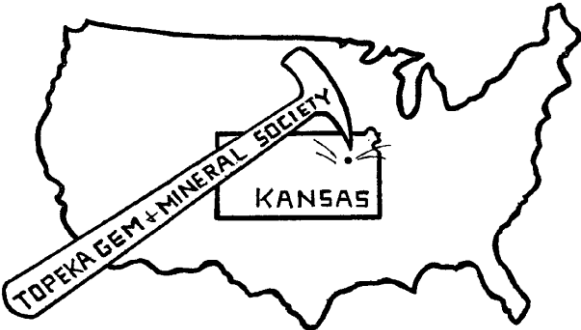


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

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. 8
 Aug. 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.

Calling ALL Members! This means YOU, long time, newer, Juniors, Parents of Juniors, Grand Parents, absolutely every Member! What are you willing to do to help the club out? I along with several others will be working at the show for set up through take down. I really need to know who can work, the hours you can work and if you absolutely cannot work. Set up is Friday Oct 9, starting at 8:00 a.m. Some tables will need to be covered, signs for the dealers distributed and put up. The dealers should start arriving around noon. Then we have, display cases to set up, items for silent auction, Juniors area, Raffle area, Scholarship tables, and so much more. We will have programs to fold, displays to be filled, demonstration area's set up, brochures that will need to be folded also. We will have security arriving at 8:00 p.m. when the last of the club members there can leave. Saturday Oct 10, show opens at 10:00, workers need to be there by 9:30 a.m. and closes at 6:00 p.m. Sunday Oct 11, the show opens at 10:00, workers need to be there by 9:30 a.m. and the show is over at 5:00 p.m. Then the 'take down' begins. The club items that go back to storage will need to be ready for the Movers to pack up. We can use some help getting some items from and back to Millie's house. Please think of how you can help with all of these to make our show a good one. I have sign-up sheets for all areas where we need help. Normally we do about a 2 1/4 hour shift in each area on both Sat & Sun. That said - August 28th is our last potluck picnic. We arrive as early as 6:00, we eat at 6:30. Don't forget to bring items for the Cab of the Month contest, cabs, jewelry, art, and specimens. Thanks to all who will give a hand to help the club in this fund raising effort! See you then!
Cinda Kunkler TTGMS President

The meeting this month 08/28/26 will be the last of 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.

Unfortunately, there will not be a program after the meal concludes.
Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS

Greetings Fellow Field Trippers,

No Field trip mentioned.

TTGMS Event Calendar

AUG 2026			SEPT 2026		
1	S		1	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
2	S		2	W	
3	M		3	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p at FCC
4	T		4	F	
5	W		5	S	
6	T		6	S	
7	F		7	M	
8	S		8	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
9	S		9	W	
10	M		10	T	
11	T		11	F	
12	W		12	S	
13	T		13	S	
14	F		14	M	Board/Publicity Meeting FCC 6:30 pm
15	S		15	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
16	S		16	W	
17	M		17	T	
18	T	Board/Publicity Meeting FCC 6:30pm	18	F	
19	W		19	S	
20	T		20	S	
	F		21	M	
22	S		22	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
23	S		23	W	
24	M		24	T	
25	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	25	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15p 7:30p 1701 SW Collins
26	W		26	S	
27	T		27	S	
28	F	Pot Luck Picnic FC Church gather at 6:00p Eat at 6:30p 1701 SW Collins	28	M	
29	S		29	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
30	S		30	W	
31	M		31	T	

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: Sept 3, 2026, Gold Panning Will Gilliland

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

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

Aug 2026.....Rebate amount \$46.11

CAB OF THE MONTH FOR July 2026



No names were given for the cabs, the lighter was done by Renee Rippetoe.

Have you missed one of our members? Carolyn Brady has relocated to Pittsburg, KS. She is living with her son and his family. Her new address is, 502 W Martin, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

Why dogs make great rockhounds

By: Jim Reynolds

1. Dogs love to dig holes.
2. Dogs are low to the ground so they can sniff out interesting specimens.
3. Dogs love to hunt in packs.
4. Dogs love to ride on dirt roads with great anticipation for the end of the journey.
5. Every place a dog goes, it is like the first time they have been there, no matter how many times they have been there.
6. A cold nod nose on a hot day feels good.
7. Dogs only whine if they are fed, never if they have traveled too far without a rest stop.
8. Dogs will always follow you back up the hill to the car at the end of the day.
9. Dogs love to wet everything to see if it shines.

Source: A reprint from the Drifter Oct.2004

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society
Executive Board Meeting, July 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Brad Davenport, Millie Mowry, Jim Baer, Cinda Kunkler, Chuck Curtis, Doria Skinner, Chad Skinner, Donna Hedge, Stacy Haug, Donna Stockton, Janie Hanni

Call to Order: President Cinda Kunkler calls the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Millie begins the meeting by updating board members on the status of Dave Dillon. He is in the hospital after having major surgery on his heart. Dave's wife requests that club members send cards to him at their home. Millie is going to take over Dave's duties for the show. Millie also passes out blank job description forms and asks every member to fill out the duties for their officer position so that they can be added to the "big book" and be accessible by people who are filling in or taking over those positions.

Treasurer's Report: Millie reports the club account balance. Cinda has more money for Millie.

Communications: Renee and Cinda attended the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention in Tulsa. Next year's convention is scheduled to be held in Utah.

In reference to writing up job descriptions, Jim asks if a position is held by several people (such as Director, of which there are three), is everyone putting the same duties down? Cinda and Millie reply that they would like everyone to write out their own job descriptions so that they can be seen from the viewpoint of everyone holding that position.

In the event that we need to get into the building for meetings/classes and Cinda is not here, she has a list of names of people to call, including Darren Stevens and Larry Parks, that will be able to get us through the door. She will inform Darren and Larry that Millie, Dennis, and Brad are authorized persons to be allowed into the church. After arriving and contacting a person on the list, that person would take care of disarming the alarm from home and then buzz the person in. That person would also need to turn on the lights and wait by the doors to let others in. It is suggested that we might need to write a "Door Person" protocol, so that person could follow the list of things that need to be done. We also need written instructions from Desiree on how to operate the overhead projector in the basement when people need to run it for a presentation.

Show: Millie reports we have 9 vendors signed up so far for the show.

Cinda shows an example of a tote bag that was sold at the RMFMS convention for \$3 and a t-shirt with a multi-colored print for \$15. She will check to see where the tote bags were bought. We might be able to use items such as these to sell at our show.

Publicity: Donna Hedge has some show flyers that she had printed on Canva. The cost was \$48 for 50 copies; Cinda instructs Donna to turn in the receipt for reimbursement. Janie checked on price packages for KPR (Lawrence radio station 91.5.) She passes out a list of package prices for members to review. They are a public station funded by the public, so it is called "underwriting." This is the first round of information that Janie has received. After reviewing the price sheets, she asks members what other questions they would like to have answered and she will contact the station with those questions. Donna Stockton volunteers to write up a script for the radio spots. She would like members to send her ideas of what they think would appeal to the public about the show. She could write up the script and bring it to a later board meeting to be approved. Cinda reports the billboards are already set and are paid for. Chuck asks if anything has been scheduled with Channel 13 for the Red Couch yet? Nothing has yet been set up. Brad says he is willing to do the Red Couch spot if we get it set up. Red Couch segments do show up on the online news. It would be beneficial to put ads in monthly periodicals from NE Kansas counties. Cinda states that Rock & Gem magazine had our show information printed in this month's issue and it has been listed on their website for a while. Chuck asks how much it costs to advertise in the Topeka Capital Journal newspaper. Millie says it is quite pricey and she is not sure how much of a subscriber base they have. Brad says the paper is nowhere near the quality that it used to be. It is stressed that it is very important this year to get the word out that our show will be held at a new location. Chuck suggests checking with other radio stations to see if we can get information on how much spots would cost on their stations.

Junior Rockhounds: Dennis is not here tonight. Cinda reports that the next meeting in August will be "Gold Panning" by Will Gilliland.

Shop: Brad states we need to start thinking about a shop cleaning day, but we will wait until it gets cooler outside.

Janie asks what we can do to reach younger people to attract them to the show. Donna and Brad speak of how the club used to take packets to schools and set up days to go in and do a presentation that several classrooms would filter through. This was about 10-15 years ago. Donna would like to see us do something like this again.

Is there any interest in bumper stickers or stickers? Cinda suggests mentioning the Woodshed location on bumper stickers. Brad had the last bumper stickers printed at Diamond Printing at 10th & California.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Doria moves to adjourn the meeting, Brad seconds. Motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Stacy Haug,

Larimar, The Caribbean's Ocean Gem

All About Colored Stones: Larimar, The Caribbean's Ocean Gem
January 31, 2025 by Mark Reyes, G.G.



Imagine holding a piece of the ocean in your hand—except it never dries up and you can wear it around your neck. That's Larimar, the stunningly rare gemstone that looks like it was plucked straight from Caribbean waves. Found exclusively in the Dominican Republic, this dreamy blue gem is as mesmerizing as a tropical vacation and about as rare as spotting a mermaid sunbathing on the beach.

Formation and Properties Larimar is a variety of pectolite, a mineral composed of sodium calcium silicate. Unlike other pectolites, which are usually white or gray, Larimar owes its hypnotic blue coloration to the presence of copper. It forms inside volcanic cavities when mineral-rich fluids and intense heat perform their ancient magic over millions of years. Tectonic forces and erosion eventually brings Larimar deposits close to the Earth's surface, where they can eventually be mined. You may think of this process as nature's way of crafting and gifting us with tiny oceanic masterpieces. On the Mohs hardness scale, Larimar lands between 4.5 and 5, meaning it's hard enough to be set into jewelry but delicate enough to demand a little TLC. If you're the type to wrestle sharks or dig through treasure chests, it's best keep this gem safe in your jewelry box for special occasions. **Appearance and Colors** If the ocean had a love affair with the sky, Larimar would be their offspring. Its color spectrum ranges from gentle sky blues to deep, electric turquoise, often streaked with marbling that mimics the rippling surface of sunlit waters. The finest quality stones boast an evenly distributed blue hue, while some pieces may carry greenish or brownish undertones—little reminders of their volcanic birthplace. **History, Myths, and Legends** Larimar's official discovery in 1974 sounds almost like the plot of a treasure hunt. Miguel Méndez and Norman Rilling stumbled upon this mesmerizing stone in the Dominican Republic, though locals had whispered about its existence for years. The name "Larimar" comes from Méndez's daughter's name, "Larissa," combined with "mar," the Spanish word for sea—because, honestly, calling it anything else wouldn't do justice to its oceanic beauty. But the story gets even wilder. Some enthusiasts claim Larimar is linked to the lost city of Atlantis, thanks to a prediction by famed psychic Edgar Cayce. He once prophesied that a mysterious blue healing stone would be found in the Caribbean, sparking speculation that Larimar might just be Atlantis' best-kept secret. Whether you believe the myth or not, one thing is certain: wearing Larimar can feel like carrying a piece of magic.



Countries of Origin Unlike diamonds, which are found on nearly every continent, Larimar is exclusive to one place—Barahona Province in the Dominican Republic. This means every single piece of Larimar comes from a single magical corner of the Earth, making it rarer than a pirate's buried treasure. Miners extract the stone from rugged mountainsides, often by hand, in a labor-intensive process that makes each piece all the more precious.



Fun Facts • Larimar is often nicknamed the “Dolphin Stone” because its colors resemble the warm, playful waters dolphins love to frolic in. • It’s said to have calming properties, making it perfect for anyone looking to channel their inner Zen (or just survive a Monday morning). • The deeper the blue, the rarer and more valuable the stone—think of it as the gemstone equivalent of an exclusive VIP pass. • Larimar jewelry is often handcrafted by skilled Dominican artisans, meaning each piece carries a bit of island soul with it. • Due to its softness, it’s best to keep Larimar away from harsh chemicals and prolonged sun exposure—unless you want it to have a mid-life crisis.

With its soothing hues, fascinating origin, and a touch of mystical allure, Larimar is more than just a gemstone—it’s a wearable piece of paradise. Whether you believe in the legends or just love the aesthetics, owning Larimar is like carrying a sliver of the Caribbean with you, wherever you go.



For more information on gemstones and their properties, visit the International Gemological Institute’s website at <https://www.igi.org>. Borrowed from <https://www.igi.org/all-about-colored-stones-larimar-the-caribbeans-ocean-gem/>
Source: Stoney Statements July 2026

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Believe It, Or Not

Crocodiles swallow stones to correct an error that nature made in designing the big lizards. They’re unstable in the water without artificial ballast. Every one of some 100 African crocodiles dissected by a scientist had rocks in the belly. A phenomenon never adequately explained until the scientist completed careful measurements and weighing.

Some stone loads ranged from one to two pounds in juveniles, to seven pounds in 15-foot long oldsters. The weights, lying low in the forward placed stomach, nicely counter-balanced the tail heaviness and rolling, two defects seen in infant crocodiles, which have to move in the water at a slant and make limb movements to keep from turning over. Properly stoned, the maturing crocodile can glide level and steady at the surface with only nostrils, eyes, and a few back scales showing. A ballasted crocodile is perhaps the only creature except man that artificially alters its design to fit the environment.

Source: A reprint from the Drifter, September 2001