



# THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE



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

Website: [www.Tulipcity.org](http://www.Tulipcity.org)

April 2020

Volume 53, Edition 4

Please note that all events are tentative due to COVID-19

**May 13, 2020**  
**Theoretical Board Meeting**  
**HMCC 7pm**

**Mar 16-17, 2020**  
**St. Joseph, MI**  
Blossomland  
Annual Show

**May 23-24, 2020**  
**St. Charles, IL**  
Annual Show

**May 27, 2020**  
**General Meeting**  
**HMCC, 7pm**

**June 6, 2020**  
**Herrick Fest CANCELLED**  
Park Township Airport

**June 6 - 7, 2020**  
**Onalaska, WI**  
Annual Show

**June 10, 2020**  
**Board Meeting**  
**HMCC 7pm**

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Show Meeting**  
**HMCC, 7pm**

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## **General Meeting** **Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020** **Story Time**

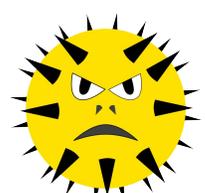
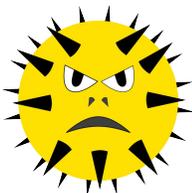
For the May General Meeting, I am going to ask Members to get up and share short stories related to our rock hounding hobby. If anyone has a story to share, please let me know in advance, so I can make sure you get on the list. The stories can be about a field trip, lapidary experience, fun you had at a workshop, or what you did during the quarantine ( rockhounding wise) to keep yourself busy. They can also bring slides, or samples of rocks/ minerals to show.

June's General Meeting will be our annual silent Auction. Club members will bring in rocks/minerals to sell, and people will go around and bid on what they like. Tables will close down at regular intervals. There will be a club table, where all proceeds will go to the club, and also a junior table, where prices are lower, but only members 18 years old and under can bid. More details to follow in next month's newsletter.

So, as a reminder:

- 1) Think of a story you wish to share.
- 2) Gather items you wish to sell at the June meeting.
- 3) Make a list of the items you may wish to BUY at the June meeting.

(maintain social distance from the critters below)



Club Calendar 2020

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  
 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 18-20 - 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Show  
 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

(Maintaining social distance.)

**Show Corner**

We always have a need for volunteers for the Show in September. Please contact Sue Godert for more details.



(Maintaining social distance.)

**HerrickFest**

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/>

Herrick Fest scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> has been CANCELLED.

2020 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Mike Larson	<a href="mailto:mblarson300@yahoo.com">mblarson300@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Shari Luttkhuizen	<a href="mailto:sluttkh@oaisd.org">sluttkh@oaisd.org</a>
Secretary	Brenda Olson	<a href="mailto:brendaolson01@gmail.com">brendaolson01@gmail.com</a>
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Social Coord.	Linda Plumert	<a href="mailto:rlplumert@gmail.com">rlplumert@gmail.com</a>
Dir. at Large	Mary Johnson	<a href="mailto:maryjohnson299@gmail.com">maryjohnson299@gmail.com</a>
Dir. at Large	Randy Wake	<a href="mailto:rgwake@charter.net">rgwake@charter.net</a>
Past President	C.H. Falstad	<a href="mailto:cfalstad@ameritech.net">cfalstad@ameritech.net</a>
WebMaster	Julia Sherwood	<a href="mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org">bobandjulia@accn.org</a>

(Washing hands.)

**Keokuk Field Trip**

The Memorial Day Field Trip to Keokuk is CANCELLED

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).

The Board approved an additional Board position with responsibility for maintaining the Club's social media. This position must be ratified by the Mambership before it is formally approved.

## Those Halcyon Days: Quarry Collecting Yesteryear

Some of our older club members remember when quarries in the Midwest states were a mainstay of overnight field trips and a wonderful source of mineral crystals and fossils. Thanks to the glaciers, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin were blessed with an abundance of dolomitic limestone-bearing deposits.

At one time we could collect Petoskey coral, favosite and horn coral in the Medusa Quarry on Belles Bay Rd. entering Charlevoix which we now take to reach Fisherman's Island State Park and collect along the beach. The quarry at Maybee in s.e. Michigan produced wonderful specimens of celestite, calcite and sulphur crystals which could be gleaned from the tailing piles. Across the Detroit River and 20 miles down-river was a quarry at Amhurstberg, Ontario, which produced a more unusually shaped celestite crystal as well as calcite, fluorite and occasionally sulfur. One trip across the border was arranged by Joe Moran using a school bus. Thanks to the good will of the Lafarge Corporation which owns the quarry in Alpena, MI, we are still able to make occasional, pre-arranged trips to collect a variety of Devonian Period fossils.

Overnight trips on weekends or in the summer might find us in one of several quarries in Indiana or Ohio: Pendleton Quarry in Anderson, IN for iridescent calcite and pyrite, Corydon, IN searching for lustrous, pink, dovetail dolomite with calcite and occasionally fluorite. In Ohio we could arrange with the quarry managers at Duff's Quarry, Huntsville, for iridescent pyrite and calcite; Lime City's Stoneco Quarry for a white variety of celestite and calcite which fluoresces a bright white under short wave. Fossil collectors appreciated the quarry at Paulding, noted for its trilobites. My first field trip, which led to my joining the Club in 1967, was to the Medusa Quarry (now called Centennial) near Sylvania, also noted for its variety of fossils.

We also ranged west into Iowa on several trips to Pints Quarry near Raymond. Here, there was calcite, barite, pyrite, fluorite and marcasite, often in combination with one another. Several members took motorhomes, but on one occasion the small tent I struck blew over in a storm during the night.

One of my all-time favorite locations and that of several others in the Club, was the small Rensselaer Stone Co. quarry at the tiny community of Pleasant Ridge, Indiana. Popular with many, it was critical to drive there as soon after the wall had been blasted on a Friday or very early Saturday morning, to be ahead of collectors from the Chicago area for the easy crystals in the tallis or in an exposed vug. I had developed a "quick-call" list (still in my file) of 17 members who were interested in making a run down following a call to the manager signaled a blast. I could always depend on my close friend Norm Gibson and often Joe Moran to drive down in the early morning hours. One Friday evening, several members, including Chet and Bette Smith, drove to Pleasant Ridge and spent the night camped on the quarry's north rim to collect at first light. This quarry was unique in that most of the crystals were covered with a thick oil, in fact the whole quarry smelled of it and attracted lots of insects! A change of clothes before heading home was mandatory followed later with a soaking in solvent. Wonderful pyrites, marcasites, calcites and less impressive barites were extracted with crack hammer, rock pick and chisels over the years. No longer an active quarry with the pumps operating, it is now filled with water. But the odor of oil remains and so do the wonderful memories.

Certainly, one of the most prolific producers of minerals in the Midwest states was the Pugh Quarry near Custar in Wood County, OH. It was quarried for over 100 years for its limestone used primarily for road construction. Pugh is best known to collectors for its fine scalenohedral calcites, usually a rich, honey-to-brown color, many being doubly terminated.

(Continued on Page Four)



(Continued from Page Three)

Other specimen materials there include barite, fluorite, dolomite, marcasite, pyrite and occasionally sphalerite. Their occurrence together frequently produces very striking specimens. Many years ago, some of our members were on hand when a large cavity was opened half-way up in the wall. Here, blocky, blue calcite crystals were recovered, some with scalenohedral structure. Several years ago, I was given the name of a woman in the Paulding area whose husband had died. She was interested in selling his vast collection of Pugh calcites—along with his truck! As she described it, there were boxes and boxes stored under the house, representing many years of his life spent collecting in this quarry. I passed on the offer because I didn't need the truck that had to go with the minerals.

Newer Club members may ask, what has changed? Why are trips into quarries no longer being offered? Essentially, it is the result of injuries to a few individuals who did not follow the rules. Quarries could not afford or were not willing to carry liability insurance. Stricter OSHA regulations have made an impact as well. This is why MWF member clubs are urged to follow the AFMS Code of Ethics which stresses safety and courtesy in the field.

Bob Sherwood

(Maintaining social distance.)

**West Michigan MWF Mineral Study -- Calcium Minerals (Q-O)  
Calcium Minerals (Q-R) Rescheduled  
By Kreigh Tomaszewski**

The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on September 8, 2020, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. Our April and May meetings got cancelled by the Covid-19 restrictions, so we are just pushing the agenda out. Mineral Study does not meet during the summer months.

We will be studying minerals that contain calcium and have names beginning with the letters Q or R. We try to limit our study range so we have about 25 specimens to fit them into our time frame. We often have some time at the end to look at some unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are slowly getting better at identification).

We 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. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other, but you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens. Please join us and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated.

## A Letter From The Editor

After getting off to a late start putting together this edition of the Tulip City Conglomerate, it turns out that it is woefully small (five pages, not including this page). Because we have a printed edition, it is logical to submit an even number of pages to FedEx for printing. I need to fill one more page, and this letter will possibly do it. What can I say that is interesting?

First, let me apologize for getting this edition out so late. It takes me roughly 4-8 hours to assemble an edition, once I get started. My problem is getting started. I can blame COVID, and me, a Myers-Briggs INTJ, but mostly it is me. (Fourteen percent of the page is complete!)

The bylaws indicate that the Newsletter needs to be received at least 7 days before a General Meeting. The current ideal process/schedule for creating a Tulip City Conglomerate is as follows:

Wednesday - Board Meeting. At the meeting, information is collected that needs to be published, or needs to be gathered and submitted to me. I typically tell the Board to have their necessary newsletter information sent to me by Saturday.

Saturday Night – Collect all the emails/information, and spend 6-8+ hours assembling it. At the end, email the finished product to FedEx for printing. Sometimes FedEx will have the job done the next day, sometimes not.

Sunday – Pick up the print job. Fold 50-70 newsletters. Place three pieces of tape on each newsletter. Print out labels, and apply them. Stamp them. Go to the post office and mail the batch.

Tuesday – At noon, email the newsletter to those who receive it via email. (40% filled!)

As you have noticed, I use the same format in every edition. The masthead is always the same. The front page has a calendar of events through the date of the subsequent General Meeting on the left side with an index, and the Meeting Program information fills the rest. Page Two is the continuation of the calendar, Board Member information, and small sized notices. Page Five are typically meeting minutes. Page Nine (or the penultimate page) is the Junior Page, and the final page is split, with half for mailing, and the other half boilerplate Club information, with a picture that typically is somehow related to rockhounding and/or Michigan. (50% filled!)

The font is typically Arial 12, unless I have to squeeze in something, or the content is the minutes. I have been happy with the layout. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please let me know.

During this COVID lockdown, I tried to list some rock related quotes in my head (which sometimes is a rock!), and the following came to mind (and I am checking the internet for proper attribution, since the internet is always completely true and accurate):

“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church” - Matthew 16:18

“ I am a rock. I am an island.” - Simon & Garfunkel

“Everybody must get stoned.” - Bob Dylan

“A rolling stone gathers no moss.” - Publilius Syrus

“Why waste your breath yelling at the crowd?/Nothing can be done to stop the shouting/If every tongue were still, the noise would still continue/The rocks and stones themselves would start to sing” - Jesus Christ Superstar, a paraphrase from Luke 19:39-40.

And don't forget Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble! (Fred worked in a quarry, didn't he?)

Let me remind you that I will accept article submissions for publication, if they have a connection to rockhounding, the lapidary arts, geology, fossils, field trips, or anything else related to our Club and its activities. A surfeit of articles will allow me to fill these pages, and in the future prevent you from cringing in abject horror as I try to fill this page with material interesting to you. Thank goodness there is only 6% of the page left to fill, otherwise I sense that I will soon be descending into some kind of Lovecraftian tale involving the Great Old Ones, three septaria and fourteen pudding stones.

Maybe this COVID-19 thing is affecting me more than I thought!

- Rudy Silich, Newsletter 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 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](http://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.

HP Lovecraft - Dagon (hey, there are some rocks there!)

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.



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Tulip City Conglomerate  
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