



# *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)

November 2022

Volume 55, Edition 10

### **! Special Silent Auction !**

Tulip City GMC has received many great donations over the last couple of years, and we would like to see our club members benefit from them. We are having a *Special* Silent Auction in November. You will see slabs, labeled mineral specimens, fossils and agates, all priced to sell!

Members can also put items out for sale, but plan on bringing less this year, as we have a lot to put out. As always bring along some specimens for the Junior Table, with low prices so the Juniors can start their collections.

If you would like to sell specimens of your own, you will find the Silent Auction Slips on the front page of our website ([www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org)). Make sure the slips say silent auction, not Marketplace. Be sure to fill out both the bottom and top of the slip. On the night of the auction, when someone wins your specimen, they will come to you to pay you, so be sure to bring change along.

Think of the great Christmas Shopping you can do! For friends and family, or even yourself...you have been good this year! Plan on bringing your checkbooks, your money (lots of change!) and your festive spirit. See you there!



*(if you have questions, feel free to email Shari at [sluttikh@oaisd.org](mailto:sluttikh@oaisd.org)  
or come and find me at the meeting... I'll be there early!)*



# 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

**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

### An Important note about snacks...

*While we appreciate both fresh and packaged snacks, please make sure they have not exceeded their expiration date! Just out of courtesy and safety for others.*



More Crinoid "Hash"  
Lake Cumberland, KY

~ This months "Mascot" ~  
The masthead image is a 1.5" diameter agate cabochon cut and polished at one of our workshops held in the Nienhuis pole barn quite a few years ago now. Origin is unknown except it came out of a tub of slabs donated by Ken Hoekstra and the pattern "spoke" to me. It was a great privilege getting to work on such projects - Jon Mull

***As a continued reminder coming up!***

**Slate of officers for 2023**

<b><i>Position</i></b>	<b><i>Current Chair</i></b>	<b><i>2023 Nominee</i></b>
President	Mike Larson	* C.H. Falstad
VP / Programs	Shari Luttkhuizen	< <b>OPEN</b> >
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 Luttkhuizen
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	< <b>OPEN</b> >
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

<b><i>Nominating Committee</i></b>	<b><i>Email Address</i></b>
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!***

## Field Trips

*At this time there are no further field trips planned for 2022. It was a great season and we got to travel to some wonderful locations this year. Thanks go out to Peter Riemersma for stepping into the role of coordinator. We look forward to next season when Gary Katt is planning to take over. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did this year and if you contributed in the form of write-ups, or photos, or helped with the planning, many thanks to you as well. Can't wait til next year!* - Jon

***p.s. Check out all the write-ups this issue!***

### ***Report on the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies***

Annual Show and Convention - Springfield, Missouri, Oct 21-23, 2022

*Submitted by Mary Johnson*

As Tulip City's Liaison on the Board, I travelled last month to southwestern Missouri to represent us at this convention.

Just what, may you ask, is this group and what does it do? It is one of seven regions nationwide which together make up the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. In addition to Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, part of Arkansas, Nebraska, N and S Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin are also members. The purpose of the organization is "to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology, lapidary, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of groups interested in these fields." There are over 30 permanent committees in place to help with these goals, and chairpeople include several familiar names, including our own Sue Goedert as chair of the Insurance Committee (yes, we get our field trip and show insurance at group rates through MWF!) and familiar vendor at our shows, Kevin Ponzio, who chairs the Mineralogy Committee. Michigan State Director John Donker is chair of the Long Range Planning Committee. For more information on both groups, visit their websites at [www.mwfed.org](http://www.mwfed.org) and [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org).

The Council of Delegates Meeting was held on Saturday, October 22. Delegates attended both in person and via zoom, and we did have a quorum and were able to conduct business. Some reports were submitted in writing, and others given in person. Scholarships and awards were presented at the evening banquet at a local restaurant.

Some highlights or points of interest from the meeting include:

- Many clubs are happy to be getting going again after the worst of the pandemic
- Iowa still has access to quarries! (Possible field trips?)
- Minnesota is working with the parks department to see if by paying a fee of some kind, some collecting can take place in the parks there.

*MWF Convention cont.*

- Grand Rapids Indian Mounds Club has a huge Junior program. I brought back information they and MWF have put together and have passed it on to Shari.
- They are working on a Welcome Packet for new club Presidents to answer questions, etc., and increase understanding of what MWF can do to help
- A new project of joint local club/MWF t-shirts is being investigated. A member is in the business and can print economically and in many colors, with logos and illustrations. Sales tax in some states may be an issue.
- Due to illness, long serving Treasurer Sandy Fuller has resigned and Steve Shimatzki of Ohio was elected
- Chet Smith was mentioned in the Memorials.

There is also some important Environmental Legislation in the works, as reported by President Catherine Clevenz in a written report. She wrote:

The HR 1755 bill that was presented to Congress on March 10, 2022 has been under discussion and has also had a few amendments/changes made to it. These mostly are pertaining to the rivers and waterways within the listed territories of the bill. This massive wilderness bill will CLOSE 23 million acres of public land to the public in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington. Along with those lands are areas of camping and stretches of rivers. This bill will also prohibit boats, e-bikes, wheelchairs, and in some areas, even foot traffic.

Once all of the amendments are voted and approved, this bill will then be sent to the Senate to be voted on. It's not too late to write to your congressman concerning this bill!

In closing, two upcoming events may items to add to your calendar...  
August 3-6, 2023 - both the American Federation's 76th Annual Meeting and Convention and the Billings Gem & Mineral Club's Annual Show are taking place together in Billings, Montana. The theme will be Montana Treasures (can you say sapphires?)  
Also, there is both good and bad news about next year's MWF Convention!

The good news is it will happen much closer—in Howell, Michigan.

The bad news? It is the same weekend as *our annual show*, Sept 16-17, 2023.

Many thanks to the Board for making this trip possible—I do appreciate it! See me if you have questions or would like to read through reports.

*Respectfully - Mary Johnson*

**! Post Show Reminder !**

**If you placed road signs for the show please remember to collect and return those to Linda Winkelmann so they can get passed on to the next publicity chair. If you have a sign and know you will be placing it again next year you may hang on to it but please let Linda know.  
Thank you for helping publicize the show!**

## ***Alpena field trip - Saturday Oct. 1, 2022***

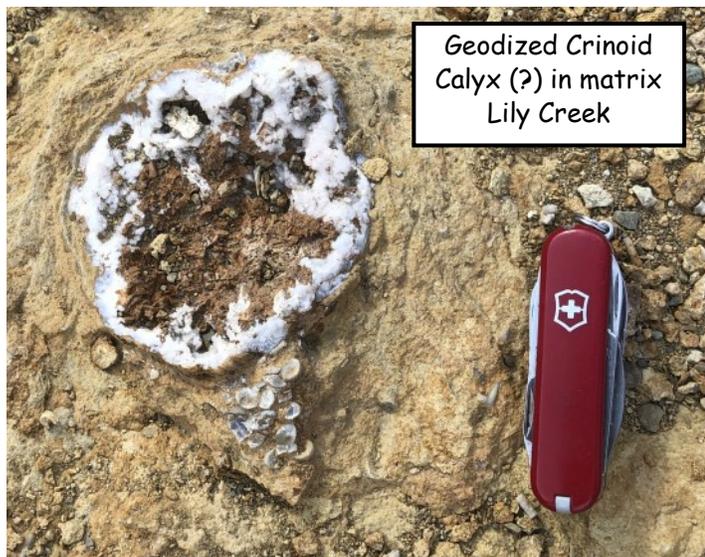
On Saturday October 1 a group of about 20 people from the Tulip City, White River, and Indian Mounds clubs made their way to Alpena for some fossil hunting and some exploration of the LaFarge Quarry. Although I missed this trip I hear the highlight was a tour of the LaFarge operations and a side trip to the Steven's Twins Sink Hole. I think I remember visiting that location during Prof. Neal's Historical Geology class at GVSU! A "bucket" of material was brought out of the quarry for folks to pick through and you can see a boulder that contained brachiopods that also caught the attention of a few members. In classic club fashion a nice group dinner was had at the Austin brewing company for folks that drove up early on Friday. Enjoy some photos from this trip courtesy of Peter Riemersma.



## Finding Fossils: Kentucky / Tennessee Field Trip

Over the October 22 weekend nine TCGMC members trekked down south on a field trip to the Kentucky/Tennessee borderlands. The drive down was beautiful with vibrant fall colors in Michigan and northern Indiana and more muted (but still beautiful) colors in southern Indiana and Kentucky. On the way down Peter Riemersma and Pam Havermans stopped to collect geodes at an Indiana location and later stopped at outcrops near Sulphur, IN and Leitchfield, KY for fossil collecting (blastoids!). After camping near Richmond, KY, Mike Rakovits and Vicki Hartung stopped at a Paint Creek, KY site for fossil collecting where Mike found a great cephalopod fossil. Deb and I drove down without preliminary stops for rockhounding, as did Michelle Lanting. Jon Mull and his son Jack made their way down on Thursday afternoon in order to check out a spot near Fort Knox which turned out to be a bust but they also stopped at the Lily Creek ramp to make sure the water levels would be ideal and indeed they were! Eventually we all made our way to an airbnb in Byrdstown, TN that Peter and Jon had researched and arranged for the group. The B&B turned out to be perfect! There was enough room for everyone. Mike and Vicki camped at the nearby Obey River State Park but joined the rest of us for a white chicken chili dinner at the BNB. This lodging arrangement was great for allowing us to share meals and stories at dinner times and breakfasts each day!

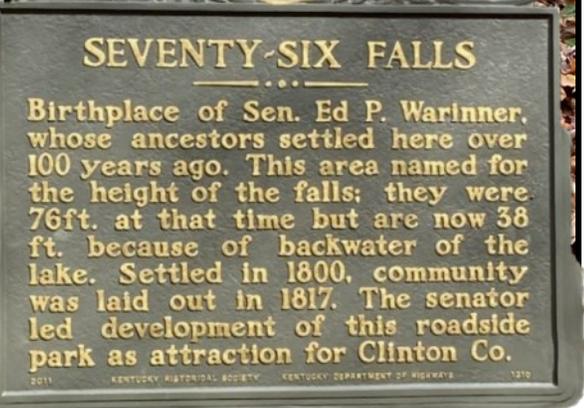
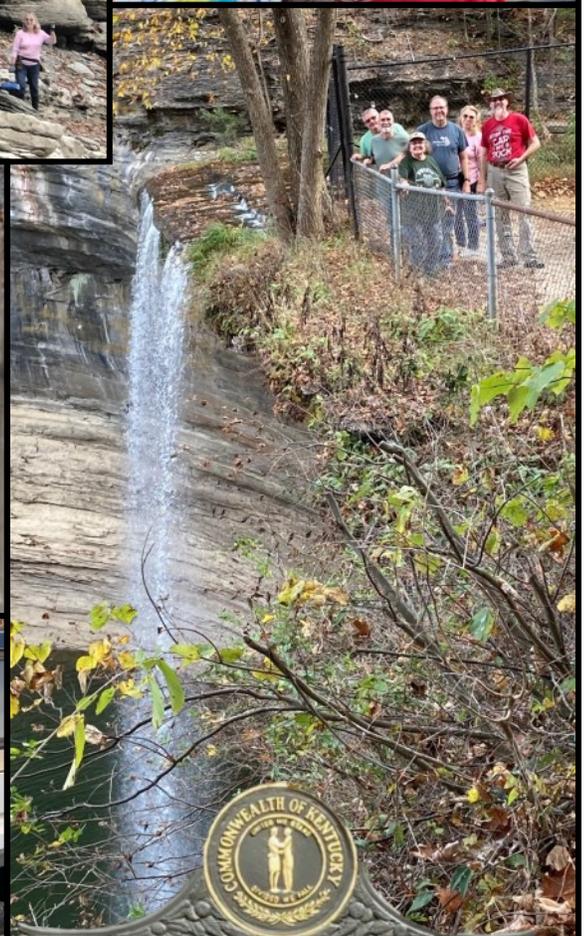
Saturday was our big, group field trip day. From our Byrdstown, B&B we all caravanned to our first site, called Taylor's Fork, on Dale Hollow Lake, a lake that was created as a result of damming the Obey River. It was pretty slim pickings at this site, so we only stayed a short while. Next we went to a Cove Creek site on Dale Hollow Lake and had much better success. The fossils here were so abundant that one could truly say that "If you didn't find anything, you must not have gotten out of the car." There were lots of crinoid pieces—longer and bigger in diameter than those we find here in MI—and the promise of calyxes. Many crinoid pieces had weathered out of the matrix completely to be collected as short cylinders. Everyone found plenty of specimens; Mike and Vicki found sections still in matrix that were, maybe 6" long, and Jon found a calyx.





(l to r) Michelle Lanting, Deb & Rick Smith, Pam Havermans  
Jon Mull, Vicki Hartung, Peter Riemersma, Mike R.akovitz





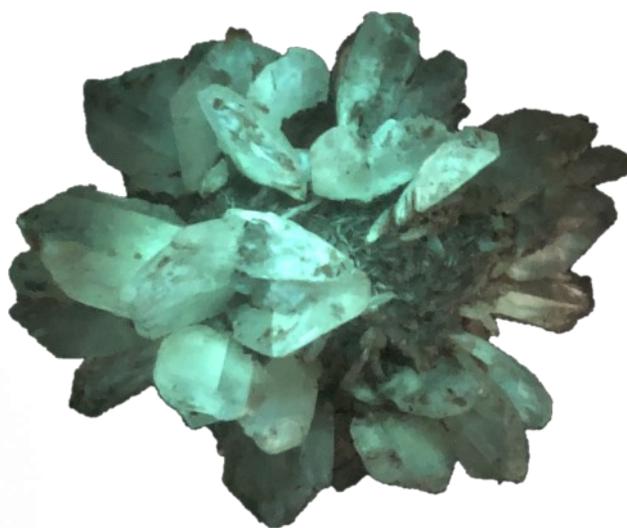
*KY/TN cont.*

Our third collecting site for the day was in Kentucky, at Lily Creek on Lake Cumberland, a lake created by the damming of the Cumberland River. This site was dramatic; low water levels had revealed a crinoid reef! You know how there's that coral reef up in the Alpena area where you can find Petoskey stones everywhere. Well, here at Lily Creek the low water levels revealed a crinoid reef with crinoid fossils literally everywhere! In addition to the many crinoid specimens that could easily be surface collected, there were great looking plates and clusters of crinoid segments! Back at our B&B, we had a burger and brat dinner, thanks to grillmeisters Mike and Peter, and shared stories of our experiences clamboring over the rocks.

Our return trips were as varied as our travels down. Peter and Michelle made eggs, bacon and sausage for breakfast before we headed out on our separate ways. Pam, Michelle and Peter chose a route home through Cave in Rock, IL to check out some collecting possibilities for fluorite and sphalerite at the Minerva Mine tailings. Mike and Vicki stayed an extra day in TN exploring in Dale Hollow before stopping in Zanesville, OH (flint country!) to see family. Deb and I revisited Saturday's Cove Creek site before checking out some Indiana covered bridges on our way home. Jon and Jack hit the road on Saturday afternoon in order to be home in the early afternoon on Sunday.

What a great field trip! Good friends, good stories, good food, and, of course, good collecting!

**Just One more thing...**



This cluster of gypsum from Sheridan, WY was photographed at the moment of phosphorescence from 365nm UV light.



This seems to be a recurring theme

**- Junior Page -**  
**WIRE-WRAPPING!**

Juniors will be revisiting a popular “lapidary” craft from one of their past meetings. They will be able to choose a fossil shark tooth or an arrowhead to craft into a piece of jewelry. They’ll check the shape, and learn to securely & artistically wire-wrap it for best effect. Each creation can become a necklace pendant (with or without additional beads) or be attached to a key ring. All materials and tools will be provided. – Keep or give as a holiday gift!

In addition, learn anew about sharks. How can you know that “these teeth” are fossils? Where and why are they available to today’s collectors? Compare your selection to a chart and learn the shark species of your wire-wrapped treasure.

The arrowheads are not fossils or even old, rather they were recently handcrafted. “Knapping” is a hobby, where people carefully hammer a piece of Flint or Obsidian to make a sharp-edged point. Why do Knappers choose "those special rocks" for making the strongest, sharpest tools? It’s fun to know that knapping is an ancient skill; one that helped Ice Age hunters feed and clothe their families.

**Important Note:** Juniors are meeting downstairs during the Nov 16 meeting. After snacks upstairs, kids are encouraged to stay for the Silent Auction to shop with the adults and/or focus on the “Juniors Only” Auction table. The Junior table will have fine specimens at extra-low prices.



*Juniors will take home a hand crafted shark tooth or modern flint knapped arrow head pendant. Materials have been donated and will be provided by the club.*



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**.

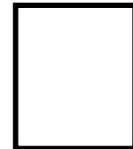
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org)

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  
14325 Essenburg Dr  
Holland, MI 49424



Background photo is low water at Lake Cumberland, KY