



THE
TULIP CITY
 CONGLOMERATE



Bulletin of the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, PO Box 2082, Holland, MI 49422

Website: www.Tulipcity.org

January 2020

Volume 53, Edition 1

Now, 2020
 Club Dues Due!

Feb 2nd, 2020
 Wire Wrapping
 See Page 3

Feb 8th, 2020
 What is in Your Rock
 Tumbler?
 See page 3

Feb 12th, 2020
Board Meeting
HMCC 7pm

Feb 22nd, 2020
 Basement Field
 Trips
 See Page 3

Feb 26th, 2020
General Meeting
HMCC, 7pm

This Edition

Program: Alabastine.....	p1
Calendar/Board/Show Corner.....	p2
Workshop/Basement.....	p3
Prescott/ Minutes.....	p4
Minutes.....	p5
Minutes/Networking.....	p6
Networking/ThankYou.....	p7
Junior Quiz.....	p8
Junior Page: Igneous.....	p9
About Us: Alabastine Mine	p10

Don't forget to get your door prize ticket from Mike Grabner, who is typically lurking near the entrance!

General Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2020 7pm
Howard Miller Community Center

This month we welcome Kreigh Tomaszewski as our guest speaker. He is currently the President of the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Kreigh started collecting in elementary school and joined the Grand Rapids mineral society. He considers himself a systemic mineral collector. He also volunteers as the science curator at the Grand Rapids public museum.

Kreigh will be talking about the history of the Alabastine mine, or as some of us know it, the gypsum mine in Wyoming, MI. He was fortunate to have access to the mine for field trips, every other month for over 15 years. He will be talking about his collecting experiences, and will show some of the specimens that came out of the mine. He will also address the reason why the mine was closed to collecting.

We are fortunate to have Kreigh come and share his stories and knowledge of the Alabaster mine with us.



This month there will not be a specimen of the month contest. Instead, I will have a table set aside as a "Show and Tell" table. If you were fortunate enough to be able to go on a Field Trip to the Alabastine Mine, please bring in a specimen that you collected for the Show and Tell table. It will be fun to see how many different kinds of specimens we will be able to see!

Club Calendar 2020

Feb 26 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Feb 29-Mar 1 – Livonia, MI Auction
 Feb 29-Mar 1 – Des Plaines, IL Annual Show
 Mar 6-8 – Richmond, IN Annual Show
 Mar 7-8 – Macomb, IL Annual Show
 Mar 11 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Mar 11-12 – Canton, IL Annual Show
 Mar 25 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Mar 28-29 – Cedar Rapids, IA Annual Show
 Apr 4-5 – Marion, IL Annual Show
 Apr 15 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Apr 22 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Apr 25-26 – Bay City, MI Annual Show
 Apr 29 (Wed) – Banquet! 6p, HMCC
 May 13 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 May 27 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jun 10 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jun 17 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jun 24 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jan 15 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jan 29 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jul 18 (Sat) – Picnic!
 Aug 12 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Aug 19 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Aug 26 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 September - 51st Annual Show, TBA
 Oct 14 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Oct 21 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Oct 28 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Nov 4 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Nov 18 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Dec 2 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Dec 16 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC

HMCC = Howard Miller Community Center, 14 S Church St. Zeeland, MI
 Major source of material is from: <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Calendar/>
 Our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/>

2020 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Mike Larson	mblarson300@yahoo.com
Vice President	Shari Luttkhuizen	sluttkih@oaisd.org
Secretary	Brenda Olson	brendaolson01@gmail.com
Treasurer	Kurt Brinks	kbrinks@hollandpublicschools.org
Fld Trip Coord.	Jon Mull	solace247@yahoo.com
Fld Trip Coord	Bob Sinke	bobsinke@comcast.net
Historian	Betty Hoekstra	kbhoek@att.net
Jr. Club Coord.	Rick Smith	Hollandrsmith@gmail.com
Jr. Club Coord.	Linda Winkelmann	lindawinkelmann@att.net
Liaison	Rhonda Gehringer	rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org
Membership	Christine Silich	CSDS77@icloud.com
Newsletter Ed.	Rudy Silich	tulipcitygemnews@charter.net
Show Coord	Sue Goedert	sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
Social Coord.	Linda Plumert	rlplumert@gmail.com
Dir. at Large	Mary Johnson	maryjohnson299@gmail.com
Dir. at Large	Randy Wake	rgwake@charter.net
Past President	C.H. Falstad	cfalstad@ameritech.net

Robin Kreun will be assisting the Jr. Club Coordinators

For 2020, there are fifteen (15) positions, which have one vote each.
 There are currently (17) persons on the Board (four persons share two positions).

Show Corner

This year's theme is "Canada's Mineral Treasures". Things are already underway for some of the preparation. We still have some openings on the Show Committee, we would love to have you join us!



This winter as you are sorting your rocks, please think of anything you can donate to Club Sales. Please make sure they are clean and identified, if possible. Also start thinking of what you want to put in Silent Auction. We had a banner year last year.

2020 Dues

Please remember that your 2020 Club Dues were due December 31. If you have NOT paid them, this *may* be your last newsletter!

Please see Christine Silich



Workshop Corner

Mother Nature has decided to bless us with winter weather on the weekends so far this year. A couple of the workshops needed to be rescheduled, and I am not sure of the new dates. Some of the sign-up sheets will still be available at the January General Meeting.

Lapidary for Beginners -Rance and Anne Westover - had to be rescheduled, new date not known yet.

Faceting - Eric Peterson - supposed to be held January 18, still trying to get a hold of him to see if it was held.

Wire Wrapping - Sue Goedert - filled up. Workshop will be held on February 2 at Ken and Betty Hoekstra's House.

Cleaning Fossils - Kurt Brinks - Date TBD

Beading Cabochons - Julie Sherwood - sign up will still be out at the January Meeting.

What is in your Rock Tumbler? - Shari Luttkhuizen and Ken Hoekstra - February 8 from 10-11:30 at the Howard Miller Community Center. Still room available, sign up at January Meeting, or contact Shari.

There is still plenty of winter left! Keep your eye on the Workshop Corner for updates and new opportunities.

Basement Field Trips

Two basement field trips are scheduled for February 22nd 2020. They will be open rain, snow, or shine from 1-4 pm on this Saturday. Both locations are in the western side of Grand Rapids as follows:

Don and Lois Van Dyke
4296 Oakview
Hudsonville, Mi. 49426
616-669-6932

Don has a large collection of Agates and other copper country specimens. **All junior members coming to the house will be able to select 12 specimens (in egg cartons) from a selection of more than 2 dozen rocks & minerals.(In some cases there will be a limited number available)**

Roger and Arlene King
2211 North Whistlevale Dr. SW.
Byron Center, Mi. 49315
616-878-5163

Roger has a large collection of Fluorite, gypsum, and many rock sculptures he has made and they are available for sale!

We hope you can view these two collections to see what others are doing and how they are displaying and labeling their collections.

Image Credits: Baby New Year, Maple Leaf – internet clip art. Community Chest – from Parker Bros. Monopoly Alabastine Postcard – Annie Benefiel, GVSU Special Collections, Pumice – shutterstock, basalt – geologylearn.blogspot.com, rhyolite – geology.com, obsidian – geologylearn.blogspot.com, tunnel – Alabastine Mine, Grand Rapids, - atlasobscura

Prescott National Park Missing Rock

Last fall, someone noticed a mineral was missing from Prescott National Forest in Arizona. This is not just any rock, it's a 1000 lb specimen named "Wizard Rock." Removal of rocks and minerals from National Forests is prohibited without a permit. If anyone knows anything about this disappearance please call the National Forest office at 928-443-8000. There may not be a reward for information about the return of this mineral specimen, but if you quietly tell Mike Grabner the weight of this rock as you enter the general meeting this month to you get your door prize ticket, Mike will gladly give you an extra.

Prescott National Forest is 1,250,00 acres located about 60 miles southwest of Flagstaff. The city of Prescott lies almost in the middle of this national forest. The motto of Prescott National Forest is "Learning for Life," and there are many opportunities in the lakes, mountains, deserts and ponderosa forest found in this national gem. Within the boundaries of this national forest are over 1,700 active mines (with permits property issued) and over 20,000 inactive or closed mines. One of the most popular locations of the Forest is Granite Mountain Wilderness as it is easily accessible by paved road from Prescott.

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Howard Miller Community Center Zeeland December 4, 2019, 7:00 PM; Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM – Call to Order – declare quorum

Approval of Agenda: Bob Sherwood motion, seconded by Rudy; Motion passed

Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2019 Board meeting; Linda motion, seconded by Rhonda;

Approval of Minutes of the November 20, 2019 General Meeting; motion by Amy, Seconded by Rick; motion carried;

Approval of Minutes of the October 30, General meeting; motion moved by Shari, seconded Rhonda; passed;

Board reports

President – C.H. Falstad – rock exchange with other club Grand Junction Colorado club;

Vice President – Shari Luttkhuizen – really exciting meeting Shannon Kobs, professor at Idaho State University, recently named as Director of the University Honors Program working in volcanology and extra-terrestrial life; also demonstration/discussion; no contest, yes raffle;

Treasurer's Report – Kurt Brinks – will get charged for deposits of extra large size (+\$5,000)

Immediate Past President – Bob Sherwood club projects (listed on website); taken on by club as a method of outreach; suggested developing Education and Outreach committee;

Editor – Rudy Silich news due by Saturday at 6:00 PM? C.H. send copies of minutes; Rudy needs to send replies for emails receipts;

Field Trip Coordinator – Julia Sherwood; nothing for December, transferring materials to Jon and Bob; Jon and Bob waiting for selection of a weekend for basement field trip to coordinate with demonstrations; planning to piggy-back with other local clubs to share places; Arkansas spring break, Mazon Creek; Keokuk; Canadian trip possibly St. Catherine area or ; (Tim Elliot access to Dundas mine);

Juniors – Rick Smith & Linda Winkelmann (absent) (Robin Kreun assisting); had 24 juniors last month, many brought in by Show; Linda doing magnetite (no crafts); 4 regular adult attendees on monthly basis; Seems junior programs are popular for learning; may want to have juniors present during some part of the meetings (field trips, mineral of the month, etc.)

Liaison – Rhonda Gehringer no report at this time;

Membership Coordinator – Chris Silich (absent) memberships trickling in;

Show Chair – Sue Goedert - need Publicity Chair and Dealer chair Social Coordinator – Linda Plumert this month Birthday cake for Chet's; Linda will be out for January and February and will ask for fill-in; get picture of all before dismissing Juniors; Ugly sweater contest or festive-wear;

Directors-at-Large – Amy Dickinson no report; getting about \$100/month;

Tim Brandt: (absent)

Newly elected: Brenda Olson, Mary Johnson (absent), Randy Wake, Bob Sinke, Joh Mull, Mike Larsen;

Recurring business:

Getting more members reading Conglomerate

New Business:

Julia Donker memorial - Betty to contact John about specimen; “Rubellite – Toumaline Rouge” in memory of Julia; Bob Zigeler has donated a book in memory of his wife, Marie “Painting Zoo Animals on Rocks” (for youth) motion by C.H. to donate both books to the Howard Miller Library, seconded by Shari; Motion carried;

Amy D. help people identify rocks; on special table; Mike Larsen has a 3-D printer that can do crystals.

Keep monthly topics varied.

Correspondence: none

Items from visiting members: none

Adjourn meeting: by 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted, C.H. Falstad

Mary Johnson, Mike Larson will not be at the general meeting in December.

**Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland, Michigan
December 18, 2019, 7:00 PM; minutes General meeting**

7:00 PM – Call to Order – C.H.

Present: about 62 adults and 18 students, total about 80 members

Had presentation from those leading programs in January and February on what we can do with our collections (prior to Juniors going off to their program)

Board reports

President – no report

Vice President – Shari Luttkhuizen program for the day

Treasurer's Report – Kurt Brinks brief report

Immediate Past President – Bob Sherwood called all board members serving in 2020 forward and inducted them. Missing were Mike Larson and Brenda Olson;

Editor – Rudy Silich - unpaid members last Conglomerate will be January, so DON'T be LATE!

Field Trip Coordinator – Julia Sherwood no report since new FT Coordinators would be taking over. Bob Sinke and Jon Mull explained plans for coordinating with other clubs for basement and non-basement trips;

Historian – Betty Hoekstra nothing new to report

Junior Leaders – Linda Winkelmann leading program on magnetite; juniors receiving specimen from John and Sally Hoskin donation as Christmas presents;

Liaison – Rhonda Gehringer no report doing monthly raffle, Large rose quartz sphere will be raffled off at our April banquet, first time to get tickets January meeting.

Membership Coordinator – Chris Silich everyone needs to consider paying dues for membership;

Show Chair – Sue Goedert - Show update, very successful in terms of attendees, income, club member participation, etc. this past year; need publicity chair and dealer chair for 2020;

Social Coordinator – Linda Plumert will be out January and February and Diane Graf will be filling in;

Dr. Shannon Kobs, professor at Idaho State University recently named as Director of University Honors Program (former TCGMC Junior and initial leader of our Juniors program) gave PowerPoint presentation about her work in volcanology, particularly sea floor volcano studies and how it relates to NASA's extra-terrestrial life particularly on a moon in Saturn's orbit. Shannon's parent (John and Shae, former members) were both visiting.

No rock contest but adult door prize and Raffle contest and special table for unidentified rocks in our collection.

Adjourned meeting by 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
C.H. Falstad

Networking

Ken Hoekstra and I have shared many rockhound adventures together and field trips have been a very important part of my enjoyment of the hobby. When Ken mentioned recently having called an acquaintance of ours we had met years ago on a field trip to Oregon, I decided it was time to get caught up as well. We met Steve initially in 2003 when on a June trip to the Prineville Rockhound Pow Wow. The motel owner in town mentioned that there was a rockhound who lived just around the corner. That chance remark connected us to one of the most knowledgeable collectors of Ochoco Mountain thundereggs and agates in Oregon and a friendship that blossomed over successive field trips to the Prineville-Madras area. (Would you believe he lived on Knowledge Street!)

This call brought me to thinking how important and useful networking is, not only in the business and education fields, but which should be for rockhounds as well. Certainly, guidebooks have been useful for years and of course the internet, for locating collecting sites in more distant areas of the country. Even more important are locating local club members who, in this hobby, are very generous in sharing information. These folks know the specifics of where and how to find rocks, minerals or fossils and are often willing to guide you to them.

While anticipating a collecting trip to the northwest a few years ago, I came across an article in the Midwest Federation newsletter extracted from the Wichita, Kansas club's publication about a successful trip their club had taken to N.W. Nebraska for fossils in the Crawford area. It gave the name of a woman who owned a guest ranch overlooking the Badlands near Toadstool Park who offered fee-based fossil hunting and accommodations. I contacted the author for further information and that led to my contacting Jean and arranging for four of us to stay for three days and try our luck searching for mammals such as oreodonts, camels, saber-tooth cats and turtles. This chance encounter provided an additional fun experience. Subsequently, I referred Kurt and Marcus Brinks to Jean's ranch and for those of you who have seen their wonderful specimens they fared better than we.

In planning a trip, one should make use of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' website for locating clubs in a given area. Read their newsletters for tips. Look closely at a club's roster of board members, specifically for the field trip coordinator or relevant person and contact via phone (preferably) or email ahead; introduce yourself and ask if they might be able to give you suggestions for locations to collect or, even better, might they be able to guide you for a few hours. We have found that rockhounds are almost always willing to help-out fellow collectors. Upon returning home, always send an email or call of appreciation. Once connected, cultivate these relationships by staying in contact.

Another case in point. Prior to a club trip to Utah, I discovered that the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Society would be holding their annual show on the weekend in June when we would be driving through on our way to Moab. An overnight stop and several hours at their show, we met Vint, a dealer who lived in Moab and was willing to take us out for a couple of days for agate, jasper, dino gizzard stones, coprolite, agatized nodules of barite pseudomorphs. One afternoon we went to his home and were amazed to see some 8 or 10 55-gal. drums behind his house filled with petrified wood and dinosaur bone, which he had a license to purchase and sell. (Dino bone is illegal by federal law to collect on public lands.)

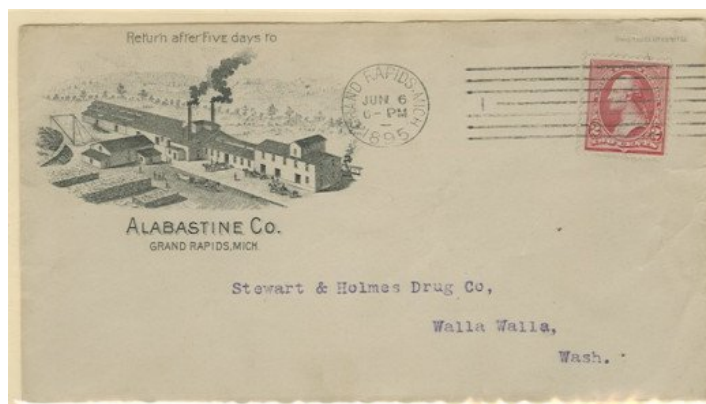
Prior to leaving Michigan, I had also called and arranged to meet Steve (and Joleen), a retired architect in Cedar City who took us out to several locations where over several days we collected jasp-agate, septarian nodules, Picasso marble and selenite. One evening we were invited to their home for a potluck with his Southern Utah Rock Club members! An example of how hospitable rockhounds are. Further north in western Utah, we met Eldon in Tooele who took us out to the Dugway geode beds following an old Pony Express trail. There is nothing better than a local rockhound who can take you to specific sites—no miss-direction such as can happen when following a guidebook which itself may have erroneous information.

Rockhounds should be planning ahead for far-away field trip location by using all the resources that are so readily available today. Take out a subscription in Rock & Gem Magazine. At \$29.95 a year for 12 issues, this is a bargain given the information with which you will have access. Keep a file of field trip articles about collecting locations, easily arranged by state, that you might be interested in pursuing in the future. Develop a file or database of business cards of fellow rockhound contacts. And keep in mind, our own club members are very willing to share information from personal experience about far-flung trips as well. This will help lead you to more full-filling adventures in the field.

Bob Sherwood

“THANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOU”

A big “Thank You” goes out to John and Sally Hoskin, who recently made a large donation of mineral specimens to TCG&MC’s junior program. In fact, it was such a large donation that a “Thank You” also goes out to Ray and Linda Plumert for driving their truck out to Grass Lake to transport this substantial donation Grass Lake back to Holland! Of course, some of this material will benefit the juniors directly in the form of junior program take-home specimens, Show Silent Auction offerings, Show Kids’ Games prizes, General Meeting door prizes and the like. But our adult TCG&MC members will also benefit from some of this donated material in the form of raffle prizes and silent auction offerings, the proceeds from which will go back to benefit the junior program! Keep your eyes open!



Juniors' Quiz (based on last month's Junior Program)

1. Magnetite gets its name because...
 - a) a magnet will be attracted to it.
 - b) it was discovered by the Dutch geologist Hendrik VerMagnetite.
 - c) all the letters can be rearranged to spell "met eating."
 - d) All of the above

2. While surveying Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the 19th century surveyor William Burt discovered that Michigan's large magnetite deposits threw off his compass readings, so he...
 - a) got lost a lot.
 - b) made really bad maps.
 - c) .invented a solar compass that was not affected by magnetite.
 - d) All of the above.

3. Magnetite is...
 - a) a valuable iron ore
 - b) an important part of Michigan's geology
 - c) a collectible mineral.
 - d) All of the above.

4. Magnetite (Fe_3O_4) is a member of this mineral family:
 - a) the VanderOres.
 - b) the oxides
 - c) the sulfides.
 - d) All of the above

Junior Rock Club Page

"FIRE-WORKS!!!"

Our January Junior Program is really a hot topic! Think volcanoes! Think magma!! Think hot, liquid rock!!! Our January program will be about igneous rocks, that is to say "fire-formed" rocks. It will be the first in a series of three programs about the rock cycle and the three different rock types (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks). We'll look at several different kinds of igneous rocks—like pumice, basalt, rhyolite and obsidian. But we'll focus on granite, the different mineral components of granite, and how the chemicals that comprise these minerals come together in their molten state to produce that classic building material, granite.

Why not join us at 7:00 on Wednesday, January 29, at the Howard Miller Community Center in Zeeland for a hot, informative time together on a cold winter's evening?

And for a little fun and a chance for a mineral prize, why not try your hand at the quiz questions below? Bring your quiz page to our January meeting with all the correct answers and you can choose a prize.

Linda Winkelmann and Rick Smith
Junior Program Co-ordinators



www.shutterstock.com • 371184473

Pumice



Basalt



© geology.com

Rhyolite



Obsidian

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 increased knowledge of minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, and the lapidary arts. The objectives of this club shall be promoted whenever Possible, through family participation.

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

The deadline for submissions is 5p the Thursday after the Board Meeting.

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.

Alabastine Mine, Grand Rapids, MI

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 announced otherwise in the TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE. Junior Club welcomes young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting.



Tulip City Conglomerate
Rudy Sillich, Editor
416 West Mae Rose Ave
Holland, MI 49424