



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

August 2022

Volume 55, Edition 8

Ready... Set... SHOW !!!

~ and Ohio Flint ~

Our annual rock show is just around the corner! We encourage all members to sign up for shifts to work at the show, on September 16-18. The positions can be confusing, so we will explain what each position entails. We are a non profit organization, so to keep the club going, and to be able to provide scholarships to deserving students we need all hands on deck!

Our esteemed Field Trip coordinator, Dr Peter Riemersma, will give a short talk about Flint Ridge Flint. This Ohio State Gemstone has an amazing range of colors, and Native Americans have been using it to make arrowheads for 12,000 years. It also can be polished in a rock tumbler and made into beautiful jewelry. We will be showing examples of flint, and Peter will tell you about a fall Flint Ridge Knap in Ohio that you can attend if interested. We also will have a knapping kit to raffle off in our raffle.

*** If you have any samples of flint for other members to gaze at and enjoy, please bring them in. Also, last winter we had a rock tumbling work shop and many people bought flint to tumble – if you have some that would be a welcomed addition to show and tell.*





Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2022 TCG&M Board

President - Michael B. Larson
mblarson300@yahoo.com

Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen
sluttikh@oaisd.org

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Dir. at Large -
< OPEN >

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

8/24 Tulip City Show Committee Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

8/27 Tulip City Tailgate - Sat, 9am - 3pm - Walter's Gardens

1992 96th Ave, Zeeland, MI

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

9/9 500 Earth Sciences Club - Greater Indianapolis GMF Show

Hancock County 4H Fairgrounds, Greenfield, IN Fri / Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4

9/9 Toledo G&R Annual Show - Pratt Pavilion Wood Cty Fairgrounds

13800 West Poe Rd, Bowling Green, OH Fri 2-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

9/10 Grand Marais R&M Show - Grand Marais Community Center

E21738 Brazel St, Grand Marais, MI Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4

9/16 Tulip City ANNUAL SHOW - Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5

Soccer Stop—5 River Hills Dr, Holland, MI

9/24 Brown County RMC Annual Show - 4H Fairgrounds

802 Memorial Drive, Nashville, IN Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4

10/7 MI Mineralogical Society Show - Macomb CC Sports Center

14500 E 12 Mile Rd, Warren, MI Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5

10/12 Tulip City Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

10/19 Tulip City Show Committee Wrapup - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

10/26 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland



A little fun in the pan!

~ This month's "Mascot" ~
The masthead image is a 4" cluster of purple Fluorite from the historic southern Illinois mining district. It was purchased from an injured miner who supplemented his income by selling specimens given to him by his former co-workers. The crystals are backlit to show the beautiful zoning often found in Illinois Fluorite.

- Jon Mull

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Combined Board & General Meeting
Saturday July 23 - Club Picnic

Call to Order - 5:00 PM by Shari L.

Board members in attendance Mary J, CH F, Peter R, Rhonda G, Michelle B, Linda W, Shari L, Julia S, Michelle L, Tom D, Betty H, Kurt B, Teresa D

Business (abbreviated meeting due to picnic. Only items of immediate concern were discussed)

CH opened discussion about the tailgate. The dates needed to be changed from Aug. 20 to Aug. 27 due to conflicts. Discussion took place.

CH made a proposal that the date be changed from aug 20 to aug 27

Rhonda 2nd it - *Passed unanimously*

Fees were also discussed. \$10 fee for members \$15 fee for non-member No vote was taken on this.

Julia opened discussion on items that the club has out on loan

Big Red Lighthouse figure currently on loan at Michigan Welcome Center on I94 near Indiana border.

Quartz plate will be going to library

Loan contracts need to be updated with a renewal time table put in.

Julia made a proposal that a 5 year renewal be added to the contract.

Tom 2nd it - *Passed unanimously*

Bob started discussion on Club Paperwork and keeping certain documents safe. Who is doing this currently?

Record keeping, storage, ect. of items. This was tabled until later in date in Fall.

CH moved to adjourn

Michelle 2nd it - *Unanimously approved.*

Picnic General meeting

General meeting was called to order by Shari L at 5:30 pm.

It was explained that this was to be brief and to the point or the meat would burn.

Shari welcomed everyone to the picnic

Explained food

Explained Gold Panning w/ Mike

Explained and held Raffle

Walking stick - won by	Mike G	Polished Jasper - won by	Christina S
Thunder Egg - won by	Renee	Quartz points - won by	Michelle
Slag glass - won by	Christina S	Turritella slab - won by	Gary

Business:

Bob S talked about the upcoming field to the UP. He shared an itinerary and had handouts.

Chuck asked for clarification on members being dealers at our show. Discussion followed.

Linda W had show flyers and cards to take and pass out around the area.

Michelle B had sign-ups for the show activities

Tailgate was discussed

Food was ready and Shari adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm

Notes submitted by Board Secretary Teresa DeMol



Tulip City 2022 Picnic
West Side Cty Park





Field Trips



Fri 9/2 to Sun 9/4 - Flint Ridge Knap-In (OH)

Over Labor Day weekend is the Flint Ridge Knap-In where talented knappers make arrowheads out of flint. I went to this along time ago and it was amazing. I am planning on going again this weekend and thought I would see if anybody in the club was also interested. It looks like Nether's Farm is still available to collect Flint so we could include a stop there. I will probably drive down Friday and return Saturday.

Location: Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserve - Glenford, OH

Contact: Peter Riemersma (riemersp@gvsu.edu)

Sat 10/1 - Alpena, MI fossil collecting

Alpena is an excellent collecting location for petoskeys and other marine fossils. Rockport quarry is loaded with easily accessible specimens and there is a chance of being able to enter the LaFarge Quarry. This is a family friendly site as well

Contact: Peter Riemersma (riemersp@gvsu.edu)

Fri 10/21 to Mon 10/24 - Lake Cumberland, KY for fossils

It turns out Lake Cumberland's water level is artificially controlled and is lowered in the fall. We will make another attempt to find the crinoid reef on its shoreline. There are also geodes in the area which may become more available when the water is lowered. Travel on Friday, collect on Saturday and possibly Sunday and return on Monday.

Contact: Peter Riemersma (riemersp@gvsu.edu)

All of these trips will have sign ups at our August meeting. Please reach out to Peter if you are interested in any of these or get on the list at the meeting. Further details will follow after interest is determined.



Marquette Ore Docks



Quincy Mine Hoist

UP Field Trip Report - Aug 2022

By Mary Johnson

Over a dozen Tulip City and White River club members made their way over the Mackinac Bridge to the UP to take part in this year's official UP field trip! People stayed in different locations and arrived at different times, but came together at events, some meals and for excursions, and all had a great time!

I myself arrived Thursday evening, August 4, to join the Sherwoods in staying at the Wonderland Motel in Ishpeming for three nights. Friday morning, 8 Tulip City rockhounds met at the Wonderland and headed out for the Lindberg Quarry to collect Kona Dolomite. Suited up with our safety vests, hard hats and sturdy shoes, we went into the working quarry and collected beautiful Kona pieces in various sizes and colors. They weigh your car on the way in and again on the way out. In my case, there was a 200 pound difference. The cost? \$6.70!! What a bargain!

After a brief stop at a railroad crossing for taconite, the small iron pebbles that make it easier and more economical to ship iron ore (processed as taconite over the ore rock itself), we continued on to the Champion Mine to collect specular hematite in its various forms. Fortunately Bob knew the way, as there were absolutely no signs to point the way! Once we reached the two-track dirt road leading to the mine tailings, it was obvious where to go as the road glittered with the silver material. It was a very sunny day, and when we reached the actual tailings, it was shining so much it was almost blinding! There was the glittery variety and the micaceous version (much smoother, and looking more like mica). Some also included some bumps indicating small garnets!

Dinner that night was at an excellent Italian restaurant in Ishpeming called Mama Mia's. Definitely worth a stop if you are in town!

The Ishpeming show took place on Saturday. Lots of vendors, both inside and out, with a silent auction, too! Lots of interesting material to add to your collection. After lunch at Sherry's Restaurant, Bob again led 5 of us to another unmarked tailings pile, this one near the old Gold Ropes Mine, to collect Antique Verde, a green material with lines that looks much like marble and is referred to as serpentine. After parking, you have to walk about a half a mile to get to the hill. The day was very hot and humid, and even with a few dollies and carts it was hard work bringing our treasures out, but we will soon forget about that part and enjoy our rocks!

Saturday evening a Cracker Barrel session was held, with a talk by the current curator of the AE Seaman Museum on the history of that fine museum in Houghton which was enjoyed by 8 Tulip City members. There was also a live auction of donated items, and many fine specimens were auctioned off to benefit the Ishpeming club and their projects. A reminder was made by their vice president and field trip chair regarding following the rules and behavior on the field trips. She had had to kick several people out of the Republic Mine for rule violations, in order to not jeopardize the club's ability to go into the mine in the future. With as many mines that are being closed to field trips for liability issues, this is an excellent reminder for us all. Please follow the rules, so we and other clubs will continue to be able to collect in mines! If they say "no children under 12 or toddlers," please leave them with a sitter. If they say "wear your hard hat and safety vest," do. If they say "do not climb up on the rock piles," don't. Don't ruin it for all collectors in the future!

I did not go to the Republic Mine on the Ishpeming Club field trip, and learned later that individuals are not allowed in and that you MUST go in with an organized club field trip. You will want to keep that in mind if you have not been there yet, and would like to go and collect their lovely banded iron.

People scattered on Sunday, some to return home, others to go on to the Keweenaw Quincy Mine Swap and to take part in the copper mine collecting sponsored by the Seamon Museum and the Copper Country club show and some spent a few more days in the Ishpeming area. Before going on to the Copper Country show, I made a stop in Marquette and finally located the way up to Jasper Knob in Ishpeming (again totally unmarked)

~ continued next page ~

~ UP Field Trip continued ~

Who should I see but Michelle and Corey as well as 2 huge busloads of professional geologists who were attending a conference at Northern Michigan University! If you have not seen this hugest gemstone in the world (banded jasper), make a point to visit it when next in the UP! (But ask someone for directions.... :-)

I continued on to the Keweenaw, where I enjoyed several rock adventures and visited family in the area. Chuck also went to the Keweenaw, and took part in all four of the copper mine/tailings pile tours sponsored by the Seamon Museum and the Copper Country club. Do ask him how they went!

The Quincy Mine Hoist sale/swap was on Wednesday, and I talked a cousin and his wife into joining me and then going and doing some collecting on a Lake Superior beach. They were new to collecting, but we did find some agates! We had great fun, and who should we run into at the swap but those super collectors from Tulip City, Gary and Chris!

The Copper Country club show was Friday, Saturday and Sunday at an elementary school in Houghton. Arranged much like our show, but much smaller, I did see several repeat vendors from Ishpeming and the Quincy Hoist. One of the most fascinating areas was of course the silent auction, to see the materials that were common to the area and put out there. I only went on Friday, and saw only Tom and Teresa from Tulip City, so I don't know if others were able to make it. It was fun for a couple of hours, and the talk by the geology professor about common material in the area was very interesting. One thing they had that the kids were loving was a small wading pool with sawdust and straw and hidden copper/metal articles (pennies, magnetite, etc.) that they used a metal detector to find! Hmmm...

Not to be forgotten, I swung through Ironwood on the way home to visit another cousin for a night, and we went to Little Girl's Point to search for Yooperlites. Lots of purple lights and shadowy people walking along the beach, but I found about 10 smallish ones!! It was my first time out looking for them, and very exciting to see one glowing half buried by other rocks! They are hard to miss, they are so bright.

Another great field trip was enjoyed by all who attended! As many of the locations had no signage, it is very helpful to attend a field trip with those in the know, and as I said, individuals can not just go whenever to the Republic Mine.

Hope to see you on the next field trip!

Rock on! ~ Mary



Mary & Michelle
Jasper Knob



Marys newest "converts"
on the hunt for agates



The infamous "Lindberg" Gang



Jaspilite Cabochon



Bob & Julia at Champion



Kona Dolomite chunk and slab



Beautiful Marquette (Presque Isle I bet)



Is that Shari's Natural glow? Or the Champion mine tailings?

One (or a few) more things...

CLUB SHIRTS & CAPS FOR SALE - 2022

Pre-paid orders for Club Shirts will be taken at the General Meeting on August 31, 2022. Please bring cash or checks to the meeting. Due to shipping conditions, only the Tee shirt will be available as NO polo shirts are to be had anywhere from our shirt supplier/printer. Shirts will be available for you on Thursday, September 17 so you can wear them at this year's Show.



Wearing a club shirt during the show will make members stand out for easier visitor identification as well as being easily spotted across the room by other club members

Sizes and Prices:

Shirt: SM to XL=\$9.50, 2X/3X=\$11.50, 4X/5X=\$12.50

Caps have adjustable closure. \$14.00 each

Julia Sherwood



SHOW DISPLAY CASES

Sign up for a display case at the August meeting or call me at home to reserve a case to show off some of the specimens you have collected. You may choose almost any focus for your display as all rocks are "Earth's Antiques".

We have the following case sizes available:

Pony case - 48" wide x 24" deep x 24" high

Flat case - 24" wide x 30" deep x 5" - 8" tapered height and a glass lid

There are 52 cases available, so all members are invited to sign up for a display, especially the Junior members, who can let all young visitors know that kids can enjoy the hobby of collecting as much as the adults.

Some hints for a good display:

- Include a legible label for each specimen – the type of rock and where it came from.
- Include your name and the theme of the case (Fossils, Field Trip findings, Quartz, etc.)
- Include a liner for the case.
- Set up the display at home and take a photo to make it easier to recreate at the show.
- Clean the glass front - bring cleaner and towels
- Lock your case - a very small padlock or key lock

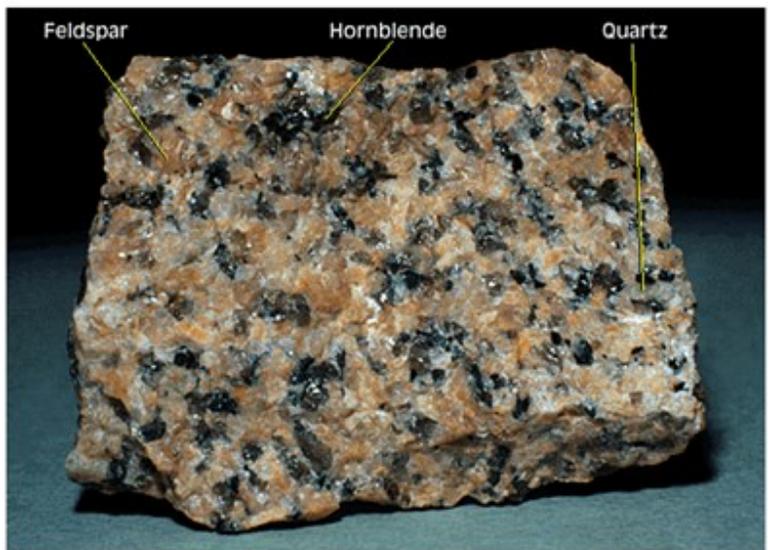
Remember that one of the goals of our club is to educate others about our hobby as well as each other. Think about what you want to show off and be in touch - at the August meeting, by phone or email

Julia Sherwood - Displays Chair
269-227-3202 bobandjulia@accn.org

What the Heck is Hornblende?

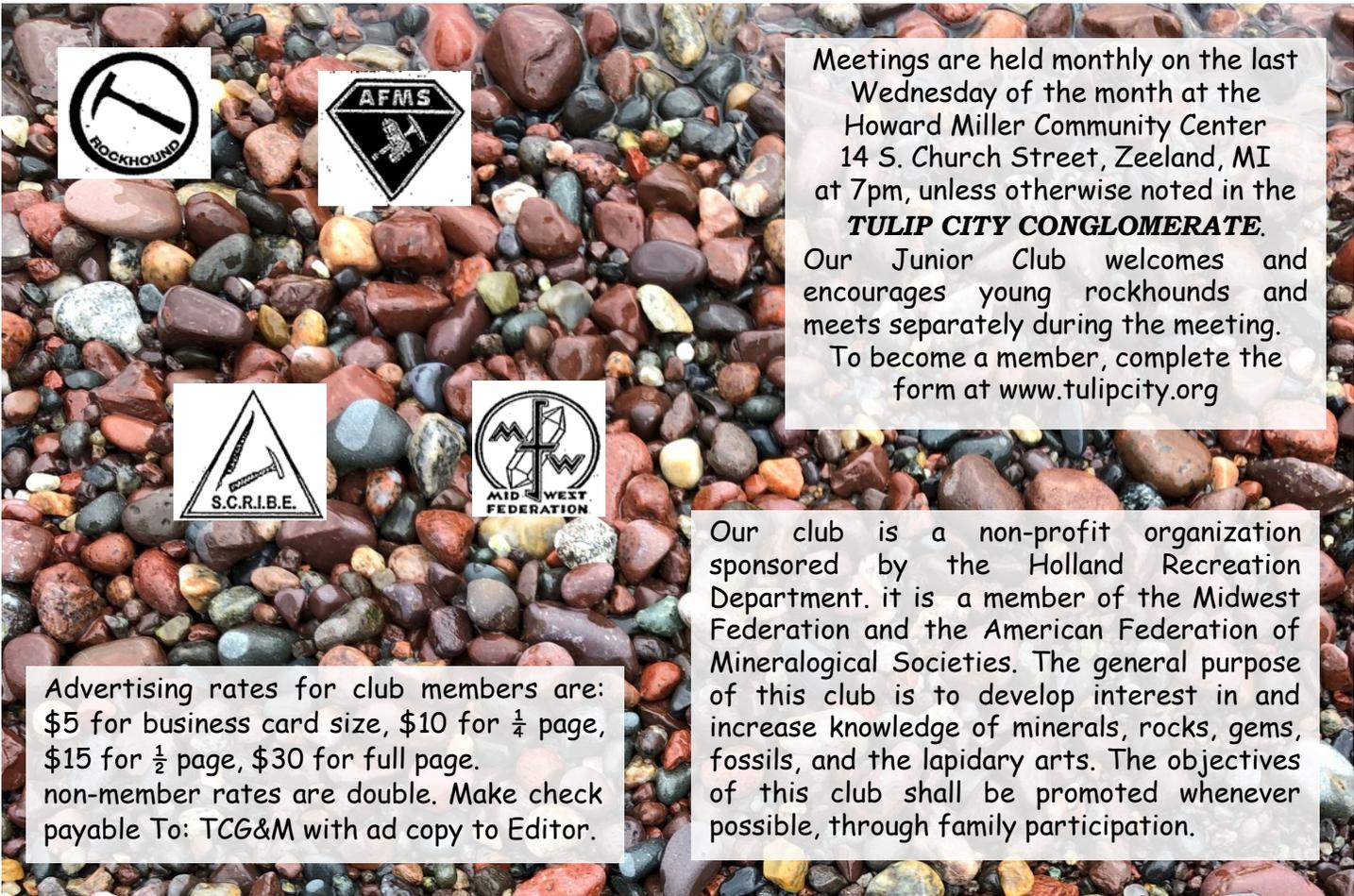
“HORNBLLENDE” is a general term for dark minerals (amphiboles) that cannot be easily identified in the field. Laboratory equipment is necessary as the series is chemically complex.

At the August meeting, kids can hold large Hornblende Crystals and see their shape. We'll also look at smaller Hornblende crystals in igneous Granite and metamorphic Gneiss, Schist and Marble. Kids will examine various specimens and make an informed guess: Is the dark mineral a flaky, black Biotite Mica crystal? OR Is it a long, black Hornblende crystal?



The Juniors will also be offered an opportunity to reserve a case for our upcoming show. They may brainstorm ideas for what items to put in a case with the theme “Earth’s Antiques.” Juniors have put together some very interesting cases in the past and it will be exciting to see what they come up with next!

Juniors will take home nice Hornblende crystals that were gifted by Sally & John Hoskins, Jackson Club: Michigan Gem & Mineral Society.

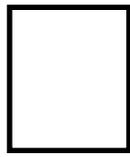


Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**. Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become 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
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Background photo is the beach at McLain St. Park