



THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE



Bulletin of the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, PO Box 2082, Holland, Michigan

Website: Tulipcity.org

December 2010

Volume 43, Edition 12

**General Meeting
December 15
Herrick District
Library 7pm**



Best of 2010 Contest: I would like to bring to your attention some changes this year that should expedite tallying of the votes and help assure entries have fairly met each category.

The two categories:

Favorite Find & Why (found by you anytime and why it is your favorite) and Favorite Piece & Why (found by anyone, anytime and why it is your favorite) will be voted on by the members present. Judging Criteria: Specimen and story.

The remaining categories will be judged by three individual judges. See Rules on Page 7.

- Please remember to label your specimens what it is and location found (do not list your name).
- Contestants must be Club Members and present to win.
- All Junior and Adult members may enter the contest in each category.

With the positive feedback from last year's changing of awards, we will again be awarding certificates. They will be 5x7 in size to allow them to be displayed easier. It was nice to see smiles and to hear the effort and adventure that went into the discovery, even if people didn't win money.

by Dave Nienhuis, Vice President

Best of 2010 Categories:

- ❖ Crystal
- ❖ Mineral
- ❖ Michigan Specimen
- ❖ Fossil
- ❖ Field Trip 2010
- ❖ Lapidary
- ❖ My Favorite Find & Why
- ❖ My Favorite Piece & Why

BENEFIT RAFFLE!

Donation to the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club from Bill & Linda Heyworth with Beauties of Creation.
(Proceeds for scholarships TBD.)

This Beautiful Citrine Cathedral could be yours, or a nice Christmas gift for a loved one!



There will be one last chance for Tulip City Members to purchase tickets at the December General Meeting prior to the drawing. Tickets are \$5 each.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Cindy Root	d-root@sbcglobal.net
Past President		
Vice President	Dave Nienhuis	dpnienhu@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Jennifer Ensing	clutterandbling@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Jim Benson	jbenson@voyager.net
Newsletter Editor	Karri Nienhuis	dpnienhu@sbcglobal.net
Social Chair	Kathy Steffler	ksteffler@hughes.net
Historian	Betty Hoekstra	kbhoek@att.net
Show Co-Chair	Shari Luttikhuisen Julia Sherwood	sluttikh@oaisd.org bobandjulia@accn.org
Field Trip Chair	Bob Sherwood	bobandjulia@accn.org
Jr. Club Co-Chair	Rick Smith Linda Winklemann	smithr@hope.edu lindawinklemann@att.net
Directors at Large	Jon Mull Dave Root	solace247@yahoo.com d-root@sbcglobal.net
Liaison Representative	Rebecca Cistaro	r4squares@charter.net
Membership Delegate	Jodi Zenk	jodis50@charter.net

JANUARY BIRTHDAYSBirthstone: **Garnet**

1/3	Julie Leavitt
1/3	Niels Bach
1/5	Tony Payne
1/8	Ben Swieringa
1/8	Sheryl Silva
1/9	Linda Falstad
1/11	Rebecca Cistaro
1/11	Paula Walters
1/12	Laura Long
1/13	Chelsi Proos
1/14	Ann Jillson
1/14	Cameron Wallar
1/15	Peter Swett
1/16	Bette Smith
1/17	Karri Nienhuis
1/19	Deb Cizek
1/20	Steve Miller
1/22	Lynn Huizingh
1/24	Janet Huber
1/25	Kathy Steffler
1/28	Trent Belknap
1/29	Gordon Boone
1/30	Jack Houran
1/30	Vega Volakakis
1/31	Mike Graebner
1/31	Nathan Smith
1/31	Alex Smith

**? December Question of the Month?**

Name this Lapidary Wizard.

Hint: He attends most every meeting.



When you arrive to the General Meeting; write the answer and your name on a piece of paper (found near entrance of the auditorium) for your chance to win a prize.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/6	Lee & Donna Malina
1/6	Walter & Jeanine Wolff

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Timothy and Michelle Reineck -
South Haven, MI

CLUB CALENDAR

December 1st - Board Meeting
Library small meeting room 7pm

December 15th - General Meeting,
Installation of Board, Holiday Treats,
Best of 2010 Contest in the
Library Auditorium 7pm



January 12th - Board Meeting
Library small meeting room 7pm

January 26th - General Meeting
Library Auditorium 7pm

February 9th - Board Meeting
Library small meeting room 7pm

February 23rd - General Meeting
Library Auditorium 7pm

**Bring your favorite
Holiday Treat to the
December 15th**

**General
Meeting**



OTHER EVENT: **JANUARY 1-31, 2011:**

QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Show, "Desert Gardens Intn Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; Contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn St, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; 9-6 daily; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

MINERAL STUDY GROUP by Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@tomaszewski.net

Ores are minerals, or aggregates of minerals, usually mixed with waste, that can be mined and processed at a profit. On the second Tuesday of November the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group met to learn about and identify by hand the ores of Iron. Both the Indian Mounds and Tulip City clubs were represented at this regional meeting.

There are over 1,100 minerals that contain Iron as an essential ingredient, with content ranging from 0.29% to native Iron at 100%. However, only ten iron bearing minerals are mined at a profit; the major ores are Magnetite, Hematite, Goethite, Siderite, Pyrite, and Chamosite, and the minor ores are Maghemite, Lepidocrocite, Pyrrhotite, and Ilmenite. Most of these ores have a metal content between 45 and 70%.

You learn hand identification of minerals by holding and studying a lot of identified specimens, which is why we ask everyone attending to try to bring one or more specimens of the mineral being studied. We had a rich collection of specimens for study this month, missing only Chamosite. Michigan is an iron producing state so many of us have had the opportunity to collect iron ores.

China is the largest producer and consumer of iron, followed by Brazil, Australia, and the United States. World reserves are estimated at around 800 billion tons of ore, and annual production is a little over 900 million tons. To produce one ton of iron you need 1.7 tons of ore (at around 65%), .6 tons of coke to burn for heat, .25 ton of limestone for flux, 1.9 tons of air (for oxygen), and 13 pounds of fluorite. Smelting iron in small quantities is something you can do in your own backyard.

Pure iron is very ductile. Trace impurities have a big effect on its properties. As little as 0.03% sulfur will make it brittle at high heats; 0.25% phosphorus will make it brittle when cold. Steel must have less than 2% carbon. Traces of other metals make unique properties. Iron oxide is used as a polishing powder. Iron is still fundamental to our economy.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Jan 11, 2011 from 7pm to 9pm at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We will be studying the ores of Copper. We like to start (and end) on time, but please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early. All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about the topic minerals, and hopefully bring along at least one specimen to let others look at (the more, the merrier). We hope you can join us for this learning opportunity.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2010



Attending: Betty Hoekstra, Shari Luttkhuizen, Bob & Julia Sherwod, Kathy Steffler, Rick Smith, Jim Benson, Rebecca Cistaro, Dave & Karri Nienhuis, Jennifer Ensing
 Absent: Jon Mull, Cindy Root, Linda Winkleman
 Visiting: Chet Smith, Tom Steffler

Dave Nienhuis called the meeting to order at 7:02pm
 Overview of October meeting minutes:
 Kathy moved, Rick seconded to accept the October 13 Board Meeting minutes.
 Bob moved and Shari seconded to accept the October 20 Board Meeting minutes.
 Julia moved, Jim seconded to approve the General Meeting minutes as amended.

Old Business:

Julia moved, Kathy seconded to refund the three schools who requested reimbursement of 80% of the bussing cost to the 2010 TCGMC Show.
 Bob moved, Rebecca seconded to approve the final financial Show Report.
 Bob mentioned that by the August (2011) meeting - it needs to be decided what the show dealer fees are. He also mentioned that Mike Manning will be a new show dealer for 2011.
 Membership Coordinator is not officially a Board position. It will be appointed in 2011.
 The official Board of Directors Slate for the 2011 will be listed in the November newsletter.
 Bylaws/overview:
 Karri will mail out the Bylaws with the November newsletter.
 Bob moved, Betty seconded that the revised Bylaws be approved by this Board and mailed out to the membership for their review and consideration at the December meeting.
 Jim gave the Treasurers Report.
 Julia moved, Karri seconded to accept the treasurer's report as presented, motion approved.
 Question of the Month - who will take it over - possibly the Directors at Large.
 Bob Sherwood brought up what is not covered in the Federation Insurance: Any and all mining activities, including collecting or hunting for gems, rocks or minerals, in underground mines, caves or non-open-air quarries.
 Bob found a book "Modern Rock Tumbling" by Steve Hart. This book will be donated in Memory of Chester Cutshall.
 Rick mentioned the Junior writing contest. This year they have age groups.
 Shari moved, Betty seconded to approve Rick to purchase plaques for the awards.

Meeting adjourned 8:34pm
 Jennifer Ensing, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2010

Cindy called the meeting to order at 7:18pm
 Approx. 87 people attending the meeting

Visitors were introduced.

Juniors were called to the front. Cindy announced that Ken will not be doing the Junior's specimen in 2011 and she asked for a volunteer to take it over.

Board Meeting, General Meeting & Special Board Meeting minutes accepted.

Jim gave a Treasurer's report.
 Julia gave a final financial Show report.

Next was the election of the 2011 Board Members:

President	Dave Nienhuis
Vice President	Jon Mull
Secretary	Kathy Steffler
Treasurer	Rebecca Cistaro
Directors at Large	Chris Cooper Trudy Fetters
Field Trip Coordinator	Bob Sherwood
Historian	Betty Hoekstra
Jr. Club Co-Chair	Rick Smith Linda Winkleman
Liaison Representative	Julia Sherwood
Newsletter Editor	Karri Nienhuis
Social Chairperson	Esther Kirkendall
Show Chairperson	Open

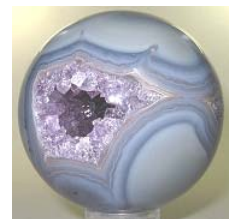
Dave explained the silent auction and the rest of the evening was spent buying new treasures. Dave announced that all bidding closed at 8:30Ppm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jennifer Ensing, Secretary

Note: Board Meetings are open to the Club members.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP by Jon Mull

I don't know how much time you spend on the internet, but I am amazed at how many sites there are that show exceptionally beautiful rocks and minerals.



So, I thought it might be nice to share a collection of links to sites that have excellent pictures of the things we like best, ROCKS!

Go to WWW.TULIPCITY.ORG Click on Field Trip tab to view links.

CANADIAN FIELD TRIP JULY 31-AUG 5, 2010

by Chet Perkins, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society of Fort Wayne, IN article via *The Strata Data*

My wife and I were invited to join the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club of Holland, MI on a field trip to the Thunder Bay area of Ontario, Canada, to collect amethyst. It was a long drive that first day through lower Michigan, across the Mackinac bridge, through customs at Sault St. Marie, then up Route 17 in Canada to our overnight stop in Wawa, Canada. All along Route 17 we noticed little piles of rocks placed on outcrops and on top of boulders, most resembling human figures. We later learned that they are called *Inukshuits*. In earlier times they were constructed by the Inuit people who lived in the area to serve as guideposts on unmarked land to make pathways easier to follow. The Inukshuit is a symbol of the human spirit and the word itself means "likeness of a person". Today tourists, mostly bikers, erect non-traditional Inukshuits along the roadside just to say, "I was here".

Upon arrival in Wawa, we met up with Bob and Julia Sherwood, our field trip leaders, and 21 other rockhounds. The next morning it was off to Nipigon, some 200 miles northwest to meet with the owners of Boulder Creek Amethyst Mine, Chuck and Linda Anderson. After we checked into our motel, the group was invited to the Anderson's home in Nipigon for a cookout and to see some of the good looking amethyst specimens that had come from their mine. Monday morning after breakfast and a 45 minute drive to the mine, we were finally ready to do some collecting. Amethyst crystals, amethyst with hematite inclusions, barite, calcite and stromatolites were the major finds. There were two sites. Both had been excavated from the side of a hill. Most of our collecting was surface collecting. It was a very hot day but no flies, and by mid-afternoon everybody had collected enough specimens, grab bag materials and gardenite, and were ready to head back to the motel and a shower. That evening we assembled on the deck at the motel for some fine wine and to discuss the findings of the day (a little show & tell) and plan for the following day. Most of the party decided to head toward Thunder Bay, stopping at some rock shops and beach areas on the north shore of Lake Superior, and re-entering the U.S at Grand Portage en route to Moose Lake, MN.

Lenora and I decided to check out the Blue Point Amethyst Mine before leaving Canada. It had been recommended to us by one of our club members who had been there the year before.



Picture by Bob Sherwood

The next morning we arrived at the mine about 9:30 am and were the only ones there for most of the morning. We were able to collect some very nice small specimens of amethyst with hematite inclusions, a 5-gallon bucket full of grab bag specimens and several large pieces for Lenora's garden (gardenite). It was just about noon when it started to rain and we decided we had had enough. We checked out of the mine and headed toward Thunder Bay for lunch.

On our way out of Canada we stopped several times along the north shore of Lake Superior to look for Lake Superior agate and thomsonite. No luck! We did pick up a few nodules of rhyolite, jasper, granite, gabbro, porphyry, gneiss and basalt, both vesicular (basalt with open holes) and amygdaloidal (basalt with holes filled with different minerals). We made it to the border at Grant Portage, passed through customs with no problem and headed down Route 2, spending the night in Brule, WI.

The next day we stopped at Little Girls Point on the south shore of Lake Superior for more beach rocks and lunch. Then on we went to the Iron Mountain Iron Mine in Vulcan, MI. There we donned hard hats and rain coats for an underground train tour through drifts (horizontal tunnels) of hematite to some 400 ft below the earth's surface. It was a gloomy, drippy setting - a typical iron mine. The mine was in operation from 1877 until 1945 and, during that time, 21,625,000 tons of iron ore were mined. After leaving Iron Mountain, we spent the night in Escanaba, MI and made it home the next day after stopping at a couple of rock and antique shops.

We had a very enjoyable time collecting and socializing with fellow rockhounds, and had good weather and safe travel.



Junior Rock Club Page

Junior Club Advisors
Rick Smith and Linda Winkelmann



First, be sure to read Maggie Mantooth's story "The Adventure" printed below in this month's newsletter. Her sister Anna's story appeared in last month's issue, and the other five juniors who submitted stories or articles for the Writing Contest will have their writings appear in future newsletters.

At our last meeting we talked about igneous rocks, those "fire-formed" rocks that we often associate with volcanoes. For the December meeting we'll take the next step in the Rock Cycle and look at sedimentary rocks. We'll talk about the natural forces—like wind and rain and ice—that play a role in the formation of sedimentary rocks. And of course we'll look at and handle some specimens of sedimentary rocks, many of which you can collect for yourself right here in Michigan.

For this month's puzzle, let's try something different. Locate the 36 bold-faced letters in the two paragraphs above and use them to spell the names of five common sedimentary rocks. Use each letter only once, and don't leave any letters out. (Hint: it may be helpful to start with a list of sedimentary rocks. You can check a rock and mineral identification book for this or ask a parent for help.)

THE ADVENTURE

by Maggie Mantooth (age 9)
October 2010

Junior Writing Contest Entry

Near my Grandma Hamlin's house in Charlevoix, we went to the Lake Michigan beach to play in the water and we found out that the ground was covered with rocks. So we played some more and we got out and we found some rocks. There were so many rocks to choose from, I did not know where to start. So my dad, my sister, Anna, and I, went to start our adventure. My sister found a whole bunch of Petoskey stones. I found a really pretty rock, it was a partial geode. Then I found an orange rock and a green one. They were so cool! My dad found some quartz crystals, and then he started skipping stones. We saw big boats on the lake and one was from Canada. My sister found even more Petoskey stones, while I found another really cool rock that was granite. Then we walked down the channel to see really cool boats and an anchor from a Coast Guard boat that we climbed. I think it was about 50 years old. We went back home to my grandma's house where we chased turkeys and my dad even saw foxes. My grandma has little hills with a lot of Petoskey stone and other fossils that we like to dig up. My day was such an adventure and I had a lot of fun!



Winter Weather
Cancellations: If the
Library is closed there
will be no meeting.



GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS:

Rick Smith, Jr. Club Co-Chair

Interests/Hobbies: language, linguistics, camping, hiking, reading, rocks, woodworking...

Favorite rock: rock instead of mineral, huh? OK, phyllite, I like its shimmery, silky look

Favorite tool: the hand plane: an elegantly simply concept - modified hundreds ways to create an array of unexpectedly beautiful effects from something so basic

What do you read: The Conglomerate, Fine Woodworking, all sorts of things when I have the time (Michael Crichton novels, Beowulf, Kurt Vonnegut novels, you name it)

Do you have a workshop: A teeny, tiny basement room

One thing you can't live without: air

Favorite food: ethnic foods of all kinds

Least favorite thing: my indecisiveness...I think... let me get back to you on that one

What was your profession: tennis pro, then English teacher, then furniture manufacturer

One thing no one knows about you: I once was a linesman for a tennis match with Rod Laver

Weirdest thing in your home: aluminum foil "flags" on the rabbit ears

Biggest collection in your home: just plain, indiscriminate stuff

Favorite TV shows: none, I don't watch much TV because those aluminum foil flags don't really work very well

Your involvement or favorite thing about the club:

Involvement: Jr. Club Leader - it's great to do the kids' programs-everyone should do one (call me if you're interested); Favorite thing: the generosity of club members giving time and information and materials and advice to the kids, to me, to each other

Personal motto: I don't know if I have a personal motto, but here's a good quote: "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Thomas Edison



BEST OF 2010 CONTEST GENERAL RULES:

One entry per person in each category, but you may include up to 3 items in your one entry.

The below categories will be voted on by three individual judges.

➤ **Crystal**

Judging Criteria: Display preparation/cleaning along with color, clarity and size could also be a factor.

➤ **Mineral**

Judging Criteria: Rarity and quality including color and pattern as it would apply to the specimen.

➤ **Michigan Specimen**

Judging Criteria: Material quality, rarity, color and pattern. Display preparation will also be a factor.

➤ **Fossil**

Judging Criteria: Quality, rarity and preparation.

➤ **Field Trip '10**

This category is only for items from club organized field trips this past year and must be found by the person entering them. This category is an opportunity to either enter an item that doesn't fit into another category or can be additional items from other categories. Judging Criteria would be based on the specimen type and its appearance.

The rules for the above four categories are; Items must have been collected by the person entering them and during this past year.

➤ **Lapidary**

Lapidary items must have been created this year by the person entering them. The materials used are allowed to have been collected in previous year or purchased at anytime. Judging Criteria: workmanship, material quality & overall appearance.

TULIP CITY GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

DUES DEADLINE - December 31, 2010

Mail to: **Jim Benson**
172 Elm Lane
Holland, MI 49424

Circle Interests:
Minerals, Fossils,
Lapidary, Field Trips,
Club Office

Make check payable to: TCG&M Club

Check membership type: [] Individual - \$15 [] Family - \$20

Comments:

Name _____

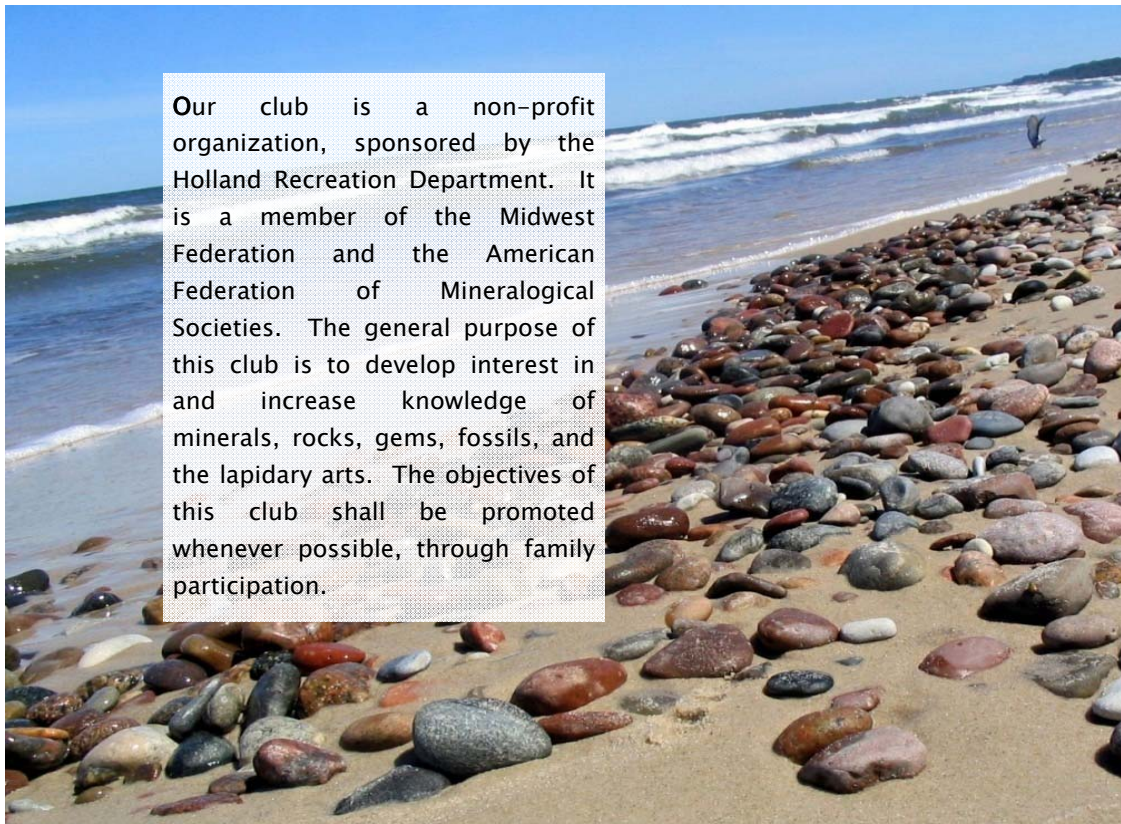
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

[] I would like to receive my newsletter via email only.

Note: New Members that signed up at the Sept. show are paid for 2011.



Our club is a non-profit organization, sponsored by the Holland Recreation Department. It is a member of the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The general purpose of this club is to develop interest in and increase knowledge of minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, and the lapidary arts. The objectives of this club shall be promoted whenever possible, through family participation.

Advertising rates for Club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for ¼ page, \$15 for ½ page, \$30 for full page. Double the rates for non-members. Payment by check; made out to: TCG&M; to be submitted with ad copy to Editor.

Articles in this bulletin may be reprinted, provided credit is given to the source, author and bulletin.

Dues:
Family \$20 Single \$15

Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month in the Herrick District Library Auditorium, 300 South River Avenue, Holland, MI at 7 pm, unless announced otherwise at a meeting or in the THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE. A Junior Club welcomes young rockhounds and meets separately during the evening.



Tulip City Conglomerate
Karri Nienhuis, Editor
4121 60th Street
Holland, MI 49423



SAVE THIS STAMP FOR MWF ENDOWMENT

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

