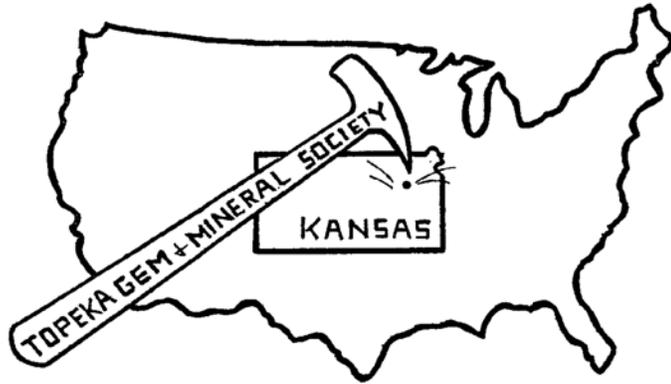


The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



www.topekagemandmineral.org

Facebook: Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Field Trips



The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 55, No. 8, September 2012
 The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 Organized December 3, 1948

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

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; (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, except December, unless notified of a change, September – May, 7:30 pm, Stoffer Science Hall, Room 138, Washburn University. Picnic meetings held during summer months, June – August.

Dues: Individual, \$15.00; Husband and wife, \$20.00; Junior (under 18 years of age), \$5.00. Dues are due in December for the coming year; they are delinquent after the January meeting. Send dues to Millie Mowry, Treasurer 1934 SW 30th St., Topeka, KS 66611.

2012 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Mike Cote`	220-3272	Cab the Month	Debra Franz/Fred Zeferjohn	862-8876
1 st Vice Pres.	Dave Dillon	272-7804	Field Trip Coordinator	Larry Henderson	272-8444
2 nd Vic Pres.	Carolyn Brady	233-8305	Publicity	Christy Bien	608-1890
Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Welcome/Registration	Debra Franz	862-8876
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	M. Cote`/D. Dillon	220-3272
Directors	Jim Mowry	267-2849	AFMS Scholarship	Louellen Montgomery	354-1290
	Clyde Burton	478-4778	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	George Reed	836-9277	Show Chairman	Harold Merrifield	286-3548
Historian	Freda Tabor	273-0691	Show Dealer Chrm.	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Federation Rep	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849			
Librarian	Jim & Millie Mowry	267-2849			

Area Code for all numbers is 785.

LESSONS

Classes are now being held at Mike Cote house. His mailing address is 4910 Clark Rd. Meriden, Kansas 66512. He has a large Morton building that we are using. It is still on Tuesday night from 6-9. Do a map quest to get driving directions or call Mike at 220-3272.

Dave Dillon, davidd5124@aol.com Mike Cote', mcote35@yahoo.com

*** Attention Members ***

To save some money we are going to start sending out the Drifter by email. To be sure you receive yours....make sure we have the correct email address. If you do not receive your copy.....or can not open it...contact Millie at rock2plate@aol.com or you can also go to the website to get a copy.

www.topekagemandmineral.org

TLC Report

. Debra Frantz is home and I stand corrected as she had a stroke (not a heart attack) and is recovering with the excellent help of her husband Fred. He took off work until she is able to care for herself.

Marion Brown' mother passed away on August 28th, 2012. Our condolences go out to his family

National Fossil Day

National Fossil Day 2012 will be held on October 17 this year. This is a celebration organized to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational value.

More information can be found on the web at <nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/overview.cfm>.



Three small [ammonite](#) fossils, each approximately 1.5 cm across



Eocene fossil fish *Priscacara liops* from Green River Formation of Wyoming.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Dates to Remember

September 28th, The general meeting will be at the Stoffer Science Hall Room 138 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be a silent auction. This is a chance to find some good treasures! Bring lots of quarters.

Date Change for the November Meeting at Stoffer Science Hall. It will be **NOVEMBER 16th** instead of the 23rd because of Thanksgiving.

FIELD TRIPS

Scheduled TGMS Field Trips ----- We meet at McDonalds, 11th and Kansas Ave.

September 22 Dubois, NE Field Trip 6:00 a.m. McDonalds Leave at 6:30

We are to meet the North Central Kansas Rock & Gem Club, September 22nd, at Shirley's Place (a restaurant in Dubois) 150 Miner Street, Dubois, NE 68345 and leave for the Nemaha river at 9:30 a.m. Marty says: "there is something for all [rock and fossils], bring bags digging equipment bug spray and a lunch and anything you need for a field trip. be prepared to get your feet wet." Marty wants a count of those wanting breakfast at Shirley's Place by Sept. 19th. Let me know and I will let him know.

September 29 Meteorite Field Trip 8:30 a.m. McDonalds Leave at 9:00

Rescheduled from August 25th. We have obtained permission to hunt for meteorites, fossils and study the terrain near admire. Admire is about 30 miles southwest of Topeka, by turnpike.

What to bring on Meteorite Hunting Trips:

Metal Detector (with extra batteries)⁽¹⁾ I recommend earphones Digging tools
Optional: Magnet to identify meteorites. Bring a Lunch.

(1) Not required, only if you want to have a chance of finding a meteorite.

October 26-28 Fossil Mania, Glen Rose, Texas

Show with dealers and exhibits. Glen Rose is also home of dinosaur tracks. One track site is behind the Comfort Inn Motel.

Other Opportunities

Anyone interested in a trip to South Dakota, for Fairburn Agate, with a stop at Ashfall Fossil Beds Nebraska State Historical Park, contact me.

What to bring on Fossil Hunting Trips:

Something to pry fossils out of the ground. Long screwdriver, rock hammer, or pry bar
Something to put items in. Plastic bags, boxes, bucket, Eye protection, Magnifying glass,

Personal gear:

Hat, to shade sun, Suntan Lotion, Bug repellent. Wear sturdy shoes. Trips dates are tentative and subject to additions and change. Call or e-mail Larry if you have an interest in any of these trips, 272-8444
LHenderson85@gmail.com Larry Henderson, Field Trip Chairman

Press Release of the Topeka Gem & Mineral Society

September 7, 2012

A new youth program of the Topeka Gem & Mineral Society

The **Topeka Gem & Mineral Society** introduces a new program, **Topeka Gem & Mineral Society Junior Rockhounds**. The program is a certified member of the **Future Rockhounds of America**. **Future Rockhounds of America**, is program of the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**, of which Topeka Gem & Mineral Society is a member of.

Member youth, up to age 18, may enroll in the Future Rockhounds of America program and receive a Future Rockhound patch. Enrolled members can qualify to earn any of 20 badges available through the program. After they have qualified for 6 of the 20 badges, they receive a Rockhound Badge. If they qualify for all 20 badges, they are awarded an AFMS cloisonné "Rock Star" pin.

There is no cost for the classes and the badges. Anyone interested in enrolling can sign up at the TGMS meetings, Annual show, or contact Larry Henderson, LHenderson85@gmail.com, or (785) 272-8444.

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In addition to the Junior Rockhounds of America program, members receive the club's newsletter, *The Glacial Drifter*, are eligible to vote at club meetings, hold club office, attend field trips, and sign up for occasional lapidary and silversmithing classes.

We need your **BEST CHOICE** UPC Labels --- Bring them to the monthly meeting.



Delivery of Meteorites

On August 30th, Larry Henderson, Field Trip Chairman, and Carolyn Brady, 2nd Vice President, delivered four meteorites to the Kansas Geological Survey office in Lawrence. They were donated by our meteorite contact near Admire. Part of them are to be on display at the Kansas Geological Survey Office, and others will go to Kansas University and the museum. Thank you Larry and Carolyn for taking the time to do this.



Show Report

For those who have name badges, be sure to locate them as we need to wear them during the show. If you do not have one.....let Millie know so that they can be ordered. Last year they ran just over \$8. Also, dig out your blue vest to wear.

The new dealer signs are done and Dave has picked them up.

Sign up sheets will be at the September meeting and there are a lot of openings to be filled. Call or email Millie at 267-2849 rock2plate@aol.com to get the choice times.

Smile of the Week

Poor Steve was having trouble getting his neighbor to keep his chickens fenced in. The neighbor kept telling him the chickens had the right to go where they wanted, but the birds were ruining Steve's prize-winning flowerbeds.

Two weeks later, a friend visited Steve and noticed his flowerbeds were doing great. The flowers were even beginning to bloom! The friend asked, "How did you get your neighbor to keep his hens in his own yard?"

Steve replied, "Easy! One night I hid a dozen eggs under a bush by my flower bed. The next day I let my neighbor see me gather them. The hens haven't been back since!"

Internet Humor

How to Cut Fire Agate

Author Unknown

The —fire’ in fire agate is actually a very thin layer of limonite. When obtaining fire agate, look for thick brown areas because that’s where the fire is. If there is white under a thin layer of brown, the piece is not good; however, if white is on top and the brown underneath, there’s a good chance of fire. If you grind too deeply, there will probably be more fire under the layer you ground away. It’s easy to grind or sand through fire, so carefully orient the fire. Look for the tops of bubbles on the top of the stone. The bottom of the stone should be the area where it was attached to the host rock.

Once you have oriented the fire and the top has been determined, carefully grind away colorless or white agate to expose the fire. When the excess material has been ground away and the fire exposed, establish the base and perimeter of the fire. The base should be parallel to the top of the cab. After size and shape have been established, work the same as any stone except that fire agate is very heat sensitive. Use lots of water, grind a little and look a lot. You can polish with cerium, tin or chrome oxide or diamond.

From: *Gem Cutters News*, February 1996, Via March, 2012 *Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club Bulletin*; *The Mountain Gem* June 2012

CUTTING MALACHITE

We recommend sawing about 10 degrees away from directly parallel to the grain. This way, when you dome the stone, you will get a bull's eye effect. Malachite is a fairly soft stone, so try to leave the slabs a little thicker than other materials. When grinding, we recommend always wear a breathing mask. Malachite can be toxic and can make you very ill. After grinding sand first on a new 600 sanding belt, then finish sanding on a much worn out 600. Finally, for polishing, we recommend ZAM on hard felt. Give the stone a little extra time and the polish will keep coming up better.

Source: unknown, via *Blue Agate News* February 2010, *The Mountain Gem* June 2012

RULES FOR CUTTING MALACHITE

Malachite should never be cut with oil. The oil soaks in and changes the color of the rock. Use a water cool-ant instead. When working malachite, always use plenty of coolant, work in a well-ventilated place and wear a mask.

Source Ed Wengerd, for *The Pegmatite* 9/08, via *Blue Agate News* February 2010; *The Mountain Gem* June 2012

SHOP HINTS

Tie a piece of cotton clothesline rope around each rock on the vibrating lap to keep them from banging together and chipping.....from Briccia.

A pumice block (the kind for cleaning bathroom fixtures) is usually available at the local hardware store. Run your buff dry. Hold the block to the running wheel with a medium firm pressure. It will dislodge the unwanted particles and make your wheel clean as new..... from *Rhodonites & Show Me Newsletter* Via: the Geode.

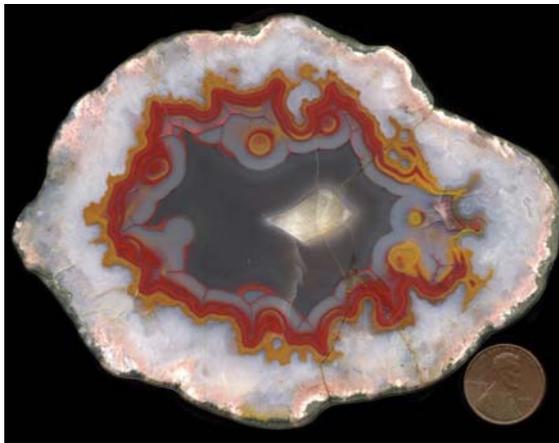
Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid detergent to you cutting oil. If your saw has a plastic lid, this will be the first time ever that you have been able to see through the top after cutting your first slab..... from *Enid Gem & Mineral Society*

Soaking black petrified wood in household bleach such as Clorox, may bring out growth rings to enhance an otherwise plain black slab. Cover and let stand for several weeks, adding bleach once a week. Avoid using metal containers as they react with the chemicals. The slab should be ground and sanded before it is soaked as the bleach does not penetrate too deeply...The Conglomerate.....All hints from *The Rear Trunk* Sept. 2012.

Dwarves' Earth Treasures Museum:
Kentucky Agates
Estill, Powell and parts of Jackson Counties, Kentucky

Kentucky is known for its agate & quartz concretions which appeared to be originally crinoid heads, brachiopods and other fossils in the limestone that had been expanded by growing evaporation minerals and water action. They are somewhat difficult to obtain mainly due to the fact that too many people searching the creeks (like Middle Fork area for example) in search for agates made as the state gemstone of Kentucky. Since they were found mostly along the rivers coming from the limestone formations, they tend to be widely fractured. The most common colors appear to be brownish-yellow, yellow, and bluish-gray, but they also come in the colors of gray, black, purple, pink, lavender, green and red. A most desired color combination would be pitch black and deep red. The multi-banded agates appear to be relatively rare.

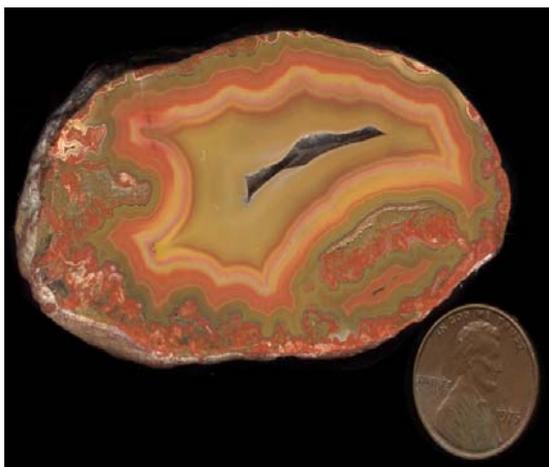
There are few places where Kentucky Agates were said to be obtained directly from their limestone hosts
Rare "Holly Leaf" Pattern of classic Black, yellow and Red Colors; a



Rare "Holly Leaf" Pattern of classic Black, yellow and Red Colors; a rescued end-cut



Classic Yellow and Black Colors with some shadowing effect



<http://www.sailorenergy.net/Minerals/MlAgates/>

(Via: WGMS Rockhouser Sept. 2012)

JUNIOR PAGE

Paleontological Trading Cards

To get your trading cards print pages on card stock or on photo paper that has no printing on the back side. Trading Cards can also be downloaded from the Junior page at <http://wgmsks.org>.

(Editor's note: There is a new set of cards this month.) Source: Quarry Quips, Sept. 2012

FOSSILS AS MEDICINE

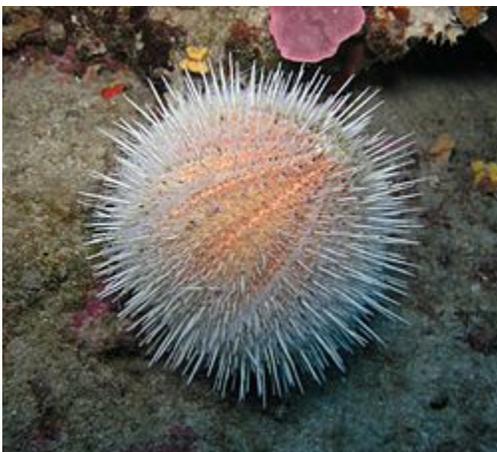
SEA URCHINS have been used by medicine men for a very long time. As far back as Roman times and the Druids, the Sea Urchin has been described as a medicine. The Druids called them Snake Eggs and believed that a gathering of snakes would form the eggs from foam and to get it, it must be caught in a piece of cloth before it would touch the ground, because if it did, it would lose its powers.

This snake egg would protect the owner from pestilential vapors and from all poisons. Almost two thousand years ago in Palestine, a Sea Urchin spine was used to break up gallstones. It would be licked and the gallstones would break up immediately. In the 2nd century the Sea Urchin was used as a powder, put into a liquid and drank to cure gallstones, three glasses of this liquid would cure bladder stones, but there was a disagreement among the physicians and some believed it would cure kidney stones instead of the bladder.

During the Crusades, many Sea Urchins were brought back to Europe and the name they were given was Lapis Judaicus, which meant Stone from Judea. It soon had its name shortened to 'jew stone' and it was used to cure troubles of the bladder and others.

In England there was found a 'chalk egg' in the chalk pits in Kent that were used as medicine. They were said to be the finest medicine that could be found for curing any and all troubles with the stomach. When first reported in 1729, the use of this remedy was already old. The Sea Urchin in any form, shape or description could cure and nullify the effects of poison of all kinds. This was the greatest cure of the Sea Urchin

(Source: reprint from The Glacial Drifter Vol.33 No.11 Jan.91)



Sea Urchin, picture & information from Wikipedia

Sea urchins or **urchins** are small, [spiny](#), globular [animals](#) which, with their close kin, such as [sand dollars](#), constitute the class **Echinoidea** of the [echinoderm](#) phylum. There are c. 950 species of echinoids inhabiting all oceans from the intertidal to 5000 meters deep.^[1] Their shell, or "test", is round and spiny, typically from 3 to 10 cm (1.2 to 3.9 in) across. Common colors include black and dull shades of green, olive, brown, purple, and red. They move slowly, feeding mostly on [algae](#). [Sea otters](#), [wolf eels](#), [triggerfish](#), and other predators feed on them. Their "roe" (actually the [gonads](#)) is a delicacy in many cuisines. The name "urchin" is an old name for the round spiny [hedgehogs](#) that sea urchins resemble.