

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.109
 October 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	224-8178	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.

Thank you to ALL who came to work at our show! It was a LOT of work, but seemed to go well. Our October meeting - we will talk about opportunities for you to help keep our organization running smoothly. We need you to step up to take over some positions that are coming open.

We had a visit at the show from our RMFMS State Director Larry Beck & Judy to check out our new venue. We even had a surprise visit from "Captain Jack Sparrow".

Come hear the report on our show results and share your thoughts on what you think we can do to improve for next year. Without EVERYONE'S help, we can not accomplish our goals. We have field trips planned and need to know who will want to come for those - so Please attend the meeting. Hope to see you all on October 23rd at 7:15! It will be Fun - even more so if everyone attends.

Cinda Kunkler TTGMS President

The program for the monthly meeting on 10/23/2026 will be presented by our member Jason Schulz and will be about great American minerals. Remember, we gather at 7:15pm and the meeting begins at 7:30pm.

Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS

Greetings Fellow Field Trippers,

We are having a Field Trip to the Rocky Top Ranch, home of the Matt DeVader family, on Saturday October 24 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will meet at the Walmart parking lot in Holton at 9:30 am sharp for Sign-In and Group Photo. Then we will squeeze as many rockhounds into as few vehicles as possible and car pool to the property.

Matt has requested that we limit ourselves to a 1gallon bucket of specimens and surface collecting only so as not to worsen any hillside erosion that may already exist. The DeVader family lives near Holton and I would expect we will be searching in Glacial Till. This is a working ranch so we need to leave our pets at home & keep the children under a watchful eye at all times. No interacting with the farm residents, no matter how soft and cuddly they may appear. They have sharp teeth and their job is to munch on anything that looks appetizing such as fingers, noses and toes. This includes their working dogs as well. Stay tuned to your email and show up at the monthly meeting on Friday October 23rd for any last minute info. As usual, be prepared for any weathers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water, sunscreen and bug spray. No bucket hauling wagons on this one. Just a one gallon bucket and a small hand tool such as a rock pick or other small gardening tool to uncover something partial buried.

Hope to see you all there!

Chuck Curtis, Field Trip Coordinator

TTGMS Event Calendar

OCT 2026			NOV 2026		
1	T		1	S	Daylight Saving Time Ends
2	F		2	M	
3	S		3	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
4	S		4	W	
5	M		5	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p at FCC
6	T		6	F	
7	W		7	S	
8	T		8	S	
9	F		9	M	
10	S		10	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
11	S		11	W	Veterans Day
12	M		12	T	
13	T		13	F	Board/Publicity Meeting
14	W		14	S	Field Trip, Sternburg Museum, Hays, KS
15	T		15	S	
16	F		16	M	
17	S		17	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
18	S		18	W	
19	M		19	T	
20	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	20	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15p 7:30p 1701 SW Collins
	W		21	S	
22	T		22	S	
23	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15p 7:30p 1701 SW Collins	23	M	
24	S	Field Trip, to Matt DeVader's Farm	24	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
25	S		25	W	
26	M		26	T	Thanksgiving Day
27	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	27	F	
28	W		28	S	
29	T		29	S	
30	F		30	M	
31	S	Halloween			

As A Reminder!

If you are wanting to take a class in Silversmithing or wire wrapping you are to call either Jim Baer at 785-224-8178 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: November 5, 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

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

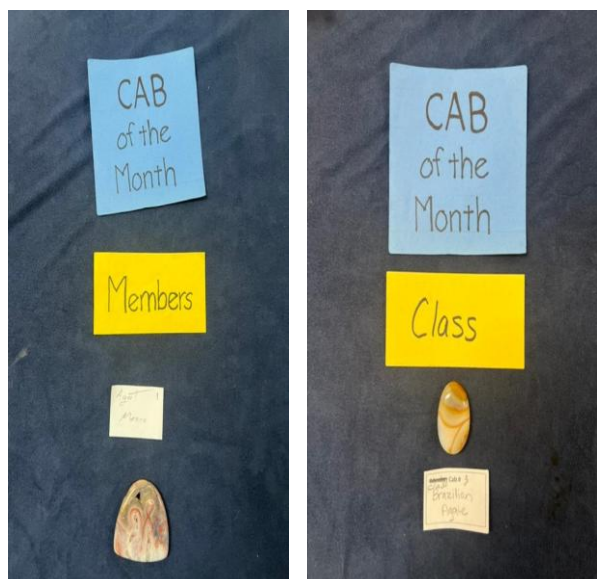
Aug 2026.....Rebate amount \$46.11

Commented [MM1]:
Your Dues Are Due!

CAB OF THE MONTH FOR September 2026



Sept winners: Cab -class- Brazilian Agate by Katy Woods
 Cab – member- Mexican Agate by Brad Davenport
 Class Jewelry – Moon Stone by Renee Rippetoe
 Member Jewelry – azurite & malachite by Janie Hanni
 Specimen- BIF W/Taconite (Topeka) by Brad Davenport
 Lapidary ART-Amethyst Tree w/nest & scape rock & slate base
 By Shirley Schulz
 Not pictured in August, Specimen by Larry Hardesty Rainbow Fluorite





Give a Big Welcome to our new members

Jina Martin
Amanda, *Anabella & *Vaughan Clausen
Arlie Headley
Noel M. & Scott Kellogg
Katharine Kellogg

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The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society
General Meeting, September 25, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order: President Cinda Kunkler calls the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Harold Merrifield reports there are 38 people present at the meeting. Four door prizes are given out.

Show: Brad handed out the magnetic bumper stickers that Donna & Frances Stockton spent a lot of time making. There are a lot of coupons available tonight for people to take and distribute throughout the community. Sign-up sheets for the show are on the front table tonight. We need everyone to sign up to help as much as they can. We will be setting up tables on Thursday night. Friday will be spent getting things out of storage, attaching liners to the tables, taking cases to the venue, putting up signs for each of the vendors, folding programs, etc. Not everything will be heavy lifting, so everyone can help in some way. There are sign-up sheets for the auction/hospitality table, Junior Rockhounds table, and the scholarship table. Money from the scholarship table goes to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation which provides two graduate students of Earth Sciences in the state to each receive a \$4000 scholarship. The Junior Rockhounds table will have hands-on specimens for the kids to look at and handle. There will be a rock painting table. Door Table shifts will be 2-hours in length, with at least 3 people at the table. Demonstrations will be going on. There are many places that members can volunteer to work - we will need a lot of help! Dave mentions that Millie and Brad have been taking care of the show details while Dave is recovering. He encourages everyone to sign-up to help.

Approval of Minutes: Since there are no General Meetings held during the summer, there have not been any minutes printed in the Drifter since May 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Millie Mowry reports that she paid the Woodshed the balance of the rent for the show. She paid for the ads for the radio spots on both stations. Brad presents a high dollar receipt of \$900+. The purchase was approved at the Board Meeting, as money was set aside in this year's budget for the shop. The woman at The Woodshop has 56 tables available and we need 74-75. Cinda believes she has a way to get tables for next to nothing because they are not being used right now. Chuck will haul them on his trailer. Brad states that he noticed that the Woodshed is on the market to be sold.

Field Trips: Chuck Curtis reports there is a field trip on Sunday to the quarry in Perry. Everyone is asked to be there at 8:30 a.m. The gate will be closed to keep random people from driving in, as this has happened in the past. It is advised to bring boots along because it may be muddy with the rain we've been having. Next month, we are going to the DeVader farm near Holton. The owner does not want any pets or children to be brought along. It is limited to 1-gallon buckets per member. He also does not want any holes to be dug. This site is a working farm with a creek running through the property. We will probably have to caravan to the site because he does not want a ton of vehicles.

Communications: Cinda has some flyers available for other shows coming up in the area and out-of-state.

Web Master: Chad Skinner states there is nothing new to report. Doria mentions that we need to have the Woodshed event on the Facebook page to get the word out as much as possible.

Junior Rockhounds: Dennis Hippe reports there is a meeting this Thursday, Oct 1st. Doors open at 6:00pm, class starts at 6:30pm. The class will be "Communications" taught by Jason Schulz. Cinda reports we are planning to set up a slushy machine at the show. The cases will be set up on the stage up front. If anyone has any collections they want to share in cases at the show, please have the items there on Friday so they can be put in the cases before the show on Saturday.

Chuck states that we've told two people they are guests of honor and will get in free at the show. It is confirmed there will be a list with their names by the door.

Shop: Brad states that the shop is dirty and we will need to plan a day early in November to clean up. The big bill he presented tonight is for a whole bunch of wheels and we will need people to install them. The big oil saws need to be cleaned. Jim says a Broomcasting class will be scheduled sometime after the show. Talk to Jim or Brad if you are interested in learning Broomcasting. Jim states that his phone number will be changing in the near future and this will be reflected in the Drifter.

Tear-down is immediately after the show on Sunday, with the show closing at 5:00 p.m. Everything going back to the storage unit will need to be gathered together and ready to go, which takes quite a bit of effort. So far, 9 people are signed up for this task. It usually doesn't take longer than 2 ½ hours. We're hoping everyone will be out of there by 8:00 p.m. We will have security, and there is an ATM available. Pete will be running the concession stand.

Evening Program: Desiree announces that the program for the evening will be a silent auction. There will be a 30-minute timer. All proceeds go to the club.

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

Submitted by Stacy Haug, TTGMS Secretary

ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

Greetings Fellow Field Trippers,

I just spoke with the Sternberg Museum in Hays, KS and the Club is scheduled for a one hour Tour at 1:00 pm on Saturday November 14. We will meet at the Museum, take the tour and then be turned loose to individually explore the rest of the Museum until you have seen enough and wish to leave. Please arrive no later than 12:30 for Sign-In and Group Photo.

There has been much talk lately of the Museum closing at the end of the year due to a lack of funding. Rumors have it that solutions may be in the works. But, it is very possible that after the 1st of the year there will be no more Sternberg. If you've never been this may be your last chance.

As usual attendees must be Members of The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society. The rate for the tour will be \$8. Hope to see you there,

Chuck Curtis, Field Trip Coordinator, chuckcurtis@att.net

Jim Baer's
New Phone Number
785-224-8178

Amethyst

The World's Most Popular Purple Gemstone

By Sawyer JM, Cora B, Nate B, Zachary D, Sydney M, Wyatt S, Leo B, and Henry J
Topeka Junior Rockhounds
(with help from Jason S, Rockhounds instructor)

Amethyst is composed of silicon dioxide (SiO_2) and is classified as crystalline quartz. It forms in hollow gas bubbles in cooling volcanic lava. Its purple color comes from iron impurities in the quartz mutating from gamma radiation over millions of years. The color changes when exposed to high temperatures (from 300° to 400° C). It rates at seven on Mohs Scale, making it suitable for normal wear. The name Amethyst comes from the ancient Greek word "amethystos," which means "not drunk."

