

TULIP CITY GEM & MINERAL CONGLOMERATE

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

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

JUNE, 2025

VOLUME 58, EDITION 6

Wow! We are half way thru the year already! We are entering PRIME rock hunting season, more about that in a minute. But first lets get some important details out of the way. Our June meeting will be at 7 pm- 6/25 at Dragonflies Discovery Center located at 30 152nd St in Holland! This space is owned by the Outdoor Discovery Center. We are excited to be able to have a home for the meeting and that we were able to keep it on the same day. This space should be perfect for us! We will have George Jaeger as a guest speaker, he is the Outdoor Education Lead for Ottawa Co Parks and Rec, as well as a NASA Solar System Ambassador. We look forward to hearing what he has to say. Hopefully he can help us get out into the community and teach the younger generations about our hobbies.

Next month is our Picnic, it'll be 7/26 at West Side Co Park again, we will be able to enjoy food, refreshments and maybe even find some great rocks! Please bring a dish to pass, we will provide the burgers and hot dogs, maybe even some brats! We are super excited to be at West Side Co Park again this year, they have a great beach and some pretty neat rocks, if you don't want to look for rocks, there will be games to play as well.

Now back to PRIME rock hunting season!! Megan and I have been blessed to be able to put over 1100 miles on the car since June 1st looking for rocks from East Tawas north, all the way thru Leland. Found our first puddingstone and many petoskeys! It has been a great time travelling and gathering some info for possible mini field trips. You can read about a couple amazing field trips our members have been on since our last meeting, later in the Conglomerate.

Looking ahead at our August meeting, we will be holding another silent auction!!! This will be our Marketplace Sneak Peak, our "buy it before the show" opportunity for members to get their hands on some cool items before the general public can buy them first at our show!

The next few months will FLY by..... We have a meeting in June, the Picnic in July, Silent Auction for the August meeting, Show in September, then a really great presenter in October with a great presentation about an emergency all hands on deck fossil dig in Utah, that unfolds into an amazing story of preservation. The summer always seems to be a whirlwind. We have another field trip coming up before we know it. The amazing Gary Katt will be leading 40 (yes that is correct... 40) of us into the friendly country to our north to find some amethyst! Super excited to share stories from that field trip when we return!

Keep on Rocking Tulip City– Justin



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 & 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

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the Community Center in Zeeland.

6/18 (Wed.) Show Planning Meeting

6/21 (Sat.) Rock Swap/Sale Tailgate 9am-2pm

*Zeeland East Highschool 3333 96th Ave, Zeeland
More info on page 3

6/25 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

***Dragonflies Discovery Preschool at 30 152nd St., Holland**

7/26 (Sat.) TCGMC Annual Picnic *West Side County Park

8/13 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting

Member News

Membership: If you need contact information for a fellow club member contact Rhonda Gehringer via membership@tulipcity.org.

Name Tags: This will be the last month that Rhonda will be bringing name tags to the meeting. Pick it up this month, or forfeit it.....forever.....

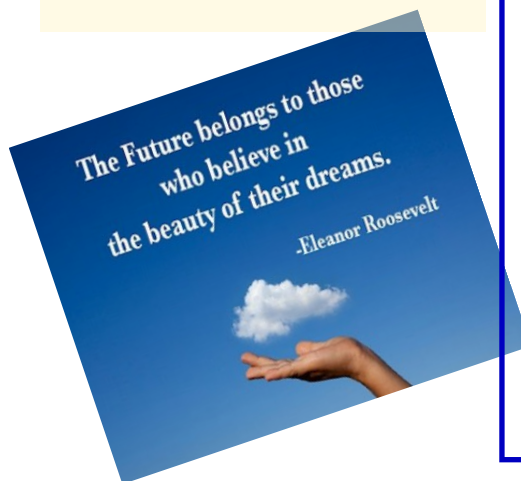
Shirt Orders: If you haven't received your order from Justin yet, he will have it at the June meeting.

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

Service Details for Julia Sherwood

Saturday, August 23rd at 2pm

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



Field Trips



Field trip season is ramping up! Gary Katt and I are doing our best to come up with some great trips this year. All suggestions are welcome and appreciated

July:

• ***Thunder Bay Ontario– July 18-21**

A field trip has been organized to go Amethyst collecting around Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada. We will be collecting at the Blue Point Amethyst Mine, the Panorama Amethyst Mine, and the Diamond Willow Amethyst Mine. **All mines are “pay-to-dig”**. Approximately 40 members have expressed interest in this trip. It is not too late to sign up, so if you are interested you can contact Gary at field-trip-coordinator@tulipcity.org.

***you MUST be a current member to attend this event**

August:

- Jon is looking into a possible Geode trip in August. Please let him know if you have any ideas, more to come.

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

Is your rock collection getting too big, not big enough, or just want something a little special? Here comes some opportunities.

On **Saturday, July 21, from 9 AM to 2 PM** our club will be having a Rock Swap (otherwise know as a rock sale) at the **Zeeland East High School** parking lot across the street from Family Fare grocery store on Riley and State, **96th Street**.

Everyone is welcome to come and buy, sell, both, or just stop in to socialize. Please make your wares are rock related. If you want to sell, **members can set up their own tables for \$10, non-members for \$15.**

This charge helps defray the cost of a port-a-jon rental.

You can set up as many tables as you like. You may want to bring an awning and/or sunscreen.

We'll have lots of banners to encourage people to stop by. **If you're on Facebook, please post a reminder of these sales.**

Our **second opportunity** for the rock swap will be at the **same location and times on August 16th.**

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.

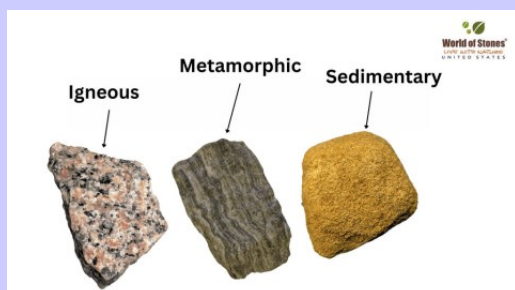


Juniors Section

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROCK OR MINERAL?

Is your favorite rock...

- **igneous**
- metamorphic
- **SEDIMENTARY?**



HOW WAS YOUR ROCK FORMED?

Kurt Brinks will briefly examine the rock cycle and explain why his favorite type of rock is sedimentary because they can contain fossils.

As a group we will discover how the fossils were formed and try to identify different specimens.

A Message from our President

Hello everyone,

Summer is here and it is ramping up to be just as hot and busy as it always is in the mitten state. Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club activities are no exception. Steve and I just got back from the club field trip to the Summerville Quarry and the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia. Nine members of the club traveled through the Great Smokey Mountains to be treated to some amazing material at the quarry and a creative and highly focused week at the School. The nine members are working on an article for the Conglomerate that we will share next month. And, because you can't be reminded too many times, **our meeting this month needed to be moved** due to events at the library. We will be meeting at the **Dragonflies Discovery Preschool at 30 152 nd Street, Holland. Same time, 7:00 pm**. This is on the north side of Holland, near what used to be the Park Township Airport, and currently the Township Offices. We will be discussing all of the events coming up, including updates about the September Show.

As a reminder, our club is also here as a resource for you. If you are going to be traveling to an area of the country that is new to you, check with club members before you head out. There may be someone who can give you some insight into collecting locations or places you might be interested in seeing. In addition, check to see if there is a local rock club where you're going. You might just be visiting when they have a meeting or even a field trip that you could be part of.

Finally, if you do go somewhere, **please consider collecting some additional small items that we can use as prizes for our kids' games at our show**. We are also **collecting small specimens to support the Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society, who had their show trailer stolen late last year, with prizes for their kids' games**. If you have 20-50 quarter sized pieces, please put them in a baggie with the specimen name and location, if known, and bring them to a meeting. We will be collecting until August for them, and the collecting for our club is ongoing. Thank you for supporting this endeavor.

See you all soon! Jodi

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2025 MISSOURI FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Mary Johnson

15 Tulip City club member field trippers, both “seasoned” and new to the club, made their way this past Memorial Day weekend to the Potosi, Missouri, area to collect Missouri agate and druzy quartz. To put it simply, a great time was had by all, and everyone found great material! For more detail, read on!



Jon Mull once again organized a great field trip! (Many thanks from all of us Jon!) Now if only he had more control over nature.... Most travelers arrived in the area and found their chosen site of accommodations some time on Friday. Jon and family, arriving early on Friday, were also able to take advantage of collecting at an extra site in Valles Mines. Lots of bubbly druzy quartz was found there, with Angie finding a spectacular, large piece, with bubbles on both sides!

Saturday morning found us all in a Marathon gas station parking lot early to meet (along with other non-TC members) James Johnson, a local guide who took us to 2 different sites that day not open to the public except through his intercession as a guide. Wisely, both sites had us sign waiver forms should anything unexpected happen. We caravanned from there to the locations. The morning site was at Marty’s Mines. Several areas of the farm were available for collecting, with slightly different material and colors of druzy available depending where you were. Angie once again found a spectacular piece there in the woods! There were lots of leaves, but if you kicked through them and turned over rocks, lovely pieces were found underneath. As there was not movement of material by earth moving machines and instead just by nature, most pieces were in unbroken/unchipped condition. After eating our picnic lunches in the yard of the house, it was on to the next site.



The afternoon's collecting took place at Mary's Lake, again with several different areas to collect (the blue house area, the dam area, the lake area, etc.) with slightly different material expected to be found at each. I ended up collecting around the blue house, and was lucky to find many lovely pieces, even some purple druzy and one piece with a lot of barite thread-like sparkly pieces! Again, I would say all were not disappointed with the material they found. Both sites charged \$30 per bucket.

Saturday night, 11 of us met at Saucy's Pizzeria in Cadet for a group dinner. My calzone was very tasty and huge, like a 12-14" pizza folded over! It is always nice to be able to get together and chat and compare notes of the collecting and generally catch up with each other.



Sunday, 2 other collecting sites, Hawk's Bluff and Bluff View, were on the schedule. However, with the thunderstorm overnight, rain continuing in the morning, and the thought of avoiding Memorial Day Monday traffic, everyone decided to eventually head for home instead. Both sites are open to the public by calling ahead. After over 1000 miles of driving for the weekend, everyone arrived home safely, dreaming about what they will find when they empty their buckets and what the next field trip will hold!

Another Nature Note: If you are planning a trip to Missouri this summer, please be aware the ticks are numerous, out, and hungry! Several people found many on themselves, even days after they got home. Be aware, take precautions, and check for them daily. Plus, as far as I know, only one small snake was spotted on our trip, but more will also be coming out any time. Be alert! Happy collecting!



NAME TAGS

As a board, we have decided to transition to peel & stick temporary name tags at our general meetings. Printed member name tags with lanyards & clips, previously prepared and maintained by Rhonda, will no longer be offered. Any and all existing name tags in her possession will be available for you to pick up at the general meetings in May and June. Please take yours home; after the June meeting, they will no longer be available.

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.

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?

Chair: C.J. Proos & team Thank you for all that you do to keep our show running smoothly!

If you are interested in helping to plan for our show in September, please reach out to CJ at show-coordinator@tulipcity.org. There are many sub-committees and I know we can all help with one part or another. Many hands make light work so lets all volunteer and spread the word!

TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/16/2025

Location: Howard Miller Community Center

Attendance Total: 14

Guests in Attendance: Mary Johnson

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: 7:10pm

Board Members Present: J. Miller (President), J. Moore (Vice President), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), A. Vanderski (Historian), S. Miller (Jr. Club Coordinator), C. Silich (Liaison), M. Moore (Newsletter Editor), A. Nelson (Webmaster), W. McDonald (Director at Large), P. Williamson (Director at Large), C.H. Falstad (Past President)

Secretary (whom is filling in for the meeting): Jordan Zych (new Secretary!)

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved

Board Member Reports:

- President - Will introduce new secretary at banquet
- Vice President - Banquet coming up, Paleo Joe will be there
- Past President - Change spelling on last name no e. Falstad
- Newsletter Editor - John is sending memorial write up for Julia
- Fieldtrip Coordinator - 26th only two people so not running. Joined MGMS to get more field trip ideas May Missouri trip. Open to field trip suggestions. Hoping for new Mexico trip next year and possible Blue forest trip also next year
- Directors at Large - May be getting into trailer. (W. MCDonald)
- Treasurer - CD came due last Monday, took some money out to handle scholarships, report approved
- Historian - Scanning things. Wants to get rid of hard copies and what do we do with old I logo briefcase
- Jr. Club Coordinator - Steve. Looking into American Federation program for kids FRA future rockhounds of America. Nearby clubs so full they have to turn people down, 60+ kids
- Liaison - Midwest new logo. Aaron won award for 2024 website contest. Need somebody for invocation, CH will do it. Limit GVSU students to two guests
- Membership Coordinator - Rhonda not present
- Show Coordinator - CJ not present. Visit w Holland Township treating new building like sports club will have grand opening in July. Would rent show weekend to us for 4500 + 4000 for community room. Would have wifi, tvs, chairs and tables, unloading area is convenient, se are office w safe, could put cases in lobby two weeks before, could be show cased as a group at july opening, would get advertising, could sell our own snacks, no floor covering, have AC. Motion made to wait on committing for another month and se conded, passed.
- Social Coordinator - Michelle not here.
- Webmaster - Got honorable mention for website. Has not been replying to vendors asking about show.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved

Recurring Business:

- Received five scholarship applications.
- No need for first aid kits but wouldn't be a liability anyway.
- Think about the best way to do a long term goals survey and some goals options.
- Add trademark to logo

New Business:

- Could do online merch ordering for one item at a time 12.50-50 depending on style and brand, will work on logos for it.
- Geodes for show will be from vendors.

Correspondence: None

Motions: Bill presented a motion to approve Jordan Zych as the secretary. Christine approved. All voted in favor. New motion to buy keyboard from Kurt and approved.

Notes: None

Items From Visiting Members: Dinosaur center pieces for banquet that will be sold for 10 at banquet and show, will be super popular so try to get more.

Adjournment: 9:08pm

Next General Meeting: 4/23/2025

Next Board Meeting: 5/14/2025

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: Jordan Zych

7 Stones To Relieve Stress

Feeling Stressed? Calming Crystals May Be an Option

Using stones to relieve stress is a common practice for people who believe in the metaphysical properties of crystals. Stress is an ongoing problem for many people that can be difficult to solve. These seven stones are said to possess healing properties that may help alleviate anxiety by reducing stress.

The Importance of Relieving Stress

The tension and anxiety connected with daily life sometimes make stress unavoidable. Stress can severely impact your health and is sometimes to blame for various issues.

- Talk to any doctor and they'll give you a rundown of the effects stress can have on your body, your mood and even your behavior. Headaches, muscle pain, fatigue, upset stomach and frequent insomnia can all be potentially caused by tension. Anxiety, depression, feeling overwhelmed, frequent irritability and lack of motivation can also be a result of stress.

"Feeling weighed down by stress can impact your health and well-being," said Kyla Miller, an experienced spiritual practitioner who uses her vast knowledge in the many aspects of metaphysical practice to help clients in the privacy of her Los Angeles home. "It can also have a negative impact on your loved ones, coworkers and others regularly around you. Quelling the negative emotions that cause stress can increase your pleasure in life and enhance your personal connections."

Stones To Relieve Stress

If you're open to alternative healing techniques, using stones to relieve stress may be an effective, complementary way to deal with unhealthy tension. However, you should always consult a licensed healthcare provider if you're experiencing any type of medical or mental condition.

7 Stones To Relieve Stress (cont.)

Stones To Relieve Stress (cont.)

"I've been a firm believer in the healing properties and energies of rocks, minerals and crystals for decades, as well as, the energy centers of the body called chakras," said Miller.

"Recently, I've seen a resurgence in the popularity of healing crystals and stones as more people explore alternative therapies."

Miller explains that there's an entire category of crystals and stones said to ease anxiety and stress. She says the most effective ways to use them as stones to relieve stress is by displaying them in your home or workplace, wearing them as jewelry, carrying them in your pocket, using them as palm stones and/or incorporating them into your meditation practice.

"Stress is an inevitable, even normal, part of life, but if you don't get a grip on your stress, it can seriously ruin your entire vibe. Healing crystals are a natural tool for relieving your anxiety and curbing your stress," she said. "I've even had clients who said certain stones have helped with their panic attacks. Your body, mind and emotions are all energy fields and stress disturbs those energy fields."

While there are many stones noted for their calming effects, the following seven are popular options. However, when you find the stone that's right for you, many experts agree that you'll just feel it.

*This story about seven stones to relieve stress appeared in Rock & Gem magazine. Story by Moira K. McGhee. **The complete article can be [read here](#).***

1. Amethyst

- It's said to facilitate calmness and tranquility while releasing negative energy, irritability and stress.

2. Rose Quartz

- "...touted for deepening the bonds of love..."
- "...commonly suggested for balancing your emotions during stressful times..."

3. Hematite

- "...darker-colored hematite is said to absorb negative energy and help people see the positive side of situations, which can help ease stress."

4. Ocean Jasper

- "...touted for its ability to release negativity and stress and help you feel more optimistic."

5. Lepidolite

- "...said to be one of the most effective stones for relieving stress."
- "...noted for promoting serenity, balance and emotional healing."

6. Blue Lace Agate

- "...visually soothing, which can provide immediate tension relief."
- "...neutralize anger, calm the mind and bring inner peace."

7. Sodalite

- "...relieve stress and anxiety..."
- "...stimulate self-confidence and prevent you from becoming overly emotional."



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**.

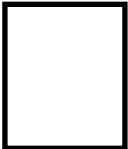
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting.

To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

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.

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



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