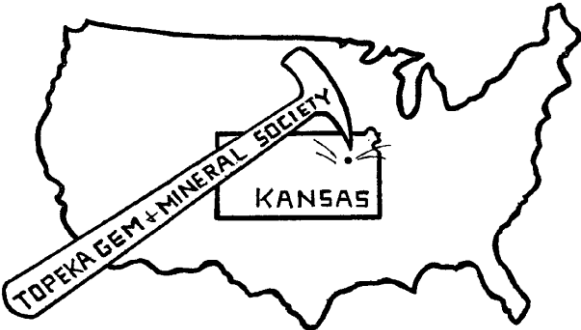


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

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. 9
 September, 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
1 st Vice Pres.	David Dillon	221-4315
2 nd Vice Pres.	Desiree Gardner	221-8862
Secretary	Stacy Haug	1-857-3350
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Directors	Doria Skinner	231-9347
	Jim Baer	1-256-2432
	Jacob Gardner	221-4110
Historian	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Federation Rep	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Librarian	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Web Master	Chad Skinner	640-6617

Cab of the Month	Renee Rippetoe	314-280-6034
Cab of the Month	Jane Hanni	845-8590
Field Trip Coord.	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
Publicity	Donna Hedge	620-660-1651
Welcome/Registration	Harold Merrifield	633-9745
Property	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Show Chairman	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	221-4315
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.

We are on the countdown to our show! Please come to our meeting on September 25th. We will be going over the various jobs that we need you to help with at the show. Sign up sheets will be available. We will also have a silent auction - shorter than normal. Those of you who won a Cab of the Month Contest from Oct 2025 through (AND including) the September 2026 meeting - please bring them to the meeting so they can be on display at the show. We will set up the case on Friday Oct 9 so it will be ready for the opening date October 10! If you can't be at the meeting, please bring them to Brad's Shop Night on the following Tuesdays 9/14, 9/21, 9/28 or 10/06 & at our Junior Rockhounds meeting on Oct. 01. I (Cinda) will be collecting them and promise to give them back either at the end of the show or as soon as possible following. Volunteering to help is important! Thank you all - see you soon!
Cinda Kunkler TTGMS President

The monthly meeting for the club on 09/25/2026 will have two separate topics: First, we will be discussing the different roles needed to be covered out our monthly show with expectations of each role. Second, we will be having a short silent auction. This is an important meeting that every member should attend! The meeting will be back at our regular time, gather at 7:15 and begin at 7:30pm.

As a reminder for the 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!

-Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS

Greetings Fellow Field Trippers,

We will be having a Field Trip to one of the Midwest Concrete Materials sand pits on **SUNDAY, Sept. 27**. Which pit is yet to be determined, so stay tuned. We will meet at 8:30 SHARP for Sign-In and Group Photo. We have had several stragglers in the past and even someone that does not belong to the Club came through the open gate. So, from now on, we will be closing the gate before we disperse at 9:00.

We will be limited to 2 – 5 gallon buckets of rock per person. Feel free to bring a wagon to haul your buckets. We will stay away from all machinery as well as the water as the sand banks are prone to collapse. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, bug spray and wear **STURDY** shoes. You may bring small digging tools but there is an abundance of rock so you should be fine surface collecting.

As a reminder, everything on the property is a business asset that is sold for profit. This is not the place to collect buckets of sand for the kids, sand box or gravel for that low spot in the driveway. We are privileged to have this access so just collect interesting rock/mineral specimens. Also, after you have gone home and had a chance to high grade your findings, please consider donating some of your treasure to the Club to use at our annual Show in October for the Silent Auction, Scholarship Table, Pebble Pile and to donate at our monthly business meeting for the Junior Rockhound Program. And please bring your best finds (and a Note describing the piece) to fill a Field Trip Display Case at the Show.

Any questions just drop me an email. Hope to see you all there!

Chuck Curtis, Field Trip Coordinator, The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society

TTGMS Event Calendar

SEPT 2026			OCT 2026		
1	T		1	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p at FCC
2	W		2	F	
3	T		3	S	
4	F		4	S	
5	S		5	M	
6	S		6	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
7	M		7	W	
8	T		8	T	
9	W		9	F	NO BOARD OR PUBLICITY MTGs
10	T		10	S	OUR SHOW
11	F		11	S	OUR SHOW
12	S		12	M	
13	S		13	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
14	M		14	W	
15	T		15	T	
16	W		16	F	
17	T		17	S	
18	F		18	S	
19	S		19	M	
20	S		20	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
	M		21	W	
22	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	22	T	
23	W		23	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15p 7:30p 1701 SW Collins
24	T		24	S	Field Trip- Matt DeVader Farm
25	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15p 7:30p 1701 SW Collins	25	S	
26	S		26	M	
27	S	SEE FIELD NOTICE	27	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
28	M		28	W	
29	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	29	T	
30	W		30		
			31		

General Meeting Time Change

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: October 1, 2026, Communication, Jason Schulz

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



The lighter stone was Thulite done by Renee Rippetoe, Brad polished the Agate Cab & the Gary Green Cab.

It is time to gather up all of your winning cabs, Jewelry Specimens and Lapidary Arts and bring them in to Cinda for display at the show. Here is a list of them by winner name.

Brad Davenport	Nov 2025	Specimen	Brazilian Agate
Brad Davenport	Nov 2025	Specimen	Brazilian Agate
Brad Davenport	Nov 2025	M Cab	Ocean Jasper
Brad Davenport	July 2026	M Cab	Agate
Brad Davenport	July 2026	M Cab	Gary Green
Andrew Younger	Aug 2026	C Cab	Moss Agate
Debbie Drexler	Feb 2026	C Cab	Flame Agate
Debbie Drexler	Feb 2026	C Jewelry	Snake Weave Ea
Donna Hedge	Oct 2025	Specimen	Demantoid
Donna Hedge	Mar 2026	Specimen	Sphalerite Zinc
Doria Skinner	Oct 2025	M Cab	Crazy Lace
Doria Skinner	Nov 2025	Specimen	Teepee Canyon
Doria Skinner	Feb 2026	M Cab	Chalcedony
Doria Skinner	Mar 2026	M Cab	Victoria Stone
Doria Skinner	Aug 2026	M Cab	Imperial Jasper
Emily Gonnella	Apr 2026	C Cab	Jasper
Jane Hanni	Aug 2026	C Jewelry	Dendritic Ring
Larry Hardesty	July 2026	Specimen	Endlichite

Cab of Month Winners Con't.

Matt Filby	Oct 2026	Jewelry	Murray Mtn MO
Matt Filby	Nov 2025	Jewelry	Labradorite
Matt Filby	Mar 2026	Jewelry	Unakite Copper
Matt Filby	Apr 2026	Jewelry	Aragonite
Renee Rippetoe	July 2026	Arts	Lighter Thulite
Sheryl Wilhelm	Feb 2026	Jewelry	Carnelian Heart
Shirley Schulz	Feb 2026	Arts	Teepee Canyon
Shirley Schulz	Mar 2026	Arts	Mix Bead Tree
Shirley Schulz	Mar 2026	Arts	Peridot/Ameth
Shirley Schulz	Aug 2026	Arts	Jade Tree
Cinda Kunkler	Feb 202 6	Specimen	Petrified Wood
Cinda Kunkler	Apr 2026	Specimen	Pet Wood Reds
Cinda Kunkler	May 2026	Specimen	Ameth Smokey

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Give a Big Welcome to our new members

Lyle & Traci Baboock

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REDUCE THE RISK OF TICK-BORNE DISEASE

Alana Bartolai, B.S., M.S. From the June/July 2026 Earth Science News Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

Warmer weather means pesty ticks. Ticks can be active year-round, but spring and fall are the peaks. If you plan to spend time outdoors, taking preventive measures to reduce your risk of tick bites is essential!

Here are a few tips: Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing, and camping gear. It will remain through several washings. Follow the label directions to safely apply, and remember, permethrin is toxic to cats.

Use EPA-registered insect repellents such as ones that contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

After being outdoors, check clothing, gear, and pets for ticks. If possible, shower within two hours of coming indoors. Deer ticks must be attached to you for more than 24 hours to transmit Lyme disease, so tick checks after being outdoors can greatly reduce your risk of tick-borne diseases.

Throw clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 to 20 minutes. Ticks do not tolerate high heat, so this can kill any ticks that might have been crawling on your clothes.

If you do find a tick attached, use a tweezer, grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible, and pull upward. Add tweezers to your first aid kit! If you are bitten by a tick and you develop symptoms within a week, see your healthcare provider.

For more information on ticks refer to: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>.

Alana is the Ecological Services Program Coordinator in the Lakes Management Unit/Environmental Health for the Lake County, Illinois Health Department.

Source: NWFed News Sept 2026.

October Deadline for Drifter News
10/13/2026

TTGMS ROCK SWAP

November 28th 8a to 5p
Elmont UMC Church
6635 NW Church Lane, Topeka, KS 66618
Tables furnished outside
Contact: Donna Stockton for space 913-645-7677

AVENTURINE

Aventurine is a form of quartz, characterized by its translucency and the presence of platy mineral inclusions that give a shimmering or glistening effect termed *aventurescence*.

The most common color of aventurine is green, but it may also be orange, brown, yellow, blue, or gray. Chrome-bearing fuchsite (a variety of muscovite mica) is the classic allusion, and gives a silvery green or blue sheen. Oranges and browns are attributed to hematite or goethite. Because aventurine is a rock, its physical properties vary: its specific gravity may lie between 2.64-2.69 and its hardness is somewhat lower than single-crystal quartz at around 6.5.



Aventurine feldspar or **sunstone** can be confused with orange and red aventurine quartzite, although the former is generally of a higher transparency. Aventurine is often banded and an overabundance of fuchsite may render it opaque, in which case it may be mistaken for malachite at first glance.

The name *aventurine* derives from the Italian "a ventura" meaning "by chance". This is an allusion to the lucky discovery of **aventurine glass** or **goldstone** at some point in the 18th century. Although it was known first, goldstone is now a common imitation of aventurine and sunstone. Goldstone is distinguished visually from the latter two minerals by its coarse flecks of copper, dispersed within the glass in an unnaturally uniform manner. It is usually a golden brown, but may also be found in blue or green.



The majority of green and blue-green aventurine originates in India (particularly in the vicinity of Mysore and Chennai) where it is employed by prolific artisans. Creamy white, gray and orange material is found in Chile, Spain and Russia. Most material is carved into beads and figurines with only the finer examples fashioned into cabochons, later being set into jewelry.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aventurine>

Source: Stoney Statements Aug 2015

GIANT SELENITE CRYSTALS



Giant Selenite Crystals The NAICA Crystal cave, located in Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico, 300 meters (984 ft) below ground, contains giant selenite crystals, some of the largest natural crystals ever found. The cave's largest crystal found to date is 12 m (39 ft) in length, 4 m (13 ft) in diameter and 55 tons in weight. The cave is extremely hot, with air temperatures reaching up to 58°C (136°F) with 90 to 99 percent humidity. The cave is relatively unexplored due to these factors. Without proper protection, people can only endure approximately ten minutes of exposure at a time.

From Wikipedia's Cave of the Crystals article.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave_of_the_Crystals via Fredericksburg

Rockhounds, 8/15, via Stoney Statements Aug 2015

CITRINE

Citrine /'sitri:n/ is a colour, the most common reference for which is certain coloured varieties of quartz which are a medium deep shade of golden yellow. Citrine has been summarized at various times as yellow, greenish-yellow, brownish yellow or orange.

*The original reference point for the citrine colour was the citron fruit. The first recorded use of citrine as a colour in English was in 1386. It was borrowed from a medieval Latin and classical Latin word with the same meaning. In late medieval and early modern English the citrine colour-name was applied in a wider variety of contexts than it is today and could be "reddish or brownish yellow; or orange; or amber (distinguished from yellow)". In today's English citrine as a colour is mostly confined to the contexts of (1) gemstones, including quartz, and (2) some animal and plant names. E.g., the citrine wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*), an Asian bird species with golden-yellow plumage.*

"Citrine" is used in the names of birds and other lifeforms with such colouring to describe their appearance, including the citrine wagtail, citrine warbler, citrine canary-flycatcher and citrine forktail.

Source: Stoney Statements: Dec 2017

