



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

December 2022

Volume 55, Edition 11

Holiday Celebration

Come to our General meeting and celebrate the holidays with us! If you are in the sharing mood we would like to hear a short story about a favorite rock, fossil or mineral specimen, or even a fun story about a field trip.

Let Shari know if you would like to participate as several people will be asked to share with the group. There will be a gift for everyone who attends.

Please see the note on the next page about holiday snacks!

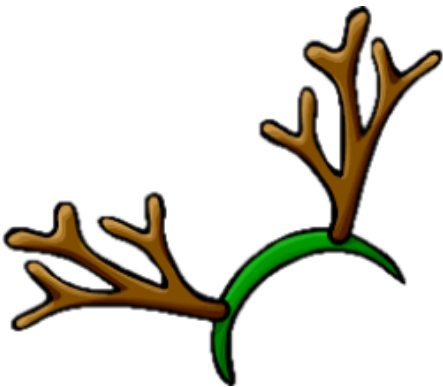
This meeting there will also be a special holiday costume contest! Come dressed in your favorite holiday outfit and you could win a prize.

There will be 3 categories with prizes for each.

- 1. Ugliest Sweater**
- 2. Over The Top**
- 3. Most Spirited**

Members will vote for their favorites!

So, bring your festive spirit and join your fellow rockhounds in celebrating another great year .





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 - 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 Chair - Michelle Bennett
bennettm@byrne.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

12/21 **Tulip City** General Meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

1/11 **Tulip City** Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

1/25 **Tulip City** General Meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2/8 **Tulip City** Board Meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2/22 **Tulip City** General Meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

! HOLIDAY SNACKS !

No pressure here but if you want to bring your favorite handheld holiday snack, now is the time! Cookies, bars, bread, candies, or fruit and cheese trays will all be happily devoured by the membership. We can't wait to try your favorite holiday treats, especially the home made ones :)



On your left is your new board of directors for 2023! As always, thank you so much to everyone that gives their time on our board, it is a great service you do for this club. Please take a minute to thank Peter who will be leaving the field trip position and to Linda who served so long and faithfully as junior chair, and to Greta, who had to step down mid season. Please welcome Alex, Aaron, Gary, and Bill who will be serving for their first time!

~ This months "Mascot" ~
The masthead image is a 3"x5" chunk of Missouri drusy quartz / agate collected near Valles Mines, Missouri. Of course this piece had dirt caked on it and piled into the hole in the center, but I could already see the perfect heart shape cavity that finally cleaned up quite nicely. A great find from our Spring Break field trip - Jon Mull

Some important club business...

Over the years, with the evolution of digital sharing online, our club has made a solid effort to maintain an informative website to introduce visitors to the mission and benefits of our organization. Maintaining that site has largely been through volunteer efforts of gifted club members. Over the past few years the board has discussed adding a position to handle these important duties in an official capacity. In March of 2020 the board agreed to place Julia Sherwood in the Webmaster position with the intent of finalizing the creation of the position with a vote presented to the membership at the next general meeting, which of course was cancelled due to covid.

Our intent is to correct the technical side of this which will require adjustments to the bylaws which is the part that truly requires the vote of the general membership. So that means you may be hearing something about this at the December general meeting when we will install our officers for 2023, including our Webmaster, Aaron Nelson. Once we finalize the official entry to the bylaws, including a proper job description, we will present the membership with a vote to officially accept the changes to the bylaws. If you have questions about this and like these sorts of details please feel free to speak with C.H.

Thank you for bearing with us!

- Your Board of Directors



Field Trips



Hello from Gary Katt, the 2023 Field Trip Coordinator! I look forward to organizing some nice field trips for the club this year. Currently on my agenda are potential trips to the Keweenaw during the Seaman Mineral Museums Keweenaw Mineral days followed by a trip to Thunder Bay Ontario to look for amethyst. I would also like to leverage other clubs that are going on field trips or any member who will be going on a collecting trip and wouldn't mind inviting others and acting as a lead for that trip. So, if you are going on a collecting trip that we could organize into a club field trip please let me know. Also, if you have any ideas on where you would like to go for a field trip also contact me.

I can be reached at [**kattfiles@gmail.com**](mailto:kattfiles@gmail.com)

Also tentatively in planning is a trip to New Mexico during spring break, March 31 to April 9, 2023, led by Jon Mull. [**solace247@yahoo.com**](mailto:solace247@yahoo.com)

ROCK EXCHANGES

An update from your once again President - C.H. Falstad

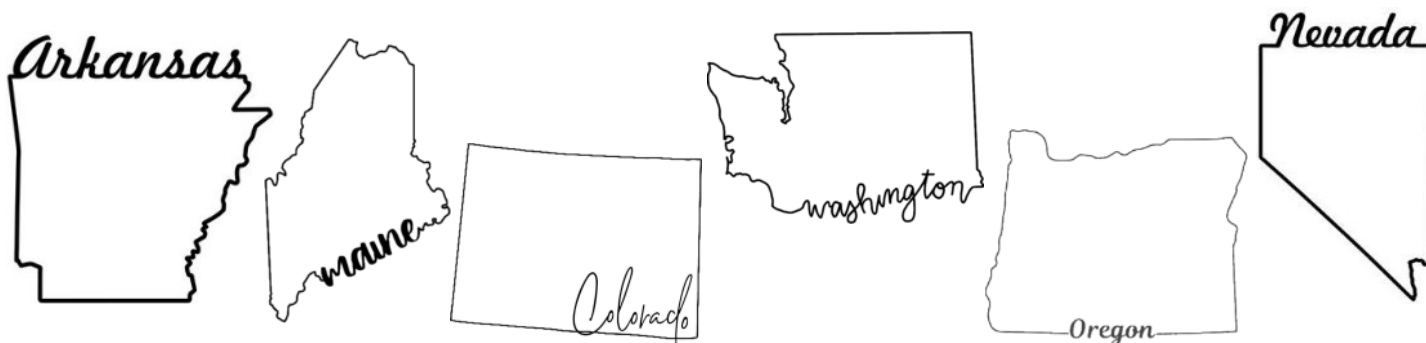
Our first rock exchange was by invitation from the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club in Arkansas (2018). We enjoyed that so much it was followed up with invitations in 2019 to Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society, and in 2020 we invited both the Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club (Oregon) and Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club (Colorado). We took a hiatus in 2021 because of all the material we had received and were not able to easily auction off in the COVID period. The Clackamette club was so generous with very nice material that we decided to follow it up with an extra box that contained some potentially more valuable pieces including greenstone in matrix.

This year I have sent out 3 invitations to our rock exchange and plan to accept the first two: Maplewood Rock Club (Washington), Mt Baker Rock Club (Washington), and Oxford County Mineral and Gem Association (Maine). So far, I've already heard back from the Maplewood Club. They are very excited and will bring this to their Board for approval.

We already have two starter boxes from Vern and Brenda Nienhuis. These include: copper slab large, dolomite (Ishpeming, MI), container of blastoids, a container of taconite pellets, big piece copper w/ epidote, banded jaspelite from the Republic Mine, Gypsum from Grand Rapids, MI, alabaster 1" thick slab, two 3" pieces MI septaria, specular hematite 7" long x 1" thick slab, fossil plate (Alpena, MI) 9" long, and 3 pieces iron ore. We normally try to concentrate our exchange with material from nearby or more local field trips knowing the value of specimens tends to increase the further they are from the source.

If you would like to share some of your collection with people in clubs in regions far from us, I will have a few boxes at our December club meeting. Please help out by identifying the material and origin location if known.

Wouldn't it be fun if clubs everywhere in the US did exchanges with each other? I hope this becomes contagious and the clubs we share with have so much fun they start asking other clubs to do exchanges with them, just as we did after our experience with the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club.





...see anything you'd like for Christmas?



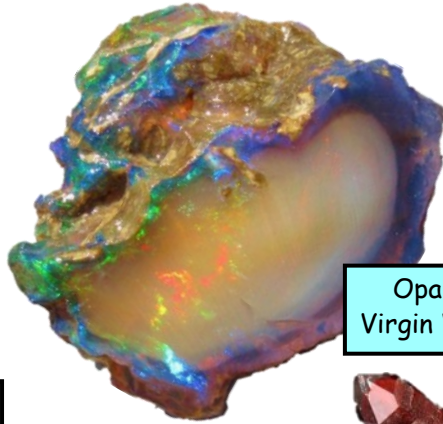
Cavansite atop Calcite
Maharashtra, India
Spiriferminerals.com



Blue Barite - Nador, Morocco
Spiriferminerals.com



Perfect zoned Fluorite
Goose Creek Mine, Hardin Co. IL



Opalized Wood
Virgin Valley, Nevada



Arcanite - Poland
LAB GROWN !!



Raspberry & Mint Tourmaline
Smithsonian - "The Steamboat"



Quartz w/ Hematite
Goncheng China

There are so many photos of amazing minerals out on the web. Many you'd expect to see in a museum but some of these go to private collections. Some didn't have captions or credits but I tried to include sources where available.

- Junior Page -
QUARTZ MINERAL BONANZA

Quartz is the *simplest silicate*. It is composed of just two elements, Silicon and Oxygen with the chemical nickname of “SiO₂”. Most of you have a distinctive, transparent Quartz Crystal in your collection. Sometimes one end looks milky/cloudy, where that crystal grew away from its foundation rock. The pointy end is a macro-crystal (visible), while the cloudy end has lots of micro-crystals (too small to see individually). The entire specimen is still Quartz (SiO₂) AND it would illustrate conditions during growth. Did the crystal form in a narrow vein of broken rock, only partly free to take shape? Did a silica gel solidify quickly or slowly? You can make a good guess!

When additional chemical elements bond with silicon and oxygen, the resulting mineral changes properties (color, structure, etc) and acquires another name. For example, add Iron (Fe) to SiO₂ and the mineral is called “Citrine, if yellow” or “Amethyst, if purple”, but all are part of the “Silicate Class”. According to mineralogy4kids.org: “The silicate mineral class is considered to be the most important of all the mineral classes... (because it) makes up over 90% of the Earth’s crust”. Each mineral tells us something of the environment in which it was formed...” be it from Igneous, Sedimentary or Metamorphic conditions.

Our evening will include a “Naming Game” for quartz-related rocks and minerals donated by Club members. Each Gift Bag includes a beautiful Cluster of Quartz Points from Chet Smith, a founding member.



Amethyst



Clear Quartz



Citrine



Smoky Quartz

HOLIDAY GIFT BAG -
gift bag containing quartz clusters from

Juniors will take home a

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

Membership Application / Renewal for 20__

Paid for: ___ Individual (\$15.00) ___ Family (\$20.00)
Newsletter Delivery: ___ Email (FREE) ___ U.S. Mail \$10.00



PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY (Must have a postal mailing address)

Adult Name: _____

DATE: _____

2nd Adult Name (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ *Home or Cell*

Secondary Phone: _____ *Home or Cell*

Primary E-Mail address: _____

Secondary E-Mail address: _____

Please make check payable to :
Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

Mail to:
 Rhonda Gehringer
 1980 Driftwood Dr,
 Holland, MI 49424

Questions can be e-mailed to:
 tcgmc.news@gmail.com

If this is a family membership, please list ALL participating family members' names and birthdays.**

**** Family membership include parents/guardian and all unmarried children under the age seventeen and living at home.**

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

**Additional children information may be written on the back of this paper.
 We need this for MWF insurance purposes.**

CHECK interest(s) in club:

- ___ Faceting
- ___ Metal Craft
- ___ Beading / Wire Wrap
- ___ Lapidary
- ___ Tumbling
- ___ Rock / Minerals
- ___ MicroMounts
- ___ Fossils
- ___ Juniors
- ___ Field Trips
- ___ Collecting

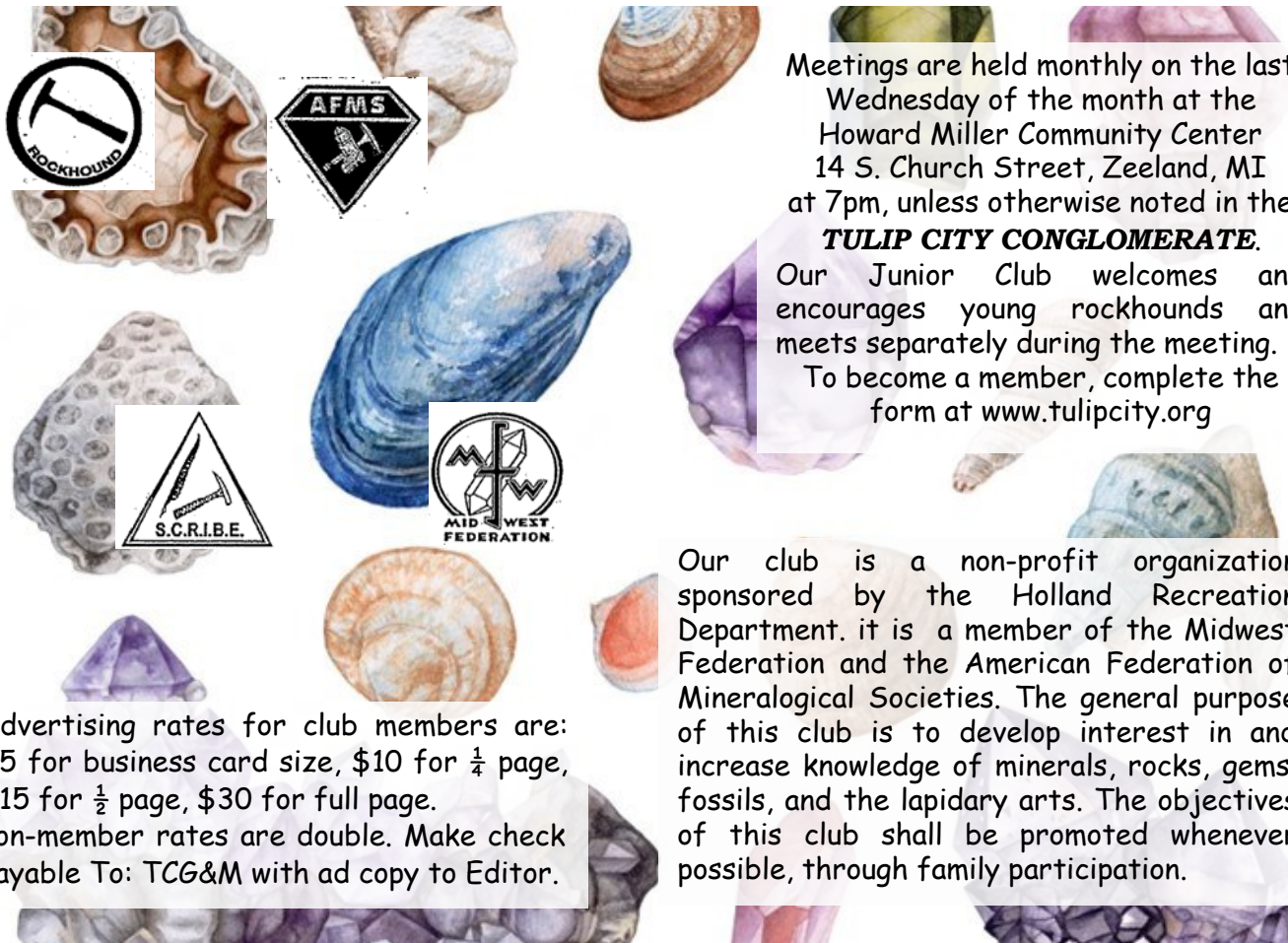
TCG&MC PRIVACY POLICY: For purposes of planning field trips and other TCG&MC Social activities, the club will annually distribute a listing of adult member names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses to all club members. The TCG&MC officers will never knowingly distribute your address information to any other group or organization.

As a condition of membership, and in consideration of any mineral collecting, use of facilities, equipment, and other educational opportunities available to me as a club member, I hereby agree to hold the Club and its officers, Directors, committee members and agents harmless, and to indemnify them against any loss and claims arising from me or my family's participation in Club activities:

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: We must have a SIGNED copy of your application/renewal form on file.

Term of Membership and Dues. TCG&MC memberships run January – December. NEW members joining after September 1st will have their dues credited through the end of the following year. Memberships must be renewed by December 31st to be in good standing.



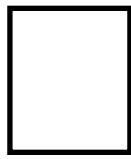
Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE.**

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

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
14325 Essenburg Dr
Holland, MI 49424



Background photo is fancy watercolor clipart from the web