



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

CONGLOMERATE

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

Website: www.tulipcity.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub

January 2023

Volume 56, Edition 1

IRON Country in the Upper Peninsula

Whether or not you have been to Ishpeming for its early August Club Show and related collecting trips, you are sure to add to your knowledge about Banded Iron Formation (BIF) from Dr. Peter Riemersma from Grand Valley State University. He has been a member of TCGMC for many years and has offered to speak at our January General Meeting.

The geology of BIF provides insight into early earth conditions and is the source of almost all the iron that we use globally. We'll also explore the manufacturing process to see what is involved in getting the raw large, mined chunks of BIF turned into taconite pellets. There will be take-home samples of raw ore and taconite pellets. You may even be inspired to join the Club trip this coming summer.



Jasper Knob - Ishpeming, MI - A massive and stunning outcrop of BIF





Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2023 TCG&M Board

President - C.H. Falstad
cfalstad3@gmail.com

Co-V.P. - Alexandria Vanderski
alexandria.vandervest1029@gmail.com

Co-V.P. - Julia Sherwood
bobandjulia@accn.org

Secretary - Teresa DeMol
t.demol@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks
kdbricks1@gmail.com

Field Trips - Gary Katt
kattfiles@gmail.com

Historian - Betty Hoekstra
kbhoek@att.net

Junior Club - Shari Luttkhuizen
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Liaison - Mary Johnson
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Newsletter Editor - Jon Mull
solace247@yahoo.com

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson
anelson31@gmail.com

Show Chair -
< OPEN >

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting
michlyngal@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Tom DeMol
t.demol@yahoo.com

Dir. at Large - Bill McDonald
bobmaciv@gmail.com

Past President - Michael B. Larson
mblarson300@yahoo.com

1/25 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2/8 Tulip City Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2/11 Field Trip - Sat, 1pm - Home of Bob & Julia Sherwood

966 Lake Street, South Haven, MI (269-227-3202 if you need directions)

2/17 Geofest - Indiana State Museum - Fri-Sun 10-5

650 West Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

2/18 Workshop - Rance & Anne Westover - Sat (tbd)

See details on sign up sheet

2/22 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

3/4 Roamin' Club Rock Auction - Sat 11-6, Sun 12-6

Schoolcraft College - VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia, MI

3/15 Tulip City Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

3/18 Workshop - Rance & Anne Westover - Sat (tbd)

See details on sign up sheet

3/29 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland **APRIL BOARD MEETING @ 6:15**

! Meeting SNACKS !

We have a surplus of granola / breakfast bars but could use more chips, crackers, or snack nuts. Fresh snacks like cheese sticks or fruit are also appreciated

Remember to check those expiration dates!

Thank you so much for your donations!

Always remember, this is a hobby and anyone who volunteers is sharing their personal time and energy. Alas that means sometimes people have to step back from the club due to "real life" demands on their time. We thank Michelle Bennett for her service and will miss having her on the board. That also means we are looking for a Show Chair. Please consider helping with this important role. We need you !!

~ This months "Mascot" ~
The masthead image is a 2.5" long quartz geode half from a location in Clark County Missouri. This geode did not reveal its full treasure until it was soaked in muriatic acid. The brassy pyrite was hidden under a layer of massive calcite. This was a fantastic find from Kevin Ponzio and myself on one of our excellent adventures!
- Jon Mull



Field Trips



Dice Museum at Calvin - Saturday Jan. 21, 1-4 pm

We've been invited to join the Indian Mounds Club to tour the Bruce Dice Museum on the Calvin University Campus. A notice already went out about this but if you still have questions please contact Jack Cooley cooley28@hotmail.com

"Basement" Field Trip - Saturday Feb. 11 starting at 1pm

Home of Bob & Julia Sherwood - 966 Lake Street, South Haven, MI
No boots, hard hats, or rock picks required! Spend some time with fellow rockhounds browsing a collection both hand-picked and "silver picked" from well over 20 years in the hobby. Call 269-227-3202 with questions or come out on Saturday and you can ask what silver-picking is ;)

Spring Break New Mexico - Mar 31 to Apr 9

We will be collecting a variety of chalcedony, jasper, petrified wood and other material in a wide radius near Deming and Silver City, New Mexico. There will be a sign up sheet at the January meeting but because of the nature of the sites I am limiting it to only 4 more entries (couples or families). We are working on lodging and more details will follow.

Please contact Jon Mull. solace247@yahoo.com

Gary is also looking for others interested in hosting a basement field trip. Perhaps also in February or March. Please reach out to him if you are willing to share your collection with the club! kattfiles@gmail.com

JANUARY IS BLUE - Monthly Contest

We are bringing back one of our past monthly contests involving every rock hounds favorite activity, **show and tell!** Each month members can bring in their favorite specimen of a particular color. Fill out a card (without your name) and place the specimen on the designated table. We will vote with pennies at our break time, winners will get a specimen of that color!

Westover Workshop

Rance and Anne Westover have a very nice lapidary workshop at their home. They would like to offer a "lapidary 101" opportunity to a few newer members this winter. Due to a limited amount of space they can accommodate 3 couples, or a parent and a junior if there is an interest. Details and a sign-up sheet will be at our January general meeting. Dates are: **Sat. Feb. 18 & Mar. 18.**

Contact Rance and Anne at **rance_anne@yahoo.com**

For more info. This is a great opportunity. Thanks to Rance and Anne for continuing to provide this educational experience.

Other Winter Workshops

Our V.P. team is also working on winter opportunities to learn a new skill that will involve refining or embellishing a collected rock or mineral, or perhaps a specimen you purchased that is already polished. At the January meeting you can sign up for a workshop already planned or let us know what you would like to learn later in the winter. The first workshop is scheduled for the last weekend of January, soon after the General Meeting. Check out the table at the back of the room for particulars.

Trailer Storage

The club has struggled in the past to find a reliable place to store the two trailers that hold all of our show material. A big thanks to Tom and Teresa DeMol for providing a nice location that meets our needs. We appreciate it very much.

*Thank
you* 

Rock Exchange Donations Looking for more!

The Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club has enjoyed our rock exchanges so much with other distant clubs that we decided to exchange 2 boxes this year. Requests to join in the exchange have been extended to three clubs. One in Maine and two in Washington. The first two that respond will be where our boxes get sent.

We already have some starter material but could use some extras. We are trying to keep it something that we have collected from not too far away, so when the other clubs get it, they won't all have that in their collections already. If you're thinking of bringing something and not sure if we already have enough of that type of specimen, you can either call me at 616-218-2707, email using the email address on the board list, or bring it to our general meeting and we can see at that time. I will have boxes in the back by the door prize tickets for you to fill.

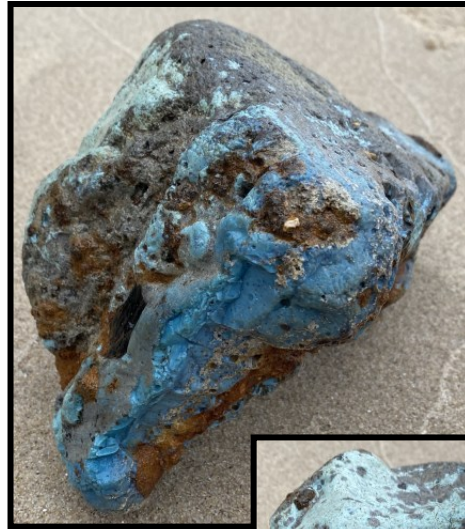
Thanks! C.H.

Deep Winter Blues

Winter rock hounding is not for the faint of heart, especially in the face of a bone chilling breeze. Even so, I found myself craving the solace, and drove a lonely gospel filled two and half hours north to find it. As my feet hit the sand in Leland, I kept my hopes at bay, tried to focus on the waves, let them restore my soul. Keep your head down, I tell myself as I meander down the darkness filled path to Lake Michigan. The anger of the winter storm had passed, and the waves had calmed to gentle taps along the shore. My waders instantly reminded my toes of the frigid waters around me as I submerged myself to discover the hidden blue treasures below. As I work along, other hounds pass me by with friendly smiles and good mornings. I try to reciprocate but my head is down, focused. Where are those blues!?

My feet find a collection of pebbles and grander stones, so I stop to investigate with a little haste. I've learned how blues look in the different lighting in the water on these cloudy days and suddenly my mind realized what my eyes already knew. At that moment the swirls of blue below grew richer in color and I couldn't believe what I was seeing. One massive hunk of blue resting buried in the sand. As I pondered the predicament I was in with a basket scoop and other large rocks in the way, I surveyed the scene. A loud "ope" and "this isn't real" left my mouth as I discovered the second large blue nestled right next to it. Now, I knew I needed some help. Knowing I couldn't leave them without risking someone else stumbling over them, I took action and approached a couple passerby's to see if they would be as into this adventure as I was. To my delight, they were, and I promised half the spoils in return for the help. We dug and doubted struggling to release the blues from their wave compressed home. After what seemed to be a millennia, we broke them free of their hold. In shock and disbelief, we exchanged a lot of joy and bantered back and forth on who would get to choose first. I insisted that the gentleman who helped me, pick. Afterall, he took the brunt of the work and cold water drenching his sweater. I was delighted when he caved and made his decision on which one to keep. As we said goodbye, I couldn't help but soak up the moment of finding my two biggest blues right next to each other and having the chance to make a couple new rock friends while I was at it. I was overjoyed as we parted ways. With the day ahead of me, I continued to search and gather smaller blues until I needed to return home.

After a couple of days work washing, sorting, and oiling, my new blues were on display at home. As I was sitting in my living room enjoying my new additions, my phone pinged an incoming message. As I read the message, I was surprised to find the gentleman who had chosen the other blue wanted to return it to me. He didn't feel right keeping it since I had found them both. I was sad but also excited to have the chance to have both nestled next to each other again. We planned to meet and after a quick lesson from my new friend about the slag's characteristics and the charcoal still imbedded within it, we again parted ways. Overjoyed at the thought that sometimes the universe has a way of giving you what you didn't know you were searching for. That day I was after healing waves and a few blues, I walked away with two new friends and the biggest blues I will ever find in my lifetime. Blessed! *Michelle Bennett* ~ **pictures on next page** ~



TCGM Minutes - December 21, 2022 General meeting

Shari L called meeting to order at 7pm. Adults 45, Juniors 9

No door prize

Juniors excused to learn about Quartz. Dakota R. was their special guest

Bob S in official position as past president presented 2023 slate of board members as listed in Dec. newsletter. Slate was accepted and 2nd. Vote was called, all in favor, no opposition. Officers were installed as follows.

Pres. C.H. Falstad, V.P. Co-Chairs Julia Sherwood & Alex Vanderski, Treas: Kurt Brinks, Sec: Teresa DeMol, F.T. Coord: Gary Katt, Jr: Shari Luttkhuizen, Hist: Betty Hoekstra, Liaison: Mary Johnson, Memb: Rhonda Gehringer, Editor: Jon Mull, Show: Michelle Bennett, Social: Michelle Lanting, Web: Aaron Nelson, Dir at Lar: Tom DeMol, Dir at Lar: Bill McDonald, Past Pres: Mike Larson

Shari announced the raffle and holiday contest and dismissed for break

Raffle awarded 6 items.

Holiday contest winners: Most Spirited: Rhonda, Ugly Sweater: Jon, Over the Top: CJ

Guests and members shared rock hound stories

Steve & Jodi Miller talked about starting their own rock club.

Peter and Dakota talked about Canada Amethyst

Chuck talked about "rock scoops"

Jon talked about geodes

C.H. talked about his Kona experience

"Poker Chip" present game was played. Gift rock items were from the clubs donations

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:30

Notes taken by club member in absence

Teresa DeMol, Secretary

TCGM Minutes - December 6, 2022 Board meeting

Board members: Jon M, Mike L, CH F, Peter R, Rhonda G, Linda W, Shari L, Julia S, Michelle L, Tom D, Betty H, Kurt B, Teresa D

Absent: Mary J, Michelle B

Incoming Board members: Gary K, Alex V, Aaron N, Bill M

Guests: Ken H, Bob S

Call to order: 7:05 pm by Mike L

Approval of proposed agenda: Jon M proposed it, CH F seconded it. Approved by board

Approval of Minutes: Mike didn't open email prior to meeting

Board reports

President Mike: Everything is going well. Watch emails for upcoming 2023 shows.

V.P. Shari: Asking members to share field trip stories at Dec general meeting.

We will be gifting donated specimens at Dec general meeting

Treasure Kurt: Good, see his official report for details. Started MidWest Fed paperwork due in Jan 2023.

Working with CH on setting budget Comm. Looking into digital pay system.

Sec. Teresa: nothing

Newsletter Jon: deadline for 12-10-2022 for Dec newsletter. Thank you to Julia S for hard paper mailings.

Juniors Linda: Dec. is Quartz, using leftovers from summer event.

Membership Rhonda: We are at ½ membership renewal.

Fieldtrip Peter/Gary: Working on Spring Break to New Mexico. Canada in early July, piggybacking with Whiteriver group.

Social Michelle L: Dec snack will be christmas themed cookies.

Social Media Julia: will be meeting with Aaron about taking over. Need material input.

Historian Betty: nothing to report

Liaison Mary: not present

Dir at Lar. Tom: 1 trailer has been moved and is in our storage barn. I also have Rock banner from Rance

Show Chair: Shari shared "No actual theme for 2023 show", looking at other possible venues was tabled.

Admission was changed from \$3.00 to \$5.00.

IPP CH: see new business

Recurring Business:

Nominating Comm. CH - Slate is set for voting at Dec. general meeting.

Donation comm. Shari - Comm has been set with 8 members. \$406.00 was made at silent auction. There will be an Monthly silent auction at General meetings using donated items. CH is working with Howard Miller Comm Center for display

New Business:

Julia S had copies of current "Board member/Officer duties" available. She said that the "webmaster/social media" position needed clarification. She said that a board member position needed to be created, job description made, and permanently added to the official duties. A major discussion followed as to who does what, time management, By-laws, facebook vs. website, flow of information, ect.

CH gave a brief "by laws" explanation. It was agreed that Webmaster needs to be added to by-laws. He will write a Newsletter article for Dec. edition explaining the process.

Dec.meeting outfit contest - Rhonda asked for help creating a contest. There will be vote for "Ugliest sweater", Most spirited, over the top. Shari will get prizes. Rhonda will get info to Jon for the newsletter.

Shari L. would like to look into a storage unit for the club's excess items. Tom and Bill will look into this. The trailers also need a new home. They will also address this. Solution will be presented at the Jan. board meeting.

CH has 3 invites in the works with other groups as far as rock swap possibilities.

Julia S suggested that a person from the Seamen's Museum be the guest speaker at the 2023 Banquet. Gary suggested we also have guest speakers at the show.

Guest Bob S. started a discussion on the By-Laws, Board member duties and responsibilities, and the need for continuity in a social Group such as ours. CH and other board members will be working with Bob on this subject.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

Teresa DeMol, Secretary

Newsletter Mascots

I have really enjoyed choosing a specimen to grace the front page of our newsletter and have made an effort to find something unique and beautiful without repeating. I would like to offer the rest of the members a chance to have one of your favorite specimens appear on our newsletter.

Please submit your pictures with details about the item, what it is, where it was found, etc, to my email address **solace247@yahoo.com**

It's best to use a higher resolution photo and please note that the items I use as mascots are individual specimens. I will be able to isolate them from the background within reason. I look forward to seeing some of your favorites!

Take a look at the mascots from last year below.



A friendly reminder...

It's January, and one more opportunity to renew your membership to the club. If you haven't yet, this will likely be your last newsletter. The last page of this issue is a membership form. A perfect way to get it filled out and sent in. We would hate to miss you this year! It's still \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Please note it is now \$10 for mailed newsletters. Send form and payment to:

TCGM c/o Rhonda Gehringer
1980 Driftwood Dr.
Holland, MI 49424



Tommy The Turtle - Rock Style

Come to the January meeting to meet our latest banquet special raffle prize, Tommy the Turtle!

Bill and Linda Heyworth of Beauties of Creation, one of our show dealers, have once again generously donated a lovely piece to aid in building our Gibson Scholarship fund. Tommy might have a hard time keeping afloat, though, as he is carved of petrified wood and weighs in at 16 pounds! He is looking for a new home—might that be yours?

Tickets for this banquet raffle are \$5 each or the Holland special deal of 5 tickets for \$20. They will be available (and you can meet Tommy!) at the January, February and March general membership meetings, with a last chance for purchase at the April banquet where the winning ticket will be drawn. You need not be present to win.

On another note, we will also have our regular raffles to help build scholarship funds in January, February and March, but not in April. Tickets for those treasures are \$1 each or the Holland special of 6 tickets for \$5.

See you at the raffle tables!

Mary, Tom and Bill



- Junior Page -
Is This a Rock, a Mineral, or a Fossil?

How do I tell the difference? Why do I need to know this?
This month come to the Juniors Meeting at 7:00 pm and meet your new Junior Leader – Shari Luttikhuizen. We will look at and handle lots of samples and figure out what makes a specimen a rock or mineral and why it is important to know the difference. We will also talk about what the Juniors are interested in learning about this year.

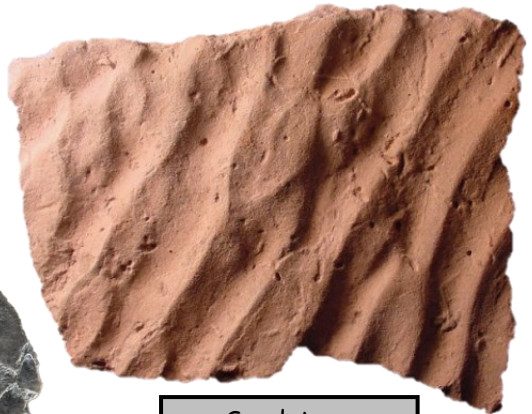
Can you tell what each of the items below are? Rock, mineral, fossil, or sometimes both?



Amethyst



Petoskey



Sandstone
w/ ripple marks



Labradorite



Mica Schist
w/ Garnets



Granite

Fun prizes will be awarded. As always, parents may attend with their children if they want to... but they may be called on to participate!

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

Membership Application / Renewal for 20__

Paid for: ___ Individual (\$15.00) ___ Family (\$20.00)

Newsletter Delivery: ___ Email (FREE) ___ U.S. Mail \$10.00



PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY (Must have a postal mailing address)

Adult Name: _____

DATE: _____

2nd Adult Name (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Home or Cell

Secondary Phone: _____ Home or Cell

Primary E-Mail address: _____

Secondary E-Mail address: _____

Please make check payable to :
Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

Mail to:
Rhonda Gehringer
1980 Driftwood Dr,
Holland, MI 49424

Questions can be e-mailed to:
tcgmc.news@gmail.com

If this is a family membership, please list ALL participating family members' names and birthdays.**

**** Family membership include parents/guardian and all unmarried children under the age seventeen and living at home.**

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

**Additional children information may be written on the back of this paper.
We need this for MWF insurance purposes.**

CHECK interest(s) in club:

- ___ Faceting
- ___ Metal Craft
- ___ Beading / Wire Wrap
- ___ Lapidary
- ___ Tumbling
- ___ Rock / Minerals
- ___ MicroMounts
- ___ Fossils
- ___ Juniors
- ___ Field Trips
- ___ Collecting

TCG&MC PRIVACY POLICY: For purposes of planning field trips and other TCG&MC Social activities, the club will annually distribute a listing of adult member names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses to all club members. The TCG&MC officers will never knowingly distribute your address information to any other group or organization.

As a condition of membership, and in consideration of any mineral collecting, use of facilities, equipment, and other educational opportunities available to me as a club member, I hereby agree to hold the Club and its officers, Directors, committee members and agents harmless, and to indemnify them against any loss and claims arising from me or my family's participation in Club activities:

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: We must have a SIGNED copy of your application/renewal form on file.

Term of Membership and Dues. TCG&MC memberships run January – December. NEW members joining after September 1st will have their dues credited through the end of the following year. Memberships must be renewed by December 31st to be in good standing.



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 otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

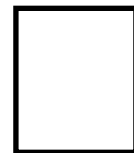
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

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 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 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

Jon Mull, Editor
14325 Essenburg Dr
Holland, MI 49424



Background photo is a slab of "Tiger Iron" from Australia