

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/

April, 2025

Volume 58, Edition 4

Time flies when you are having fun! Here we are in April all ready. Rockhounding is in full swing! Before we get into the rocks, we have our yearly Scholarship Banquet this month. This is our time to give back, we will be awarding both GVSU and Hope students scholarships, as well as choosing our first Ken Hoekstra Memorial Scholarship recipient. We will select three members to receive scholarships to learn or hone new skills then come and share with the club as a whole! We are so excited for this banquet. First, let's thank the banquet committee for the hard work they have put in to provide this event for members. As I am sure you all heard, we will have a special guest for the banquet. Our guest will be none other than Paleo Joe!! We are super excited to have him present a program on the Fossils of Michigan! This will be a great learning opportunity for us all. I spoke with him the other day and he is just as excited to come share this night with us. For those of you who do not know him, he is the author of nine books, winner of the 2021 Charles H. Sternberg Medal for contributions to Paleontology. I guess we could consider him a real "Fossil Hound" He leads fossil digs and enjoys spending time with groups teaching all about fossils.



This will be a super exciting night, I am sure we will all learn something new! Michigan is fossil rich, there are so many marine fossils from millions of years ago. You will see that we can find these fossils all around us, on the beaches, even in



our back yards!

Keep in Mind for our May meeting we will have an open mic night so any one can share their fun fossil (or rock) stories. I know Bill and I will have a good story or two to share.

With this month being our banquet, we will not be having a contest (unless someone starts an all you can eat contest with the wonderful food that'll be available). Juniors will also spend the whole night with us so they too can hear all Paleo Joe has to say!

On a more serious note as I am sure most of you have heard, we lost another pillar of our club. Julia Sherwood passed away surrounded by her family. She was an amazing woman with a love for Geology. She has done so much for our club over the years. Please see a heartfelt tribute to her on pages 8-11. She will truly be missed. - Justin



Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2025 TCG&M Board

President - Jodi Miller

V.P. - Justin Moore

Secretary - Jordan Zych

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks

Field Trips - Jon Mull & Gary Katt

Historian - Alexandria Vanderski

Junior Club - Steve Miller

Liaison - Chris Silich

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer

Newsletter Editor - Megan Moore

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson

Show Chair - CJ Proos

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting

Dir. at Large - Bill McDonald
Dir. at Large - Patsy Williamson

Past President - C.H. Falstad

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the Community Center in Zeeland.

4/23 (Wed.) Tulip City Show Committee Meeting

4/30 (Wed.) Tulip City Scholarship Banquet

5/2 - 5/4 Kalamazoo Rock & Gem Show

5/14 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting

5/28 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

6/18 (Wed.) Show Planning Meeting

Member News

Please welcome Jordan Zych as our new Secretary

TCGMC Scholarship Application Deadline has been extended to 4/30— winners will be chosen and announced at the Scholarship Banquet. Additional information [here](#)

Celebration of Life for Ken Hoekstra

Saturday May 17 from 10am to 5pm at their home
5870 Julie St, Hudsonville, MI 49426

Service Details for Julia Sherwood

Saturday, August 23rd at 2pm

Howard Miller Community Center
14 S. Church St. Zeeland, MI 49464

Dedication on pages 8, 9 and 10

What should you do when you hear a bad joke about rocks?

In May we will be doing a member show-and-tell, so get your power point presentations ready!

Field Trips



Field trip season is ramping up! Gary Katt and I are doing our best to come up with some great trips this year. All suggestions are welcome and appreciated

April/May:

- I have inquiries to two quarries for dates, watch for an upcoming announcement for a Saturday trip.
- **Memorial Day Weekend - May 23-26 Missouri Druzy** - Save the date! Details to follow. There are 12 people signed up so far and there is room for more. Please let Jon know soon if you are interested.

June:

- **William Holland School of Lapidary Arts June 8-13.** There are still many classes to choose from. Please contact Jodi Miller for more information.

July:

- **Thunder Bay Ontario- July 18-21** A field trip is being organized to go Amethyst collecting. We will tentatively be collecting at the Blue Point Amethyst Mine, the Panorama Amethyst Mine, and the Diamond Willow Amethyst Mine. All mines are “pay-to-dig”. More than 30 members have expressed interest in this trip and Gary has already sent an initial email with more information, however, more information will be coming in the following months, so stay tuned!

August:

- Jon is looking into a possible trip in August. Please let him know if you have any ideas, more to come.

Here are some ways to contact your field trip guys...

Jon Mull - Email: solace247@yahoo.com

Gary Katt - Email: kattfiles@gmail.com

Or just our new club email address: field-trip-coordinator@tulipcity.org

Take it with a
grain of baSALT.

TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/12/2025

Location: Howard Miller Community Center

Attendance Total: 14

Guests in Attendance: 0

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: 7:02pm

Board Members Present: J. Miller (President), J. Moore (Vice President), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), G. Katt (Field Trip Coordinator), A. Vanderski (Historian), S. Miller (Jr. Club Coordinator), C. Silich (Liaison), R. Gehringer (Membership), M. Moore (Newsletter Editor), C.J. Proos (Show Coordinator), M. Lanting (Social Coordinator), A. Nelson (Webmaster), C.H. Falstad (Past President)

Secretary (whom is filling in for the meeting): CJ Proos

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved

Board Member Reports:

- President
Potential conflict of interest raised for president and junior coordinator. Jodi intends to write a statement regarding her/ Steve's involvement with William Holland.
- Vice President
Open mic for March program, green rock contest
- Past President - Nothing
- Newsletter Editor
Requesting clear guidelines
- Fieldtrip Coordinator
34 signed up for Thunder Bay trip. Logistics still being worked out about lodging and transportation. Basement field trip was successful and clean. 20 people in attendance. Sherwood basement field trip canceled. Spring break trip still being booked. Memorial day will be Missouri again. Chuck Parks– Dice Museum
- Directors at Large - Nothing
- Treasurer
Scholarship donation made
- Historian
Didn't receive treasurer's report for February.
- Jr. Club Coordinator
Topic will be crystals from diamond hill
- Liaison
Banquet meeting is Saturday at 11am at Vitales
- Membership Coordinator- Nothing
- Show Coordinator
First meeting next month
- Social Coordinator - Nothing
- Webmaster
Downloading third party program for email

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved

Recurring Business:

- Pushing lapidary scholarship deadline? Resolved
- Medical kit tables
- Long term goal survey tabled
- Memorial committee tabled
- Show location update: new coordinator for the community former mall space. Tentative drawing of space with show needs created. Asking about contract and pricing

New Business:

- New club merchandise

Correspondence:

- Larry Smith wants Michigan slag. Bring to March general meeting
- George Jaeger is going to speak for us in June

TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes cont.

Motions:

Motion to request a statement by Jodi and Steve Miller on perceived conflict of interest. Upon receipt of statement the board considers conflict of interest doesn't exist. by Aaron Nelson, seconded by Gary Katt. Adopted by vote of 11 votes

Motion to extend scholarship deadline to April banquet meeting and announce at banquet meeting by Kurt Brinks, seconded by Gary Katt. Approved by 15 votes

Adjournment: 8:51pm

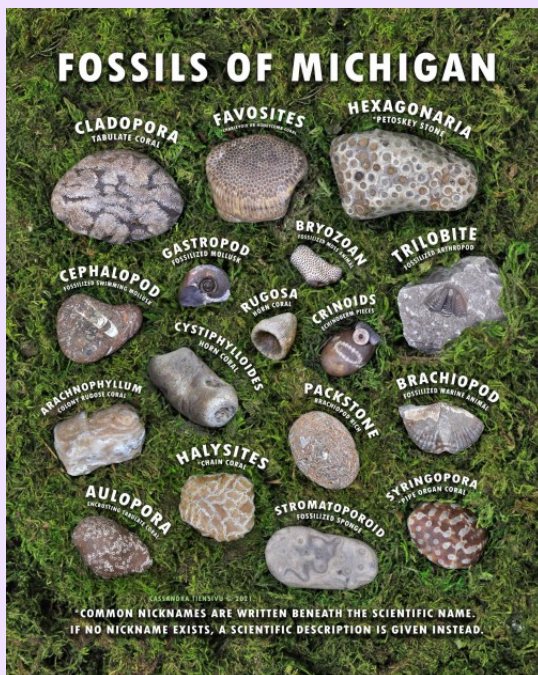
Next General Meeting: 3/26/2025

Next Board Meeting: 4/9/2025

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: CJ Proos

MICHIGAN FOSSIL FUN

What a fitting topic for a night with Paleo Joe! As we will learn, there are fossils everywhere we look in Michigan. I have found them on every rockhounding trip I have been on in the state. I have found them on beaches, in the back yard, underground, there is even one in the concrete right outside the back door of my work (I have left that one alone for now) with them all over, it is neat to know that University of Michigan has created a fossil identification website to help us Elementary Paleontologists try to identify our ancient finds. The website can be found here: <https://umorf.ummp.lsa.umich.edu/wp/mis-backyard-fossils/>. There are also several guides like the one pictured below available on line. Facebook and Instagram both have similar maps.



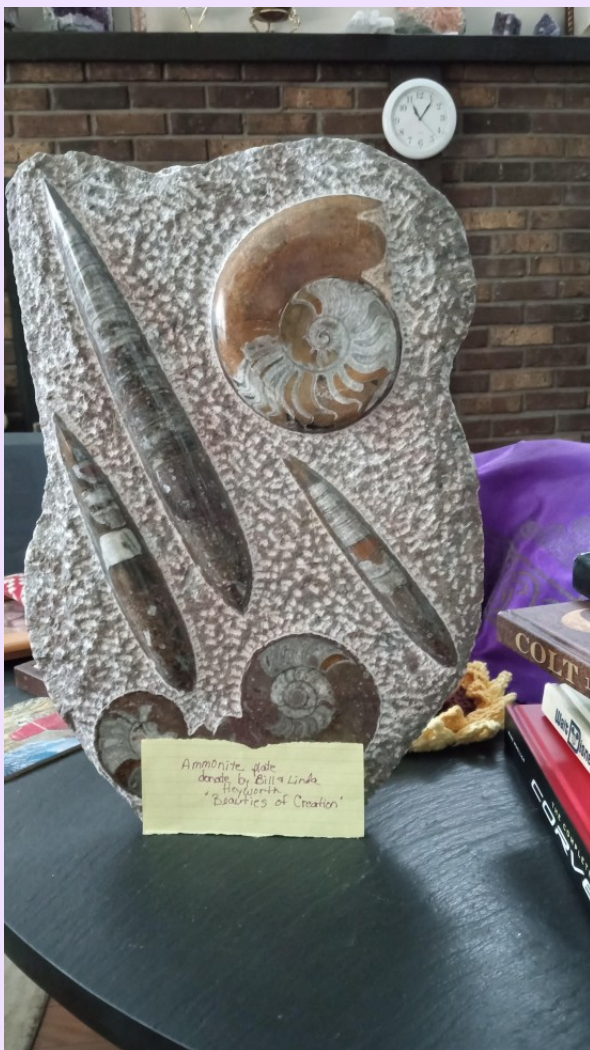
It can be a ton of fun learning about all the different types of fossils in Michigan. They may not be the Jurassic Park fossils that come to mind first. But we are actually closer in time to the Jurassic dinosaurs than the dinosaurs are to the marine fossils we find here in Michigan.

In May we will return to the normal Juniors section where we will highlight what cool new thing they will learn about geology.

DIG IN FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

The April meeting brings us our much looked forward to Scholarship Banquet and the final opportunity to purchase tickets for the 2 big banquet raffle prizes, which **benefit the Gibson Fund at GVSU. \$5 for one ticket or \$20 for five tickets!!**

To allow us all to focus on banquet related activities, there will be no regular monthly raffle in April. Come see us in the raffle corner in May for new items!



A Message from our President

It's that time of year again, our **yearly scholarship banquet**. A time when **we give unselfishly to some well deserving geology graduate students from Hope College and Grand Valley State University**. I can't help but wonder about all of the discoveries and global improvements that have been made that we were a small part of. It may not seem like a lot, but many of the students have told us they have learned so much about our world and resources. There have been a few times that these students have actually come back and spoke at one of our meetings about how they used the scholarship money, and the research that was helped in a small way by our involvement.

Another way our club gives back to the community, and our main source of revenue for the scholarships, is through our **yearly club show in September**. This week was the first planning meeting for the 2025 show. **There is still time to be involved** in this event from the ground up and 2025 appears to be a year of new possibilities which could include ideas from you. **We welcome any thoughts and suggestions about how to make our show more meaningful and inviting to the public, so if you have information that could do that, we would appreciate you letting us know**. C.J. Proos is the Show Chairperson again this year, and he would also appreciate anyone who is interested in being on the committee to contact him to see what roles need to be filled. We have positions that require very little contact with the public and those that are out there front and center, so based on your comfort level, we can find a place for you.

So, to wrap up this letter, we'll see you at the banquet! Can't wait to have that yearly opportunity to share a great night of food and fellowship with people who are just as rock nerdy as I am! And special bonus, getting to hear Paleo Joe speak.

-Jodi

A Dedication to Julia Sherwood - A True Club Team Player

There is never a good time to lose someone... Even if you know it's coming, it's just not something you can prepare for. I feel like these last few months have been very tough. It's too soon, we're not ready, what can we possibly say or do. It's like the club just lost both it's grandparents at the same time. First Ken, and now Julia. Julia Sherwood was so many things to our club. She was an organizer, a planner, a leader, but she was also a bit of a den mother (literally at one point), an eccentric world-traveled auntie, and a "bag-lady" (we'll get to that).



Julia was born and raised in Ohio, but spent quite a few years out in California from the early 60s to the early 80s, where she raised three children and cultivated a love for the outdoors. She was a teacher at her core and always had a handy guide to local fauna, flora, and geology when the family

would travel and camp. As kids grew and life changed Julia found herself in Michigan along the South Haven shoreline where she met Bob. The two became close neighbors, closer friends, and eventually married in 1997. Their shared love for rock collecting brought Julia on to the Tulip City stage.



It's no surprise with her education background and organizational skills that Julia became a force of nature within our club. She served on our board countless times over the years and I would suspect likely holds a record for the number of positions,



...serving in all of them except for President, and the number of total years of service. I

think she shined the most in her time as both newsletter editor, when there was no email version and the editions arrived on a different color paper every month, and of course as show chair. Julia spent a great deal of her energy on making sure every aspect of our show went smoothly. She helped plan and adjust the layout, made sure all the tables had coverings,

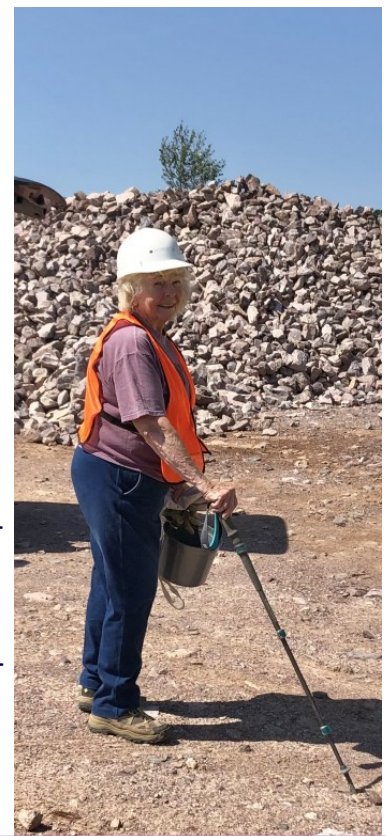
and encouraged the membership to participate, asking them to fill cases, spend some time at the information table, or donate materials to club sales. She was particular, and meticulous, but also vibrant and passionate and had nothing but love for our club and our show.

It is in this capacity that Julia earned the nickname "Bag Lady." You may chuckle, and find it



a little tongue in cheek, but this is no small title. When you really think about the engine behind the cloth bags we have, and have had at our show every year for close to 25 years now, it is a marvel! There is something about watching a youngster start their rock collection. There is a wonderful excitement and sparkle when they find something really interesting and special and Julia wanted to inspire that in all the kids who came to our show. Each bag was hand sewn from random bits of fabric in every color and pattern imaginable. The specimens within were from all over the country, either hand collected, acquired by donation,

or occasionally purchased at shows in areas where the material was more abundant. Each would be bagged with a label indicating details about the item and its origin, providing an example of good record keeping practices when collecting.





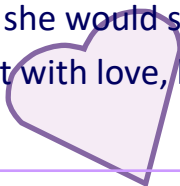
In my early years in our club I can remember the bagging parties. Half a dozen or more members would form an assembly line at the Sherwood home as we filled the cloth bags with the cool new specimens Julia had acquired for the season. “Where did you get the blue calcite, what are the inclusions?!” “I’ve always wanted to collect Apache tears, do you know a good spot?” “I didn’t know you could still get those cool selenite rosettes from Mexico!” I know I bought a bag for each of the kids in the early 2000s... I’m pretty sure I bought one for myself too.

I wonder how many of those we sold over the years, how much of a contribution they made



to a young persons interest in rocks and even science, how much went directly into our scholarships and furthered the education of someone at Grand Valley or Hope. Julia would know. She loved to collect little details like that, how many kids games prizes we gave out, how many specimens we gave at the door... I’m

thinking now I’d like to ask her... How in the world are we going to do all of that without you? It seems impossible. It might be a little childish, but I’d like to think that she would smile and say, “we’ll do it with love, like we always have!”





We hope to see you at the banquet this month. There will be a case set up during the banquet dedicated to Ken Hoekstra and Julia Sherwood, our absent friends.

Peace! - Jon Mull





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

Our club is a non-profit 501c3 organization. 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.

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.

Tulip City Conglomerate
Megan Moore, Editor
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



Background photo is:
 Mazon Creek Fern Fossil