



THE TULIP CITY



CONGLOMERATE

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

November 2010

Volume 43, Edition 11



Hey,
did you hear about the
General Meeting,
Elections & Silent Auction
November 17, 2010
Herrick District Library
Auditorium

Invite a Friend

**SILENT AUCTION Set-up will begin at 6:30pm...
Meeting to begin at 7:15pm**

- ✓ All Specimens must be accompanied with an "Official" Auction Slip. You may prepare for this ahead of time by printing off the Silent Auction bid slip and "How it Works" document from www.tulipcity.org under the Calendar of Events heading. Slips will also be available at the meeting.
- ✓ Make sure your name and specimen identity is on the bid slip.
- ✓ No Club percentage will be deducted. Set a fair and reasonable price for best results.
- ✓ Money will be exchanged between buyer and seller, so be prepared to make change.
- ✓ It would be nice if you could also bring an item priced for our Junior's to bid on. There will be "Juniors Only" (12 and under) slips at the meeting, or write "Juniors Only" at the top.
- ✓ It's always a great time - hope to see you there!

Revised Bylaws Enclosed

The Board of Directors has studied and revised the Tulip City Club Bylaws over the course of several months. It approved this final set at the Nov. 3, 2010 Board meeting and recommends your approval at the Dec. General Meeting. Questions and comments prior to the vote are welcome.

**No Limit on
how much you
buy or sell!**

December 15th General Meeting: BEST OF 2010 CONTEST

Categories: Crystal, Mineral, Michigan Specimen, Fossil, Field Trip '09, Lapidary, My Favorite Find (found by you) & Why, My Favorite Piece (Anything) & Why

Guidelines/Rules will be in the next newsletter and on the internet www.tulipcity.org. With the positive feedback from last year's changing of awards, we will again be awarding certificates. It was nice to see smiles and hear about the effort and adventure that went into the discovery of the find.

Note: All Junior and Adult Members may enter the contest in each category.

By Dave Nienhuis, Vice President

What a great October program we had by Bruce Mueller! It was easy to see his passion for education! Thank you to Bruce for offering his books at a discounted price, we will enjoy them!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

SLATE OF 2011 BOARD CANDIDATES:

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
Junior Club Coordinator's	Rick Smith Linda Winkleman
Liaison	Julia Sherwood
Newsletter Editor	Karri Nienhuis
Social Coordinator	Esther Kirkendall
Show Coordinator	Open
Nominating Committee:	
Cindy Root (Chair), Karri Nienhuis and Julia Sherwood.	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYSBirthstone: **Turquoise**

12/1	Randy Wedgwood
12/3	Angie Mull
12/3	Anita Soto
12/4	Eugene (Gene) Smith
12/6	Melissa Bultman
12/6	Kenny Valentine
12/11	Jack Decker
12/16	Loretta Roberts
12/17	Turi Mattox
12/25	Deb Smith
12/25	Margarete Fochtman
12/26	Jane Bach
12/27	Chet Smith
12/27	Elijah Nyhuis
12/29	George Visser
12/30	Tiffany Bultman

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

12/6	Chris Smith & Melissa Bultman
12/14	Mark & Rebecca Cistaro
12/21	Paul & Olga DeKok

We have again received a **GENEROUS** donation to the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club from Bill & Linda Heyworth with Beauties of Creation. (They were dealers at our 2010 Club show.)

The Board decided to do another
BENEFIT RAFFLE!
(Proceeds for scholarships TBD.)

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



Tulip City Members may purchase tickets at the Nov and Dec General Meetings. Drawing will be at the December 2010 General meeting.

Tickets are \$5 each.

CLUB CALENDAR

***DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS,
MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:***



November 3rd - Board Meeting
Library small meeting room 7pm

Corrected date from last newsletter:
November 17th - General Meeting, Elections
& Silent Auction in the Herrick Library
Auditorium 7pm (Auction set-up at 6:30pm)



December 1st - Board Meeting (Joint meeting
with current Board and New Board of
Directors.) Library small meeting room 7pm

December 15th - General Meeting,
Installation of Officers and 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

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(Second By-law meeting)

October 20, 2010

Present: Bob & Julia Sherwood, Dave Nienhuis,
Cindy Root, Rebecca Cistaro, Kathy Steffler,
Jennifer Ensing

Absent: Jim Benson, Jon Mull, Dave Root, Rick
Smith, Linda Winkelmann, Shari Luttikhuisen,
Betty Hoekstra

Guest: Tom Steffler

The Board continued to go over the Bylaws.
Meeting adjourned 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Ensing, Secretary

For Other Events go to: www.rockngem.com

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2010



Present: Rick Smith, Bob & Julia Sherwood, Cindy Root,
Betty Hoekstra, Dave & Karri Nienhuis, Shari Luttikhuisen,
Kathy Steffler, Jon Mull, Jennifer Ensing
Absent: Jim Benson, Dave Root, Linda Winkelmann, Rebecca
Cistaro. Guests: Chet Smith, Tom Steffler

Bob moved and Jon seconded to approve August meeting
minutes, motion approved.

Cindy handed out the Treasurers report. Julia moved and
Betty seconded to approve the Treasurer's reports for August
& September, motion approved.

New Business:

Bob Sherwood bought more rockhounding stickers and
asked the board to reimburse him. Shari moved and Jon
seconded that \$36.00 be paid to Bob for reimbursement of
the rockhounding stickers, motion approved.

Chester Cutshall died during the summer and Bob will look
for a book to contribute to the Library in his memory.

Bob mentioned that the signs at the nature center are in
need of repair. He took trimmers and cleaned up the
overgrowth around the rocks and signs.

Cindy asked for input on the Citrine cathedral that was
donated. Jon suggested an auction/drawing and put the
money towards the Gibson fund, Junior Club and/or
scholarships. Cindy will ask at the general meeting what the
members would like to do.

Junior writing contest winners will be announced at the
December meeting.

Dave Nienhuis started the overview of the Bylaws. We will
have an additional meeting next Wednesday to continue
going over the new proposed Bylaws.
Meeting adjourned 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Ensing, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2010

Approximately 78 people attended the meeting.

Cindy gave a brief overview of the Board Meeting Minutes.
Jim Benson went over the Treasurer's report
Bob Sherwood - no scheduled field trips at the moment.
Julia Sherwood - gave a show report

New Business:

- Citrine Cathedral donation - raffle in December,
tickets \$5 each to members only
- Nominees to the Board of Directors for 2011
- Reminded the dates of the next few meetings are
moved up due to the Holiday's
- Kathy Steffler said thank you to everyone who
donated food for the meetings and asked for people to
sign up for November.

Dave Nienhuis introduced our speaker and mentioned that he
brought some of his books for sale at a discounted price.

Break for munchies

8:00 Guest speaker - Bruce Mueller

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm

Respectfully submitted. Jennifer Ensing. Secretary

HARDNESS

By Harry Wagoner, via the Agate Explorer Feb 2009

A good property in mineral identification is one that does not vary from specimen to specimen. In terms of reliability, hardness is one of the better physical properties for minerals. Inconsistencies occur when the specimen is impure, poorly crystallized, or actually an aggregate and not an actual individual crystal.

Hardness is one measure of the strength of the structure of the mineral relative to the strength of its chemical bonds. It is not the same as brittleness, which is related to the structure of the mineral. Hardness is generally consistent because the chemistry of minerals is generally consistent.

Hardness is a measure of the resistance, which a smooth surface offers to abrasion. The degree of hardness is determined by observing the comparative ease of difficulty with which one mineral is scratched by another or by a file or knife. A scratch on a mineral is actually a groove produced by microfractures on the surface of the mineral.

A mineral can only be scratched by a harder substance. A hard mineral can scratch a softer mineral, but a soft mineral cannot scratch a harder mineral.

Therefore, a relative scale can be established to account for the differences in hardness simply by seeing which mineral scratches another. French mineralogist Friedrich Mohs developed and proposed a scale for measuring the hardness of minerals, The Mohs Scale. This scale is used world-wide as a way of determining the hardness of minerals. The higher the number, the harder the mineral.

1 Talc	6 Orthoclase
2 Gypsum	7 Quartz
3 Calcite	8 Topaz
4 Fluorite	9 Corundum
5 Apatite	10 Diamond

To remember the Mohs scale, try remembering this phrase: The Geologist Can Find An Ordinary Quartz, (that) Tourists Call Diamond.

If a mineral is scratched by the knife-blade as easily as calcite, its hardness is said to be 3. In the later case the mineral in question would be scratched by fluorite but would itself scratch calcite.

Minerals of grade:

- 3 Have a greasy feel
- 4 Are easily scratched by a fingernail
- 5 Are rather readily cut by a knife
- 6 Are scratched rather easily by the knife
- 7 Are scratched with some difficulty by a knife

- 1 Are barely scratched by the knife but are distinctly scratched by the file
Can also scratch ordinary glass.
- 2 Can scratch glass readily but is little touched by a file
- 8-10 Includes all gem minerals

When testing the hardness of a mineral a few things to keep in mind would be: Do not be fooled by a dust trail on a mineral after being "scratched" by a softer mineral.

It may appear that the softer mineral has scratched the harder mineral, but in fact the softer mineral just left a trail of powdered material behind on the surface of the softer mineral. Always blow over the scratch or rub across the scratch to be sure it is actually a scratch.

Keep in mind that some minerals have small differences in harness according to the direction in which they are scratched and the orientation of the scratch.

Some minerals have a marked difference in hardness with respect to these factors.

A massive type specimen will probably be softer than a single crystal and ideally hardness should only be tested on individual crystals. However, *DO NOT SCRATCH NICE CRYSTAL FACES* to test for hardness. A fractured, cleaved or inconspicuous part of the crystal should give a good harness test and not damage a potentially wonderful specimen.

Hardness kits can be purchased or a simple kit can be put together using the following

Fingernail - hardness 2.5

A piece of copper or a penny - hardness 3.5

Window glass or typical knife blade - under 5.5

Good steel file - over 6.5

? November Question of the Month?

According to the Mohs Scale of Hardness, Gold is closer to a 3, 5 or 8?



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.

We are looking for someone to take over the question of the month for 2011. You would have to submit the question to the editor by the second Sunday of each month, and also find donations for prizes. If interested contact Karri at dpnienhu@sbcglobal.net.

A book "Modern Rock Tumbling" by Steve Hart, was donated in memory of Chester (Chet) Cutshall to the Herrick Public Library. Bob Sherwood stated, "This is a great book to check out." Thank-you Bob.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kurt Brinks – Holland, MI

Jill & Ralph Carle - Hudsonville, MI

David Chase, Leah, Cameron, Trevor Wallar –
Holland, MI

Barb de Moore – Fennville, MI

A FALL ADVENTURE By Rance and Anne Westover

Regardless of the time of year when the rockhounding fever strikes, it's time to pack the bags. We started early October 9, 2010 and arrived in Asheville, NC by dark. The next day we picked up Sapphires at the Old Pressley mine west of Asheville.

Monday morning we arrived in Spruce Pine, NC. We always look forward to returning to Gem Mountain and the Rio Doce Mine. Both of these accounts sell salted buckets of gems, but in our opinion, are the best in the country. The bucket we purchased from Gem Mountain contained: Rubies, Aquamarine, Moonstone, Topaz, Garnets, Emeralds, Quartz, etc.



Several of these items are now being faceted for the Christmas season according to Anne. From the Rio Doce a faceted Prasiolite Stone (also known as Green Amethyst) has been received. We also checked out (2) Gold Panning mines. The Lucky Strike Gold Mine looks very interesting. Camping sites, food and area of gold panning devises are available to rent with loads of dirt.

Check out the article on the Lucky Strike mine in the Rock&Gem Magazine January 2008.

Our nest stop was Charleston, South Carolina. We took a walking tour of the Old Business District and Farm Market Area. Touring the Hayward - Washington House was very educational. Our favorite tour was the Boone Hall Plantation, where the movie "North & South" was filmed. After Screening for sharks teeth and picking up sea shells we moved on to Savannah, Georgia.

The highlight for Anne was having her picture taken in front of The Lady and Sons Restaurant. Shelling on beaches at Jekyll Island and Amelia Island, Florida were next on the list.

The beach combing for shells is always a relaxing adventure. Many varieties were found for making into pedants between Melbourne and Vero Beach, Florida.

The metal detecting for old Spanish coins around Sebastian Beach was enjoyable but unfulfilling in monetary value. Why would anyone bury a beer can four feet down in the sand?

After crossing the state we stayed in Fort Myers Florida for the night. The shelling on Sanibel Island was fun but very expensive. You are charged a fee when you arrive at the island and also by the hour to be on the beach.

Manasota Key south of Venice Florida was very good for Turkey Wing Shells (as seen in the picture) and Sand Dollars. We found several pieces of agatized coral on Honeymoon Island located west of Tampa, Florida.

As we headed north our next stop was Warm Springs, Georgia. This was the location Franklin Delano Roosevelt used for therapy pools for his paralyzed legs (polio). The house he had built was known as "The Little White House." Many of the New Deals Roosevelt pushed through congress in the 1930's were formed from this residence. F.D.R. passed away here on April 12, 1945.

After finding all our locations for Jasper and Agate in northern Georgia were now on private land, we headed for geode sites in Kentucky and Indiana. We now have several buckets of Geodes to cut and display.

Viewing historical sites along with rock hounding activities makes for a great vacation regardless of the time of year. If Anne or I can be of help in your vacation plans, please ask.

Midwest Federation Delegate Council Meeting

Peoria, Illinois, August 27-29, 2010

Submitted by Julia Sherwood, Delegate

After arriving in the late afternoon of Friday, August 27, Bob and I saw several people we'd met at previous Conventions. We had supper at the hotel along with some of them from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois clubs.

Early Saturday AM, the Delegate Council, representing a quorum of members from the clubs of the 12 states of the Midwest Federation, was convened by President, Judith Washburn. Following approval of the minutes and the Treasurer's Report, our own Cindy Root (MWF 2nd Vice President and Website Chair) reported on the directors meeting of the previous day with highlights from State Directors and assistants who were present; Minnesota DNR distributes a publication "Rockhounding in Minnesota", and there is a potential new club in Lake County, IL.

Verbal or written reports from all the active 33 Permanent Committees of the Federation were then presented. It is the work of these Committees that give major support to all the local Clubs like Tulip City. Of special note were reports from:

Convention and Show Advisory, chaired by Neil Snapp. He reported on the 2011 Convention in Toledo, OH, September 9-10 that may include field trips, and 2012 in Minnetonka (Minneapolis), July 26-29 and will be a combined MWF/AFMS Convention, "A Celebration of Agates", featuring a full-day seminar with top agate collectors from around the world plus plans for field trips.

Supplies, chaired by Dennis Westman. He suggested that all Clubs purchase new publications "Junior Handbook" and "Club Leadership Manual" as well as the "2010 Directory."

Environment and Legislation, chaired by Dean Stone. He reported on the Eagle Project being developed by Kennecott Mining Company near Marquette, MI, projected to operate for 20-25 years and a possible source of excellent specimens. Also, there is activity in the fluorite areas of IL & KY, where the Hasty site is not yet open to field trips and the new Klondike Mine in Kentucky.

Insurance, chaired by June Young. She reported on the new insurance policy wording as it appeared in the September MWF News and its "plain language" version by Sandy Fuller in the October MWF News.

Program Review, no current chair. AFMS Program Chairman Marge Collins reporting that AFMS is scanning all past winning programs, converting them to DVD and adding narration. Individual clubs are urged to volunteer to do the same for excellent non-winning programs.

Publications, chaired by Sandy Fuller. She reported on current efforts to produce a Club Shows Handbook. All clubs are urged to contribute ideas.

Under New Business, Bob Sherwood shared the explanation he was given by the MWF insurance carrier, through June Young, regarding members who join only to receive newsletters and may be excluded from insurance coverage. Additionally, there was a discussion of MWF bylaws stating juniors are members between 8 and 15 years of age. It was suggested that the Council look at both the upper and lower numbers with regard to making changes.

The afternoon was spent getting ideas and doing some buying at the Show sponsored by two local organizations.

At the evening's Awards Banquet we were seated at a table with the 2 AFMS Scholarship winners working on advanced Geology degrees at Michigan State University and chosen by Neil Snapp of the Central Michigan Club. Each year, the AFMS chooses one of the nominees from each of the 7 Federations and they in turn select 2 recipients for a \$4000 Scholarship. This is a national contribution in support of Geological education of \$56,000 annually! Other awards were distributed also, and Tulip City might consider entering these contests.

This year, the Tulip City Club covered the cost of Registration, Delegate lunches and the Banquet because we offered to pay our own hotel and transportation costs. I recommend that in the future, the Club include a Budget item to cover attendance at the MWF Convention.

THE BEACH HUNT By Anna Mantooth (age 7)
October 2010



I went looking for rocks. I like looking and collecting rocks. It was a very windy day. I found a few Petoskey rocks. One was giant (about 3 inches in diameter); one was about one inch long, but most of them were small. It was easy to find them. All I did was wait until a big wave left the shore and I looked in the water and grabbed all the cool looking rocks.

I had a lot of favorite rocks I found that day. My favorite rock was the one that had a few crystals in it. I didn't see the crystals at first until Maggie, my sister, showed me. I just saw the cool holes and that's why I picked it up and I am glad I got it. My second favorite rock was my biggest. It was a really big sandstone and the month before we studied sandstones in the junior club. I showed Ms. Linda. We talked while we looked for rocks. I remember she was born on April Fool's day and she said she was a 'natural fool.' I have a bunch of third favorites.

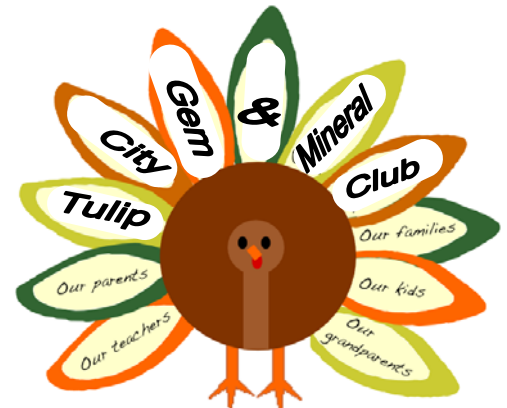
I wanted all the rocks I collected and my dad said that I could keep whatever stones I would carry up the 176 steps to the top. I was strong and I was fast. I carried them all up and was the first one done. I added them to my rock collection. I like my beach hunt day.

Junior Rock Club Page By Linda Winkelmann

What is igneous? Think "ignite" a fire. Think hot! Think volcano. Think spewing hot lava, gases and ash. There have been several recent eruptions in the news. In April, one of Iceland's volcanos erupted with gas and ash clouds... making it impossible for airplanes to fly across Europe for almost a month. Last week, Indonesia's Mt Merapi erupted three times in one day. What is the stuff that comes out?

At our meeting, we will talk about the Pumice, Obsidian "Apache Tears", Olivine-Peridot and the Lava that makes new islands. These kinds of **Igneous Rocks** are considered to be "extrusive" (pushing & blasting out of the Earth's crust). The boiling hot chemicals in magma, from deep under the crust, have risen up and OUT! When and how they cool off makes all the difference in the resulting rocky debris.

We are thankful for...



TULIP CITY GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2011

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

Name _____

Address _____

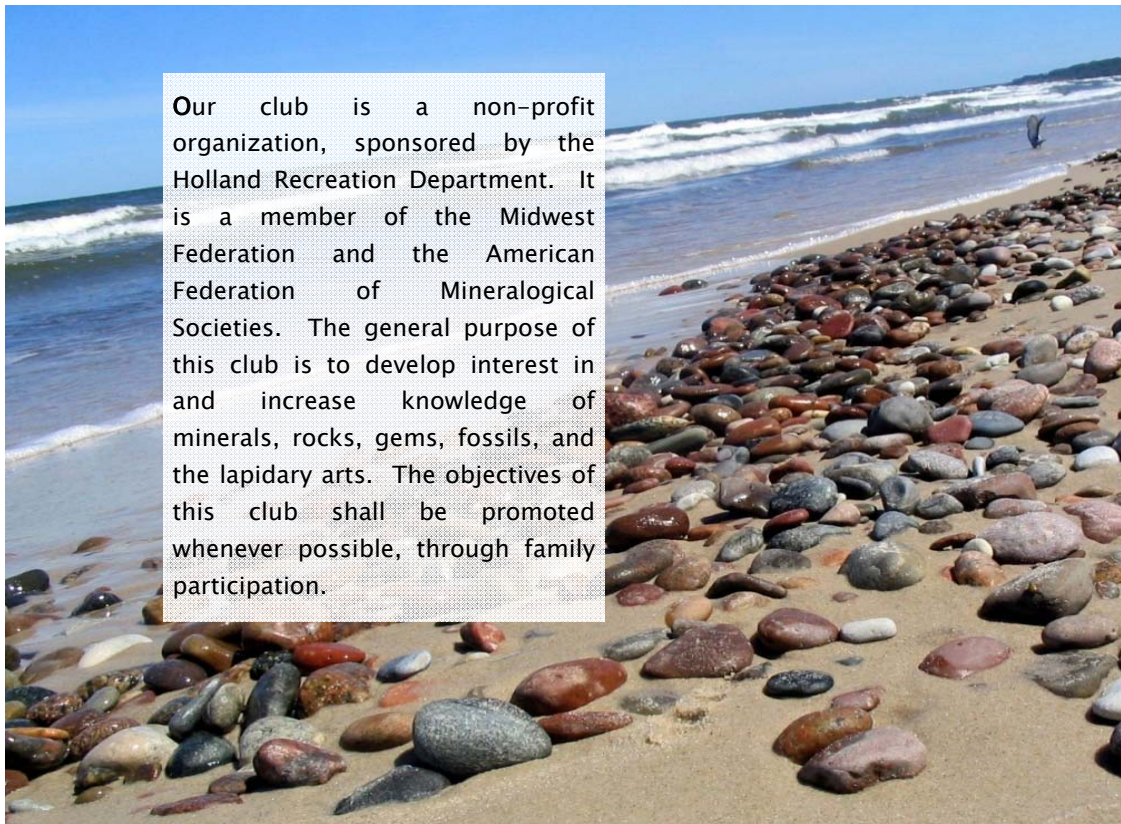
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

Comments:

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 7pm, 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

