



# 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)

Dec 2017

**Celebrating Fifty Years**

Volume 50, Edition 11

**Jan 17, 2018  
Board Meeting  
7pm HMCC**

**January 27, 2018  
1p - 4p  
Basement Field Trip  
Sherwood Residence  
(See page three)**



Please note the Howard Miller – Zeeland Public Library’s weather closing schedule in the event of inclement weather. The TCGMC will follow the library’s closing policy and schedule in the event of potentially severe weather. Contact the library at 616-772-0874.

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**General Meeting  
7 pm December 20, 2017**

**HIT THE ROAD TO COLLECT**

You may wear a pair of comfortable shoes but you won’t have to pack a suitcase or even gather your rock pick, gloves and buckets in order to go on FOUR different field trips on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Nevins will take us on Da Yooper Experience. Dan is a Geology graduate from Michigan Tech in Houghton and can’t seem to stay away from the lure of rocks found on the other side of the bridge. He’s not alone in that pursuit, so he won’t give away any secret spots but maybe he’ll take you there blindfolded!

Rudy Silich went on the Club trip last fall for Indiana Geodes. Our Editor has agreed to tell some of the adventures experienced by himself and others as they searched a stream bed for those very distinguishable round balls – hopefully full of crystals.

Mike Larson is going to share the beauties of New Jersey’s Colorful Fluorescent Rocks. In addition to seeing some of them on the screen, he’ll have samples to observe first hand, as will the other presenters.

Peter Riemersma and his son Dakota took a several weeks long trip Way Out West where they rambled and collected in at least four states. Peter is an Associate Professor at GVSU, teaching classes in Hydrology. More recently he has increased interest in minerals and rocks, especially those that are collectable.



## Club Calendar

**Jan 31 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
*Feb 10 – Basement Field Trip – Thomaszewski's*  
**Feb 14 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**

**Feb 28 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
 Mar 9-11 – Kansas City, MO  
 Mar 10-11 – Macomb, IL  
**Mar 14 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
*Mar 24 – Basement Field Trip – King's*  
**Mar 28 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
 April 7-8 – Lincoln, NE Annual Show  
**Apr 11 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
 April 14-15 – Canton, IL Annual Show  
**Apr 25 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**May 16 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**May 30 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Jun 13 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Jun 27 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**July Board/Picnic (Sat) Date TBD**  
**Aug 15 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Aug 25 (Sat) Tailgate, Sam's Club (tentative)**  
**Aug 29 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Sep 14-16 – 2018 Show (tentative)**  
**Oct 10 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Oct 24 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Nov 14 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Nov 28 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Dec 5 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Dec 19 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**

HMCC = Howard Miller Community Center, 14 S Church St. Zeeland, MI  
*Italic listings* are non-Club events. Major source of material is from:  
<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Calendar/>

Check out the Facebook Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/>

## 2017 Officers and Board of Directors

President	C.H. Falstad	<a href="mailto:cfalstad@ameritech.net">cfalstad@ameritech.net</a>
Vice President	Julia Sherwood	<a href="mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org">bobandjulia@accn.org</a>
Secretary	Dan DeGroot	<a href="mailto:degrootd@sbcglobal.net">degrootd@sbcglobal.net</a>
Treasurer	Patti DeGroot	<a href="mailto:degrootd@sbcglobal.net">degrootd@sbcglobal.net</a>
Fld Trip Coord.	Bob Sinke	<a href="mailto:bobsinke@comcast.net">bobsinke@comcast.net</a>
Historian	Betty Hoekstra	<a href="mailto:kbhoek@att.net">kbhoek@att.net</a>
Jr. Club Coord.	Rick Smith	<a href="mailto:Hollandrsmith@gmail.com">Hollandrsmith@gmail.com</a>
Jr. Club Coord.	Linda Winkelmann	<a href="mailto:lindawinkelmann@att.net">lindawinkelmann@att.net</a>
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Membership	Christine Silich	<a href="mailto:CSDS77@icloud.com">CSDS77@icloud.com</a>
Newsletter Ed.	Rudy Silich	<a href="mailto:tulipcitygemnews@charter.net">tulipcitygemnews@charter.net</a>
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Social Coord.	Linda Plumert	<a href="mailto:rplumert@gmail.com">rplumert@gmail.com</a>
Dir. at Large	Dan Nevins	<a href="mailto:dmnevins@mtu.edu">dmnevins@mtu.edu</a>
Dir. at Large	Teresa DeMol	<a href="mailto:t.demol@yahoo.com">t.demol@yahoo.com</a>
Past President	-Bob Sherwood	<a href="mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org">bobandjulia@accn.org</a>

For 2017, there are fifteen (15) positions, which have one vote each.  
 There are currently (16) persons on the Board (two persons share one position).

## **No Color Contest This Month**

The Color Contest this month will not be held to make table space available for the Junior ROCK PRIZE!

## **Food! Bring It!**

Please bring a favorite appetizer, cookie, bar, or candy to the December General Meeting. to share. If you are able , please bring the recipe. It doesn't have to be in a quantity to feed everyone.

## **Renewal Time!**

Club Dues are due by December 31. Please use the form on Page Six.  
 If you signed up during the Show in September, you are paid through 2018.  
 If you want to select a change in your Newsletter delivery, please use the form.  
 If you have questions, please speak to Christine Silich.

## **Estate Sale Notice**

There is an estate sale taking place in Grass Lake, east of Jackson, MI on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found on our Facebook page.

## **Be Creative. Get Published**

You humble Newsletter Editor is always happy to receive articles of a rockhounding, lapidary, or geological nature. They can be historical, personal, pedagogical, rhetorical, lyrical, humourous, melancholy, sanguine, taciturn, or even terse, as long as they relate to the purpose of the Club, however indirectly. Email me today!

## Winter Field Trips!

Bob Sinke

Three winter field trips have been scheduled. They will occur in spite of any bad weather that happens. Some of the sites have limited parking but not enough to hopefully hinder your experience. Enjoy the experience and the day.

- January 27, 2018 - Bob and Julia Sherwood will be opening their home between 1-4 pm. The address is 966 Lake St. South Haven, MI. 269-227-3202 if you get lost.
- February 10, 2018 - Kreigh and Monica Thomaszewski will open their home for your enjoyment. It is located at 653 Burton SE Grand Rapids, MI. and they will be open from 1-4pm. Phone # 616-243-5851 Please use their front door.
- March 24, 2018 - Roger and Arlene King will also be opening their home collection for your viewing enjoyment. They live at 2211 N. Whistlevale Dr. SW Byron Center MI. again they will be open from 1-4 Phone # 616-878-5163.

All of the collections have been acquired over a life time and are varied in their content. If you have not seen any of these you need to make it a priority to do so. All are (in my opinion) are well worth your time. ENJOY!

Also, mark your calendars and sign up for a Field Trip to ARKANSAS for QUARTZ CRYSTALS, planned for spring break week of March 31 through April 8, with collection days planned for April 2, 3, and 4

## President's Message – Spring River Exchange

C.H. Falstad, TCGMC President

At our general club meeting in November many members graciously stepped forward to donate material to the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club from Cherokee Village, AR. Our package arrived on Monday, December 4th as our box arrived at its destination in Arkansas, their exchange box arrived here and our board was able to open it and examine the specimens at the December Board meeting. The committee established to recommend the best method to use the materials decided we would like to do the same procedure as the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club, and that is have them at a special silent auction for our members. The plan is to have these all at our January General meeting, so hope you are there to see these are possibly take some home if you're the winning bidder.

I received an email from the exchange chair, Mary, and she was so excited by what we sent. She said she had never heard of some of those specimens before, and that was the intent – to trade materials we don't normally see in our respective areas. They said they would love to do an exchange with our group again next year.

As you will note in our field trip information, we are planning to make a trip to Arkansas to do some quality quartz crystal collection. Hopefully we can meet up with them when we are near and develop stronger relationships.

This has been so much fun several on the board talked about trying to do this ourselves with other distant clubs. Thanks for sharing your collections and keep the idea of future exchanges in mind as you do your rock collecting this coming year!



## Monthly Raffle

This month there are four different items in the Raffle for December and the drawing will take place after the Refreshment break. The money collected tonight will be set aside to be placed in a "Speaker Fund" to bring the Club someone special to speak at this year's April Scholarship Banquet. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

- 1) 11 issues of Rock & Gem from 2015
- 2) A rockhound's vest from a thrift store that has cloth patches and 12 assorted pins
- 3) 20 pins from Gem & Mineral Shows in Oregon and tourist spots nearby
- 4) A 5" x 7" slab of "pudding stone", a typical Michigan conglomerate rock



**Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club  
November 15, 2017 Board Meeting  
Howard Miller Community Center**

**7:00 PM – Call to Order**

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Julia Sherwood, Second by Rudy Silich, Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes of the October 11, 2017 Board Meeting, as corrected, Motion made by Bob Sherwood, Second by Rick Smith, motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of the October 25, 2017 General Membership Meeting, as corrected, Motion made by Liz Hoekstra, seconded by Linda W., motion passed.

October Treasurers report – Patti DeGroot distributed copies of the Banking Summary and checkbook register. A discussion followed involving Special Funding and where the money comes from.

**Board reports**

President – C.H. Falstad - C.H. thanked everyone for sending in their edits to monthly notes before the meeting. It saves a lot of time when we have our meeting.

The new Budget Committee will consist of: Patti DeGroot, Julia Sherwood and C.H. Falstad. The new Budget needs to be ready for the new year and the new slate of Board members.

C.H. has been in contact with a Rock Club in Arkansas that has a program of trading rocks with other clubs around the country. It would be nice to source minerals from other localities for our club sales. We will gather some local rocks, minerals and fossils and pack them up in a Priority Mail shipping box and send them to this other club. They will send us an assortment of rocks from their area.

Immediate Past President – Bob Sherwood: Bob received an article from the Fennville Library about a museum display at Wayne State University. They have a mineral collection that once belonged to Thomas A. Edison. This collection was apparently thrown out and someone had the opportunity to save the minerals which eventually got donated to Wayne State University. This could become a new field trip for us.

Vice President – Julia Sherwood: Julia is planning the meeting for November 29 which will be a DVD on Agates and a Black colored rock contest. Later there will be a live auction of four of the larger Larry Graves Lake Superior Agates.

Editor – Rudy Silich, Please have your articles in by Saturday, November 18.

Field Trip Coordinator – Bob Sinke: Bob led a trip to check out a gravel pit/quarry near Allendale. Everyone found some fossils while putting up with the rain. Bob will be vacationing in Arizona looking for more minerals.

Historian – Liz Hoekstra: Liz started a discussion of what to do with the large quartz plate that was donated to the club by the daughter of Jean Prys. See Recurring Business.

Junior Leaders – Linda Winkelmann and Rick Smith: The Junior Members will have a presentation on Fluorite and Hardness of minerals at the next General Meeting in November.

Liaison – Jackie Helder – Nothing new.

Membership Coordinator – Chris Silich had nothing new.

Show Chair – Sue Goedert was not in attendance.

Social Coordinator – Linda Plumert: Linda will have signup sheets for members to bring treats for future meetings. Linda also brought in a large slice of Petrified Wood donated to our club by Bill and Linda Heyworth of Beauties of Creation.

Directors-at-Large – Teresa DeMol absent Dan Nevins: nothing new.  
(Meeting minutes conclude on Page 6)

**Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club  
General Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 2017, 7 p.m.  
Howard Miller Community Center**

Attendance: Adults: 64 Juniors: 7

Welcome: There were a several new Visitors attending. Tyler & Amelia Knoll, Jeff & Maryanne Price and several other people.

Tickets were drawn for Door Prizes.

President's Remarks: C.H. Falstad explain the rock swap with the club in Arkansas.

Vice Pres. -Julia Sherwood explained the timing of our Live Auction of Larry Graves Lake Superior agates and Larry Graves 2-pound family agates, also the colored rock contest – “black”.

Past President – Bob Sherwood No report.

Treasurer – Patti DeGroot Financial Report.

Show Chair - Sue Goedert: next year's TCGMC Mineral Show, “Agates are Superior”. Sue asked for help with the next years show and the show budget committee.

Field Trips – Bob Sinke has three basement field trips planned. He is also planning a possible bus trip for mid May to Wayne State University new Geology Museum featuring Thomas Edison's collection that was given to Henry Ford. There may be a stop at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Hospitality – Linda Plumert: Linda requested treats (favorite cookies, bars, candies) and recipes for the December General Meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

President: C.H. Falstad; Vice President: Julia Sherwood/Peter Riemersma; Treasurer: Patti DeGroot; Secretary: Dan DeGroot; Show chair: Sue Goedert; Field Trips: Bob Sinke; Social Coordinator: Linda Plumert; Junior Club Coordinators: Rick Smith/Linda Winkelmann; Historian: Betty Hoekstra; Liaison: Deb Smith; Membership Coordinator: Chris Silich; Newsletter Editor: Rudy Silich; Directors at Large: Dan Nevins and Amy Dickinson. There were no additional nominations on the floor. The current Slate of of Officers was approved by all present.

Break for Refreshments:

There were four drawings for the monthly raffle items. There were jewelry books, a large glass slag specimen, a “Big Diggins” Agate specimen and a Rock Critter.

Steve Hamlin won the Black Rock Contest with three polished black stones from Lake Michigan with fossils showing.

(Meeting minutes conclude on Page 6)

### Board Meeting Minutes (*continued from Page 5*)

**Correspondence:** Letters will be sent out thanking those vendors who donated minerals and jewelry items to the club for sales and promotions.

**Recurring Business:**

A new volunteer is needed to handle the monthly raffle activity. (2005 to Present)

Rick Smith spoke about the Rock-Prize activity (a TCGMC version of "Art Prize") for our Junior members. We are initiating this program for the December meeting. Liz and Ken Hoekstra have offered to donate polished thundereggs for the prizes. Everyone will get something for competing.

We had discussion of what to do with donations to the club, specifically a large quartz plate, a large Luna Agate, a large Crazy Lace Agate, and a large Petrified Wood slice.

A motion was made by Patti DeGroot to have a four month raffle for the quartz plate and the winner will be chosen at the April banquet. The proceeds will be placed in the Gibson Scholarship fund. Bob Sinke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Julia Sherwood made a motion that the large polished Crazy lace and Luna Agates be auctioned off at a special auction at the October meeting. Linda Winkelmann seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The proceeds will be designated at a later date.

Julia Sherwood made a motion to have a raffle for three months (May to July) for a large slice of Petrified Wood from Madagascar and choose a winner at the July picnic. Bob Sinke seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Petrified wood was donated by the Heyworths after this years show. The proceeds will be designated for our speaker fund. It was suggested that we display the large Agates at next year's show to raise interest in the coming event.

**Items from visiting members:** Ken Hoekstra was approached by a person at our show who would like the club to remove a large amount of Petoskey stone and other lake stones that have been collected over several years. Ken checked back with his source and found out that another person made a good offer and purchased all of the rock.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

*The next Board meeting will be December 6, 2017. The following General club meeting will be December 20, 2017.*

Meeting notes submitted by :

Dan DeGroot, Secretary

### General Meeting Minutes (*continued from Page 5*)

There was a Live auction of seven larger Lake Superior Agates. We started with the smaller stones and worked up through the larger ones. C.H. Falstad was the auctioneer.

Winning bid amounts: 1. \$20, 2. \$16, 3. \$17, 4. \$35, 5. \$45, 6. \$51, 7. \$149

A total of \$333 was raised from the Auction.

The program for this evening: 2016 AGATE EXPO Symposium segment. The featured speaker is Pat McMahan on "Agates with Inclusions". Examples were available for viewing from the collections of Ken Hoekstra and Bob Sherwood.

Meeting Notes Submitted by:

Dan DeGroot, Secretary

### TULIP CITY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB RENEWAL FORM

DUES DEADLINE: - December 31, 2016

Mail to:

**Christine Silich**

**416 West Mae Rose Ave**

**Holland, MI 49424**

**Make check payable to TCG&M Club**

Check membership type:

Individual - \$15

- Family - \$20

Newsletter delivery:

via email - Free!

- Postal - \$5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

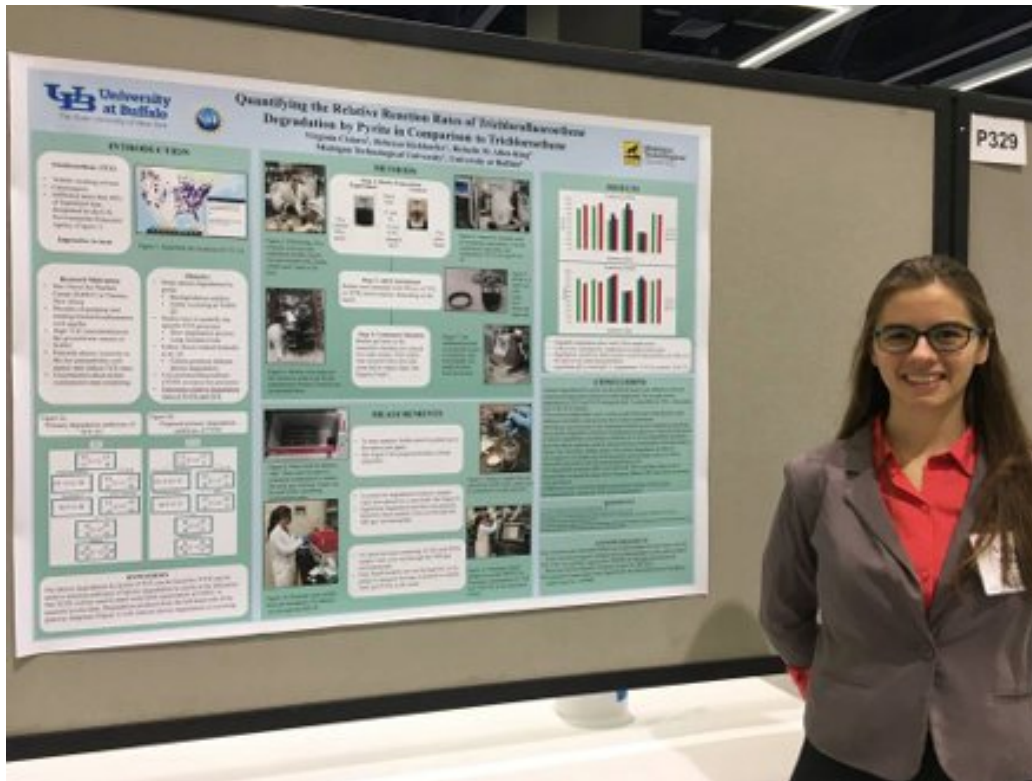
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*Note: Members who signed up at the 2017 September Show are paid through 2018.*



## Yes, Virginia, There Is a Blurb About You

*Actually, Virginia knows this already, since she sent the info to her proud Dad. She made Michigan Tech's Facebook page with the following caption and the photo below. - Ed.*



"Virginia, currently working towards her BS in GE, attended GSA 2017. She presented her research on the degradation of a common groundwater contaminant, TCE, found at more than 60% of Superfund sites around the US, and a potential tracer of this pollutant, Trichlorofluoroethane (TCFE). If the tracer proves viable, this will help immensely to track and determine the overall levels of TCE left in many contaminated sites around the US. [#huskiesunleashed](#) [#GSA](#) [#superfundsites](#) [#mturesearch](#)"

### RockPrize 2017 A Junior Event

Here are some last notes and rules on our 2017 RockPrize junior event:

1. Make and share something creative and/or informational—a drawing, a photo, a collage, a poster, a necklace, a painted rock...lots of possibilities!
2. Have fun!
3. Bring your creation to the December 20 meeting where we'll have a display table set up.
4. Put your name and age on one side of a 3 x 5 card and the "title" of your creation on the other side.
5. Have fun!
6. You can enter more than one creation, and you can enter in more than one "category." (For example, you can enter both a photo and a necklace.)

Every junior who enters will receive a rock prize and "most popular" entries will be chose in two age divisions...And don't forget to HAVE FUN!!

## New Member Snapshot: Mike Rakovits & Vicki Hartung

By Bob Sherwood

There are occasions when you talk with newly met individuals and you think; this is someone I really would like to know more about, that you connect with quickly, finding common background and experiences. Such was the case when I interviewed Mike & Vicki recently. So easy to talk with and an interesting couple that you will want to get to know. They joined our Club at the '17 show after having browsed the internet for shows. Mike and Vicki are already immersed in the hobby; they love travelling and have collected various rocks on numerous trips: Beaver Island, Ohio to the Nethers Farm for flint, Kentucky on a houseboat where they collected fossils and North Carolina for gemstones. When they came to our show it was not just about acquiring more rock related material but to see if they might find a home to further their knowledge and skills in lapidary.

Starting last July, Mike built a pole barn to incorporate a lapidary workshop at their home in Muskegon where Mike's personally built lapidary equipment is housed. He comes by this naturally having started as tool & die guy. (Remind anyone of Norm Gibson?) He now works at a landscape manufacturing company where he is in charge of a crew of 20 and does fabrication work. They enjoy doing all things together, often including the 9 grandchildren, several of whom they have brought along in the hobby, using what they have collected and teaching them lapidary techniques. Vicki is learning wire-wrapping by taking apart wire-wrapped jewelry she has acquired. To quote them, "we are happier when doing lapidary activities together." Still, one of the reasons they joined our Club was to learn more. Certainly our generous members can offer them help I'm sure.

Mike is looking forward to a time soon when they can visit his brother who lives in little place called Virgin, not far from St. George, Utah. Being quite remote, it's a rockhound's paradise for sure, and there's a brother who is picking up unusual rocks he does not know the name of. They are looking forward to participating in our spring trip to Arkansas.





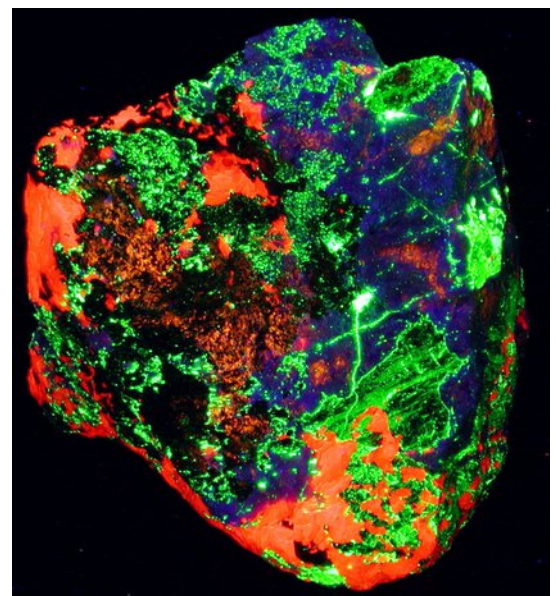
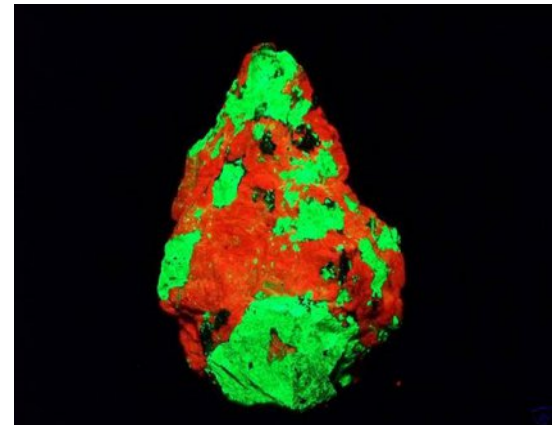
## Junior Rock Club Page

**"Let it glow, let it glow, let it glow"**

Fluorescent minerals are kind of magical—just like the Christmas season—so fluorescence should be a great topic for our December junior program. You've probably already encountered the phenomenon called "fluorescence." Maybe you got together with some friends to play laser tag and discovered that somebody's white socks or T shirts glowed brightly in the dark room and made that person an easy target. That optical phenomenon is called fluorescence, and many minerals also exhibit this phenomenon...and in some pretty spectacular ways! A plain looking specimen under regular, "white" light can glow a striking orange or purple under ultraviolet, or "black" light. For the December junior program we'll talk about fluorescence—what, how, and why—but best of all, we'll look at some terrific examples of these glowing, seemingly color-changing rocks. There's even a great specimen that glows bright red and green—Christmas colors! And that's not all: your take-home specimen is just like a Christmas present, a fairly rare mineral called yttrium fluorite, or yttrium fluorite, donated by Club president CH Falstad.

Join us for a spectacular light show at our Junior Meeting on fluorescence, Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 at Zeeland's Howard Miller Community Center.

Rick Smith & Linda Winkelmann  
Junior Club Leaders



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.

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  
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