

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/

May, 2025

Volume 58, Edition 5

What an amazing banquet we had!

Thank you to all that came out and made it a success! Congrats to all of the students who received awards! These are so very important to college kids today. These young adults are the future of Geology, how fun it was to spend the evening celebrating with them! Thank you to Paleo Joe for giving a great presentation! I spoke to him after and he really enjoyed himself as well. Shhhhh don't tell anyone, but he offered to come back anytime!

Moving into May we are having Open Mic May!

What a great chance to get up and share some of your favorite stories, talking about your favorite rocks or minerals. I know Bill and I have a story to share! Please consider getting up and sharing something with us. Otherwise.... Ill just have to talk a lot.

May signals the beginning of "Beach season" which means this months contest is Favorite Beach finds!

That leave it wide open to share some amazing finds. Oh the possibilities are almost endless! Im excited for to see what is brought for the contest! Bring that favorite find and set it up on the Monthly contest table with an index card to tell us what it is, then we vote! Most pennies win!

As we near the half way mark of the year, we have a lot going on. As Vice-President I'd like to spend a minute sharing my vision with you all. The idea to share this as we near the half way mark of my first year as VP was met by an interesting letter that was shared with us by Bob Sherwood. This came as a note from Chet Smith detailing the beginning of the club some 58 years ago. *This note, which hit hard with me and will be shared in its entirety on pages 9 & 10, spoke to their vision.*

With their vision in mind, I'd like to ensure that as a club, we are out in the community more, helping others around us, sharing our love of rocks. Working with the Juniors, teaching Geology and rockhounding, beginning identification of rocks and minerals. This will take the entire membership helping out, sharing ideas, networking, and giving back to the community we have been a part of for almost 60 years.

The ideas and Idea sharing will be highlighted in our presidents message (Jodi is in Europe.... SO, I am hijacking her message for the moth!!!). The idea of being in a rock club is so much more than just a monthly meeting. I will be trying to set up a couple local trips where Juniors are welcome, to teach them some Rockhounding 101. We are working with the community on some levels but I feel we can do more!

We have began by offering t-shirts and sweatshirts at cost from a local Holland vendor GoodInk. I'd like to continue to offer more shirt/hat/vest buying opportunities as we can. This club was built on the foundation of helping the community as well as each other, spending time together as a group doing what we enjoy.



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

Past President - C.H. Falstad

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

5/28 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

6/11 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting

6/18 (Wed.) Show Planning Meeting

6/21 (Sat.) Tailgate– Info TBA

6/25 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting

****Location TBD****

Member News

Name Tags: We will be transitioning to “peel & stick” name tags for our general meetings.

*more info on page 8

Donations: The Donation Committee is always accepting rock & mineral donations.

*more information on page 8

Service Details for Julia Sherwood

Saturday, August 23rd at 2pm

Howard Miller Community Center

14 S. Church St. Zeeland, MI 49464

Shirt Orders: If you placed an order through the Good Ink website, and aren't having it delivered directly to you, Justin will be picking them up and bringing them to May's general meeting

Why was the gemstone scared of his exams?

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

May:

- I have inquiries to two quarries for dates, watch for an upcoming announcement for a Saturday trip.
- **Memorial Day Weekend - May 23-26 Missouri Druzy** Save the date! Details to follow. There are 20 people signed up so far and there is room for more. Please let Jon know soon if you are interested.

June:

- **William Holland School of Lapidary Arts June 8-13** There are still many classes to choose from. Please contact Jodi Miller for more information.

July:

- **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!

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**

Because he thought he
wasn't going **TOPAZ**

RAFFLE CORNER

Yay, our regular raffle is baaaack!

This months items will include a very large (and very heavy) piece of Jasper, some polished Blue Forest Petrified Wood, surprises that once belonged to the Gibsons (yes, of the Gibson fund!) AND.....3 more enticing pieces.

Come see us in the front corner!

Also available, and a sure thing, are several of the Triceratops that you saw at the banquet. There are a few left, and they will be available for \$10 each if anyone is interested. Get yours before they are extinct.

Your raffle crew is looking forward to seeing you!

Juniors Section

Druzy Quartz

How fitting given the Memorial Weekend trip to Missouri for YOU GUESSED IT Drzy Quartz! Whether you say druzy, drusy, druze, once you see the sparkle and the shine, you know exactly what we are talking about. Druzy quartz is loved by many, it comes in several colors, sizes, styles. There will be some very cool examples for the Juniors to examine and enjoy.

John Mull will be leading the Juniors thru what is Druzy and why do we enjoy finding and displaying it!



A Message from our President

Well its Justin, back again! This time I am taking the opportunity to borrow Jodi's spot in her absence!

With this spot Id like to share an idea we are working on: **to develop some long term goals with the members help!!** Start thinking about what you'd like to see, whether it a lapidary workshop, or a group to meet with local schools, the best ideas come from our members! We will be working to develop a survey to pass out/offer online. This will be coming soon.

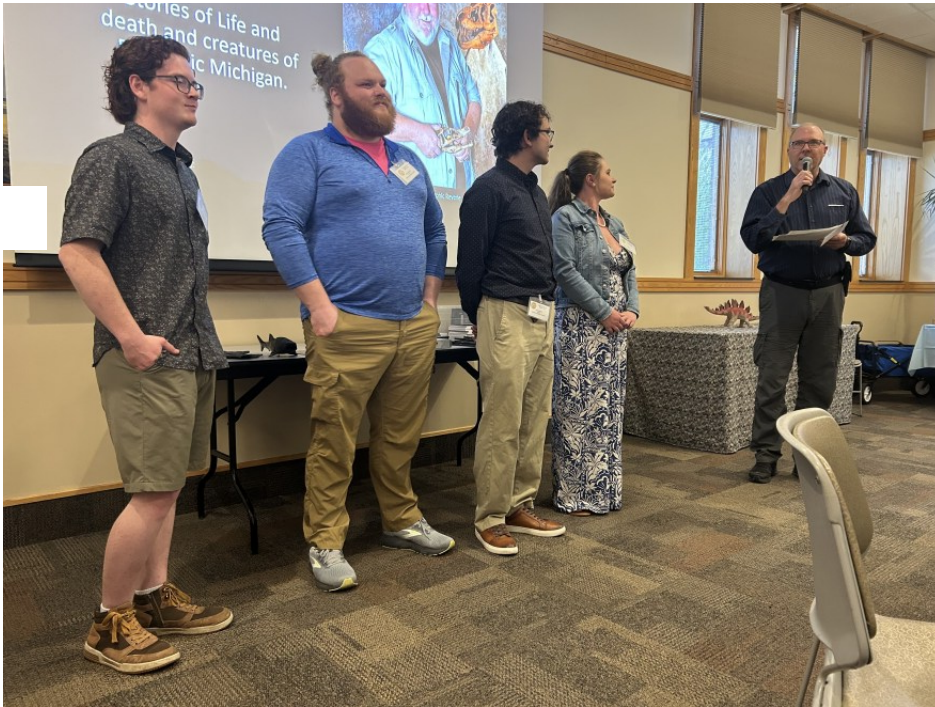


From all of us on the board, we want you to know your ideas matter, and we want to hear from you! This goes right along with my vision, and I understand not everyone is as crazy about rocks as I am, but I know we are missing the members voice right now and we want to change that. So look forward to seeing the survey out soon and sharing your voice with us! Such an exciting opportunity!

Thank you for reading more from me! - Justin

Scholarship Banquet 2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE



Grand Valley State
University

Andrew Neckerman

Ben Bourroughs

Courtney Mais

James Waibel

Presented by:
Dr. Peter Reimersma



Hope College

Caitlyn A. Brown

&

Margaret J. Prom

(not pictured)

Presented by:
Dr. Sarah Dean &
Dr. Renee Sparks (not pictured)

A Special **Congratulations** to the first recipients of the
TCGMC Lapidary Scholarships

\$400 Ken Hoekstra Lapidary Scholarship:
Pam Haverman

\$200 Lapidary Scholarships:
Mary Johnson
Christine Silich

Congratulations Aaron Nelson

Honorable Mention in the website design competition of the *American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*

Presented by Jodi Miller (TCGMC President)



WE ARE

BETWEEN A ROCK



AND A HARD PLACE!

AND WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for a few members to create a Memorial Committee and a Tailgate Committee.

Please contact Justin if you are interested.

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 accepting 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! Since we just hosted our Scholarship Banquet for the year, I'd like to highlight the Potluck Committee.

Chair: Michelle Lanting, Rhonda Gehringer, Christine Silich, Sandy Gordon, Mary Johnson, Sandra Watson, and Linda Winkelmann. Thank you for all that you do to make our Banquet and potlucks awesome!

If you are interested in planning for our next banquet, please contact one of the above members; in the coming months, they will be discussing alternative options for the 2026 banquet.

Reflections

The “club” was born in the North Hall of the Civic Center in 1967. Joe M, Recreation Director for Holland, and Russ Green, of the Muskegon Club (also M.W.F rep) got the club moving and a few weeks later it was incorporated as the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

Monthly meetings were held in the North Hall. The room was hot in the summer and cold in the winter. The acoustics were so bad that the club purchased a portable P.A. system so everyone could hear.

Joe emphasized a Bulletin, a Show, and Field Trips. The Tulip City Conglomerate was first edited by Marae Zigler. Joe ran the first show and practically every member went on a field trip that first year.

One thing the club lacked was display cases. A good design was found and 20 pony cases were built (mostly in a member’s driveway) after work. The club began to get some lapidary equipment. Most of the equipment was used but very serviceable. Storage of the cases & equipment was solved by renting a small building located between Holland & Zeeland. (The rent was \$30.00/year) Building the pony cases was so successful that 2 dozen flat cases were built during the following months.

The Civic Center was an ideal location for a show. A number of dealers were signed up as vendors. The club show undoubtedly was among the first of its kind to be held in Holland. The first shows were 2 days long and later changed to 3 days. After considerable discussion, it was decided to give 2 scholarships; one to a Hope geology student and one to a GVSU geology student. Opportunities for field trips were almost unlimited.



In our own area, the high water level of Lake Michigan opened up large quantities of Siderite nodules. An annual trek north for Petoskey stones was made early each spring and numerous trips were made to the U.P. for copper minerals. Coal mine fossils were found in Illinois, Calcite crystals in Ohio, Pyrite & Marcasite in Indiana, Agate & Barite from Missouri, and Quartz crystals from Arkansas were readily available to rockhounds.

With the monthly bulletin, came news of other club shows & swaps. We were on good terms with the Civic Center and they made a room available in the basement where we could store the cases and equipment that the club was buying. In addition, the Civic Center cleared out the hallway in the basement. The club set up a very nice lapidary workshop.



Monthly meetings continued in the North room until the Holland District Library was opened. The club meetings were moved there from the Civic Center. The club members started looking for a project and settled on building a windmill. Two club members found drawings for the DeZwaan, scaled down the drawings and a 5-foot windmill project was started. (Foils from the windmill were motorized & made from slabs of agate and obsidian.) The windmill was featured in our show for many years & loaned to several other clubs for their shows. The project was so successful that another project was started (a replica of the Big Red Lighthouse). It was complete with a copper top and a flashing red light. The windmill was donated to the City of Holland and several club mem-

bers placed it in the Windmill Island Gardens.

The club membership leveled off until a Junior Club was started. What happened next surprised most of us. The club membership shot up dramatically, and today is a strong & healthy club. I just wonder what the next 45 years will bring.

Chet (Chet Smith)





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**.

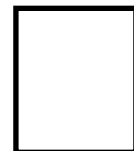
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting.

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:
Omarolluk