



THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE



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

Website: www.Tulipcity.org

June 2019

Volume 52, Edition 6

**Jul 7, 2019
Club Picnic
West Side Park
Fennville, MI**

**Jul 13-14
Moose Lake , MN
Annual Show**

**Jul 19-20
Minocqua, WI
Annual Show**

**Jul 27-28
Frederic, WI
Annual Show**

**Aug 2-6
Ishpeming, MI**

**Aug 14
Board Meeting**

**August 24, 9a-2p
7th Annual Tailgate
Walters Garden
Zeeland, MI**

**August 28th
General Meeting
HMCC, 7p**

This Edition

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General Meeting June 26, 2019 – 7p.m.

This month we are having a meeting that is geared towards all rockhounds. Sam Cavada will start us off by talking about his personal experiences collecting syenite with fluorescent sodalite (yooperlite) and hopefully talk about his gorgeous pictures that you can see in the Rock and Gem magazine, and on the face book group "Great Lakes Rocks and Minerals". We will also have some of our own members talk about some fun field trips they have taken, and what current projects they are working on. We will have time for anyone in the audience to share a quick story, or a project (using rocks and minerals) that they are working on. You don't have to have pictures to put up on the screen, but you can. We also love to look at samples of what you have been collecting.

So come on out, enjoy the fun, and share some stories centering around our fun hobby!

PICNIC! Mark the Date! Sunday, July 7th, 3p – 8p. West Side Park, Fennville, MI

Last year's summer picnic was really great. We had a warm sunny day with NO rain. This year the picnic will be at the same West Side Park on Sunday, July 7. Its from 3 until 8. The club will provide the brats, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and drink. When you come, please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. We will have yard games. Please bring one to share. SEE YOU THERE!

Directions: Travel to I-196 Exit 34 (which is south of Saugatuck/Douglas), Exit 34 is M89/124th St. Travel WEST on 124th street, then turn left (SOUTH) on Lakeshore Drive. Follow Lakeshore Drive south as it makes a short jog on 123rd Street and continue south past Pier Cove Park. West Side Park is approximately one mile south of Pier Cove Park.

West Side Park,
2152 Lakeshore Drive,
Fennville, MI 49408

Club Calendar 2019

Jun 26 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jul 7 (Sun) – Picnic
 Aug 2-6 - Ishpeming
 Aug 14 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Aug 24 - 7th Annual Tailgate
 Aug 28 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Sep 13-15 – TCG&MC Show
 Oct 16 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Oct 30 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Nov 6 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Nov 20 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Dec 4 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Dec 18 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC

HMCC = Howard Miller Community Center, 14 S Church St. Zeeland, MI
Bold listings are Club events. *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/>



2019 Officers and Board of Directors

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For 2019, there are fifteen (15) positions, which have one vote each. There are currently (15) persons on the Board (two persons share one position). One position is open.

Show Corner

It is almost time for our Tulip City Club's annual Show that will be held this year on September 13, 14 and 15 at the Soccer Stop Sportsplex. This will be our 50th Show which makes it our "Golden Show".

Chet Smith and Joe Moran were co-chairs for that important event held September 11 and 12 in 1970.

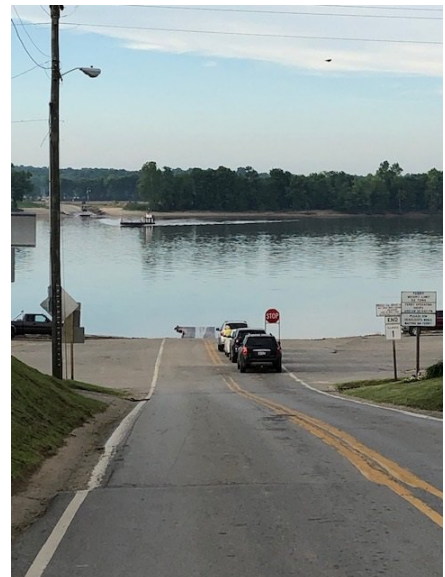
In upcoming issues of our Newsletter we will be including fun facts about our first Show.

Also, Chet Smith will be sharing with us some of his memories of working to plan and to host our very first exciting Gem and Mineral Show held 50 years ago. Please watch for Chet's article !

FIELD TRIPS REPORT

Julia Sherwood,
Field Trip Coordinator

August 2 to 7 – Ishpeming and the Keweenaw Peninsula. In Ishpeming there will be a Club Show on Saturday, August 3. The collecting opportunities in the area are plentiful. On August 6, we are moving to Mohawk for Keweenaw adventures. There will be a detailed handout available at the June General Meeting and the July picnic. A signup sheet will be there at both of those times as well.



Fluorite Trip – Adventure Cubed May 24-26, 2019

By Jodi Miller

Little purple cubes, that was the quest before us, and if we're lucky, other colors and glowing particles as well. A group from Michigan set off to find them, and more importantly, to have a good time, in late May. The adventurers included trip leaders Mike and Vicki Rakovits, myself and my daughter Chelsi, Jon Mull and his children Angie and Jack, John and Dianne Graf, Rick and Deb Smith, Tom and Rhonda Gehringer, Bill Burt, and Pam Havermans and her sister Bambi.

On Friday, I had to work in the morning, so Chelsi and I didn't get started on the trip until 11:00 AM. It was wonderful to be on another dig with my daughter, since it had been a couple of years since we were able to do it. We laughed along the way, and luckily had no car mishaps. We arrived in Cave-In-Rock, Illinois, and the State Park Campground at 6:00 PM to 90 degree heat, and were assigned a cute little spot between Mike and Vicki and Rick and Deb. We proceeded to put our tent up (which we had not done in about 3 years) and unloaded bags and chairs. Luckily, Mike and Vicki took pity on us and fed us dinner, because I was too exhausted and hot to put any kind of meal together. After we ate and showered, we met with the group at Rick and Deb's campsite to go over the next days schedule and to look at Mike's ever growing glowing rock collection. The fluorescent particles in the rocks glow orange, yellow, and purple.

On Saturday, we got up at 5:45 AM (because it was 6:45 in Michigan) and since we couldn't go back to sleep, Chelsi and I decided to go into town and get supplies and food before meeting up with the rest of the group. We took the ferry (in our car) across the Ohio River over to the Kentucky side. A good sign to start the morning with such a unique experience. We got off the ferry and drove 30 minutes into Marion, Kentucky. My biggest priority was purchasing a hat, because it was slated to be 91 degrees that day. We found a wonderful Dollar General that filled all of our needs, including a hat, and we drove around the area looking at the sites.

At 10:00 AM we met up with the rest of the group at the Ben E. Clement Fluorite Museum. David and Janyce Sorrells met us there and gave us a tour of the museum. It was HUGE and wonderful. We are so lucky that Mr. Clement had the foresight to collect these specimens and to keep and preserve them. We did learn that the museum is having difficulty coming up with funds to be able to stay open. It would be a shame if it had to close, or worse, the specimens divided and sent off to other places. We stayed in the museum for about an hour and a half, and then drove back to the ferry. Another ride across the Ohio River and the plan was to stop back at the campground to have lunch.

At 2:00 PM, we arrive at the American Fluorite Museum in Rosiclare, Illinois. This museum had had a fire and the money from the public digs would go to rebuild the museum. We spent time digging in the tailings, and picking up some core samples from the barn next to the dig site. A couple of people had some success and found some smaller pieces. (It wasn't until evening when we could use a fluorescent light on the core samples that we could see the many colors within them.)

After a short time at the museum, we drove to the home of Gary Griffins who is one of the last true fluorite miners. He and his son own and dig the Hasting Mine. Gary had many pieces displayed and available for purchase and Chelsi and I picked up some very nice samples. Gary also demonstrated how he cleaves fluorite.

Exhausted from digging and the heat, it is decided by the group to go back to the campground and have a potluck dinner. It was a wonderful way to get everyone together and talk about the finds, the museums, and the plans for the next day. The food was great and so was the company.

At 8:00 AM on Sunday, May 26, the explorers head to the Minerva Mine #1. This is where several members were able to find the more rare Blue Fluorite. I was not one of the lucky ones, but Chelsi actually found a couple of very nice pieces. This recollection of the trip would not be complete without the recounting of Chelsi's blood curdling screams that sent members rushing to assist her, only to

discover that it was over seeing a very large spider that appeared suddenly where she was digging. Other small creatures kept appearing during the dig as well, but none elicited the screams. After collecting a couple of buckets worth of material, the group decided to check out the Garden of the gods in the Shawnee National Forest. Upon arriving at the Forest, there was a brief shower, but we were able to have lunch, and then explore a truly magnificent hiking trail. The rock formations and view were astonishing.

Once the looped foot trail had been completed, David Sorrells agreed to take us to a location along the roadside that had several tailings piles. It was very overgrown, and did not prove to be as fruitful as he remembered, so we looked for a little while but decided quickly to go and find a spot for dinner. Driving back into Elizabethtown, Illinois, we intended to eat at a little pizza joint, but when we arrived, the clerks at the restaurant actually suggested we go to a little restaurant on the river called the E-Town. It was a little floating restaurant. The suggestion from the couple at the next table was to have the Catfish, which is what the place is popular for. I had never had catfish, so I ordered it and it was amazing. It was also fun to be floating on while eating, although Chelsi did get a little motion sickness.

Arriving back at the campground, we again gathered to show off the finds of the day, and Chelsi and I packed up some of our things as we were going to be headed home the next day. Many of the others were going to be heading to Brown County, Indiana to look for geodes. The next morning, we got up early, and headed back to Michigan.

Once home, we looked over the pieces we collected and purchased, both in daylight and under a fluorescent light, and were very pleased with what we got. We were also grateful for meeting new people and getting to know them better, which is a wonderful part of going on rock digs. We are anxious to hear how everyone else did with their collections.



Tulip City Community Outreach Through HerrickFest

Our Club was invited again this year to take part in Herrick Library's 4th "HerrickFest" event in Holland's Kollen Park. The weather gods cooperated June 8th to provide a beautiful sunny day for 18 non-profit organizations to present their activities and learning opportunities to people of all ages. The library has done a nice job of organizing and providing barrel rides, a photo booth, storytime performances, a dunk tank, and free summer treats. Missing this year was the Nature Center with its very popular cockroach race for kids!

Nine Club members had a great time talking with all ages and answering questions about our club and especially the Junior Club program as it relates to young people. 387 children were given a small, free named specimen. Our display provided touchable examples of Michigan minerals and fossils with location information. Basic rockhounding tools and equipment were laid out to show what we use on field trips. Flyers about club activities, the August Tailgate event and September Show were distributed as well.

Thanks to Rhonda Gehringer, C. H. Falstad, Ken and Betty Hookstra, Bob and Julia Sherwood, Rudy and Chris Silich, Rick and Deb Smith, who helped to make this a successful day!

Hey Fluorite: I Don't Like Spiders and Snakes, But If That's What It Takes to Get You....

by Pam Havermans

On Friday, May 24, 2019 sixteen members from the Tulip City and White River Rock Clubs met at Cave-in-Rock State Park in southern IL. We were ready to hunt fluorite in the hilly land!

Saturday morning this group took a tug and ferry across the mighty Ohio River from Cave-in-Rock, IL to Marion, KY. A relaxing, twenty-minute ride took us to the other side where we had an appointment for a tour of the Ben Clement Museum (Marion, KY) with our private guides, David and Janyce Sorrells of Paduca, KY. We also met a lovely family at the museum from St. Louis, IL who happened to be camping in our campground. They had gone to the museum on a whim, enjoyed our club members and the fascinating fluorite. They tagged along with us the rest of the day, became new enthusiastic rock hounds!

After our tour of this museum (wow, if you are in the area-stop and visit), our guides took the group to the Minerva Mine for a morning of tailings digging. But first!, he was quick to point out the areas where snakes and spiders hang out. (I did NOT go there!) But, others did, and from the high-pitched screams...someone found the spiders. I did not hear of anyone finding the cottonmouth snakes...

Chelsi Miller, always the lucky one, found a beautiful sky-blue Fluorite, free of imperfections near the spider / snake area; all the clear blues were found in this vicinity. Digging vertical rather than scraping horizontally proved to be the most advantageous way to find the bigger stones.. There were fluorite pieces everywhere. Some collected specimens were larger, but had inclusions and fractures. We were able to find Blue, Violet, Smoke, Honey and Clear pieces of fluorite.

Noontime took our group to Garden of the Gods, for a picnic-style lunch. While one could spend the entire day exploring here, we did not. Opting instead, for going to the Parkins Mine Tailings area. We were led there by our gracious guides, Our new location was shaded; but, it was still not easy digging.. All previous diggings had been in the direct sun with 85 degree days with high humidity. Brutal. Honestly, it felt like 100o, but I digress. By late-afternoon we were spent.

After two days of hard digging in Illinois, the group split up and some ran for home on Memorial Day while a few die-hards-never-want-to-quit Rockhounds went to Indiana in search of fossils and geodes. The roadcut for Archimedes Screw fossils was rather sketchy, with some overhangs having recently collapsed. This girl did not dig underneath them, although there clearly were signs of digging under these massive blocks of limestone. There were brachiopods, blastoids, crinoids lying loose underfoot, which were easily picked up. Our last stop was at a creek in Lawrence County, IN for some easy geode picking.

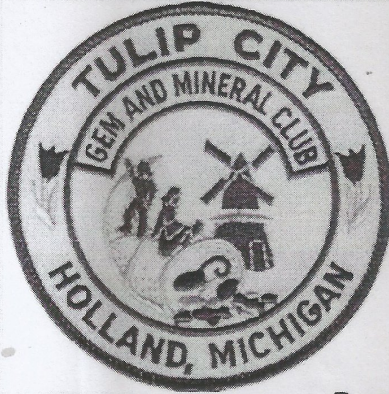
Most of us headed for home, while some camped overnight and drove home on Tuesday to avoid traffic. Overall, it was a wonderful weekend with friends.

Editor's Note: Pam did not put a title on her article, so, with apologies to Jim Stafford, I take full blame! Thank you, Pam and Jodi for your fine accounts!



TULIP CITY GEM & MINERAL CLUB SEVENTH ANNUAL TAILGATE SWAP N' SELL

FREE ADMISSION! FREE ADMISSION! FREE ADMISSION!



NEW LOCATION

At Walters Garden (Parking Lot)

1992 96th Ave.

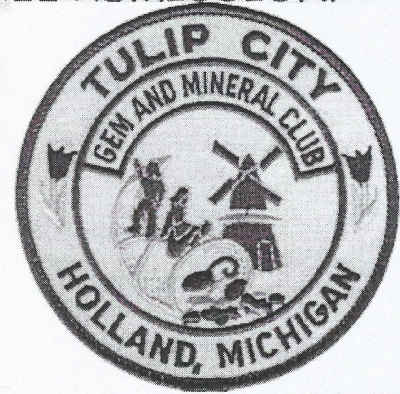
Zeeland, Michigan

(Chicago Dr. and 96th Ave.)

Date and Time

August 24, 2019

9:00 AM to 2:00 pm



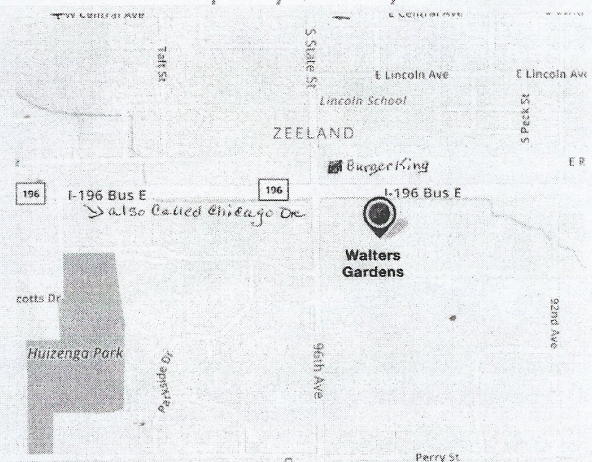
From rough rocks and slabs (finished to polished),
Copper, Crystals, Minerals, Cabinet Specimens and whatnot
to Finished Jewelry items on display!

The Club will have a sales booth present, along with
a Geode Cracking device!
Geodes will be available.

All members of a western michigan rock club are welcome to set up a
booth. Please keep all items ***rock related***.
You may bring folding tables, chairs, and a tent cover to be set up next
to your vehicle.

This Non-profit Organisation is
located near restaurants as well!

Donations are requested to cover the Porta potty facility.



Contact us online at www.tulipcity.weebly.com
Or call Tim Brandt at (616) 403-9176

Laker Crazy by Shari Luttkhuizen

I joined the rock club because I was interested in rocks. Whenever I went for a walk, there would be a rock in my pocket when I returned. When my daughter, Elly, was in the 3rd grade I chaperoned a field trip to the TCGMC rock show and I was hooked. It helped that she was geeky about rocks too. It opened my eyes to a whole new world.

I was fascinated by the different types of rocks and minerals that I saw at the shows, for sale at the silent auctions, and talked about at the club meetings. Intriguing colors, shapes of minerals and patterns in various specimens, but my eyes would always catch on the Lake Superior agates. The lucky individuals that were serious collectors called them "Lakers".

The sheer awesomeness of the fortification banding, the translucency (or being able to see light through part of them), the alternating red and white bands with a little quartz showing... I was in love. I felt that this was to be my destiny, that a serious Laker collector should be able to walk the beaches and amass a collection by myself. Buying agates was for sissies, I was going out to find my own!

There are a few of our club members who are kind enough to help a newbie out by identifying rocks for them and hopefully help them learn how to identify them by themselves. My first year I put them to the test! You all know who you are! "Bob, this one has bands, it has to be an agate!". "NO, Shari, it's called banded chert". "Are you sure?" "Yep". Hummmph. "Ken, this one is red, and there is a white stripe!!! Is it an agate?" "No Shari, Jasper!". Aaarrggghh!

Luckily for my fellow club members, summer finally rolled around, and Elly and I headed to the upper peninsula of Michigan, and to the Two Hearted river where I heard many agates had been found. No one told me that the rocks up north were so colorful!! How is a person supposed to ignore all the intensely colored beach rocks and focus on agates?? Luckily for my daughter, I had packed plenty of water and snacks because I was not going to leave that beach until I found my first Laker!

Four hours later, the sun was starting to go down, my daughter had stopped her whining and was just sitting listlessly in the sand, and I was about to give up, when, low and behold, I found it. IT! My first!

It was smaller than a nickel, not very pretty, but definitely a Laker! I was so excited I ran to Elly to show her the great prize, and her response was "great...now can we go???" . I'm sure she was just jealous.

During the winter months, I like to read up on different rocks and minerals, and I found out about the Moose Lake Agate Days held in Moose Lake Minnesota the next summer. If you like Lakers, that is the place to be! I saved my money, held a few garage sales, checked under the couch cushions for extra change, and made the trek to Moose Lake.

We arrived a few days early so I could hunt for my own Lakers. I went to the gravel pits that the county was giving free passes to, hunted for 3 hours, and found 1 small one (Quarter sized, this time). The next day I went in early to the show, and Oh my Goodness!! Laker Heaven!! I found out that they had lots of different colors... Red, white, light blue, dark blue, green, yellow, pink. Right then I decided if I was a true Laker collector, I shouldn't limit myself to what I could find in my short visits to Minnesota, I really should invest in some of these wonderful big and colorful ones! I handed Elly some cash, told her "you know what Momma likes" and off we went. We met up a couple of hours later, with fun stories, no money, but lots of gorgeous Lakers.

A couple of years later, we made a second trek to Moose lake, and happened to stop in the rock shop in Two Harbors, Minnesota, run by Dan Lynch. I picked up a new agate book titled "Agates of Lake Superior" by Dan and Bob Lynch. He describes all the "other" varieties of Lakers, not just ones with the fortification bands, but I started learning about Whorls, fragmented membranes, crystal impressions, peelers, water washed.... The list goes on! The more I learn, the more I am falling behind! Now I am obsessed to collect an example of all the different varieties.

I have learned a lot about agates, and other rocks and minerals in my 10 years of being a TCGMC member. Most rockhounds, are decent people, and love to share stories of this hobby. The more I

learn and study about rocks and minerals, and talk to other rockhounds, the more I love it. You can train your eyes to pick out Lakers, and I have even found a few in Lake Michigan. I will always try to find some by myself, but I know my limitations, and I'm not above stopping at rock shops or shows to buy some beauties. That reminds me... I haven't checked the couch cushions in a while. After all, summer is just around the corner!

Items for Sale

Please contact:

Jack Decker
6080 128th Ave
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2183

Genie - \$600.00
12" Lortone Saw ½ HP - \$250.00
24" Sperton Saw 1 ½ HP \$750.00
Arbor with blades and grinding wheel 1 HP \$90.00
Dry Sander ¾ HP w/ many sanding discs \$65.00
Old Flat Lap \$25.00
Old 10" Saw \$25.00

Plus plenty of cutting material, \$0.35 to \$6.00 per pound!



Junior Rock Club Page

SHALE LAYERS hide fossils and natural gas

While looking for Petoskey stones along the Lake Michigan coast south of Charlevoix, we also found SHALE, a flat grayish sedimentary rock! Slabs had broken off layers protruding from Rex Beach near Atwood MI. They were rounded like other beach stones, but so flat and shimmering a wet gray, black or tan. They smelled funny too! -- Remember Rick's shale with the *pyrite concretion* growing (from last month's presentation)?! He found it at the same beach, where the Antrim Shale layer meets Michigan's surface.

Shale is a rock that formed from fine-grained muds, mostly clay minerals and some organic debris, which all settled as ancient seabeds or outwashes or soils. Over geologic time, those muddy places were buried like a pile of icky carpets. Depth caused increasing temperature/pressure, so the clay muds stuck together ever more strongly and created *sedimentary rock* layers. - You'll find Shale is brittle, forming thin chips; while younger mudstones break into blocky pieces.

Fossils can be found between the Shale layers. Canada's famous Burgess Shale Beds show a variety of life forms in Earth's mid-Cambrian period (~505 million years ago). WE'LL SEE A SLIDE SHOW OF THESE FOSSILS. In Mazon Creek, Illinois, the shale beds immediately below each Coal layer represent the former soil from which the plants in the coal grew; *fossils of roots* are commonly found in that shale! At Mazon Creek, coal miners tossed out the shale and hidden fossils. - You can explore the spoil heaps!!

Shale Gas is one form of *natural gas*. The original muds captured organic material (rotted slimy stuff) that left gases as bacteria decomposed stuff. Since shale rock is not very permeable (leaky), the gases and possibly crude oil remained trapped. Shale is found around the world...

How do people/gas companies collect enough "natural gas" to heat our homes and run our factories? Sometimes there are natural fractures in the Earth, but most often wells are drilled to *explore* deeper rock areas. However, natural gas *extraction* is driven by money and new technologies. The *fracking method* (hydraulic fracturing) is utilized: Water is *pumped down* the well to break-up the shale and create pathways for the gas to rise to the surface for capture and use by our households etc.

Take home: Slab of Shale... suitable as a base for displaying another rock treasure.

Rick Smith and Linda Winkelmann
Junior Program 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

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

Specimens from the Ben E. Clement Museum

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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