



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club **Conglomerate**

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

February 2021

Volume 54, Edition 2

Here we are halfway through February and though it still is frigid outside, I can finally enjoy some beautiful sunshine that has been eluding us for much of this new year. Despite the pandemic and the responsible social distancing, I am feeling the hope and anticipation of the upcoming collecting season here in the Great Lakes region. You will find on the next page the initial field trip schedule that our field trip coordinator, Jon Mull, has been announced for all of you to join in and share the enjoyment of finding your own treasures.

With the excitement of getting out there for the first collecting trip, I want to welcome back Derrick and Sarah Mullins and their girls to our Rockhounding family. If you know anyone that has let their membership slip through the cracks or that would be new and looking for an active club with a fantastic junior program, get them to sign up through our **Join our Club** link (www.tulipcity.org/join-the-club.html) found on our webpage. With membership comes these and other field trips that you will want to attend.

Speaking of getting back together, I am working with our board to outline a plan to return to face-to-face meetings. With the increased availability of the vaccine, I am hoping that it will permit us to provide a safe environment for our senior and health-conscience members. Will this be in March or will we need to wait for April? I don't currently know. I bet you are wondering about our Spring Banquet that we usually host in April. There have been discussions to reschedule this event for the fall, conditions permitted. Stay tuned!

On the Calendar:

2/24/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	Virtual / ZOOM
3/17/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	Virtual / ZOOM
3/31/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	In-person ???
4/14/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	In-person ???

Keep Current with the club: www.tulipcity.org or www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/



2021 TCG&M Board

President - Michael B. Larson
mblarson300@yahoo.com

Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Secretary - Brenda Olson
brendaolson01@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks
kdbrinks1@gmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator - Jon Mull
solace247@yahoo.com

Historian - Betty Hoekstra
kbhoek@att.net

Jr. Club Coord. - Linda Winkelmann
lindawinkelmann@att.net

Liaison - Rhonda Gehringer
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Membership - Christine Silich
CSDS77@icloud.com

Newsletter Ed. - < open >

Social Media Coord. - Julia Sherwood
bobandjulia@accn.org

Show Coord. - Sue Goedert
sonbeams2000@yahoo.com

Social Coord. - Linda Plumert
rplumert@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Mary Johnson
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Randy Wake
rgwake@charter.net

Past President - C.H. Falstad
cfalstad@ameritech.net

Junior's Report

Subject: **Rock Club Juniors - Use Your Zoom Skills to "Talk Rocks & Minerals"**

JUNIORS CLUB -- We miss ALL of you! Hope you'll revive your hobby and meet with other kids interested in rocks, minerals and geology at 10 am, Saturday Feb 20th (link below).

Junior leaders Linda and Robin will be there to WELCOME YOU BACK! They will provide a short overview of Rocks v.s. Minerals – plus review descriptive words used by rockhounds (color; texture, grain size; luster, crystal growth habit, hardness, streak...) for specimen identification.

BRING YOUR FAVORITES TO THE COMPUTER DESK! Tell the group why it's *your* favorite and how it came into Your Collection. Does it have a special name? Is it a "rock" or "mineral"? Do you have other favorites too?

This gathering will be mostly a conversation between all of us – just because we love our "earth-samples" and like to share with others. HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE 20TH.

Linda Winkelmann

Field Trips Update

- ⇒ **April 17 (Saturday)** - Beach Hunting in Port Huron
- ⇒ **Spring Break: April 2 - 6 (Friday to Tuesday)**
- Fossils in Indiana / Ohio / Kentucky
- ⇒ **May 1 (Saturday)** – Beach Hunting in Petoskey
- ⇒ **Memorial Day Weekend: May 27 - 31 (Thursday to Monday)**
– Geodes around Keokuk, Iowa

Details for all of these and future trips will be provided as trips get near !

TCG&MC General Meeting for February

Wednesday, 2/24/21

Look for the ZOOM link in your e-mail a day or two before the meeting. Those unable to attend online can join us through a phone number that will be provided at that time as well.



Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

January 13, 2021, 7:00 PM Board Meeting Minutes

7:08 PM – Board Meeting

Mike Larson, president, called the meeting to order. Mike shared an email from Shari ideas with ideas for next meeting involving video conferencing.

Treasurer Kurt Brinks- gave the treasurers report. Kurt reported the bank accounts are consistent.

Membership Christine Silich- Christine reported that she had sent a membership check to the treasurer.

Hospitality Linda Plumert – No report

Historian Betty Hoekstra reported on the transfer of material. Jon finished transferring some materials to digital form. The club needs more people willing to put in the time to scan materials into digital form.

Discussion followed on coming up with a committee to pare down pictures of unidentified people.

Field Trip – Jon Mull nothing to report. Having a spring break trip is looking tentative. Ideas for trips this summer includes Indiana / Kentucky and Keokuk, Iowa.

Social Media- Julia Sherwood has been posting newsletters.

Liaison – Ronda reported that Lake Michigan Credit Union has a Loyd Hutt scholarship that supports high school seniors looking for higher education due January 31. Applicants must write an essay. No action will be taken since our club has no seniors this year.

Approval of Minutes – Julia Sherwood made a motion, seconded by Jon Mull, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 Board meeting minutes. All in favor.

Induction of officers – It was decided that CH, past president, should conduct the induction.

Juniors-Linda Winkleman shared the juniors leaders had sent out 38 bags of rocks to juniors to celebrate the holidays. The board commended them for a good job. The juniors enjoyed it.

Show – Soccer Stop is thrilled to have us back for the 2021 show.

Jack and Elaine Decker lost a family member (a son). Linda Plumert will send a card.

Mike is thinking we will not be able to meet in person at the library until March at the earliest.

Budget we had a deficit of \$5K. Next year will be a deficit equal to membership. The board decided to not collect membership fees for 2021 from those who paid for membership in 2020. Kurt, Sue and Sherry put the budget together. The board thought the budget was well put together.

Adjourn meeting: by 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Olson

In Memory:

Loretta Roberts, from South Haven died on February 6th in Allegan Hospital. Loretta was an avid field tripper as far back as 1991 – especially for crystals in Arkansas, where she was born. Many members who were on the trips with her will remember her huge enthusiasm for collecting.

Sympathy cards can be sent to: Loretta's family at 1076 S Bailey Ave., South Haven, MI 49090

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

January 27, 2021, 7:00 PM; Minutes General Meeting

7:10 PM – Call to Order (via Zoom) – Mike Larson, president

Present: about 20 adults.

Past President C.H. Falstad began the meeting with officer induction. C.H. issued a thank you to board members for serving 2020. C.H. led the officer induction by asking board members to affirm support of the purpose of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club and faithfully discharge the duties of the various board positions:

Mike Larson-President, Shari Luttikhuisen-Vice President, Brenda Olson-Secretary, Kurt Brinks-Treasurer, Jon Mull-Field Trip Coordinator, Betty Hoekstra-Historian, Rhonda Gehringer-Liaison, Julia Sherwood-Social Media/Website Coordinator, Linda Winklemann-Juniors, Mary Johnson-Dir. At Large, answered, "I will." Linda Plumert-Social Coordinator, Chris Silich-Membership, Sue Goedert-Show Coordinator and Randy Wake-Director at Large were not present

Board Reports

President-Mike Larson hoping we can meet in person by March 2021.

Treasurer-Kurt Brinks reported spending and income is minimal. We were still able to give out scholarships in 2020. We still plan to offer scholarships in 2021 and hope to have a show in September. We are financially in very good condition.

Juniors-Linda Winklemann gave out the bags of rocks to Juniors for Christmas.

Field Trip-Jon Mull has some dates for field trips: April 2-6 fossils in Indiana and Kentucky, May 1st Petoskey, MI, Memorial day weekend 27th to 31st geodes in Keokuk, IA.

Social Media-Julia Sherwood noted she updated website with the Conglomerate and the latest MWF newsletter.

Vice President-Shari shared Howard Miller Library is starting to open but only at 25% capacity. We could do a board meeting February 10 but there would not be enough capacity for general meetings. February general meeting will be a virtual zoom meeting. Mike Larson is not planning in person meetings until March.

Past President-C.H. shared all of rock club exchange boxes have been sent and received.

Club members suggested an exchange with clubs in the Carolina's and Virginia. Another club member asked if we could exchange with Utah.

Mike Larson got permission from Rock & Gem to share four documents on opals on our Google Drive. Mike is always looking for information for the newsletter please share it with Mike Larson.

The program for the evening was a virtual video presentation on Winter Rock Hunt at Negwegon State Park in Black River Michigan just south of Alpena State Park.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm



Captivated by Copper

www.rockngem.com/captivated-by-copper/



Rock & Gem on the Go: Dig Day in Mount Ida

www.rockngem.com/rock-gem-on-the-go-dig-day-in-mount-ida/

Badlands Petrified Gardens' Collection Set to Sell

www.rockngem.com/badlands-petrified-gardens-collection-set-to-sell/



If you enjoyed what you've read here you're invited to consider signing up for the FREE Rock & Gem weekly newsletter at <https://bit.ly/2xttsZP>



Did you Know?

Three main groups of minerals are identified on the basis of the **Property of color**: idiochromatic, allochromatic, and pseudochromatic.

- **Idiochromatic** minerals are "self colored" due to their composition. The color is a constant and predictable component of the mineral. Examples are blue Azurite, red Cinnabar, and green Malachite.
- **Allochromatic** minerals are "other colored" due to trace impurities in their composition or defects in their structure. In this case, the color is a variable and unpredictable property of the mineral. Examples are the blue in Amazonite (orthoclase), yellow in Heliodor (spodumene) and the rose in rose quartz.
- **Pseudochromatic** minerals are "false colored" due to tricks in light diffraction. In these cases, color is variable but a unique property of the mineral. Examples are the colors produced by precious opal and the shiller reflections of labradorite.

THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE LIKE IT, QUARTZSITE, AZ.

BY R.V. ZIGLER

Before I retired from General Electric Company in 1990, Marie and I had a couple of older friends in Holland, Michigan. They went to Quartzsite, AZ a couple of times in February to sell some of their excess rocks and told us about the big outdoor rock show, trade, buy and sell, every winter which attracted thousands of visitors. Joe Moran and his daughter, Nancy, both Holland Rock Club members, also spent a winter or two vacation time camping out in the desert with a group of rock hounds from San Diego, CA. So, as rock hounds when I retired in 1990, that January 1, we headed for Quartzsite in a van that had been converted into a motor home that we had recently purchased for that purpose. We had with us a small bag full of rocks. We met Joe and Nancy, and decided we must come back with more rocks to sell, so we could buy more rocks, of course! That continued for some 18 years.

With Joe and Nancy, we returned the next year (1991) and shared a camping and selling space at Clouds Rock Show for a short time. After that, we had our own space alongside Chet and Betty Smith, and other rock hounds we came to know. Clouds was one of several outdoor shows that one could rent space for the show time that ran from Jan 1 to the end of February, although officially I believe February 1 to March 1. Some shows were more wholesale oriented such as The Main Event, while Clouds was more retail oriented. Many retail dealers actually would buy and sell wholesale if given a chance. Rock materials and equipment was from all over the world with the dealers themselves often residents of countries in Africa, Australia, Europe or any other continent in the world as well as America. Needless to say, you could buy materials from thousands of dollars for a piece to a few cents each and often in any quantities that you could afford. Some dealers sold most of their merchandise and closed up to leave early before the show was over. Others stayed open well past the official end of the show, and others had to close up and move to their next commitment such as the big show in Tucson, AZ.

Unfortunately, Clouds lost part of their sales area due to modifications to the expressway access sometime in the late 1990s and their show moved north out of town to the Avi Indian Reservation. Other shows, and there were many, on both sides of that expressway through town, continued also with dealers setting up in rented vacant lots or parking areas, wherever they might be along the main streets of Quartzsite.

BLM land pretty much surrounds the town. If you come to town from the mountain road to the east at night, the lights from the RVs camped out individually or in a group all over the valley make it look like a major city, which it is in January and February of every winter. Writer's estimate, I assume with some or no counting, that 100 to 200 thousand people attend the winter festivities in their RVs and populate the city and countryside. While in the summer, with only residents and a few travelers, the population lists about 3,500 souls.

Sometimes after and even during the show Joe, Nancy, Marie and I, and often daughter Melinda, made many exploratory rock hunting trips in all directions from Quartzsite. We collected at the large old mine dump at Swansea ghost town as well as many other sights along the way. Melinda dug up a wonderful piece of Malachite from a dry stream bed that weighed 30 lbs. We also collected petrified wood, agates, and jaspers as well as other materials going east from Highway 93 to the Burro Creek area and west to the McCracken Mountains and the Alamo Dam. We collected as far west as the Salton Sea in California.

Marie and I continued to participate in the Quartzsite area shows until 2009 when we couldn't conveniently travel long distances anymore. What joy we had every winter for 18 years meeting old friends we got to know, rock hunting in the surrounding area, and even selling a rock if we had the time.

Editor Note: I have no direct connection of these resources. I came across this site and this book review during my rockhounding adventure searches. I am sharing it with you as I find it helpful in my traveling adventures.

Where to Find Rocks

Field Guide Reviews and Mineral Collecting Maps!

Field Guides Mineral Searches Why Collect Rocks? Article Topics ▾

<http://wheretofindrocks.com/>

WhereToFindRocks.com was made with one purpose – to share mineral collecting and rockhounding articles and tips – ALL for free to the public. This site’s focus is Northern America Field Guide Reviews and Mineral Collecting Maps!

Rockhounding is a great hobby, rewarding and full of adventure. Few people know that to progress in knowledge about this hobby is easy as can be, it just take a little bit of reading and we have the perfect selection of books to talk about today, ones that will give you a full understanding of minerals.

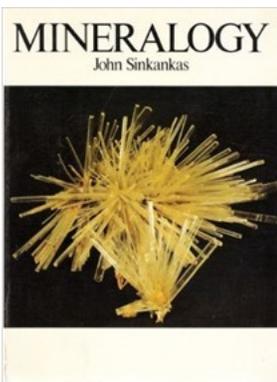
Every mineral collector and rockhound should have these books by John Sinkankas

All of these books were written by Captain John Sinkankas, a well noted and respected author who has a way of explaining things that many thousands of people have enjoyed and understood.

The most important thing about this article is the perception of mineral information, versus the reality. Guidebooks like the National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks or the handy Smithsonian Handbook, well, they just do not do a good enough job, in our opinion. Sure, they are colorful and glossy, most starting collectors will have one or the other at some point in their life. However, if you have more than just a passing curiosity about rocks and minerals, there is a better way.

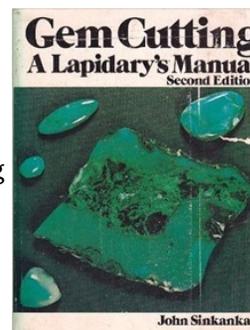
Mineralogy is the #1 book that we recommend to all mineral enthusiasts.

The writer, John Sinkankas, has an easy way of explaining how atoms form crystals, and why the crystals different properties make them look different from each other. It is technical mineralogy explained in a way that most anyone can understand. The book can be can be enjoyed casually with chapters devoted to different topics including over 300 photographs and line drawings, this is the must have book for everyone interested in the subject. You can find this book on Amazon and eBay. It was originally published in the 1960’s, any edition is worth owning. You will find it as a “Used” book, it typically retains value as it is a book that all mineral and rock collectors have loved for decades.

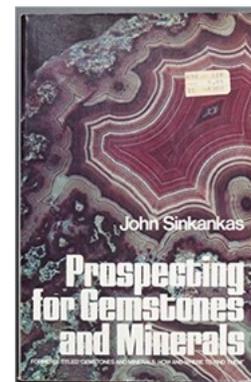


Gem Cutting: A Lapidary’s Manual is John Sinkankas’ perfect tome devoted to all the basics of lapidary. The mystery of most every lapidary art is revealed, along with photographs and drawings to guide you to understanding the complete basics of lapidary arts. In the first chapters you are

introduced to sawing, grinding, lapping, sanding, and polishing. Rock drilling is a common question, this book gives you the knowledge on that, plus, all the tumbling, cabbing, faceting, sphere-making, carving and engraving and mosaic and in-lay work information, including tools of the trade, tips on techniques and so much more. When I need to know what polish to use when I'm tumbling stones, I look to this book. This has an amazing wealth of information on this subject. The second edition is the edition we suggest and the big paperback edition is a great addition to any library.



Prospecting for Gemstones and Minerals is the best book to teach you about mineral collecting. It is a perfect primer to understanding where to find rocks. Deposits are explained, how to find them, what is inside of them, and how you can get crystals out of the ground. This book serves as a primer to all topics on the subject of rockhounding. Over 350 pages of quality information, that, if you were to read, would put you in the ranks of the top collectors.



All three of these books are easy to read and understand, teach you the basics and the nuances of each subject are highlighted and explained. To read and understand these three books is to have a near complete general knowledge on this subject of rock and mineral collecting.



West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group

The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We will be studying minerals that contain Vanadium or Chromium. We try to limit our study range so we have about 26 specimens to fit them into our time frame. **Face masks will be required.**

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other, but you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens. Please join us and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated.

Minerals containing Vanadium or Chromium

23	24
V	Cr
Vanadium	Chromium
50.9415	51.9961
[Ar]3d ³ 4s ²	[Ar]3d ⁵ 4s
6.7462	6.7665
41	42

Vanadium is a chemical element with symbol V and atomic number 23. It is a hard, silvery-grey, ductile, malleable transition metal.

Chromium is a chemical element with symbol Cr, atomic number 24, and is the first element in group 6. It is a steely-grey, lustrous, hard, and brittle transition metal.

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

Tulip City Conglomerate
 c/o Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club
 P.O. Box 2082
 Holland, MI 49424



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.

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

