



# Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

## 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/tulipcityclub](https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub)

April 2023

Volume 56, Edition 4

### **SCHOLARSHIP POTLUCK BANQUET !**

**6:00 PM** Social time with punch, **6:30 PM** Dinner

**Scholarship Awards and Program** to follow

It's time for one of our most traditional and exciting General Meetings! The goal of our full year's worth of fund-raising is met this evening when we award Scholarships to several Geology students at Hope College and Grand Valley State University. Introduce yourself and congratulate the students when you see them.

Every member is asked to bring a dish or two to share, based on the number of people in your party. This can be a main course, salad, or dessert.

**Beverages, plates, cups, utensils and napkins, will be provided by the Club.**

To add to the festive nature of the evening, please wear a flannel or denim shirt as we imagine the miners might have worn.

### ***Michigan's Copper Mining in the Upper Peninsula.***

Special Guest **Tom Wright**, Manager of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association will give us an idea of the importance of our states role in this chapter in American history. This was the first metal mining boom in the country and may well have been the site of some of the earliest mining practices in the world. Mr. Wright grew up in Hancock and has been picking up rocks for as long as he can remember. After a long absence, he returned to his roots and quickly found himself leading underground tours of the Quincy Mine, arranged by the Quincy Mine Hoist Association.

This will be the final opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket and a chance at owning TOMMY TURTLE, who is handsomely carved from petrified wood. All proceeds from this drawing will go the Norm & Helen Gibson Field Study Scholarship Fund at GVSU.



**No Monthly Contest and no Junior program**



# 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 & Show Co-Chair  
Shari Luttikhuisen  
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 Co-Chair - Becky Siegel  
swordfly247@yahoo.com

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

**4/19 Tulip City Annual Banquet \*\* NOTE THE EARLIER DATE \*\***

Howard Miller Library - See notice on Pg. 4

**4/26 Tulip City Show meeting - Wed, 7pm**

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

**4/29 Miami County G&M Annual Show - Miami County Fairgrounds**

650N. Co. Rd. 25-A, Troy, Ohio - Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4

**5/5 Kalamazoo Rock club Annual Show - County Expo Center**

2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI - Fri 4-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

**5/17 Tulip City Board meeting - Wed, 7pm**

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

**5/20 Wisconsin GS Annual Show - Hart Park - Muellner Building**

72nd & State St., Wauwatosa, WI - Sat & Sun 10-4:30

**5/27 Chicagoland GMA Annual Show - Kane County Fairgrounds**

525 S. Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL - Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

**5/31 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm**

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

**6/14 Tulip City Board meeting - Wed, 7pm**

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

**6/21 Tulip City Show meeting - Wed, 7pm**

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

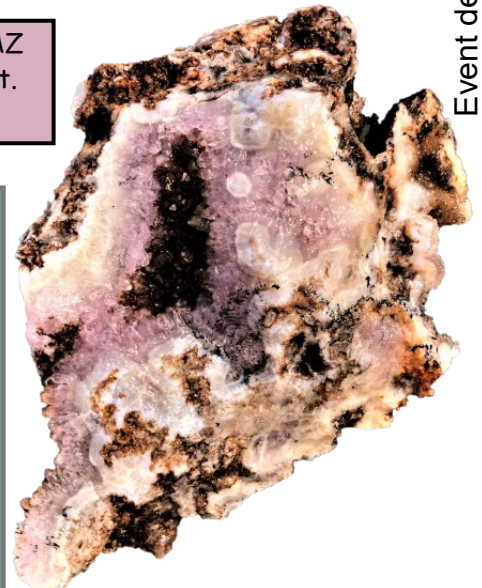
**6/28 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm**

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

**!! PICNIC - Saturday, JULY 29 !!**

Specimen from Ash Peak, AZ  
showing a hint of Amethyst.  
Approx. 3" x 4"

~ This months "Mascot" ~  
The masthead this month is another  
native of our U.P. the Greenstone.  
Gary Katt collected this nodule of  
Chlorastrolite from the Central  
Exploration Copper Mine tailings in  
the Keweenaw. He took some time in  
2017 to polish it on a Diamond Pacific  
Genie cabbing machine.  
**Thank you Gary for sharing!**





## Field Trips



### **White River Indiana Geodes - Apr. 14-16**

**This trip is now full.** If you signed up already then you can email Chris Rogers.  
***Kilt.inspector32@gmail.com*** for additional info.

### **Utah - May 1-19**

This trip will begin in Moab, Utah. The list of material is long and the number of spaces left is small. Please contact Bob & Julia Sherwood, if you are interested in this trip. ***bobandjulia@accn.org***

### **Thunder Bay, Ontario - Week of June 19**

Thunder Bay is a prime spot for beautiful Amethyst specimens. Gary will be providing a full itinerary at the April general meeting. Please contact him right away if you are interested in this trip. ***kattfiles@gmail.com***

### **Keweenaw, MI - July / August**

Details about the Keweenaw Mineral Days can be found at the [Seaman](#) website. The Copper Country Rock & Mineral club will have collecting opportunities from Fri Aug 4 to Thur. Aug 10, with their show happening Fri to Sun Aug. 11 to 13. Here is their site. [Copper Country R&M.](#)

### **Indiana Geodes - TBD !**

We are considering adding our own trip to look for geodes in the Bloomington area. Please contact our field trip coordinator right away if this is of interest to you!  
***kattfiles@gmail.com***



Spring Break Gang at the Zuhl Museum in Las Cruces, NM in front of a slice of Giant Sequoia petrified wood

## ***Spring Break New Mexico - in Perspective***

*I always like getting field trip write-ups from our members, as I enjoy the variety of views and difference of language. This time, my wife shared her “diary” of events for our trip to New Mexico. **My comments are in BLUE italics.***

**Day 1:** Left town around 1:00. Actually left on time. Jon had the car all packed up yesterday so it took a lot of stress off me!

**Day 2:** Woke up in St Louis, MO. After breakfast Angie climbed in the drivers seat (!) and we were off. Our first stop was as expected for our family at the Uranus Fudge Factory in Uranus Missouri. The best fudge comes from Uranus! Fun stop with a great taffy selection. A stop at Doling park in Springfield allowed for a nice walk around a pond, a look at a cave, and some up close interaction with some geese. Finally we decided to check out Fantastic Caverns. I was expecting a cheese ball type tour in the vein of Land of the Lost, however it was really quite lovely with great views of soda straws, cave curtains, and flow stone. It also had some interesting history as the first to officially explore it was a young explorers club made up of teenage girls! Go girls! Now on to Ponca City, OK to meet up with other club members and prep for our first collecting spot tomorrow.

**Day 3:** On the road by 8:00 and headed to the Great Salt Plains Selenite Digging Area. Our group arrived on the opening day of digging. The flat white surface and whipping wind made each group huddled over their holes appear like a lake full of ice fisherman. Deb and Rick were the first to finds crystals but soon all had a nice collection. *Beautiful clear to ice tea colored translucent crystals with the characteristic hourglass.* Needless to say leaving was a process as everyone needed to get “one more good one”. A long afternoon of driving ended with a night hotel described by Angie as a “murder motel”.



**Day 4:** After a quick stop for break fast (anyone else notice how McDonalds sausage gets spicer as you go west?) we were on our way. After turning south past Albuquerque (insert bugs bunny joke here) Jon began to gleefully point out lava flows and formations as we headed for a wash that Jon heard about due to his habit of seeking out grumbly old men in overalls with huge collections and stories to share. *Actually, this was a thread in some rock collecting forum with full directions and several confirmations of good and plentiful material.* While the wash is unnamed, the exit off of 25 is Hwy 6 near Los Lunas and the Southwest Livestock Auction is the landmark. We have dubbed it Fuh-Google Wash, as Google appears to be incapable of locating it. It was worth the wander. In an hour we found petrified wood, agate, and jasper. Material was everywhere. Additional talking points of the location include the fact that it is right next to railroad tracks. We saw five trains go by including a high speed passenger train. Our collecting was punctuated periodically by gunfire, though remote enough to not feel life threatening. Jack would like you all to know he found bullet casings. Angie’s info to share is that she drove for 3 hours. Tonight we’ll be in Silver City.

**Spring Break Cont.**

**Day 5:** The intrepid hunters left early this morning after a breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, cinnamon rolls, and tater tots (I like to cook). As I have already been to this digging spot I stayed back and relaxed with a book, couple of big dogs, and a view. The rock-hounds headed out to roam the cow pastures. Success for them will be finding chalcedony *and petrified wood, which we DID*, and to avoid stepping in cow pies. They also decided to check out the old Baker Mine for thunder eggs, where they had a run in with a irritated landowner. *Yeah, that was lousy. We did not actually trespass but people can be pretty “spikey” about their property out there.* Then on to Lori’s house (woman he met through another women he met through rock hounding) *Lori Coleman was another suggestion made by Heidi Holt which was a fantastic new connection...* where they were able to buy a wide variety of material from her mining ventures and trading at \$5 a lb! I myself took a nap with Blue the bulldog, then read all day. Did nothing else. That’s it. Felt great. Deb and Rick took on dinner with sloppy joes and “Lentil Louis” for the vegetarians. After a short debate to determine tomorrows agenda, everyone scuttled off to bed.

**Day 6:** Michelle’s husband Corey got us started with breakfast of french toast and bacon. The group gathered up their stuff and headed out. I took a nice long nap, made dinner and a pie (*yeah, key lime, that was AWESOME*), and read for awhile. It was a nice day. The hunters had a good day out finding all sorts of stuff I can’t remember... *We headed into Arizona to Mule Creek, which was a bust, and one other spot along Hwy 78 for agate which was nearly non-existent and blocked by fences...* and some spots that Jon managed to find on his own by recognizing landforms. *On our way to find gas and bathrooms I saw some very light colored rock at the bottom of the road cuts on both sides of Hwy 75, it turned out to be common opal!* It was really nice to hear Rick talking about how impressed he is with Jon and how he must be so smart to know all about the rocks. (*Thanks Rick, you’re too kind ;)* (*The real treat of the day was the Ash Peak quartz site from the Rock Hounding Arizona book. I just finished rinsing some of that material and it is pretty cool. The drive was also quite scenic and we got to see the entrance to the Round Mountain area on our way back.*) I like to hear people compliment my man! After dinner Lisa “strongly encouraged” us all into doing art. It was fun!



Group Art Therapy



Our new friend Lori

**Spring Break Cont.**

**Day 7:** Location for the day is Brock Canyon . Hoping to find god knows what. *The target for the day was Fluorite. The location was shared with us by another friend of Heidis named Greg Merrit. It was a beautiful but slow drive in and out and the material took some hard work but it was worth it, I think.* Upon return all club members had stories to tell about this road that was apparently just horrible, scary, high, steep etc.... Afternoon found everyone taking a different path with varying degrees of success. Lisa and I played games with the kids while the “adults” packed up to leave tomorrow. Everyone is tired, I think and ready for something other than collecting. Tomorrow I leave my retreat of solitude to see some museums.

**Day 8:** Up early this morning and on the road. We started with some shopping in Mesilla, and then over to the Zuhl Petrified Wood Museum. *This was our second time at the Zuhl. I can't express enough how amazing this place is. Do not miss it if you have some time in Las Cruces.* A lunch of excessive amounts of Mexican food was a warm up for the last “event” of the trip. Just north of Radium Springs on Hwy 185 is a nice little half mile hike which leads to a slot canyon. Beautiful weather made it a pleasant hike and while the canyon did not get too tight, it was significantly darker in spots, more like twilight. Now (6 hours of driving later) we are tucked in at a cute little retro motel call the Road Runner Inn. Exhausted, but will be up early again tomorrow for another long driving day.

**Day 9:** We awoke in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Target is to Springfield Missouri. Angie drove for several hours and Jon and I are exploring audible. We got a free one month subscription and listened to Congo by Michael Crichton and now we are listening to Dune by Frank Herbert. It definitely passes the time and is quite enjoyable. I would recommend it for any long trips. Hotel in Springfield has a pool so the kids got to swim one more time.

**Day 10:** Last push, with a quick stop at Uranus for more taffy! Will be home tonight!  
***Thanks Becky, for a great play by play!***



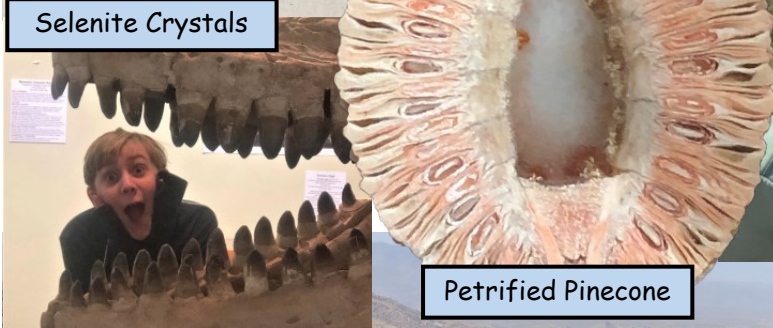


Great Salt Plains

Slot Canyon



Selenite Crystals



Petrified Pinecone



The Zuhl



Hwy 88, Arizona



The Zuhl







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**.

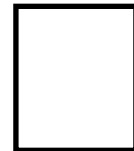
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org)

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 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

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Background photo is a slot canyon north of Las Cruces, New Mexico