



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

January, 2024

Volume 57, Edition 1

January Guest Speaker

Mineral Dependence: Gemstones to Cellphones

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2024. I hope everyone has enjoyed the winter so far and the unique date of 12-31-23.

Join us in January for a presentation from Dr. Mike Wise from the Smithsonian Museum on the exploration of our “Nations Giant Treasure Chest”. We get to learn about Pegmatites and some of their great minerals like: Tourmalines, Garnets, and other wonders from these gem factories. Dr. Wise has an amazing understanding of Pegmatites and has taken part in a vast array of publications.

Pegmatites are important sources of rare elements, and when present in economic quantities, these elements may be extracted for use in a wide range of technological applications. Join us to explore some of these applications. There

will be a time for open discussion and questions.—Bill McDonald



Peg, my tight 😂
jeans just got tighter!

Monthly Contest

Please bring in your favorite pegmatite crystal specimen. More than likely, you have several in your collection and you don't even realize it!



Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2024 TCG&M Board

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

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

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alexandria.vandervest1029@gmail.com

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Field Trips - Jon Mull
solace247@yahoo.com

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kbhoek@att.net

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t.demol@yahoo.com

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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

1/31 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2/14 Tulip City Board meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2/28 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

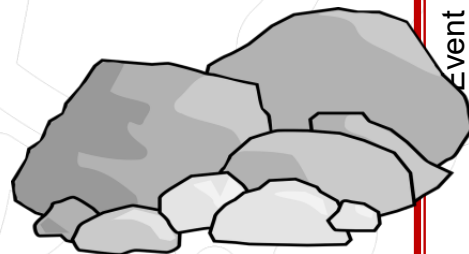
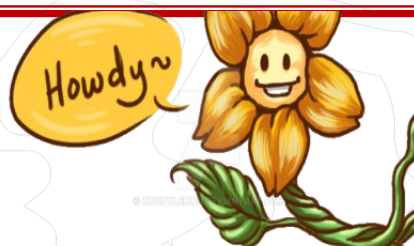
3/13 Tulip City Board meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

3/27 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

Welcome to 2024. Having just attended the first meeting of the new board, I can tell you that there are some wonderfully exciting things coming for this year. Plan to learn, plan to travel, and most of all, plan to have FUN!! Vice President Bill McDonald has some great speakers lined up for our meetings, and Fieldtrip Coordinator Jon Mull gave a sneak preview of trips being developed. (See page 4 for details!) As Newsletter Editor, I'm hoping to add my own 'spin' on the people and events of our club. I've been a member for over 19 years, so I have some 'dirt' to expose! LOL! I love this club, and I hope it shows in the way I put together our newsletter! I'm also hoping to get more people to submit articles for publishing.



REMINDER:

Make sure to check with the Howard Miller Library website before heading out on a snowy Wednesday to make sure the building is open and we are holding our meeting!



Field Trips



Member "Museum" Collection. Feb. 24, 10am - 1pm

Ken & Betty Hoekstra have offered to host a field trip to their home at 5870 Julie Street, in Hudsonville. Hopefully there will be much less snow by then. Their collection is spread throughout the house, and not just in the "basement." Hope to see you there!

Bus Trip Mar. 16

Julia Sherwood has worked hard to put together another fabulous bus trip for us. The trip will include travel to Chicago for a visit to the Lizadro Lapidary Museum as well as the Field Museum. This is a fantastic opportunity and not to be missed. To put a cherry on top, our board has agreed to cover half the cost of our bus rental as well as the full cost for any junior that want to attend. Watch for a sign up link in your email. The bus holds 40 people so act fast when that link comes.

Spring Break - Mar. 29 - Apr. 7

Just to give you a heads up, we will be heading back to New Mexico for spring break this year. We will be in the northwest corner this time however. There are a lot of details to smooth out but there are locations for petrified wood, copper minerals, fluorite, and obsidian nodules, we will be very close to Shiprock and within range of Petrified Forest National Park. Home base for this trip will be Farmington, New Mexico. You will want accommodations nearby for Sunday night March 31 to Thursday April 4.

Watch for sign-up links coming to your email!

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

! 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 still have materials from the show... How come?! Bring em' on in to the January meeting so they can be properly stored.

Hoekstra Scavenger Hunt

If you attend the Basement Fieldtrip at Ken and Betty Hoekstra's, keep an eye out for these specimens that are my favorites! I am very excited to be able to see Ken and Betty's expansive collection once again!



*If you love
thunderegg
and agates,
you're going to
love this
collection!*



The beauty of the Hoekstra collection is that Ken and Betty personally collected most of the specimens on display!



BANQUET RAFFLE BEGINS IN JANUARY

Opportunities to purchase tickets for this year's special Banquet Raffle will begin 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 Holland 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 January, February, March and April meetings. There will also be more selenite and ice cream opal, plus agates and other items among the regular raffle choices. Good luck, everyone!

Your Liaison and Head Raffleter,

Mary Johnson



*Blue would
match the
interior in my
house!*



Frequently Asked Quartz-tions

This is going to be a new column brought to you by CJ Proos. Every month, he will select a frequently asked rock, mineral, or fossil related question and answer it in the conglomerate. If you have a question you would like answered concerning a rock, mineral or gem, you can find him at the next meeting or email him at charliejohnproos@gmail.com.



CJ—Since I’m kicking things off this month, I’m going to start us out with the question, “what is the history of birthstones?”

Since I’ve got a January birthday myself, I’m curious if there is history behind these stones. There are actually many origin stories to the birthstones. Some actually have biblical roots. If you go to the Book of Exodus, you will find descriptions of a breastplate worn by Aaron, the first high priest of the Israelites. These stones were thought to possess powers and represented the 12 tribes of Israel. According to first century translators, the breastplate is loosely thought to contain, carnelian, chrysolite, beryl, jacinth, agate, amethyst, topaz, turquoise, sapphire, lapis lazuli, jasper, and emerald. Historian Josephus was the one to connect these stones to the twelve months of the year, 500 years after the creation of the breastplate. This has been debated by St. Jerome who thinks Joseph was referencing the walls of New Jerusalem found in Revelations 21:

19-21.

There are also beliefs that the birthstones don’t originate with the months at all, but instead celestial bodies. In Hinduism, an astrological chart is made at each birth and only then is a birthstone assigned. However, this is broken down into only 9 different stones as opposed to 12. Some traditions utilize birthday-stones. Unlike birthstones, birthday-stones are given based on the day of the week that a child is born.

Although the origin of the birthstones are debated, you can’t argue the work done by the National Association of Jewelers. In 1912, the Jewelers of America met in Kansas to officially create the list of birthstones. Many believe that this was an attempt to sell more jewelry and less about unifying beliefs. The list created in 1912 has been revised several times in the last century. As of 2019, only half the months have a singular stone represented for their month. June, August, and December all have three designated stones each.

What are your thoughts? Does deep history contribute to the creation of the birthstone, or is capitalism to blame? Let me know your thoughts at the next meeting and send me your questions for next month’s edition of Frequently Asked Quartz-tions!

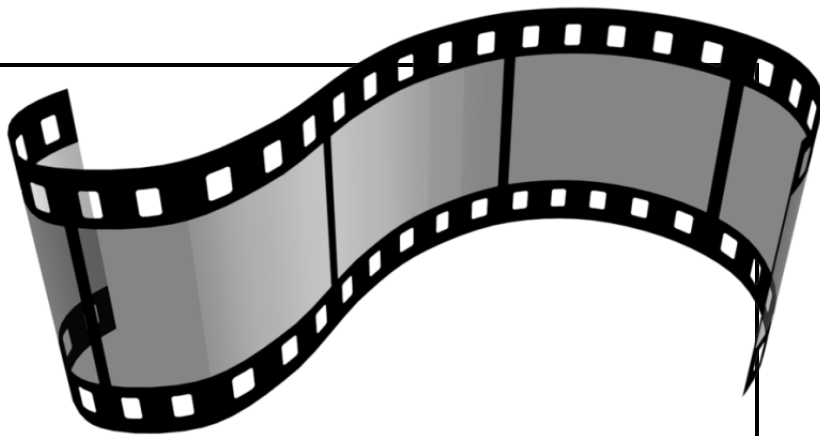
			
Garnet	Amethyst	Aquamarine	Diamond
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
			
Emerald	Pearl	Ruby	Peridot
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
			
Sapphire	Opal	Topaz	Turquoise
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

News from the Midwest Federation:

New Programs Contest Seeks

Entries

Have you ever experienced a rock club program that really spoke to you? Or that you thought was so good the information should be shared with others?



A great way to share such information is to put it in digital form. And that is a great way to have an entry for the AFMS New Programs Competition!

For many years the AFMS has had a Program Competition, now called the “New Program Competition.” People would produce programs using slides or videos and enter these into the competition. The top two programs were awarded prizes, and then reproduced and passed along to each Federation for their lending library. This was a great way to get new programs that rock clubs could borrow and use at their meetings.

However, in the past few years, there have been few to no new programs submitted. We need this to change. Clubs still need programs. People are still doing great programs for their clubs, so let’s get these into an electronic format and make them available for more people to see.

The New Program Competition invites clubs and individuals to put these programs on PowerPoint, slides, or other electronic mediums, and submit them for the competition. See rules, tips, judges’ forms, and the submission form on the AFMS website to help with the technical side. (Go to amfed.org, click on Downloads, then click on AFMS Program Competition.)

Using PowerPoint is simple and fast. It takes a little planning, but the results might be worth the time. There is a \$200 first-place award and a \$100 second place award in this competition. The top two winners are then reproduced and given to each Federation for its program library.

There are five different classes for entries: Educational, Field Collection, How To Do It, Miscellaneous, and Just For Juniors (youth under 18 years old and with their own rules.) There is also a category called, “Excellence in Education” for commercially produced programs; these are judged separately.

You must be a member of a club in good standing, and entries must be submitted before the April 2, 2024 deadline. To find out more about this, or for answers to any other questions about the competition, contact : DeLane Cox, Committee Chair, at 479-254-0894, or email to: delanec3@earthlink.net.

~ **JUNIOR SECTION** ~

This month the Juniors are going to explore Devonian fossils easily found in Michigan. What they look like when you find them in a quarry, and how they change when you find them on a beach. Were there any animals back then?



How did Michigan look 450 million years ago? Is a petoskey a stone, or a fossil? What are those small cheerio-looking disks on the beach? Did we have Dinosaurs in Michigan? What do people mean when they talk about a death plate?

WE are also going to looking at some fossils straight from the LaFarge Quarry in Alpena, Michigan, and learn how to clean the fossils after you find them. ***Come to the next Junior club meeting and join the fun!***



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: _____

2nd 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

Advertising rates for club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for $\frac{1}{4}$ page, \$15 for $\frac{1}{2}$ 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
Jodi Miller, Editor
11743 Orchard Park Dr.
Sparta, MI 49345



Background photo is the Cave of Giants - Niaca Mine, Mexico