with door prizes. Sometimes, a consumer might be in the middle of shopping at a table but will leave when their number is called, and then not return back to the table. They would like to have some kind of door prize system where the dealers would have vouchers that could be spent at their tables. We will have to look more into ways of doing this. Some vendors said they would not have liked going to TPAC because there is not enough parking available, and their price would be higher if we had to rent tables. Jim has been talking with John Cooper in regards to security, but we will need to talk to the company he works for, not necessarily him. Chuck is going to take it upon himself to call some more places to inquire about security. The Schulz boys work for a security company. The question is raised about what we really need in lines of security for the show? Traditionally, we would try to get dealers in on Friday night to set up with a goal of getting out of there at 8:00 p.m. Jim suggests we would need security from about 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 pm

Sunday. We should only need one person, but Chuck will ask for prices on one person vs. two people. Cinda and Millie saw something on tv regarding the Wabaunsee County Sheriff's office doing security at a new restaurant in Topeka, so might check with them to see how much they would charge.

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Field Trip: Chuck reports there is a field trip lined up for Wamego Quarry on the Sunday after our regular meeting. Millie and Brad have sent out emails to club members. Cinda notes that the meeting in May is on the 22nd, which is Memorial Day weekend. She suggests changing it since many people may have plans to do other things. Chuck decides he will skip planning a field trip for May. He also notes that Matt Devader, who is related to members who were junior rockhounds, invited us to come hunt at his place up in Jackson County. He has a big farming business.

Junior Rockhounds: Dennis reports the April class was "Fossils" by Dr. Boyd. There were 7 kids present and it was a good class. The May 7th class will be "Fluorescents" taught by Will. Donna Stockton is teaching the "Sand" class on June 4th. Brad and Cinda have some sands that they can bring. Donna has sand, labels, and a thing that hooks up to the microscope to show on the computer, she just needs to figure out how to use it before then.

Webmaster: Chad Skinner reports Mille sent him a notice that the domain registration was due, so he made the payment. He has a rough draft of the field trip made out that he plans on posting tomorrow. Has also worked on the show notice which will be posted soon. He asks Millie for a copy of the coupon so that it can also be added to the site.

Shop: Jim Baer reports it has been very quiet the past few weeks in the Silversmithing area.

Historian: Nothing to report

Time-Sensitive: None

New Business: None.

Reminders: The McPherson show is scheduled May 1st-3rd. The Wichita show will be April 24th-26th.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Chuck moves to adjourn the meeting, Dave seconds. Motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Submitted by: Stacy Haug, TTGMS Secretary

AZURITE

By: Russell Behnke

Azurite is one of the most popular minerals with mineral collectors. It is found in all price and size ranges. Being an ore of copper, it is found most abundantly in copper mines. Azurite crystallizes in areas above the water table where the original ore-bearing rock (which generally contains or contained copper sulfides such as chalcopyrite) is slowly, attacked by descending mineralized fluids. When conditions are right, and carbonate ions such as occur in calcite or limestone are available, these ions can combine with copper ions leached from the ore and the copper carbonates of azurite and/or malachite may slowly crystallize in open spaces in the rock.

The best crystals of azurite are generally found in places where the water table is far below the surface. Deserts, or near deserts, are ideal environments for azurites. The two most noteworthy sources for superb crystals, Tsumeb, in South West Africa (Namibia), and Bisbee, in southern Arizona, are both in very dry localities.

Tsueb produced the largest azurites ever found. Just how large the largest one ever encountered would be is hard to say, as there were rumors of some extraordinary crystals that apparently were not saved. But certainly a few were saved that approached 10 to 12 inches long. Perhaps the most interesting of these exceptionally large crystals is a group of azurites which were once on display at the Newmont Mining office in New York. The crystals were nearly black, highly lustrous, with individuals to 8" long and the overall size and perfection of the group was most impressive. It was one specimen I dreamed of prying loose from its owner. Supposedly Newmont, which ran the mine in Tsumeb, bought the specimen from a bar. The story was that the specimen had been used by one of the miners to pay off a \$265.00 bar tab. Today it sits in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. It was

While no locality can equal the best of Tsumeb, Morocco has in recent years produced some very fine large crystals to perhaps 4 or 5 inches long. Bisbee was once a major source for fine crystals of several different habits, including rose shaped aggregates. The best roses have definitely come from Bisbee. One exceptional 4" rose sold for \$35,000 some years ago. In the last 10 years, azurite roses have been mined at LaSal, Utah, and Shilu, Guangdong Province, China.

These are generally a lighter blue than Bisbee roses, which are often nearly black, but are very lustrous. In some of the best Bisbee specimen's bright blue azurite crystals appear to be growing out of malachite matrixes. Sometimes the azurites are pseudomorph Al and are replaced by malachite, in whole or in part. Other Bisbee azurites occur not as crystals, but as beautiful botryoidal masses. Rarely, azurite stalagmites are offered for sale. Slices of such material may show alternating layers of malachite and azurite or just different shades of azurite. It is these different varieties and habits which make azurite an attractive addition to any collection.

Inside An Agate

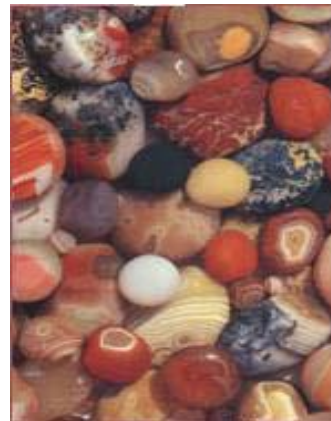
Agates with solid inclusions are some of the most beautiful agates in the world. Solid inclusions may be shaped as sagenite, plume, dendrite, or moss. Inclusions occur where iron oxide, manganese oxide, or other oxides are present when the agate is formed. The oxide minerals grow in the agate when it is in a liquid or gelatinous state. The inclusions grow and are supported by this liquid medium.

SAGENITIC AGATE is any agate having acicular or needle like mineral growths. These hair like filaments are often arranged in fans or sunbursts. The inclusions come in a wide array of colors. Sagenite has been found in over 250 different agate deposits worldwide, a little in most agate fields, probably less than five percent of the available agate in most fields.

PLUME AGATE has fluffy inclusions which often appear to be soft and have depth. Sometimes plume agate inclusions resemble feathers, plants, or flowers. Colors may vary as in sagenite. Plume is surprisingly more common than most of us might believe. Many collectors know of Priddy Plume, Graveyard Point, Del Norte (Colorado), West Texas, and Mexican Plume.

DENDRITIC AGATE has thin, two-dimensional, treelike growths, usually black or dark brown, as is the case with Montana Agate. Often dendrites form between flat “waterline” bands of agate. Dendrites may also occur in limestone, talc, and sandstone, and in beryl, corundum, and other minerals.

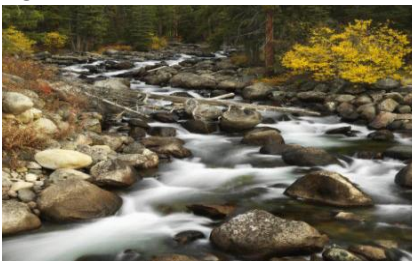
MOSS AGATE has inclusions in the agate random in pattern, often creating the appearance of seaweed or moss. Moss agate comes in many colors and is often green. Moss is the most common type of inclusion in agate.
(Source: Via CMS Tumbler 3/11, Golden Spike E - News, 9/10; THE CLACKAMETTE GEM May 2011: a reprint from the Drifter 8/2014)



Lithophyllosis?

Do you have LITHOPHYLLOSIS?

There is NO cure! The word comes from Latin:



lithos meaning rock: *phyl*, and attraction to: and *osis*, condition.

Put them all together and you get a condition where the victim has an uncontrollable attraction to rocks. The disease can strike anyone, at any time, at any age, and . . . IS EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS! Sounds like common old ROCK POX to me, we have had that for years anyway! It is often caught at, and symptoms may become aggravated by, but may also for some, be relieved by, attending rock shows, club meetings, and field trips. Although be sure to use caution as all these things are HIGHLY addictive!! And are usually passed on to your children who will then be lifelong sufferers.

(Source: Beehive Buzzer 9/09; CLACKAMETTE GEM 6/14; a reprint from the Drifter 07/2014)