



# *Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club* **Conglomerate**

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

**June 2021**

**Volume 54, Edition 6**

# Will YOU Join Us ??



Our June Meeting will be a Silent Auction. Anyone can bring items to sell. You must fill out a bid sheet for each item (Bid sheets can be found on our website, Tulipcity.org, under the heading "Show"). On the bid slips is a line that says "owner" that is where you put the name of the person selling the rock. Throughout the night, when we call certain tables, if you have the winning bid, you have to find the "owner" and pay them for your purchase. I would recommend that everyone who is either buying or selling **bring lots of change**, or their checkbook, since there is not an ATM machine nearby. If you would like to donate a bit back to the club, you can put something out for sale and put the owner as "TCGMC" and our treasurer will collect the money.

We will also have a Junior Table. This will be a table that only Juniors can bid on. Please bring a specimen or two (and price them low) for our Juniors, so they can build up their collections. Juniors, you can also put out material to sell to other Juniors, or the adults.

**At this time, all Covid 19 restrictions are lifted, so no masks will be required. Please still follow social distancing and be respectful of each other.**

If you want something to eat or drink, please bring your own. **We are still looking for someone to take over the hospitality position.** If you are interested, please contact Mike Larson or Shari Luttkhuizen, or any board member.

Here is a note I received from the Howard Miller Community Center concerning parking:

As you may already know, the City of Zeeland is doing some construction work on the sidewalks around our building. The **west entrance to the building is closed** so it would be best to park at the Second Reformed Church parking lot off of Church Street located at: 225 E Central Ave. **You will then enter the Howard Miller Community Center off of Church Street using our East Entrance.**

IF you have any questions, feel free to email Shari at [sluttikh@oaisd.org](mailto:sluttikh@oaisd.org).

**I can't wait to see everyone there!**



## 2021 TCG&M Board

President - Michael B. Larson  
mblarson300@yahoo.com

Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen  
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Secretary - Brenda Olson  
brendaolson01@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks  
kdbrinks1@gmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator - Jon Mull  
solace247@yahoo.com

Historian - Betty Hoekstra  
kbhoek@att.net

Jr. Club Coord. - Linda Winkelmann  
lindawinkelmann@att.net

Liaison - Rhonda Gehringer  
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Membership - Christine Silich  
CSDS77@icloud.com

Newsletter Ed. - < open >

Social Media Coord. - Julia Sherwood  
bobandjulia@accn.org

Show Coord. - Sue Goedert  
sonbeams2000@yahoo.com

Social Coord. - Linda Plumert  
rlplumert@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Mary Johnson  
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Randy Wake  
rgwake@charter.net

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

# Events



- ⇒ July 3 JP Gem & Jewelry Tailgate in Holland, MI
- ⇒ July 10/11 Field Trip w/ White River - Alpena, MI
- ⇒ July 24 - Annual Picnic (4 pm - Sunset) details later
- ⇒ Aug. 6-10 Michigan Upper Peninsula Field Trip
- ⇒ Aug. 7 Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Show - Ishpeming, MI
- ⇒ Aug. 11 Quincy Mine Hoist Annual Show - Hancock, MI
- ⇒ Aug. 13-15 Copper Country Gem & Mineral Show - Houghton, MI
- ⇒ Sept. 17-19 TCG&MC Annual Show

Details for all of these and future trips will be provided  
as trips get near !

Questions or Interested to join the FUN, please contact Field  
Trip Coordinator - Jon Mull (solace247@yahoo.com)

## TCG&MC General Meeting for June

# Wednesday, 6/30/21



7 pm at Howard Miller  
Community Center.

## TCG&MC General Meeting for July

# Saturday, 7/24/21

4 pm at Westside  
County Park  
(details will follow)



## The current openings need to be filled:

- ◆ Social (Hospitality) Coordinator
- ◆ Newsletter Editor

Anyone interested in these positions or in assisting in the duties, please speak with a Board Member

## Open Position



## Report from the Field Trip Coordinator

Our Memorial weekend trip to Keokuk, Iowa was a great success with a rather lucky 13 of us in tow. We collected at Tiptons, Jacobs, Vickers, and St. Francisville. Everyone was quite happy with what we brought home.

Our next two trips are joint trips with White River.

- ◆ The first is to Alpena, July 9 to 11. I should be camping starting on the 9th. There may be collecting in the afternoon and evening on the 9th. The 10th will start with Rockport, meeting place TBD. Sunday could be more exploring but will mostly be the return home.
- ◆ The second is the second week of August. Pam is working out the details but plans to head up on Thursday the 5th. Collect on Friday and attend the Ishpeming show on Saturday and then head over and up into the Keweenaw. Sunday would be near Fort Wilkins. Plans are not firm after that. I will up there the week before so this trip is not really going to be run by me.

I will probably also be heading to Keokuk again in the fall for the festival Sept. 23 to 26.

I may try to do a basement trip in early November, TBD.

That is all I have for the rest of the year. - Jon



## ROCK PAINTING & GOOD DEALS

The main event at the June General Meeting is the “Silent Auction”. Everyone can bid on the specimens EXCEPT the Special Junior Table. Since the Club wants to encourage young members to be able to improve their collections at VERY reasonable prices, folks will offer exceptional rock specimens for “Juniors Only”.

Juniors are also encouraged to sell rocks and minerals – and specimens can be sold from any Table. As a seller, just be sure to bring change for customers. **BID SLIP to place with your specimen can be found on the club’s website.**

In addition, there will be a **Rock Painting Craft area**. Make a Rock Pet or colorful sculpture. Small tin cans will be available, so you can safely take home the freshly-painted creations.

JUNIORS  
↻

**Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club**  
**Howard Miller Community Center Zeeland**  
**May 12, 2021, 7:00 PM; Board Meeting Minutes**

7:10 PM – Board Meeting

Mike Larson, president, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda-CH Falstad made the motion, to approve the agenda with corrections, seconded by Julia Sherwood. All in favor.

Vice President -Shari Luttikhuizen reported the General Meeting will be in person on May 26 at 7pm at Dunton Park. People can win prizes and participate in raffles. Shari would like to encourage people who participated in field trips to bring in samples. Board members bring tables and chairs. The June general meeting place is still to be determined, but there will be a silent auction. If the Howard Miller Community center is available, it will be held there. The June general meeting silent auction bid slips are on the web site under show. The summer picnic will be held Saturday, July 24 at West Side Co Park starting at 4 pm. **People attending will need to bring their own meal and beverage.**

Approval of Minutes – Shari made a motion, seconded by Kurt, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 Board meeting with corrections. Linda made a motion, seconded by Julia, to approve the April 28, 2021 General meeting minutes with corrections. All in favor.

Treasurer Kurt Brinks- gave the treasurers report. There is a new member. Hope college scholarships will go out this weekend. Members should encourage people to join the club.

Membership – It was noted, we have a couple of new members. It was also noted we need to update children's ages in the membership roster.

Hospitality Linda Plumert – no report

Historian Betty Hoekstra-no report

Field Trip – Jon Mull reported the first three field trips were successful. People who attended will be encouraged to bring specimens to the general meeting. Keokuk planning is going fine. People need to get their hotel rooms. The White River club has field trips in July to Alpena.

Social Media- Julia Sherwood shared everything received is on the web. The pictures are up for the Kentucky field trip.

Liaison-Rhonda gave names of Hope College scholarship students to Kurt. The MWF Convention is in Toledo, OH on September 10-12, 2021.

Mary will send pictures of raffle items to newsletter.

Randy Wake communicated with Keith of the South Haven Rock Shop to discuss a tailgate at the swap meet, farmers market or Johnson park in South Haven in August or September.

Show – Sue shared the show committee had a good meeting. They have the Soccer Stop, tables, and chairs lined up. There will be no schools or silent auction. There will be a sale instead. There will be no buffet food for workers. Sue has a couple of positions needed for the show. Sue will check on the possibility on having a food truck. The show will open Friday at 3 pm. To consider

space and safety in light of the pandemic, they will spread dealers out more. The club may need to provide more help with set up and tear down for the vendors. Next show meeting will be in June.

CH shared Chet Smith passed away and one of Chet's sons passed away recently.

Julia emailed families with children and followed up with a phone call to ask if they want their children's names on the membership list to be shared. A few responded but most did not. The consensus was the membership form needs to be updated with a check box to indicate if people want their personal contact information to be shared.

Juniors-Linda Winkelmann reported there will be a junior meeting Saturday, May 15 Dunton Park 10:30am. The theme will be the many forms of quartz.

On July 3 9-3pm GP Gem & Mineral is hosting a tailgate show and is looking for vendors.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shari and seconded Kurt. All in favor.

Adjourn meeting: by 8:20 pm.



**Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club**  
**Dunton Park, Holland**  
**May 26, 2021, 7:00 PM; Minutes General Meeting**

7:07 PM – Call to Order – Mike Larson, president

Present: about 31 adults and 6 juniors

**Board Reports**

President Mike Larson gave a welcome to those attending.

Treasurer-Kurt Brinks gave a brief treasurers report.

Membership-Christine Silich shared a new couple and 4 juniors joined the club.

Field Trip-Jon Mull shared the Memorial Day Weekend trip to Keokuk, Iowa will be starting on Thursday, May 27 to search for geodes. He is planning a July 10 – 11 trip to Alpena. Jon is planning a trip to Ishpeming the second week in August.

Social Media-Julia Sherwood requested material for the website.

Show-Sue shared the show is very likely to take place. The show committee discussed spreading things out to allow people to social distance with COVID concerns. Sue needs people to be in charge of kid's games and tickets. The next show committee meeting will be June 23.

Mike shared there are openings on the board for Social Coordinator and Newsletter positions.

Vice President-Shari reported that the picnic will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup> pavilion at the West Side County Park in the afternoon. The June 30<sup>th</sup> general meeting will meet at the Howard Miller Community Center at 7 pm and will have a silent auction. Any auction that is listed club sales will give the proceeds to the club.

Meeting adjourned 8:32 pm

# Field Trip Report

Submitted by Jon Mull

## Hey there dewdrop diamond!

Hey there whosy what? What in the world is a dewdrop diamond? Well, let me introduce you. "Dewdrop diamond" is the nickname for a very particular type of geode. The tri-state area surrounding Keokuk, Iowa has been known to produce these rare beauties.

But first, let me explain why geodes must be the most perfect rock on the planet. Each one is a neat little ball of treasure. Although they are not always perfect spheres they are usually round-ish and tend to "stick out" from their surrounding host rock. That rock can be volcanic or sedimentary and very much affects what the content of the geode may be. Estimates vary from thousands to millions of years for the formation of a geode depending on the rock layer but all geodes go through a process of crystallization that can stop and start and change composition. These episodes of crystal growth produce what often get described simply as "secondaries." It is the secondary minerals in many geodes that really make them stand out.



There is always a base layer. A geode without a base layer is actually a vug. That base layer is usually quartz, especially in the Keokuk area. Once that base layer forms the water that provides the growing environment can change in composition of dissolved elements, which changes the outcome of crystal growth, along with temperature and pressure. The quartz may be coarse or drusy, or may have inclusions of iron that cause an orange haze. It can also be cryptocrystalline or chalcedony. The inner lining can start out as chalcedony or change to chalcedony after coarse quartz crystals have stopped growing. If that growth stops early you can still see the shape of the crystals underneath. If chalcedony starts from the beginning or has a long time to grow then those inside surfaces become "bumpy" or botryoidal. Chalcedony is the thing that makes agates and petrified wood turn out the way they do, as it replaces the structure of once organic material, or slowly fills in the air bubbles left behind in vesicular basalt.

Now, secondaries. There is quite a long list of secondary minerals that have been identified in Keokuk geodes which you can look up on the internet and research on your own. There is also a long list of forms for those different minerals. Take calcite, the most common. It can be found in dogtooth, nailhead, poker chip, pagoda, and cubes, and also in half a dozen colors, some of them iridescent. Some of the combinations are breathtaking, which brings us back to the dewdrop. Start with a quartz shell. for whatever reason, crystal growth shifts to chalcedony and stays there for awhile.

Often there are even bands in the chalcedony as the composition changes ever so slightly. Chalcedony can be translucent too, but in most of the dewdrops I have seen it is chalky white. Once again for some reason the crystal growth shifts again and isolated quartz crystals form on the surface of the chalcedony.

When the geode is finally open those lonely double terminated quartz crystals look like morning dew on a leaf catching the sunlight. Some have a hint of smoky color that makes them pop out from the stark white of the chalcedony. They are one of the more rare combinations in a geode and very pretty.



During our field trip over Memorial day weekend we got to see perhaps the biggest dewdrop diamond ever opened. A family that was working in the St. Francisville mine alongside us decided to open a geode that had already been unearthed and left behind for being "too heavy."



The gentleman, Drew, happened to see a crack in it and decided to put the work into splitting it. He was surprised that it opened fairly easily. My jaw dropped at the contents, to say the least. This geode was somewhere in the 80lb range, I believe and both sides had a relatively thick rind that ended in a layer of chalcedony that pushed 2 inches thick in spots with beautiful gray and white banding. The "dew like" dusting of quartz crystals were quite small but unmistakable in the sun. Drew proceeded to open two or three more geodes that ended up being quite lovely as well. They

had to settle up or risk having more weight in geodes than they could afford. They were there and gone in the space of about half an hour. Sometimes the best finds can be so sudden. I felt very lucky just to see it, and I got pictures! So amazing! Jon Mull.



**Geodes in the wall at Jacobs**



**Botryoidal inside**

# Visual Field Trip Report

Submitted by Mary Johnson



# West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group



## Geode Cracking

July General Meeting / Picnic

July 23 at Westside Park



- ⇒ Aug. 14 Flint Rockland Rock Swap
- ⇒ Sept. 10-12 500 Earth Sciences Club Annual Show - Kirklint, IN
- ⇒ Sept. 10-12 Toledo Gem & Rockhound Annual Show - Bowling Green, OH
- ⇒ Sept. 25&26 Brown County R&M Club Annual Show - Nashville, IN
- ⇒ Oct. 8-10 Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual show - Warren, MI

The following lead positions are still OPEN for the 2021 Annual Show

- ◆ Tickets
- ◆ Kids games

Did you Know?

### On the Meeting Calendar:

6/30/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	In-Person TBD
7/14/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	HMCC, Zeeland
7/24/21	TCG&MC Picnic	Westside County Park
8/14/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	HMCC, Zeeland
8/28/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	In-Person TBD

Keep Current with the club: [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org) or [www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/](https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/)

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 announced otherwise in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**. Junior Club welcomes young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at [www.tulipcity.org](http://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 increased 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**

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 announced otherwise in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

Advertising rates for club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for  $\frac{1}{4}$  page, \$15 for  $\frac{1}{2}$  page, \$30 for full page. non-member rates are double. Make check payable To: TCG&M with ad copy to Editor.



**Tulip City Conglomerate**  
 c/o Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club  
 P.O. Box 2082  
 Holland, MI 49424

