



THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE



Bulletin of the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, PO Box 2082, Holland, MI 49422

Website: www.Tulipcity.org

January 2016

Volume 49, Edition 1

General Meeting

7p Jan 27, 2016
HMCC
Zeeland, MI

Board Meeting

7p, Feb 10, 2016
Howard Miller Community Center
Zeeland, MI



Board Position Open

The Social Coordinator Position is OPEN. If you are interested, please contact any Board Member.

This Edition

January Program.....	p1
January Raffle Items.....	p1
Club Calendar/Board.....	p2
BOLO: Trailer!.....	p2
Club Sales Material.....	p2
Dice Museum.....	p3
Show Corner.....	p4
Blue John.....	p4
Minutes – Board Meeting.....	p5
Minutes – General Meeting.....	p5
Renewal Form.....	p6
ALAA News.....	p7
Dugway Geodes.....	p8
Fairburn Agate.....	p8
Junior Page: Streaking Hema-...	p9
About Us.....	p10

January 27th Meeting: Copper-Included Agates

Our program for the January 27th meeting is entitled, "RED-GOLD AND POLISHED AGATES: UPPER MICHIGAN'S HIDDEN TREASURES". This is a fascinating DVD program of the Midwest Federation that will open some eyes. It shows and discusses some spectacular specimens of copper included agates from the Keweenaw Peninsula. This program will give agate-origin theorists something new to think about. It will also encourage collectors with yet another goal for adding some beautiful agate specimens to their collection on their next trip to the Upper Peninsula.

Please bring some samples for our show and tell if you are fortunate enough to have already added some of these copper included agates to your collection.

If that is not enough, we'll also be auctioning off more of the Boone gem collection. There are some seriously magnificent gems in this group that would be great made up into jewelry, or useful in adding or upgrading a collection. The proceeds from this auction will be added to the Gibson Endowment Fund for scholarships at Grand Valley State University, so bid generously and have fun.

We will again have our "Stump the Experts" table for you to bring your as yet unidentified specimens and give our experienced members a chance to help give your rock a name.

Hope to see everyone at the Howard Miller Library in Zeeland at 7:00

January Raffle Items

Three items will be raffled off at January's General Meeting. Raffle proceeds will be applied to improving our Tailgate/Show banner.

1. 22gm Natural Copper Nugget with verdigris patina from copper country in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, donated by Tom Kalkman.

2. Large chunk of Petrified Wood, 4 3/8" X 4" X 3 1/2", from the Western United States.

3. Pinkish Feldspar, 3 1/2" X 3" X 2" plus small piece.

Tickets for the Raffle are \$1.00/each or \$5.00/6 tickets.

The TCGMC will be raffling off an Amethyst Cathedral at our Annual Banquet in April. The Amethyst Cathedral was donated by Beauties of Creation, a long-time vendor at our (cont. on p3)

Club Calendar

Jan 27 (Wed) – General Meeting 7p, HMCC

Feb 10 (Wed) - Board Meeting 7p, HMCC

Feb 24 (Wed) – General Meeting 7p, HMCC

Mar 4-6 – Richmond, IN

Mar 5 – Dice Museum Field Trip, 1:30p, Calvin College*

Mar 5-6 – Livonia, MI

Mar 11-13 – Kansas City, MO

Mar 12-13 – Macomb, IL, West Bend, WI

Mar 12 – Skokie, IL

Mar 16 (Wed) - Board Meeting 7p, HMCC

Mar 30 (Wed) – General Meeting 7p, HMCC

April 9-10 – Canton, IL

Apr 13 (Wed) - Board Meeting 7p, HMCC (TENTATIVE)

Apr 27 (Wed) – General Meeting 7p, HMCC (TENTATIVE)

Aug 13 (Sat) – Fourth Annual Tailgate, Sam's Lot Holland, MI

Sep 16-18 – Tulip City Gem and Minera Show

The "HMCC" is the Howard Miller Community Center,
located at 14 South Church Street, Zeeland, MI

Italic listings are non-Club events.

†Please refer to "Calendar Notes" on p3 for additional information.

*Please refer to "Field Trips!" on p3 for additional information.

Major source material was from: <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Calendar/>

2016 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Bob Sherwood	bobandjulia@accn.org
Vice President	C. H. Falstad	cfalstad@ameritech.net
Secretary	Krystin Grenon	klgrenon@gmail.com
Treasurer	Julia Sherwood	bobandjulia@accn.org
Fld Trip Coord.	Bob Sinke	bobsinke@comcast.net
Historian	Betty Hoekstra	kbhoek@att.net
Jr. Club Coord.	Rick Smith	smithr@hope.edu
Jr. Club Coord.	Linda Winkelmann	lindawinkelmann@att.net
Liaison	Linda Plumert	rplumert@gmail.com
Membership	Christine Silich	CSDS77@icloud.com
Newsletter Ed.	Rudy Silich	tulipcitygemnews@charter.net
Show Coord	Sue Goedert	sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
Social Coord.	Open	
Dir. at Large	Patti DeGroot	
Dir. at Large	Art Edson	art@aedson.com

For 2015, there are fourteen (14) positions, which have one vote each. There are fourteen (14) persons on the Board (two persons share one position, and one position is open).

BOLO: Trailer!

In military and law-enforcement jargon, BOLO stands for "be on the lookout". The Club is in need of a trailer to store items in between Shows. If you see one for sale, either in person or online, please notify a Board Member! Please be on the lookout!

Club Sales Material

Last year's Show was so awesome, we managed to sell a large proportion of Club material through the Club Sales table. That means the Club is in need of resupply. During your rockhounding this spring, summer and fall (or maybe even winter if you dress properly), please consider donating a portion of your collecting goodies to the Club. Please make sure any donated material is *clean*, and, where possible, identified.



January is nearly over! (Janus pictured above.)

**YOU are the Club.
Exercise your literary skills.
Send it to me.
See it published.**

Dice Museum Field Trip

This trip on Saturday, March 5, 2016 was announced at our December meeting. This is a reminder that you need to put the date on your calendar. This is an opportunity to see a world class collection. Bruce Dice graduated in 1948 and has amassed large collection of wonderful mineral specimens from around the world. His collection was so outstanding that, when donated, Calvin College decided to open a museum in the fall of 2012 to show it off.

We will be meeting our host, Professor C. Renee Sparks outside her office in the North Hall 081 (lower level of the Science Building) by 1:30 pm. On Saturdays, the doors to the Science Building are supposed to be open. If the door is locked, the front door should be open.

We will start with a tour of the Geology Department, and then go upstairs to the Dice Mineral Museum. Calvin has a great teaching collection and many qualified professors on staff.

You will be sorry if you miss this trip, so put it on your calendar now to reserve the date. A Campus map is available at <http://www.calvin.edu/map/>. Entry is off Burton, just west of the East Beltline on the east side of Grand Rapids. Parking is available with the closest lots being Lot 4 or Lot 5 (see map on line). This will be a winter trip that will appeal to rockhounds of all ages.

There is no admittance fee, juniors are encouraged, although those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

January Raffle Items

Show. Its measurements are approxiately: H: 13 3/4" X W: 8 7/8" X D: 3 3/4". The Club is very appreciative of their gifts.

Tickets for this raffle will be sold at each meeting and at the Annual Banquet for \$5.00/each.

The Club is looking for gem and mineral related items for our monthly auctions. Please speak to Krystin Grenon.

Pictures of the raffle items and the cathedral are below and on page 4.



Natural copper nugget



Petrified wood



Pinkish feldspar



Amethyst cathedral (Banquet Raffle)

Show Corner

This past month we have nailed down our spot. In case you haven't heard, it will be at the Soccer Spot and the show will be Sept 16-18 this year. Put it on your calendar!

Our first Show Meeting is January 20 in the East room at the Library (downstairs). You are welcome to join us. We still have some slots open for committee heads and we always welcome input. Also, if you have any ideas for this year's theme, please come or let me know. To make the transition from the Civic Center to a new venue, we really need to make this year's show pop!

Feel free to contact me by phone (616-452-7843) or email (sonbeams2000@yahoo.com).

Sue Goedert

Blue John

by Chet Smith

Blue John! What a common name for an uncommon mineral! Blue John, a calcium fluoride mineral, was named by two miners to distinguish it from another mineral, Black Jack (a local name for zinc blende)

Blue John has been described as Britain's most beautiful mineral.* What makes Blue John so unusual are the blue, purple and yellow bands found throughout the material. (Thin sections allow light to pass through.)

Blue John is mined in England in the Peak District National Park There are only three mines where Blue John can be found.

Our first contact with Blue John was during a Club trip to the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Elmhurst, IL. There on display was a large Blue John vase. We visited the Lizzadro Museum a second time a few years later, and the first thing I looked for was the Blue John vase. It was there but had been relocated so that it was out of reach of curious visitors.

Blue John was discovered over 2000 years ago. During an excavation of Pompeii, two Blue John vases were unearthed.

There are several locations where Blue John bowls and vases are located:

1. The White House, Washington, DC
2. The private library, Vatican, Rome
3. 3. Several museums in Great Britain

*The History of Blue John Stone, by Ollerenshaw, Harrison, and Harrison

A few Blue John pieces are on page six.

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club
Board Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2015

Location: Howard Miller Community Center – East Activity Room

Attendees: Rebecca Cistaro, Patti DeGroot, Art Edson, C. H. Falstad, Sue Goedert, Krystin Grenon, Jackie Helder, Elizabeth Hoekstra, Vondalee Knoll, Steve Miller, Linda Plumert, Bob Sherwood, Julia Sherwood, Christine Silich, Rudy Silich, Bob Sinke, Rick Smith, Linda Winkelmann

Absent:, Dave Nienhuis,

Guests: Chet Smith, Harold Knoll, Ken Hoekstra, Shari Luttkhuizen, Dan DeGroot, Mark Cistaro

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Minutes

The minutes from the November 4th, 2015 Board Meeting, and November 18th, 2015 General Meeting were reviewed.

MOTION. C.H., moved, seconded by Rick, to accept the November 4th, 2015 Board Meeting minutes as amended. The Motion PASSED.

MOTION. Rick moved, seconded by Vondalee, to accept the November 18th, 2015 General Meeting minutes as amended. The Motion PASSED.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Julia presented the November financial report. The audit for 2015 has been scheduled in January.

MOTION. Steve moved, seconded by Jackie, to accept the November financial report to be filed for audit. The Motion PASSED.

Membership Coordinator's Report – Christine said that renewal forms are available.

Vice President's Report – C.H. announced that the December program will be about the origin of mineral names. Doug Sjoquist will be presenting. Also, a gift exchange will be held.

Editor – Rudy announced the deadline for newsletter submissions is Saturday at 8pm, December 5th.

Field Trip Coordinator Report – No report.

Liaison – Linda suggested that we lock in a banquet speaker as soon as possible.

Juniors – Rick and Linda W. The Junior Program topic for December will be pegmatite formations. Streak testing is scheduled for January.

Hospitality – Jackie urged everyone to bring Christmas treats. Christine and Jackie will bring the leftover banquet favors. Jackie has boxes to transfer to the new Hospitality Board member.

Show – No report.

Director-at-Large - Krystin announced that there would be a raffle in December. Book ends with agates were donated.

Bob passed along his appreciation for the service of the retiring Board members, and welcomed the new Board members. He reminded the outgoing members to be sure to transfer their job materials.

Unfinished Business

Facility Search – Mark reported that the Doubletree deposit was \$1000, non-refundable, and ½ the amount at the Soccer Stop. There was discussion about planning for two years, as well as discussion about cooperating with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) book event.

New Business

General Meeting Location for 2016 – There was a discussion about where to hold the General Meetings for 2016. The current HMCC and the Meijer GVSU campus location were considered.

MOTION. Vondalee moved, seconded by Krystin, to decide on the 2016 General Meeting location at this meeting. The Motion PASSED.

MOTION. Julia, moved, seconded by Christine, to use the HMCC as the primary location for the 2016 General Meetings, subject to availability. The Motion PASSED.

The Board planned to meet at the Soccer Stop on December 12th to evaluate the facility for the 2016 Show.

The installation of officers will take place at the General Meeting on December 16th.

Mark Cistaro gave a short presentation on using Weebly as a web hosting service.

Julia announced that the Club received a thank-you note from GVSU for our support of the Geology students.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Rudy P. Silich

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club
General Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2015

Attendees:

Adults: 44 Juniors: 8

Location: Howard Miller Community Center

The meeting was called to order by Bob at 7:05pm.

New Members: Ron Bazary, and wife Gayle, Spring Lake

Installation - Dave Nienhuis installed the 2016 Officers and Board Members.

Juniors - The Juniors were dismissed, and the business portion of the meeting began.

Bob reviewed the December Board Meeting, and noted that the Social Chair position is open. Also, when the weather is bad, call the library. If the library is open, then the meeting will be held.

Treasurer's Report - Julia presented the Club account balances for November.

Newsletter – Rudy reminded everyone that they were welcome to submit articles to the newsletter.

Show Chair – There will be a Show meeting on January 20th, at the HMCC.

Field Trips – Bob Sinke announced that IMRC had a gypsum mine trip planned in January. Contact Kreigh. March 5, 1:30pm, a trip to Calvin College and the Dice museum is scheduled. Finally, the 2016 Agate Expo is scheduled for July 8-10 in Cedarburg, WI.

There was a visit to the Soccer Stop to inspect the facility.

Jackie has leftover items from previous banquets available.

Budget - The Budget Committee will meet on January 9th at the Zeeland Burger King.

Break at 7:40pm, resume at 8:05pm

Door prize, raffles, and junior door prize was conducted.

Doug Sjoquist presented "Naming of Minerals"

The gift exchange was held, and additional items were auctioned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rudy P. Silich

2016 Renewal Form

Uh oh. If you didn't renew your Club Membership for 2016, by now, you are late! The due date WAS December 31st. All will be forgiven if you renew now! (Remember, if you signed up during the Show in September 2015, you are already paid through 2016!)

TULIP CITY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB RENEWAL FORM

DUES DEADLINE: - December 31, 2015

Mail to:

**Christine Silich
416 West Mae Rose Ave
Holland, MI 49424**

Make check payable to TCG&M Club

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Note: Members who signed up at the September Show are paid through 2016.



ALAA News – Rockhounding Access In Peril

Ever since the California Desert Protection Act in 1994, which closed thousands of miles of OHV roads and trails, OHV leaders have urged California's senators and representatives to protect our remaining OHV opportunities in the desert.

It took 21 years, but now we have our bills: H.R. 3668 and S. 414. Both bills will protect five BLM OHV Open Areas, as many as 1,750 miles of routes, and OHV, Rockhounding and hunting on 1.6 million acres of the California desert. Also, both bills have a path to expand OHV areas to make up for the lost OHV acreage in Johnson Valley.

Now facing a probable National Monument proclamation of up to 2 million acres that is unfriendly to roads, OHV, Rockhounding and hunting, and an inevitable Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) that is hostile to OHV, the passage if both H.R. 3668 and S. 414 is urgently necessary to ensure a future for OHV in the California desert.

Sadly, the largest national environmental organizations do not support H.R. 3668 and S. 414 because of the strong protections for OHV. They are actively working against passage of our bills and are leading the charge for a presidential proclamation.

The White House is seriously considering designating three new National Monuments in the California Desert potentially totaling over one million acres.

Fortunately, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Paul Cook have each introduced bills that would protect these lands while specifically allowing continued recreational use for OHV'ers, Rockhounds and hunters. Sen. Feinstein's California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, S.414, and Rep. Cook's California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act, H.R.3668, would not only protect OHV-based recreation in these proposed National Monument lands, but would also protect and expand up to 360,000 acres specifically for OHV recreation areas.

The ALAA urges you to write to the following persons:

1) President Obama - respectfully request that he suspend the Antiquity Act process and support a legislative solution to protecting these lands.

2) Senator Lisa Murkowski (R - AK), Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources Chairman - respectfully request that she support the balanced approach of Sen. Feinstein's S.414 to permanently protect OHV recreation on millions of acres in the California desert.

3) Your U.S. Representative - respectfully request that they support Rep. Cook's H.R.3668 for its important and balanced protections for OHV recreation in the California desert.

For more information, please see

<http://www.corva.org/CORVA-Opposes-use-of-Antiquities-Act-to-create-national-Monuments/3597679>

– from the American Lands Access Association, Inc. newsletter, Oct-Nov-Dec, 2015 p4.

Editor's note: As of press time, a hearing on H.R, 3668 was held on December 9, 2015. From what I can tell, it needs to be placed on the schedule for further action. I have not researched the legislative process/status for S. 414.



Dugway Geode



Fairburn Agate



Fairburn Agate

Dugway Geode Claim Threatened

Save the Geodes! The BLM is threatening to close the only commercial claim on the Dugway Geode beds, in operation for the last 50 years, because the renewal paperwork was late this year. The claim is run by the Crapo family under the business name "The Bug House" and new mining claims will not be issued by the BLM for any commercial geode mining because the geode bed is a restricted area.

Public response to urge renewal of the claim is critical. The Crapo family has always supported the rock hound community and made sure that anyone who collected on their claim came away with lots of good geodes. Now it's our turn to support them so please get the word out to anyone interested in preserving this important collection area.

Please send your e-mails in support of renewing this important claim to the following e-mail addresses at the BLM and bcc the bughouse at their address below, so they can see who is supporting their efforts.

Deputy State Director Lands & Minerals: Kent Hoffman E-mail: khoffman@blm.gov
Minerals Support Supervisor: Robert L Bankert E-mail: rbankert@blm.gov
Bureau of Land Management Fillmore Field Office E-mail: utfmmail@blm.gov
The Bug House E-mail: bughouse@xmission.com

Thank you,
Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society
club@goldenspikegem.org
November 29, 2015

From Bob Sherwood – I would strongly urge all of you to send a letter of support to the BLM offices and copy to the Bug House and Golden Spike Club given above, urging BLM to keep the Dugway Geode beds and the access roads to them open for recreational collecting! This is a wonderful collecting location to which some of you have been. If not, you should/will want to at some future time – like next time I arrange a field trip to Utah. Public lands are increasingly being restricted and often closed off completely to collecting. It is important to take action on this issue.

Wilderness Proposed for Indian Creek Allotment, a Historic Fairburn Agate Area *Reported by Jan Baumeister (SD rep for ALAA, AFMS and the Rocky Mt. Federation)*

The Forest Service Buffalo Gap National Grassland rangers in Wall, SD, held two meetings in June with the rancher/permittees of the Indian Creek Allotment, giving them only two days' notice. They were told: "Indian Creek is going into wilderness." The only notice of this meeting was put in the Wall newspaper and not the *Rapid City Journal*! It seems they don't want all other "users" protesting!

This is one of our major areas to hunt Fairburn agates and the rare black agates, plus other specimens. It is the most scenic beautiful area of the grasslands, with badland buttes of golden yellow or a light brick red, topped with a layer of white, with cedar trees, and the creek snaking through the valleys.

A while back they finally put a nice graded trail in there, but now they want it closed down in the future to a total wilderness, where one can only hike in or ride in on horseback!

There are six big wilderness clubs in the Black Hills-Badlands areas, and they have the backing of 60 other wilderness clubs and the Nature Conservancy. The main reason behind this wilderness designation is that many people, including one rancher who runs buffalo in Indian Creek during the winter, want this land to be turned back to "wild land." In 2010 the wilderness clubs couldn't get a wilderness bill for Indian Creek Allotment passed by Senator Johnson with the PAC money of 60 wilderness clubs. It's a different situation now.

JUNIOR ROCK CLUB PAGE

Magnetite, Hematite, and Streaking

Magnetite and hematite are two important iron ores, and both minerals can be readily collected in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Perhaps you have specimens in your own collection. But these two minerals can sometimes be difficult to tell apart, especially when they occur in granular or massive habits. Both minerals can have a black or steel-gray color with a metallic lustre, and both minerals have a similar hardness (5-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the Mohs scale) and have a high specific gravity. (They feel heavy in your hand!) Perhaps that specimen in your collection that you always thought was hematite is actually magnetite!

A streak test—done on a small, unglazed porcelain plate—is one good way to tell the difference between hematite and magnetite.

At our next junior meeting, Wednesday night, January 27, 7:00, we'll share information about these two important iron ores, hematite and magnetite, and juniors will receive a take-home specimen of each. But how will you know which one is which? At the meeting we'll provide you with streak plates so you can perform a streak test on your two specimens and make the determination. Join us for a great, hands-on session at Zeeland's Howard Miller Community Center.

Linda Winkleman and Rick Smith
Junior Club Advisors



© geology.com

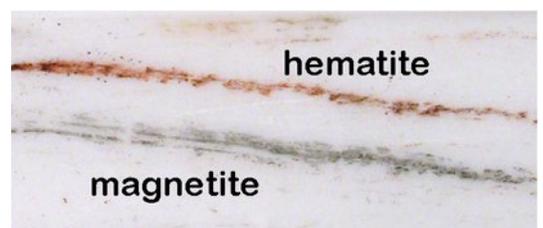
Magnetite



Hematite



Streaking....oh, wait...



Streak TEST!

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 increased knowledge of minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, and the lapidary arts. The objectives of this club shall be promoted whenever Possible, through family participation.

To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

The deadline for submissions is 5p the Thursday after the Board Meeting.

Advertising rates for club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for ¼ page, \$15 for ½ page, \$30 for full page. non-member rates are double. Make check payable To: TCG&M with ad copy to Editor.

The Great Lakes in the winter of 2005. Photo by Jeff Schmaltz/NASA.

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 announced otherwise in the TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE. Junior Club welcomes young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting.



Tulip City Conglomerate
Rudy Silich, Editor
416 West Mae Rose Ave
Holland, MI 49424