



# 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)

February, 2024

Volume 57, Edition 2

## February Guest Speaker Justin Moore: Michigan Collection Adventure

What did one volcano say to the other volcano?

Nice Ash.....



Thankfully we have a presenter with better knowledge and maybe better jokes coming up this month. Please join us at this month's General Meeting as we are going to tour our wonderful State of Michigan. Our very own club member Justin Moore will be taking us around as our tour guide on his adventure of finding rocks and minerals. He has some amazing advice on how to find these wonderful nuggets and a few tips on finding them.....Justin is a graduate of Lake Superior State University and has a great amount of knowledge on how to find the "good" Michigan rocks. I can't wait to see and hear his fun story. There will be time for questions and discussion following the presentation. And the Poster Contest this month is an awesome opportunity for your specimen to be out there for the world to see!!!!!!! Good luck to all of you competitors.

Bill McDonald (Vice President)



As always, Michigan ROCKS!!



### Monthly Contest

For this month's contest, we have an exciting opportunity.

**See more on Pg. 9**



# Events



## FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

All meetings take place at the Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

- 1/31 **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm
- 2/14 **Tulip City** Board meeting - Wed, 7pm
- 2/24 **Hoekstra's Collection** Hudsonville - 10am-4pm
- 2/28 **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm
- 3/13 **Tulip City** Board meeting - Wed, 7pm
- 3/16 **Club bus trip** Chicago - All day
- 3/27 **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

For those looking for something to do April 4-6, the Indian Mounds Club in Grand Rapids is having their annual gem and mineral show at the Rogers Plaza Town Center.

### 2024 TCG&M Board

President - C.H. Falstad  
cfalstad3@gmail.com

V.P. - Bill McDonald  
bobmaciv@gmail.com

Secretary - Alexandria Vanderski  
alexandria.vandervest1029@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks  
kdbricks1@gmail.com

Field Trips - Jon Mull  
solace247@yahoo.com

Historian - Betty Hoekstra  
kbhoek@att.net

Junior Club - Shari Luttkhuizen  
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Liaison - Mary Johnson  
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer  
rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Newsletter Editor - Jodi Miller  
jsmillerlady@gmail.com

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson  
anelson31@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair - CJ Proos  
charliejohnproos@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair - Teresa DeMol  
t.demol@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting  
michlyngal@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Gary Katt  
kattfiles@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Patsy Williamson  
patsywi61206@gmail.com

Past President - Michael B. Larson  
mblarson300@yahoo.com

For those going on the bus trip to Chicago, you will be lucky enough to see this special exhibit. Chicago philanthropist Richard Driehaus left a rich legacy of art objects to his Foundation. The Lizzadro Museum is the recipient of his lapidary collection including a variety of unique stone objects from around the world and two 19th century Roman micro-mosaics on loan



*Beautiful*

### WELCOME new members:

Rebecca Bush, Julie Coup, Chuck and Gail Eckholm, Larry Fegel, Ruth Gebben, Linda Hallman, and Aiden Lesnock.



## Field Trips



### **Member "Museum" Collection. Feb. 24, 10am - 4pm**

Just a reminder we are invited to the home of Ken & Betty Hoekstra to view their extensive collection. They live at 5870 Julie Street, in Hudsonville. There will be so much to see and plenty of stories, I'm sure. Hope to see you there!

### **Bus Trip Mar. 16**

The Chicago bus trip is coming up soon. I believe there are still 5 spots left. I intend to have a departure point by our general meeting this month. We will have coolers available to carry "sack lunches." This is a great option as it reduces cost and keeps you from spending time in line at the cafeteria. We will also be providing bottled water on the bus. If you have not signed up yet and still want to go email Julia right away. [bobandjulia@accn.org](mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org). You will need to bring payment to the February meeting. \$60 for each adult and juniors will be free. Please watch your email for further details.

### **Spring Break - Mar. 29 - Apr. 7**

The New Mexico trip is shaping up nicely. We have about a dozen members planning on attending. Our adventure will begin at Chaco Culture N.P. on Sunday April 1. We'll visit Petrified Forest N.P. on Monday as well as the DoBell petrified wood ranch. We'll be in Farmington, New Mexico on Monday night catching a view of Shiprock. Tuesday and Wednesday will be spent near Farmington, at least one day at the Nacimiento copper mine. Thursday we'll stop at an old Fluorite claim before heading home. There might be one or two more spots available, act fast though.

### **Further down the road...**

1. There is some interest in fossil collecting in Ohio again and we'll probably look at a long weekend at the end of April for a full Saturday of spots.
2. Gary Katt is working on a visit to the WMU Museum. Perhaps even before the bus trip. Stay tuned.
3. There will be a trip over Memorial Day weekend. Probably to Missouri for druzey quartz.

***If you have other questions about any of these trips feel free to contact me.***

***Jon Mull (cell) 616-510-4139. Email: [solace247@yahoo.com](mailto:solace247@yahoo.com)***

### **! IMPORTANT !**

**Membership renewal is upon us. Get your dues in soon so you don't miss a newsletter. Our form is on the last page or visit our website for all the details.**

### **! ALSO IMPORTANT !**

**If you have ever wanted to learn a lapidary skill talk to Vice President Bill McDonald. He is gathering members who are willing to share their skills and teach a class. It's wonderful to learn a technique that involves rocks.**

## BANQUET RAFFLE CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY

Opportunities to purchase tickets for this year's special Banquet Raffle will continue this month, in addition to our normal monthly raffle! Lots of chances to become a winner and increase your collection!



This year's Banquet Raffle will have a couple of changes from the past. Instead of just one prize, there will be two, with the first ticket drawn receiving their choice of item and the second ticket drawn receiving the other item. Tickets for the Banquet Raffle will be \$5 each, or 6 (six) tickets for \$20. Yes, you read that right and it was not a mistake—you will receive 2 (two) additional free tickets if you buy \$20 worth! The SUPER Tulip City Special! Winners will be drawn at the April Scholarship Banquet, and all proceeds will go to the Gibson Scholarship Fund at GVSU.

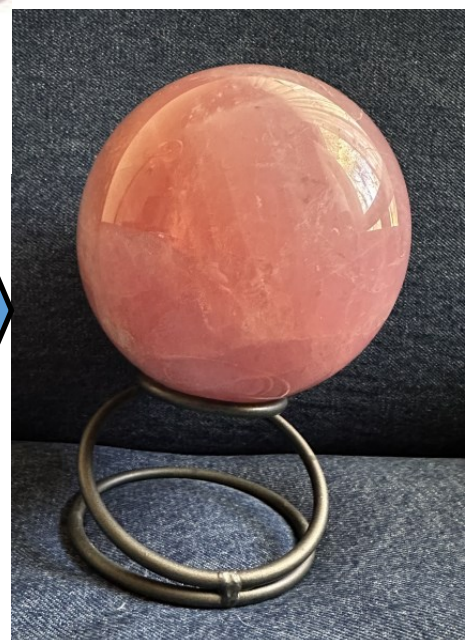
Both prizes have once again been donated to us by one of our show vendors, Beauties of Creation. Why two this year? Because the pandemic robbed us of our banquet in 2020, yet we had a large Rose Quartz Sphere donated for its raffle, and we also have a beautiful Celestite Geode donated for the 2024 Banquet Raffle. Both items will be in attendance, with opportunities to examine them and purchase tickets, at the February, March and April meetings. Good luck, everyone!

Your Liaison and Head Raffleter,

Mary Johnson



**Get the Tulip City  
Special: 6 raffle  
tickets for \$20!**



## President's Message: C.H. Falstead

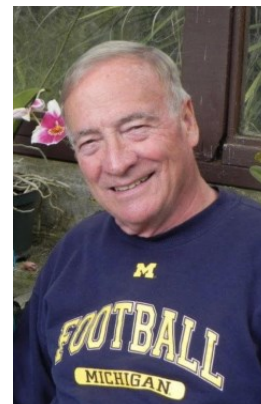
Each month when I reflect on what to write for a president's message the first thing that comes to mind is the wonderful board we have. I can't thank each of them enough. It's hard to put in a short letter all that this board is accomplishing. In addition to the normal operations, we are taking on new challenges like digitizing the responsibilities of each position within Google Suite in order to make things simpler while at the same time improving outcomes and adding more value. There are details of some of these throughout our Conglomerate. Our award-winning website is breaking new ground and becoming more educationally useful for visitors. And, our historian has recruited a team to digitize the news articles about our club so that we can save them from decaying.

Regrettably, there are not enough positions for everyone on the board, and not everyone may have the talents or time to be involved that way. However, as our September Show preparation begins, I am certain we have a position for all. Please don't miss the joy and camaraderie of getting involved. Meetings have already started. Watch for sign-up times to help in the show arriving soon.

If anyone ever wonders about the value of our annual membership, our monthly meetings and field trip schedule will surely be convincing. Wow! I truly believe we have one of the best clubs in the country and are on our way to making it better every month!



**Member Spotlight** Our member spotlight this month is on Bob Sherwood, who has been in the club since 1967! He tells me that his favorite piece that he has ever collected is a 3" banded agate that he found in 1987 right below his own cottage on Cedar Bluff. His favorite collecting trip: A May, 2010 fieldtrip to Utah that included stops in Colorado. The stones he collected on that trip included agates, jasper, gastroliths, septaria, Picasso marble, apache tears and sunstones. Bob enjoys making creative form cabochons, and the mineral that has eluded his collection is a cabinet size crystal specimen of sulfur from Sicily.



## Frequently asked Quartz-tions - by C.J. Proos

, Keep those quartz-tions coming! I'm excited to hear what you are interested in learning more about. This month's question is: 'why do some crystals come to two points while others only come to one?'

Excellent question! Let's kick this off with some terminology. The 'point' of a crystal is called a termination. When the faces or flat surfaces of the crystal come together on one end only, it is a single termination. When the faces meet at both ends, it is called double termination. One of the most common double terminated specimens is the Herkimer diamond from New York.

Now let's get into the question. There are many different factors that contribute to the way in which a crystal forms. These can include the type of mineral it is, the pressure and temperature of the environment when the crystal was forming, and even the presence of other minerals. However, all crystallization takes place because of two things: nucleation and crystal growth. Nucleation is when there are molecular structures of crystals that begin to cluster in a concentrated area. Once the cluster is stable, it becomes the nuclei. The crystal will then grow to its final size based on the solution being precipitated and the space it has to grow in. For most crystals, the nuclei stabilizes itself on its host rock. You can imagine this like a hole where fluid has collected on the inside. The nuclei will grow from the bottom of the hole where the solution has collected. This is a very simplified explanation of a common yet complex phenomenon. What goes into making a double terminated crystal is not so common. As it turns out, there isn't an agreed upon answer as to why a double termination happens, so I will go into one of the more recent theories and let you decide if it's a good enough explanation. The current theory that Herkimer diamond historians are evaluating is called Oil and Seed Crystal Theory. The difference between a single and double termination happens due to the presence of oil that repels the nuclei, forcing it to grow floating in the solution. This allows the crystal to grow in both directions coming to a double termination. This theory has been proven true in other areas like Pakistan that also produce double terminated crystals.



What's next? Find CJ at the next meeting or email him your questions at

[charliejohnproos@gmail.com](mailto:charliejohnproos@gmail.com)

## TULIP CITY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB BOARD MEETING

**Date:** 1/17/2024

**Attendance Total:** 15

**Guests in Attendance:** Steve Miller

**Quorum:** Declared

**Call to Order:** 7:07 PM

**Board Members Present:** C. Falstad (President), W. McDonald (Vice President), A Vanderski (Secretary), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), E. Hoekstra (Historian), S. Luttikhuisen (Jr. Club Coordinator), M. Johnson (Liaison), R. Gehringer (Membership), J. Miller (Newsletter Editor), C.J. Proos & T. DeMol (Show Coordinator Co-Chairs), A. Nelson (Webmaster), G. Katt & P. Williamson (Directors at Large), M. Larson (Past President)

**Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes:** Approved

### Board Member Reports:

- President - 501c3 status and introduction of Conflict of Interest statement. Conflict of Interest Statement previously emailed for review. Question (G. Katt) concerning how member sales are impacted by Conflict of Interest. Member sales, vendors, and "Swaps" are not believed to be a Conflict of Interest. "The difference between generating an income and supporting a hobby" with personal example from other 501c3 (J. Miller). Question (R. Gehringer) can a member (business owner) be a seller, no. C. Falstad will however check in with the member in question to clarify.

Vice President - Workshops? Workshops suggested by board members as well as a review of previous workshops.

Annual Picnic 2024 - Saturday July 27th, will book soon. White River Club's annual picnic will be July 13th.

January 2024 General Meeting - Pegmatite!

May 2024 General Meeting - Potential silent auction. C. Falstad suggested adding larger items for auction from TCGMC possession.

Discussed opportunities for future general meetings.

- Past President - Pass

- Secretary - Introduced new "Meeting Minutes" submission form. Minutes will be emailed following the meeting for review, edits and approval.

- Newsletter Editor - Updated Newsletter format to come! Coordination for submission of Newsletter bits.

Fieldtrip Coordinator - Spring Break (Mar 29th-Apr 7) trip will be New Mexico, sign-ups to follow shortly. .75

Potential basement field trips in the work.

Shared results of Field Trip Survey, 45 total responses with enthusiastic responses. Extended weekend trips expressed as a preference.

Bus Trip to Chicago Museums - J. Sherwood deep dived into pricing and options to visit Lizzardo and Field Museums.

Discussed dates. Discussed options for club to subsidize part of trip (bus cost, juniors ticket, etc). Cost of bus \$2,136.00, 12 hour day. Motion (C. Falstad) for TCGMC to support the bus trip up to 50% of the cost of the bus for TCGMC Members, up to 40 members, and to cover the entire expense for Junior Members (bus and admission fees). Motion passed. Date to be confirmed and sign-up to be emailed shortly after.

- Directors at Large (Katt) - Updates on other potential field trips and updates to Google Workspace Field Trip files.

- Treasurer - CD due on 1/18 and a second due in June 2024. Unanimous board agreement to renew CDs due on 1/18/24.

- Historian - Initial meeting concerning "Digitizing" canceled due to illness and weather. Will reschedule.

- Jr. Club Coordinator - January 2024 Juniors will be Devonian era fossils, before and after beach erosion. Coloring sheets and request for larger Devonian era specimens. Looking forward to this year!

- Liaison - Pieces to be utilized for Banquet raffle in April 2024. Potentially offering a rose quartz sphere (raffle option #1) as well as a blue Celestite geode from Beauties of Creation (raffle option #2). Continuing raffle ticket price of 6 tickets for \$20.

- Membership - Currently 73 memberships renewed for 2024 vs 179 in 2023. Reminders to be sent out.

Show Coordinators - (DeMol) Attempt to identify origin of TCGMC "Michigan Lapidary" and "Michigan Collecting" Posters.

(Proos) Contract from Soccerstop arrived 1/17/25 for rental of space for 2024 Annual Show. Potential \$250 increase from 2023 and request for tarps under all areas where rocks may be present. \$1500 fee for Soccer Stop to provide full field tarp. Additional rear field available for \$50/hr. Will clarify terms of contract. Suggestion to aid in purchasing field tarp to cut costs (K. Brinks).

(Proos) Presented a tentative 2024 timeline for the Annual Show.

Steve Miller will be assuming the role of Dealer Chair for the 2024 annual show!

Webmaster - Interactive Club calendar now available on the TCGMC website! Continuing updates to the website and updating of Google Workspace.

### Recurring Business:

Memorial Books - RETURN

Rock Exchange - Exchange box to go to the Donations Committee for proper use and allocation. Additional prospective clubs to exchange in the works. Suggestions for additions to exchange boxes from TCGMC. RETURN

501c3 Status - Hope to complete submission by end of week, pending need for signatures on Conflict of Interest. RETURN

Budget Review - RETURN

### New Business:

Review of Financial Books - Not yet started. RETURN

**Notes:** Meeting held via Zoom due to inclement weather.

**Items From Visiting Members:** None.

**Adjournment:** 9:00PM

**Next General Meeting:** 1/31/2024 **Next Board Meeting:** 2/14/2024

**Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By:** Alexandria Vanderski



# In Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club History

By Betty Hoekstra

As Club Historian, I would like to have you "meet" a gentleman by the name of Joe Moran. Joe founded our Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club.

In 1967, as Holland's Recreation Director, (and believing that recreation should be for everyone, not just athletes), Joe placed an ad in the Holland Sentinel inviting interested people to meet and possibly form a "Rock Club". That first meeting was a success, and here we are 57 years later, still enjoying the hobby of gem and mineral collecting, and all of its benefits. Thanks Joe!

There are no dates on most of the old newspaper clippings; but they do give us a glimpse into the lives of Joe and his wife Dorothy. We know from his obituary that Joe died in 1998 at age 91.



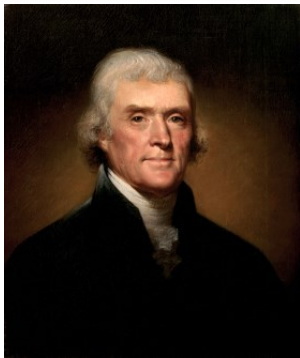


### **PENNY CONTEST:**

Did you know it's time to start the publicity efforts for the 2024 TCGMC Show?!! We are only seven months away from this year's show! This month's penny contest will be done to determine what specimens will be on this year's promotional materials. All you have to do is bring your most photogenic/picturesque specimen you have.

Each person may bring one specimen that can be placed in any of the following categories: fossils, crystals/raw minerals, carvings/towers, and jewelry/handmade items. In addition to those four categories, juniors have the option to participate in those or choose to be in the junior category. The junior category can be anything the junior wishes to enter.

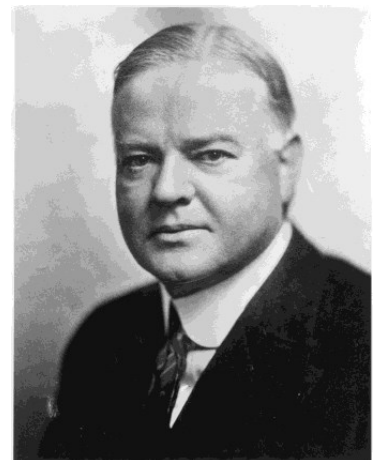
When voting, you may cast one vote in each of the five categories, casting five votes in total. The winner of each category will have their specimen's picture taken at the general meeting and will be on the poster for this year's show, as well as other publicity possibilities. You WILL be able to take your specimen home with you that evening.



### **WAS YOUR PRESIDENT A ROCKHOUND?**

#### **Things to think about on President's Day**

A number of United States presidents had some experience in geological thought and investigations and keen interests in the environment. The first U.S. president, George Washington, was a land surveyor. Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd U.S. president, was a keen supporter of science and maintained an interest in paleontology and played a key role in the development of American paleontology. Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th U.S. president, was a strong supporter of the national park service and was an influential naturalist. Herbert Hoover, the 31st U.S. president, was a Stanford University graduate with a degree in geology and mining – a true geologist/U.S. President. Hoover worked in the mining industry in the western United States, Australia, and China before moving into politics. Hoover lectured on mining at both Columbia and Stanford Universities and his lectures were published in 1909 as *Principles of Mining*. In 1912, Hoover, with his wife Lou Henry, translated Agricola's *De Re Metallica* from Latin into English.



<https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass/vol84/iss2/3/>

~ **JUNIOR SECTION** ~

Since the Junior Club Meeting was cancelled last month, the juniors will be studying Devonian fossils that are now one month older! These fossils are easily found in Michigan. The ones they will be looking at are straight from the LaFarge Quarry in Alpena, Michigan. Learn what they look like, how you find them, how you clean them, and what you can do with them. Shari has many examples and samples for the juniors to explore and even one to take home.



There are so many wonderful websites and Youtube videos for students to learn about rocks and gems. Here are some suggestions.

<https://youtu.be/xsHPA2GNF9Q> (8:49 minutes)

<https://youtu.be/cyBLmW5k06c> by Science Mom (43:38 minutes)

<https://youtu.be/u5gTCUfw1gl> 15 of the Coolest Rocks (20:35 minutes)

And of course our very own Chris Cooper's : <https://youtu.be/1bNM8mR3Wwg> Lake Superior Agates



# 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 \$10.00



**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY** (Must have a postal mailing address)

Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> 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:**  
Rhonda Gehringer  
1980 Driftwood Dr,  
Holland, MI 49424

**Questions can be e-mailed to:**  
tcgmc.news@gmail.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

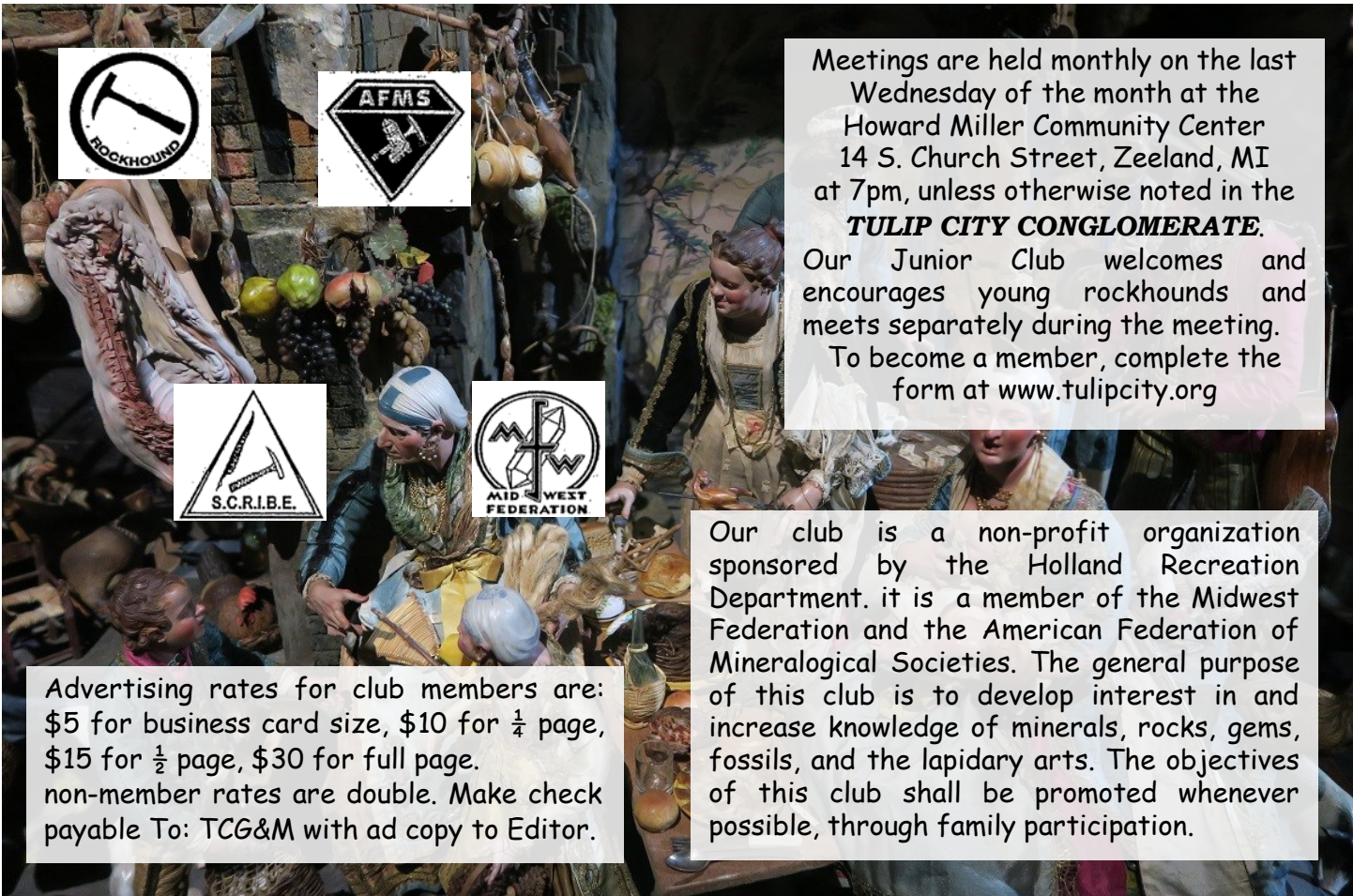
**TCG&MC PRIVACY POLICY:** For purposes of planning field trips and other TCG&MC Social activities, the club will annually distribute a listing of adult member names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses to all club members. The TCG&MC officers will never knowingly distribute your address 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.



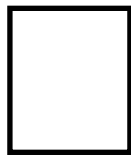
Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

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)

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.

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  
Jodi Miller, Editor  
11743 Orchard Park Dr.  
Sparta, MI 49345



Background photo is diorama from the Lazzadro Museum in Chicago