

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/

March, 2025

Volume 58, Edition 3

WELCOME SPRING!!! IT IS FINALLY WARMING UP!

Much like our weather, Michigan's past has been a roller coaster of **FIRE and ICE!** This month we will look at Michigan's volcanic and glacial past. What makes Michigan so special that it's Geology is in text books? Come along for a ride thru the rich history of the state as we look thru the processes that shaped our beautiful rocky state. Our color of the month: **Green!** Bring in your **Green** rock to share!



Also I will be unveiling a new mineral moment section where we get up close and personal with a fine mineral..... The mineral this month? Well it is a secret, so come out and see what we zoom in on during our mineral moment.

Please be sure to check out pages 8,9,and 10 for our tribute to long time member and amazing lapidary artist Ken Hoekstra. Ken was not just a great rock collector and lapidary master, he was an amazing person who enjoyed art more than anyone I've ever met. Hearing stories during the basement field trip at John's was so heart warming. Ken enjoyed teaching and being a member of our club. He will be missed by all.—Justin





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.

3/26 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

4/10, 11 & 12 Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Show

4/16 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting

4/23 (Wed.) Tulip City Show Committee Meeting

4/30 (Wed.) Tulip City Scholarship Banquet

**for more information, click on show name*

Member News

TCGMC Scholarship Application Deadline has been extended to 4/30– winners will be chosen and announced at the Scholarship Banquet.

**Banquet info on page 11*

Please submit April article requests to:
newsletter-editor@tulipcity.org by 4/18

Celebration of Life for Ken Hoekstra

Saturday May 17 from 10am to 5pm at their home
5870 Julie St, Hudsonville, MI 49426

**Dedication on pages 8, 9, and 10*

In May we will be doing a member show-and-tell, so get your power point presentations ready!

What do you call an Irish gem that is a fake?

Field Trips



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

Sherwoods - March 29 has been Cancelled. This is disappointing and sad, but unavoidable; hopefully you got the club-wide email that went out regarding this.

I have inquiries to two quarries for dates in **April and early May**, watch for an upcoming announcement for a Saturday trip.

Memorial Day Weekend - May 23-26 Missouri Druzy - Save the date! Details to follow. Reach out if you know you want to be on this trip.

There are already several members signed up to take a class at **William Holland School of Lapidary Arts June 8-13**. There are still many classes to choose from. Please contact Jodi Miller for more information.

Thunder Bay Ontario- July 18-21 A field trip is being organized to go Amethyst collecting. We will tentatively be collecting at the Blue Point Amethyst Mine, the Panorama Amethyst Mine, and the Diamond Willow Amethyst Mine. All mines are “pay-to-dig”. More than 30 members have expressed interest in this trip and Gary has already sent an initial email with more information, however, more information will be coming in the following months, so stay tuned!

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

A
SHAMrock

TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/12/2025

Location: Google Meet

Attendance Total: 14

Guests in Attendance: 0

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: 7:03pm

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

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved

Board Member Reports:

- President - Nothing to report.
- Vice President
Looking to purchase a digital microscope for club use during "Mineral Moment" and more.
Motion to approve "to purchase a digital microscope for the mineral moment for up to \$250". J. Moore presented motion and J. Mull second. Motion passed.
Discussed conversations with Jordan concerning presentations with and for the park townships. Presentations are typically compensated.
Look forward to a presentation on Slag at the February general meeting!
- Past President
Presentation to create and discuss long term club goals. Discussion with the board evolved into providing a survey to membership.
- Newsletter Editor
Please send materials for the February newsletter sooner than later.
- Fieldtrip Coordinator
Thunder Bay Amethyst trip July 18th-21st, sign-up is now available. Information will be in the newsletter and emails will be sent out soon.-G. Katt
Basement field trips coming up! March 8th at Mulls' and a later date at Sherwoods'. Many other field trips in the works for spring break etc, stay tuned -J. Mull
Many other field trips in the works for spring break etc, stay tuned -J. Mull
- Directors at Large
Requested a survey to be sent to membership to gauge varied interest in April banquet food offerings prior to February general meeting.
- Treasurer
Doing very well. Budget for 2025 discussed. Increased budget for financial auditor by (\$50) and hospitality (\$50).
Added the approval/acceptance of the Treasurer's Report to the monthly board meeting agenda.
- Historian
Requested volunteers for a Secretary for February general meeting. Megan volunteered, thank you!
Requested thumb drive from J. Mull and R. Gehringer. J. Mull posted to TCGMC Drive.
Requested historic Treasurer's report for Historian files.
Mentioned use of medical kit for field trips. Will need further discussion for this topic concerning legal liabilities.
- Jr. Club Coordinator - Rick and Deb will be presenting Quartz to the Juniors Club.
- Liaison
Question concerning April banquet and if a potluck is necessary or if a more simple snack offering is better (ie: ice cream). Will ask the general membership at the February general meeting.
- Webmaster
Discussed recent correspondence through TCGMC website "Contact Us" form. One individual offered to donate child's outgrown rock materials to Junior's Club. Email forwarded to Junior's Club Coordinator.

TCGMC Board Meeting Minutes cont.

Recurring Business:

- Annual show location - Nothing yet determined. - Return

New Business:

- Form committee to create Memorials to honor members who have passed. - J. Sherwood reached out to potentially form a committee to delegate resources to honor and remember past members.
- Naming of new TCGMC Lapidary Scholarship - Discussion as to potentially name the scholarship in honor of passed membership. Further discussion on appropriate ways to honor and thank influential membership. - Return
- Motion to name the \$400 TCGMC Lapidary Scholarship to be named after Ken Hoekstra. Motion presented by J. Mull and second by J. Moore. Motion passed.
- Geodes with Molly Rios (Youth Service Department at Herrick District Library) - Request for geodes or other materials to provide a spring break workshop for children at the library. Unfortunately the club does not have access to any number of geodes but J. Mull did offer geode cracking supplies. J. Mull will contact.

Correspondence: None

Motions:

- Motion to approve "to purchase a digital microscope for the mineral moment for up to \$250". J. Moore presented motion and J. Mull second. Motion passed.
- Motion to approve treasurer's report. G. Katt supported, J. Mull second. Approved.

Notes: No other notes.

Items From Visiting Members: None present.

Adjournment: 9:09pm

Next General Meeting: 2/26/2025

Next Board Meeting: 3/12/2025

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: Alexandria Vanderski



Juniors Section

Do you love crystals?

If yes, then you are going to love the meeting this month as we explore the "Crystals of the South". Jun-Steve Miller will be presenting on the geology of that area where rockhounds know to dig for the beautiful crystals that the area is known for. After the presentation, you'll be "digging" for your own crystals from the Diamond Hill Mine in Abbeville, South Carolina, where Steve spent four years.



Junior Club Coordinator, speaking on the crystals and how the geology helps geologists and where to seek out and dig for beautiful white and amethyst crystals from the Diamond Hill Mine in Abbeville, South Carolina, where Steve spent four years.

Raffle Treasures

Greetings, fellow rockhounds!

Weren't able to make it to the Tucson shows this year? Me, neither! Fortunately for us, Director at Large Patsy Williamson was able to go, and has brought some of Tucson back to us in the form of items for the March raffle!

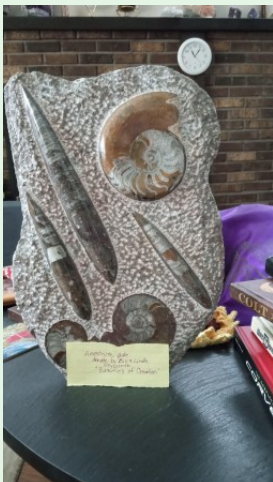
Quartz from India, slabs from Brazil and a blue opal cab from Peru will all be available this month, courtesy of Patsy. Come see us in the corner!



BANQUET RAFFLE CONTINUES IN March !

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 two prizes. 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!



I will have the Ammonite at the February meeting (donated by Bill and Linda Heyworth) and a huge piece of Actinolite in Calcite (donated by John and Sally Hoskins). I'm just going to bring a picture of the Actinolite as it very heavy. Thank you Eric Peterson for carrying it out to my car after the last meeting. I think it weighs 40 pounds or more.

-Liaison - Christine Silich



President's Message – by Jodi Miller

Hello everyone! I've finally acclimated back to the winter conditions back here in Michigan. I appreciate that Mother Nature made the transition a little smoother with the beautiful weather last week.

I was able to be in person at our board meeting on Wednesday, March 12, and I continue to be excited by the planning taking place by board members in the way of fieldtrips, logo gear, and of course the lapidary scholarships. Speaking of the scholarships, please remember that we are currently accepting applications for those.

The requirements include being an active member of TCGMC for 2 years, worked for the show at least once in the previous two years, and you will be willing to present to the membership what you learned with the scholarship. That can be in the form of a demonstration, a slide presentation, or talking about the experience showcasing the work you completed. If the thought of that seems daunting, we have board members who would be more than happy to help you put something together. Forms for the scholarship will be available at the general meeting, and after filling in the short answers to 4 questions, you can turn it in to any board member.

A super big thank you to Jon Mull for hosting the basement field trip this month. There is a lot of work putting one of these on, and we sure appreciate when a member generously takes the time to share their collection.

Finally, please take a moment to read and remember our dear friend, Ken Hoekstra in this issue. It is hard to find what to say about someone who impacted our hobby, and especially this club, the way that he did. As I was going through my many pictures and videos (he was so wonderful during his presentations) I reminisced about ALL of things I have learned from his over the years. I know that I am one of MANY who will find it hard to fill the void of his knowledge and patient way of sharing that knowledge that Ken was known for. You will be greatly missed my friend.

Our Scholarships...

It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce that the \$400 portion of our new scholarship program will now be called the “**Ken Hoekstra Lapidary Scholarship**.” I know Ken would be very happy to know that our club is encouraging and supporting folks who want to improve their skills in the lapidary arts and he would also appreciate the sharing of those skills. We look forward to hearing from our scholarship winners when they return from their classes and talk with us about what they learned. I know there are, and will others who share their lapidary skills with our club and are worthy of this distinction. This allows us to consider those things in the future. In my heart, Ken will be the first, and I am sure I'm not the only one he touched this way. I am grateful that the timing is right and we are able to honor and remember Ken in this way. Peace my friend!



all

be

A Dedication to Ken Hoekstra – A Man With a Heart of Gold

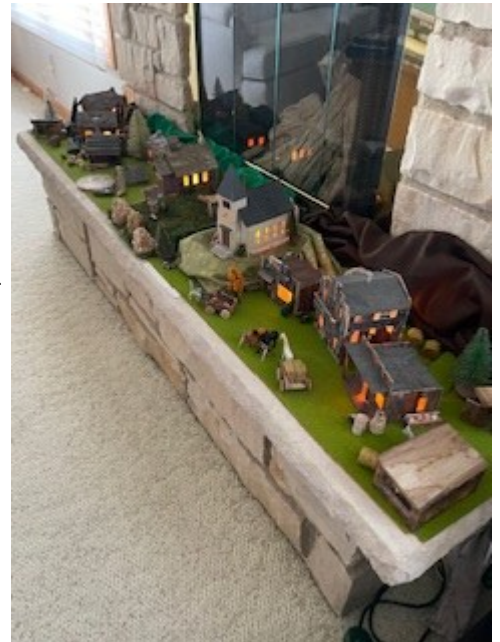


If there was ever a rock to describe an individual, gold is the one I'd pick for Ken. Although if you knew him, you'd probably pick the Thunderegg, and I think he'd be just fine with that. He'd also be just fine with us not making a big fuss over him, and okay that I'm going to anyway.

According to the obituary that was written about him, Ken was born in Illinois, served in the 82nd Airborne during the Korean War, and then returned home to build a successful masonry business. So rock and minerals have been in his "blood" so to speak, for a very long time. After retiring from his business in 1998, Ken and his wife Betty, whom he lovingly called Elizabeth, moved to their home in Hudsonville to be near their children and grandchildren. For Ken, family has always been his top priority. With the skills he perfected in his masonry business, Ken turned his talents to lapidary work.

We, as the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club, have been blessed with being able to spend several "indoor fieldtrips" at Ken and Betty's house to see their expansive

rock and mineral collection. Especially dear and impressive is the miniature village that Ken was very proud to have finely sliced and polished made of petrified wood. In addition, he made such impressive stone boxes with lids.



I met Ken through the club around 2007. My son, CJ, was interested in becoming a geologist and was so excited to learn about the TCGMC. Ken was always very welcoming and handled the endless questions from my children, as well as children and adults alike who have visited our show or attended our club meetings. Ken's patience and knowledge put everyone at ease and he never made you feel like a question you had was bad.

...Cont. on pg. 9

He would tell you everything he knew about the rock and its origins, and was quick to point out if he didn't know where it was from or what it was called. So many of us have had Ken teach us how to work with stone and to polish it so that the beauty of the rock was shown with its best features. There are also many of us who have a stone, mostly Thundereggs, that Ken cut and polished. A few months ago, there was a little inside competition among TCGMC members about who had the most rocks that Ken had polished. Although I can brag about having 10-12, I by no means have the most. He is a legend, and we were all eager to have one of his pieces whenever he offered up one.

Ken will be missed by his families. The family he had with his dear Elizabeth, and the one he created with so many members of our club. There will definitely be a void both in physical presence and in the knowledge that he had and was so generous to share. His golden life and art will forever hold a place in our hearts.

Jodi Miller

Our friend Ken

At my basement field trip on March 8 I had the wonderful opportunity to fill the display case I use at our show with material that meant a lot to me because of my friendship with Ken Hoekstra. There were Moctezuma agates with their pale bands, white skins and sudden surprising splashes of red. Condor agates with their bold colors and drips of color that would cross those bands like a child coloring outside the lines to magical effect. Dugway geodes I



had no way to open but masterfully cut and polished by Ken. Baker Thundereggs with color and banding varieties to rival many Mexican agates. Finally, Eden Valley / Blue Forest petrified wood that inspired so many conversations about the forests at that time, the environment of deposition, and the marvelous preservation of so many limbs. I very much enjoyed sharing this with the folks that stopped by, especially Betty. Ken and Betty have been like an extra pair of grand parents to me and my family. More importantly, such excellent friends. Ken will be missed very much. I have included the message I posted inside the case and some pictures of the inside. Please enjoy!

Jon Mull

Remembering Ken...

The act of Mentorship is a beautiful gift. It can have life changing results and far reaching benefits. Teaching and sharing even the smallest skill can enrich and inspire the creative process. Suddenly a pebble on a beach, or a rock from the side of a road can become a surprising piece in a display case, or maybe even the star of a piece of jewelry.



A “few” years back I was lucky enough to have Friday afternoons off. I also had the good fortune of having several conversations with Ken Hoekstra about lapidary techniques and materials that sparked a fire for learning about cutting and polishing. He offered his time, knowledge, and use of his equipment, and I happily accepted! I would get out of work at 11am on Friday and travel straight to Ken and Betty’s home. There was often a rock related puzzle being assembled at the kitchen table with Betty quietly browsing for the next piece. Cheerful greetings were quickly replaced with a jaunt down the stairs to the genie, or outside to the saw, all the while talking about the results of each process, and plans for the next. A couple hours of fun would end with, “lunch time boys!” from Betty and sandwich fixings on the table. We’d chat some more, maybe place a couple puzzle pieces, and top it all off

with a peanut butter cup from Ken’s private stash!

Over a handful of years these wonderful visits continued and brought so much joy and knowledge to my life. As I acquired my own equipment and became busier with my own growing family the visits got fewer and were often “show and tell” sessions as we talked about problem pieces and new acquisitions. So many smiles shared over this fascinating hobby. This case holds just a small piece of those memories...

... From the bottom of my soul, thank you Ken!



2025 Annual Scholarship Banquet

Its hard to believe that the banquet is right around the corner! This year, it is on **Wednesday, April 30th**. Social Time will be from 6:00-6:30pm with **dinner starting at 6:30**.

As with our past scholarship banquets, this will be a potluck dinner. Please bring one dish to pass unless you are bringing guests, then please bring two. The club will provide plates, silverware, cups, napkins, serving spoons and tongs. If you dish needs an alternative utensil, please bring it with you.

As is custom, we will be awarding scholarships to GVSU and Hope College geology students. Our guest speaker this year is Paleo Joe! More information to come in the April Conglomer-

From our Mineral Friends

Continuation of last month's discussion on Metallic Luster (N-Z)

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we also want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral. We do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We really do learn from each other (and collections need to be shared). ☞The concept behind our color study is to have as many different minerals of a given color, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them.

We started our mostly alphabetic trip with the sulfide Nickeline, originally named kupfernickel because the ore seemed to contain copper but yielded none. Its chemical formula is NiAs, so this is one of those rocks you definitely should not lick.

We then turned to the elemental metals Osmium and Platinum, with crystal examples of both metals. Our next specimen, the sulfide Pyrite, won the popularity contest, with specimens exhibiting the common cubic habit and the unusual dodecahedral habit.

Our next specimen to circle the table was the oxide Rutile, in the form of a twinned red crystal. We talked about the golden variety often found included in quartz.

Next up was the sulfide Sphalerite, the common ore of Zinc, is also known as blende or zinc blende. When pure it forms clear to white crystals known as Cleiophane. Yellow to orange sphalerite is often called "golden sphalerite". Red shades of sphalerite are known as Ruby Blende or Ruby Jack. As the iron content increases sphalerite forms dark, opaque, submetallic crystals known as Marmatite or Black Jack. Our three specimens contained all four varieties.

We finished with the sulfide Tetrahedrite, the sub-metallic oxide Uraninite, the sulfide Weibullite, and the element Zinc. And yes, there are metallic luster minerals that start with Q or V, but we didn't have any of them.

It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the heft, shine a bright light on it, etc.). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and maybe another). And then look at something else that is close but different. Some homework was done, and we learned a bit about the specimens we studied.

And if I got any of our facts wrong, please teach me. We continue to try to learn from each other. Kreigh



Meetings are held monthly, at 7pm, on the last Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted in the Tulip City Conglomerate

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

Our Junior Club welcomes & encourages young rockhounds, meeting 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 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
Megan Moore, Editor
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



Background photo is: Trinitite