



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/

January, 2025

Volume 58, Edition 1

A new year, a new board!

Welcome everyone to 2025, this year will bring some fun new content to our meetings! More to come on that. We welcome new board members Justin Moore- VP, Megan Moore- Conglomerate editor, Chris Silich- Liaison.

As the new Vice President I am very excited for this year and all that is being planned. Local field trips, rock swaps, great speakers and first off for the January General meeting, a SILENT AUCTION!! Why scream when its silent? Because it's exciting!

Silent Auction Information and links to the auction slips are on pg. 6.

I am excited to be working with President Jodi Miller on new opportunities and growing our club!

If anyone has content ideas or topics for the meetings, feel free to share them with me at vice-president@tulipcity.org

-Justin Moore, Vice President

The monthly contest will be: the color WHITE

Bring in your most prized white rock / mineral

We will have a table set up and members will vote to decide who has the coolest white specimen!

Did I mention there will be a SILENT AUCTION!!!!

Reminder: You must be an active member to sell in the auction.





Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2025 TCG&M Board

President - Jodi Miller

V.P. - Justin Moore

Secretary - Open

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.

1/29 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

2/12 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting

2/26 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

March 1 & 2, 2025: [52nd Annual Rock Auction](#)

Schoolcraft College Vista Tech Center
18600 Haggarty Rd Livonia, MI

**for more information, click on show name*

Member News

We had several families join our membership at the September show. Their membership is good through December, 2025. For all others, your membership renewal is now due. Sign up at the general membership meeting or contact Rhonda Geringer this month so you don't ever miss out on what is coming up for our club and continue receiving the Conglomerate. Current dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. *(The board would like to encourage individuals to receive the Conglomerate through email, but if you choose to get a hard copy, there is an additional charge to your membership dues to cover printing and mailing.)*





Field Trips



Member Museum - The Mull home - Saturday Mar. 8, 10am

It's a bit of a mess, but it's mine and I have been spending some time clearing the clutter from my basement so I can share my collection. It's not huge but there are some bits I am quite proud of. You will find specimens obtained from some of our best field trips, and from some of my favorite club members, and almost all of them have stories! Mark the date, and stay tuned for updates.

Here is my address: 14325 Essenburg Dr, Holland, MI 49424

Member Museum - The Sherwood home - Saturday Mar. 29, 10am

Bob & Julia Sherwood have graciously offered to open their home in order to view their wonderful collection. It has been built over their many years of travel, hard work, and a little "silver picking." It is nothing short of superb and there are lots of stories to go with it. We will meet for lunch at Clementines in South Haven afterwards, at 1pm. This plan is fluid at the moment, so stay tuned for updates but mark the date.

Sherwood's address: 966 Lake Street, South Haven, MI 49090.

The field trip season will start to pick up after March so let us know if you have a wish list. There are a couple possible quarry trips on the horizon and Gary Katt and I are doing our best to come up with some great trips this year

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



Once-in-a-lifetime chance to dig the famous Rucks Pit crystal clams!

As many of you know, *Pacific GeoLab* has exclusive rights to excavate the crystalline fossil clams from Rucks Pit in Okeechobee, Florida. Up until now we could not accommodate others wanting to dig with us. But now's your chance! If you are interested in DIGGING YOUR OWN crystal clams we will be hosting an exclusive dig event in April with the guarantee that you will go home happy.

Discovered in the 1990s in Rucks Pit, a quarry near Lake Okeechobee, Florida, these fantastic crystal-lined fossil clams quickly became famous in both the mineral and fossil world.

The quarry will never reopen, and the property remains closed. However, due to the demand, we are exploring the idea of arranging a very limited, one-time opportunity for clients to visit and dig at our site **April 10-13, 2025**. This may be your only chance to dig these unique specimens for yourself. Only a few dozen people will be allowed, and only for a few days.

For more information and to pre-register, please visit pacificgeolab.com. You can also email newsletter-editor@tulipcity.org and I will send you more information.

TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 1-15-2025

Location: Howard Miller Community Center

Attendance Total: 16

Guests in Attendance: 1

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Board Members Present: J. Miller (President), J. Moore (Vice President), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), G. Katt (Field Trip Coordinator), 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), W. McDonald (Director at Large), C.H. Falstad (Past President)

Approval of Agenda: Approved, Kurt Brinks

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved, John Mull

Board Member Reports:

President:

Jodi join via zoom from Florida.

Board members need to speak at the general meeting to help juniors.

Use board meeting agenda to get reports.

Introduce Justin & Megan. And everyone.

OK to use other articles from clubs & sources in the newsletter.

Vice President:

January will be a silent auction. Max 10 to 15 items.

Presentation for January is already arranged.

Chris and Gary willing to do a presentation.

Past President - Nothing

Newsletter Editor:

Please help and get your letters in.

Fieldtrip Coordinator:

Jon:

Sherwoods open to basement field trip January 29th.

Jon willing to do one in March.

New Mexico possible spring break.

Gary:

Amethyst trip July thunder bay. Blue Point Mine. Specific dates coming soon.

April 26th rock picking at Pilgrim Haven

Directors at Large- Nothing

Treasurer:

Holiday card from library.

Thank you from Seaman museum

CDs coming due and most likely reinvesting them. They are making good money

Scholarships are about \$4,000.

Review budget.

Misc was high due to bus trip.

Budget is a guideline. Turn in receipt with name on them.

Lapidary line added.

Look at budget for approval in February.

Remove Herrickfest?

Ottawa County Parks Remove?

Added income and donations line.

TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes cont.

Historian - Not present.

Jr. Club Coordinator:

Rick Smith doing presentation soon.

Needs more presenters.

Liaison - Nothing

Membership Coordinator:

Getting membership application in newsletter.

Show Coordinator - Nothing

Social Coordinator - Nothing

Webmaster:

See Aaron for email setup.

2 factor authentication this year.

Recurring Business:

- Scholarship discussion. OK to roll out program at general meeting.
- See notes from email.

New Business:

- 2025 show location update.
- Holland Twp working on new space at mall site.
- Rendering handout for the new space
- Jodi is working with them. They plan to open this summer.

Correspondence: Nothing

Motions: Nothing

Notes: Nothing

Items From Visiting Members: Nothing

Adjournment: 8:23pm

Next General Meeting: 1/29/2025

Next Board Meeting: 2/12/2025

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: Bill McDonald



Junior Section



Hey Juniors!

Good news and bad news. The bad news is that I will not be meeting with you and introducing myself as your new Junior club coordinator at the General Meeting on January 29.

The really great 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!

We will resume our time together at the February meeting, where Rick Smith will be giving the presentation. I'll tell you more about that later. Print your silent auction slips [here](#)

From the Raffle Corner:

Because we will be having a Silent Auction at January's meeting, there will be no regular monthly raffle. Enjoy the auction, and come see us in February!!

Silent Auction Information

Any member may bring up to 10 items to sell 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.

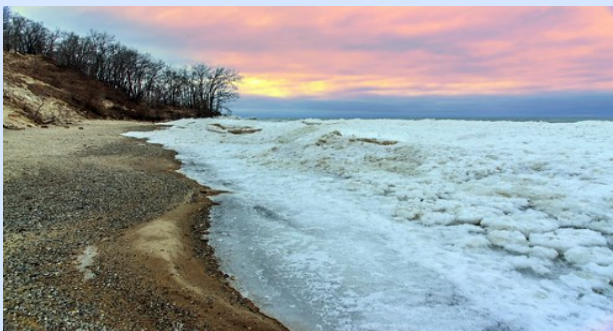
Note there will be separate tables for items on which only JUNIOR members may place a bid. Special Silent Auction slips are printable by clicking [here](#).

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.

Besides bidding on special member offerings, this evening has plenty of time to mingle and talk. Come enjoy the fun, while you expand your collection.

REMINDERS

1. It is time to renew your membership if you have not done so already the February newsletter will be the last one any unpaid member will receive. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter and the ability to go on field trips, please renew your membership. Membership form is available at our general meeting, and on page 11.
2. February issue submission deadline is February 14th. Please send me any articles, trip opportunities/stories, news or other information that you would like to share with the rest of the club.



Do you want to go rock hunting but your spouse/significant other doesn't want to go and you don't want to go alone? Call or text Justin Moore at 616-490-9529, he's ready and willing to do local, "un-official" weekend (day trips) or evening trips with anyone who is interested. Even in the cold!

A Message from our President

First, let me begin by saying that I am very excited to have been elected your President! I certainly appreciate how easy it was to be voted in since I had no competition! But, it doesn't diminish that I am looking forward to leading this wonderful club for 2025. This is my fifth position on the board and I have done my best to fulfill each duty with the other members in mind. This club is about "ROCKS" and the people who love them. Keeping that in mind, as I serve as your President, will make sure the focus is on what you want and expect as a member of Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club.

I can tell you that at their first meeting on January 15, your board is planning on great activities and events for 2025. The first is the addition of a new TCGMC Lapidary scholarship. One \$400 scholarship, and two \$200 scholarships will be awarded each year to club members who meet criteria. Look for that information in this newsletter, and we will be discussing it more at the meeting on January 29.

Finally, some plans are made far in advance in order to secure certain spaces and opportunities such is the case with me and winter plans. Last year, my husband Steve and I reserved a space at a campground in Florida for part of January and the month of February. LONG before I even thought about becoming the club President. Well, we still have those plans. We leave Saturday, January 18, and will not return until the end of February. Even though I am not with you physically, I have made arrangements to open the general meeting with you by Zoom on January 29. I look forward to speaking with you briefly before Justin Moore (VP) completes the agenda.



Have fun at the silent auction!!



Wish we could be there to join the sales!



Mother Nature truly amazes me sometimes. The other day I stumbled across a picture of a mountain, one side of this mountain had a rock face that had been delicately sculpted by the wind and rain over millions of years to form what could be described as the perfect art form.

My curiosity was sparked so off I went in search of more of these natural rock masterpieces. Low and behold after hours of searching I discovered a plethora of these majestic forms

Danxia Landform, Hebei, China

Read more about this landform [Danxia](#)



2025 TCG&M Club Board Inducted!

The 2025 Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club Board was inducted at the December meeting.

New and returning members include:

CH Falstead - Past President, Jodi Miller - President, Justin Moore - Vice President, Megan Moore - Newsletter Editor, Gary Catt and Jon Mull - Field Trip Coordinators, Steve Miller - Junior Member Coordinator, Chris Silich - Liaison, Rhonda Gehringer - Membership, CJ Proos - Show Chair, Aaron Nelson - Webmaster, Michelle Lanting - Hospitality, and Patsy Williamson - Director at Large.

Not pictured are Kurt Brink -Treasurer and Bill MacDonald - Director at Large.

Two positions are still open. Are **YOU** interested in becoming more involved with **YOUR** rock club! The positions of Secretary and Co-Show Chair are still available. Contact Jodi Miller for more information.

Let's all congratulate the new Board and do what we can to support their work! And many, many thanks to all of them!



L-R: CH, Jodi, Justin, Megan, Gary, Jon, Steve, Chris, Rhonda, CJ, Aaron, Michelle, Patsy

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MEGAN MOORE

Hi!, I'm Megan Moore, your new newsletter editor, 4th from the left, above. I have been a member since the September 2023 show and am looking forward to being more involved in the club. I am a wife (to Justin, the new V.P.), a mom (2 biological children and multiple exchange students), daughter and sister. I work full time for START, a Phase One clinical trials program for advanced cancer patients, and I work part-time as an exchange student representative. I love to travel, read, rockhound and have recently gotten into quilting. My favorite colors are purple and blue, but I tend to see/find more green stones when hunting.

Why shouldn't you
lend a geologist
money?

Tulip City GMC General Membership Lapidary Scholarship

Purpose: To provide scholarships for members to enhance their lapidary or stone related skills. Scholarships can be used for a lapidary class, instruction (on-line or in-person), or any stone/rock/gem related activity. (*Not for fieldtrips or travel)

Scholarships: Three members will be selected annually. One \$400, and two \$200 scholarships will be awarded.

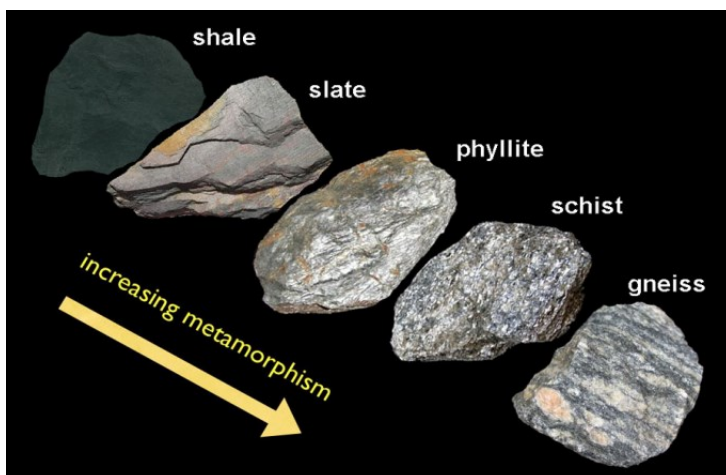
Eligibility: Any member may apply for either the \$400 and/or a \$200 scholarship if they meet the following criteria.

1. Must have been a member of the TCGMC for at least two years before applying.
2. Must have worked at the September show for one of the last two years before applying.
3. Must present to the membership what was learned during the scholarship activity
4. Must pay for the activity and then be reimbursed the cost, up to the amount awarded.
5. May take multiple classes with a cost up to the amount of the awarded scholarship, but must present to the membership for each activity/class.
6. Must be used in the year awarded and is not transferable.
7. Recipients cannot receive scholarships two years in a row.
8. If a Junior Club Member is the recipient, a parent may receive part of the amount to cover their participation.

Process:

1. Scholarships and applications will be announced every August and October in the Conglomerate and at the meetings.
2. Applications (form completely filled out) will be accepted until November 30*.
3. Applications will be reviewed by a three member committee for eligibility and then scholarships will be drawn randomly at the December* General Meeting. The \$400 scholarship will be selected first so that all others can be entered into the \$200 scholarships.
4. Recipients will be notified immediately following the meeting and will be highlighted in the January* Conglomerate.

**For 2025 ONLY, Since we are already beyond the above Process dates for 2025, we will announce the scholarships in January and February in the Conglomerate and at the meetings. Applications will be accepted until March 15, and then the recipients will be selected at the March General Meeting.*



I think I'm getting the schist of creating this newsletter.

Does it look gneiss?

They consider a million years ago to be "recent"!

TCGMC Scholarship Application

Applicant Details

Applicant Name: _____ Date: _____

Address:	
Phone number:	

Questions to Ask Interviewer

Question #1:	Have You Been A Member of TCGMC For At Least Two Years?
Answer:	

Question #2:	Have You Worked At the TCGMC September Show at Least Once In The Last Two Years?
Answer:	

Question #3:	Do You Agree to Present to the General Membership Details About What Skill(s) You Learned?
Answer:	

Criteria Certification

Application received by due date.

Applicant has been a member of TCGMC for at least two years. _____ (Membership Coordinator certified)

Applicant worked at least one of the last two years at the TCGMC September Show. _____ (Show Chairperson certified)

Applicant understands that they must present at a general meeting the skill or information they received from utilizing the scholarship. _____ (Committee Member certified)

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: _____

Mail check payable to TCGMC to:
Rhonda Gehringer
1980 Driftwood Dr.
Holland, MI 49424
email questions to:
tcgcmembership@gmail.com

If this is a family membership, please list ALL participating family members' names and birthdays.**

Family membership is up to two adults and dependant children seventeen years of age and younger.

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 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 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.

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



Background photo is Malachite