



# THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE



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

Website: [Tulipcity.org](http://Tulipcity.org)

November 2009

Volume 42, Edition 11



## It's finally here!

### Elections and the Best of 2009 Contest!

Wednesday, November 18,  
General Meeting at the  
Herrick District Library  
Auditorium at 7pm!

#### Categories:

- Crystal
- Mineral
- Michigan Specimen
- Fossil
- Field Trip '09
- Lapidary
- My Favorite Find & Why
- My Favorite Piece & Why

#### GENERAL RULES:

- Contestants must be Club members and present to win.
- All Junior and Adult members may enter the contest in each category.
- One entry per person in each category, but you may include up to 3 items in your one entry.
- Everyone will vote on each of the categories.
- Please identify the specimen/material and location found - (do not list your name).

- **Crystal**  
Judging Criteria: Display preparation/cleaning along with color, clarity and size could also play 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 play a factor.
- **Fossil**  
Judging Criteria: Quality, rarity and preparation.
- **The rules for the above four categories are; Items must have been collected by the person entering them and during this past year.**
- **Field Trip '09**  
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 it's appearance.
- **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 any time. Judging Criteria: Workmanship, material quality and overall appearance.
- **My Favorite Find & Why**  
This category just has to have been found by you! You could have found it anytime or anywhere. You just need to write a short explanation of why it's (one of) your favorite finds. I suggest it be 30 words or less.  
Judging criteria: Specimen and story.
- **My Favorite Piece & Why**  
This category is the same as the Favorite find, except the item can be found by you, someone else, or purchased. In fact, you don't even have to be the owner of the item; you just have to consider it as one of you favorites! I would suggest getting permission before bringing it with you to enter in the contest. :-)

**Formal Certificates will be presented to the winners of the 2009 contest at the December General Meeting.**

## OFFICERS

President	Cindy Root	<a href="mailto:d-root@sbcglobal.net">d-root@sbcglobal.net</a>
Vice President	Dave Nienhuis	<a href="mailto:dpnienhu@sbcglobal.net">dpnienhu@sbcglobal.net</a>
Secretary	Rebecca Cistaro	<a href="mailto:r4squares@charter.net">r4squares@charter.net</a>
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Newsletter Editor	Karri Nienhuis	<a href="mailto:dpnienhu@sbcglobal.net">dpnienhu@sbcglobal.net</a>
Social Co-Chair	Carol Belknap Pam Daly	<a href="mailto:carolbel@att.net">carolbel@att.net</a> <a href="mailto:mwdaly@accn.org">mwdaly@accn.org</a>
Historian	Betty Hoekstra	<a href="mailto:kbhoek@att.net">kbhoek@att.net</a>
Show Chair	CH Falstad	<a href="mailto:cfalstad@ameritech.net">cfalstad@ameritech.net</a>
Field Trip Chair	Bob Sherwood	<a href="mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org">bobandjulia@accn.org</a>
Jr. Club Co-chair	Rick Smith Linda Winklemann	<a href="mailto:smithr@hope.edu">smithr@hope.edu</a> <a href="mailto:lindawinklemann@att.net">lindawinklemann@att.net</a>
Directors at Large	Jon Mull Dave Root	<a href="mailto:solace@chartermi.net">solace@chartermi.net</a> <a href="mailto:d-root@sbcglobal.net">d-root@sbcglobal.net</a>
Liaison Co-Reps	Bob Curtis Chet Smith	
Membership Coordinator Delegate	Jodi Zenk	<a href="mailto:jzenk@verizon.net">jzenk@verizon.net</a>

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthstone: **Turquoise**

12/1	Elijah Luce
12/1	Tim Prys
12/ 3	Shannon Kobs
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
12/13	Amy Luce
12/16	Loretta Roberts
12/18	Ben Snyder
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

**? ? November Question of the Month: ? ?**

What is the name of the rock that was an important landmark for the pioneers traveling to Oregon? Many carved their names on this rock.

**October Question: Mount Rushmore is what type of rock? Answer: Granite (Igneous Rock)**

The two best-known igneous rock types are *basalt* and *granite*. [Basalt](#) is the dark, fine-grained stuff of many lava flows and magma intrusions. Its dark minerals are rich in magnesium (Mg) and iron (Fe), hence basalt is called a *mafic* rock. [Granite](#) is the light, coarse-grained rock formed at depth and exposed after deep erosion. It is rich in feldspar and quartz (silica) and hence is called a *felsic* rock.

So granite is felsic and plutonic. via [www.about.com](http://www.about.com)

Did you Know? The erosion rate of Mt Rushmore is estimated by geologists at 1 inch every 10,000 years? It should be around for many years to come.

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

*Chris Cooper & Krystal Kauffman  
Fruitport, MI*

*George, Melissa, Frederick,  
Kathryn, Sophia Jaeger  
Grand Haven, MI*

*Carson, Helen, Maggie, Anna, Lilly  
Mantooth Holland, MI*

*Leslie, John and Patrick Victor  
Zeeland, MI*

**CLUB CALENDAR**

*NOTE: ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.*



*DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:*

November 4<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting  
Library small meeting room 7pm

November 14<sup>th</sup> - Club Workshop at Dave Nienhuis' 9 am - noonish. Anyone interested in cabochon beading bring a cab and beads (size 11) – Julia Sherwood.

**November 18<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting in the Herrick Library Auditorium - Elections and "Best of 2009 Contest!"**

December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Board Meeting  
Library small meeting room 7pm

December 12<sup>th</sup> - Club Workshop at Dave Nienhuis' 9am - noonish

**December 16<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting "Reflections" members will share their highlights of 2009 trips and specimens. Installation of Officers in the Herrick Library Auditorium**

January 9<sup>th</sup> - Club Workshop at Dave Nienhuis' 9am - noonish

January 13<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting  
Library small meeting room 7pm

January - 27<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting in the Herrick Library Auditorium

### **BASEMENT FIELD TRIPS**

Anyone interested in hosting a Basement Field Trip in January or February, please contact Bob Sherwood at 269-637-7097.

## **BY-LAWS of THE TULIP CITY GEM and MINERAL CLUB**

### Article IX - NOMINATIONS

Section 4 - Nominations from the floor may be presented, with the consent of the nominee, at the election meeting. Voting is to be by secret ballot on any contested office.

### ARTICLE X - ELECTIONS

Section 1 - The election of officers shall be held at the November meeting. A simple majority of those members voting shall be considered sufficient to elect.

Section 2 - The term of office shall run for one year from Installation.

Section 3 - The Installation of new officers shall be held at the December meeting.

Section 4 - Any vacant office may be filled by Presidential appointment, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

## **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES FOR 2010**

President (Past President)	Cindy Root
Vice President	Dave Nienhuis
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Jim Benson
Liaison Representative	Rebecca Cistaro
Newsletter Editor	Karri Nienhuis
Social Chair	Kathy Steffler
Historian	Betty Hoekstra
Show Chair	Julia Sherwood
	Shari Luttikhuisen
Field Trip Chair	Bob Sherwood
Jr. Club Chair	Rick Smith
	Linda Winkleman
Directors at Large	Jon Mull
	Dave Root

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Cindy Root

It's hard to believe that November is already here and I find it extremely disturbing that Betty Hoekstra already has her outside Christmas lights up. I'm certain there are others of you who follow Betty's path, but Thanksgiving hasn't even gotten here yet!

At our November meeting we will be having election of officers for the 2010 year. Please be certain to attend so that your voice can be heard. If you are interested in running for a position on the board, there will be nominations from the floor. You must be there to accept the nomination if you choose to run.

We are currently in the process of reviewing new bylaws in order to become a 501(c)(3) organization. A committee has been formed to review the draft bylaws and that proposed document will be issued at least 30 days before the membership votes. When that document is issued, please take the time to review it carefully.

With elections in November and installation in December, it may not be until January when we decide if and how the club wishes to contribute to the Gibson Endowment. Our purpose is education and nothing will further that purpose than making sure that this Endowment is fully funded.

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2009

Present: Cindy Root, Dave Root, Jim Benson, Chet Smith, Bob Curtis, Julia Sherwood, Bob Sherwood, Betty Hoekstra, Linda Winkleman, CH Falstad, Dave Nienhuis, Jon Mull

Absent: Rebecca Cistaro, Karri Nienhuis, Carol Belknap, Rick Smith Guest: Ken Hoekstra

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

The minutes of the previous board and membership meetings and the treasurer's report were approved.

Bob Sherwood and Dave Nienhuis asked that Jodi Zenk be added to their committee to review the new proposed bylaws.

It was moved and seconded to reimburse the schools who attend the 2009 Show at 80 percent for the cost of bussing.

Discussion was had regarding the Gibson Endowment. The endowment currently stands at \$17,448 and must be at \$30,000 by December 2012. Several ideas were put forward on how to accomplish this goal. Jon Mull will put a list together to be presented to the membership for their input.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Root, President

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009



The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Cindy Root. Ken Hoekstra distributed the Juniors' surprise rocks and the adult raffle prizes. The visitors and new members were introduced. The Juniors were dismissed for their meeting.

The agenda items up for consent were the September board and general meeting minutes, the field trip report and the Vice President's message. They were accepted as published in the October newsletter.

Old Business: Nominations for the board were added to the list published in the newsletter as follows: Rebecca Cistaro for Liason, Julia Sherwood and Shari Luttikhuizen for Show Co-Chairs, Kathy Steffler and Pam Daly for Social Chairs. The only opening left is for Secretary. Nominations for this position can be taken at the floor during the November meeting. Jon Mull offered options to the membership on what can be done to increase the Gibson scholarship so that it reaches endowed status by 2012. He reiterated the information posted in the October newsletter. Jim Benson gave the Treasurer's report.

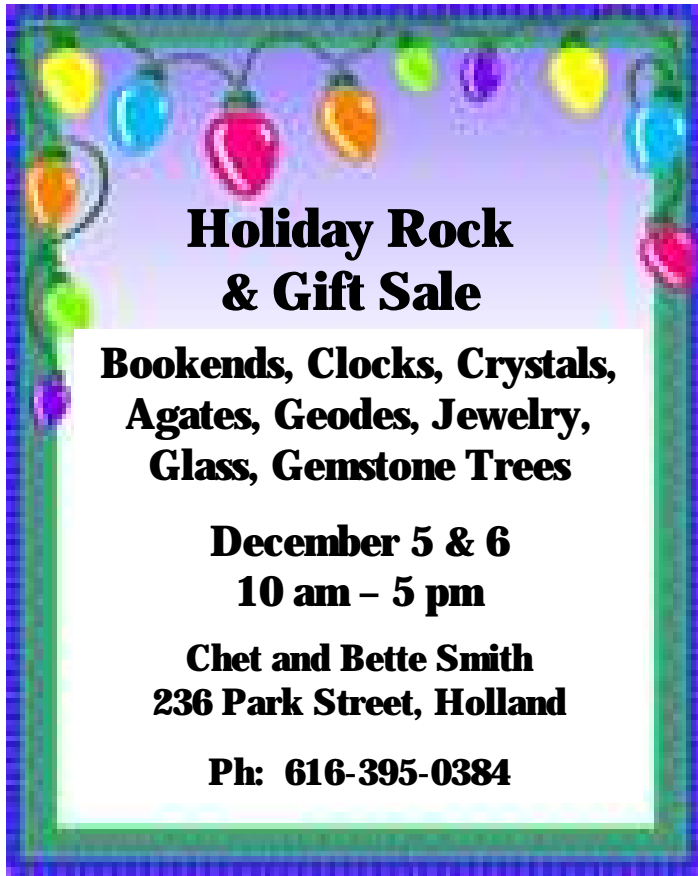
New Business: Cindy announced that a home schooling teacher had contacted her to find a member that had done a presentation in the past. Jim Benson agreed to come repeat his demonstration for her group. Cindy also announced that the MWF website contest deadline is January 15, 2010 and that she could not be the webmaster for our Club if we wanted to participate in the contest because of a conflict of interest as she is 2nd VP for the MWF. Julia Sherwood brought the detailed income and expense report on the 2009 show to the meeting and offered a copy to any interested members. Dave Nienhuis gave out the prize to Julia Sherwood for the "question of the month". The answer was granite. Dave challenged the membership to introduce themselves to the new members at break time. He gave additional information about the silent auction to be held after the break. Jon Mull asked the membership for a show of hands to indicate interest in a silver smithing demonstration at an upcoming workshop. The membership showed interest and he promised to discuss with the board how to get Marge Collins to come to a workshop and demonstrate. Jodi Zenk welcomed new members and gave away rock bags as Membership Coordinator.

Cindy announced the break at 7:50 for refreshments. Then a silent auction was held.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Cistaro, Secretary

*Note: The October Silent Auction collected \$113 in donations for the Gibson Fund.*

*Nice Job Everyone!*



**Holiday Rock  
& Gift Sale**

**Bookends, Clocks, Crystals,  
Agates, Geodes, Jewelry,  
Glass, Gemstone Trees**

**December 5 & 6  
10 am – 5 pm**

**Chet and Bette Smith  
236 Park Street, Holland**

**Ph: 616-395-0384**

### MORE SHOW BUSINESS

A lovely THANK YOU came to the Club from George Robinson, on behalf of the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum in Houghton, for the \$200 donation made to the Museum as our "thank you" to them for sending us a wonderful exhibit of Datolite. They will be happy to send another display next year.

The Club also was sent a note from teacher Liz Peters of Corpus Christi Catholic School, thanking us for reimbursing a major part of their bussing cost. "Your generosity helped make it possible for our students to attend this fun and educational event. See you next year!"

A booklet of student thank you letters, including pictures of some favorite rocks, was passed around at the October General Meeting. It was from a fifth grade class at North Holland School in the West Ottawa school district.

Julia Sherwood, Asst. Show Chair

University of Michigan researchers have found the first archaeological evidence of ancient human hunting activity preserved under the Great Lakes. Using detailed government data on lake floor topography, a research vessel and a remote mini-rover equipped with a camera, scientists found what they believe are hunting pits, camps and rock structures called caribou "drive lines" on the bottom of Lake Huron. Drive lines, also called drive lanes, are walls built of rocks that hunters used to lure caribou into ambush. A peculiarity of the deer species is that it readily follows linear cues, even though the rock walls are short enough to step over. The structures were found on an underwater ridge that - about 9,000 years ago - was a land bridge above water. The 10-mile-wide Alpena-Amberley ridge stretches more than 100 miles from near Point Clark, Ontario, to Presque Isle. The 1,148-foot "drive line" structure found by U-M researchers closely resembles one previously discovered on Victoria Island in the Canadian sub arctic.

"The reason this is really significant is this is a really important time period in human history in North America," said John O'Shea, curator of Great Lakes Archaeology in the U-M Museum of Anthropology and a professor of anthropology. Much land-based archaeological evidence about early North Americans has been lost to time. But the extreme cold and neutral fresh waters of the Great Lakes help to preserve such finds, O'Shea said. "All sorts of organic material may well be preserved," he said. "Some groups have found whole forests basically preserved under water because it's so cold. It's the equivalent of Pompeii." A paper about the findings was published in the June 8 issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Co-authors are O'Shea and Guy Meadows, director of the Marine Hydrodynamics Laboratories and a professor in the departments of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, and Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences.

They are also working with a computer science professor at Wayne State to model findings, work that also helped them select sites to begin investigating. O'Shea acknowledged finding artifacts such as tools or weapons would be the gold standards in proving those societies dwelled on the land now under the lake. The team plans to continue work this summer with divers, in hopes of finding such evidence.

**SHOP TALK** by William A Kappel

via [www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)

When I started in the lapidary hobby, there were rock shops everywhere, and many of them offered classes in both lapidary and jewelry making. En route from our home in Southern California to visit relatives in Utah, rock shops in the desert were almost as common as the canvas radiator water bags hanging on front bumpers. These shops along the highways were fun to poke around in and maybe find a unique rock or two, but it was the ones near home that were the real bonus. I took a class in cabochon cutting at a shop about five miles from my house, but that was just the beginning of the value of having a shop so close. If I needed a part, some polish or diamond compound, or just advice on solving a problem, there they were.

One by one, though, these shops began to disappear. The distances between them grew larger and larger until, in most cases, mail order was the only viable option. Not only did it take more time to get supplies and equipment, but the telephone was a poor substitute for face-to-face contact when asking questions. Without the proximity of help and materials and classes, fewer folks took up the hobby, and for a while some of us felt like we were on an island and the sea was rising (global warming, no doubt).

But somewhere along the way, a strange thing began to happen: Little beige boxes with TV screens on them started showing up in our living rooms, bedrooms, anywhere there was space. A new vocabulary crept into our daily speech. Stuff like modems and the World Wide Web mystified us old-timers, but the kids knew it and began to teach us. Today, because of the Internet, lapidaries have access to more information about our hobby than all the neighborhood shops put together had. Granted, it is still too impersonal to suit me, but the information is there.

So if you are just getting started, or if you need answers to some questions, you are only a few mouse clicks away from just about anything you want to know. Have you tried tumbling, but would like to get into cabochon cutting? You can find good tutorials on how to do it, and can even find information on how to make your own machine if you wish. The same holds true for faceting, intarsia, jewelry casting and fabricating-in short, just about anything you can think of. Look through these Web sites and get a glimpse of what awaits you in a full-fledged Internet search:

These folks answer a lot of questions about lapidary problems. [www.dbrockwerks.com/tippage2n32.htm](http://www.dbrockwerks.com/tippage2n32.htm) Click on the lapidary link for some nice tutorials on tumbling, cabochon making, and faceting.

[www.gemsociety.org/info/info.htm](http://www.gemsociety.org/info/info.htm)

Find a library of information on gemology and lapidary here. [www.gemsociety.org](http://www.gemsociety.org)

Click here for a long list of books on all aspects of the hobby.

[www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/books/casting.shtml](http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/books/casting.shtml)

For tutorials on cabling and faceting, try this site.

[www.emporia.edu/earthsci/amber/go340/cut.htm#cab](http://www.emporia.edu/earthsci/amber/go340/cut.htm#cab)

This site has a great two-part tutorial on cabochon cutting and polishing.

[www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/oplc\\_cab.shtml](http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/oplc_cab.shtml)

Try this site if you need help in choosing a tumbler.

<http://chemistry.about.com/library/weekly/abbyb11201.htm>

Here are some instructions for both rotary and vibratory tumblers.

<http://chemistry.about.com/library/weekly/aa011803a.htm>

This site has an excellent list of books and videos on lapidary topics. [www.amlap.com/alw/page16.html](http://www.amlap.com/alw/page16.html)

Here you will find a book and plans for making your own equipment.

[www.autodidactics.com/therock.htm](http://www.autodidactics.com/therock.htm)

You can download plans for making your own horizontal lapping wheel.

[www.hisglassworks.com/cart/pages/downloads.html](http://www.hisglassworks.com/cart/pages/downloads.html)

Happy clicking!



## Junior Rock Club Page

Junior Club Advisors  
Linda Winkelmann and Rick Smith



### ROCK HUNTING INSIDE by Elly Luttikhuizen (TCG&M Club's Junior Rockhound)

On Saturday, October 10, 2009, my Mom brought me to a big rock show near Detroit, MI. We picked up a friend on our way whose name is Pat. A long time ago she took classes in geology, so she knows a lot about rocks.

My first impression was...BIG!!! It was like nine times the size of other rock shows that I've been to. In the middle it had a huge Mammoth skeleton where I promised to meet my mom if we got separated. There was a booth that had rough amber for sale, but I couldn't see any bugs in them even when they were wet. There were lots of fossils to see and buy like trilobites, brachiopods, fish fossils, seaweed fossils and dinosaur coprolites, which they had polished. (Eww...it was green!) I also saw calcite, which they were selling for \$40. (I wonder what I could have sold mine from the Pendleton Quarry for?)

Some of the fun things I got to do were panning for gold. I found a tiny nugget on the first try. Sluicing for gems, I found aquamarine, sodalite, tiny garnets, emeralds, fluorite, crystals, rose quartz, and fools gold (pyrite). The best part was where I got to dig for fossilized bones. For \$5 you could dig for and keep one bone. There were mammoth, bison, horse and deer bones, all at least 10,000 years old. The first bone I kept was a mammoth vertebra that had evidence of prehistoric ocean life on it. The man who was helping me said the mammoth died on land then glaciers covered it in water where some "wormies" lived and died and fell on the bones. Then they fossilized and ended up in the sandbox, and now it was going to end up in my house! The other bone that I kept was a piece of horses' foot (actually it was a cross between a zebra and a mule back then).

You can have a lot of fun at rock shows, and see many different fossils and rocks from other countries. But it's not as much fun as going to a quarry with the rock club and finding cool stuff myself.

### TULIP CITY GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

DUES DEADLINE - December 31, 2009

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

Make check payable to: TCG&M Club

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

Check membership type: [ ] Individual - \$10 [ ] Family - \$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

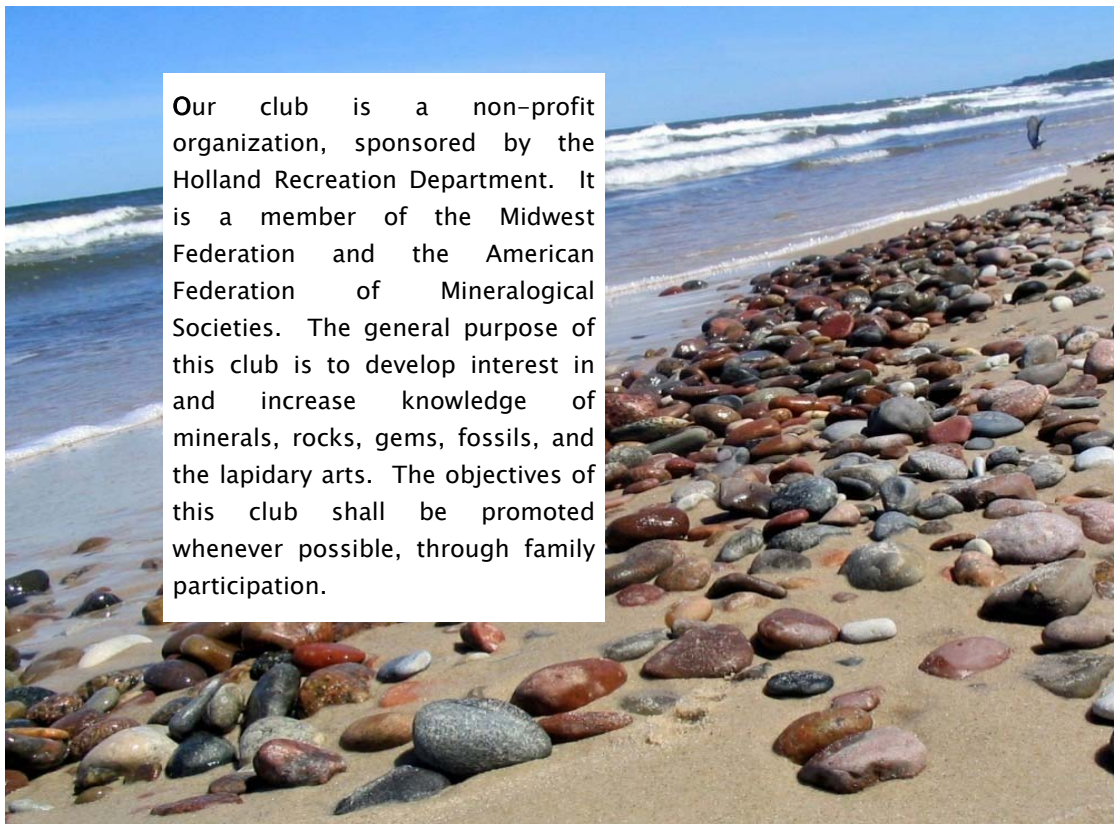
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments:

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*Note: New Members that signed up at the Sept. show are paid for 2010.*



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.

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Dues:  
Family \$15 Single \$10

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**

