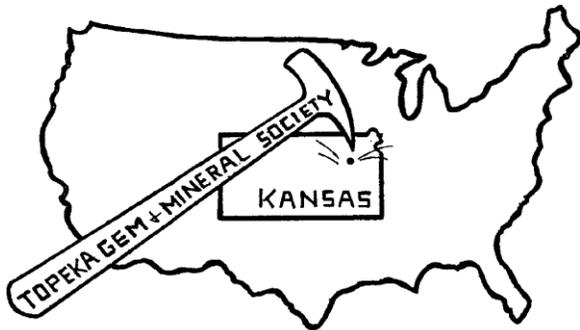


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc  
 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St. Topeka, KS 66611  
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

# THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



[www.topekagemandmineral.org](http://www.topekagemandmineral.org)

Facebook: Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Field Trip

The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 56, No. 6, June 2013  
 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; and (4) to encourage greater public interest and education in gems and minerals, cooperating with the established institutions in such matters.

Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month, September to May, 7:30 pm, Stoffer Science Hall, Room 138, Washburn University. 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 30<sup>th</sup> St, Topeka, KS 66611.

## 2013 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Mike Cote	220-3272	Cab of the Month	Debra Fran/Fred Zeferjohn	862-8876
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Dave Dillon	272-7804	Field Trip Coord.	Larry Henderson	272-8444
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Carolyn Brady	233-8305	Publicity	Christy Bien	608-1890
Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Welcome/Registration	Jason Schulz	379-5538
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	M. Cote/D. Dillon	379-5538
Directors	Clyde Burton	478-4778	AFMS Scholarship	Louellen Montgomery	220-3272
	George Reed	836-9277	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	Show Chairman	Harold Merrifield	286-3548
Historian	Deborah Scanland	273-3034	Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Federation Rep	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Jr. Rockhound Leader	Larry Henderson	272-8444
Librarian	Lucy Hrenchir	267-3325			
Web Master	Jason Schulz	379-5538			

Area Code for all numbers is (785).

## **MINUTES OF TOPEKA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, MAY 24, 2013**

Mike Cote' called the meeting to order. Twenty-one members and two guests attended. Door prizes were awarded. Fred Zeferjohn announced there were 10 member cabs and 10 member jewelry pieces entered for the Cab of the Month voting.

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed. Harold made a motion to accept the April minutes as written. Chuck seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. Millie gave the treasurer's report with Dave making a motion to accept. Chuck seconded and the treasurer's report was approved.

Millie received an email from the President of the Tulsa club to let us know all their members were alright after a tornado went through their area.

Harold reported that he and Chuck, as our delegates, attended the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) convention in Sandy, Utah. The meeting was good. There were discussions on insurance, and he obtained copies of the FAQ to distribute to our members. The American Lands Access Association efforts at keeping public lands opened was also discussed.

Deborah reports she is still scanning historical and archive materials and received five or six big boxes with slides to be scanned.

Show committee & Webmaster had nothing to report.

Larry reported that he has permission for a field trip to Calhoun Bluffs for tomorrow's field trip, coffee shop meetings and JR Rock hounds classes are all going well.

New Business: JR Rockhound badges were presented to Thomas, Robert & Ian Schultz - congratulations! Millie announced the next meeting will be the start of our summer picnics, bring food to share and table service. Will reports that he and Pat will receive a distinguished service award next Thursday at a 4-H meeting in Manhattan. Congratulations to them! Shirley confirmed we will have a table at Shawnee County Fairgrounds during the fair. Dave and Mike indicated lapidary classes will start again Tuesday from 6 to 9 at Mike's house. Cinda has information on the Petrified Wood & Art Gallery in Ogallala NE.

Mike adjourned our meeting to our program, a video 'The Jewels of the Desert', as our originally scheduled program was not available.

Cab of the Month TIES in both categories! Member cab: Harold Merrifield, Mojave Turquoise, and Dave Dillon, Purple Victoria Stone. Member Jewelry: Mike Cote', Wire Wrapped Fire Agate and Dave Dillon, Apple Valley Jade in a Gold Ring.

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Kunkler, Secretary

## TLC REPORT



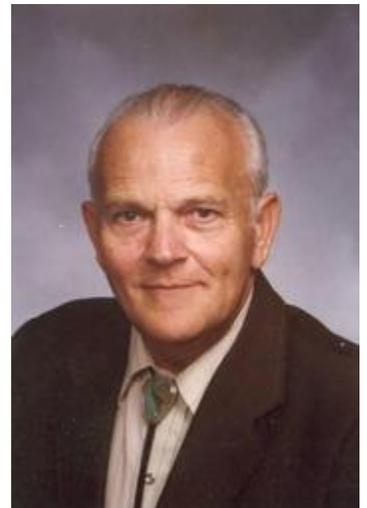
Carolyn Brady is still under the weather and has not fully recovered from her surgery. She is now facing more tests and possible surgery.

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*Jim Mowry passed away on June 11, 2013. He was a past board member of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society and held various officer positions. He was very knowledgeable and skilled in lapidary work and truly enjoyed the craft. He will be missed by all.*

James Dale Mowry  
(December 18, 1929 - June 11, 2013)

James Dale Mowry, 83, of Topeka, died Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at Lexington Park Nursing Home. He was born December 18, 1929 at Milford, Kansas the son of Madison Melitus and Estella Pearl (Johnson) Mowry. He graduated from high school in Junction City, Kansas, and various college courses. He was a Lt. Col. with the Kansas Army Guard, managing various Data Processing Operations, and in Logistics Department for 36 years retiring in 1984. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and lapidary work. He was a member of the TopKans Square Dance Club, Plus Squares Square Dance Club and the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society. He married Joyce Romaine Nevins. On February 16, 1985, he married Mildred "Millie" Felch Garrison, in Topeka. She survives the home. Other survivors include a daughter, Vicki Simons (Pat) of Meriden, sons James Mowry (Kathy) of Oberlin, OH., David Mowry (Annette) of Topeka, Michael Garrison (Cindy) of Topeka and daughter Sonya Williams (Frank) of Netawaka, KS. Other survivors include thirteen Grand-children and four Great-Grand-children. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and one son John Mowry of Jacksonville, FL. Cremation is planned, with a Memorial service at the Countryside Christian Church 3635 NE Hwy K4, Topeka, KS., Friday from 1-3 p.m. Burial will be at the Milford Cemetery, Milford, KS., at 9 a.m. on Saturday June 15, 2013. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Midland Care Hospice, 4037 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604.



### *From the President – Mike Cote'*

*I look forward to seeing all of you at the picnics this summer!*

*Remember that the lapidary classes have started, Tuesday nights, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at my place. Help is available if needed to get you started. Please contact myself or Dave Dillon for more information. Junior rock hounds are welcome to attend (for their badges).*

\*\*\*\*\*

Make Welcome our New Member

*Erica Greve*

\*\*\*\*\*

### FIELD TRIPS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday Night Coffee, first and third Tuesday night, meets at the Classic Bean (Fairlawn Plaza) 7:00 pm. Discussions include fossils and other collections. Come join us with your show and tell.

June 22-23 Osage Rock & Mineral Club Show, 11 am to 5 pm both days, Eldon Community Center at 309 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Eldon, MO. Free Admission

June 22-23 Victor Gem and Mineral Show, Victor, CO. For more information, email [stcfg@victorcolorado.com](mailto:stcfg@victorcolorado.com) or call (719) 689-2675. Vendors welcome.

Field Trips Trip dates are tentative and subject to additions and/or changes. Email Larry Henderson if you have an interest in any of these trips. (785) 272-8444 or [lhenderson85@gmail.com](mailto:lhenderson85@gmail.com). Starting point for field trips is at McDonalds, 11<sup>th</sup> and Kansas Ave, Topeka. Public facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Topeka-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-Field-Trips/92795058262>

### *As a Reminder*



*For the months of June July & August, we do not have a General Meeting. Instead, we have picnics on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at Millie's house, 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St.. Bring your favorite picnic food to share and your own table service. Coffee and ice tea will be furnished. We will eat where it is cool or you can eat out on the patio.*

*I want to give a Big Thanks to Lucy Hrenchir for helping me get the Drifter out this month. She has been a life saver! Millie Mowry*

## June Birthstone



Pearls are made out of *nacre* (NAY kur). When a particle comes into the oyster or nacre-forming mollusk, the mollusk or oyster covers the particle with nacre. The particle is trapped in the layers, and the particle is covered with the nacre to look like a sphere. The pearl is formed.

Pearls aren't very hard. They absorb and reflect light. This is a gem that is not formed beneath the Earth. It is formed in the ocean.

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## Safety Article of the Month! Prevent Mosquito Bites



Source: Centers For Disease Control And Prevention (CDC)

A single mosquito bite can make you sick. Why take a chance? Use repellent on yourself, your friends and your family. Many people who are bitten by an infected mosquito won't get sick-many others aren't as lucky. Since 1999, more than 30,000 people in the United States have been reported as getting sick with West Nile virus.



### What Can I Do to Prevent WNV?

Prevention measures consist of community-based mosquito control programs that are able to reduce vector populations, personal protection measures to reduce the likelihood of being bitten by infected mosquitoes, and the underlying surveillance programs that characterize spatial/temporal patterns in risk that allow health and vector control agencies to target their interventions and resources.



The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites.

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient. Follow the directions on the package. Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours. Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

### What Are the Symptoms of WNV?

- About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.



- **Milder Symptoms in Some People.** Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected have symptoms such as fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even healthy people have become sick for several weeks.

- **No Symptoms in Most People.** Approximately 80 percent of people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.



#### How Does West Nile Virus Spread?

- **Infected Mosquitoes.** Most often, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.



#### Transfusions, Transplants, and Mother-to-Child.

In a very small number of cases, WNV also has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breast-feeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby. Not through touching. WNV is not spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

#### How Soon Do Infected People Get Sick?

People typically develop symptoms between 3 and 14 days after they are bitten by the infected mosquito.

#### How Is WNV Infection Treated?

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. In cases with milder symptoms, people experience symptoms such as fever and aches that pass on their own, although even healthy people have become sick for several weeks. In more severe cases, people usually need to go to the hospital where they can receive supportive treatment including intravenous fluids, help with breathing and nursing care.



#### What Is the Risk of Getting Sick from WNV?

- **People over 50 at higher risk to get severe illness.** People over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious symptoms of WNV if they do get sick and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.
- **Being outside means you're at risk.** The more time you're outdoors, the more time you could be bitten by an infected mosquito. Pay attention to avoiding mosquito bites if you spend a lot of time outside, either working or playing.
- **Risk through medical procedures is very low.** All donated blood is checked for WNV before being used. The risk of getting WNV through blood transfusions and organ transplants is very small, and should not prevent people who need surgery from having it. If you have concerns, talk to your doctor.
- **Pregnancy and nursing do not increase risk of becoming infected with WNV.** The risk that WNV may present to a fetus or an infant infected through breast milk is still being evaluated. Talk with your care provider if you have concerns.



Some things the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is doing include:

- **Manage and maintain ArboNET,** a nation-wide electronic surveillance system where states share information about WNV and other arboviral diseases.

Support states develop and carry out improved mosquito prevention and control programs

Developing better, faster tests to detect and diagnose WNV

Prepare updated prevention and surveillance information for the media, the public, and health professionals

Working with partners on the development of vaccines.

(Source: Via Strata Gem June 2013; Via RMFNews Sept 2012; News & Views 6/2013)



## ARIZONA IRONWOOD (Olneya Tesota) (Palo de Hierro)

The rich, dark heart wood of the Arizona Ironwood tree is one of the most beautiful woods in the world -- its grain structure and soft satin finish set it above all others, including the romance woods of the orient.

The tree which produces this fabulous wood is native to the southwestern desert, ranging across the southern half of Arizona into upper Sonora, Mexico. The Ironwood tree seldom grows above an altitude of 2500 ft., and is found most commonly in dry foothill country, edging the desert. The tree is very sensitive to frost, and any area sustaining it is usually considered to be suitable for the growing of citrus. The Ironwood tree is a spinney semi-evergreen that often achieves a height of 30 feet. The tree is very slow growing and a large tree is probably several hundred years old.

Depending on local conditions, it requires from fifty to perhaps a hundred years or more for, an Ironwood tree to cure properly after it has died. The best wood for working purposes is usually obtained from trees that have cured in a standing position. Fallen trees are subject to the attack of carpenter ants, termites, worms and the action of sand and running water. Seldom is a useable log found on the ground.

Articles made from Ironwood, such as arrow heads, hoes, etc., have been found in prehistoric ruins of the Southwest, dating from 1000 to 3000 years ago. The indestructibility of Ironwood by natural deterioration is amazing.

Ironwood releases a high heat energy when burned and leaves very little ash. These qualities make it a most desirable fuel locally, and as a result, the greatest part of good deadwood available on the desert has been burned up during the past century. Wood good enough for art work must now be sought in the very remote regions of the desert land.

Ironwood is one of the hardest woods in the world and is very dense. Its specific gravity is 1.2 and, of course, the wood sinks in water like a rock. While very hard, Ironwood is also very brittle, and can withstand but little side pressure without splintering. Special tool steel points are used when turning the wood, and pieces shaped by hand are formed by use of a steel rasp.

One point that should be accentuated in connection with this wood is that curing cracks and checks are characteristic of the finest wood. The great density of this wood is such that during the countless years required for complete curing, many shrinking cracks and checks always occur. These lines, that in other wood would be considered imperfections, should be regarded with the same respect given to matrix lines in the finest turquoise. Only very small pieces can be cut out of Ironwood that do not show a small crack or check.

Ironwood is truly representative of Arizona. The timelessness of the desert is represented by the countless ages required of nature to grow, mature and cure the wood, the beauty of the grain and finish, the strength of its fibers -- all speak eloquently of something that only Arizona could present to the world. Arizona Ironwood is truly a diamond among the gem woods of the world.

(From Rockhound Record 3/84, via WG&MS Newsletter 5/86, via COLOR COUNTRY CHIPS 8/88 reprint from The Glacial Drifter April 1989)

## Junior Page



Monthly classes are being held on the 1st Thursday of the Month starting at 6:30 pm at the Town & Country Christian Church. The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society Advisors meet at the same time.

Upcoming months will have the following classes:

June – Fossils (Larry Henderson & Debbi Jackson)

July – Fossils (Larry Henderson & Debbi Jackson) / Introduction of Collecting (Pat Gilliland)

Aug – Continue with Collecting (Pat Gilliland) / Introduction of Showmanship (Pat Gilliland)

Sept – Continue with Showmanship (Pat Gilliland) / Introduction of Leadership (Jason Schulz)

### Junior Rockhound Class July 11, 2013

**Subject:** Dinosaurs from the Morrison Formation and the Fossils from the Western Inland Sea (Western Kansas). Upon successful completion, the student will qualify for Activity 3.7.

### How to Make Rock Candy

You will need: 5 cups granulated sugar, 2 cups water, food coloring, flavoring, a very clean glass quart jar, string or coffee stirrer, and a pencil. Do this: Bring water to a boil, dissolve as much sugar as you can. Pour this into a very clean jar. Add food coloring and flavoring after the solution has been poured. Tie a string to a pencil and hang the string into the jar with the pencil resting on the rim. The string must not touch the bottom or sides of the jar. (If using a coffee stirrer, be sure it sticks out the top of the jar. It can touch the bottom.) Put a piece of waxed paper over the top of the jar to slow down evaporation. As the sugar solution cools, it becomes super-saturated and the excess sugar crystallizes onto the string or stirrer. Do not move or touch the entire apparatus while the crystals are growing. No! No! Do not remove the cover either! Not even for just one little peek!

Author unknown, source The Pegmatite Dec 2002

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