



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

CONGLOMERATE

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

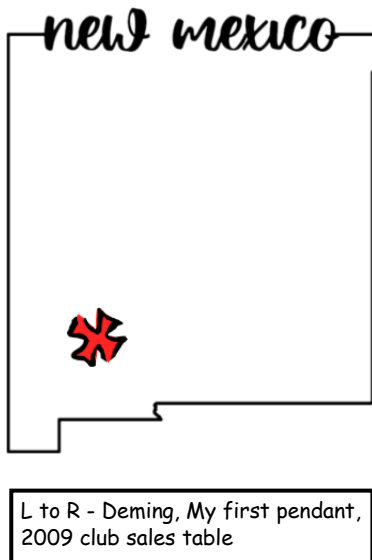
Website: www.Tulipcity.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub

June 2024

Volume 57, Edition 6

Member Show & Tell

One of my favorite things about rock hounds is their ability to “spin a yarn!” Some of our members could probably even tell you where that phrase came from! In fact, I challenge anyone who knows the history of that phrase to step up and share it with us at this months meeting, it would be “a hoot!” Seriously though, rockhounds are frequently generous with their time and have excellent stories! This is your chance to share one of your favorite things about our hobby. It could be your favorite lapidary project, a surprising show you visited, the best collecting spot you know (ooooh, juicy!) or just a tender story about your pet rock Patricia. If there is a specimen that goes along with your story and you’d like to share it, there will be a table to display it on. Our VP Bill will be out of town this month so CH is going to keep the ball rolling for us! I hope you’ll join us and share something new about your favorite thing in the Rock-Hounding World!



L to R - Deming, My first pendant, 2009 club sales table



Looks like a "Patricia"



Monthly Contest

The color is Blue! - **See more on Pg. 2**



Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2024 TCG&M Board

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

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

6/19 **Tulip City** SHOW meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

6/26 **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

7/27 **Tulip City** PICNIC - Saturday, 2-9 pm

West Side County Park South Pavillion - Potluck at 6 pm

8/14 **Tulip City** Board meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

8/17 **Tulip City** Late Summer Tailgate - Saturday, 9am - 7pm

Zeeland East HS Parking lot

8/28 **Tulip City** General meeting - Wed, 7pm

Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

Our fearless Editor is out of town this month. Somehow these shoes feel bigger! Don't you worry though, Jodi will be back soon with the new features we have come to love, like member spotlights, quartz-tions, and pages from history. Enjoy your vacation Jodi!

COLOR CONTEST
As mentioned, the color is **BLUE**. So many options! Azurite, Smithsonite, Cavansite, Chrysocolla. Which shade will you choose! Here's how it works... Identify your specimen on a card, do NOT include your name. We'll vote with pennies during the break. The winner will receive a modest prize.

~ Masthead "Mascot" ~
Lucky me, I get to do this part again! This months mascot is a piece of petrified wood from the Dobell Ranch. It is about 3" x 5" and so agatized that it almost glows in the sunlight. One of Angie's "finds" from the spring break trip.
- Jon Mull

www.mwfed.org/calendar
Event details can be found on the Midwest Federation Site -



Field Trips



Summer months!

Summer is often a busy time for families. Who doesn't like to go off on an adventure and travel across the country, or even out of the country?! I hope you take some time off to explore. Since people are often doing their own thing, I don't have something planned for the summer... It looks like Amethyst may have to wait until next year. I am open to suggestions for June & July, although I will be out of town for the first couple weeks of July. If you don't have enough Petoskey stones yet and would like a weekend up north, I think that would be easily doable. Please reach out!

Labor Day Weekend - TBD

I always like to take a long weekend over Labor Day to do some collecting. We could go back to Keokuk for geodes, in prep for the show. I am also open to suggestions although it would need to be something within a half day drive.

Cumberland Lake - Weekend of Oct. 26

This will be long weekend to Lake Cumberland, KY for crinoids. This manmade reservoir has its level lowered by about 30 feet during the fall months and a great many crinoids are exposed in the process. We will travel on Friday, spend the day on Saturday, and head home on Sunday.

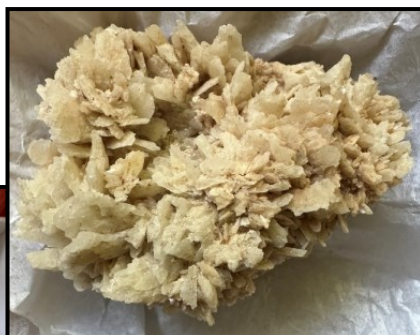
If you are interested in any of these please contact me by email. Solace247@yahoo.com

The Raffle Corner

June's raffle will feature six items to possibly add to your collection! We have Wavelite, Selenite, Mexican coconut and agate slices, an agate patterned pillowcase for rocking dreams, a polished limb cast and a piece of petrified wood. There will be no raffle at our July picnic so you can spend time on the beach finding your own treasures! We'll return in August. As always, proceeds go to the club general fund to help pay for scholarships, room rental for our meetings, and other organizational expenses. Thank you so much for your support!

Come see us in our corner!

Mary, Pat and Gary



! IMPORTANT !

We need more snacks for our meetings! Prepackaged snacks can last more than one meeting, check those dates. Fresh snacks are appreciated as well!

THANKS!

! ALSO IMPORTANT !

There will be another Tailgate on August 17. It will again be in the Zeeland East parking lot, across the street from Family Fair, corner of Riley and 96th. 9am to 2pm.

***Mark it on your calendar!
Watch for details***

Board Meeting Minutes - May

Date: 5/15/2024

Attendance Total: 16

Guests in Attendance: Ken Hoekstra

Quorum: Yes

Location: Howard Miller Community Center

Call to Order: 7:01pm

Board Members Present: 15

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved

Board Member Reports:

President

Presented new business for Petoskey polish and movement of rock specimens at DeGraaf Nature Center

Vice President

Silent auction for the May General Meeting

"Member Spotlight" for June General Meeting

Yard signs for monthly Rock Club General Meetings

Club funds use to purchase agate resources at April General Meeting

3 "How to Find Agates" - Karen A. Brzys DVDs

3 *How to Find Agates: A New Method* - Karen A. Brzys books

1 *Rocks Inside Out* - Karen A. Brzys book

1 *Rocks Through Time Book One, Geologic Stories of Nine Stones* - Karen A. Brzys book

1 *Rocks Through Time Book Two, Geologic History of the Great Lakes Region* - Karen A. Brzys book

2 "Geology Basics: A Laminated Activity Book" - Karen A. Brzys

Past President - Exchange box has arrived from Montana! TCGM Club box also arrived in Montana. Contents of the received box will be logged and passed to the donations committee.

Secretary - All is rock n' rolling.

Newsletter Editor - Mailing 6 pages of the TCGM Club Newsletter. Full Newsletter can be received through email.

Fieldtrip Coordinator - Trip to Missouri upcoming Memorial Day weekend with new locations!

Potential return trip to Thunder Bay

Directors at Large - Chris Cooper to appear with Erik R on Great Lakes Now - G. Katt

Request by annual show vendor to return to Holland Civic Center for annual show space - P. Williamson

Treasurer - Bills are getting paid!

Large withdrawal of scholarships for April Banquet to GVSU and Hope College

Historian - Digitizing under way! Thank you M Larson for the use of the scanner!

Jr. Club Coordinator - N/A

Liaison - N/A

Membership - No report.

Show Coordinator - 11/12 Vendors paid for the annual show - C.J. Proos

No excess room for additional vendors - C.J. Proos

Creation of "Day Passes" for 2024 annual show as a thank you for those helping TCGM Club - C.J. Proos

Creation of rules and best practices for MarketPlace at 2024 annual show - C.J. Proos

Board Meeting Minutes - May - cont.

Show Coordinator - cont.

Next show meeting is June 19th at 7pm

Vendors to receive 2024 Show fliers for dispersion at shows earlier in calendar year - C.J. Proos

Cost of selling through MarketPlace will increase from 10% to 20% for 2024 show - C.J. Proos

Social Coordinator - No report. Marvelous job at April Banquet!

Webmaster - Free Google Workspace activated! Large number of perks

Email accounts created for all board members

Full scale investigation underway for use of payment processors for non-profits

Investigation to potentially switching Website hosts due to outgrowing functionality of Weebly.

Recurring Business:

Rock exchange with other clubs - RETURN

Box received from Montana and opened at May Board Meeting. Will send "thank you".

Update on rock swaps (potential sale) - RETURN

Saturday June 15th and Saturday, August 17th Zeeland High School East

Potential to coordinate rock swap with Petoskey polish

New Business:

Request for Petoskey polish and possible rock swap August 25th at Hemlock Crossing,

Moving of rock specimens from the DeGraaf Nature Center to the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC). Emails from Joy Funk and Jamie Kurpka of DeGraaf Nature Center and ODC.

Discussion led by K. & B. Hoekstra concerning history of display rocks as well as current visibility at DeGraaf Nature Center and proposed new location at ODC

Motion to move TCGM Club display rocks from DeGraaf Nature Center to Outdoor Discovery Center

- Motion approved unanimously. Contract will be drawn up for TCGM Club board approval to create agreement with the ODC concerning the possession, movement, utilization, etc of display rocks

Correspondence: N/A

Notes: N/A

Items From Visiting Members: K. Hoekstra - Led discussion concerning rocks at DeGraaf Nature Center and provided insight after visiting the current DeGraaf site and potential ODC site. Questions posed: Who owns the rocks? Who cares for the rocks?

Adjournment: 8:33pm

Next General Meeting: 5/29/2024

Next Board Meeting: 6/12/2024

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: Alexandria Vanderski



Show News

Hello Tulip City Rockers!

Mark your calendars for June 19 at 7pm! We will be meeting in the library basement for our next show planning meeting. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can't be in attendance. I would love to get a report from you if you can't be there.

For those of you that have forgotten or weren't at the last meeting, I left you all with some things to think about. Please continue to think about who we want to reach out to about the show and how we want to reach out to them. Also, what would make for good topics for guest speakers and who should we have present.

We are nearing crunch time. The next few months are going to go by fast so I'd like to get as much accomplished as we can at our next meeting. I look forward to seeing you soon! As always, reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

If you haven't volunteered for the show before and have ideas, or would like to learn what goes into putting this show together, please attend. We really appreciate all your help.

Thank you!

CJ Proos

Return to a favorite feature

From our President

At our June general meeting we are bringing back the "What Is It?" table.

If you have a rock specimen that you would like help identifying, first of all, please know you are not weird. Many of us have unidentified specimens.

Here's how this will work. Bring in your specimen. We'll have sheets for you to place by your specimen. Fill in as much info as possible - where you obtained it (road cut, beach, mountains, grandmas backyard), if purchased, where and generally what you paid, etc. Each sheet will have lines for people to put their best guess about the identity and also add their degree of confidence on a 5-point scale. If you are positive, put down a 5, and if you're only guessing maybe a 1.

We hope to see lots of interesting samples and even if we don't know ourselves what they are, we'll have a great opportunity to learn.

This is not a contest, but we'll have lots of fun seeing all the interesting pieces and learning about them. There is also not a limit to how many pieces each person can bring. If there is enough interest, maybe we'll continue this at future meetings. **CH Falstad**

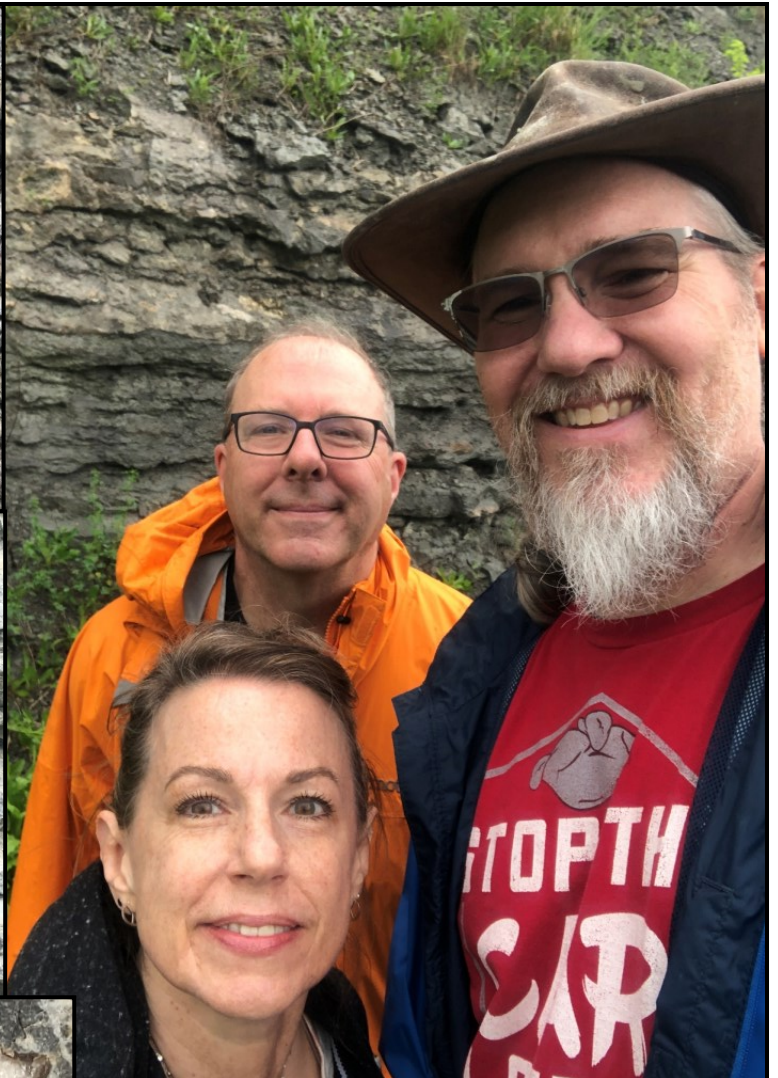
May 3-5 - Kentucky Brachiopods & Cincinnati GeoFair Show

Submitted by: Peter Riemersma

Four intrepid Tulip City members (Jon and Jack Mull, Michelle Lanting, and Peter Riemersma) travelled to Maysville, Kentucky and braved occasional rain to examine fossiliferous Ordovician limestones (~ 450 million years old), with an eye out for whole brachiopods. I was excited to explore some new outcrops in the area as every spring for the last decade I have taken students in my Geo 312 Sedimentology-Stratigraphy class on a weekend field trip to Maysville. Jon Mull, our field trip leader, did not disappoint, leading us to outcrops in nearby Flemingsburg that had abundant whole brachiopods and also the occasional geodized brachiopods. We also found a kind of sponge called *Solenopora* that has the fissured appearance of the outside of a brain. In addition, at an outcrop in Maysville that my students visit to observe the "ball and pillow" structures, Jon discovered a layer that was mostly whole brachiopods. Thanks to Jon, I can add some new stops to Geo 312 and can assure all my students that they will find at least one whole brachiopod.

On Saturday afternoon, we separately explored the Cincinnati GeoFair Show sponsored by the Cincinnati Mineral Society and Dry Dredgers. Compared to Tulip City, the Cincinnati show was much larger and more dealer focused (+ 50), but with little in the way of club sales or silent auctions. However, a highlight for me was a SWAP meet (~ 4 people) where I was able to swap four pieces of Kona Dolomite (Lindberg Quarry cost of ~75 cents) for a large dinosaur bone (~\$30). Unfortunately, the show left me mostly unfulfilled as I was hoping for more local fossils to be sold. I did purchase one of the few local Ordovician whole trilobites that was for sale (\$45) and some other nice specimens (i.e. Crawfordsville Indiana crinoids and calcite from Linwood Mine in Iowa) that I am allowed to display in my office at GVSU.

I enjoyed the good company and conversations. Personally, this trip helped me transition to "summer mode" and I enjoyed being in Kentucky without being responsible for a flock/herd/gaggle of students. Thanks to Jon Mull for leading the trip!



General Meeting Minutes - May

Date: 5/29/2024
Attendance Total: 73
Junior Attendance: 2
Guests in Attendance: Unknown, many new faces.
Quorum: Yes
Call to Order: 7:05pm
Location: Howard Miller Public Library
Door Prizes : No door prizes.
Board Member Reports:
 President
 Tailgate on June 15th 9am-2pm.
 TCGM Club rock display at the DeGraff Nature Center will be moved to ODC.
 Rocks will be better cared for and have much more visibility.
 Volunteers needed for teacher in service day at ODC to speak on geology etc
 Treasurer - Finances doing well. \$4135 given to GVSU and Hope College at the April Banquet.
 Show-Chair/s - Next show meeting June 19th at 7pm at the Howard Miller Library.
Raffle Prizes: No raffle.
Main Program Title, Description & Name of Guest: Silent Auction, no speaker
Juniors Program, Description & Name of Guest: "Scavenger Hunt"
General Notes:
 Main Program replaced by a silent auction for the general meeting in the month of May. YCGM Club members eligible to submit items for auction, while members and the general public welcome to bid and purchase!
 2 juniors ONLY tables - 14 tables for adults and juniors alike
Adjournment: 9:00pm
Next Board Meeting: 6/12/2024
Next General Meeting: 6/26/2024
Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: Alexandria Vanderski

~ GPS GEMS ~

I really enjoyed this particular feature from my time as editor. Use google maps satellite view

38.872222, -83.916667

This is not just a pretty spot on the map! It is actually a collecting location. One we visited recently for brachiopods, including this specimen collected on my previous trip.



Devils Tower

If you've never been there, this is a pretty cool way to explore it. You activate satellite view by clicking the layers button. Use the "more" button to make sure "globe view" is checked. Click the "3d" button in the lower right hand corner. You can use the mouse button to zoom in and out and if you hold the control key while dragging the mouse it will rotate around the tower. Once you've had your fun here, try some of the other national parks like Yosemite, Zion, Bryce, or any mountainous park.

~ JUNIOR PAGE ~

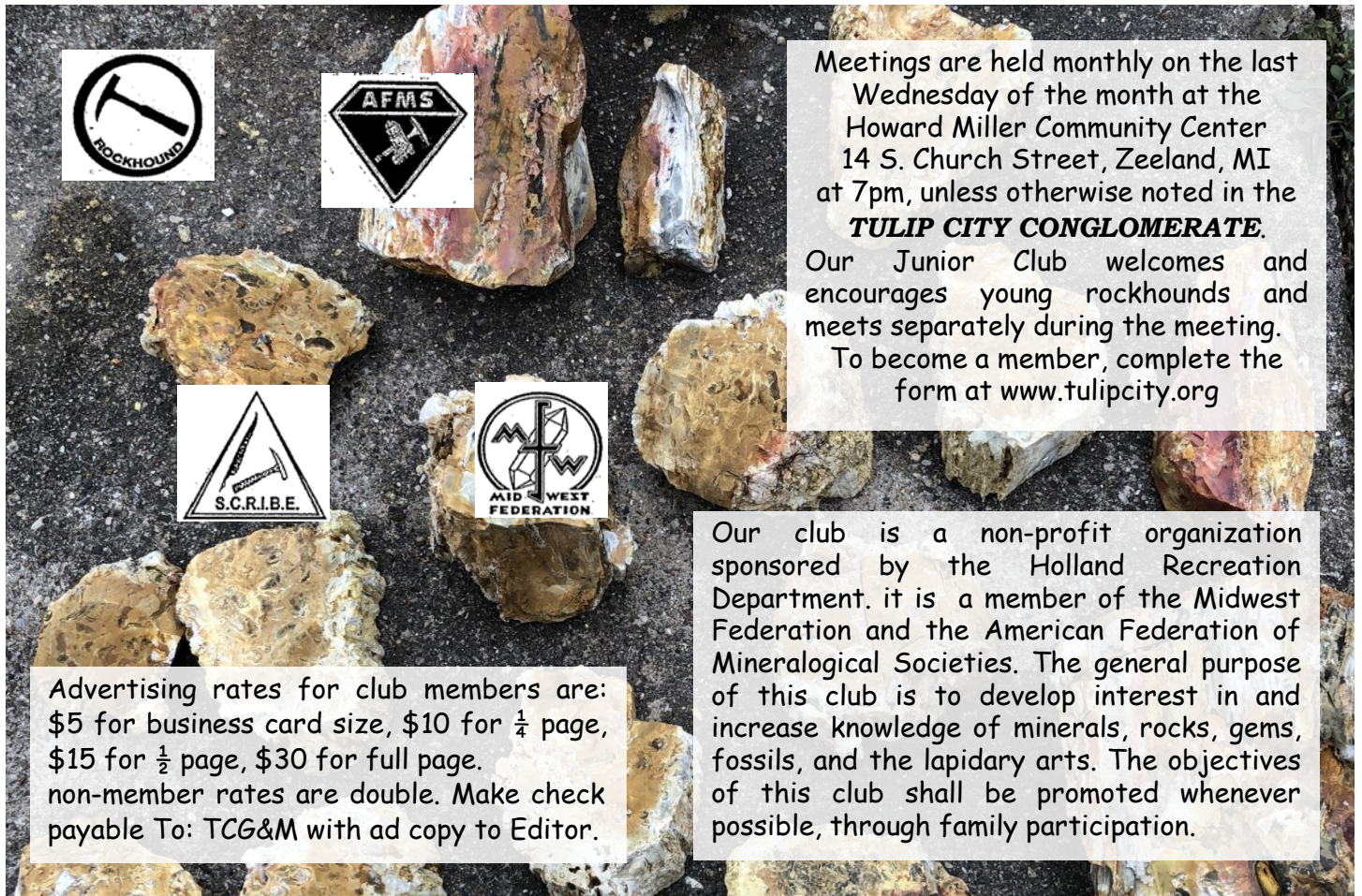
Sluices Ahoy!

This month for our Junior meeting we are doing Sluicing. Sluicing is when you take a bag of sand that has other specimens hidden in it, dump it in to a screen, wash it in the water, and then find all the treasures that the dirt contained. If you have been to our annual Rock show, these bags usually cost \$7.00 a bag, but you can have one for free! We will help you identify what you find, and you can take everything home. You could find some amazing fossils, gems, or minerals. We will also have our long wave blacklights along for you to share.

Come to our June meeting and join the fun!



(Last year we found some fun treasures!)



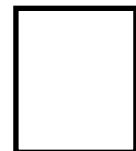
Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

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.
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Background photo is petrified wood from Pinon Mesa, NM