



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

October, 2024

Volume 57, Edition 8

Come to a Howling Good Time!

Attention all Rock Hounders: We are planning a Halloween Party that will ROCK!!!!!!! If this is your first time joining us or you have attended many meetings. This is going to be the spookiest!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are encouraging everyone to dress up in their favorite Halloween costumes, enjoy the Halloween candy provided, and bring your spookiest rock to enter into the rock contest this month. Mary Johnson assures us that there will also be several new raffle items.

The presentation that evening will be by Steve and Jodi Miller. This past June they went rockhounding through several states to Oregon, with fellow members, Mike Rakovits and Vicki Hartung. They will have a slideshow and several examples of the specimens they collected.

You don't want to miss this meeting. Bring the kids and the grand kids as we will have plenty of candy. See you there; unless you come as a ghost??



If you have an idea for a story for the Conglomerate, we are always looking for first hand experiences. Email the newsletter editor at tcgmc.news@tulipcity.org. Pictures of any events are also welcomed!! Deadline for submissions is the first Saturday of the month.



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 Luttikhuisen

Liaison - Mary Johnson

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer

Newsletter Editor - Jodi Miller

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson

Show Chair - CJ Proos

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.

10/23 (Wed.) Show Committee Meeting (HML)

10/30 (Wed.) Tulip City General Meeting (CC)

11/6 (Wed.) Tulip City Board Meeting (HML)

New Members

Let's welcome the following new members to our club. We're so glad you joined!!:

Ben and Eva Burraghs

Gabby Cook

Thomas and Dianna Coulter

Robert and Cecilia Dearing

Paul and Jeanette Dornak

Tom and Joy Fink

Todd Hower

Jordan and Laura Martinez-DeVries

Terry and Sonya Meiste

Andrew Neckermann

Janette O'Shaughnessy

Kevin and Deanna Rosenberger Ponzio

Gerald and Shandra Redwine

Ben and Ellie Roof

Nathan and Amanda Schout

Holly Weisz

Jordan Zych

For all others, who did not join at the show, your membership renewal is now due. Sign up at the general membership meeting on Oct. 30th so you don't ever miss out on what is coming up for our club. Current dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families.



Field Trips

Lake Cumberland, KY - Oct. 25 - 27 [SIGN-UP](#)

You should have already received an email about this trip. However, if you didn't catch it, we are heading to Lake Cumberland, Kentucky to explore for crinoid stems and calyxes while the water level is down. These crinoids are different than those in Indiana. For one, they are larger. The second and very cool thing is that they have been replaced by silica instead of limestone, which means they are more durable and can show more detail. Some of them even have a blueish gray color to them.

If you have other questions about this trip, or the sign up doesn't work, please contact me. Jon Mull (cell) 616-510-4139. Email: solace247@yahoo.com



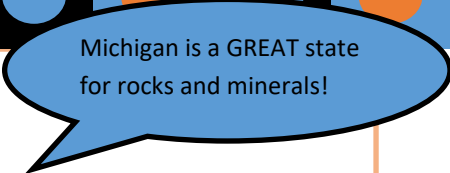
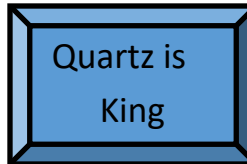
August 17, 2024 Rock Tailgate

On Saturday, August 17, Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club hosted a Rock Sale/Tailgate on the Zeeland High School parking lot. Several members and visitors took advantage of the beautiful day to bring out their pieces and specimens and offer them to the public. The turnout was good and everyone had a great time. This is always a wonderful chance to enhance a home collection with hard to find and acquire rocks and minerals. A big thank you to everyone who sold and those who turned out to explore the event.



Howard Miller Public Library—Showcase Display

For the month of September, TCGMC had the unique honor of being asked to fill the display case in the foyer of the Howard Miller Public Library. The club accepted the invitation and decided to focus on displaying Quartz specimens. Several members contributed their personal pieces for the display. Specimens included many quartz crystal plates, rose quartz, amethyst, drusy, and smokey quartz. According to library staff, the display was a huge hit for library goers, and we have been offered future opportunities for displays. Watch for this in the future and plan to participate by joining the club to display the beautiful rocks and minerals from your personal collection.



Junior Section

Hey Juniors,

This month we will be talking about Shari's favorite rock... Lake Superior Agates. Did you know that they are over 1 billion years old? Lagers are like snowflakes, they are all a bit different. We will explore such things like how you can tell if it is an agate, what makes Lake Superior agates unique, where you can find them, and why do some of the Lagers found up in the UP look different than the ones from Minnesota. We will try our hand at picking out Lagers from other beach rocks that look similar.

We will also take a look at other rocks/minerals that you can find in pockets of basalt like Thompsonite and greenstone.



TCGMC BOARD MEETING

Date: 8/14/2024

Attendance Total: 13

Guests in Attendance: Bob and Julia Sherwood

Quorum: Yes

Location: Howard Miller Public Library

Call to Order: 7:02pm

Board Members Present: C. Falstad (President), W. McDonald (Vice President), A Vanderski (Secretary), K. Brinks (Treasurer), J. Mull (Field Trip Coordinator), S. Luttikhuisen (Junior Club Coordinator), Jodi Miller (Newsletter Editor), C.J.Proos (Show Coordinator), A. Nelson (Webmaster), P. Williamson (Director at Large), M. Larson (Past President).

Approval of Agenda: Approved, moved and seconded.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Being transcribed

Board Member Reports

President - Deposit for Soccer Stop for 2024 annual show paid. Notes repairs to new turf as well as the offer to utilize large fans owned by Soccer Stop.

Vice President

1. August 24th (tentatively) Petoskey Polish at Hemlock Crossings, 3:00-4:30.
2. August General Meeting - Presentation on William Holland School of Lapidary Arts (J. Miller)
3. August General Meeting - Presentations by volunteers about volunteer jobs and positions available at the 2024 Show.

Past President - (present virtually) Will continue to seek out and reach out to other rock clubs for future rock exchanges.

Secretary

1. Will present Google versions of Meeting Minutes in October.
2. Discussion concerning the purchase of a tablet for use at meetings and at annual show. Motion to approve purchase of Galaxy tablet prior to annual show for use at show. Motion sustained.

Newsletter Editor - Deadline for Newsletter information is 8/18/24.

Fieldtrip Coordinator

1. Promising lead for field trip to Michigan quarry. Stay tuned.
2. Lake Cumberland - 25-27th of October

Directors at Large - (P. Williamson present virtually) No report.

Treasurer - Update on checking account and current CDs. One CD will be coming due in the month of August. Discussion to renew CD followed by motion to support renewing CD. Motion sustained.

Historian - Not present.

Jr. Club Coordinator - (present virtually) August Junior's meeting will focus on Lake Superior Agates. Will also discuss kids games volunteer sign-ups for the annual show.

Liaison - Not present.

Membership Coordinator- Not present.

Show Coordinator

1. See sign-ups at August General Meetings!
2. Flyers/posters will be available for distribution at the August General Meeting.
3. Discussion concerning increasing Marketplace taxes at the 2024 annual show from 10% to 15%.
4. Noted one instance where a 2024 annual show vendor did not pay fee by deadline and was substituted for a different vendor.

Social Coordinator - Not Present.

Webmaster

Update for online payment processors and the necessity for the use of a personal SSN for any and all online payment processors. Currently no other way around using a personal SSN.

Postponed creation of members only portal until decision concerning online payment processing. Creation of members only portal can proceed. There will be no option for online payment processing.

Reorganization of Google Shared Drive coming!!

Recurring Business:

Memorial Books - Obtained from the Zeeland Library: American Mineral Treasures (Staebler & Wilson), Geology of Michigan (Dorr & Eschner), Kentucky Agates (McIntosh & Anderson), Cave Geology (Palmer), The River Runs North (Harmon), Totality (Littman), Rocks & Minerals (Eyewitness), Lithography - Amethyst, Lithography - Apatite, Lithography - Diamond, Lithography - Fluorite, Lithography - Opal, Lithography - Rubelite, Lithography - Topaz, Emma's First Agate (children's book). Discussion concerning the fate of procured books. - TABLED

Rock Swap Saturday August 17th Zeeland High School East

Petoskey Polish August 25th at Hemlock Crossing. Presented by Rick and Deb Smith with McDonalds.

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From the Library Shelves

Tulip City GMC Books to Borrow

Recently, Julia Sherwood contacted both the Herrick Public Library in Holland and the Howard Miller Public Library in Zeeland to check on the status of the books we donated in memory of our members who have passed away. The books are affixed with a label that gives the club name and the person for whom the book was donated. What Julia discovered is that like all books contained at both libraries, if books are older or are not checked out often enough, they are sold through the “friends of the library” guilds. Of the many books that TCGMC has donated, very few actually still remain on the shelves. Howard Miller graciously offered to give the remaining books back to us. The board discussed what should be done with them, and for now, it would like to have them available for members to borrow. The following is a list of those books:

American Mineral Treasures (Staebler & Wilson),

Geology of Michigan (Dorr & Eschner),

Kentucky Agates (McIntosh & Anderson),

Cave Geology (Palmer),

The River Runs North (Harmon),

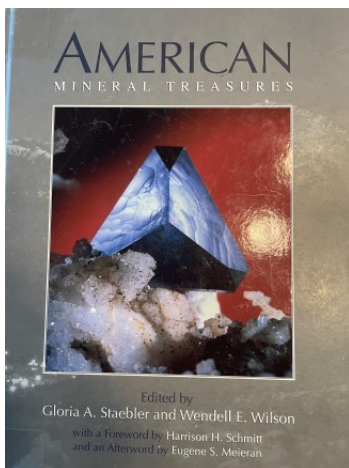
Totality (Littman),

Rocks & Minerals (Eyewitness),

Lithography - Amethyst, Lithography - Apatite, Lithography - Diamond, Lithography - Fluorite, Lithography - Opal, Lithography - Rubelite, Lithography - Topaz,

Emma's First Agate (children's book).

We will feature a review of one of the books each month so that the membership can see what each is about. If you are interested in borrowing one of these, please email tcgmc.news@tulipcity.org



Book Review: American Mineral Treasures - The book begins with a brief history of mineral collecting in America. These pioneers are the reason we know and have discovered so many deposits and veins of minerals in every corner of our country. The rest of the book is divided by states and who made discoveries and what they found. It is FILLED with beautiful pictures of the specimens. Whether you are a history buff or not, the pictures alone are worth browsing through this edition. Especially fascinating, for me, was the chapter on Copper County, Keweenaw.



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Howard Miller Library display case for the month of September. Must be filled Saturday August 31st between 1-3pm.

“Quartz” specimens requested. Please contact J. Miller with the name of specimens that will be volunteered for display.

New Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

Notes:

Motion to renew CD in month of August. Motion sustained.

Motion to support renewing CD. Motion sustained.

Motion to increase Marketplace sales percentage donation to the club from 10% to 15% as well as a requirement of 2 hours volunteer time in order to sell in the Marketplace. Motion sustained.

Items From Visiting Members: Memorial Books, Bob & Julia Sherwood (see recurring business)

Adjournment: 9:05pm

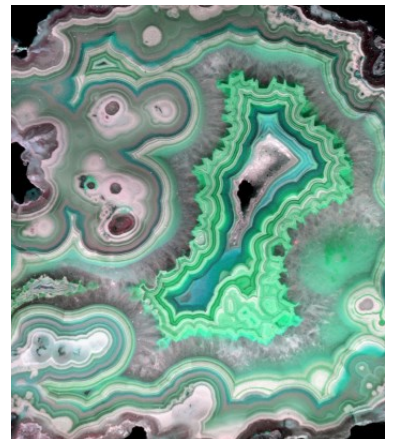
Next General Meeting: 8/28/2024

Next Board Meeting: 10/16/2024

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Submitted By: A.Vanderski

It’s that time again. The TCGMC is looking for individuals to serve on the board of directors. There are several people in current positions who are willing to continue to serve, but there are still positions that need to be filled. Please see the list below and if you are able and willing to fulfill one of the duties please contact someone of the nominating committee: Mike Larson, Rhonda Gehringer, or Justin Moore. Or you can email mblarson300@yahoo.com

President:	_____
Vice-President	Bill McDonald (would like a co-VP)
Treasurer	Kurt Brinks
Secretary	_____
Field Trip Coordinator	Jon Mull (would like a co-FTC)
Historian	Alexandria Vanderski
Junior Club Coordinator	_____
Liaison	_____
Membership	Rhonda Gehringer
Newsletter Editor	_____
Show Coordinator	C.J. Proos (would like a co-SC)
Social Coordinator	Michelle Lantin
Webmaster	Aaron Nelson
Director at Large	Patsy Williamson
Director at Large	_____



BLM Website Has Rockhounding Info

On February 29, 2024, an email was sent out from the federal Bureau of Land Management District in El Centro, California, talking about a new webpage for recreational rockhounding on public lands. The address is www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding.

The page, "Rockhounding on Public Lands," includes FAQ and a Guide to Collecting on Public Lands, as well as more specific information about rockhounding and/or all public-land recreation activities in several states.

The guide to collecting on public lands, "Can I Keep This?," gives specific methods that may be used and specified quantities of forest and mineral items that may or may not be collected on all federal lands. The website contains very good information and the rockhounding community needs to engage in a way to take action so as to increase the awareness of recreational rockhounding on public lands!

To find out if your state's federal lands are listed, look at the list of named states on the right side of the page. A couple of those states have relaxed guidelines, within the boundaries of the federal rules. Others are more restrictive, and most states aren't even named. The guidelines in "Can I Keep This?" give rules for all federal lands.

If your state is not listed, you need to contact the BLM in your state and ask that it be included. Work with the land managers to help ensure that the recreational rockhound does not go the way of the passenger pigeon.



New Junior Federation Newsletter

AFMS Future Rockhounds of America
Lora Hall, AFMS Junior Programs Chair
From Dennis Gertenbach, Crack the News Editor:

Dear junior rockhound club leaders,
We have now published three issues of Crack the News, an American Federation newsletter for kids and teens written by kids and teens. These newsletters are available at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. Be sure to distribute the newsletters to the members in your juniors' club, so they can enjoy the articles written by other kids and teens.

We are now gathering articles and other items for the next edition. Please encourage your junior writers, poets, photographers, and artists to contribute to the next Crack the News. It could be an article about one of their favorite rocks, minerals, or fossils. Perhaps an article with photos of one of their favorite collecting spots. Maybe they would like to show off lapidary jewelry they made. Or, they may have created poetry or artwork about rocks, minerals, or fossils. The only requirements are that they must be under 18 years of age, their contribution must be related to rockhounding, geology, paleontology, or the lapidary arts, and it must be created by them. It is fine if their article or other contributions have been published in your club's newsletter. To submit their work, have their parent complete the submission form at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KiCMzmZT82fxuIT-Ut4gqz9W4zUeXy4/view> and return it with their work to

youth@amfed.org. Please submit their written work as a Word document or .pdf and artwork should be submitted as a .jpg or .pdf. If their contribution has been published in your club's newsletter, please let us know.

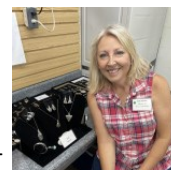
Contact Lora at: www.juniors.amfed.org 406.370.1863

Every writer, artist, photographer or poet published in Crack the News earns a George the Geode patch! If you are published 5 times, you earn the geode George is standing on! Be sure to call, text, or email with any questions.



Member Spotlight

Jodi Miller Newsletter Editor



I'm spotlighting myself because the others I asked are really busy right now. If you are available to interview for the Spotlight at the next meeting, just let me know!

I have been in the club for about 16 years. I had been making jewelry for about 35 years before that and natural stones just enhanced what I was doing. My most favorite piece, and it was self collected, is the quartz piece I collected at Flint Ridge in Ohio. It was one of the pieces fea-



tured on our show poster this year. I have a couple of fieldtrips that were my favorites for different reasons. I really enjoyed the trip to Canada in 2010 because our family has such funny stories about it and we collected some gorgeous amethyst, and also the Montana trip in 2009 because my parents got to come along. It was on that trip that I got to go down into a platinum mine, and I collected a couple pieces that have platinum in them.

A piece I'd like to own is a Utah Septarian sphere that Bob and Julia Sherwood have. It's beautiful!!

Other opportunities in West Michigan:

The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We will be studying white minerals. This Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals they study, but they really 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 (and doing some homework on its physical properties). They do their homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral of the month, but they also dig through their collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. They really do learn from each other (and you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated). The concept behind our color study theme is to have as many different minerals of a given color, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them.

Kreigh reported on last month, "Our habit is to circulate minerals around the table, roughly in alphabetical order, so everyone has a chance to examine each specimen and comment on it. We started this month with the phosphate Adamite followed by the silicate Amethyst - and oh boy, there sure was a lot of pretty Amethyst. We finally moved on with the silicate Ametrine, the cyclosilicate Benitoite, a specimen of Banded Iron Formation, and the sulfide Bornite. We had a discussion about native 'Peacock Ore' and the acid and/or heat treated Chalcopyrite often sold in gift shops as 'Peacock Ore'.

They try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please join them and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated, but you are always welcome to learn even if you can't bring any specimens.

News From Around the World

Mexican Water Opal, renowned for its captivating play-of-color and translucent appearance, is a type of opal found exclusively in Mexico. Unlike common opals, Mexican Water Opal exhibits a remarkable clarity and vibrant coloration, making it a coveted choice for gemstone enthusiasts and jewelry designers worldwide.

For more of the article: [Mexican Water Opal](#)



Above: Paleontologist Adam Yates has been studying the fossil of a wombat-like marsupial known as the diprotodon.

More than a decade ago, an outback cattle station worker who was out searching for crocodiles stumbled across a different type of prehistoric creature. Half buried in the soil of a large riverbank at Auvergne Station, 300 kilometers south-west of Katherine, was the rare fossil of a giant wombat-like marsupial that roamed Australia thousands of years ago. The now-extinct diprotodon is believed to be the largest marsupial that ever lived, and this fossil is the only one to have ever been found in the Northern Territory. It took the team more than a year to get an accurate date; thousands of individual grains of sand found near the fossil had to be measured using optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating

Scientists have discovered the age of the only diprotodon fossil to ever be found in the Northern Territory. This new information will allow scientists to begin delving into the ancient marsupial's time on earth. The fossil is undergoing work to prepare it for display at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT.

For more on this article, visit [Diprotodon](#)



A reconstruction of a diprotodon at the Australian Museum in Sydney in 2009



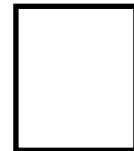
Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at the Howard Miller Community Center 14 S. Church Street, Zeeland, MI at 7pm, unless otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

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 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 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.

Tulip City Conglomerate
Jodi Miller, Editor
Sparta, MI 49345



Background photo is Malachite