



# 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)

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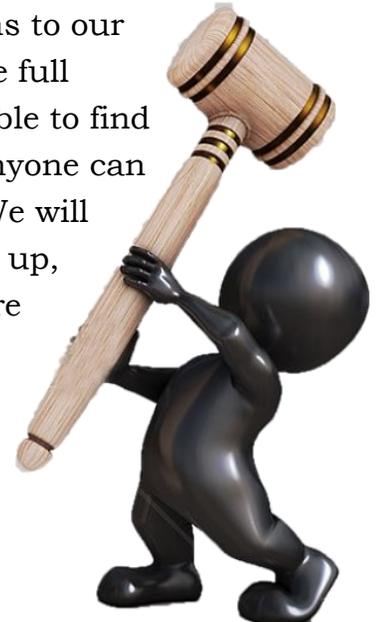
## Tulip City Silent Auction

It's time again for a **silent auction** at our June general meeting. This is a great opportunity to sell off a few things from your garage or basement, and have a chance at some great deals to add to your rock collection.

Everyone can bring up to 20 items to sell. If it gets to be close to 7:00, and there are still empty spaces, you can put out a bit more. Silent auction slips can always be found on our website [Tulipcity.org](http://Tulipcity.org). Please have them filled out and ready to go before you arrive. There is also a Junior Table. This table is for the kids to bid on only (you have to be 18 years or younger... not a kid at heart) So, please bring in a specimen or two, price it low, so the kids can add fun stuff to their collections. If you are selling, please make sure you have filled out both the top and bottom of the slips, and bring a lot of change along.

Here's how it works: We will have plenty of time for people to walk around and write bids on the slips. The auction timer will start after the break and we will close 3 tables at a time that will be marked by balloons. Once a table closes if you have the winning bid on an item, you will need to track down the seller, and pay them (please bring along lots of cash... small bills and change). If you do not know the person who is the seller, just ask another member, we would be glad to help you out. This is also a great opportunity to

donate your excess material to make contributions to our club. If an item has "club" for the seller, the full selling price goes to Tulip City. You should be able to find our Treasurer, Kurt Brinks, and pay him. Anyone can put out an item with "club" on the donor slip. We will wait a few minutes for everyone to pay up, put 5 minutes on the timer, then close 3 more tables, until every table has had a chance to close. **We hope to see you all there!**





# Events



## FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

### 2022 TCG&M Board

President - Michael B. Larson  
mblarson300@yahoo.com

Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen  
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Secretary - Teresa DeMol  
t.demol@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks  
kdbricks1@gmail.com

Field Trips - Peter Riemersma  
riemersp@gvsu.edu

Historian - Betty Hoekstra  
kbhoek@att.net

Junior Club - Linda Winkelmann  
lindawinkelmann@att.net

Liaison - Mary Johnson  
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer  
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Newsletter Editor - Jon Mull  
solace247@yahoo.com

Social Media - Julia Sherwood  
bobandjulia@accn.org

Show Co-Chair - Michelle Bennett  
bennettm@byrne.com

Show Co-Chair - Sue Goedert  
sonbeams2000@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting  
michlyngal@gmail.com

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

Dir. at Large - Greta Fochtman  
gretestuff@yahoo.com

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

- 6/22 Tulip City Show Committee Meeting - Wed, 7pm**  
*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*
- 6/24 Lawrence County RC Annual Show - Lawrence City Fairgrounds**  
*US-50, Loogootee, IN, Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 11-5*
- 6/29 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm**  
*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*
- 7/13 Tulip City Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm**  
*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*
- 7/16 Moose Lake Agate Days - Carlton County GMC Annual Show**  
*Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Evens Dr, Moose Lake, MN Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3*
- 7/23 Tulip City Summer Picnic - Westside County Park**  
*See details included in this newsletter*
- 8/12 Copper Country R&M Show - Houghton Elementary School**  
*203 W Jacker Ave, Houghton, MI Fri 1-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4*
- 8/17 Tulip City Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm**  
*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*
- 8/19 Michiana G&MS Show - St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds**  
*5117 s. Ironwood Rd, South Bend, IN Fri 12-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5*
- 8/24 Tulip City Show Committee Meeting - Wed, 7pm**  
*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*
- 8/27 Peoria Academy of Science - Geology Club Show - Eastside Centre**  
*1 Eastside Dr, East Peoria, IL Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5*
- 8/31 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm**  
*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

~ This months "Mascot" ~

The masthead image is a geodized clam shell in coquina from Rucks Pit in Florida. I happily acquired this specimen at a Tulip City show silent auction! It came from the collection of Jack Decker. The beautiful dogtooth crystals are honey colored calcite. The shell is about 3.5" in diameter.

- Jon Mull



Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Board Meeting  
Minutes taken in absence of Secretary by Michelle Bennett

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club was called to order on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 pm by President Mike Larson.

Julia moved to approve the agenda of the May 11 Board Meeting and in succession the approval of the written minutes from the April 13, 2022, Board minutes and the April 27, 2022 General Meeting minutes. Jon Mull seconded the motion. All board members in favor.

**Board Reports**

President- Mike Larson: Congratulated the board for a successful Banquet. Also stated that he has reached out to Kalamazoo Rock Club to talk about the scheduling conflict between their tailgate and our Show, with no response.

Vice President- Shari Luttkhuizen: Rick Smith will be the speaker at our May Club Meeting. We will also be having a silent auction at our June meeting.

Treasurer- Kurt Brinks: Paid scholarships from banquet, brought our checking account to around \$6,000. Talked about moving funds into a CD. Will research and bring to the table at a later date. Looking to donate a \$200 scholarship to the American Federation, Kurt made a motion to make the donation. Shari, seconded. All board in favor. Kurt brought up that our club has historically donated around \$57,000 in scholarships. He is going to write an article and put it in the Sentinel.

Newsletter Editor- Jon Mull: No report. All Conglomerate additions for this month due 5/14.

Juniors- Linda Winkelmann: Reminder to color the picture from the April newsletter. No other report.

Membership Coordinator- Rhonda Gehringer: No report.

Field Trip Coordinator- Peter Riemersma: Drumming up interest for summer trips. Few options. Be watching the newsletter. Opportunity to go to Dan's house to purchase slabs or specimens, will plan.

Social Coordinator- Michelle Lanting: No report. Will check snacks for meeting, watch newsletter.

Social Media Coordinator- Julia Sherwood: Keeping the website up to date on events. Be aware of White River Tailgate, June 4.

Historian- Betty Hoekstra: No report. Be aware that we are hemming table cloths for the show. We will give donations to the helpers.

Liaison- Mary Johnson: No report. Talk about Crystal Sphere in New Business.

Directors-at-Large- Tom DeMol, Greta Fochtman: No Report

**On-Going Projects**

Show Co-Chair- Michelle Benett: Had our first meeting, work was delegated. Would like to take off line the conversation with Kalamazoo.

Immediate Past President- CH Falstad: Not in attendance

**Recurring Business**

2022 Show: Need to fill Publicity Position to backfill Linda. Sue is confirming contracts with Dealers. Material needs to hand out are taken care of.

2022 Show Publicity Duties for May/June: Covered

Material and Knowledge- Sending some rocks to students at ZQuest Elementary to identify and learn from. Shari owning. Invite to show.

Summer Tailgate: Rhonda checking into location availability for dates in July/August.

Donation Committee: Established. Shari chairing. Boards members, Michelle Lanting and Mary Johnson are joining here. Will be seeking 2-3 volunteers from club members.

DeGraaf Nature Center: June maintenance. Rocks need powerwashed. Need volunteers. Jon Mull spearheading.

**New Business:**

May General Meeting Programs: Complete per Shari.

Banquet Scholarships Publicity: Kurt creating article for Sentinel.

Herrick Festival: Mary Johnson motioned, and Jon Mill seconded, all board in favor, to include our coloring books for the Festival to handout for free. Mike Larson motioned, and Tom DeMol seconded, all board in favor, to have Ken and Betty bring hands on rocks and polishing tools to the Festival. Set up at 1:00, event from 2:00-5:00, plenty of volunteers to aide.

Rose Sphere and Quartz Plate: Shari motioned and Linda seconded, all board in favor, of having the Donations committee handle what to do with these two donations.

**Other Items:**

Jon Mull: Would like other board members to be able and willing to check the club email. Mike and Shari will check the box.

Motion to adjourn made by Jon Mull, Kurt Brinks seconded, all board in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm



~ It's getting CLOSER ~

9/16 - 9/18 -  
TCGM



Polished Michigan  
Septaria, bought at  
Indian Mounds Show  
When I was 8 ...  
- Jon Mull



## Field Trips



### July 9-15 - New York w/ Peter Riemersma

This trip to New York will focus on trilobites, Herkimer quartz and a variety of New York Minerals (see table below). We'll spend most of Sunday at the Penn Dixie Fossil Park finding trilobites and then travel to Middleville NY to hunt for Herkimers for two days. After that, I was able to arrange for our local guide in 2015, Donnie Carlin, to take us on Wednesday to some new locations in the Gouverneur region. On Thursday we'll explore other locations that Donnie recommends or that field trip participants are interested in. The Barton Garnet Mine (North River, NY 12856) is another possible destination, perhaps on Friday, depending on individual schedules and desires.

If you are interested, please email Peter Riemersma **as soon as possible** at [riemersp@gvsu.edu](mailto:riemersp@gvsu.edu) to get access to the google doc with more details. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the June meeting. **This trip is coming up quickly!**

Date	Activity	Focus
Sat July 9	Travel day to Buffalo NY (425 miles)	travel
Sun July 10	<b>Penn Dixie Fossil Park</b> 4050 North St, Blasdell, NY 14219 Travel to Middleville NY (220 miles)	trilobites
Mon July 11	<b>Ace of Diamonds</b> Middleville NY	Herkimer
Tues July 12	<b>Herkimer Diamond Mines</b> <b>Crystal Grove Diamond Mine</b>	Herkimer
Wed July 13	<b>Gouverneur, NY</b> Guide: Donnie Carlin (from 2015)	Blue calcite, hexagonite, tremolite, fluor-uvite
Thur July 14	<b>Gouverneur, NY</b> Additional sites in area	
Fri July 15	Return Home	



Blue Calcite at the Valentine Wollastonite Mine (2015)



Looking for tremolite, diopside, & fluor-uvite in the NY woods at Pierrepont (2015)



Hunting for Herkimers is hard work! (2015)

## ***Kentucky Field Trip Report May 27-30, 2022***

When it comes to field trips, I like to squeeze in as many stops as I can. After Peter Riemersma told me about a crinoid location at Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, and seeing the geodes in the walls on the street view photos of Google maps, I decided we would try to take off early on May 27 and drive straight there to have a peek. We managed to get on the road about 7:15 on Friday morning (which was an accomplishment!) and got to the site about 3:30, after a strange GPS Bermuda triangle.



The roadcut on Hwy 127 lived up to the pictures with geodes still resting in the walls, showing off their hollow centers. However, it quickly became apparent that many of them were out of reach. After managing to find a way to access the level containing the geodes I did extract a couple. Many were solid quartz but also had a nearly solid calcite core with a pink or even greenish hue. The geodes also had a tendency to split in half evenly at the same time you would split the shale. The shale also spalled very easily and would make a satisfying sound as it clattered at the bottom of the wall. It was worth the stop, but not as productive as I hoped, and did not pass the “kid-meter” interest test.

We moved on to the Lily Creek boat launch, a site suggested by Peter. Satellite imagery shows a very exposed shoreline and he hoped that access to the southern face of that inlet would be possible. The water level has risen considerably since the image was taken and that access was just not there. I did find a few crinoids there and some geodes although mostly smaller ones. The picking was much like the ravines around Monroe Reservoir in Bloomington, IN. These geodes even look similar. Nearly all of them are very light though and when opened have an “eggshell” structure and very sugary quartz. We headed back north and found our hotel.

On Saturday morning our small group met up outside our hotel in Danville, KY. My sister, Lisa, and my nephew Redmond were at the hotel with us and one of our newer members, Brooke Ludema, and her son William joined us. Brooke also brought her cousin, Kim Collings, who happens to be a geologist and a Senior Environmental Scientist for the Kentucky Division of Oil and Gas. She was a welcome addition to our group and quite a treat to have a celebrity geologist with us! We headed out to the Halls gap location on Hwy 27. The roadcut there is one rather long and tall hill with very little shoulder. Having not been to the location in a number of years we turned east on to Hwy 1247 at the top of the hill and pulled into the parking lot of Fairview Baptist Church to have a quick pow wow about our next move. Sally Hoskins had mentioned there was a creek along that road that we could collect but I wasn't sure of its

location so I asked a local lady if she knew of a creek nearby. She offered to let me talk to her grandson who quickly suggested I just look for the “geo-rocks” in the cemetery by the church. Sometimes rocks come from very strange locations but this is definitely one of the most strange. It turns out that when they dig for a cemetery plot they are going right into the layer with the geodes and since they are not useful in refilling the hole, they get discarded all along the back edge of the cemetery. We did our best to be respectful of the “resting” locals but very happily filled our buckets with geodes. This site is adjacent to the Halls gap location and although I haven't found Millerite yet, I am hopeful and I haven't opened them all either!



It took a bit to clean off all the mud from our boots which was very similar to Arkansas “peanut butter.” These geodes have a very unusual rind that is dark maroon in color and some impressive interiors that show druzy botryoidal structures as well as some sugary quartz. We decided to move on to our first Green River location to hopefully cool off and clean off our boots!

A quick jog through the hillsides took us to river access off Hwy 698. There is a pull out where it appears an old road used to cross the river. You could easily see geodes littering the riverbed as we approached. The water level was reasonable and we were able to wander around with tall rubber boots. The kids had a great time playing in the water and we easily filled another bucket with geodes of various sizes. Once again, it felt very similar to collecting geodes in Indiana. The geodes have similar appearance and often collect in creek beds and ravines. We spent a couple of hours frolicking and collecting and decided to move on to our fossil destinations to the north. Brooke was combining her field trip with a visit with family so we parted ways and the “collective Mull family” continued to the Flemingsburg area to collect brachiopods and hopefully a “brain” (Solenopora) or two.

We stopped at a road cut farther south than our previous trip and found more of the spongelike Stromatoporoids with beautiful crystal vugs. I wished for a power washer on the side of the road for one embedded in the wall with a very nice cavity. Quite often it is best to leave those in place or risk destroying them on removal. Moving farther north on Hwy 11 we reached the familiar long road cut near the aggregate quarry. We quickly found the level where you can pick brachiopods like walnuts out of the wall. Lisa, Redmond, and I added a few to our collections. We chose to head to the hotel and save the Maysville cut for Sunday.



Sunday morning our first stop was on Hwy 11 just north of Hwy 9. This road cut is only 5 minutes from the hotel and we once again found a nice seam of brachiopods just waiting to be plucked. We also started to see more that were hollow and some sticking in the wall sheared off to reveal the crystals inside. We spent maybe an hour or so and I convinced my sister that I really needed to finally check out the road cut on Hwy 127 north of Georgetown, Ohio. We crossed the river and made the 20 minute drive stopping for water and snacks. Once we arrived we quickly found more brachiopods in the exposure but not much seemed to be different from the other sites. About 20 minutes into our search though, I picked up the biggest brachiopod I’ve ever found! Something this site is known for is large *Platystrophia ponderosa* brachiopods. The name was changed somewhat recently to “*Vinlandostrophia*” but I have become so accustomed to the original name it is hard to let it go. Quite often these fossils are also geodized and we came across several more still embedded in the walls. One had a very large pink calcite protruding from it. I had to leave that behind as well but I got a nice picture.



We retraced our route back to Maysville but crossed the river at Hwy 68 to briefly explore the massive road cut on both sides of the highway. This exposure is 5 or 6 tiers high and each tier is 15 to 20 feet. The amount of fossil material is quite overwhelming, but if you had a day or several to spend there you would likely find some amazing specimens. We got back on the road and I decided to stop one more spot along Hwy 9 before making my way to Wilder, KY. Our family went out for Mexican food for the second time on Sunday night and let the kids swim at the hotel. Monday morning we were headed home. We left Orphanage Rd and the Walmart parking lot for a future visit. It was great fun hanging out with my sister, getting to introduce Brooke and Will to the field trip experience, and meeting a professional geologist who just likes to go out and look for rocks. Thanks Kim! Hope everyone had a great time. Peace!

Your newsletter editor, *and sometimes field trip leader* - Jon Mull

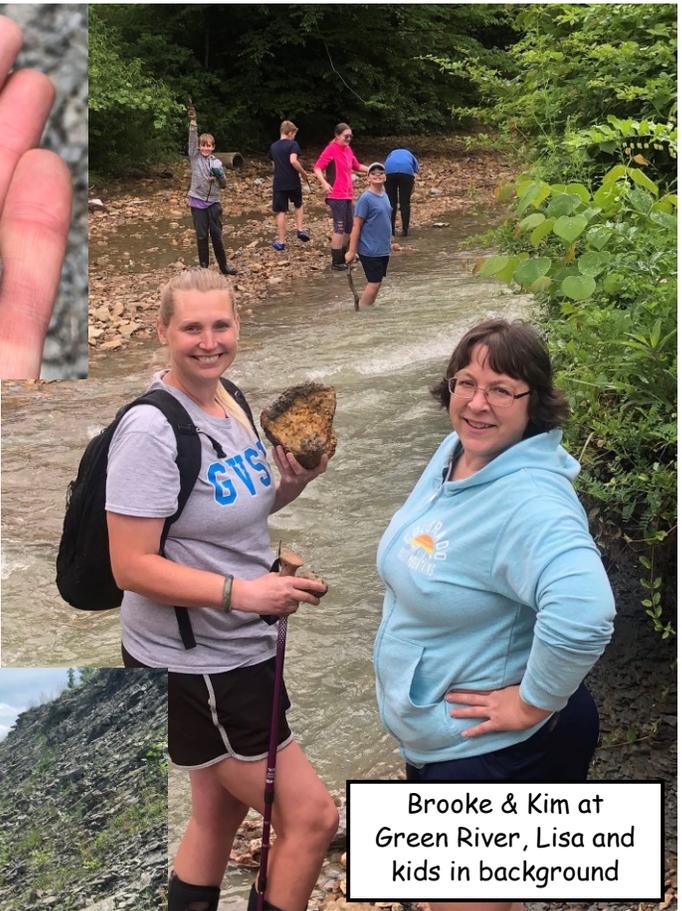
***more pics on next page***



Lake Cumberland Geodes



Georgetown



Brooke & Kim at Green River, Lisa and kids in background



"Cemetery" Geodes



Lisa & Redmond at Hwy 68 Roadcut



Maysville



Flemingsburg



Where's my Powerwasher !?

## One (or a few) more things...

### ~ A Great Honor ~

We recently learned that our last remaining founding member was given a very special gift in gratitude for his service. Bob Zigler served in World War 2 and was selected to take an honor flight to Washington, D.C. to visit several war memorials and be recognized for his contribution to protecting our freedoms. If you would like to learn more about this event search for Bob Zigler Fort Wayne World War 2 honor flight. There is a great picture of him with a mass of other veterans. We thank you, Bob for your service to our country, but also for your service to this club!

### ~ Annual Picnic ~

*Save the date*

**When:** July 23, 2022 - from 4 to 8 pm

**Where:** West Side County Park  
2152 Lakeshore Dr, Fennville, MI 49408

Ever tried panning for gold? Mike and Vickie are bringing us the opportunity to give it a try! They will have 15 bags with gold and sand in them, and teach you how to pan it out. Each bag will have \$20.00 of gold in them, and will cost \$20.00. They will also make up bags with copper and pyrite that you can try for free.

The picnic will start at 4:00. Hot Dogs/Brats and Lemonade will be provided. Please bring at least 1 side dish to share, 2 if you have more than 3 people. You can come early and do some rockhounding on the beach.

Sign ups for volunteering at the show will also be at the park, you can be the first to choose your times.



*Hope to see  
you there!*



**- Junior Page -**  
**FUN with FLUORESCENT ROCKS**

This evening is about making rocks change color. Kids can uncover new colors and patterns they can see by shining special flashlights at each specimen.

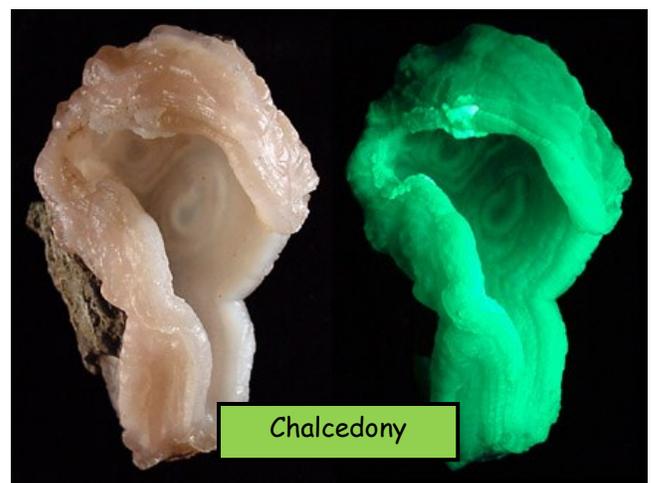
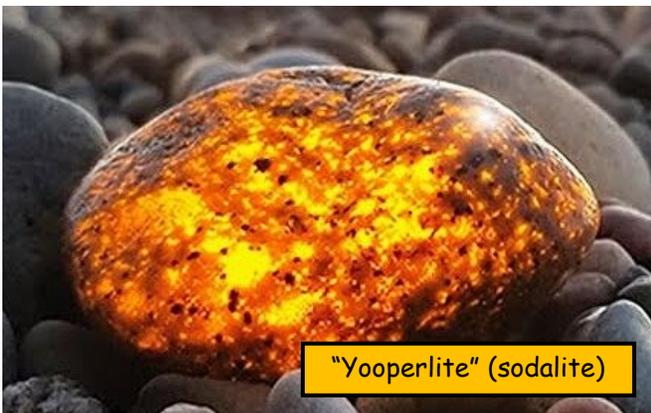
Junior Co-Chairperson Robin Kreun is bringing many Fluorescent Rocks from her large collection. She's lending UltraViolet (UV/black light) flashlights to all kids attending. Robin also has flashlights using even shorter UV wavelengths.

COLOR is light that a person sees, when it is reflected back to their eyes. Not all of the spectrum (range of light waves from the Sun) be seen by the naked eye. The rainbow illustrates all visible wavelengths, while the longest and shortest light waves are always present but invisible. On the purple side of the rainbow, UltraViolet light has short waves progressing to ever-shorter waves, which is why using a variety of UV flashlights is part of the experiment. Sometimes you can see the rock naturally, then in new color, then in even different color!

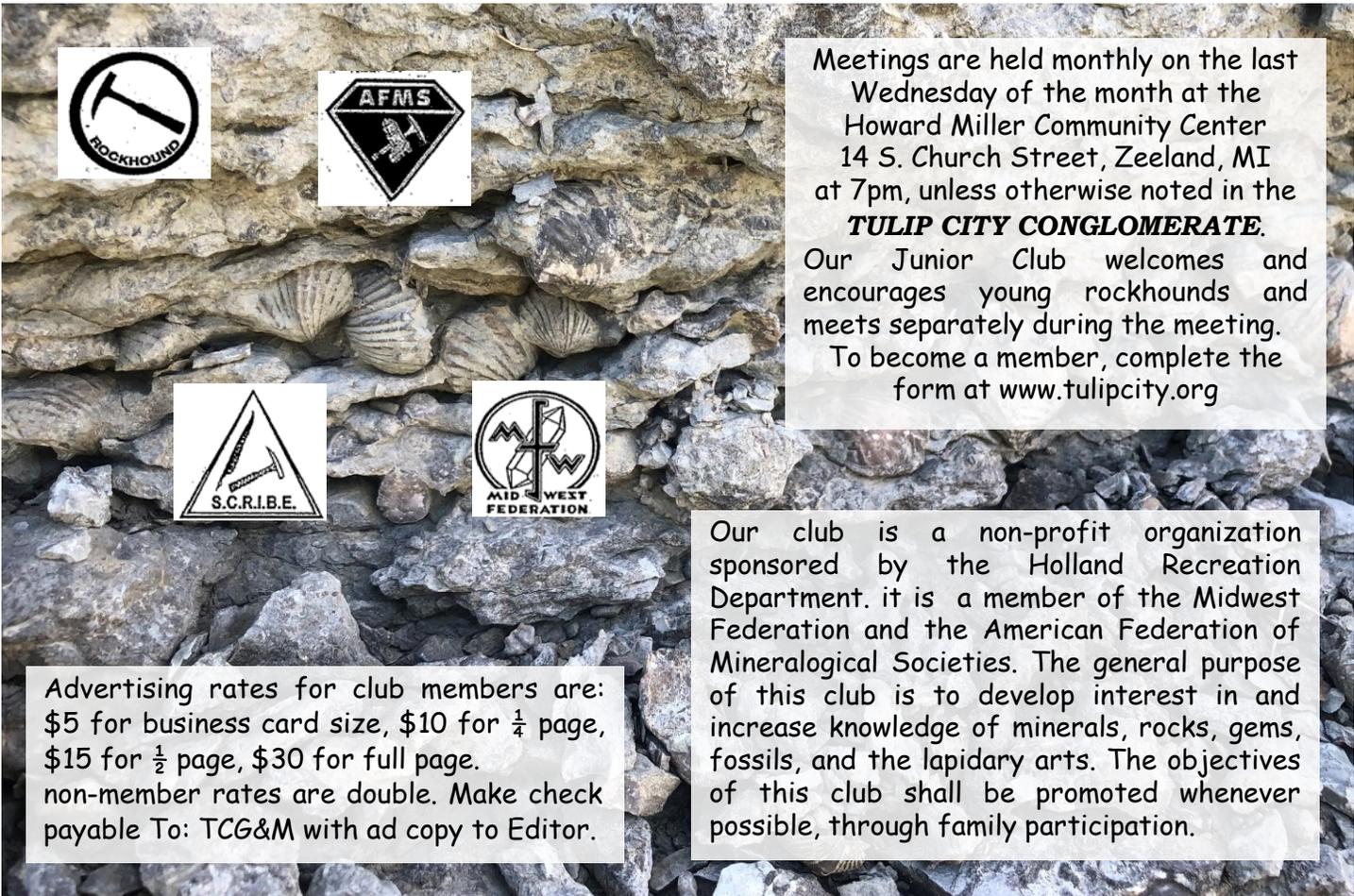
FLUORESCENCE is when a photon (piece of Sun's energy) is absorbed by an object, then re-released as a "light energy" that is seen as a color change – because it reflects on a different light wavelength.

In the case of Rocks, you see its minerals' colors in its natural state. When shining a special flashlight with an UltraViolet lightbulb at it, some of its minerals may react. It looks like Magic, but can assist with specimen identification!!

P.S. Kids will be milling around and testing the rocks with the flashlights, so they may wish to be masked.



*The Juniors will be using UV flashlights that will be available to purchase for \$10 later in our general meeting. Special thanks to Robin for providing the lights and specimens!*



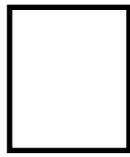
Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

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)

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.

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.

**Tulip City Conglomerate**  
Jon Mull, Editor  
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Background photo is Hwy 11 road cut at Maysville, KY