



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

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

**November 2021**

**Volume 54, Edition 11**

## **Start your Holiday Shopping early !**

This month we will be hosting a Silent Auction for our club. You will find the Silent Auction slips on our website at [Tulipcity.org](http://Tulipcity.org). Please fill out the top and bottom of the slip with your name and name of your material and starting bid. (On the top of the silent Auction slip put your name where it says "donor, on the bottom put your name where it says "owner").

## **Silent Auction**

When a table is called, the person with the winning bid will find the person who is listed under "owner" and pay them the money and take the specimen home! If you need help finding someone to pay, just ask other club members, we will help you out.

We will also have a table that only Junior Members can bid on (you have to be 18 yrs old or younger – being "young at heart" doesn't count). Please bring a specimen or two for that table (and price them low) so that our younger members can find some exciting specimens and get a good start to their collections. Juniors can bring in stuff to sell, and can bid on anything else, just the adults can not bid on specimens on the Junior table.

Please bring in plenty of change, (for people buying or selling) or a checkbook, there is no ATM nearby. If you would like to help out the club you can bring in a specimen and write TCGMC on the owner/donor line, and all proceeds will go to the club. Kurt, our Treasurer will be in charge of taking in that money.

Please limit your items to a maximum of 20 specimens to sell, if the tables aren't crowded, you can put out a few more at the last minute. At our last Silent Auction, there was so much material for sale that the tables were packed, and this month we will be down a few tables.



If you have questions, please e-mail Shari at [sluttikh@oaisd.org](mailto:sluttikh@oaisd.org) or find me at the beginning of the meeting.



# DID U MISS IT ?

## 2021 TCG&M Board

President - Michael B. Larson  
mblarson300@yahoo.com

Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen  
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Secretary - Brenda Olson  
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Treasurer - Kurt Brinks  
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Field Trip Coordinator - Jon Mull  
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Historian - Betty Hoekstra  
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Jr. Club Coord. - Linda Winkelmann  
lindawinkelmann@att.net

Liaison - Rhonda Gehringer  
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Membership - Christine Silich  
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Newsletter Ed. - < open >

Social Media Coord. - Julia Sherwood  
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Show Coord. - Sue Goedert  
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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

At our October General Meeting, our VP gave an informational presentation on Petoskey Stones. Daring to join the little known controversy, she entered into the argument by discussing **WHAT IS A PETOSKEY STONE?**



From the 1970 booklet **Corals of the Traverse Group of Michigan Part 13, Hexagonaria** written by Erwin C. Stumm, there is an argument that not all species of *Hexagonaria* found in the Traverse Group are true Petoskey stones. Only the *Hexagonaria percarinata* is declared as the actually the P-stone and the numerous other species, though look very similar, are not to be called P-stones !



Also discussed were collecting tips and how to make you special find look amazing. Great specimens to look at were provide by Kurt Brinks.

Thank you Shari for an excellent and educational talk !

<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/48447/ID296.pdf?sequence=2>



## Scenes from the Show

More on page 15



# \$\$\$ News 4 Juniors \$\$\$

## ***Juniors receive Club Bucks for Silent Auction!!***

**Our Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, the General Meeting's Silent Auction will be for ALL** to participate in together, i.e. not have a separate Junior topic in a separate room. This is because we want a LARGE space for Display Tables and lots of room to move around.

As described on page one, each member (kids included) can bring rock-related items for sale - EACH ITEM WITH an attached Bid Slip. Kids can sell or buy from any Display Table, BUT there will be a "Table of Rocks/Minerals/Fossils" that ONLY KIDS can make bids on... because Club members have set low prices to **encourage young collectors**.

**As an Incentive for Kids, each attending Junior will receive two "One Dollar Club Bucks" to spend anywhere in the room.** Members receiving a "Club Buck" as part of payment for a specimen can be reimbursed by Club Treasurer Kurt Brinks in real cash.

**P.S. Wandering amongst the Tables is a great way to just chat with other Club members in fellowship. Hope to see you at this Fun Evening Event!**



Our December General meeting will be held on December 15, 2021. Come and join us for a fun Holiday game and time to spend with other rockhounds. We have four small geodes donated from Chet Smith's family that will be a part of the raffle process. Jon Mull will bring in his geode cracker and will open the geodes for the lucky winners. More details to follow in next Month's Conglomerate.

### **On the Meeting Calendar:**

11/17/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	HMCC, Zeeland
12/1/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	HMCC, Zeeland
12/15/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	HMCC, Zeeland
1/12/21	TCG&MC Board Meeting	HMCC, Zeeland
1/26/21	TCG&MC General Meeting	HMCC, Zeeland

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

**Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club**  
**Howard Miller Community Center Zeeland**  
**October 13, 2021, 7:00 PM; Board Meeting Minutes**

7:07 PM - Board Meeting

Mike Larson, president, called the meeting to order. Mike requested newsletter submission with a deadline of Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

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

Vice President -Shari Luttikhuizen shared on future meeting plans for silent auctions. October general meeting presentation will be "Fun Facts on Petosky Stones," by Shari. Shari is considering a silent auction for November.

Approval of Minutes - Julia made a motion, seconded by Shari, to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2021, General meeting with corrections. Shari made a motion, seconded by Linda, to approve the August 11, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes with corrections. Sue Made a motion seconded by Rhonda August 25, 2021, General meeting minutes. All in favor.

Treasurer Kurt Brinks- gave the treasurers report. The show was very profitable.

Social Media- Julia Sherwood shared she would get show pictures from Ray and Linda Plumert. Website is up to date.

Liaison-Rhonda reported two books were scanned for club history.

Show - Sue reported on a very successful show. Sue liked the fluorescent display being out of the tent. People really helped fill in to work. The food truck worked out well. Vendors had very good sales. Mike suggested for next year to get one or two portable generators for fans throughout the building. Sue liked the marketplace compared to the silent auction. It made the flow of people and sales more consistent.

Juniors-Linda Winkelmann reported 10 new families with kids signed up from the show. Linda may give out selenite and mahogany selenite to the juniors. We are hoping for a large group of juniors at the general meeting.

### **New Business**

Mike noted the club needs to start to come up with workshops for the cold weather. Shari will make up worksheets. There may be field trips to museums in the winter.

Nominating Committee-CH Falstad submitted the slate of potential board members Michael Larson -President, Shari Luttikhuizen-Vice President, Secretary-*Available*, Kurt Brinks-Treasurer, Field Trip Chair-*Available*, Betty Hoekstra-Historian, Linda Winkelmann-Junior Club, Mary Johnson-Liaison, Rhonda Gehringer-Membership Chair, Jon Mull-Newsletter, Show Chair-*Available*, Brenda Nienhuis-Social Coordinator, Julia Sherwood-Social Media Chair, Tom Demol-Director at Large, Director at Large-*Available*, C.H. Falstad-Past President.

C.H. will submit job descriptions for available positions for the newsletter.

Brenda Olson-Secretary, Sue Goedert-Show Chair and Randy Wake-Director at Large, Chris Silich-Membership, Linda Plumert-Social Chair and Jon Mull-Field Trip Coordinator will be stepping down next year. The nominating committee will continue to recruit people for the open positions. The procedure is to announce the election at the October meeting, hold the election in November and have the installation of officers in December.

Bob Sherwood reported on the trip to the Midwest Federation annual convention of delegates in Bowling Green, OH. Bob and Julia Sherwood attended the convention representing Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club. Chet Smith was memorialized as one of the members who had passed away since the last council meeting. Bob strongly recommended our club continue membership with the MWF. They have a contest for youth and juniors. CF suggested the contest be made on our website and links provided to the MWF website.

The next board meeting is on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and the general meeting November 17<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shari and seconded by Sue. All in favor.

Adjourn meeting: by 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Olson



## **Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club**

**Howard Miller Community Center Zeeland**

**October 27, 2021, 7:00 PM; Minutes General Meeting**

7:05 PM - Call to Order - Shari Luttikhuizen, Vice President

Present: about 70 adults and 12 juniors

### **Board Reports**

President Mike Larson gave a welcome to those attending. He officiated the raffle for the evening. Mike thanked Sue Goedert and staff for a great show this year. Mike announced the board will be having elections in November.

Treasurer-Kurt Brinks gave a brief treasurers report. He shared the show made a nice profit.

Field Trips-Jon Mull shared there will be no more field trips this year. Discussion followed on the possibility of field trips to see home collections. It was noted there is an opening for the field trip coordinator position next year.

Membership-Chris Silich reported that twenty new members signed up at the show including a lot of juniors.

Social Media-Julia Sherwood shared the website is up to date and encouraged members to share their rock hunting adventures with her for the website and Facebook page.

Director at Large-Mary Johnson encouraged those present to participate in the raffle and shared that the proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

Show Chair-Sue Goedert thanked the volunteers for their willingness and hard work to put the show together. Sue shared the club had a very successful show this year.

Vice President-Shari Luttikhuizen discussed options for workshops to begin after the holidays in December. Shari announced the next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17 and there will be a silent auction. Bid slips for the auction are available on the club website.

The presentation for the evening was made by Shari sharing Petoskey stone information.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

# *Field Trip Report*

*by Mary Johnson*

## **Keokuk Geode Collecting Field Trip, May 27-May 31, 2021**

Thursday, May 27, through Monday, May 31, found 9 Tulip City rockhounds with 3 White River guests in the area around Keokuk, Iowa, searching for geodes! 9 adult members and 3 junior members were rewarded for their hard work with a lovely variety of geodes to bring home.

We stopped first at Woodies Rock Shop in Hamilton, Illinois, for inspiration. Woodies has beautiful rocks from all over, but their geodes are particularly stunning! (As are the corresponding prices of many of them!) It is now possible for rockhounds to dig in his mine area in Missouri, for a price of \$200-\$300/bucket depending on the area you are digging. There were many incredible, large geodes in the shop, and we all hoped to find our own on our digs.

After a short meeting at the City Park pavillion (where we also met for dinner on 2 evenings and got out the geode crackers to discover what treasures were hidden inside – thank you to Mike, Vicki and Jon for bringing them along!), we went across the road to Wildcat Springs Park to check out Chaney Creek. For those of you who are campers, camping is also available at that park and centrally located to many of the collecting sites. We all stayed in hotels and motels across the Mississippi River in Keokuk, Iowa, where there were several to choose from.

Friday morning we collected at Josh Tipton's site on Railroad Creek and Friday afternoon across the road in the wall at Jacob's Geodes. It had rained a lot in the area, and there was a lot of mud at both sites (Jennifer at Tipton's asked if we all had 4-wheel or all-wheel drive before we drove down to the creek!) but luckily the creek itself was not too high. (Fox River and the Amish farmer's place were both inaccessible this trip because of high water and mud.) Geodes were found in the water, on the rock bars and in the banks at Tipton's. Mike and Vicki found a couple of large ones they fortunately decided to carry out, as they were amazing inside! Jacob's was very hard digging in slippery mud, but if you were lucky enough and worked hard enough and dug down deep enough in the right spot, several collector's hit jackpots! Dinner was a group event at the Hawkeye Restaurant in Keokuk, and great to be able to sit together and socialize.

Saturday was spent collecting at Vickers Geodes, again in Hamilton, Illinois. This location provided both access to Railroad Creek and to a large wall/mine looking area. The creek was calm and had a couple of little waterfalls and some rock bars, and several shy snakes sunning themselves on the rocks that generally slithered off into the weeds. Geodes in the wall were especially beautiful although not always large, but also very hard to get out and in many cases very fragile. Way too often a geode would shatter or break off or a pick would go through another next-door geode when trying

to oh-so-carefully work around the one you knew was there next to it. Yet, all found some beauties!

Our last day of collecting on Sunday took us into Revere, Missouri, to St. Francisville Geodes. Here again there was a creek (Weaver Branch off the Des Moines River) and a more mine type area, although not a big wall like at Vickers or Jacob's Geodes. Again, there was hard digging, although the charge was by the pound and not by a bucket, so you paid for what you took. Some truly incredible large pieces came out of this site, and many were handily just laying on the surface. Jon Mull worked hard (Big Betty even got out of the truck at this site!) and was rewarded by the geode in the attached photo. There were a couple of guys (not with us) who broke open many big ones that were just laying on the surface that were amazing inside. They did take almost all of them, but we did discuss how it is rather bad form to be checking what was inside before you decided if you wanted it or not..... Of interesting note about this site: it is adjacent to the area Woodies geodes come out of, the shop where we began our geode weekend.

If you plan to take a geode collecting tour of your own in the area, all sites (with the exception of Jacob's Geodes) should be contacted ahead of time to arrange access. At Jacob's, you can find a gentleman in the office for more information.

We all drove the 7 hours back home Monday, with lots of new items for the collections! Many thanks to Jon Mull, our field trip coordinator, for once again planning a great trip and for sharing all of his expertise. Rock club field trips are always fun and also very informative and educational, with members generously sharing their knowledge and giving many helpful tips (just WHERE should you dig?) If you haven't been able to join one of the field trips yet, here's hoping you will be able to take part in one coming up soon! Rock on!





# *Field Trip Report*

*by Jon Mull*

## **17th Keokuk Geode Festival**

At the end of September each year I get the best birthday present. A trip to the Keokuk Geode Festival with my kids, Angie and Jack. We have been attending the festival for a number of years now and always have a great time. This year, their 17th, was held over the dates of September 23rd thru the 26th. The festival is attended by folks from all over the midwest, and probably beyond. It started as a simple gathering for geode enthusiasts but now includes local vendors who specialize in geodes and other rocks and minerals from the area.



The folks that just opened the druzy quartz location in Potosi, Missouri were there this year as well and had several tables full of chunks of lacy druzy quartz, some with barite as well. The event has gotten quite large with long caravans of cars leaving for the collecting sites. What makes this event special though is the fact that some of the local land owners only allow collecting on their property during the festival. Oddly enough all of the sites are in either Illinois or Missouri. This year the kids and I made it out to three sites.

On Friday morning we headed to Jacobs Geodes (one of our favorites) and had no trouble filling a couple of buckets this year! Jacobs geodes have always been on the smallish side but the smaller ones seem to be particularly hollow. They are also known for their interesting secondaries. I have also found what I would consider "micro" geodes there that are quite amazing. You can see in one of the pictures a geode half that is sitting on the back of a penny. It is clearly hollow and has some mildly degraded dolomite crystals inside. Friday afternoon we went back to railroad creek, which some of you may remember as the Tiptons, if you joined us this spring. The water was down, and we got a better look at the shale that lines the bottom of the creek. I pulled a couple of interesting geodes out of the creek bottom. They were quite clean inside and had nice secondary calcites. The weather cooperated nicely for the weekend as we managed to avoid getting overly muddy at any of the sites.

Saturday morning we headed out to St. Francisville. This was the site of the enormous dew drop diamond geode from the article a couple of letters ago. This site is a little harder to get started on but once I found a couple of geodes bristling out of the ground I chose my spot and managed to get under a section of shale. Using a 3lb sledge, a chisel, and a large pry bar I removed a 1' by 1.5' section of shale about 2" thick to reveal a "nest" of geodes of various sizes. The largest was essentially the size of a deformed volleyball. The shale at this site is HARD but it will split if you can get a chisel going in the right spot. You can hopefully see from the pictures that my rock hammer is laying between a couple of large geodes and there are more tucked in around those. The hard part was finding a spot that wasn't geode. By the time I was done I had a full bucket and had another cleared layer of shale. There were a couple of bumps left that probably had geodes hidden under them, but I managed to extract all of the geodes you can see in the picture. The only problem with this site is because the geodes are large and often heavy, they are frequently solid or have a thick rind. After putting the work in it is hard to leave geodes behind and I did bring home several that



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## The Saga of the “Stash”

by Ken & Betty Hoekstra

It all began in 2006. A Club field trip to the Western states was planned by our Field Trip Coordinator, Bob Sherwood. In anticipation of the trip, Ken purchased a large used Ford van that would be able to hold plenty of rocks. As we remember, our grandson, Dave, named the van “Scooby Doo,” because of its darker blue color and, of course, the TV program. The name stuck!

On an early June morning in '06, Ken picked up Bob and they were off on their merry way. As the day grew warmer, Bob asked to have the air-conditioning turned on and that's when they discovered Scooby Doo didn't have functioning AC. Also, there was a problem with the engine overheating that required occasional stops to let it cool down. We drove throughout the trip with windows open. Among other club members, Jack and Elaine Decker were also along pulling a travel trailer with their truck. When Scooby was being worked on for 5 days in a repair shop in Prineville, Oregon, Jack would faithfully pick up Bob and Ken to go to the day's hunting spot. His vehicle had AC! The two guys certainly had a greater appreciation for AC after driving so many miles with hot air blasting in their faces. Temperature at our first night's stop in Nebraska was 111 degrees.

Prior to reaching Oregon, we stopped at Ulrich's Fossil Gallery adjacent to the Fossil Butte Monument west of Kemmerer, Wyoming. After a fascinating tour of their professionally prepared fossil fish from the Green River Formation, we talked to the lady at the gift counter, Kathy Failoni. When she heard we were rockhounds and interested in petrified wood, she told us her husband had quite a bit but she did not know much about it. She invited us out to their ranch the next day. We found the ranch located further west of Fossil Butte Monument and very near the Utah border. Her husband, Don, took us to a large out-building where was stacked a huge “stash” of Blue Forest Petrified wood. What an amazing once in a life-time visual experience! In addition to the wood, there was a huge assortment of antlers hanging from the walls, the ceiling and even piled up covering the wood.



In the great room of the house were various weapons hanging from the wall taken by the sheriff. Each had a tag with brief specifics of the incident that caused the “villain” to surrender his weapon. Don Failoni had purchased the stash of wood, the antlers and the weapons from a retired Sweetwater County sheriff, George Stevens, who had collected the wood in the 1920's and 1930's long before most rockhounds had really worked the site, which today is pockmarked with holes up to 6' deep. The Failoni's have had it in their building for some 40 years.

This past summer, Bob and Julia, returning from a trip west, stopped to see the Failoni's, having communicated with them occasionally over the past 15 years. Invited into their home, they were served peach iced tea which Kathy remembered having served to Ken & Bob back in '06. After returning home, having purchased a couple of Coca-Cola cases full of wood limbs, Bob told Ken that Don was interested in selling all his remaining Blue Forest wood. It was estimated there could be 3 to 4 tons in the trove. So, Ken conceived the idea of purchasing a quantity of wood.



Our son-in-law, Steve Huizingh who has his own moving business, was approached by a client about delivering some furniture to Ft. Collins, Colorado. Daughter Lynn and Steve really enjoy road trips together, and they have learned to pack items very efficiently. They offered to pick up some of the wood after making the delivery to Colorado. What a great combination of circumstances! Ken talked with Don by phone and worked out a purchase agreement.

The Failoni's and Huizingh's met on an early sunny September morning at the ranch. Working together as a team, Kathy and Lynn would sort through the wood and place it into totes. (Thank you Ray and Linda Plumert!) Don had a large scale so he weighed each tote and kept track of the numbers as Steve would carry the totes into the truck. It turned out the amount they brought home was one and a half tons. At noon, the four of them had a lovely lunch together in the Failoni kitchen. Kathy had prepared food (which Lynn and Steve did not expect them to do) as Lynn had come prepared with food, so they sat together and shared. They talked about the peach tea Kathy had served the guys in 2006. Both Ken & Bob have commented many times about that tea when they tell fellow rockhounds about this great stash of Blue Forest wood. Kathy was so kind and gave Lynn the recipe. Lynn and Steve had such a delightful time visiting with them and learning about the ranch which has been in the family for generations and interesting information about their earlier years. Lynn and Steve would love to go back and revisit their new friends in Wyoming!

During the return home, Lynn sent photos and updates to us. She also alerted other family members so they could be at our home to help unload. We could hardly wait for the truck to arrive in our driveway. Finally, there it was. It was like Christmas when Steve opened the doors. The family unloaded the 40 black totes, filling one entire side of the garage and we stood back and looked at it all. Probably the largest collection of Blue Forest wood east of the Mississippi River!

Later, we went inside, cleaned our hands and had salad, spaghetti and ice cream and sat around the table talking, laughing and learning. After dark we went out with the UV light to look at this 50 million years old wood, some infiltrated with chalcedony which fluoresces.

Were we out of our minds to have purchased all of this wood? No! We can't travel on field trips anymore, so this was a "lark" to bring the field trip to us and it's been a lot of fun!! It continues to be another bright spot in our lives. ***And that's the story of the STASH!***

# Field Trip Report

by Rick & Deb Smith

## August, 2021 UP Field Trip Report

During the first week of August, Deb and I joined several other Tulip City Club members on a joint Tulip City/White River field trip to the Upper Peninsula. It was a fun, fluid, “free-form” event with all of us coming together from different locations and activities, and then moving on to separate adventures as permitted by our individual time schedules, some of us tent-camping, some staying in trailers, some in motels. Deb and I started our adventure with a camping trip in Luce County near the Lake Superior shoreline where we did some daytime beachstone collecting and some nighttime Yooperlite hunting.



On Friday the whole group assembled to participate in the Republic Mine field trip organized by Ishpeming Club. Pam Havermans and her sister Bambi, Patrick McAlary and his daughter Katherine (a recent GVSU grad with a specialization in earth sciences), Sue and Kevin McMains, Vern and Brenda Nienhuis, Ray and Linda Plumert, Peter Riemersma, and Deb and I all made the trip into the Republic Mine, along with Tom and Shelley Williams from the White River Club. I believe everyone collected good specimens of banded iron and of magnetite; plus Vern and Brenda got some great specimens of massive milky quartz, and Peter picked up a really nice garnet schist. The Republic Mine event ended around 1:30, and Pam led us to a rocky exposure near Snowville, MI where we could collect small pyrite crystals in a green-colored phyllite matrix. This is an interesting exposure because the strata here are tilted at such a dramatic angle, almost vertical. From there we all went to the Champion Mine tailings in Champion, MI for the glittery specular hematite that this site is so well known for. In addition to the specularite collected at this site, Ray and I each found tourmaline crystals as well.



On Saturday morning many of us went to the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club Show at the Elks Lodge in Ishpeming. In the afternoon, Pam led us to the Lucy Mine tailings and then on to the Spurr Mine tailings. At this latter site we were able to collect schists with exposed, well-formed garnet crystals...or perhaps the crystals were a garnet pseudomorph called chamosite, a mineral in which the garnet has been replaced by chlorite.

On Sunday we drove to Keweenaw Peninsula, settling in at our separate locations ahead of our different plans. Ray and Linda had field trips scheduled with the Copper Country Show; Peter, Deb and I went up to Hunter's Point. Here Peter was able to give us insights into the geological formations visible on the beach: basalt exposures where we could "read" the basalt flows using the vesicular basalt in the outcrops, and conglomerate exposures with huge clasts, some of the largest Peter said he had seen in a conglomerate.



The next day, Monday, we car-pooled ourselves into two of the more rugged vehicles and made our way out to High Rock Point at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. This is quite a torturous ride, not for the weak of heart or for low-clearance vehicles. When we got to High Rock Point there were more campers and visitors than I would have expected given the challenging road out, but who should we meet there but Club members Chris Cooper and Gary Katt with their kayaks out for some of their specialized agate hunting. They had scuba gear with them, but I haven't learned yet whether or not they did any diving and what success they might have had.



Those of us who stayed on the beach examined the agates in situ in the basalt outcrops and hunted for agates on the beach itself. Katherine had the best success here; while most of us walked up and down the beach to see what we could find on the surface or in the shallow water, Katherine sat in one place and dug down into the gravelly beach material to find small, nearly whole nodules of agate that had weathered out of the basalt.

After our High Rock Point adventure, Patrick and Katherine headed for Whitefish Point before their long drive home. Pam and Bambi, Peter, and Deb and I made one last stop in the Keweenaw, at the Clark Mine tailings where prehnite can be collected. This is a picturesque site in Copper Harbor with an old brick smoke stack still standing. Deb and I thought about extending our trip with another day or two of camping, but the prospects for rain in the area sent us heading home instead. We had a great trip: learned a lot, collected a lot, visited some new places, shared time with friends...what could be better!



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**The Keweenaw is composed of some of the oldest exposed rock in the world, dating back some 1.1 billion years, and it is mineral rich. The first great mining boom in the United States began in 1843 with the discovery, first in Copper Harbor, of the red metal – copper. From 7,000 years ago to the 1900s people mined Keweenaw copper. Native peoples made copper into tools and trade items.**

ended up being solid. The weight can be deceiving at this site as well since they may have large deposits of calcite in them or chalcedony, which is generally heavier. I felt they were worth the risk and I still have some that are unopened. We were already pretty tired and decided to head back to the hotel for some swimming and a good nights sleep. We were on the road for home by 7:30 or so Sunday morning. It was a great trip, as always.

Since this is pretty much the end of the season, to those of you that made it out to at least one of our field trips this year, thank you for making them a success. I Hope someone will be able to take the wheel next year as I will be shifting into other duties for the club. Even if it's not an official trip I'm sure we'll be heading back that way some time next spring. Hopefully some of you can join us! Peace! Jon



A very extravagant half from the Fabulous Keokuk Geode mine. Iridescent brown calcite with pink dogtooth calcite on top. \$422 was the price tag.



# BOARD ELECTIONS FOR 2022

The slate of board members up for election:



Michael Larson-President

Secretary-*Available*

Field Trip Chair-*Available*

Linda Winkelmann-Junior Leader

Rhonda Gehringer-Membership

Show Chair-*Available*

Julia Sherwood-Social Media Chair

Director at Large-*Available*

Shari Luttikhuisen-Vice President

Kurt Brinks-Treasurer

Betty Hoekstra-Historian

Mary Johnson-Liaison

Jon Mull-Newsletter Editor

Brenda Nienhuis-Social Coord

Tom Demol-Director at Large

C.H. Falstad-Past President



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  $\frac{2}{3}$  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 49422

