

# Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

## June 2020



### Message from the Past-President

Dear Rock and Gem enthusiasts,

This has been the year like none other, and it's only the beginning of June. The board felt it safest to cancel our March general meeting of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club. Nobody would have shown up anyway. And regrettably the April Banquet we all look forward to for the whole previous year and some of our collecting trips were also canceled. The Board has still been able to "meet" via Zoom on the internet to discuss the running of the club, but it's still not the same as getting together to see all our friends with similar interests.

As our government relaxes the restrictions of gatherings, and as we have learned safer with communicable diseases (wash your hands, wear face coverings and DON'T lick rocks) we hope to be able to get together this month. More on that elsewhere in this newsletter.

One exciting aspect of our hobby was the successful exchange of material with two other clubs: Gem and Mineral Clubs of Grand Junction, CO and Clackamette Park, Oregon. In addition to doing a rock exchange with them and having some interesting material we don't see everyday in Michigan, we also hope to build some lasting relationships that may develop into visits, collecting trips together and stronger friendships.

OK, I can't resist retelling the story of the rock that got separated. As you may have heard, the boxes from TCGMC were shipped out on a Wednesday afternoon in the large Priority Mail Box (12.5 x 12.5 x 6"). (*Story continues on page 9*).

**"When all the water has gone, only the largest stones will still remain in the riverbed."**

### Did you Know ???

95% of the Earth's crust is made of igneous rock.

It is estimated that the average person on will use over one million pounds of rocks, minerals, and metals in a lifetime.

There are seven different physical properties or characteristics used to identify and label minerals: crystal form, hardness, fracture or cleavage, luster, color, streak, and density.

Throughout history, rocks like jade were used to make tools and weapons like knives, hammers, axes, and hooks for catching fish. Before humans had matches, rocks were used to create different tools meant for starting fires.

## 2020 TCG&M Board

President - Michael B. Larson  
mblarson300@yahoo.com

Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen  
sluttkih@oaisd.org

Secretary - Brenda Olson  
brendaolson01@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks  
kbrinks@hollandpublicschools.org

Field Trip Coordinator - Jon Mull  
solace247@yahoo.com

Field Trip Coordinator - Bob Sinke  
bobsinke@comcast.net

Historian - Betty Hoekstra  
kbhoek@att.net

Jr. Club Coord. - Rick Smith  
Hollandsmith@gmail.com

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



Found here in Michigan is one of the world's premier mineral museums, the **A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum** is nationally and internationally recognized by mineral collectors and connoisseurs. Featuring the largest public exhibit and finest collection of minerals from the Great Lakes region and the world's best collection of Michigan minerals, the museum exhibits feature the rich colors of nature's masterpieces. While visitors marvel, they learn about minerals through informative displays and discover how minerals are important in your life.

The museum was officially founded in 1902 and it was designated as the official Mineral Museum of Michigan in 1991. It is the unofficial Mineral Museum of the Great Lakes Region and draws visitors each year to the campus of Michigan Technological University, originally founded as the Michigan College of Mines in 1885.

The world's best collection of Michigan minerals and minerals from around the world are part of its collection and exhibits. The University of Michigan mineral collection is held by the museum under the Michigan Mineral Alliance. The world-record holding 17-ton native copper slab is on exhibit in the Copper Pavilion (see photo above).

As a guideline you should plan two to three hours for your visit, although there is enough to see to last many more, and you can bring some splendor home with you: the museum gift shop features minerals as decorators, jewelry, bookends, candleholders, and more. These make a beautiful addition to your living space or a wonderful gift for lovers of natural history.

Free parking is adjacent to the museum. We are handicap accessible and have one onsite wheelchair for use by visitors, so make the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum your destination, or a wonder-filled stop on your next visit to this beautiful region of Upper Michigan.

Source: <https://museum.mtu.edu/>

*Greetings fellow Tulip City Rockhounds!*



*It seems so long since we have all been able to be together in person, but your Board is still meeting virtually and working on projects for the club!*

*One of those projects has Shari Luttikhuizen and I working on a proposed database of speakers who would be available for presentations for meetings, banquets, etc. This list would also be shared with other fellow area clubs to coordinate speakers for our programs.*

*More information will following. Please feel free to contact us with any questions! Here's hoping you are all staying well, healthy and sane during these interesting times!*

*Mary Johnson*



Thank you to everyone who donated specimens to share with the Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club and the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club. The exchange is now complete (although I feel from going through everything with the President and vice-president of our club, the balance is definitely in our favor.)

There are some excellent specimens: dinosaur bones (big and small), other unusual fossils, and all kinds of slabs and rough for polishing and making into pretty things. When I say "all kinds" that's exactly what I mean. I'm sure many of you would want to make the Blue Forest petrified wood or polished thundereggs into jewelry, maybe some jade slabs, carnelian agate, wascoite jasper slab, Hay Creek blue agate (who in our club have a piece of this), Gary green Jasper (Larsonite), a slab of quartz with silver, and lots of other petrified wood, large slab of lily pad orbicular Rhyolite. If you'd like to possibly own some of these unusual specimens shared with our club, we hope to see you at the up-and-coming silent auction general meetings. Pictures of this material can be seen on our TCG&M Facebook page:

Club Mineral Exchange (2020) Oregon

[https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=10159495210766037](https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10159495210766037)

Club Mineral Exchange (2020) Colorado

[https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=10159495204746037](https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10159495204746037)

If you've never heard of some of these, join the band. Look them up and bring your bank roll, check book, or kids piggy bank as we are planning to auction off some of these at our next meeting and this is a chance to own some of these spectacular pieces. There is way too much to auction at a single meeting. And if you're like me and feel we should say a special thanks to both of these clubs with another shipment, please bring in some extra specimens to share with these other clubs. - C.H.



**Field Trips**  
**On Hold ! ! !**

by Shari Luttikhuizen

Bob Zigler, one of our charter members at Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club wanted to pass along his unique way of Tumbling Rocks. An excerpt of a letter he sent to a couple of the club members was published in the February 2020 edition of the Conglomerate. Simply put, instead of going through the 4-5 stages of tumbling rocks, he puts a double amount of 80 grit in his Rock Tumbler, and lets it run for 5-6 weeks, then cleans everything up and puts in his polish and lets it run for 2 weeks. He has nicknamed himself "The Lazy Tumbler". I was very intrigued by this idea.

Now, I am not known for my patience, but love to experiment (let me tell you about my garden sometime). I decided to try it. I came up with 3 different batches of the same sort of rocks. I picked out a mixture of Crazy Lace agate, Petrified Wood, Lake Superior agate and Blue Lace agate. My theory - If you are going to spend over a month tumbling something, it should be something you are excited about.

One batch I did nothing to it, it serves as a control. The second batch I ran in a 3 pound rotary tumbler using the "Zigler" method, and the third batch I ran in my 4 pound tumbler using my normal method (2 weeks in 80 grit, 1 week 220, 1 week in 600, 1 week in polish). I was able to put a few larger pieces in the 4 lb. tumbler because the barrel is bigger, and had to stick to the smaller pieces in the 3 lb. one, but it was the same sort of material. I normally would weed out pieces after different stages if I think they needed a little extra time, but for this challenge, I kept everything in, and only added ceramic pieces after changing the barrels to bring them back up to the correct level.

5 weeks is a long time to wait.....

Going downstairs and staring at it didn't help.....

Every time I changed the barrel on the 4 lb. tumbler I thought maybe I should open the 3 lb. barrel and "just peek"... but I didn't. I was afraid that after 5 weeks I would have only tiny pebbles left.

After 5 weeks I couldn't wait to open the 3 lb. barrel – and was simply amazed! They looked really great! At that point the 4 lb. barrel was just finished with the 80 and the 220 grit... and the batches looked pretty much the same. I kept on with my program, 3 lb. barrel with 2 weeks polish, 4 lb. barrel, 1 week 600, 1 week polish.



The Final Result: Really, they look identical (sorry I doubted you, Bob!). I even brought them over to Ken and Betty Hoekstra's house, and they looked them over, and could not tell the difference. Both batches are nicely rounded and took a great shine.

What did I learn from all this?

It was really hard to wait 5 weeks to open the barrel and check out the progress, but in the long run Bob Zigler's method saved me money (80 grit is cheaper especially when you buy in bulk – and I didn't need the 220 or 600 grit), and time (changing a barrel takes a while, and I only had to change it once with the Zigler Method).

As I have stated before... rock tumbling is like making chili, everyone has a different recipe. I think Bob Zigler has a great one!

*Zigler Challenge - Accepted!*

# What's keeping you BUSY ?

With the warming weather and the easing of restrictions of COVID-19 precautions, many on the board has been wondering . . . What have you been doing to cope ? ? ?

Earlier in the newsletter, our V.P. shared her experience tumbling stones using the "Zigler" method. If any of you also used this time to tumble or polish some of your treasures from collecting, please share them and be part of our next newsletter. Just as Shari did, pictures are always welcomed.

As for your president, well the itch was simply too much to stay home any longer. So to beat the upcoming (expected) rush north for the Memorial Day weekend, Robin, Savvy, and I made a run to my favorite area to collect Petoskey Stones.

Stopping at a location that always produces nice stones, we were shocked to see that road to the parking lot was closed off since the high L.M. water levels had raised the swamp that flooded the road. Donning our water shoes and a collecting bag, we trudged through the puddle to the beach and began our search. Robin took little time to trek out into the water to look as I was more cowardly and stayed primarily on *terra firma* for my hunting. Meeting back at the truck it was very clear who found more . . . and it wasn't the prez. The pictures show my rewards from the trip.

That seem to be the case throughout the next two days of collecting; I finding a few with dry warm feet to Robin's quantity with feet without much feeling - a true rockhound ! Collecting was easy as the waves were minimal and clear water to peer down while wading. I wish every collecting trip could have water conditions like this with only warmer temps to enjoy 😊



The trip also included a prime rib dinner while sitting inside a restaurant ! The crowds never did come north (pandemic keeping them home) and our trip south found two exhausted rockhounds with plentiful stones to prep.



Once home it wasn't long till we found the need get out again. This time we stayed closer to home and visited West Side County Park (site of our Annual Picnic) for septarian. Yes, you guessed it, I stayed dry while Robin was up to her knees in search for that King Septarian.

Should you need to get out, we left you plenty for you to find for yourself !

Michael B. Larson

# Open Position

There is a current opening for a Newsletter Editor. Responsibilities include the creation of a monthly newsletter, attendance of club meetings, and a point of communications for the club.

Anyone interested in the position or in assisting in the duties, please speak with Michael B. Larson or Shari Luttkhuizen.



## ATTENTION—June General Meeting Status

The General Meeting for June was set to have a Silent Auction as the center of our gathering. In the event we are able to secure a suitable location for an outdoor June General Meeting, The Auction slips to-be used for material you wish to sell are provided on the next page and be copied as needed. These also can be found and printed from the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club website ( found at the bottom of [www.tulipcity.org/club-show.html](http://www.tulipcity.org/club-show.html) ).

**Please keep an eye on your e-mail, facebook, and the website for updated news on the date, time, and location.**

## Reading List:

The TCG&MC Facebook page has been updated almost on a daily basis with news and articles on topics of interest to our members. This past articles posted included:

- ◆ Remains of 60 Mammoths Discovered in Mexico  
[www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/sixty-mammoths-discovered-mexico-180974993/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/sixty-mammoths-discovered-mexico-180974993/)
- ◆ Earth's Oldest Known Meteorite Impact Structure Identified  
[www.sci-news.com/space/yarrabubba-crater-08040.html](http://www.sci-news.com/space/yarrabubba-crater-08040.html)
- ◆ Scientists discover new forms of feldspars  
[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/06/200601072955.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/06/200601072955.htm)
- ◆ Praise for Pyromorphite  
[www.rockngem.com/praise-for-pyromorphite/](http://www.rockngem.com/praise-for-pyromorphite/)



## For the Juniors:

- ◆ OneGeology Kids  
[http://www.onegeology.org/extra/kids/what\\_is.html](http://www.onegeology.org/extra/kids/what_is.html)
- ◆ An outstanding place to start your geology exploration:  
<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/teaching-resources/earth-science>

If you have any news or material to share, please post it ! [www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/](http://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/)

2020



**TCG&MC Silent Club Auction**

Item/Specimen:

2020



**TCG&MC Silent Club Auction**

Item/Specimen:

Specimen Origin:

Notes: (

Buyer's Receipt)

Specimen Origin:

Notes:

(Buyer's Receipt)

**Adult Sale Table**

Minimum Bid

Min Bid Increase

**\$0.25**

**Junior Sale Table**

Minimum Bid

Min Bid Increase

**\$0.10**

Bidder's Name (First & Last)

Bid

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Bidder's Name (First & Last)

Bid

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Seller:

Item Specimen:

Final Bid: \_\_\_\_\_

Seller:

Item Specimen:

Final Bid: \_\_\_\_\_

# June's Rockhounding

G T G I C N H D Y W Z A A L R W H A Q P Q J L E J  
X T V W K C I H P R O M A T E M I N E R A L O G Y  
N F D S R R D N T R A N S L U C E N T U W E B S O  
U E N X U O S S R R G T Q D C B O M I G P S O D X  
I H L C O N C R E T I O N E Q T G J M S S R E F M  
U X E Q N O W R T G V L R E S A S Z G N P C O U U  
S L I C J F X U I J B B O M M B T N A S E I C H V  
O J A C N K C O R D E B E B G I I O L F C E D L X  
Q K X R S I E X O D K G Y E I T D L A E E B X P F  
V D N P D R G G E R E D N U H T Z E T I L O E Z A  
G D E L E M E N T O L K O D P X E I S U B A K J I  
F A C G Y C P B E B N U D Q U K T S I G O L O E G  
L E I C Y R Y K M O H A E X U C T U D G E P W S X  
F U M B Y Z T I S A U D C I A V X U D I T K X O Q  
J K U A N A V B C Q G S L L Z W Y S S S R A L M M  
I U P C B M W P Q Y A P A M O Z K E W V C P F I K  
Q K T F C P Y Y J V N T H L J V N P H Y N L I F Z  
T K C E W K O P Y G S M C S J P Q C Z Q J R Z O X  
O J Q E H T B O R Y I C X Q R Q N Z Y A F T K P X  
Y P D G G X T B R D P Y U Z Z D L T X D N O J C N  
X Q V J U E W C A H F M J Y D K W R F J O E H L M  
G W V I V T O I U M E M G V A L Y K M R X W N Q D  
D D V K A Q C N Q D A A B Y S R C B U M Q T C O R  
Z T C B F Y Y I A Z V V J O I C T E J M B Z B F X  
V M E J M Z U P B P D D Y U G Z T I C M O N Y U J

Amber  
Chalcedony  
Element  
Igneous  
Mineral  
Quarry  
Stalagmite  
Trilobites

Bedrock  
Concretion  
Gemstone  
Metamorphic  
Mineralogy  
Sedimentary  
Thunderegg  
Volcano

Breccia  
Crystal  
Geologist  
Meteorite  
Pumice  
Stalactite  
Translucent  
Zeolite

**( Continued from the Front Page )** The morning of May 2nd the post office delivery person (not our regular mail carrier), drove into my driveway and carried two boxes up to my door. We received one large box (same size as we sent) from the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club and another large box from the Clackamette Gem & Mineral Club. The one from Clackamette arrived with a big hole from the corner broken out of it. I wondered if they shouldn't have placed some warning messages on the boxes saying, "Warning: HEAVY LOAD!" I asked for the weight of our two boxes and together they were just a hair over 80 lbs.

Tuesday, May 5th I received a letter, a rather curious business size envelope. Addressed simply to "Postal Customer" and my address. Now I know most of you would have tossed this away without opening it, but there was something thick and heavy inside that piqued my attention, so they got me to open it.

The return address was: United States Postal Service. Below that was the hand-written address for the Holland Post Office. Above this was the hand-written name, Paul Aalderink. The upper right corner says, "First Class Mail, Postage and Fees Paid, USPS, Permit No. G-10"

Sound curious? Wondering how this has anything to do with me, much less each of YOU!?

Well, I opened it and much to my surprise was . . . a letter.

In addition to the letter was . . . you guessed it . . . a rock. Not just any rock, but a slab with a white sticker on it saying, "Disaster Peak Picture Jasper." A very BEAUTIFUL piece if I must say so myself. You'll have a chance to view it (if not own it) when it comes up for auction.

So, how did it get to me? Well, as I may have mentioned previously, one of the boxes (from the Clackamette Gem and Mineral Club) arrived with one of the corners slightly torn. Some rocks may have rattled around and this one must have fallen out. But that still begs the question, of all the people that live in Holland, MI, or that might get a delivery from this post office, or in West Michigan, or the United States, how did this get back to me? Did the US Post Office know I was nuts about rocks, or at least the Holland branch? Did they remember me dropping off two very heavy boxes earlier that week? But I mailed mine from Zeeland and not Holland. They didn't even know my name. The letter was addressed to simply "Postal Customer." Was it that the weight of these two delivery packages left that big of a lasting memory on the delivery person (not our normal carrier)? It would be interesting to see how they investigated this.

I later call Mr. Aalderink and thanked both him and the carrier on Saturday. He explained some of the forensics they went through to track the slab down to me. We have some really great postal workers. I can't imagine this happening in any other city like Grand Rapids let alone an office like Chicago!

If you would like to contact the other two clubs and thank them for the wonderful specimens they've shared I'll add their addresses here: Wayne Sims, President Grand Junction Gem & Rock Club, 622 Glacier Dr. Grand Junction, CO 81507; and Andrew Wulforth, President Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club, 17712 SE Howard St., Milwaukie, OR 97267-6533. Once you see what they sent, you'll agree with me that many thanks are deserved.

C.H. Falstad, Past-president