



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

October 2023

Volume 56, Edition 9

### ! Silent Auction !

This first General Meeting after the Show has often been a Silent Auction so we are continuing the tradition. During the Show, many members are working without stop and have little chance to see what other members are sharing through sales. On October 25, any member may bring up to 20 items for the Silent Auction. We will have many tables available on which to display your items as we are opening the entire room for this evening.

Special Silent Auction slips are printable by clicking on the links below. Be sure to write your "seller" name at the bottom of the slip. Sales are payable by cash or check only, directly to the seller. Don't forget to bring small bills and change, especially sellers. We'll be closing tables in small groups periodically throughout the bidding, starting soon after refreshment time ends.

Note that there will be a separate table for items on which only JUNIOR members may place a bid. In addition, to give the Club a "piece of the action", any member who wishes may put CLUB on the "SELLER" line so proceeds will go to the Club. Kurt Brinks, Treasurer, will collect funds due to the CLUB.

Here's a chance to start your Holiday shopping early! Besides bidding on special member offerings, this evening has plenty of time to mingle and talk. Come enjoy the fun, while you expand your collection. Links to auction slips on our website are below

[Adult Slips](#)

[Junior Slips](#)



#### NO Monthly Contest

Since we will be having one of our classic silent auctions we will forgo the color contest this month.



# 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 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 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

**10/25 Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

**10/28 Akron & Summit** - Semi-Annual Show - Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5

*Emidio & Sons Banquet Center, 48 E Bath Rd. Cuyahoga Falls, OH*

**11/04 Mid Michigan RC** - Annual Show - Sat. 10-5, Sun 11-6

*Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd, Midland, MI*

**11/11 Northwest Illinois RC** - Annual Show - Sat. 10-6, Sun 11-5

*Freeport Eagles Club, 1200 W Galena Ave, Freeport, IL*

**11/15 Tulip City** Board meeting - Wed, 7pm

*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

**11/17 St. Louis MGS** - Annual Show - Fri 4-8, Sat. 11-8, Sun 11-6

*Affton White-Rodgers Com Cen, 9801 MacKenzie Rd, Affton, MO*

**11/29 Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

**12/06 Tulip City** Board meeting - Wed, 7pm

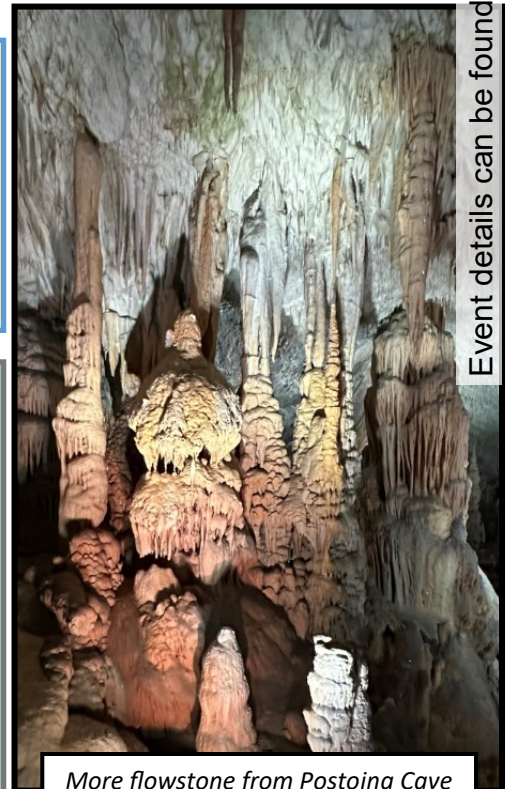
*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

**12/20 Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

*Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

It looks like the 2023 show season is just about over, but there are a few left out there. Maybe you could find some Christmas gifts for your favorite Rock Hound!

~ Masthead "Mascot" ~  
The image this month is a section of flowstone formations from Postojna Cave in Slovenia. I was told about the cave by Mary Johnson, our Liaison. You should ask her about her recent trip! ;)



More flowstone from Postojna Cave  
By Mary Johnson



## Field Trips



### **Our field trip season is winding down...**

Thank you SO much to Gary Katt for the wonderful field trips he both led and arranged. He may have one more basement field trip for the winter still up his sleeve so keep your eyes peeled. Make sure you thank him for his contributions to our club when you see him!

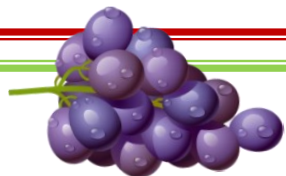
## **Yearly Board Election**

### **It's that time of year again...**

The nominating committee, comprised of Jon Mull, Alex Vanderski, and Mike Larson, have put together a ballot for the 2024 Tulip City board positions. We currently have at least one person willing to carry out the duties for each of our positions. They are as follows:

<b>President</b>	<i>C.H. Falstad</i>	<b>Membership</b>	<i>Rhonda Gehringer</i>
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	<i>Bill McDonald</i>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<i>Jodi Miller</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Alex Vanderski</i>	<b>Webmaster</b>	<i>Aaron Nelson</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Kurt Brinks</i>	<b>Show Co-Chairs</b>	<i>Teresa Demol &amp; CJ Proos</i>
<b>Field Trips</b>	<i>Jon Mull</i>	<b>Social Coordinator</b>	<i>Michelle Lanting</i>
<b>Historian</b>	<i>Betty Hoekstra</i>	<b>Director at large</b>	<i>Gary Katt</i>
<b>Juniors</b>	<i>Shari Luttikhuizen</i>	<b>Director at large</b>	<i>Patsy Williamson</i>
<b>Liaison</b>	<i>Mary Johnson</i>	<b>Past President</b>	<i>Mike Larson</i>

If you see any of these folks, please take a minute to say hi, and thank them for their service to the club. Please also remember if you would like to be considered for a position on the board you will need to reach out to Jon, Alex, or Mike at or before the general meeting in October. If there is no change to the ballot these officers could be voted in at our October meeting. If you are on the list, we thank you deeply for your willingness to share your time and energy!



## **! CALLING ALL SNACKS !**

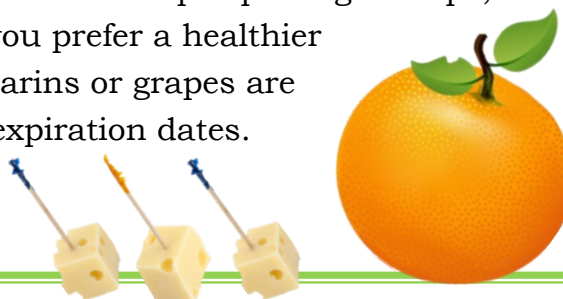


### **The show wiped us out!**

Our Social Coordinator, Michelle Lanting, is asking once again for us to pitch in for snacks. I'm sure we all had our fill of treats while working the show and it basically eliminated any stock pile we had. Feel free to bring your favorite pre-packaged chips, crackers, nuts, or bars to our meeting in October. If you prefer a healthier snack then cheese sticks, or cubes or fruits like mandarins or grapes are great additions. Make sure as always to check those expiration dates.

If you want to bake something fresh, even better!

Thank you in advance!



## WOW, WHAT a SHOW!

Am I right?! While I have spent many years attending the show, this was my first time volunteering at the show. I jumped directly into the deep end and agreed to co-chair! I wondered how it was possible to get it all done. My fears were quickly dissolved as Shari proved to be a fantastic mentor. Over many plates of pancakes the details, locations, publicity, and everything else came together.

Now some may think this show was just like shows of years past, but that is not so. A few things stayed the same, our venue, our beautiful member displays, our talented and creative demonstrators, and our thriving marketplace. However, there were also some noticeable changes that debuted at our show. For example, were you aware that in our Glow Tent there was a brand new black light? It cycles through the wavelengths to show off our fluorescent rocks to their best advantage. Then it turns itself off to save electricity - so cool! Thank you Dan and CH for making those much needed improvements.

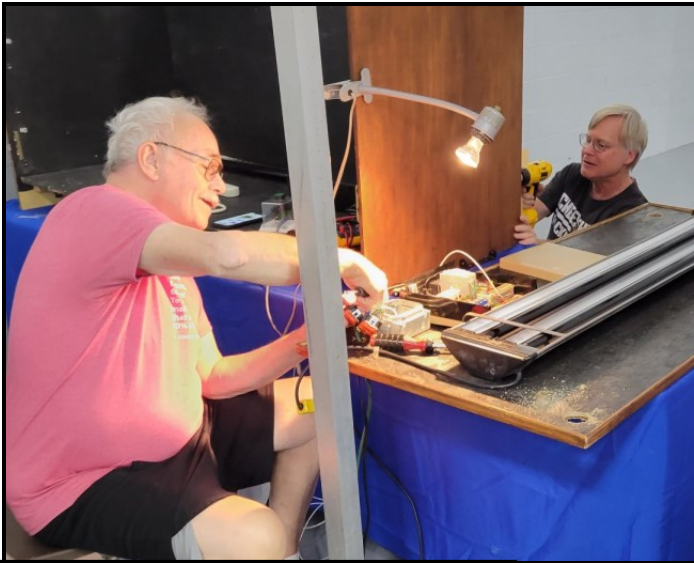
Due to the work of a brilliant electrician (Shout out to Chuck Parks!) we had a new plan for our cords and plugs. This new plan made it possible for us to go through the whole show with no power drops! In addition a new layout of fans helped keep us cool, with a little help from the weather. Our vendors were thrilled with these improvements as were we!

Then there were the geodes. Wow, what can be said? At the last minute some of our members went out and collected hundreds (thank you C.H., Bob Sinke, Alex, and Aaron) and we sold every last one of them! Geode Jon's cracking station was an instant hit. Our guests loved watching them crack right in front of them, with many buying one geode getting it cracked and immediately going back to buy more! Jon cracked over 550 geodes through the course of the weekend, and let's be honest Jon loved every minute of it. Thanks to all who stepped in to help crack when the lines started forming!

Finally we are beyond excited to report that this show was record breaking in a number of ways. The first is that this show had more visitors than any on record! Over 3000 people spent their weekend perusing the show. In addition, approximately 50+ new members signed up at the show - also a new record! Lastly, our success will allow us to provide excellent scholarships to GVSU and Hope in 2024. We have you to thank! The hard work of all of the volunteers and members who contributed be it samples, snacks, or time. Thank you to you all and hope to see you at next year's show.

*Sincerely submitted by Rebecca Siegel*









### ~ Show Wrap President's Message ~

Fall is typically a time to think about harvest, and with our Annual Show just behind us, the sentiment could not be more appropriate. We had a great show. Many thanks to Shari and Becky for jumping in as co-chairs and doing such a great job. But they didn't do it all by themselves. It seems like there were hundreds of people who helped, but it was probably just that everyone was so busy jumping in to pitch in at so many levels, doing so many projects. We had great committee of people with all their assistants.

I took a few pics at the show. Most of these seemed to be of the proud owners of their new geodes, but one of my favorite shots was when the Soccer Stop was nearly empty Sunday evening and the team of people meticulously vacuuming all the miscellaneous material we left behind on the playing floor. Those were the last of the diehard cleaning crew we couldn't have been nearly as successful without them. But there was also the set-up crew and ALL you others in between.

I hope you were in that group having fun helping at the show. If not, don't miss out next year.

For all our new members who joined at the show. I hope to see you at our upcoming meetings and field trips and get to know you better. Let's ROCK!

C.H. Falstad

## ~ Alpena Field Trip ~

Six intrepid adventurers braved the sunny skies and warm weather of the Alpena area on Friday September 29th, and Saturday September 30th to collect fossils.

On Friday afternoon, three club members visited the Holcim quarry. This quarry was formerly known as the Lafarge quarry and is one of the largest cement quarries in North America. The field trips can no longer go down into the quarry pit itself, however, Holcim has a designated area where they bring samples to where field trip members can then collect at. One of the highlights of the trip, besides the fossils, was that we were able to observe some blasting that occurred in the quarry itself. We had a nice birds eye view of the quarry wall as the explosives went off. A spectacular sight to see!



On Saturday, three more club members showed up to the Rockport State Recreational Area where we collected both in the quarry and at the beach nearby. Several nice specimens were found.



## ~ Keokuk Geode field trip ~

Over Labor day weekend a handful of Tulip City members made their way to Keokuk, Iowa to look for geodes. I was joined by my sister Lisa and nephew Redmond on Friday as well as Rick & Deb Smith, and Michelle and Corey Lanting. We spent a couple hours at Vickers, on Railroad Creek with fair returns and tried out a place called Bear Creek with minimal success but ended up within range of a somewhat famous winery (for some of us) before heading back to Keokuk.



Saturday morning we were joined by my brother-in-law, Kurt and his children Percy and Davidson (new members) as well as the Beard Family. We spent the first part of the day collecting at Tipton's (another section of Railroad Creek) and then found a park in Keokuk and took some time to "crack a few" with very enjoyable results. After lunch, we headed out to check out a section of the Fox River in Missouri. On Sunday we stopped in at Jacob's Geodes to see the sad reality of a location that is nearly "dug out." Personally, I will very much miss this long time collecting spot. All in all, I think everyone had a great time and had safe travels home.



## ~ MWF Convention Report 2023 ~

Greetings, fellow rock hounds and members of both our local clubs and, through them, the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies! I recently attended the annual MWF Convention, held this year in Howell, Michigan, in conjunction with the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society's annual show, as Liaison and Delegate for the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club, and would like to update you on some of the discussions and happenings. There will be a more detailed report in the next MWF newsletter by the official secretary.

First, the MWF has 103 member clubs over the 11 states plus 3 Arkansas clubs it covers. Bylaws state we must have 10% of clubs represented by a delegate or alternate in order to have a quorum and conduct business. One person can not represent more than one club, even if they are members of more than one (I did ask). We just made it, with 10 delegates in attendance! To help solve this problem, there was an official proposal presented to allow Zoom attendance to count. It is now in the process for official approval.

Three Tulip City members were honored at the evening banquet, Aaron Nelson and Bob and Julia Sherwood. Aaron, Tulip City's webmaster, won First Place in the MWF website competition and Honorable Mention in the American Federation competition. Bob and Julia Sherwood were honored for all their many years of service in various roles by being nominated and voted as the MWF Scholarship Honorees to select the school and students from it to be awarded the American Federation's \$4,000 scholarships. Two female students from GVSU who are now on to graduate schools were selected by GVSU faculty and the Sherwoods. Congratulations to all!!

It was noted that the MWF has many contests and awards and often not many entries. Winners go on to national competitions. Do check out their website and see who YOU think deserves to be nominated! Think we have a winning newsletter? A particular article that caught your eye? So many opportunities! Check them out!

Also mentioned was that field trip coordinators should contact Sue Goedert for insurance coverage paperwork before going on field trips, to have on hand in the event it is needed.

Next year's Convention is August 24-25, 2024, in East Peoria, Illinois, in conjunction with Geodeland and the East Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section, annual show. Anyone can attend, but only Delegates can vote.

The 2023 Convention was held in conjunction with the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Show, which falls the same mid-September weekend as the Tulip City Show. It was held in a lovely refurbished former high school building in nearby Hartland, which also includes a senior center, community center and theater, gyms, gymnastics classes and events, etc. and a fabulous workshop for LGMS members to use for \$1/day! Equipment for polishing, cutting, faceting, silversmithing and more is all available, along with classes and willing experts to teach. Oh, that it was closer to West Michigan! It was a very impressive setup, and I am sure a big draw for membership. It is also always interesting to meet and learn from other rock hounds, so it was a journey worth taking.

See you next year!

*Mary Johnson*



~ JUNIOR SECTION ~  
**How to “Grow” a gem tree?!**

This Month some of the Juniors got together at Lilly Mantooth’s house and she taught us how to make Gem trees. It was a lot of fun, and we are so grateful that she could walk us through it. We also brainstormed on how we could do this with a larger group later in the year... stay tuned!

Come to the meeting on October 25 and meet all the new Juniors! We will announce the winners of the showcase competition that occurred at the show. We will talk about some of the topics we want to learn about this year, and ...don’t be scared... we are having a scavenger hunt!! All those who complete it will win something special.

The club is having a silent auction for the General Meeting. There are always a couple of tables that only Junior Members can bid on, with much lower prices, so Juniors can start their own rock/mineral collections. So, mow the lawn, do the dishes, do a couple of extra chores for the Grandparents, and bring that money to the General Meeting on October 25! You could end up with something Amazing!





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**.

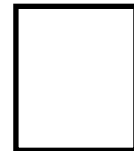
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org)

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

Jon Mull, Editor  
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Holland, MI 49424



Background photo is one last shot of Postojna Cave in Slovenia.