

# Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

## Conglomerate

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

Website: [www.Tulipcity.org](http://www.Tulipcity.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub](http://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub)

*August, 2025*

*Volume 58, Edition 7*

Its crazy to think we are thru summer and headed into the fall. School is starting back up, and it is SHOW TIME for the club! We are super excited to be in a new air conditioned venue! As we approach the show please remember, we need all the help we can get! We will be sending out another email to everyone, but why not mention it now while we are ready to enjoy this edition of the Conglomerate! Please sign up to help where you can, there are sign up links on pages 2 & 5 or you can sign up at this month's meeting.

We had a HOT Rock Swap last weekend, thank you to all of you who came out in the heat to get some great rocks!!

As we look forward to our September show, lets have a SILENT AUCTION this month! We are so excited to get a sneak peak of show goods; a first glimpse at what may be offered at the show! This may become a yearly tradition! What a great way to grab some goodies before the show! Please keep our rules in mind though. Detailed information is on page 4.

We will not meet in September because all energy will be going towards an amazing show! In October we have a special guest speaker, a Professor from GRCC, with a great presentation for us. I am super excited for him to share his experiences with everyone.

We have had the fortune of travelling a lot this summer including a field trip to Thunder Bay and then Ishpeming for their show. I recommend anyone who can take field trips, take them; they are a great way to spend time doing what we love and get to know each other better.

Looking to the fall and into next year, I will be announcing some local field trips as well as our normal club trips. These trips will be local and be just meeting at the beach on a Saturday for a couple hours identifying rocks.

As a late note as well, Joh will be planning a trip to Lake Cumberland Ky for Crinoid fossils, and geodes! This was an amazing trip last year and it sounds like when we go this year the water level will be even lower! How cool! More details to come for this November trip- Check with John if you have any questions!





# 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

Historian - Alexandria Vanderski

Junior Club - Steve Miller

Liaison - Chris Silich

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer

Newsletter Editor - Megan Moore

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson

Show Chair - Steve Miller

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.**

8/20 (Wed.) Show Planning Meeting

8/27 (Wed) Tulip City General Meeting & Silent Auction  
**\*information on page 4**

9/12, 13, 14 (Fri, Sat, Sun) TCGMC Annual Show  
**\*Holland Charter Township Community Center  
12343 James St, Holland, MI 49424**

10/15 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting

10/29 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

## Member News

### Service Details for Julia Sherwood

Saturday, August 23rd at 2pm

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

Welcome ALL new members, returning members and those who may join us at this year's show!

View the sign up options for the show [HERE](#)

Future Planning: PLEASE talk to ANY member of the board about ideas you have for the future of the club, WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT! That means Juniors too!

Membership: If you need contact information for a fellow club member contact Rhonda Gehringer at [membership@tulipcity.org](mailto:membership@tulipcity.org).

What do you call a  
rock that never goes  
to school?

A skipping stone

# Field Trip Fun



A message from Jon

I will be headed to the Keokuk, Iowa area over Labor Day weekend for geodes. I realize this is really short notice but if you are a current club member and interested, please follow the sign up link below. I have a couple of places already lined up. You will need lodging in or near Keokuk, IA for Friday (29 August) through Sunday (31 August) night. Please reach out to me if you have questions at the following email address [solace247@yahoo.com](mailto:solace247@yahoo.com)

Sign up link - <https://forms.gle/AdMo5DF9ZjBsPLN27>

## Juniors Section

**Good news and bad news.... The bad news is that I will not be meeting with you at our General Meeting on August 27**

**The really good news is that the club is going to have a silent auction for all of the members that night, and there will be a special table just for Junior Club Members to bid on!!!**

**You can also bring in specimens to sell. This is a great way to make some money in order to buy new specimens!**

Print your silent auction slips [here](#)

**In other news...we are also looking for juniors to put together display cases for the Annual Show in September. If you are interested, please contact Patty Brink at 715-305-6135 or [pattybrink@gmail.com](mailto:pattybrink@gmail.com)**

## Silent Auction Information

Any member may bring up to 10 items to sell at the Silent Auction. *If you provide items for the Juniors tables, they will not be counted as part of your 10 items.* Bidding is open to all. We will have many tables available for you to display your items as we are opening the entire room for this evening.

Special Silent Auction slips are printable by clicking [here](#). Be sure to write your “seller” name at the bottom of the slip. Please feel free to use past versions of the sales slips also. Sales are payable by cash or check only, directly to the seller. Don’t forget to bring small bills and change, especially sellers.

Tables will close in small groups periodically throughout the bidding, starting soon after refreshment time ends.

Note there will be separate tables for items on which only JUNIOR members may place a bid. Special Silent Auction slips are printable by clicking [here](#).

In addition, to give the Club a “piece of the action”, any member who wishes may put CLUB SALES on the “SELLER” line and those proceeds will go directly to the Club. Kurt Brinks, Treasurer, will collect the CLUB funds. This is a great chance to start a collection or add to your current collection.

## FRIENDS IN NEED

The **Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society** had their club trailer stolen in early November 2024 along with all their show materials. Regrettably, the trailer was irreparably damaged and had to be sold for scrap; the club didn’t have insurance to cover the loss. They have since purchased a new trailer and have it insured, but the contents were probably disposed of in some ditch.

I’ve contacted Michele Yamanaka of the TRGMS to ask if our club could help them in any way. I couldn’t imagine what would happen if we had no show rocks & materials and had to start from scratch. Michele approached their club, and the members were so uplifted by our offer to help their club. **If you would like to help the Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society, they are especially in need of material they can use for kids games.** Ideally, the rocks **need to be clean, identified, and the origin labeled.** They are looking for pieces that are **about half-dollar size.** If the material is bigger and can be broken, that would be fine. **Shiny material is very popular.**

Please keep this request in mind as you go about your collecting this summer. **Bring the materials** with all the labels in a bag **to any of our June, July, or August meetings and give them to Justin.** We’ll make arrangements to get them to the Three Rivers Rock and Mineral Society. Thanks for helping out a fellow rock club in need. I know they will appreciate all our help for their October Show.

Best, C.H.

## A Message from our President

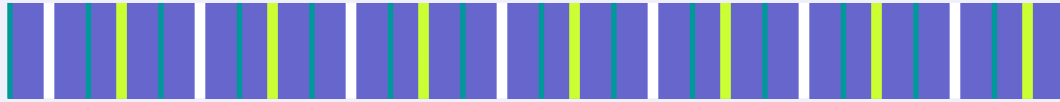
Hello everyone! As I sit down for a moment and write this, I have just returned from yet another visit to the **Holland Charter Township Community Center** where we will be holding our annual show in September. Excited doesn't even begin to describe how I feel about this opportunity to hold our show there and **what a different experience it will be** for all who volunteer, sell, buy, and visit us in this new location. From parking to indoor advantages like AIR CONDITIONING, this show will certainly be a treat for everyone. We are grateful to the HCT for allowing us to be their first "customers" to hold our event at this brand new facility, and appreciate that they have committed to allowing us first right of refusal for its use in future years.

In saying that, we are **still in need of lots of volunteers to make this show a success**. You will have an opportunity to **sign-up for positions** for the three days at our **general meeting on August 27**. There is also a **Sign-Up Genius online [HERE](#)** if you can't make the meeting. Many of these positions are stress free and can be done sitting down. You don't even have to know a lot about rocks, minerals, and fossils, etc, because there is always someone nearby to help out with identifications. Please consider signing up (and taking LOTS of shifts)! We have the shifts in hour and a half increments, so even if you do decide to tackle a position that is a little more challenging, you only need to do it for a short period of time. And **DON'T forget set up on Thursday 9am-4pm** (anytime you can help is great) and of course **show take down on Sunday from 5-7pm**.

Finally, I would like to thank the **Show Committee and Chair Steve Miller**, for all of the work they have done this year. These people have **been meeting for several months putting together the details that are required to make our show successful**. I would also like to thank all of you who will be volunteering your time over September 11-14, just 22 days from now.

**Here's to the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show!**

# ITS SHOW TIME!



## Important announcement

If you are interested in selling items in the show marketplace this year, **you must be a member in good standing by the end of August 2025**. The marketplace slips have been updated this year and a copy will be located on the TCGMC website.

You also will **need to pre-register to sell in the marketplace by contacting Rhonda Gehringer** at [rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org](mailto:rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org) or by calling 920-550-1672.

Same day/last minute additions to the marketplace will not be accepted.

## Donations

The Donation Committee is ALWAYS excepting donations. If you have anything related to rocks and/or minerals that you wish to donate, please contact Rhonda Gehringer at 616-990-6461. Donations are used in several different ways to benefit our organization, such as: Club Sales at the Show in September, Raffle Prizes at our monthly meetings, and for our Juniors program. ALL proceeds from any sales go to the club.

## We NEED YOU

Please consider volunteering in whatever capacity that you are able on Thursday September 11 to set up the show or to help clean up on Sunday September 14. If you have any highschooler that need to get some volunteer time in, this would be a perfect opportunity!

Many hands make light work– John Heywood

## Did you know???

Our club has MANY opportunities to be involved. Not only can you be on the board, but there are a lot of Committees and Sub-Committees.

I'm going to start highlighting a few each month, because, the more you know, the better we can be! Our Annual show is soon approaching, have you ever wondered how it all comes together and how YOU could help? We will have volunteer sign-up sheets at the August General Meeting and they are available online [HERE](#)

**We have newly created a Nominating Committee who has been tasked with finding fabulous folks like YOU to bring fresh ideas to the board and Committees. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to CH Falstad, Rudy Silich, or Rhonda Gehringer.**

**Its time to  
case ready**



**and get your display  
for the show!**

Dust off your ol' gems and minerals and grab a pony case (flat cases are available too) to show off yer goods for the whole of the West (Michigan) to see.



**GIDDY UP!**

**Now...Get to Gettin' and contact Patty Brink at [pattybrink@gmail.com](mailto:pattybrink@gmail.com) or ph: 715-305-6135**

# Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Show



September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-7pm  
September 14<sup>th</sup> 11am-5pm

Holland Charter Township  
Community Center

12343 James Street, 49424

Adults \$5  
Children & Students free

## **FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY FEATURING**

- Live Geode Cracking
- Museum quality specimens
- 15 Vendors
- Lapidary Demonstrations
- Special Kids Activities
- Air Conditioning



An article from Rock&Gem.com:

[https://www.rockngem.com/peridot-gemstone/?fref=33458c7c-b425-4055-85a9-958445109766&utm\\_campaign=RnG\\_Newsletter\\_Aug+14\\_2025&em=dGNnbWMubmV3c0BnbWFpbC5jb20-](https://www.rockngem.com/peridot-gemstone/?fref=33458c7c-b425-4055-85a9-958445109766&utm_campaign=RnG_Newsletter_Aug+14_2025&em=dGNnbWMubmV3c0BnbWFpbC5jb20-)

# Peridot Gemstone: Origins, Lore & Uses

Peridot gemstone is the bright green gem-quality variety of the mineral forsterite, a magnesium silicate. Both are commonly referred to as "olivine," which is intended to refer to samples with a composition between forsterite and fayalite (an iron silicate). While many gemstones can be found in multiple colors, peridot occurs in shades that range from yellow-green to olive or brownish-green. The gem's green color is because of its iron content, with higher concentrations producing deeper hues.

## How Peridot Forms

Peridot forms deep within the Earth's mantle, between 20 and 55 miles below the surface. Volcanic activity, particularly basaltic lava flows, brings peridot to the surface. It grows under high temperatures and pressures and is associated with mafic and ultramafic igneous rocks. Rarely, but famously, peridot is also found in pallasite (stony-iron) meteorites, remnants of the early solar system that fell in Argentina and Antarctica. It has also been known to "rain" peridot as the material is ejected into the sky during volcanic activity in 'volcanic bombs' and falls back to Earth.

## Where to Find Peridot Gemstone Deposits

Major deposits of peridot exist in the United States (notably on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona), Pakistan's Kohistan region, Myanmar (Burma) and China. Some of the finest specimens come from Pakistan's Supat Valley, where crystals can exceed 100 carats. Smaller occurrences are found in Egypt, Tanzania and Vietnam.

## Varieties of Peridot Gemstone

Although all gem-quality olivine is classified as peridot, slight variations in color and clarity exist because of trace elements and origin. Pakistani peridot tends to be rich, lime green and highly transparent, while Arizona peridot often has a more yellowish tone.



## How Peridot Is Used

Peridot is primarily used in jewelry, including rings, pendants and earrings. With a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7, it is suitable for everyday wear. Its vibrant green hue and relative affordability make it popular as an alternative to emerald.

## History of the Peridot Gemstone

Historically mined on Zabargad Island in the Red Sea since at least 1500 B.C., peridot was prized by ancient Egyptians, who called it the “gem of the sun.” Medieval Europeans believed it could dispel nightmares and protect against evil spirits. Misidentified for centuries, many “emeralds” in historical artifacts have later been confirmed as peridot.



## Metaphysical Properties of Peridot Gemstone

In metaphysical traditions, peridot is associated with abundance, emotional healing and protection. It is said to enhance confidence and reduce stress by opening the heart and solar plexus chakras.

## Peridot Gemstone: Final Thoughts

Peridot gemstones offer a captivating blend of natural science, cultural history, and metaphysical allure. Whether formed deep within Earth’s mantle or delivered by meteorites, their vivid green beauty continues to inspire collectors, jewelers, and spiritual seekers alike.

This article about peridot previously appeared in Rock & Gem magazine. Story by Dr. Stuart Mills and Pam Freeman.



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.

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](http://www.tulipcity.org)

Advertising rates for club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for ¼ page, \$15 for ½ 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

**Image: Kyawthuite, found in Myanmar, is the rarest mineral in the world.**

**(Image credit: Courtesy of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM))**



Background photo is:  
Drift wood that looks like a duck's head