



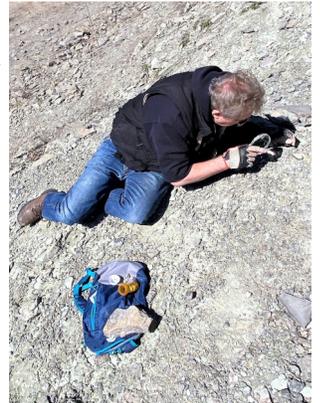
# Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club Conglomerate

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

**April 2021**

**Volume 54, Edition 4**

By any indication of the past couple weeks, one could surmise that life has returned back to normal. But the reality is far from it, especially with the daily reports of current cases. But when you are out in the field hunting and collecting, the current state of the pandemic was far, far from our thoughts. The fresh air, bright sunshine, sounds of spring with the budding and flowering trees, it was easy to appreciate the moment to be there with our fellow rockhounds. Perhaps it was due to the fact many on the trip were fully vaccinated, but when you have a find that you wish to share or get identified, social distancing was, well, forgotten.



I guess it is simple things like picking up a geode in the stream or just sitting back and observing your comrades and their joy experiencing finding a new fossil for the very first time, reminds us WHY we call ourselves rockhounds !

You will find throughout this edition of our newsletter stories from our members remembering the fresh outlook of spring and the thrill of the adventure. Conditions permitting, we hope to see you joining us at our next event / trip. **May 1st is Petoskey Stones !!!**



## **On the Calendar:**

4/28/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	Virtual / ZOOM
5/12/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	In-person @ TBD
5/26/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	In-person @ TBD
6/16/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	In-person @ TBD

Keep Current with the club: [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org) or [www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/](https://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  
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Dir. at Large - Randy Wake  
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Past President - C.H. Falstad  
cfalstad@ameritech.net



TCG&MC Fossil Hunters - Flemingsburg, Kentucky

## Field Trips Update

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

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

Questions or Interested to join the FUN, please contact Field Trip Coordinator - Jon Mull (solace247@yahoo.com)

## TCG&MC General Meeting for April

# Wednesday, 4/28/21

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.



# Field Trip Report

Submitted by Mary Johnson

The first field trip of the season took place over Easter weekend in the Cincinnati strata (Upper Ordovician) of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana! Thirteen rockhounds and one four-footed dog found an amazing collection of fossils at many road cuts throughout the area. The trip was topped off with geodes, geodized fossils, crinoid stems, crinoid calyxes and many other treasures from a Bedford, Indiana, area creek!

With the help of a local guide, John Simon of the Dry Dredgers club who knew of outstanding collecting sites with particular kinds of material, and Jon Mull's and Mike Larson's knowledge of the area, we found a variety of fossils at least nine different sites, including a huge cut behind one of the local Walmarts! Solenopora (looks like brains), brachiopods, bryozoans cephalopods, crinoids, gastropods, and even some small trilobites were among the many treasures that came home with us. Here is the cephalopod I found. The area was all under a sea billions of years ago, and there are individual fossils and plates full of history everywhere. Some are even geodized, like the stromatoporides which began existence as sponges and now contain crystals, and some of the brachiopods.



Many thanks to Jon Mull for his planning and connections! Everyone came home with hundreds of pounds of new treasures and had a fabulous time! I am sure they are all, like me, looking forward to the next field trip!

Rock on!



**Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club**  
via Zoom Meeting  
**March 17, 2021, 7:00 PM Board Meeting Minutes**

7:08 PM – Board Meeting

Mike Larson, president, called the meeting to order. Mike noted *Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club* and the *Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society* have cancelled their 2021 shows.

Approval of Minutes – Julia Sherwood made a motion, seconded by Jon Mull, to approve the minutes of the February 10 Board meeting minutes and the February 24 General meeting minutes, both as corrected. All in favor.

Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen will check on having April meetings at the Howard Miller library. There will be no banquet in April. The club is hoping for a banquet in October. Shari shared ideas for competitions, raffles, silent auctions and workshops when we can meet again. Shari is open for suggestions for a place where we can meet outside.

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks gave the treasurers report. We are good. Kurt requested when Ronda contacts the schools about scholarships to get names and addresses. We will send a certificate and a check or we may want to send to the professors to hand out with a presentation.

Membership - Christine Silich one new membership. Christine would like to send a welcome to the club gift box to new juniors and will discuss the idea with Linda Winkleman.

Hospitality Linda Plumert – No report.

Historian - Betty Hoekstra reported on memorial progress. Bob & Julia Sherwood and Betty sorted through photos. Betty shared we still need a couple of people to copy to thumb drives. Ronda and Jon expressed willingness.

Field Trip – Jon Mull reported that the first trip to Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky on April 2 to 6 is going to be a good trip. Port Huron will be a simple day trip on April 17. Petoskey trip is on May 1<sup>st</sup>. It was noted field trip participants will still need to wear masks.

Social Media- Julia Sherwood would like, with field trips and meetings, for people to send pictures annotated with names and a description and she will put it on the website.

Liaison – Ronda Gehringer sent an email to GVSU and Hope to announce our scholarship.

Juniors-Linda Winkleman shared she would like to use the newsletter to contact the families of the juniors. Linda has two day trips planned. Linda will publicize an opportunity to go to the Muskegon Lakeshore Museum Center on April 23. Linda will also share the MWF youth poster contest with the poster to be submitted by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Show – Sue Goedert shared contracts to show vendors will go out soon. Sue will meet with Linda regarding publicity. There will be a show meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

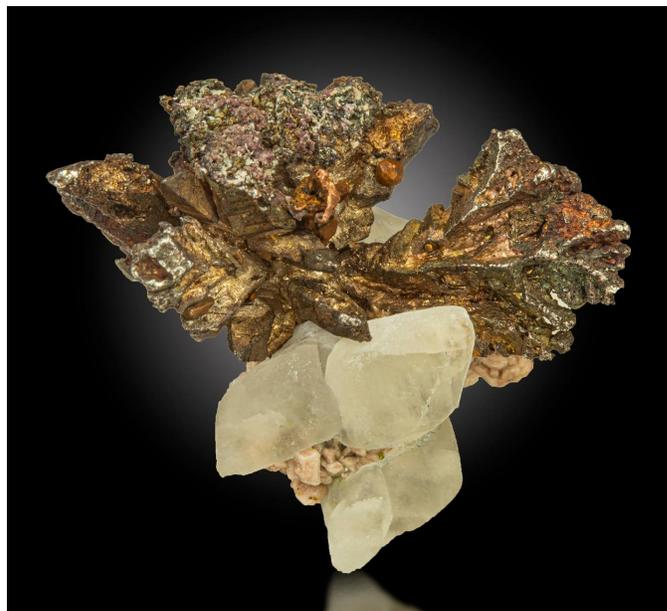
Mike is working on contacts for tailgates. Discussion followed on liability coverage for field trips. Sue shared we have MWF insurance liability coverage for damage to hosts property and damage to display cases and specimens. **We can only have members of a MWF club participate in our field trips.**

Discussion followed on distribution of our membership roster. Discussion followed on including children or not. Discussion followed on including member addresses or not. It was noted member list will not go on the website. Julia made a motion to send a membership list including name, address, children, phone and email to every member on current list. Shari 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion did not pass. Topic will be presented at the April general meeting with the goal of having the list submitted by June 1st. **The topic of what information and how to submit the list to the membership will also be addressed.**

Jon made a motion, seconded by Betty, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Adjourn meeting: by 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Olson



**Silver crystals on calcite crystals with copper and orthoclase from Ontonagon county, Michigan. 2.9 cm across.  
Christopher John Stefano Collection**

## **Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club**

via Zoom Meeting

**March 31, 2021, 7:00 PM; Minutes General Meeting**

**7:27 PM – Call to Order** – Mike Larson, President

Present: about 16 adults.

### **Board Reports**

President-Mike Larson shared he is hoping for an in person meeting in April. The meeting may have to be outdoors. Mike would like to have a tailgate somewhere with our club sometime this summer.

Vice President-Shari would like people to call her with ideas for a location for outdoor club meetings. Shari suggested people write up stories on spring trip rock hunting outings for the conglomerate.

Field Trip-Jon Mull shared some information on field trips. The April 2-6 trip going after fossils in Indiana and Kentucky has close to twelve people going on the field trip. Jon shared that anyone wanting to go on the April 17<sup>th</sup> trip beach hunting to Port Huron will have to email Jon to let him know if they want to go. We are not doing physical sign ups. Club members discussed a possible joint Holland and Whitehall group trip mid-May to a gravel pit west of Hesperia.

A meeting attendee reported on an educational opportunity for in-person classes at the William Holland Lapidary Art School (<https://lapidaryschool.org/main.aspx>) in Georgia.

The program for the evening was postponed.

Meeting adjourned 8:12 pm

# Field Trip Report

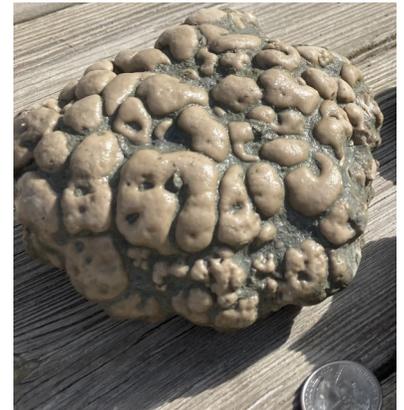
Submitted by Rhonda Gehringer

The fossil field trip to Kentucky proved to be filled with a myriad of treasures. Tom and I venture down to Kentucky each year for spring break. When Jon Mull announced plans to go to Kentucky for spring break- it was a no brainer.

We were excited at the prospect of collecting brachiopods and trilobites. I was secretly hoping to find some crystals too.

Jon arranged for John Simon from the Dry Dredgers fossil group to meet us to guide us on various collecting sites; he was very generous with his time and sharing of sites.

On Saturday, our second day with our guide, John described a fossil to be on the lookout for that resembled a brain. I hit the jackpot with a large *Solenopora* (brain) and many others including brachiopods and bryozoan specimens.



I asked John from the area if there were any crystals to be found and he said there might be at the next site. Well, I was in crystal heaven there! I found crystal formations in various shades of champagne, milky white, and chocolate colored. One has a dog tooth crystal in the center and is geodized. I was also excited to find at many types of brachiopods some of which are geodized.

The collecting was fun, but the relationship building was just as important, most of us stayed at the same hotel where we would see each other for breakfast prior to going out for the day. Some of us also gathered for dinners together which was a lot of fun.

If you have the opportunity to go on one of our upcoming field trips, I'd encourage you to do so!

## John Simon's fabulous sample tray of area



From the top to the bottom...left to right:

**TOP ROW:** *Flexicalymene retrorsa*, *F. retrorsa minuens*, *F. meeki*, *F. granulosa*, *Isotelus gigas*, *I. maximus*, *Primaspis*.

**MIDDLE ROW:** Horn coral: *Grewinkia* and *Protaranea*. Bryozoan: *Constellaria*. Crinoids: *Ectenocrinus*, *Iocrinus* and *Cincinnatiocrinus*. Nautiloidea: *Treptoceras* cephalopod.

**BOTTOM ROW:** Edrioasteroids: Both are *Isorophus cincinnatus*. Gastropoda: *Cyclomena*. Brachiopod: *Vinlandostrophia ponderosa* (geodic) and one that is whole. Brachiopod: *Hebertella*.

# Field Trip Report

Submitted by Kurt Brinks

## Spring Break 2021 - Florida and The Peace River

On Saturday April 3, Marcus and Kurt Brinks with their Florida fossil friend Sue Collar explored the Peace River at a walk-in location near Wauchula Florida in search of fossils. A primary fossil goal in Florida is the search for a large Megalodon tooth, but the Brinks are excited to find any mammal tooth or a variety of other fossils. The Peace River was in prime condition at low water levels which makes for excellent fossil hunting conditions. It has been several years since our last visit to the Peace River due to the high-water levels during the time of our Florida vacations. We began at a previously known fossil gravel bed, but the gravel bed had thinned out and the fossil rich area was greatly reduced. Marcus explored further upstream and located two new gravel beds for exploration. We found numerous small to medium sized shark teeth in our new fossil beds as well as a bison molar, pieces of our coveted Megalodon but no complete teeth. After several hours of digging, it was time to trek back down the river to our car.



**Marcus Brinks and Sue Collar. Sue is the person that introduced Marcus and Kurt into fossil hunting in Florida. She has been a great teacher for the Brinks and she is involved as a teacher/junior leader in several southwest Florida fossil clubs.**

On Monday April 5, Marcus, Sue, and Kurt decided to do a 8 mile canoe trip with the outfitter Canoe Outpost who will launch us upstream at Brownville and let us float/paddle to their dock at Arcadia. The 8 mile adventure allows for great sightseeing and a few hours of fossil hunting. The challenge is to know where to stop and how long to stay in one location, since we need to be back to the Arcadia dock by 5 pm. Marcus, Sue, and Kurt found a good fossil location earlier in the trip where we found some nice vertebrae, dugong rib bones and nice size pieces of Megalodon. Our next stop was a previously known gravel bed that provided several nice horse teeth and numerous pieces of mastodon teeth. In our eyes a whole mastodon tooth would be an even greater prize than a Megalodon tooth.

We were a little behind schedule for our 5 pm dock arrival as the low river was running slow and causing our canoe to get stuck on numerous sand bars. Our search for one last prime fossil location did not happen, but the views of the wildlife and vegetation on the river were outstanding. On the 8 mile journey back, we spotted over 30 alligators (keeping you alert as you wade into the river).



**Continue on page 9**

# Field Trip Report

Submitted by Mary Johnson

Saturday, April 17th, brought the club's second field trip of the season, this one to Lake Huron beaches in the Port Huron area. 12 adult members and 6 juniors spent a lovely sunny day exploring 3 beaches!

The group began at Lighthouse Park in Port Huron with a view of the lighthouse and the bridge to Canada, and worked our way North to Lakeside Park and finally to Fort Gratiot County Park on Metcalf Road. I think everyone would agree that the Fort Gratiot County Park had the largest amount and size of material available, and that it was a lovely park with great facilities overall. Personally, if I wanted to choose only one of the three to visit, that would be the one!

Many fossils (Petoskey/hexagonaria, horn corals, fossil soups, etc), and pieces of unakite, quartz, granite and many other types of material all found their way into our buckets and bags and have come home with us.

Many thanks to Jon Mull with input from Rance Westover for choosing our locations and planning yet another successful field trip! The global location numbers Jon provides provide exact locations/directions when input into your smart phone. How times have changed!

Here's hoping YOU can join the club on the next field trip to the Petoskey area on May 1!



## Junior Families of 2021 – Ideas!

***TCGMC members are eager to keep kids involved in our hobby as the pandemic recedes!***

Sign up for ***One Day Field Trips*** to Michigan beach sites. Bring picnic supplies, rock buckets, tools and water-proof boots. Fresh air and the extra company of “senior rockhounds” will be both delightful and educational. Jon Mull, Angie & Jack will lead these adventures!

On **Saturday, May 1st** join the club as it will GO NORTH to some of Lake Michigan’s favorite collecting sites. You will need a collecting bag or bucket to put your exciting finds. Petoskey stones, favosites (aka Charlevoix stones), horn corals, chert, basalts, gneiss, assorted granites, and sandstone. P.S. You don’t need to know their names to find these beauties!

Join us on **Friday, April 28** from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Lakeshore Museum Center ([www.lakeshoremuseum.org](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org)) in Muskegon. It is hosting “Rocks of Michigan” from the GVSU Geology Dept. This event is outdoors and includes rock & mineral experiments to uncover the importance of these resources. Mask & social distancing expected.

## West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group

This month we started our study of minerals that contain Manganese, which is often associated with iron, or replacing iron. It often is responsible for color:

- ⇒  $Mn^{2+}$  Usually gives a pink to red color to minerals, such as rhodonite and rhodochrosite. In a tetrahedral site such as in willemite it can give a yellow-green color.
- ⇒  $Mn^{3+}$  causes red and green colors in octahedral sites. Muscovite mica from Brazil containing is red as is  $Mn^{3+}$  in beryl from Utah, synthetic orthopyroxene, and piemontite from Whitewater, California. Andalusite containing  $Mn^{3+}$  is green. In the amphibole, tremolite, from New York, it produces a violet color.
- ⇒  $Mn^{4+}$  The green color in freshly-mined spodumene (eg Oceanview Mine) is due to the 4+ ion. The  $Mn^{4+}$  is unstable and will be reduced to  $Mn^{3+}$  after a few hours exposure to sunlight.

We often have some time to look at some unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are slowly improving at identification). This past month was not an exception, and we identified several specimens people had brought in, even though we were running a little late.

The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on **May 11, 2021**, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. **Face masks will be required** (unless everyone attending has been fully vaccinated against covid-19).

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 (but our governor wants us to keep it down to ten). 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.**



### Continued from Page 7

Some of the fossil treasures from the Peace River. Several nice vertebrae and dugong ribs on the top left, pieces of Megalodon top middle, pieces of Mastodon and Mammoth top right, whole teeth in the middle are Mako (1.25 inches) and Megalodon (1.5 inches), the four grouping of mid-size teeth from left to right are snaggletooth, bull, lemon, and tiger (size range .5 to just over 1 inch), and finally on the right are some of the better horse teeth that we have found on the river.



**Did you Know?**

A shark tooth contains resistant calcium phosphate materials. The most ancient types of sharks date back to 450 mya, during the Late Ordovician period, and are mostly known by their fossilized teeth. However, the most commonly found fossil shark teeth are from the Cenozoic era (the last 66 million years).

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

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.

**TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**

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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**  
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