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

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

www.TopekaGMS 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. 6
June 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

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2nd Vice Pres.	Desiree Gardner	221-8862
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Cab of the Month	Jane Hanni	845-8590
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Show Chairman	Millie Mowry	267-2849
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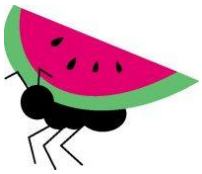
Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Jr. Rockhound Leader	Dennis Hippe	230-6729
Show Case Coordinator	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790

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.

IT'S Picnic Time! JUNE, JULY & AUGUST. Bring a dish to share.



The meeting this month 06/26/26 will start our potluck meetings for the summer! We will be meeting at our usual spot, but at 6:15pm instead. Dinner begins at 6:30pm. Please bring a covered dish to share as well your own eating utensils.

After we eat, Dr. Jonathan Boyd will be giving a talk titled "Petrified wood: sticks into stones". Please stick around after the meal to listen and to thank Dr. Boyd for putting this program together!

Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS

Greetings Fellow Field Trippers,

Greeting Fellow Field Trippers,

TTGMS is happy to announce that we will be having a Field Trip, Sunday, June 28. This is the Sunday following our regularly scheduled Club Potluck Picnic at the FCC Church Please bring a dish and your own eating utensils and be at the church for the picnic no later than 6:15. Eating starts at 6:30.

For the Field Trip we will meet at the Midwest Concrete Materials quarry at 9:00am for Instructions and Group Photo. The quarry is located approximately 1 mile south of the Kansas River at Wamego on the west side of 99 highway.

We will be allowed a maximum of 2 - 5 gallon buckets of specimens per individual. Feel free to bring a cart to haul your buckets if you so desire. Small hand digging tools may be used but I think most folks just surface collect. It's June in Kansas so expect it to be hot and could be rainy??? Wear sturdy footwear and bring plenty of water. Don't forget a sun hat or sunscreen. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult (duh). ***We must stay away from the machinery and the water as the shoreline is sand and prone to collapse.***

Hope to see you all there! Chuck Curtis, Field Trip Coordinator

TTGMS Event Calendar

JUN 2026		
1	M	
2	T	
3	W	
4	T	
5	F	
6	S	
7	S	
8	M	
9	T	
10	W	
11	T	
12	F	
13	S	
14	S	
15	M	
16	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
17	W	
18	T	**NO** Wire Wrap Class at Millie's Publicity Meeting FCC 6:30p
19	F	
20	S	
	S	
22	M	
23	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
24	W	
25	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
26	F	**Pot Luck Picnic** FC Church gather at 6:15p Eat at 6:30p 1701 SW Collins
27	S	Field Trip – Wamego Quary
28	S	
29	M	
30	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's

JUL 2026		
1	W	
2	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p and Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
3	F	
4	S	
5	S	
6	M	
7	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
8	W	
9	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
10	F	**Board Meeting FCC 7 pm**
11	S	
12	S	
13	M	
14	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
15	W	
16	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
17	F	
18	S	
19	S	
20	M	
21	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
22	W	
23	T	NO-Wire Wrap Class at Millie's
24	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 6:15p **Pot-Luck Picnic** 6:30p 1701 SW Collins
25	S	
26	S	
27	M	
28	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
29	W	
30	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
31	F	

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: July 2, 2026, TBA
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

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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

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

[MM1]

CAB OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2026

Shirley Schulz-Lapidary Artz Peridot and amethyst tree with lapis nest eggs.
Cinda Kuncler, Specimen, petrified wood with amethyst and smoky quarts.

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, desserts, 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.

Show Report From David Dillon

Spaces are filling up will old dealers and several new dealers. I don't think there will be a problem filling the spaces that are left by October.
We do need all members to sign up to help with the show for a couple hours or more. Several of us are having health issues and cannot be on our feet like before.
Sign up sheets are now available for you to choose the time you would like to work, see Cinda.
David

Franklinite – The Non-Fluorescing Mineral From Franklin, New Jersey

by Brett Whitenack, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club

From: The Post Rock, 9/2010 (4th Place – AFMS Original Adult Articles)

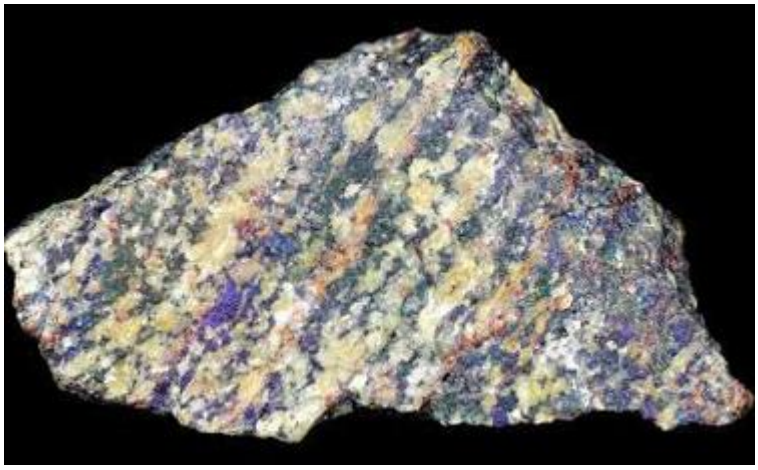
Franklinite crystal (about 1 1/2 inches across) in calcite matrix, Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ. From the collection of, and photo by JVF.

I f you were to ask a rockhound "What is franklinite?" there is a good chance that they might tell you it is a fluorescent material from New Jersey. In reality, while they would have the correct location, they would be greatly mistaken that it is fluorescent. The mineral franklinite is actually the name for the main zinc ore that was once mined in Sussex County near the towns of Franklin and Ogdensburg. Franklinite was first discovered during the early 1800s and was named for the nearby town of Franklin Furnace (later to become Franklin) as well as to honor the name of Benjamin Franklin. Pierre Berthier, a French geologist and mining engineer, was responsible for naming the mineral and wrote that it was "derived from Franklin, in order to remind us that it was found, for the first time, in a place to which the Americans have given the name of a great man, whose memory is venerated equally in Europe as in the new world by all the friends of science and humanity." While franklinite occurrences are rare elsewhere around the world, it is locally abundant and was considered the king of ores in the zinc mines in Sussex County. There, miners delved deep into the earth to retrieve this, the most valuable of the zinc ores found within the deposits. It once was thought that franklinite was found only in the Franklin Mining District of New Jersey. Over the last few years, deposits have been discovered in other parts of the world, though never in commercial quantities. A few of these localities include Australia, Germany, Sweden, and in the United States where it is also found in Alaska and New Mexico. The major element composing franklinite is zinc along with iron and oxygen giving it the chemical formula ZnFeMn2O4 and the formal name of zinc iron oxide in its pure state. The zinc portion was what made franklinite so desirable and valuable as an ore. Often, manganese is present as a second or third element (depending on its oxidation state) giving franklinite an official chemical formula of ZnFeMn2O4. The franklinite deposits are believed to have occurred when carbonate rocks rich in iron, zinc, and manganese formed in marine environments and were altered by high temperature metamorphism. The outcome of an intrusion of high temperature igneous magmas into the cooler rock caused the franklinite to crystallize out of the resulting solution and led to great ore deposits in this region of New Jersey. The "classic" specimens of franklinite are opaque and black in color exhibiting an octahedral (eight sided) crystalline shape and occasionally, dodecahedral (twelve-sided) crystals. Crystalline franklinite can sometimes be mistaken for magnetite or spinel due to its octahedral shape. Unlike magnetite, which is highly magnetic, franklinite is only weakly so. Its reddish brown streak distinguishes it from spinel, which has a white streak. Franklinite crystals are also frequently found as small (2-3 mm), rounded, pebble-like grains within a calcite matrix associated with willemite and zincite. It is also found in large, amorphous masses within the ore body with no distinct crystalline shape.

Franklinite crystal 1 7/8 inch with minor willemite (red) and calcite (white) from Sterling Hill, NJ. From the collection of, and photo by Robert A. Boymistruk.

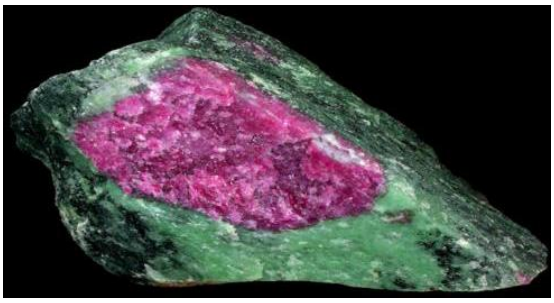
Perfect crystals are highly sought after by collectors. The largest crystal on record is an octahedron that is seven inches on each edge and resides in the Canfield Mineral Collection of the Smithsonian Institution. Collectors should take care in choosing specimens however, as repairs to crystals or even outright fake crystals were common. It seems that miners would spend some of their down time filling in cracks or even constructing crystals from plaster and then coloring them with lampblack or some other dark pigment to conceal their handiwork. They would then sell these fakes to unsuspecting customers. Other physical characteristics help in identifying franklinite from similar looking minerals. It has a specific gravity between 5.0 and 5.2 making it slightly above average for a metallic mineral. While it has no cleavage (the tendency to split along a definite plane), franklinite does have a conchoidal fracture and will exhibit a metallic luster, especially on freshly broken specimens. The mines around Franklin, New Jersey no longer produce franklinite nor any of the other ores that were found there. The Franklin mine closed in 1954 and the Sterling Hill mine closed in 1987. Most of the mine shafts, some of which exceeded 2,500 feet in depth, have now flooded with water and mineral specimens can no longer be collected from the mines. One tunnel, located at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, has been turned into a 1,300 foot long display where visitors can walk and view exhibits of the mine equipment that was once used when the Sterling Hill mine was in operation.

Lately, both professional geologists and amateur rockhounds are lobbying to make franklinite the "official" state mineral of New Jersey. An online poll recently had franklinite leading another candidate vying for the title, the beautiful green mineral prehnite, by a margin of 96% to 4%. The Franklin, New Jersey area is home to more than 350 different mineral species with over two dozen of these found nowhere else in the world. Of these minerals, at least 90 different species are fluorescent, making Franklin the "fluorescent mineral capital of the world." However, a mineral from Franklin doesn't have to be fluorescent to warrant adding it to your collection. Just make sure that when you are trying to obtain a specimen of franklinite, that you and the person you are acquiring it from are both on the same page and that you mean the non-fluorescing mineral, the "king of the ores" that was once mined at the Franklin and Sterling Hill mines in New Jersey.



Gneissic banded ore, willemite (light green), calcite (white), zincite (red), and franklinite showing a "peacock ore" patina (green, violet, blue) from Franklin, NJ. 4" x 2". From the collection of JVF, and photo by WP.

References: Chesterman, Charles. Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals. New York: Knopf, 1978. Dana, Edward and William Ford. A Textbook of Mineralogy. London: J. Wiley, 1949. Dunn, Pete J. Franklin and Sterling Hill New Jersey: The World's Most Magnificent Mineral Deposits. Franklin: Franklin Ogdensburg Mineralogical, 2004. "Franklinite." Mindat.org. Mindat.org. n.d. Web. 20 May, 2010. Kushner, Ervan F. A Guide to Mineral Collecting at Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey: With Notes as to the History, Geology, and Fluorescence. Paterson: E. F. Kushner Books, 1974. Russell, Daniel E. The Mines of Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg, New Jersey. Mindat.org. 16 Dec. 2007. Web. 20 May, 2010. Sinkankas, John. Mineralogy. Princeton: Van Nostrand, 1979. https://fomsnj.org/mineral.aspx?minid=228&minName=Franklinite
Source: Via stoney Statements May 2026



How are rubies formed?
Gemstones, Rubies
by The Expert

One of the most remarkable things about the formation of rubies is that geologists are not sure how it happens. Without question, however, the very existence of rubies is something of a minor geological miracle.

Rubies are a red variety of transparent corundum. After diamond, Corundum is the hardest mineral that exists. It is made up of densely packed aluminum and oxygen atoms, which are normally colorless. Corundum is found in two varieties, common corundum, which is impure, coarse, opaque and granular (known as EMERY) and transparent corundum, which includes the RUBY and SAPPHIRE (both identical except in color). When other atoms are substituted for a few of the aluminum ones in the colorless corundum, bright hues emerge. Small amounts of chromium impart the deep red color of ruby; traces of titanium and iron produce the stunning blue of sapphire. However, if there are large amounts of silica and/or iron present then you will not find rubies or sapphires in the corundum.

Consider the fact that it is extremely rare to find corundum in the first place. Now consider the fact that silica and iron are two of the most abundant elements in the Earth’s crust and chromium is exceedingly rare. How did rubies manage to avoid the commonplace silica and iron but miraculously find some chromium? Sapphires do need some iron but the fluorescence of rubies depends on very low quantities. This unique set of circumstances is what makes rubies that much rarer.

The commonly held belief amongst geologists is that rubies are formed by tectonic plates smashing together – as did the India and Asia plates when the Himalayan mountains were formed around 50 million years ago – forcing limestone deposits deep into the earth where intense heat and pressure metamorphosed the limestone into sparkly marble. At the same time, molten granite bubbled up into the marble and removed the silica but left behind the aluminum through a process called metasomatism.

The problem is, and the part that is confusing geologists, is that although the ruby-hosting marble extends over large areas of the Himalayas, the rubies themselves only appear in sporadic, localized patches. There must be some other missing piece of the puzzle that determines why and where rubies will form in this marble. This confusion was compounded by the discovery of some of the world’s most impressive rubies in the Mogok mine in Myanmar (formerly Burma). Whilst the rubies were hosted in marble, they were found alongside topaz and moonstone, minerals that are igneous rather than metamorphic in origin. This has confused geologists further and it may be many years before they find a final definitive explanation for how these beautiful gemstones are formed.

Source: The Sooner Rockologist July 2014