



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

CONGLOMERATE

Monthly Newsletter of the TCG&MC
PO Box 2082, Holland, Michigan 49422

Website: www.Tulipcity.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub

April 2022

Volume 55, Edition 4

~ Tulip City Gem & Mineral Annual Banquet ~ Kilauea: 39 Years and Going Strong!

Have you ever witnessed a volcano erupting? Have you seen firsthand the power and destruction it holds? How can an eruption go on for decades?

Join us for our annual Tulip City Banquet as we welcome Dr. Steve Mattox of the GVSU Geology department for his talk “Kilauea Update: 39 Years and Going Strong!” Kilauea volcano continues to surprise and amaze. Dr. Mattox will enlighten us with a quick summary of the past and details on recent dramatic changes that include major destruction on the lower East Rift Zone, collapse of the caldera, and a lava lake at the summit. Dr. Mattox will also share insights on planning a trip to Hawaii for some exploring of your own.

At our Banquet Tulip City is proud to award scholarships to Geology students, from both Hope College and GVSU. It has been awhile since we’ve had the chance to celebrate in this way with a classic potluck dinner. This year, drinks and all place settings will be provided, including serving forks and spoons. Please bring a dish to pass and if you have a large group perhaps two. In addition to a great meal, we have a beautiful fossil plate donated to us by Beauties of Creation. It will be raffled off and proceeds will go to the Gibson scholarship fund for GVSU. We hope you’ll join us for a fun and enlightening evening and take the time to congratulate these hard working students.



*May 2018 East Rift Zone Eruption
- NY Times photo*



Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2022 TCG&M Board
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Vice President - Shari Luttkhuizen
sluttkih@oaisd.org

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Treasurer - Kurt Brinks
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Dir. at Large - Greta Fochtman
gretestuff@yahoo.com

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

- 4/23 **Basic Wire Wrapping** - w/ Sue Goedert at Ken & Betty's
10am or 1pm *see Workshops for details*
- 4/27 **Tulip City April General Meeting & BANQUET** - Wed, 6pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland
- 4/29 **Kalamazoo GMS Annual Show** - Kalamazoo Cty Expo Center
2900 Lake St SW, Kalamazoo, MI, Fri 4-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
- 5/1 **GVSU Department Picnic** - Prof. Kevin Cole's house
403 Fennessey St., Grand Rapids, MI, Sat 2pm. *Bring a side dish!*
- 5/7 **Heart of Wisconsin GMS Annual Show** - Marshfield H.S.
1401 E Becker Rd, Marshfield, WI, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
- 5/11 **Tulip City Board Meeting** - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland
- 5/14 **Wisconsin GS Annual Show** - Muellner Building
Hart Park, Wauwatosa, WI, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
- 5/21 **Cincinnati MS Annual Show** - Sharonville Convention Ctr
11355 Chester Rd, Sharonville, OH, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
- 5/25 **Tulip City General Meeting** - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland
- 5/27 **Tulip City Memorial Day Weekend TBD Field Trip**
Travel on Friday 5/27, Collect on Saturday & Sunday, Return Monday
- 6/3 **State Line GMS Annual Show** - Fulton Cty Fairgrounds
8514 Ohio 10, Wausoon, OH, Fri 12-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4
- 6/11 **Indian Mounds RMC Rock Swap** - Woodland Drive-In Church
2600 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI, Sat 9-12
- 6/11 **Mid-Ohio MFC Annual Show** - Richland Cty Fairgrounds
Fairhaven Hall, 750 N Home, Mansfield, OH, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
- 6/15 **Tulip City Board Meeting** - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland
- 6/22 **Tulip City Show Committee Meeting** - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland
- 6/24 **Lawrence County RC Annual Show** - Lawrence Cty Fairgrounds
US-50, Loogootee, IN, Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 11-5
- 6/29 **Tulip City General Meeting** - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland



~ Keep your eyes on these ~

7/23 - TCGM Picnic
9/16 - 9/18 - TCGM SHOW

**Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club
Board Meeting - Howard Miller Library
March 16, 2022, 7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order 7:10 pm

In attendance: Mike Larson, Peter Riemersma, Michelle Bennet, Shari Luttkhuizen, Kurt Brink, Ken and Betty Hoekstra, Michelle Lanting, Rhonda Gehringer, Mary Johnson, Linda Winkleman, CH Falstad, Jon Mull.

Motion to approve agenda by Jon M., seconded by Shari L., passed

Board Reports

VP: March Program given by Jon M. will be about Thundereggs and Geodes, including raffle of Eggs donated by Ken H. Banquet meeting held before the Board meeting. Hawaiian theme, volcanoes will be the topic of the talk by Dr. Steve Maddox from GVSU (Peter suggested he be asked to bring lava samples), it will be a potluck at this point, barring any new COVID restrictions. People should bring a dish to pass and a serving implement. All plates, cups, napkins and eating utensils will be provided.

Treasurer: We have money. Kurt made a motion that extra funds from the special thunder egg raffle at the March general meeting be added just to the \$1800 awarded to GVSU students, rather than also to the \$1500 awarded to Hope students, as GVSU usually submits more students. Seconded by Peter Riemersma. Passed.

Secretary: Absent. Mary J. and Jon M. substituted

Editor: Saturday deadline for articles.

Juniors: Linda reported only two 1st graders came to last meeting, but informative fun was had by all. This month's topic is pumice.

Membership: No new memberships have come in. If they haven't renewed, they have received their last newsletter. Rhonda will send current member list to the board members.

Field Trips: Peter R. noted that there are multiple field trip opportunities: Jon Mull--Arkansas/Missouri trip and White River--Carolinas/Georgia and Indiana Geodes. GVSU Geology Dept field trip was well attended and the basement field trips to the Sherwood and Katt homes are scheduled for March 26.

Social Coordinator: Full on Potluck for banquet. April 27, arrive at 6:00 for beverages and social hour and eat at 6:30. No additional snacks needed until May.

Historian: Will be moving lots of boxes to storage, as there hasn't been a need to consult them. Suggestion made to display memorial or historical items at future events. Show?

Liaison: Will be inviting other clubs to banquet, contacting GVSU and Hope for scholarship winners names, and arranging for members to host tables of guests.

Show Chair: Welcomed Michelle Bennet as new Show Co-Chair and made board introductions.

Past President: CH asked about doing a rock exchange this year with another club somewhere else in the country.

Recurring Business

Workshops: Kurt's Fossil prep workshop held at Rance and Anne's was great with 10 in attendance. They have also done some great junior workshops recently. Sue G has rescheduled irregular shaped wire wrapping for March 26, and beginning wire wrapping for the Saturday after Easter.

2022 show: September 16 to 18. Date is posted in Rock and Gem and Rock and Mineral. We have the advertising graphics from the tech center. Michelle Bennet will work with Linda on getting some printed for the Jackson Show.

March General Meeting program: Jon Mull, Thundereggs, Geodes and Vugs. Special raffle of 10 thundereggs donated by Ken and Betty Hoekstra.

New Business

Elementary teacher looking for someone to come in and help with a rock unit.

Crystal plate is in CH's basement in the new case made for it. Discussion on what to do with it. Perhaps approach the Zeeland Library about displaying it. Where is the pink quartz sphere?

Question and discussion on maintenance of rock path at DeGraaf Nature Center: Ken noted it is not being taken care of by the City of Holland and was a mess when they were last there. Linda had been there later and thought things looked ok.

Motion to Adjourn – Shari L, seconded by Jon M., Passed 8:35 pm

No minutes were recorded for the General Meeting on March 30, 2022 due to unfortunate illness.

~ Workshops ~

Basic Wire Wrapping: April 23, 2022 at 10:00 am. Held at Ken and Betty Hoekstra's house (5870 Julie Street, Hudsonville, MI) Cost for this class is \$25.00. You will need an oval or teardrop cab or two you would like to wrap, Sue will provide directions and bead mats and special tools to help with this. Class size is limited to 6, but if more want to learn she will hold a class the same day at 1pm. Ken will have cabs available to purchase as well. For questions call Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162.

Cleaning Quartz crystals with Acid: I think this will happen on Saturday May 7 or 14. If you are interested, please email Jon Mull directly. Stay tuned!



Workshop Report

Fossil Cleaning w/ Kurt Brinks

On Saturday, March 19, eight people ventured out to Greenville for a fossil cleaning workshop. Kurt demonstrated many ways to clean fossils, and he had some awesome examples and books to show. He discussed prepping various fossils, and how to finish them. We each were able to try our hand at using the air scribe. Rance and Anne Westover were wonderful hosts, and we were able to check out their beautiful workshop, and the display case of treasures that was located there. Thanks to Kurt for sharing his knowledge and tools, and Rance and Anne for hosting us. I know that I learned a lot, and had a wonderful time.



Splitting Shale
For fish



Attention
to detail



Discussing
Techniques



Demo of the
Air scribe



Field Trips



! WE WANT YOUR INPUT ! Make sure you talk to Peter and Jon

5/27 - 5/30 - Memorial Day Weekend - TBD w/ Jon Mull

Here are the two places I am considering... Return to the Potosi and Valles Mines areas in Missouri for Druzy Quartz in better weather conditions! Or head to Kentucky for fossils or geodes. Both locations are within a moderate days drive which would allow for travel on Friday, collecting on Saturday and Sunday, and a return to town on Monday. Please contact solace247@yahoo.com if you are interested.

June or July trip TBD - w/ Peter Riemersma

Peter is considering a few options and would like your feedback at the banquet.

1. New York for trilobites, Herkimer quartz, Gore Mt. garnets, blue calcite, etc.
2. Thunder Bay Ontario for Amethyst
3. S.E. Missouri for druzy quartz, MO agate, barite, plus geological stops
4. Lake Cumberland, KY for crinoids and geodes
5. Southern Illinois for Fluorite (Ben Clements Mine)

Any of these locations could be turned into a week long trip in either the last week of June or the first week of July. If you will not be at the banquet, please reach out to Peter about your interests via email. riemersp@gvsu.edu

Field Trip Report - Arkansas Quartz & Missouri Druzy

Submitted by Mary Johnson

April 2 through 9 found 12 adult members (Jon Mull, Lisa Mull, Rick and Deb Smith, Gene and Pam Smith, Linda Winkleman, Michelle and Corey Lanting, Pam Havermans, Bambi Wilson and Mary Johnson) and 3 junior members (Angie, Jack and Redmond) exploring and collecting the woods, mines and rivers of Missouri and Arkansas! Although every member did not collect at all the sites, a great time was had by all and treasures were found by everyone!

Saturday, April 2nd, we explored new territory for several of us just south of St. Louis, Missouri, at and near the Lost History Museum in Valles. Pam and Gene Smith, Missouri members and relatives of Rick and Deb, were our guides. VERY easy collecting, with lots of Missouri agates with druzy quartz, too! Not to mention Pam's luscious homemade brownies! After a few hours collecting, we headed on to Mt. Ida, Arkansas.

Sunday, April 3rd, found us in Murfreesboro at the famous Crater of Diamonds State Park, where you really CAN find REAL diamonds, and 2 people did that day! Unfortunately, neither was from our group, but we did find some other material like jasper and quartz. Dinner was at the famous Shangri-La restaurant overlooking the lake. Many of us had a delicious catfish dinner, but horror of horrors, they were out of their famous pies!

Cont. on pg. 6

Monday, April 4th, took us to Bobby and Dixie Fecho's Twin Creek Crystal Mine for quartz crystals. Many of us found good material just surface collecting, but Jon Mull followed the "peanut butter" and found himself a great pocket in the regular daily rate area! After a lot of hard work, he has several beautiful plates!

Tuesday, April 5th, we went to a new mine for us, Avatar. It is just a little further up the road from the Wegner's home base and store. Again, lots of great material just surface collecting, with many, many points and some very nice plates.

Wednesday, April 6th, was another new adventure at Crystal Ridge, recently acquired by Heidi Lee Holt of Digging Danes. (The Danes are 2 huge and very sweet harlequin Great Danes!) The mine itself is further up the same road as Wegner's and Avatar, but the access road was a great challenge, with steep hills requiring high clearance and 4WD. Heidi has plans to improve the road, and as a former owner of a road construction company has the skills! Again, more great surface collecting of quartz crystals and plates. Jon was given permission to work on a pocket they had begun opening, resulting in more great plates for him after much hard work! Heidi also owns claims in New Mexico, which she gave us permission to visit and collect some day. In addition to a variety of mineral material Heidi is very artistic and has many exceptional handmade pieces in the shop by her home. You must Ask Pam Havermans about the "HOOT" of a time she had driving up to the mine!

Thursday, April 7th, we left Mt. Ida to head for home with a couple of stops on the way. Some of us stopped at Crows Creek in search of Crowley's Ridge agates. Rick and Deb Smith had scoped out some gravel bars containing lots of rocks and a few agates. Then it was on to Potosi, Missouri, to get well rested for Haunted Ridge.

Friday, April 8th, at Haunted Ridge was memorable and great for many reasons! You may have seen some videos on YouTube with Brian the Crystal Collector's visits there. Open for business not even a year and a half, they have over 100 acres containing material. They have lots of freshly opened areas, and drive you and your tools out and you and your full buckets back to the parking area. Extra 5 gallon buckets are scattered about the site and available for \$3 each if you misjudged just how much you might want to collect! Friday morning dawned in the low 30's with snow and some sleet at times, but it did not stop the 4 Smiths, Jon and Angie Mull and me from collecting, anyway! The only problem at Haunted Ridge is choosing WHAT to put in your bucket—lots of great Missouri agates and druzy quartz! Missouri is definitely worth a visit if you have not been there collecting!

All in all, yet another fabulous Tulip City Field Trip!! Many thanks to Jon Mull and Gene and Pam Smith, our Missouri coordinators, for all their work and planning to make it happen! Now on to the NEXT trip !!!

photos on the next page!

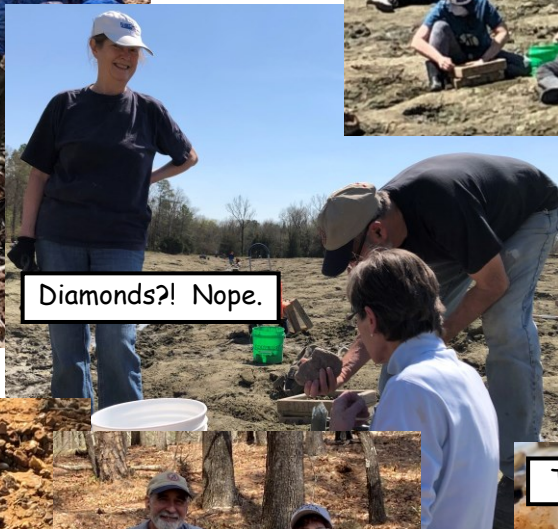
~ This month's "Mascot" ~
The masthead image is a slice of Blue Forest petrified wood from Southwestern Wyoming. Also known as Eden Valley, this agatized wood is prized for its beautifully preserved grain pattern in addition to translucent gray blue agate lining some of the cracks in the wood. 4" x 3"
Obtained from Ken Hoekstra.



Gene & Pam Smith



Barren Crater



Diamonds?! Nope.



Got one, getting one, And the entertainment



Michelle Digging in!



Catching Lunch



Twin Creek Surprise



Most of the group - Crystal Ridge



Here be TREASURE!

A very special thanks from our club goes to Heidi Lee Holt of Crystal Ridge. We are incredibly grateful for her generous spirit and electric personality. We really enjoyed our time at the mine and can't thank her enough for carting us up and down the mountain. Check out her website www.diggingdanesminingcompany.com And if you are ever in Mt. Ida, drop by and say hello for us!



Our most excellent new friend, Heidi

~ Editor Feature ~

State of the Month



We have arrived at April and surprisingly it is still COLD, at least colder than I would like. It is a little less pleasant cleaning rocks when it is 40° outside. This month's state is **Washington!** There are so many great reasons why. It just so happens I am a big fan of petrified wood and Washington's state gem is petrified wood. It also just so happens that Friday April 29 is Arbor day. Who doesn't love a great tree?! Washington has spectacular forests of both the living and petrified variety. Washington is home to one of the most beautiful forest environments, Olympic National Park. Located northwest of Seattle on the Pacific coast, Olympic contains not only old growth forests but also an actual rainforest region. With vast and varying ecosystems it has so many amazing things to see from snow capped peaks to crashing surf and tidal pools and on to borderline jungle scenes with meandering streams and waterfalls and green blanketing every rock and twig. Just to provide some perspective on one of the extremes apparent in the park, the difference in annual average rainfall between the southwest portion and northeast part of the park is nearly 120 inches! Olympic is an absolute must if you ever make it out to Washington.

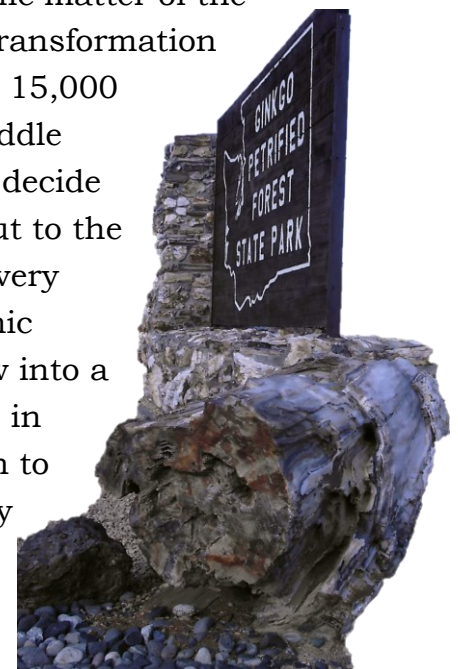


If you are looking for a good silicified forest, then you should check out Ginkgo Petrified Forest in Vantage, WA, about 2 hours east and south of Seattle. According to Wikipedia petrified wood was discovered there in 1930 which led to the creation of the state park and although Ginkgo is in the name there are over 50 species of wood found in the park.

Origins for the petrified forest date back to the Miocene epoch (15.5 Million and as is often the case large numbers of trees became buried in volcanic ash providing the opportunity for mineral rich ground water to replace the organic matter of the trees. Repeated lava flows protected the trunks during their transformation and have only begun to become exposed by erosion in the last 15,000 years. Not far from the protected forest is BLM land in the Saddle Mountains known for good collecting of opalized wood. If you decide to venture to Washington for this "gem" make sure to reach out to the local clubs in the area. Surely, not to be missed and relating very well to our banquet topic is the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic



Monument. It's an amazing window into a very powerful and explosive episode in our not so distant past. I have been to Washington twice but would happily return as there is still just so much more to see!

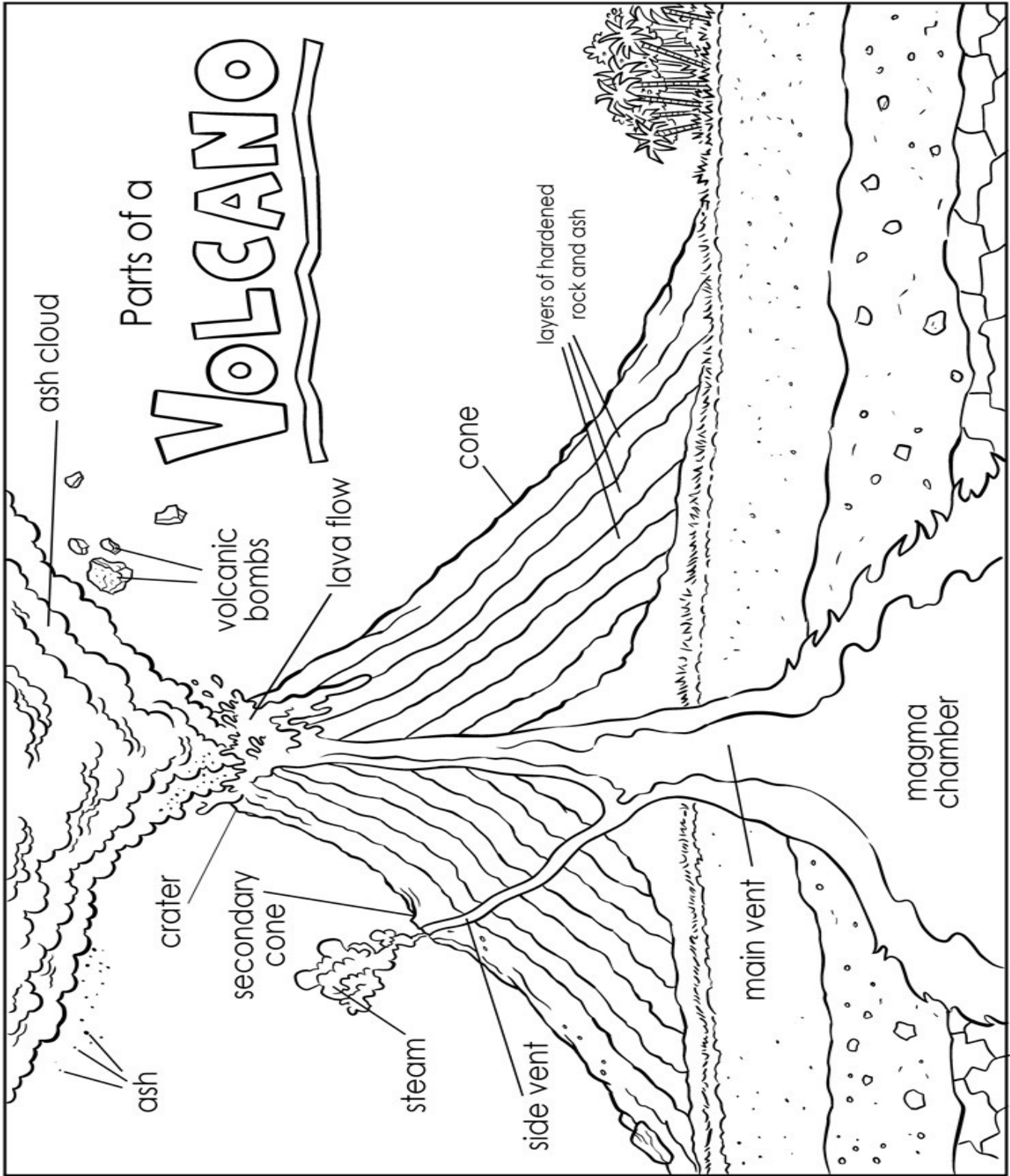


- Activity Page -

Since this month is our annual banquet there will not be a separate junior program. We hope everyone will be able to stay and enjoy an exciting presentation on Hawaii. If you are feeling artistic enjoy coloring the image below. **Pay close attention to the bottom of the page**

Copyright © Tim van de Vall

www.timvandevall.com



Anyone who colors this image and brings it along to the May meeting will receive a piece of druzy quartz from the Missouri trip. We will vote with pennies and whoever gets the most will get first pick of the material. There should be enough for everyone that brings in a colored image.



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

Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting.

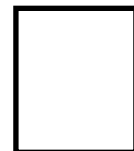
To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

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

Our club is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Holland Recreation Department. it is a member of the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The general purpose of this club is to develop interest in and increase knowledge of minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, and the lapidary arts. The objectives of this club shall be promoted whenever possible, through family participation.

Tulip City Conglomerate

Jon Mull, Editor
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See this one clean in May !!