



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club **Conglomerate**

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

December 2021

Volume 54, Edition 12

December General Meeting
Howard Community Center, Zeeland, MI
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 @ 7 pm

Let's celebrate the Holidays !

This month everyone will get a gift...but will you get to keep the one you want? Join us for a fun game after the business meeting. If you are in the spirit of the season, Wear something festive. Snacks will be provided, BUT if you like, you can bring in some pre-packaged snacks to share, but they need to be individually wrapped.

Be ready to sign up for workshops starting in January and February. It's not too late to think of something you would like to learn this winter, or volunteer some skill you could teach others. Classes can be as big or small as you want. We are also looking for people who might have a bigger space (either in their home or heated workshop) to host workshops - just providing the space, not necessarily teaching.

Due to the increase of Covid in our community, if you are feeling ill at all the week before the meeting, please stay home. Wearing a mask will be optional and not mandatory, but feel free to wear one if it makes you feel safer. **Let's keep everyone healthy during this holiday season!**

If you have questions, please e-mail sluttikh@oaisd.org or find me at the beginning of the meeting.

I hope to see everyone there! - Shari

**IT'S TIME TO
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

Membership for 2022 are DUE now.

Anyone joining at our recent show is paid for 2022 !

Dues are \$15 for individual and \$20 for family and \$5 extra if anyone needs a mailed copy of the club newsletter.



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

Hey Juniors . . . *MAKE NECKLACE* *of Shark Tooth or Arrowhead for Holiday!*

It's Craft Night at the December General Meeting and select a Fossil Shark Tooth or an Arrowhead flaked from a rock, then string it onto a wire or cord for a unique necklace. Beads will also be available for your use.

The arrowheads were created by folks with a Knapping Hobby. That means they take a piece of obsidian, flint or another silica-based rock, then carefully hit it to remove small chips/flakes until it's shaped like the tip of an arrow (and becomes one). Club member Brenda Olsen donated these pieces.



The fossilize shark teeth were found near a Florida river by members Kurt & Marcus Brink. Kurt reports the black and gray color means they are fossils, as today's sharks lose white teeth 😊. He donated 3 kinds: Sand Shark, Bull Shark and Lemon Shark. These fish lived about 20 million years ago. Like the sharks of today, they each lost hundreds of teeth over their lifetime. The teeth got mixed up with other sediments and stayed covered up for those many millions of years... until they recently eroded out and became findable! – At the meeting, we'll have a chart showing which shape of tooth belongs to which Shark.

Depending on your style, you can add beads to jazz up the Shark Tooth or Arrowhead necklace or you can keep it simple. Come and be creative!!

Juniors Workshop

January 15 or February 12, 2022

Kids and Parents are invited by Rance and Anne Westover to their home workshop to learn about lapidary arts. Three families per date can sign-up to create a polished Petoskey Stone Pendant.

This experience will allow for individualized instruction and an opportunity to use/view their workshop's equipment.

A sign-up sheet will be available at December's General Meeting.

OFFICERS FOR 2022

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Michael B. Larson |
| Vice President | Shari Luttikhuizen |
| Treasurer | Kurt Brinks |
| Secretary | OPEN |
| Newsletter Editor | Jon Mull |
| Juniors | Linda Winkelmann |
| Membership Coordinator | Rhonda Gehringer |
| Field Trip Coordinator | Peter Riemersma |
| Social Coordinator | Michelle Lanting |
| Social Media Coordinator | Julia Sherwood |
| Historian | Betty Hoekstra |
| Liaison | Mary Johnson |
| Directors-at-Large | Tom DeMol Greta Fochtman |
| Show Chair | OPEN |
| Immediate Past President | C.H. Falstad |



"It's not a mess. It's my rock collection."

NOTE: Marguerite Fochtman and Michelle Lanting were appointed to their positions and approved by the Board at the 12/1 meeting.

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 or www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/

Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club
Howard Miller Community Center Zeeland
November 3, 2021, 7:00 PM; Board Meeting Minutes

7:06 PM – Board Meeting

Mike Larson, president, called the meeting to order.

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

Approval of Minutes – Shari made a motion, seconded by Julia, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021, General Meeting as corrected. Julia made a motion, seconded by Jon, to approve the October 27, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Mike will emphasize renewals in the newsletter and remind members that anyone who paid at the show is covered through December 2022. Discussion followed on creating a paper membership form. Mike needs newsletter submissions by 6pm on November 6th.

Vice President -Shari Luttkhuizen shared the November meeting will have a silent auction, limited to 20 items per person. Shari will announce December's meeting plans at the November meeting. Discussion followed on the quality program Shari had on Petoskey stones at the October general meeting.

Treasurer Kurt Brinks- gave the treasurers report. Kurt reported the club is in a positive income phase. During January the club has bills for insurance and room rents.

Social Media- Julia Sherwood shared the website is up to date. Julia put up a description on how the auction is going to work on the website.

Nominating committee reported there may be a person interested in Field Trip Coordinator position. Open positions are field trip, secretary, show, social coordinator, and director at large.

Show – Sue sent a report to Mike with the 2022 show theme Earth's Antiques.

Juniors-Linda Winkelmann shared there was a nice turnout at the last meeting.

Field Trip – Jon Mull shared the White River Group will have a trip to a Sylvania quarry November 6.

Historian-Betty acknowledged the work of Jon and Ronda scanning material. Betty would like to get more people to help.

Director at Large – Mary Johnson went to White River meeting on Monday.

New Business

Julia made a motion to make a Seaman Mineral Museum donation of \$200 seconded by Linda. Discussion followed on how they support our show with an exhibit. A consensus was reached to make donations as we are able rather than make a yearly commitment. All in favor. Kurt moved and Shari seconded that we send the donation with Julia's handwritten thank you note, on behalf of Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club. All in favor.

It was noted that the club needs the creation of a budget committee appointed by the president in November that meets the first week of January.

Shari is actively recruiting workshop ideas.

The next general meeting is November 17. The next board meeting is on December 1st and the general meeting in December is on the 15th.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mary and seconded by Jon. All in favor.

Adjourn meeting: by 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Olson

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club
Howard Miller Community Center Zeeland
November 17, 2021, 7:00 PM; Minutes General Meeting

7:18 PM – Call to Order – Mike Larson, president

Present: about 56 adults and 5 juniors

Board Reports

President Mike Larson gave a welcome to those attending. Mike shared the next general meeting would be December 15.

Vice President-Sheri Luttkhuizen requested people share workshop ideas on the sheets of paper provided. Workshops are to start after Christmas.

Membership-Christine Silich shared membership dues are due December 31st. Anyone who joined the club at the show will be a member throughout 2022. Dues are \$15 for individual and \$20 for family and \$5 extra if anyone needs a mailed copy of the club newsletter.

Treasurer-Kurt Brinks gave a brief treasurers report.

Social Media-Julia Sherwood shared that the website is up to date.

Juniors were given two \$1 coupons to use for the silent auction.

Director at Large-Mary Johnson shared that there would be no raffle but there will be 4 special geodes available at the December 15th meeting.

Show Chair-Sue Goedert shared the tech center is willing to design the flyers for the show next year.

Past President-C.H. Falstad presented the slate of officers of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club for the 2022 Board:

- President- Mike Larson
- Vice President- Shari Luttkhuizen
- Secretary-Available
- Treasurer-Kurt Brinks
- Field Trip Chair-Peter Riemersma
- Historian-Betty Hoekstra
- Junior Club-Linda Winkleman
- Liaison-Mary Johnson
- Membership Chair-Rhonda Gehringer
- Newsletter-Jon Mull
- Show Chair-Available
- Social Coordinator-Available
- Social Media Chair-Julia Sherwood
- Director at Large-Tom Demol
- Director at Large-Available
- Past President-C.H. Falstad



Bob Sherwood made a motion, seconded by Bob Sinke, to approve and elect the board slate unanimously, as presented by the nominating committee, with one vote. All in favor.

It was noted from the audience that JP Gem will be opening a new shop in Holland devoted to rocks.

The board reports were followed by a silent auction.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Olson

The Nickel Behind the Nickel

By Steve Voynick

July 20, 2021

Nickeline (copper arsenide) was the medieval Kupfernickel - the origin of our word “nickel.” (Wikimedia Commons)



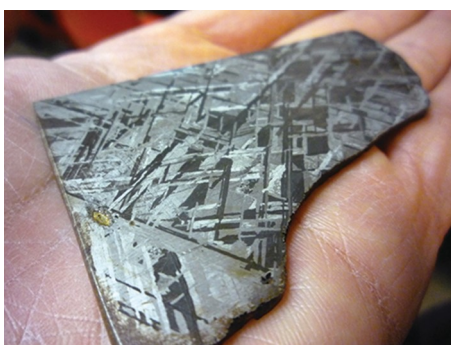
The word “nickel” is a homonym with two distinct meanings. It refers to both our five-cent coin and an element. Everyone is familiar with the coin, but not necessarily with the element.

Rock&Gem

Pure nickel is a lustrous metal with a silvery-white color and a slight golden tinge. As a siderophilic element, it associates readily with iron and even shares some of iron’s properties. Its melting temperature, density, magnetic properties, and hardness are generally similar to those of iron. But iron oxidizes (rusts) readily, while nickel strongly resists oxidation.

Nickel is the Earth’s fifth most abundant element; most, however, is thought to be combined with iron in the Earth’s core. In crustal abundance, nickel ranks 28th among the elements and is about as common as copper. Native (elemental) nickel is rare in the crust but common in meteorites, mainly as the iron-nickel alloy taenite. Millerite, or nickel sulfide, is one of the primary ores of nickel.

Tools and weapons of exceptional quality were fashioned from meteoritic taenite as early as 3500 BCE. By 1700 BCE, Chinese metallurgists were unknowingly using nickel in copper alloys.



Nickel’s modern story began when medieval miners in Germany’s Erzgebirge region found a reddish mineral that they erroneously believed contained copper. They blamed their inability to extract copper on nickel, an evil spirit of German mythology, who they thought had bedeviled the ore. The miners named the ore Kupfernickel, literally “copper devil,” from the German Kupfer, meaning “copper.”

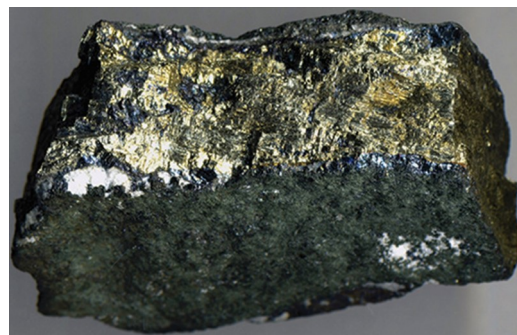
In 1751, Swedish mineralogist Alex Fredrik Cronstedt smelted Kupfernickel to obtain a previously unknown metal that he named “nickel” after the mythical evil spirit. Today, Kupfernickel is the mineral nickeline (nickel-arsenide, NiAs) which has a coppery color and occurs in massive form.

Coinage was one of nickel’s first modern uses. Copper-nickel alloys appeared in U.S. coinage in 1858. In 1865, the U.S. Mint introduced a five-cent coin composed of a 75-25 copper-nickel alloy. That coin became known as the “nickel”—a name still used today.

By the 1880s, metallurgists learned to add small amounts of nickel to steel to improve corrosion-resistance, hardness, malleability, and high-temperature performance. Today, the production of stainless-steel, nickel-steel, and specialty alloys accounts for 86 percent of nickel demand.

Nickel is mined both from surface laterite and underground sulfide deposits. Laterite is a mix of iron nickeloxides and hydroxides and hydrous nickel silicates. The most abundant nickel-bearing mineral is pentlandite, bronze-yellow with a metallic luster, that occurs in massive form. Another important nickel-ore mineral is millerite [nickel sulfide, NiS], which has a brassy-yellow color, an acicular habit, and usually occurs in radiating masses.

About 2.7 million tonnes of nickel are now mined worldwide each year, with Australia, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, and Canada accounting for half of the global production. The United States has only one primary nickel mine. Although the nation also obtains nickel through recycling and as a by-product of base-metal and platinum mining, it imports most of its nickel requirements.



Refined nickel now sells for about \$6.50 per pound.

About 4.2 million tonnes of nickel are used worldwide each year. Apart from alloys, nickel is also needed for electroplating solutions and the manufacture of magnets, rechargeable batteries, and industrial chemicals and catalysts.

Nickel mining and usage are at an all-time high. According to the Nickel Institute, a global association of nickel producers, 80 percent of all the nickel mined throughout history has been mined in just the last 30 years. Yet, there is no foreseeable nickel shortage. Current global ore reserves contain 300 million tonnes of nickel, which will last more than a century at the current rate of mining.

Although coinage is now only a minor use of nickel, the metal nevertheless makes up 25 percent of our nickels and 8.3 percent of our dimes, quarters, and half-dollars. And that's the story of the nickel behind the nickel.

Did you Know?

Eagle Mine is an underground, high-grade nickel and copper mine located in western Marquette County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is the nation's only primary nickel mine and is expected to produce 360 million pounds of nickel, 295 million pounds of copper and small amounts of other metals over our estimated mine life (2014–2025). Eagle Mine will supply 1.5 % of the world's nickel.

Between 2011 and 2025, Eagle Mine's direct and indirect impact is estimated to generate an additional \$4.3 billion for Michigan's economy.

To solve this puzzle, first unscramble the words relating to mineral rockhounding in our region. Then take the letters specified from the unscrambled words and use those letters to decrypt the final phrase.



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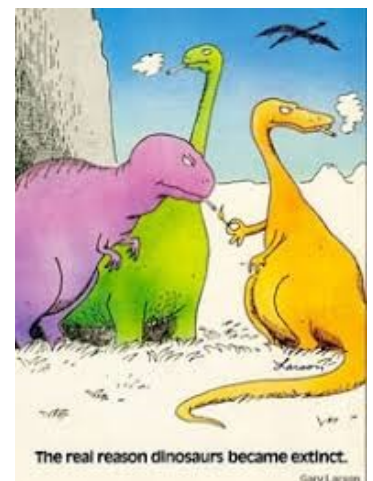
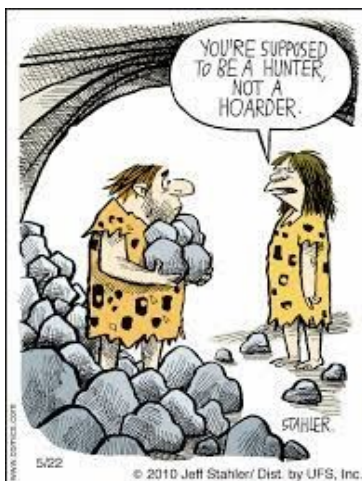
Complete the puzzle and WIN a PRIZE !
Show your completed puzzle to President Mike to get something millions of years old that Mike found.

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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 (\$5.00)



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:
Christine Silich
416 West Mae Rose Ave
Holland, MI 49424

Questions can be e-mailed to:
csds77@icloud.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 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

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 49422

