



# Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

## CONGLOMERATE

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

Website: [www.Tulipcity.org](http://www.Tulipcity.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub](http://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub)

May, 2024

Volume 57, Edition 5

### You Don't Want to Miss this Meeting!

This month we encourage you to celebrate the Dinosaur Days on May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> as we will be celebrating with a **ROARING SILENT AUCTION** at the General Meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 on the links attached to the email sending the newsletter. 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. 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. The donations committee has some amazing items that will be a great catch for sure. 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. Links to auction slips on our website are below as well.

Bill McDonald (Vice President)



# Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

## 2024 TCG&M Board

President - C.H. Falstad

V.P. - Bill McDonald

Secretary - Alexandria Vanderski

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks

Field Trips - Jon Mull

Historian - Betty Hoekstra

Junior Club - Shari Luttikhuizen

Liaison - Mary Johnson

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer

Newsletter Editor - Jodi Miller

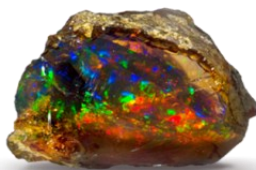
Webmaster - Aaron Nelson

Show Co-Chair - CJ Proos  
Show Co-Chair - Teresa DeMol

Social Coordinator - Michelle  
Lanting

Dir. at Large - Gary Katt  
Dir. at Large - Patsy Williamson

Past President - Michael B.  
Larson



Meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the Howard Miller Library (HML) or the Community Center (CC) in Zeeland.

5/29 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting (CC)

6/12 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting (HML)

6/19 (Wed.) Tulip City Show Meeting (HML)

6/26 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting (CC)

5/24-26 : [The International Gem and Jewelry Show](#). Suburban Collection Showplace (Hall B)  
46100 Grand River Ave. Novi, Michigan 48374

*For more information click on the show name.*

What is a fieldtrip like from a juniors perspective?  
This is John McDonald's write up on the Chicago  
Fieldtrip:

First, we went to the Lizzadro Museum. At the museum we saw a lot of jade carved into so many things, such as the Last Supper, candle sticks, and a Chinese castle, just to name a few. We also saw fluorescents in an underground mining scene. We even had lunch in the parking lot on the bus.

Next, we started going to the Field Museum. At the museum we saw a fake gorilla, bugs, a buffalo, a t-rex head skeleton, and Roman soldiers all on the main floor. On the second floor there were dinosaur skeletons, a statue of two elephants, and model dinosaurs. On the third floor we saw an Ancient Egypt model pyramid it had model mummies in tombs. After that we got back on the bus and went home.

## ***Field Trips***

### ***Memorial day weekend, May 24 - 27 - Druzy Quartz***      [Sign UP](#)

Friday will be travel to MO, including a possible stop in St. Louis to see the arch. A few of us are in Festus on Friday and Saturday night. Saturday morning will be Haunted Ridge and a new location. Sunday will be Valles Mines. There is still room but this is coming up fast. Contact me at the email below right away if you are interested!

### ***Amethyst Thunder Bay - TBD***

We are trying to figure out a long weekend trip back to Thunder Bay. We are considering the second full week in August, ending on the 17th (collecting). The other option would perhaps be Labor Day weekend. Please reach out if you are interested and have suggestions about dates. The only dates that won't work are Aug. 18-24 as those are already booked at the mine.

### ***Lake Cumberland, KY - TBD***

I am planning on a long weekend in late October for this trip, since the water levels are down and many crinoids and geodes are exposed. Last time we found an AirBnB and had a great time with it. Plan on Friday travel, Saturday collecting and return on Sunday.

**If you have other questions about any of these trips feel free to contact me.**

**If you are ready to sign up, please use the links included next to each trip.**  
**Jon Mull (cell) 616-510-4139. Email: [solace247@yahoo.com](mailto:solace247@yahoo.com)**



**Date:** 4/10/2024

**Attendance Total:** 16

**Guests in Attendance:** (2) Ken Hoekstra & Julia Sherwood

**Quorum:** Yes

**Call to Order:** 7:01pm

**Board Members Present:** C. Falstad (President), W. McDonald (Vice President), A Vanderski (Secretary), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), E. Hoekstra (Historian), S. Luttkhuizen (Jr. Club Coordinator), M. Johnson (Liaison), R. Gehringer (Membership), J. Miller (Newsletter Editor), C.J. Proos (Show Coordinator Co-Chairs), M. Lanting (Social Coordinator), A. Nelson (Webmaster), P. Williamson (Director at Large)

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Approved

**Board Member Reports:**

- President - To be covered in recurring business.
- Vice President
  - Beadmaking class at Hoekstra Residence
  - Potential for purchasing educational materials from Banquet Speaker Karen Brzys educational materials at 50% off. Motion to purchase up to 10 educational materials from Karen Brzys for club use. - PASSED
  - Silent auction slips will be available online.
  - Donation committee meeting Saturday (4/13).
- Past President - N/A
- Secretary - Feedback on the Board and General Meeting Minutes always welcome!
- Newsletter Editor
  - March newsletter mailing late due to Spring Break delays.
  - Looking for Chicago Bus Trip update in April newsletter.
  - New Mexico Spring Break Trip update in May newsletter.
- Fieldtrip Coordinator
  - Chicago Museum Bus Trip went wonderfully!
  - Upcoming field trips in Kentucky & Missouri
  - New Mexico Trip went wonderfully with lots to collect and no problems.
- Directors at Large - N/A
- Treasurer
  - Expenditure of \$1180.64 for 49 individuals traveling on Chicago Bus Trip, form TCGM Club.
  - \$64,860 in scholarships given by TCGM Club since 1975.
- Historian - Use of document scanner has made digitizing easier (thank you Mike!)
- Jr. Club Coordinator - Made educational purchases (agatized coprolite), contacts and received generous Thomsonite donations at the Indian Mounds Annual Show in March.
- Liaison
  - Received requests by two scholarship recipients to increase guest count to 4 individuals. Board voted to allow the extra guests.
  - Clarification that club members may not be vendors at the annual show but may sell through club sales. Note concerning if club members working "Member Sales" may look at and purchase items from stock below sale tables.
  - Opened discussion concerning club purchase of a computer for computer based board member roles. Something to think on.
- Membership Coordinator
  - Name tag requests complete.
  - Sign-in for current members at the General Meetings.
- Show Coordinators
  - 3 vendors have confirmed attendance at show and paid dues.
  - Show meeting coming up on 4/17/24. Several chair positions are open and need to be filled.
  - "Coupons" for entrance to the Annual Show to thank volunteers and club helpers.
  - Will confirm deposit to Soccer Stop for Annual Show.
  - Discussion concerning volunteering sign-ups, paper vs digital.
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- Discussion concerning volunteering sign-ups, paper vs digital.
- Webmaster
  - Google Workspace account is now non-profit 501c3 Workspace!
  - Board Members will be each given a new TCGM Club email. Training to come.
  - HUGE amount of new benefits for 501c3 through Google (advertising, website assistance, etc).
  - Personal information to be redacted on old newsletters.
  - New membership sign-ups and renewal payments will be available online.

**Recurring Business:**

- Memorial Books - Donated Memorial Books have been partially decommissioned at both Herrick District Library and Howard Miller Library. Howard Miller Library has slotted a number of Memorial Books to be decommissioned throughout the 2024 year but has offered to allow the TCGM Club to have the books back for a club library. Motion to retrieve Memorial Books from both Herrick and Howard Miller libraries for internal club use. Motion passed and donation committee will decide how to handle the books after.
- Rock Exchange - RETURN
- Review of Financial Books - Scheduled - RETURN
- Rock Swaps - Dates confirmed and reserved with Zeeland High School - RETURN

**New Business:**

N/A

**Correspondence:** N/A

**Notes:**

- Motion to purchase up to 10 (ten) educational materials from Karen Brzys for club use. - Motion PASSED
- Motion to retrieve Memorial Books from both Herrick and Howard Miller libraries for internal use. - Motion PASSED

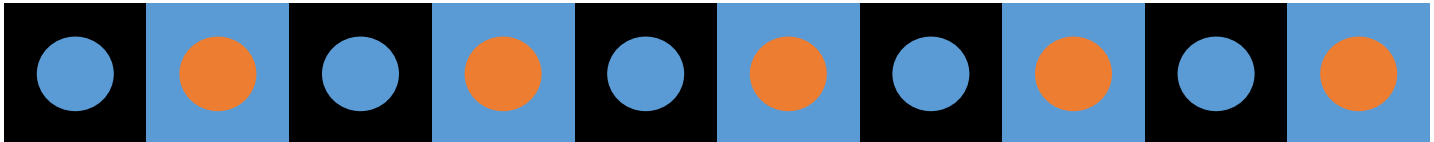
**Items From Visiting Members:** Memorial Books Updates - Julia Sherwood

**Adjournment:** 8:38 pm

**Next General Meeting:** 4/24/2024

**Next Board Meeting:** 5/15/2024

**Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By:** Alexandria Vanderski



# Junior Section

Scavenger Hunt!! – Silent Auction

Juniors, this month at our meeting we are going on a scavenger hunt. The General meeting room will be full of all different kinds of specimens for the silent Auction, and we are going to take advantage of it. I will have a list of questions for you to fill out, and you will earn a prize – a grab bag of specimens to add to your collection. If you don't know all the answers, or need help to find stuff – no problem. Lets put your brains to work.

Also, there will be 2 tables at the silent auction for only Juniors to bid on – no adults. These specimens are often very nice and a good deal, and the best time to add great specimens to your collections. So, do some extra chores, clean out the couch cushions, collect pop cans, and bring your money to buy some great rocks, minerals and fossils for amazing deals.



## Words from our President

Hi, I know we thanked our Potluck Committee while at the April Banquet for putting on such a magnificent event, but I'd like to extend my personal appreciation to them again, and extend also the thanks from everyone who attended, to the entire group of volunteers who helped pull this all together: Michelle (chair), Rhonda, Mary, Julia, Christine, and Sandy. They all did a superb job. Thanks also to our vice-president, Bill, for arranging the wonderful speaker, Karen Brzys, as well as everyone who brought dishes to share. I wish I could have tried them all, as each one I tried was scrumptious. And I can't wait to try Karen's hints to help me find agates! I'm confident I can be successful now!

Having traveled to Indiana to see the eclipse, and more recently the northern lights, I felt like I was starting to get a crick in my neck from looking up, so I'm ready to start looking down for some rocks to collect. Thankfully, Jon has been preparing several field trip opportunities over the summer. Watch your Conglomerate for those times and locations. And for those who want more rocks and are members of TCGMC or other nearby clubs looking to share what they've found, our first swap of the year is going to be at the East Zeeland High School parking lot (across from Family Fare) on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> starting about 9 AM. Just watch for all the signs that pop up that day.

I'm sure I've posted before how great your Board is doing this year. Without exception, every one of our board members is doing an outstanding job. One unexpected opportunity arose recently and the Board voted unanimously to approve moving the large rock/mineral specimens from the DeGraaf Nature Center to the Outdoor Discovery Center (4214 56<sup>th</sup> St, Holland). We felt this was a great opportunity for these specimens to be better used and for more kids. In fact, if you have a student in Holland or a nearby school, you probably are already familiar with this location and refer to it as the ODC. The ODC is planning an open house on October 1<sup>st</sup> to show off all their new educational facilities. Stop by and see how these specimens will be used.

So much to do and that's without touching on our up-coming monthly meetings! I hope to see everyone around in the coming months.

C.H. Falstad, President

### National Caves and Karst Day - June 6

This day is dedicated to the majesty and importance of these amazing rock formations. Most people know what caves are, but few are familiar with "karst" landscapes. A karst landscape is characterized by rocky hills, aquifers, springs, sinkholes and caves. Hundreds of different minerals and gems are found in caves, and 40 percent of drinking water in the U.S. comes from karst aquifers.



Rock and Gem Magazine, December 25, 2023

## Chicago Bus Trip Summary by Bill McDonald

The Chicago Museum trip on March 16<sup>th</sup> was an absolute blast for those who attended. Thank you goes out to Julia and Bob Sherwood for helping coordinate the trip and Jon Mull assisting big the day of as well.

The Lizzadro Museum was an amazing display of lapidary genius in Mosaics, Dioramas, Jade Carvings and so much more. The Castle Lizzadro showcasing exquisite lapidary and gold smithing techniques was a crowd pleaser and one of my favorites. The massive piece of Petrified Wood and The Last Supper made of Ivory were also amazing to see. The incredible pieces were in great abundance and continued to amaze us all.

The Field Museum was an almost overwhelming experience with so many things to see and do. The Meteorite display had a vast number of samples on display, but the Grainger Hall of Gems held the best examples of Crystal, Jade, Topaz, and so many other gems to admire. The whole museum was so amazing and getting to see SUE the T. rex



I know I need these in my collection!!



# RECKON!

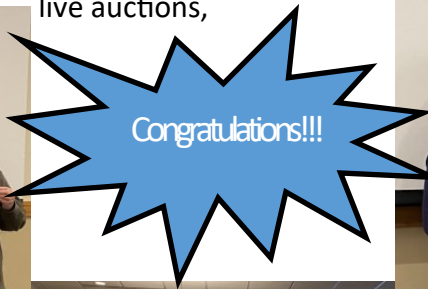
**2024 Tulip City Banquet and Scholarships Awarded!** By Mary Johnson

It was a packed house for the 2024 TCGMC banquet. There was an abundance of food and food choices, so everyone was able to fill up. The tickets for the two large raffle pieces were selected and Ann Westover claimed the Rose Quartz sphere and Kurt Brinks got the Blue Celestine geode.

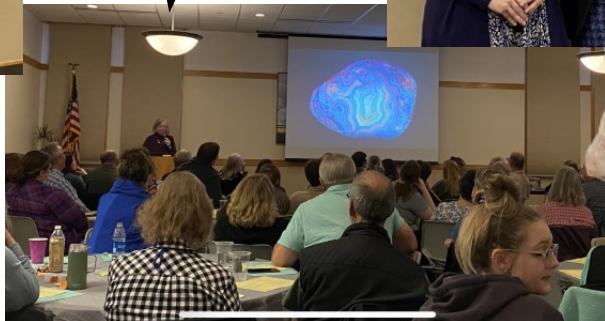
Also at the banquet, six college students shared in \$4,600 of scholarships! Chosen by their Geology professors, four GVSU students, Angela Castle, Jacob Dunwoody, Maya Gianneccchini and Katelyn Smith, and two Hope College students, Lauren Bryan and Madeleine O'Donnell, were honored and presented with certificates and their scholarship checks. Since 1975, the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club has awarded \$64,860 in scholarships to GVSU and Hope College students. Monies have been earned through our annual show, silent and



live auctions,



The Agate Lady, Karen Brzys, speaking about how to find an agate. Most people at the banquet felt like they were much better equipped to find agates after hearing her.



**Member Spotlight**

Our member spotlight this month is on Rick Smith, who has been in the club since **1996!** He tells me that his favorite pieces in his collection are those he has acquired from other members during silent auctions. They include Thundereggs from Ken Hoekstra, Rhodochrosite from Henry Prys and Union Road Agate from Bob Sherwood. He really enjoys going on fieldtrips with his wife, Deb, and that his favorite one is the last one he was on! He does state that he loves to collect ANYWHERE in the Upper Peninsula! A stone that he would like to have in his collection is a Smithsonite (for obvious reasons). Finally, he enjoys polishing Missouri Agates and making items with his stones.



Spring Break 2024 Fieldtrip to New Mexico by Jon Mull



Our adventure began on Thursday afternoon March 28 with an early escape from work and a push towards St. Louis to get a head start. The goal was to be in Gallup, NM, by Saturday night. Friday travel was pretty uneventful, stopping in Amarillo, TX for the night.

Saturday we planned on a stop just outside Albuquerque on our way across NM to pick up some jasper and petrified wood. Ruth and Sharon joined our fam for an hour or so and we ended up with a few nice pieces. We had already chosen a motel for Sunday night in Gallup but not for Saturday night. It turned out there wasn't much better around so we just added a night to our stay at the historic El Rancho motel. It definitely lived up to it's name. Excellent Mexican fare in the attached restaurant. The lobby had a very large fire place to warm the room with a large variety of 8x10 photos on the walls of the balcony surrounding the interior of the lobby. The El Rancho was a popular destination for Hollywood types and many of the photos were signed by 40s and 50s celebrities.

Sunday morning we headed back east then north to Chaco Culture National Historic Park. With a collection of some of the largest Kivas and many Pueblo structures this was an amazing stop for some culture. The weather was a bit chilly in the morning but made exploring the site on foot more pleasant. On Sunday evening the fire place at El Rancho got some use thanks to the SNOW we were blanketed with.



## Spring Break 2024 - Northwest New Mexico

Monday morning was our trip into Arizona to visit the DoBell wood ranch and Petrified Forest National Park. It didn't take long to leave the snow behind. Although always a bit chilly in the morning, the weather mostly cooperated with sun and mild temps during the day. Cell service made some communications difficult but we managed to meet at DoBell, although not the place I had originally arranged... We found out the site listed on google maps is not as "reliable" as the ranch run by Rhonda DoBell. She graciously took us in and helped us fill buckets to our hearts content. The petrified wood at her place is very much like that in the park. Stunning to say the least and very reasonably priced. We made our way through the park on Monday afternoon stopping at agate bridge and crystal forest. The vast quantity of large agatized logs in the park are almost overwhelming. Many appear to be recently cut into sections to be split for firewood. We saw a rainbow of wood, and an actual rainbow and made our way north to Farmington to spend the next couple days in that area.





I had made a connection with a member of the San Juan club who was willing to guide us around a bit and I had also made arrangements to enter the Nacimiento copper mine. Although we really didn't get rained on, there was a fair amount of rain and snow happening in the mountains around us which led to a frantic shuffling of days. We moved Nacimiento to Wednesday and I was left to find something to do on Tuesday. Stacy Harris from the San Juan club put me in touch with a true gentleman, Jerry Worrell who at 8:30 on Monday night agreed to guide us out on Tuesday morning. He ended up taking us to two locations on Pinon Mesa, which is quite close to Farmington. Most locations are reachable by access roads created by the oil pumping industry. You can see a lot of them through satellite view on google maps. Most of the material is known as "alluvial" petrified wood. Specimens have been tumbled around by weathering and can clearly be identified as wood, but not always more than that. Jasper and carnelian were also found. Tuesday night also included a drive for my son Jack and I to Shiprock to check out the stars. More than I have ever seen at one time. AMAZING!

On Wednesday we invited the folks from the San Juan club to join us at the Nacimiento copper mine. The mine is being reclaimed by the forest service to make it accessible to rock hounds more easily.



We spent several hours at the Nacimiento mine searching for all manner of copper related minerals, including the elusive Azurite “blueberry.” Several were found, although not by me :( At least one of them was Malachite instead. A lot of Chrysocolla was collected and more petrified wood. There were also Septaria at the mine, somewhat different from those in Michigan with the matrix weathering away more often and leaving crystalline ridges where the cracks in the mud had been filled. Very interesting. When we had our fill at Nacimiento, Joe Bishop from the San Juan club agreed to lead us to one more



spot for alluvial wood near Nageezi called Blanco Wash. Although the road was quite rutted, no one got stuck and after another hour or so my collapsable bucket was once again “clinking” with the sound of petrified wood pieces. We thanked our hosts and headed back to our rental home.

Thursday morning it was time to head back home but we had one more stop lined up on the way. Near the town of Abiquiu (NO idea how to pronounce that), is a spot called the “small fry prospect”. It is a Fluorite deposit and one that I had read about but had not visited yet. It turned out to be a great spot. Steve and Jodi, and Lennis, who had linked up with us around Petrified Forest decided to meet us at this location. Other folks had decided to head in other directions, or straight for home, or in one case, back to Arizona for more DoBell wood! The material at small fry was fantastic with some specimens showing excellent banding and botryoidal structure. After spending an hour or so digging it was time to get back on the road. We chose to travel north into Colorado, which was really lovely, and found a familiar route on

I-80 for the rest of the trip. Fast forward to Saturday afternoon and we were back in Holland ready to start cleaning all the material. What a fantastic week and thanks to everyone who came along and made the trip more enjoyable! Peace. Jon.





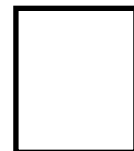
Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

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](http://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 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  
Sparta, MI 49345



Background photo is a Lake Superior Agate