



# THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE



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

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

April 2016

Volume 49, Edition 4

**General Meeting  
Potluck Banquet**

6p Apr 27, 2016  
HMCC, Zeeland, MI

***Kalamazoo, MI  
Apr 29-May 1, 2016  
Annual Show***

***Fort Dodge, IA,  
Marshfield, WI  
Apr 30-May 1, 2016  
Annual Show***

***Hallsville, MO,  
Brainerd, MN  
May 6/7 - 8, 2016  
Annual Shows***

**Board Meeting  
May 11, 2016  
HMCC, Zeeland, MI**

***North Olmsted, OH,  
Wauwatosa, WI  
May 14-15, 2016  
Annual Shows***

**Show Meeting  
May 18, 2016  
HMCC, Zeeland, MI**

*Italics are non-Club events.*

## April 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Potluck Banquet

The April Meeting is the time when the Club has its potluck banquet. Please bring a dish (sufficient to feed your party, i.e. if two are coming, bring enough food for two), and appropriate table service (plates, forks knives, etc.). If you are hosting a guest, don't forget table service for them!

The meeting starts EARLY this month, 6pm!

Our speaker will be Doug Moore, an agate and thunderegg specialist from Wisconsin.

### Amethyst Cathedral Raffle

This beautiful amethyst cathedral will be raffled at the potluck banquet. Tickets are \$5 each, or five for \$20, and will be sold at the banquet!



Amethyst cathedral to be raffled.

### This Edition

April Potluck Banquet.....	p1
April Amethyst Raffle.....	p1
Club Calendar/Board.....	p2
Board Spot/Trailer/Club Sales.	p2
Field Trip NOW.....	p3
Crying Calcite.....	p3
Show Corner.....	p4
Every Rock Tells a Story.....	p4
Cover Letter/Email.....	p4
Minutes – Board Meeting.....	p5
Minutes – General Meeting.....	p6
National Monument/ALAA.....	p7
About Us.....	p8

## Club Calendar

May 25 (Wed) – General Meeting 7p, HMCC  
*May 28-29 – Wheaton, IL Annual Show*

*June 4 – Viroqua, WI, Mansfield, OH Annual Shows*

*June 10 -12 – Park Hills, MO Annual Show*

**June 11 (Sat) – Indian Mounds Tailgate**

June 15 (Wed) – Board Meeting 7p, HMCC

*June 17-19 – Eldon, MO Annual Show*

*June 18 -19 – Frederic, WI Annual Show*

*Juen 24 – 26 – Bedford, IN Annual Show*

June 29 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC

July 15-16 – Minoequa, WI Annual Show

July 16-17 – Moose Lake, MN Annual Show

July 20 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC

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

Aug 17 (Wed) – Board Meeting 7p, HMCC

Aug 24 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC, Zeeland, MI

### **Sep 16-18 – Tulip City Gem and Mineral Show**

Oct 12 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC

Oct 26 (Wed) – General Meeting 7p, HMCC

Nov 2 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC

Nov 16 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC

Dec 7 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC

Dec 21 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC

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

*Italic listings* are non-Club events.

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

## 2016 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Bob Sherwood	<a href="mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org">bobandjulia@accn.org</a>
Vice President	C. H. Falstad	<a href="mailto:cfalstad@ameritech.net">cfalstad@ameritech.net</a>
Secretary	Krystin Grenon	<a href="mailto:kgrenon@gmail.com">kgrenon@gmail.com</a>
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Membership	Christine Silich	<a href="mailto:CSDS77@icloud.com">CSDS77@icloud.com</a>
Newsletter Ed.	Rudy Silich	<a href="mailto:tulipcitygemnews@charter.net">tulipcitygemnews@charter.net</a>
Show Coord	Sue Goedert	<a href="mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com">sonbeams2000@yahoo.com</a>
Social Coord.	Open	
Dir. at Large	Patti DeGroot	<a href="mailto:dgrootd@sbcglobal.net">dgrootd@sbcglobal.net</a>
Dir. at Large	Art Edson	<a href="mailto:art@aedson.com">art@aedson.com</a>

For 2016, 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).

## **Board Position Open**

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

## **Look Out for a Trailer**

The Club is in need of a trailer to store items in between Shows. The load capacity of the trailer should be at least **one ton**. If you see one for sale, either in person or online, please notify a Board Member.

## **Club Sales Material**

The Club is in need of material for Club Sales. During your rockhounding this spring, summer and fall, please consider donating a portion of your collecting goodies to the Club. Please make sure any donated material is *clean*, and, where possible, *identified*.

**YOU are the Club.**

**Do not exorcise**

**your literary skills,**

**exercise them!**

**Send words to me.**

**See them published.**



Angel Wing Calcite

## Field Trip THIS Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Yes, this is very late notice for newsletter publication, but this trip popped up shortly after the last issue was published. Please contact Bob Sinke (email in the Board Member list).

When: Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Where: Fisherman's Island State Park, just south of Charlevoix, taking Bell's Bay Road to the parking area. Then, after lunch, off to three other beach locations!

A convoy will be leaving the Zeeland rest area on the south side of I-196 at 7:30am, and stopping at 7:50am at McDonald's near M-6 and US131. Four hours later is the expected arrival time.

Bring a rock scoop, spray bottle, buckets, garden trowel, waterproof boots/waders, durable shoes/boots, sunscreen, fresh water and snacks! (Never forget the snacks!)

## The Curious Case of the Crying Calcite

By Sara Kurth

Over the holiday season, Museum staff noticed something alarming. The Angel Wing calcite was crying! Well, it wasn't really crying, but it filled the case with water that leaked out behind the wall. There was no water on the outside walls and the water was relegated to just the single case. The mineral specimen was moved so the water could be cleaned and the cause of the water could be investigated. It turns out that there are some very interesting properties associated with the mineral.

Angel Wing calcite is a relatively new name for this variety of calcite. In fact, it is only within the New Age scene that the name is used. Calcite is a calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) mineral found in sedimentary limestone rock. The mineral calcite comes in many colors and crystal structures. Several polymorphs, or minerals with the same chemical composition but different crystal shapes exist, including aragonite and vaterite. Calcite is the most stable form of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  – aragonite will change into calcite under extreme temperatures greater than 380°F.

Among some of the interesting attributes of calcite is its ability to double refract. This property allows objects viewed through the crystal to appear doubled. Using the transparent form of calcite, Iceland spar, the double refraction property has been utilized for optical purposes, including early use by Vikings for navigation purposes. In fact, ancient sea creatures called trilobites had calcite optic lenses, useful for seeing predators in murky waters (Schwab, 2002). Calcite will readily dissolve when exposed to acid. It is this reason that marble, metamorphosed limestone, will break down over time when exposed to the elements.

This does not explain why our Angel Wing calcite was crying. Calcite is hygroscopic, which means that it is able to absorb water from the environment (Rougvie, 2016). Much like salt can become clumpy in humid summer months, calcite can, over time, absorb water, which will eventually destroy the crystal structure.

For unknown reasons, on December 21<sup>st</sup>, our Angel Wing calcite spontaneously released all the absorbed water on a single day. Perhaps there was a significant change in humidity in the Museum, or the temperature fluctuations in December caused a significant change in the environment. Whatever the reason, it is now clear that humidity control for the specimen is necessary. To alleviate the humidity, a moisture absorbent material has been placed in the case, much like placing rice into your salt container. The Angel Wing calcite was returned to its case on permanent display.

### References

Rougvie, J.R., January 6, 2016, personal communication, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin  
Schwab, J.R., 2002, British Journal of Ophthalmology, v. 86(4).

Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art  
220 Cottage Hill Ave. Elmhurst, IL 60126

## Show Corner

The theme for this year's Show will be "Field Trips ROCK!. We will be focusing on trips the Club has taken over the years. Our displays and special exhibits will be places that we have gone or trips that will be scheduled soon. If you have photos or specimens you are willing to share or loan, please contact Sue Goedert or Shari Luttikhuisen. Also, be thinking of specimens you have from trips to make up your display this fall. Our new feature we are hoping to have this year is a "selfie spot". More info soon!

We will be looking for people to do displays and we will have a large map tracking those trips from Holland. Our last meeting was cancelled, as several people were out of town, but our next one will be Wednesday, May 18.

If you have clean specimens you are willing to donate to the Club, the folks that operate the Club Sales table will be very appreciative!

Sue Goedert, Show Chair.

## Every Rock Tells a Story... Be a Detective!

Report on Staycation Program  
April 7, 2016 at GVSU/Meijer Campus  
by Linda Winkelmann

This "Staycation" opportunity for children, pre-K through 5th grade, was initiated by GVSU's Jane Marsman and publicized by GVSU. All families participated for free!! Thank you to Ken & Betty Hoekstra, Rudy & Christine Silich, Raedell Sparks and Robin Kreun for assisting Linda Winkelmann with the "Every Rock Tells a Story... Be a Detective!" program. Club participation was essential to assure the kids/parents could ask lots of questions and each had a personalized, friendly response.

Attendance was good – 48 area children and 14 parents pretended to walk the beach with Linda as she picked-up Sandstone, Septaria, Granite and Gneiss. What were the "clues" to the names of these stones and their geologic stories? The kids began to describe the look and feel of each specimen on their tables... and to think about sorting rocks by qualities. The littlest ones identified "the pretty ones"! The older detectives considered textures as well as the Rock Cycle (igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic). So... what was the background story of those rocks-in-hand? Interest piqued, they all spread out to various activity areas: the preschool sorting booklet and matching games; a table with rocks already sorted by geologic process; a table with Pet Rock making supplies (very popular); a "dig into resources" table so parents could continue to nourish interest through books, maps, show flyers and internet sites. Ken & Betty's 10 trays of touchable, named rocks and minerals took up a whole room and were a delightful highlight! The grand finale was the "popcorn volcano" plus "conglomerate trail mix" with juice. Julia Sherwood provided bagged Septaria take-homes for everyone. – Just plain fun for all!

**Cover Letter/Email** – *I thought the introductory note was more interesting than the actual excerpt, so here it is! The excerpt is on page seven.– Rudy*

Greetings, Editors,

Below is the April excerpt from the most recent *ALAA Newsletter* that you can use in your club publication. You may have heard on the news that the governor of Utah is trying to bring under state control most of Utah's public lands (the federal government calls them "federal lands," I wonder why). Well over half of Utah is public land, so you can see why this is an important effort. When Utah became a state, it was promised that federal management of those lands was temporary. That was in 1896! This will be an interesting case to watch.

In South Bend our club is planning a field trip to Illinois to collect Mazon Creek fossils. Should be fun.

Rock on!

Tom



**Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Howard Miller Community Center  
March 16, 2016**

**Location:** East Activity Room

**Board Members Present:** Krystin Grenon, Patti DeGroot, Art Edson, CH Falstad, Sue Goedert, Betty Hoekstra, Linda Plumert, Bob Sherwood, Julia Sherwood, Rudy Silich, Bob Sinke, Rick Smith, Linda Winkelmann

**Absent:** Christine Silich

**Guests:** Dan DeGroot, Ken Hoekstra, Chet Smith, Mike Larson

**President,** Bob Sherwood opened the meeting at 7:05PM.

**Secretary's Report:** Rick Smith presented his Minutes from the Board Meeting, February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. They were discussed and approved. Minutes from the General Meeting, February 24<sup>th</sup> presented by Krystin Grenon were discussed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report,** Julia Sherwood presented the February financial report. It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion passed. Voted to increase CD to \$18,000 - 14 months at .03 interest.

**Vice President's Report:** CH Falstad announced the March program: 4 Grand Valley State University Gibson Scholarships winners will give their presentations. Doug Moore will speak at the Annual Banquet.

**Editor's Report:** Rudy Silich announced the deadline for submitted materials for the March newsletter is March 19<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

**Field Trip Report:** Bob Sinke discussed a spring Petoskey stone collecting trip to the Lake Michigan coast beginning at Charlevoix. Discussed: A nearby daytrip scheduled shortly after the TCGMC Gem Show for our members and to attract & increase the membership (show theme: Field Trips ROCK!). Sinke is also looking at the possibility of joining Keweenaw & Ishpeming clubs for future trips.

**Hospitality Board position still open.**

**Junior Leaders,** Rick Smith, will present Ores & Alloys for the March meeting. Linda invited the Club to attend and assist in GVSU Grand Staycation, "**Every Rock Tells a Story! Be a Detective!**" on Thursday, April 7, 2016, 10:00AM – 11:30AM. Members will help pre-K – Grade 5 investigate different types of rocks and follow the clues to I.D. them. The students will be allowed to look and touch a variety of specimens. Crafts and healthy snacks will make Grand Staycation a fun class during school break.

**Show Report:** Sue Goedert announced the next show committee meeting, April 6, 7PM. Theme: "**Field Trips ROCK!**" Still waiting on the Soccer Stop Contract. TCGMC is committed to the Soccer Stop.

**Liaison Report:** Krystin Grenon will conduct the Amethyst Cathedral Raffle at the Scholarship Banquet April 27<sup>th</sup>. The amounts for scholarships TCGMC agreed to provide in 2016 for Hope College - \$1,100 & GVSU - \$1400.

**Membership Coordinator:** Christine Silich: An updated list of members will be sent out.

**Directors at Large:** Patti DeGroot working on photos of gemstones for the website with Art Edson.

**President's Remarks:** Bob Sherwood: Consider displaying your collections in Kalamazoo Club and Indian Mounds Shows. It's a wonderful experience & well worth your time. In the past, Club members were enthusiastic about displays at other Gem Shows. Let's do this! Maybe carpool?

**Correspondence:** Shari Luttkhuisen asked the board to consider purchasing the 2016 Agate Expo Symposium DVD, which while expensive would be while worth the cost. We may buy the DVD for our Club to lend to our Members to view and then eventually donate the DVD to the HM library. It would be under the supervision of CH Falstad. Julia Sherwood moved that we purchase the DVD for the club use, and then donate it to the Howard Miller Library. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> and motion passed.

**Weebly Website** update – Art Edson - Please check out tulipcity.weebly.org or tulipcity.org Take a look at the changes to the TCGMC website. Thanks to Art Edson & Mark Cistaro. The board approved, after a motion by Sue Goedert, to upgrade the Weebly site with the "Starter" plan, which would allow for greater expansion, at a cost of \$8.00/month.

**New Business**

April 27 Scholarship Banquet: Committee: Chair, Linda Plumert, Dan & Patti DeGroot. There will be a sign up sheet at the March General Meeting. If you don't sign up, the committee will be calling you. 18 tables need to be set up. Students will attend the program. The board agreed to invite representatives from the Geology Department at Calvin College. The Hayworths having made contributions to help raise funds for Club scholarships, will be invited to the banquet. Plans for table décor were discussed.

**Recognition of Member Guests** – comments: Chet Smith announced the second Cheboygan County Pudding Stone Festival to be held in Festival Square, August 5 & 6 in Cheboygan, MI. There will be contests featuring pudding stones, displays, a suet pudding baking contest, demonstrations and more. <http://www.puddingstonefestival.org/>

**Adjournment:** 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted by  
Krystin Grenon

## Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

### General Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2016

#### Attendees:

Adults: 53 Juniors: 11

#### Location: Howard Miller Community Center

The meeting was called to order by Bob at 7:08pm.

Guest: Mary Nolan

New Member: Rick Muller

- The Juniors were dismissed, and the business portion of the meeting began.
- Linda W asked Club members to volunteer in a 'staycation' rock program she will be conducting on Thursday April 7 at the GVSU Holland Campus from 10a – 11:30a for juniors ranging from K-5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Bob reviewed the March Board Meeting.
- Art spoke about the new Club website.

Field Trips – Bob Sinke announced a field trip to Fisherman's Island (near Charlevoix) on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rance talked briefly about a trip to the Cedarburg WI agate show.

Bob Sherwood reminded everyone that the Club was still in need of a cargo trailer.

Treasurer's Report - Julia presented the Club account balances for February. Also, a contract with the Soccer Stop was signed. Club 'business cards' for this year only are also available.

Show Chair – Sue announced the theme for this year is “Field Trips ROCK!” Arrangements for tables and chairs are completed, and a contract with the site was signed.

Linda P is available to sell tickets for the amethyst cathedral. They are \$5 each or five for \$20. A volunteer sheet for the potluck banquet is in the back.

Newsletter – Rudy announced that he had copies of an updated membership list.

Break 7:30p – 8p

- The raffle was conducted.
- Program: GVSU students who are benefiting from the Gibson Fund presented information about their field work.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rudy P. Silich

## National Monument Designations

The threat of more national monument designations that will restrict our access and ability collect rocks and minerals is not going away especially in the closing months of the Obama Administration. The Chairmen of three House committees have written to Administration officials requesting up-to-date information about further monument designations under consideration by the White House. This effort follows an initiative led Rep Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and 30 other House members requesting that the House Appropriations Committee insert in the 2017 appropriations for the Department of the Interior restrictive language on how a President can use the 1906 Antiquities Act for the designation of more monument areas.

ALAA was supportive of the Gosar letter and was glad when other House members joined with him in signing the letter. It's too early to know what action, if any, the House Appropriations Committee will take on this request, but we are encouraged that more and more members in the House and the Senate are actively exploring various ideas on how to curb presidential excesses when utilizing the 1906 Antiquities Act for the designation of national monuments that closes our rights to access and the collecting of rocks and minerals for personal and educational usage.

As more information on National Monument designations becomes available ALAA will attempt to keep members informed through the ALAA Website and Electronic media notification.

American Lands Access Association, Inc.  
ALAA Action Alert Committee

## Rockhound Soapbox

By John Martin, ALAA Webmaster

Grass roots! Those two words are now the most important words in the rockhound vocabulary. Without the grass roots efforts of rockhounds and fossil and mineral collectors, collecting areas will soon be swallowed up in wilderness, national monuments and environmental study areas and maybe even in wind and solar generating facilities.

Rockhounding organizations (like ALAA) do not have the financial resources, personnel or legal representation needed to wage the legal struggle against the groups opposing mixed-use access to public lands. The only way to keep collecting areas open is with grass roots efforts by all rockhounds who may collect or have collected in these areas. The voice of the rockhound needs to be heard—and as loud as possible. If our voices are not heard in the places where laws and regulations are made, we, the amateur collectors of rocks, minerals and fossils, will lose access now and for future rockhounds.

(Excerpted from the Oct.-Dec., 2015, *ALAA Newsletter*)

—ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation,  
working on behalf of rockhounds  
to keep public lands open and accessible to all,  
including the elderly and handicapped.

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](http://www.tulipcity.org)

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

<https://www.tuliptime.com>  
Ken Westveld

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.

Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center, 14 S. Church Street, Seeland, MI at 7pm, unless announced otherwise in the TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE. Junior Club welcomes young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting.



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Tulip City Conglomerate  
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