



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

CONGLOMERATE

Monthly Newsletter of the TCG&MC
PO Box 2082, Holland, Michigan 49422

Website: www.Tulipcity.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub

March, 2024

Volume 57, Edition 3

March Guest Speakers

Chris Cooper and Gary Katt: “Discovering Lake Superior’s Underwater Rock and Mineral Treasures.”

March’s General Meeting brings us an exciting presentation by TCGMC Members Gary Katt and Chris Cooper about what lies deep in parts of Lake Superior that most of us will never see. Please join us EARLY as they are going to have all the equipment and specimens set up to check out by **6:30pm**. Plus, they will be taking questions and even have some give aways!!!! Don’t miss this unique opportunity.

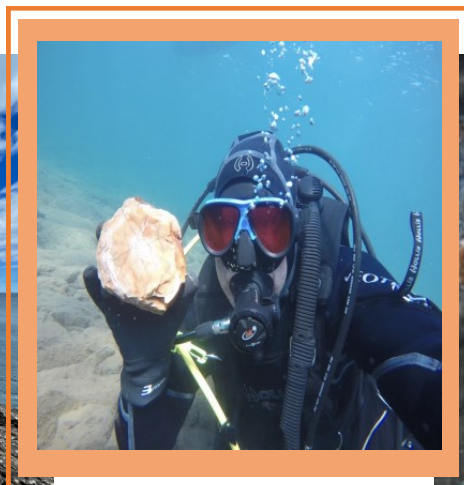
A couple of other notes for this meeting:

- With all the extra activities for this presentation we are not having the Rock of the Month Contest. However, please feel free to bring your own Lake Superior Treasures to show off or have your questions answered about them.
- Crowd participation this month is highly recommended.
- Juniors, please note your presentation will start promptly @ 7pm.
- Come prepared for Raffles and a Live Auction!!!!

Some exciting news about upcoming programs:

- April’s Banquet brings us Karen Brys-The Agate Lady
- May brings us the TCGMC Silent Auction

Bill McDonald (Vice President)





Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

All meetings take place at the Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

- 3/27** **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm (6:30 to view presentation display)
- 3/31—4/7** Fieldtrip to New Mexico
- 4/10** **Tulip City** Board meeting - Wed, 7pm
- 4/24** **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

For those looking for something to do April 4-6, the Indian Mounds Club in Grand Rapids is having their annual gem and mineral show at the Rogers Plaza Town Center.

Greenville Road Trip!

One lovely free day from school in November last fall, Shari Luttkhuizen, Dianne Graf and I made the drive north to spend a delightful, productive and informative day with Rance and Anne Westover in their well equipped Greenville workshop! The plan began by my obtaining a beautiful piece of rhodochrosite which I thought I wanted to cut and make into some cabs. Well, I was talked out of that idea, at least for now, but instead we each did some cutting (me for the first time!) and polishing of other rocks, and turned out some interesting pieces!

How wonderful it is to be a member of a club with so many generous and knowledgeable people! It was my first time to visit Westover's workshop and it has served the club well over the years, and their kindness, knowledge and generosity are huge. I encourage you to take advantage of any opportunities to go up to Greenville and learn more about our great hobby. Thank you Rance and Anne—I am looking forward to improving my skills in the future

Rock on! Mary Johnson



2024 TCG&M Board

President - C.H. Falstad
cfalstad3@gmail.com

V.P. - Bill McDonald
bobmaciv@gmail.com

Secretary - Alexandria Vanderski
alexandria.vandervest1029@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks
kdbrinks1@gmail.com

Field Trips - Jon Mull
solace247@yahoo.com

Historian - Betty Hoekstra
kbhoek@att.net

Junior Club - Shari Luttkhuizen
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Liaison - Mary Johnson
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Newsletter Editor - Jodi Miller
jsmillerlady@gmail.com

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson
anelson31@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair - CJ Proos
charliejohnproos@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair - Teresa DeMol
t.demol@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting
michlyngal@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Gary Katt
kattfiles@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Patsy Williamson
patsywi61206@gmail.com

Past President - Michael B. Larson
mblarson300@yahoo.com

WELCOME new members:

Barry Coffman (Holland) and Michael Donahue and Kelli Pospiech and their children Kaydence and Landon (Rockford)



Field Trips



Spring Break - Mar. 29 - Apr. 7

The New Mexico trip is shaping up nicely. We have about a dozen members planning on attending. Our adventure will begin at Chaco Culture N.P. on Sunday April 1. We'll visit Petrified Forest N.P. on Monday as well as the DoBell petrified wood ranch. We'll be in Farmington, New Mexico on Monday night catching a view of Shiprock. Tuesday and Wednesday will be spent near Farmington, at least one day at the Nacimiento copper mine. Thursday we'll stop at an old Fluorite claim before heading home. There might be one or two more spots available, act fast though.

May the Fourth - Fossils and Dredgers show! - May 3 - 5 [SIGN-UP](#)

We will tie in our fossil collecting trip with a visit to the Cincinnati Geo Fair which runs Saturday from 10-6 and Sunday from 11-5, at the Sharonville Convention Center. This can be a long weekend or a day trip, depending on your preference. My plan is to leave Holland on Friday morning (May 3) and stop at the St. Leon site on the way. We'll look for a hotel in Maysville for Friday night. On Saturday morning we'll hit a couple of Maysville road cuts, travel across the river to Georgetown Ohio and look for large brachiopods and then go to the show in Sharonville. I'll probably stay at the Comfort Inn in Wilder on Saturday night, if it's available, hit Orphanage road in the morning, and head home.

Memorial day weekend, May 24 - 27 - Druzy Quartz [SIGN-UP](#)

We will be returning to the Potossi, Missouri area to collect druzey quartz from Haunted Ridge and hopefully Valles Mines as well. This isn't fully fleshed out yet but I wanted to get the dates out there. I also know that my son really wants to go up in the St. Louis Arch so we may do that on the way down Friday.

If you have other questions about any of these trips feel free to contact me.

If you are ready to sign up, please use the links included next to each trip.

Jon Mull (cell) 616-510-4139. Email: solace247@yahoo.com

! IMPORTANT !

Remember, you can only collect up to 25 pounds of rocks and minerals in Michigan state parks.

! ALSO IMPORTANT !

Bill McDonald would like to know if there is a lapidary skill you can teach or would like to learn. TCGMC is putting together a list of teachers and potential students.

Date: 2/14/2024

Attendance Total:

Guests in Attendance: 15

Quorum:Yes

Call to Order: 7:05pm

Board Members Present: C. Falstad (President), W. McDonald (Vice President), A Vanderski (Secretary), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), E. Hoekstra (Historian), S. Luttkhuizen (Jr. Club Coordinator), M. Johnson (Liaison), J. Miller (Newsletter Editor), C.J. Proos & T. DeMol (Show Coordinator Co-Chairs), A. Nelson (Webmaster), G. Katt & P. Williamson (Directors at Large), M. Larson (Past President)

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved

Board Member Reports:

President -

- Contract dropped off to Soccer Stop, annual show will be at Soccer Stop for 2024.
- Financial books will be reviewed by licensed CPA.
- Steve Chamberlin's new book "New York State: A Topographic Mineralogy" is now available on the TCGM Club website to be utilized as a beautiful resource at no cost!
- Budget will be reviewed in March.

Vice President -

- Discussion concerning Facebook and social media posting. Becky Siegel will be returning for assistance in social media posting!
- Workshops: jewelry, silver soldering...
- Past President - Many many shows coming up!

Secretary - Feedback is always welcome concerning the new digital Meeting Minutes format. Goal is to make recording Meetings Minutes as quick and simple as possible.

Newsletter Editor -

- Newsletter submissions requested by Saturday 2/17.
- Postal cost of physical newsletter may be large. Physical newsletter costs going forward may need to be evaluated.

Fieldtrip Coordinator -

- Saturday February 24th, 10am-4pm - Open house at Ken & Betty Hoekstra's (opportunity to purchase beautiful specimens). Special drawing
- Saturday March 16th - Chicago bus trip. Trip has been a huge hit with a large wait list. Acquired larger bus with 6 spots remaining!
- Spring Break - New Mexico
- Spring Break - potential trip to Indiana for Total Solar Eclipse
- April - potential excursion to Ohio for fossils and brachiopods.

Directors at Large - (Katt) Gary K and Chris C - Speaking for Indian Mounds in February and TCGMC in March!

Treasurer - Not present. Financial update sent via email.

Historian - Digitizing has begun!! Betty and team doing an amazing job tackling converting physical documents into digital media and saving items on the Google Suite.

Jr. Club Coordinator - Potentially starting Juniors meeting earlier in evening to allow children and families with children to head home when needed.

- Upcoming meetings to include scavenger hunts, opal and others by Junior request.

Liaison - Raffel sales for the Spring banquet have begun.

Membership - N/A

Show Coordinators -

- (Proos) - New entrance ticket offering for 2024 Show, "Adult Weekend Pass" and "Family Weekend Pass".
- (Proos) - Discussion concerning central location for payment to accommodate payment by credit card. In-depth conversation concerning the pros and cons of credit cards. Cost for on site ATM \$1000 or greater.
- (Proos) - Penny contest will continue in February and feed into publicity poster.
- (Proos) - 2 vendors stated that marketplace has grown too much and it is difficult to compete with the low prices. Have to volunteer to sell?
- (Proos) - Perhaps offer a scavenger hunt to get more engagement at show.
- (Jon) Encourage the vendors to bring geodes. Get the blades on the crackers sharpened and fixed

(Continued on page 5)

Webmaster -

- TCGMC website contact form being utilized more and more. Requests for services and information.
- Remote meetings considerations. Google Meet is free to club with no limitations.
- TCGM Club credit card. Club does not currently have credit card but some platforms (Weebly account) require payment by credit card.
- Discussion concerning identity safety and creation of members only portal to reduce scams.

Recurring Business:

- Rock Exchange - (Larson) Two invites sent out to 10 clubs in TX, MO, etc. No responses yet. RETURN
- IRS 501(c)(3) Status - Application process went well, waiting on response. RETURN
- Memorial Books - RETURN
- Budget Committee and 2024 Budget - Will be reviewed in March. RETURN
- Review of Financial Books - Will be reviewed in March per bylaws. RETURN

New Business:

- Postal Membership (Expense) - Gather more information concerning desire for and use of printed copies. Additional expense added to yearly membership for paper copies of The Conglomerate does not cover the expense of postage and printing each month. RETURN
- Roosevelt Elementary Zeeland - Request for geology (rock, fossil, mineralogy, etc) presentation to students on February 25th/26th.

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Notes: N/A

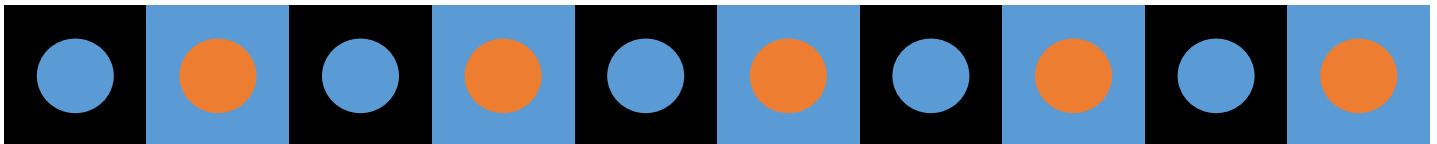
Items From Visiting Members: N/A

Adjournment: 8:57pm

Next General Meeting: 2/28/2024

Next Board Meeting: 3/13/2024

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: Alexandria Vanderski



JUNIOR SECTION

We are so excited to welcome Kurt Brinks to the Junior Club this Month. Kurt has been in Florida for a couple of months hunting the beaches, and he is going to educate us all about the different kind of Sharks teeth.

Have you ever wondered: how many teeth does an average shark have at one time? What color are shark teeth? Why are shark teeth different shapes? How long have sharks been swimming in the waters of planet earth? (Answer: since the late Ordovician period – What does that mean? And how old is that?)

Come to our club meeting on Wednesday March 27 where the juniors will investigate all kinds of questions about sharks, and they will practice identifying fossilized shark's teeth. Bring your questions and curiosity and I will see you there!

- Shari

This month's regular raffle prizes include a 2-barrel rock tumbler and an autographed first edition of the Agate Lady's book on Agates!

You will also have an opportunity to purchase chances for the two large items in our April banquet raffle, whose proceeds will be awarded to the Gibson Scholarship Fund, benefiting GVSU's Summer Geology Program.



BANQUET RAFFLE CONTINUES IN March

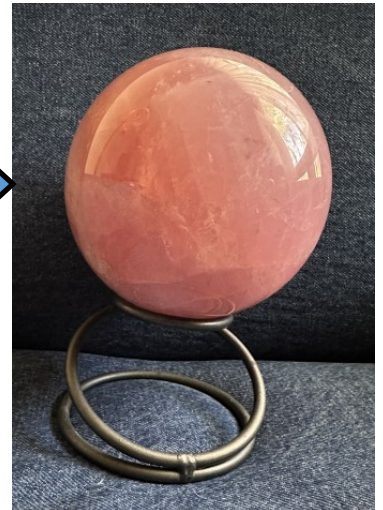
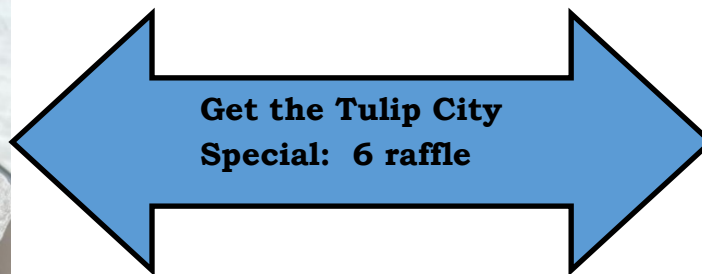
Opportunities to purchase tickets for this year's special Banquet Raffle will continue this month, in addition to our normal monthly raffle! Lots of chances to become a winner and increase your collection!

This year's Banquet Raffle will have a couple of changes from the past. Instead of just one prize, there will be two, with the first ticket drawn receiving their choice of item and the second ticket drawn receiving the other item. Tickets for the Banquet Raffle will be \$5 each, or 6 (six) tickets for \$20. Yes, you read that right and it was not a mistake—you will receive 2 (two) additional free tickets if you buy \$20 worth! The SUPER Tulip City Special!

Both prizes have once again been donated to us by one of our show vendors, Beauties of Creation. Why two this year? Because the pandemic robbed us of our banquet in 2020, yet we had a large Rose Quartz Sphere donated for its raffle, and we also have a beautiful Celestite Geode donated for the 2024 Banquet Raffle. Both items will be in attendance, with opportunities to examine them and purchase tickets, at the March and April meetings. Good luck, everyone!

Your Liaison and Head Raffleter,

Mary Johnson



Geologists Day – April 7

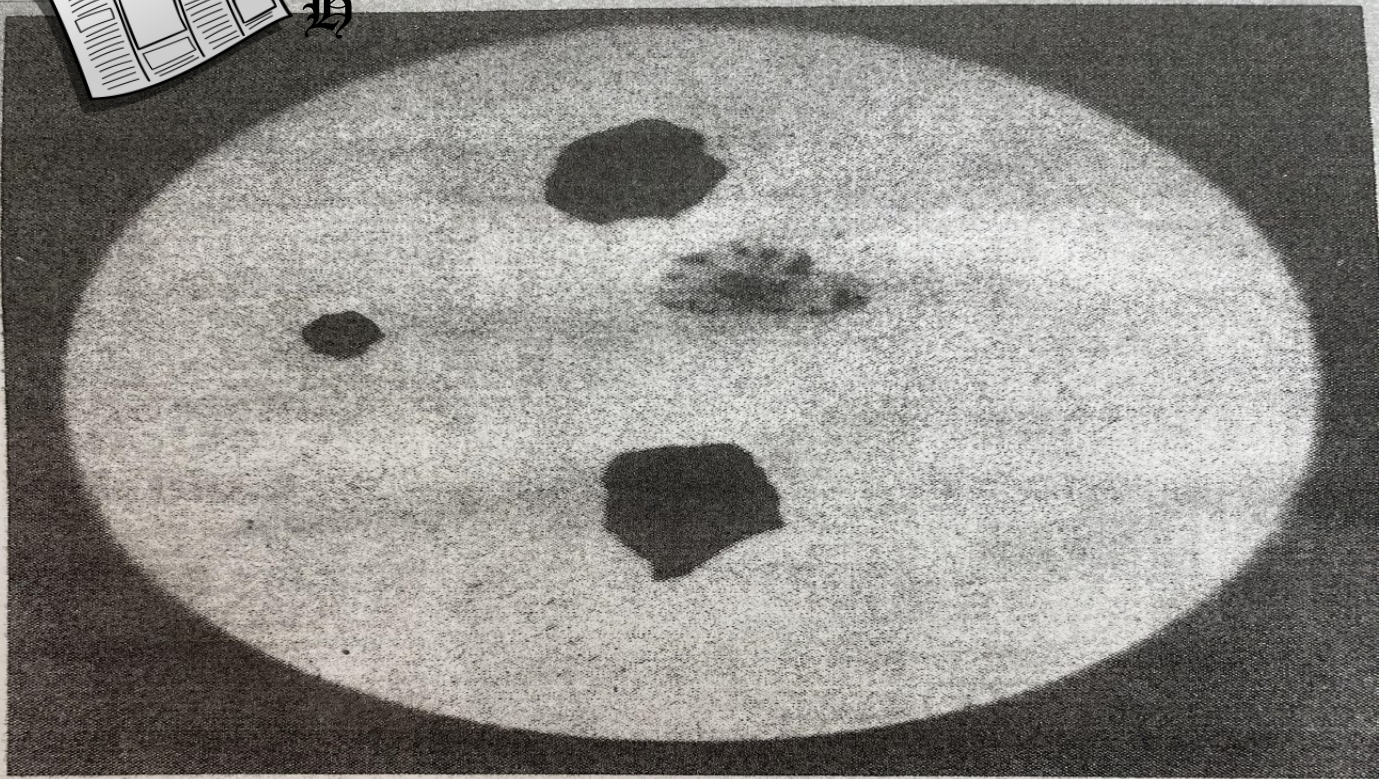
This day is dedicated to those folks who make it their life's work to explore, research and disseminate their knowledge of rocks and Earth's history. It is also the time to appreciate all those things in our lives that we have or know because of geologists. This includes such daily used items as toothpaste and even cell phones. Please thank a Geologist for all these great discoveries. And thank you to the Geologist Members of this club. You are all amazing and continue to make this the most Rockin' Club EVER!!!!!! Maybe you can even take your local Geologist to the favorite restaurant The Hard Rock Café!!!!!!



From the pages of history:

Holland Sentinel—September 12, 1970

H



TINY MOON CHIPS ENLARGED — These black chips, which were picked up by Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin on the moon, are on display at the Gem and Mineral Show tonight and Saturday in Civic Center. The chips are part of a moon display on the stage and they are in a poured plastic mount the size of a nickel. They

are fragments of crystalline rock, breccia and glass which were sieved from the dusty lunar soil on the southern part of the Sea of Tranquillity. The rock show, sponsored by the Tulip City Rock Club, is open tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(Sentinel photo)

Gem Display Attracts Over 1,000.

Close to 1,000 persons attended the first annual Gem and Mineral show Friday night at the Civic Center. Mrs. Frank Bolhuis cut the ribbon at opening ceremonies in the presence of Mayor Nelson Bosman, Co-Chairman Joe Moran and Chet Smith, and Club President Bob Zigler.

Lots of interest was shown in the moon display on the stage which includes a tiny entry of black chips taken from the moon surface by Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin.

The show has over 100 exhibits ranging in size from miniature thumbnail mounts of Richard Matych of Muskegon to large special rock specimens by Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club members.

Another highlight is the large metal sculptures of Mickey DeRidder of Holland. The show closes tonight at 9 p.m.

Rock Around the World

Not the average geode: Chinese rocks filled with crystals turn out to be new species of dinosaur egg

- One of the three eggs was broken, showcasing the stunning crystals inside
- The palaeontologists do not know what dinosaur was in the egg, which is fairly common for fossils

Taken by themselves, geodes are gorgeous, with the insides lined with crystals that add a sense of beauty and wonder to the rocks, and they become even more amazing when they are dinosaur eggs, as was the case of a recent discovery in eastern China.

The fossils also happened to be a new species of dinosaur eggs called *Shixingoolithus qianshanensis*, part of a larger family of eggs found across China.



<https://www.scmp.com/news/people-culture/article/3194205/not-average-geode-chinese-rocks-filled-crystals-turn-out-be-new>



Member Spotlight Our member spotlight this month is on Mike Rakovich, who has been in the club since 2014! He tells me that his favorite piece that he has ever collected is a beautiful piece of quartz that he found when our club went to Arkansas. His favorite collecting trip: A 2023 fieldtrip to Utah, which he is repeating this summer. So that he can obtain sapphires and sunstones that he has collected himself. Mike enjoys making cabochons, some silverwork, and his passion of faceting. He has even created his own unique faceting patterns. His bucket list includes a trip to Quartzite, which he hopes to fulfill in 2025.



Frequently asked Quartz-tions - by C.J. Proos

Keep those quartz-tions coming! I'm excited to hear what you are interested in learning more about. This month's question is: 'Why are there so many varieties of Jasper?'

Excellent question, one that comes with a couple answers. True jasper is an opaque specimen that is composed of microscopic quartz crystals with various impurities. Due to the commonality of these microscopic forms of quartz, depending on the impurities also present in the area, you will get many varieties of jasper. I'm sure some of you can name dozens of jasper varieties. But are all of them truly jaspers? This leads into the second part of the question, which I will rephrase to, are there actually that many jasper varieties? In short, no. Jasper has become a gemologist's umbrella term for lots of similar specimens. An example of this is something we learned a few months back during our stromatolite lecture. We learned that Kam-baba jasper isn't a jasper at all, but actually a form of fossilized algae called stromatolites. Not all mislabeled jaspers are stromatolites. Most are varieties of chalcedony and rhyolites. Ocean jasper is actually chalcedony, bumblebee jasper is actually carbonate rich calcite, mookaite jasper is actually fossilized sea creatures called radiolarians, dalmatian jasper is actually a rock called perthite, and the list goes on. Fascinating! Thanks for your quartz-tion!



What's next? Find CJ at the next meeting or email him your questions at

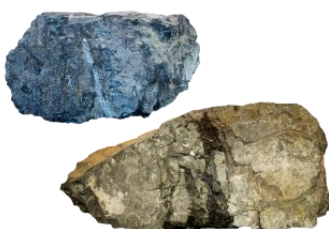
charliejohnproos@gmail.com

**WAIT...
WHAT?**

Why People Collect Rocks and You Should Too!

Check out this wonderful article from The Rockhound Resource. It's always amazing (and admittedly, comforting) to know that we are not alone in this little obsession we have with all things rock, gem, mineral, and fossil!

[Why People Collect Rocks \(And You Should, Too\) – Rockhound Resource](#)





Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

Advertising rates for club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for 1/4 page, \$15 for 1/2 page, \$30 for full page. non-member rates are double. Make check payable To: TCG&M with ad copy to Editor.

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.

Tulip City Conglomerate
 Jodi Miller, Editor
 11743 Orchard Park Dr.
 Sparta, MI 49345



Background photo is a Petoskey stone.