



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

CONGLOMERATE

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

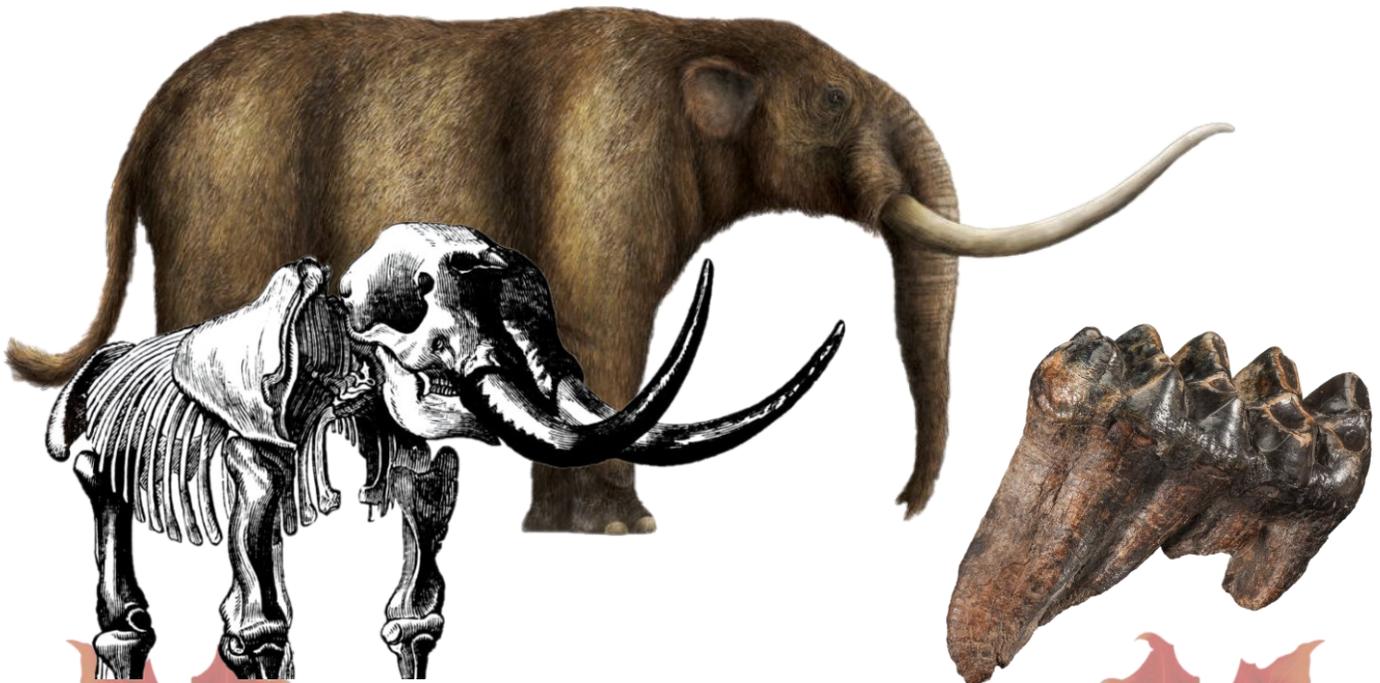
Website: www.tulipcity.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub

October 2022

Volume 55, Edition 9

Meet Michigan's State Fossil - The Mastodon!

This month we welcome all members, young and old to a presentation on our State Fossil: The Mastodon. Dr. Ralph Stearley, Professor Emeritus from Calvin University, was in charge of digging up the Ada Bible Church Mastodon near Cascade Michigan in 1999. Come to our meeting to find out about this dig and some of his other adventures, and learn more about this elephant-like creature, and why the Mastodon is our State Fossil and not the Mammoth. There will be Door Prizes, Raffles and lots of fun.



FYI: Our General Meeting on November 16 will be a Silent Auction.

(Note date change.... Due to Thanksgiving)

You can find the bid slips on our website (www.tulipcity.org).

Please be sure you have Silent Auction slips, not Marketplace slips.

More about this in the next Conglomerate



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 -
< OPEN >

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

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

11/2 Tulip City Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

11/5 Mid Michigan RC Annual Show - Chippewa Nature Center

400 S Badour Rd, Midland, MI Sat 10-5, Sun 11-6

11/12 Northwest Illinois RC Annual Show - Eagle's Club #679

1200 W Galena Ave, Freeport, IL Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

11/16 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

11/19 Madison GMC Annual Show - Alliant Energy Center Ex Hall

1919 Energy Ctr Way, Madison, WI Sat 10:30-6, Sun 11-6

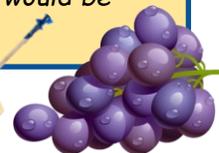
12/7 Tulip City Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

12/21 Tulip City General Meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

We have plenty of packaged snacks left over from our show so we shouldn't need any chips or crackers for the next couple months. However, if you like fresh items at our general meetings, feel free to bring something "naturally" packaged, like a clementine, or perhaps little cups of grapes, or cubes of cheese! Any fresh item you'd like to share would be appreciated. Thanks!



Crinoid "Hash"
KY near Ohio border



~ This month's "Mascot" ~
The masthead image is a 3.5" long geodized crinoid calyx found in Little Salt Creek, Lawrence County, IN. Creeks in the Bloomington area of Indiana quite often contain geodes and crinoid pieces. This particular creek has geodized parts of crinoids as well. If you attend one of our field trips in the future you may find one of your own! - Jon Mull

Event details can be found on the Midwest Federation Site - www.mwfed.org/calendar

It's time to do your civic duty... at the hobby level.

Slate of officers for 2023

<i>Position</i>	<i>Current Chair</i>	<i>2023 Nominee</i>
President	Mike Larson	* C.H. Falstad
VP / Programs	Shari Luttikhuizen	< OPEN >
Secretary	Teresa DeMol	Teresa DeMol
Treasurer	Kurt Brinks	Kurt Brinks
Field Trips	Peter Riemersma	* Gary Katt
Historian	Betty Hoekstra	Betty Hoekstra
Junior Club	Linda Winkleman	* Shari Luttikhuizen
Liaison	Mary Johnson	Mary Johnson
Membership	Rhonda Gehringer	Rhonda Gehringer
Newsletter Editor	Jon Mull	Jon Mull
Show Coordinator	Michelle B / Sue G	Michelle Bennett
Social Coordinator	Michelle Lanting	Michelle Lanting
Social Media	Julia Sherwood	< OPEN >
Director at Large	Tom DeMol	Tom DeMol
Director at Large	Margarette Fochtman	* Aaron Nelson
Past President	C.H. Falstad	* Mike Larson

* Denotes a new person serving in that role

Nominating Committee	Email Address
Brenda Olson	brendaolson01@gmail.com
C.H. Falstad	cfalstad3@gmail.com
Mike Graebner	mgraebner@hotmail.com
Rhonda Gehringer	rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

What you see above is the group of people willing to commit their personal time and energy to making this club an enjoyable experience for the full membership. They are your ears, and your voice. They have a great deal of love for this club and will work hard towards it's continued vibrancy. You may notice there are vacancies. If you feel you could fill one of these roles or just want to know what is involved, PLEASE don't hesitate to reach out to one of the nominating committee members. We need you too! The slate will be finalized and voting will take place in November. Officers will be installed in December. This could be your year to help shape this club into something you can be proud of. Thank you!

Most of this newsletter will be dedicated to the wrap of our annual show. Here is a special thank you from our Vice President and Program Coordinator.

Putting on a successful show is like raising a child - it takes a village! I want to thank all our members who donated snacks, helped out by working in different areas, reported in and filled in wherever I asked them to. I also want to thank the demonstrators who shared their talents with other members and the public. The set up crew and tear down crew deserve a special round of applause, for bringing in their energy and good spirits when the rest of us were flagging.

Kurt Brinks deserves a special honor for being at the show from set up to tear down, then went home to balance out the books, and write a pile of checks.

We could not have pulled this off without the show committee, who committed to be in charge of their areas, and many of them were there the whole weekend making sure things went well.

The biggest round of applause goes to Michelle Bennett and Sue Goedert, who were working on the show for a whole year, and tackled this huge job with smiles, dignity and grace.

I am so proud to be a part of this Rock and Mineral Club!

Shari Luttkhuizen

*Thank
you* 



Field Trips



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.

Update: We now have several locations to check out at both Lake Cumberland in KY & Dale Hollow in TN. There will be people collecting during the afternoon on Friday and also on Sunday and perhaps Monday on the return trip. We will be staying mostly as a group at an AirBnB near Dale Hollow on Friday and Saturday nights. Please reach out to Peter for final details if you are hoping to catch up with us on the road.

Contact: Peter Riemersma (riemersp@gvsu.edu)



Through the united efforts of our show chairs and committee, energized members, our dealers and all manner of volunteers around our club we have produced another fabulous rock and mineral show to share our hobby with the community and raise funds for another round of scholarships for GVSU and Hope College in April. Congratulations to everyone who gave their time and energy to make our show a success !! To our co-chairs Michelle and Sue, a standing ovation! Sue despite your personal health challenges and Michelle having just joined the club and stepping right in, we can not thank you enough. Kurt and Shari, you kept the machine running from tip to tail. To all the committee members from club sales to market place, displays and kids games, ticket booth and information table, all the way to the tear down crews. You have the heartfelt thanks of the entire board, and the general membership. I know I am already looking forward to next year!

The official wrap meeting is Wed, Oct. 19th, 7pm at the Zeeland Library. Attend if you wish to thank anyone personally, express an interest in helping next year, or just listen. The next few pages have photos from the show and a few stories shared by our members. Enjoy the content and Rock on!



Our ticket table was plenty busy this year. We had over 2200 paid visitors, 730 of which were students. Almost 1500 guests attended for free. 27 new families / members joined at our show!



The information table made sure to provide membership forms and answer any questions guests may have.



FREE
ROCKS



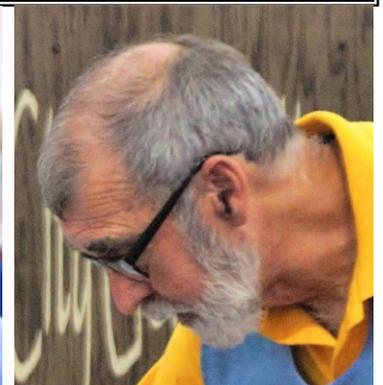
Kids games gave out over 1200 prizes, reducing their inventory by 50%. The Mantooth and Mull clans brought smiles to a lot of kids faces!

Club sales had a goal to reduce and better identify our inventory, which they accomplished! Totes are stacked 2 high instead of 3 in the trailer. Club sales has been doing very well the last few years thanks to the excellent donations made by club members.

Many thanks !!



Bob Sinke had an amusing experience! *“During our show I am often asked by patrons to identify rocks and minerals that they have “found”. I suspect it is not because of some great ability or wisdom they think I possess but because I am willing to offer a “guess”. I seem to be the person that has been appointed this task during our show. One person wanted to know what the fluorescent blue mineral was that they had found on “upperlites”. I said that it was dust and that it could be blown or washed off. This person seemed unconvinced and left the club sales area, only to shortly return and tell me they hated it when I was right! Rarely happens (that I’m correct). The next morning on the table I found a large styrofoam package addressed to Mr. Bob Sinke - for all your help. Thinking the obvious I asked many members why I had gotten the package and all of them denied any involvement. So I opened the package and found (see picture). It made my day and has continued to do so. It came from a fellow club member who I now have identified and if you ask me I might divulge their name. What fun and enjoyment is had at our show!”*

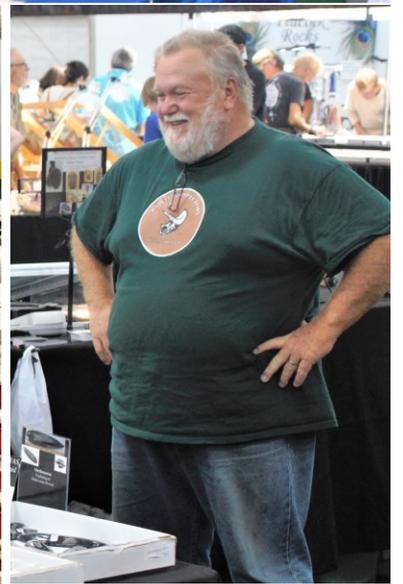


SO MUCH to look at !

The market place moved 1100 items this year. It's about 70 items less than last year but \$700 more in value. That translates into direct support for our hobby and the scholarships we provide!



Happy Dealers !





Many thanks to our large group of demonstrators this year. I saw some new faces here and also saw a few crowds in the area over the weekend. What a great outreach!



WOW!



Here's a really nice show story from Elly Luttikhuizen...

I was demonstrating at the show on Saturday, when this young boy approached me, looking for something for his 4 year old sister. He looked around, pointing at everything pink, then his sister bounced up to my table with her Mom in tow. Her Mom asked if I had anything made of opal, and I pointed out that I had pink opal bracelets. The Mom got excited and showed it to her daughter, but the little girl was disappointed and said she wanted a necklace. I told her if she came back in 20 minutes, I would make it into a necklace for her. She beamed, and danced away. Her Dad was so appreciative, he handed me more than the bracelet was worth and wouldn't take any change. 20 minutes later they were back, and the young girl was delighted! As they continued shopping, her Dad came back to my booth 3 times to thank me, and said that I really made their day.

---Elly van Luttikhuizen, Demonstrator



Just One more thing...

Petoskey Polishing with Ottawa County Parks

Back on August 27 Deb and Rick Smith teamed up with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation to present a program on Petoskey stones and Petoskey stone polishing. George Jaeger, Program Lead for Outdoor Education with Ottawa County Parks, provided a 30-minute informational presentation on the history and geology of Petoskey stones to over 50 people, after which Deb and Rick led a 40 minute "craft session" where the pre-registered participants got to polish a Petoskey stone. This marks the fourth time Ottawa County Parks and Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club have collaborated on a program like this. It's a great opportunity for us to reach out to some new potential rockhounds and, with the late August program date, a great opportunity to promote our annual Show.

Rick and Deb Smith



Crinoids: Ancient “Flowers” of the Sea.

Crinoids were marine animals that looked a lot like flowers when you can find a complete fossil. Crinoids were most abundant during earth’s pre-Permian times. Museums have good examples (see pictures), but collectors usually find parts along the beaches: stems, disks, cups or crowns. You can also see living Crinoids in today’s oceans, but far fewer species (some free floating, i.e. no stems).

Millions of years ago, there were VAST areas of warm, salty seas with “underwater crinoid meadows”. Those animals anchored themselves to the sea bottom, grew stalks, and had calyx (cup-like) crowns with five arms that caught their food as it drifted past. Some species were tall, some short...



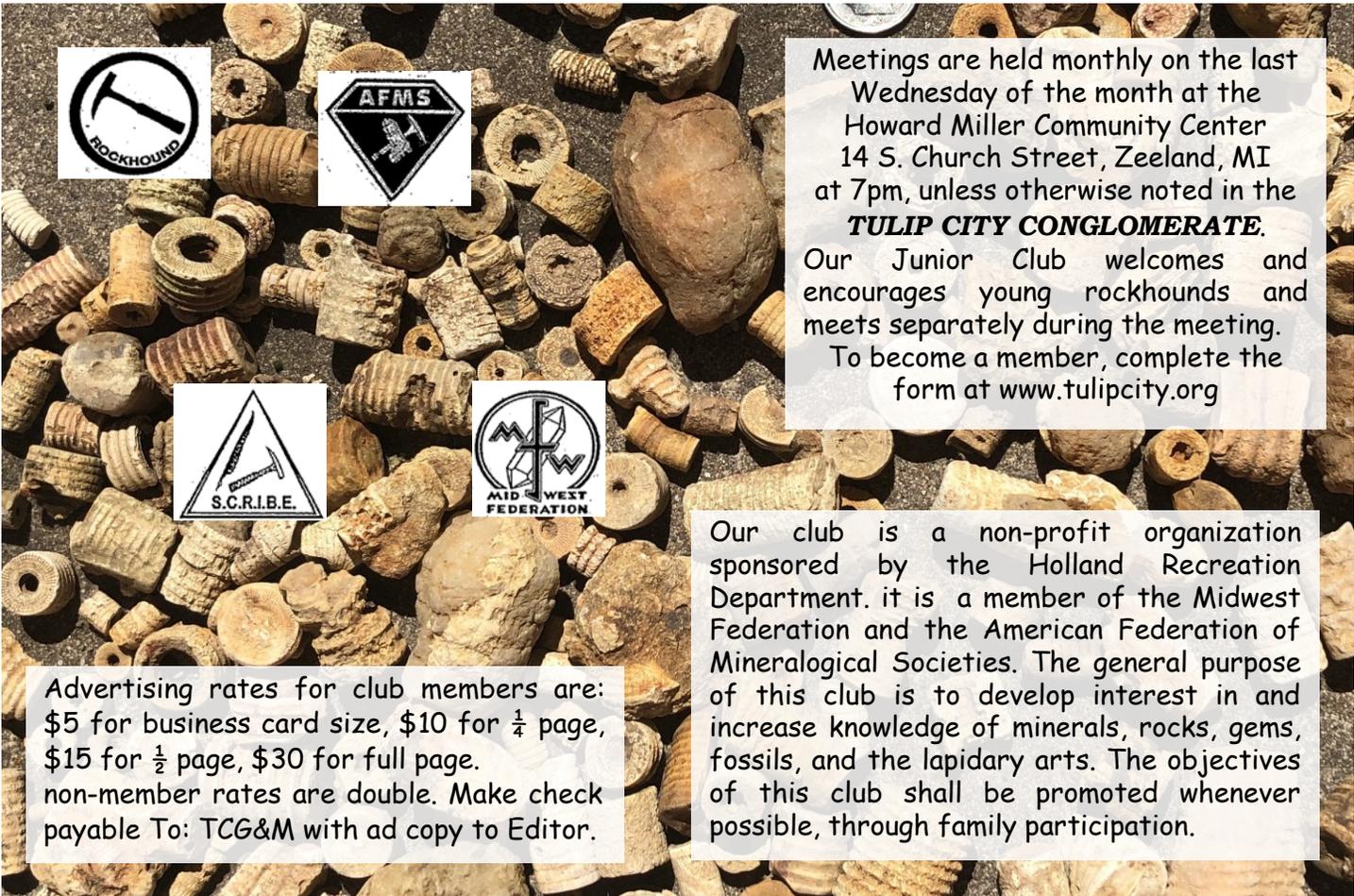
many varieties. It must have been beautiful to see the “feathery and flower-like animals” swaying in underwater currents! After they died, their hard parts became part of the seabed and fossilized in sediments that became limestone, siltstone or shale. Later, dinosaurs came and went; glaciers came and went. The younger layers of earth’s sediments were scraped away by the glaciers, exposing chunks of ancient “Fossil Hash” and “fossil coins” for YOU to find on your beach walks.



At the Junior meeting, we will see and touch Crinoid examples. We’ll learn what people from earlier times did with (and named) the fossil parts that they found. Crinoids are truly one of “Earth’s Antiques”!



Juniors will take home large pieces of crinoid stems from the Kentucky/Tennessee border that were gifted by new member, Ken Hoesch at our Show. Don't miss it!



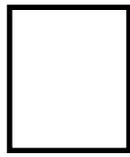
Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

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 crinoid pieces from Little Salt Creek, IN