



## CONGLOMERATE

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

Website: [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

February, 2025

Volume 58, Edition 2

### What is the best 4 letter word that begins with "S"??

SNOW!!! Snow way! Just kidding.... The best 4 letter "S" word is you guessed it.... SLAG!

Slag can be found in several locations across our great state! This month we will have Scott Walton coming to speak with us about SLAG!

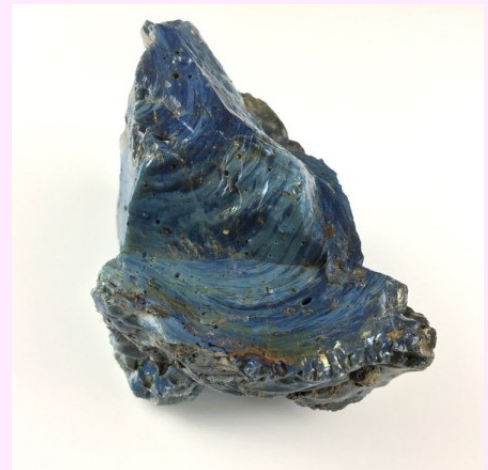
What is the big deal about Michigan Slag Glass? Up until 3 years I lived in Ohio. Soon after moving here I started hearing about Leland Blue stone. I had never heard of this stone and eventually found out that it was actually slag glass. I have always enjoyed history so I spent some time researching Michigan Slag Glass. Come and hear what I have learned.... You may be surprised! - Scott

So to celebrate....The monthly contest will be: ***your favorite piece of slag***  
Bring in your most prized piece of slag (polished, cut, raw etc).

We will have a table set up and members will vote to decide who has the most interesting specimen! A small prize will be awarded to the winner!!

If anyone has content ideas or topics for the meetings, feel free to share them with me at [vice-president@tulipcity.org](mailto:vice-president@tulipcity.org)

-Justin Moore, Vice President





# Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

## 2025 TCG&M Board

President - Jodi Miller

V.P. - Justin Moore

Secretary - Open

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks

Field Trips - Jon Mull & Gary Katt

Historian - Alexandria Vanderski

Junior Club - Steve Miller

Liaison - Chris Silich

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer

Newsletter Editor - Megan Moore

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson

Show Chair - CJ Proos

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting

Dir. at Large - Bill McDonald  
Dir. at Large - Patsy Williamson

Past President - C.H. Falstad

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the Community Center in Zeeland.

2/26 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

3/1, 2 (Sat/Sun) [52nd Annual Rock Auction](#)

3/12 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting

3/15, 16 (Sat, Sun) [Michigan Gem & Mineral Society Show 2025](#) Jon is arranging a carpool for those interested

3/26 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

*\*for more information, click on show name*

## Member News

Membership renewal is due now. If you haven't signed up and paid, please do so at the general membership meeting or contact Rhonda Gehringer this month so you don't ever miss out on what is coming up for our club and continue receiving the Conglomerate.

Current dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families.

Please submit March article requests to: [newsletter-editor@tulipcity.org](mailto:newsletter-editor@tulipcity.org) by 3/15

TCGMC Scholarship Application Deadline is 3/15

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# **Field Trips & Fun Times**

## **Member Museum - The Mull home - Saturday Mar. 8, 10am**

14325 Essenburg Dr, Holland, MI 49424

## **Michigan Gem & Mineral Society Show- Sat. & Sun. March 15, 16**

**\*\*Anyone interesting in carpooling on the 15th, please reach out to Jon\*\***

Jackson County Fair Grounds/ Keeley Park, 200 W. Ganson St, Jackson, MI 49202

## **Member Museum - The Sherwood home - Saturday Mar. 29, 10am**

We will meet for lunch at Clementines in South Haven afterwards, at 1pm.

966 Lake Street, South Haven, MI 49090

## **Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Show - Thurs-Sat April 10-12**

Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28th Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

## **William Holland School of Lapidary Arts- June 8-13**

The trip has an optional dig at the William Patty Quarry for Crazy Lace Agate the morning of the 8th , before heading to the school. There are still many classes to choose from. You spend the whole week in a class learning a particular lapidary skill. These classes are offered through the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Registration fee includes room, meals, and class tuition.

There may be additional fees for more expensive materials from the instructor.

Please visit <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/william-holland-classes> to view and register for the classes. When registering, please let them know you are with Tulip City so they do not charge you the out of federation fee.

## **Thunder Bay Ontario- July 18-21**

A field trip is being organized to go Amethyst collecting. We will tentatively be Collecting at the [Blue Point Amethyst Mine](#) and the [Panorama Amethyst Mine](#). Both mines are “pay-to-dig”. More information will be coming in the following months, so stay tuned!

**Here are some ways to contact your field trip guys...**

**Jon Mull - Email: [solace247@yahoo.com](mailto:solace247@yahoo.com)**

**Gary Katt - Email: [kattfiles@gmail.com](mailto:kattfiles@gmail.com)**

**Or our new club email address: [field-trip-coordinator@tulipcity.org](mailto:field-trip-coordinator@tulipcity.org)**

# TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 1-15-2025

**Location:** Howard Miller Community Center

**Attendance Total:** 16

**Guests in Attendance:** 1

**Quorum:** Yes

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm

**Board Members Present:** J. Miller (President), J. Moore (Vice President), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), G. Katt (Field Trip Coordinator), S. Miller (Jr. Club Coordinator), C. Silich (Liaison), R. Gehringer (Membership), M. Moore (Newsletter Editor), C.J. Proos (Show Coordinator), M. Lanting (Social Coordinator), A. Nelson (Webmaster), W. McDonald (Director at Large), C.H. Falstad (Past President)

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved, Kurt Brinks

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Approved, John Mull

## **Board Member Reports:**

- President:
  - Jodi Join via zoom from Florida.
  - Board members need to speak at the general meeting to help juniors.
  - Use board meeting agenda to get reports.
  - Introduce Justin & Meghan. And everyone.
  - OK to use other articles from clubs & sources in the newsletter.
- Vice President
  - January will be a silent auction. Max 10 to 15 items.
  - Presentation for January is already arranged.
  - Chris and Gary willing to do a presentation.
- Past President - Nothing
- Newsletter Editor - Please help and get your letters in.
- Fieldtrip Coordinators:
  - Jon
    - Sherwoods open to basement field trip January 29th.
    - Jon willing to do one in March.
    - New Mexico possible spring break.
  - Gary
    - Amethyst trip July thunder bay. Blue Point Mine. Specific dates coming soon.
    - April 26th rock picking at Pilgrim Haven
- Directors at Large - Nothing
- Treasurer
  - Holiday card from library.
  - Thank you from Seaman museum
  - CDs coming due and most likely reinvesting them. They are making good money.
  - Scholarships are about \$4,000.
  - Review budget.
  - Misc was high due to bus trip.
  - Budget is a guideline. Turn in receipt with name on them.
  - Lapidary line added.
  - Look at budget for approval in February.
  - Remove Herrickfest?
  - Ottawa County Parks Remove?
  - Added income and donations line.

## TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes cont.

- Historian - Not present.
- Jr. Club Coordinator  
Rick Smith doing presentation soon.  
Needs more presenters.
- Liaison - Nothing
- Membership Coordinator- Getting membership application in newsletter.
- Show Coordinator - Nothing
- Social Coordinator - Nothing
- Webmaster  
See Aaron for email setup.  
2 factor authentication this year.

### Recurring Business:

- Scholarship discussion. OK to roll out program at general meeting.
- See notes from email.

### New Business:

- 2025 show location update.
- Holland Twp working on new space at mall site.
- Rendering handout for the new space
- Jodi is working with them. They plan to open this summer.

Correspondence: Nothing

Motions: Nothing

Notes: Nothing

Items From Visiting Members: Nothing

Adjournment: 8:23pm

Next General Meeting: 1/29/2025

Next Board Meeting: 2/12/2025

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: Bill McDonald

# Junior Section

QUARTZ

quartz

qUaRtZ



**Quartz**, the second most abundant mineral on the earth's surface, occurs in all kinds of shapes and sizes and colors and environments.

In this month's Junior Program, junior members will explore and learn about all sorts of interesting **quartz** facts, and will examine lots of rock and mineral specimens illustrating some of the many varieties of **quartz**.

And best of all, juniors will get to take home and add to their own collections several rock and mineral specimens to exemplify these **quartz** varieties and help our juniors members remember all this abundance.

# Are Ya Feelin Lucky?

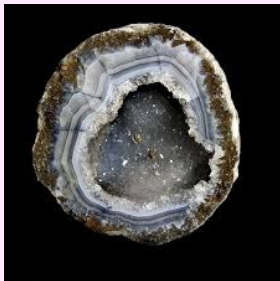
Greetings, fellow rockhounds!

The world recently lost a very special person with the passing of our dear friend and longtime Tulip City member, Ken Hoekstra. Not only was he knowledgeable (and willing to share that knowledge), an expert polisher and kind, he was also very generous and regularly donated fine materials to the club for raffles, door prizes and other uses.

In his honor and in his memory, all six items in the February monthly raffle will be items donated by Ken. A Mexican coconut, a really nice piece of Blue Forest petrified wood, a piece of Jasper and *three more surprises* will all be available to possibly become part of YOUR collection! Come see us at the meeting!

Rock on!

Mary

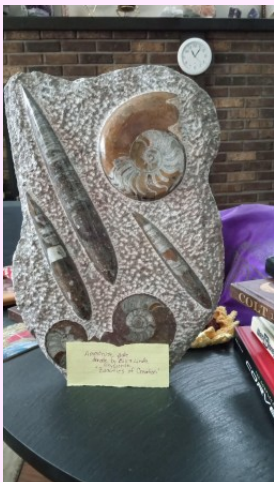


\*These are NOT actual pictures of the items

## BANQUET RAFFLE CONTINUES IN February and 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 two prizes. 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!



I will have the Ammonite at the February meeting (donated by Bill and Linda Heyworth) and a huge piece of Actinolite in Calcite (donated by John and Sally Hoskins). I'm just going to bring a picture of the Actinolite as it very heavy. Thank you Eric Peterson for carrying it out to my car after the last meeting. I think it weighs 40 pounds or more.

-Liaison - Christine Silich



# A Message from our President

Looking at something through new “lenses” sure gives you perspective. While here in Florida, Steve and I have visited a couple of club meetings, and a couple of rock and gem shows. I can tell you I am very proud of how we conduct both. While they have been nice to attend, they are certainly missing some of the “personal touches” we have at our meetings and shows. I’d like to believe that we continue to have activities and meeting topics that appeal to a range of rock interests. To have so many active, enthusiastic members is exciting and I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know you better in the coming months.

But in saying that, rest assured that your newly elected board is not sitting on “used to be’s”. We are working diligently to look for ways to improve the experiences of our members, including developing workshops and classes, and partnering with other

welcome your input on provide you with activities you be better rockhounds. involved. Not only are our we have some new special out. We will also begin show in the next month chairmen for a couple of



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agencies in our community. We other ways we can support and and information that will help So please, find ways to remain meetings for young and old alike, features that we will be rolling planning for our September and are in need of some new the areas. Finally, we have sever-

al field trips available coming up including viewing the collections of a few of our members. These are always a hit! So we’ll see you soon, on a beach, in a quarry, at a mine, or at the Zeeland Community Center.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JUSTIN MOORE

Hello Everyone! I am super excited to be your new Vice President! Rocks play a significant part in my life, it is a hobby I have enjoyed since the mid 80’s. I love traveling on rock adventures, being a member for just over a year, we have only missed one field trip, these field trips have been a great experience and a chance for me to get to know other Rockhounds!

My favorites are Michigan rocks and minerals, Copper hunting in the Keewenaw, Lightning stones in Lake Michigan, Petoskeys, Agates, Specular Hematite, Yooperlites, you name it, I’ll look for it. This has been a family affair, my wife Megan (Editor of The Conglomerate), son Aidan (22), daughter Natalie (20) all enjoy going out and finding rocks! OK maybe not Natalie as much.... But she loves to “borrow rocks we find along the way”. We have taken the last several years and made several family trips looking for rocks in Michigan.

I am always ready to hunt; I have began polishing and displaying my finds, making some crude jewelry and cannot wait for some of the upcoming work shops we have planned to learn new skills!

Enough about me, it’ll be a great year with some fun meetings planned, great field trips, and learning together as a club! If I haven’t had the opportunity to meet you yet, I look forward to doing so SOON! - Justin



## MARCH 15, 2025 DUE DATE REMINDER:

### Tulip City GMC General Membership Lapidary Scholarship

**Purpose:** To provide scholarships for members to enhance their lapidary or stone related skills. Scholarships can be used for a lapidary class, instruction (on-line or in-person), or any stone/rock/gem related activity. (\*Not for fieldtrips or travel)

**Scholarships:** Three members will be selected annually. One \$400, and two \$200 scholarships will be awarded.

**Eligibility:** Any member may apply for either the \$400 and/or a \$200 scholarship if they meet the following criteria.

1. Must have been a member of the TCGMC for at least two years before applying.
2. Must have worked at the September show for one of the last two years before applying.
3. Must present to the membership what was learned during the scholarship activity
4. Must pay for the activity and then be reimbursed the cost, up to the amount awarded.
5. May take multiple classes with a cost up to the amount of the awarded scholarship, but must present to the membership for each activity/class.
6. Must be used in the year awarded and is not transferable.
7. Recipients cannot receive scholarships two years in a row.
8. If a Junior Club Member is the recipient, a parent may receive part of the amount to cover their participation.

#### Process:

1. Scholarships and applications will be announced every August and October in the Conglomerate and at the meetings.
2. Applications (form completely filled out) will be accepted until November 30\*.
3. Applications will be reviewed by a three member committee for eligibility and then scholarships will be drawn randomly at the December\* General Meeting. The \$400 scholarship will be selected first so that all others can be entered into the \$200 scholarships.
4. Recipients will be notified immediately following the meeting and will be highlighted in the January\* Conglomerate.

*\*For 2025 ONLY, Since we are already beyond the above Process dates for 2025, we will announce the scholarships in January and February in the Conglomerate and at the meetings. Applications will be accepted until March 15, and then the recipients will be selected at the March General Meeting.*



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I LAVA you  
too much!

# From our Mineral Friends

Well informed rockhounds are better able to share their passion with the general public and promote our hobby. Our MWF study group's goal is to produce more knowledgeable rockhounds. Our group is small, but we have been meeting since 2009 and are the longest running affiliated mineral study group in the country according to the AFMS.

## Metallic Luster (A-M)

Color is not generally a reliable key for mineral identification, but it is useful enough that some field guides use it as their primary key. We decided to run with it and go thru the colors of the rainbow this year. Last month we sidestepped with Clear/Colorless Minerals; this month we continue the sidestep with metallic minerals -- but only those starting with the letters A thru M.

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we also want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral. We do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We really do learn from each other (and collections need to be shared).

The concept behind our color study is to have as many different minerals of a given color, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them. We started our mostly alphabetic trip with the sulfide \*Arsenopyrite. This was followed by the sulfides Bismuthinite and Bornite. A fresh broken Bornite surface will look like Pyrite, but within seconds the Oxygen in the air will cause it to turn a metallic purple.



We continued with manmade Carborundum, Cesium Ball Peen Mica, the sulfides Chalcopyrite and Chalcocite, the oxide Chalcofanite, elemental Copper, and the sulfides Covellite, Enargite, Cinnabar, and \*Cylindrite. Yup, \*Cylindrite really does form as cylinders.

We had some Cobalt Bloom Ore (the bloom is Erythrite), the sulfide Digenite, elemental Electrum, the tungstate Ferberite, the sulfide Galena, elemental Foliated Graphite, the oxide Goethite, elemental Gold, and the sulfide Gustavite.



Next was the oxide Hematite, the sulfide Hauerite, elemental Iron, metamorphic \*Jaspellite, the sulfide Jamesonite (which is one weird mineral), the nesosilicate Katopteite, a Lodestone, the sulfide Lollingite, and the phyllosilicate Lepidolite, which is now part of the Polythionite-Trilithionite Series and not a mineral.



We finished up with the oxides Martite and Magnetite, some Mica, a Meteorite, the oxide Manganite, and the sulfides \*Molybdenite and Marcasite. We had a short discussion about Pyrite Disease and the need to remove affected specimens from your collection.



It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the heft, shine a bright light on it, etc.). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and maybe another). And then look at something else that is close but different. Some homework was done, and we learned a bit about the specimens we studied.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to study metallic luster minerals that start with the letters N thru Z (please restrain yourself as we only have 90 minutes).

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out at 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about metallic minerals, and bring some of the specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (and you are welcome even if you can't bring any specimens).

We usually have some time at the end to look at some unknowns you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are getting better at identifying minerals). We squeezed in a few this month.

-Kreigh Tomaszewski



## Get ready to Rock!

The Rock, Mineral & Fossil Auction is the weekend of March 1st - 2nd in Livonia. It is hosted by The Roamin Club. **Auction proceeds benefit scholarship funds at Schoolcraft College.**

**Dates:** Saturday and Sunday, March 1st - 2nd

**Location:** Schoolcraft College, Vistatech Center, 18600 Haggerty Rd. Livonia, Michigan

**Hours:** Saturday 11 am - 6 pm, Sunday 12 noon - 6 pm

Fun family event featuring Rocks, Minerals, Crystals and Fossils from all over the World. Plus slabs and cabs for jewelry making. Over 1,000 items, all commercially obtained or from estate collections.

**Three auctions every hour;** silent, oral, and mini silent. The mini silent auction has low priced rocks and fossils that children, or the novice collector, will love "winning".

### **Reminders:**

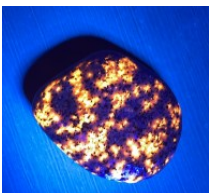
- Payment is by cash or check only for your Auction purchases.
- **Parking and admittance are free.**
- Separate mini auction area with lower price items that are perfect for both kids and new adult mineral collectors.
- Food will be available, but must be purchased at the College Grill adjacent to the auction area.
- **There will be hourly raffle prize drawings. New tickets must be purchased each hour. Hold on to tickets for a grand prize drawing at the end of day.**
- If you are not feeling well, or have been around anyone that has been sick during the past week, please stay home.

### **Want more details about the auction?**

Roamin Club's **website** has Full details: <https://roaminrockclub.weebly.com/rock-mineral-fossil-auction-schoolcraft-college-livonia-michigan.html>

**Facebook** Event Listing: <https://www.facebook.com/share/19ycfvx1Ee/>

The Roamin Club is excited to welcome all rockhounds to the 52nd Annual Auction! Please share this information with your rock club and other rockhound friends. We look forward to seeing you soon!





Meetings are held monthly, at 7pm, on the last Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted in the Tulip City Conglomerate

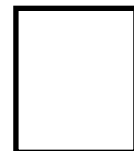
Howard Miller Community Center  
14 S Church St, Zeeland, MI

Our Junior Club welcomes & encourages young rockhounds, meeting separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at [www.tulipcity.org](http://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 501c3 organization. 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  
Megan Moore, Editor  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



Background photo is Amethyst