



# 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)

Mar/Apr/May 2018

Volume 51, Edition 3

**May 30, 2018**  
**General Meeting**  
7pm HMCC

**Jun 1-3, 2018**  
**Wauseon, OH**  
Annual Show

**Jun 2-3, 2018**  
**Onalaska State, WI**  
Annual Show

**Jun 9-10, 2018**  
**Mansfield, OH**  
Annual Show

**Jun 13, 2018**  
**Board Meeting**  
7pm HMCC

**Jun 22-24, 2018**  
**Bedford, IN**  
Annual Show



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**General Meeting**  
**7 pm May 30, 2018**

### **Former Juniors, Who Are Juniors, Return**

This month, the Tulip City Gem and Mineral club welcomes back two of our Junior Members who were granted the Joe Moran Memorial Geology Scholarship two years ago, and are pursuing their degrees at different colleges. Virginia Cistaro just finished up her second year at Michigan Technological University and Marcus Brinks finished his second year at Hope College. Both of these young adults have been very busy, so it is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with them and see what their lives are like now, and which direction they are going. They will each give a short presentation, and there will be plenty of time for questions, so come prepared!



### **ROCK / MINERAL CONTEST - FLUORITE**

The Mineral contest is on for the month of May for all members. This month please bring in your favorite/best sample of fluorite. When you arrive, find the table for the mineral of the month. Write the name of the specimen and when it was found or where it comes from on an index card provided. **Don't write your name!** Each member will be invited to take a penny and place it by the specimen they think is best. A modest prize will be awarded to the one with the most pennies. Good Luck!

## Club Calendar

**Jun 13 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Jun 23 – Herrick Fest**  
**Jun 27 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**July 28 Board/Picnic (Sat)**  
**Aug 15 (Wed) Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Aug 25 (Sat) Tailgate, Sam's Club**  
**Aug 29 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC**  
**Sep 14-16 – 2018 Show**  
**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  
**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/>

## 2018 Officers and Board of Directors

President	C.H. Falstad	<a href="mailto:cfalstad@ameritech.net">cfalstad@ameritech.net</a>
Vice President	Shari Luttkhuizen	
Vice President	Peter Riemersma	<a href="mailto:riemersp@gvsu.edu">riemersp@gvsu.edu</a>
Secretary	Dan DeGroot	<a href="mailto:degrootd@sbcglobal.net">degrootd@sbcglobal.net</a>
Treasurer	Julia Sherwood	<a href="mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org">bobandjulia@accn.org</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>
Liaison	Deb Smith	<a href="mailto:dbsmith.2025@gmail.com">dbsmith.2025@gmail.com</a>
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>
Show Coord	Sue Goedert	<a href="mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com">sonbeams2000@yahoo.com</a>
Social Coord.	Linda Plumert	<a href="mailto:rlplumert@gmail.com">rlplumert@gmail.com</a>
Dir. at Large	Dan Nevins	<a href="mailto:dmnevins@mtu.edu">dmnevins@mtu.edu</a>
Dir. at Large	Amy Dickinson	<a href="mailto:adickins@oaisd.org">adickins@oaisd.org</a>
Past President	-Bob Sherwood	<a href="mailto:bobandjulia@accn.org">bobandjulia@accn.org</a>

For 2018, there are fifteen (15) positions, which have one vote each. There are currently (17) persons on the Board (four persons share two positions).

### **Silent Auction!**

Next month's program will be a silent auction! Make plans today to figure out what you will buy and sell! Check the website for auction slips for your items. Mark your calendars – Jun 27.

### **Picnic Time!**

The date for the Club picnic will be Saturday, July 28 at the Sherwood residence. Mark the date!



I apologize for the absence of the last two editions of the newsletter. A catastrophic computer failure, aligned with the Arkansas field trip lengthened the replacement time greatly. Then, problems with the replacement required another replacement! Fortunately, things seem to be working properly now. I think.

### **April Scholarship Banquet Raffle Results**

The Quartz Crystal Plate winner was Mike Kesterke of Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society. Congratulations, Mike! The \$795.00 in proceeds has been donated to the GVSU Norman and Helen Gibson Geology Field Study Scholarship. The Crystal was generously donated to our club by Becky Simon.

A Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society gift for a Bonus drawing was given by David Haas. This Zeolite specimen, from West India, was won by Vondalee Knoll. Thanks, David, for your generosity.

### **Summer Raffle Event!**

**Item:** Madagascar Petrified Wood  
**Donated by:** Beauties of Creation

A slice of natural history is the exciting specimen for our new summer raffle. It's a log slice,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " inch thick and about 10" in diameter. The winning ticket will be drawn at our July Club meeting (you don't have to be present to win). Tickets are also available at the May and June Club meetings and are 1 for \$5, 5 for \$20 or 13 for \$50.

## HerrickFest, June 23, 2018

Again this year, our Club has been invited to take part in Herrick District Library's summer event in Kollen Park. This FREE event features entertainment, food, activities, learning experiences and opportunities for people of all ages to connect to local non-profit organizations. The many events this year will expand to include a live reptile exhibit—specifically, an alligator(s), a cockroach race and a drone demonstration! Not sure we can top those!

Nine club members have agreed to help promote awareness of our Club, but other members are encouraged to help out. Saturday set-up time is 9:30 a.m. and it runs until 2 p.m. We will offer general Club information: newsletter copies, membership forms, and flyers about the August Tailgate and September Show. There will be special focus on our Junior Club program with our two leaders present to encourage young people. Each child will also be given a free named rock specimen. Touchable display samples of Michigan fossils and minerals will be put out. Since field trips are a large part of what our club is about, there will be basic rockhounding tools and equipment on display.

In case of inclement weather the event will be moved to the Holland Boys & Girls Club on Van Raalte Ave.

### Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club February 14, 2018 Board Meeting Howard Miller Community Center

#### 7:00 PM – Call to Order

Approval of Agenda: Motion by CH Falstad, Second by Rudy Silich, Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes of the January 17, 2018 Board Meeting, as corrected, Motion made by Liz Hoekstra, Second by Rick Smith, motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of the January 31, 2018 General Membership Meeting, as corrected, Motion made by Deb Smith, seconded by Rudy Silich, motion passed.

January Treasurers Report. Patti DeGroot gave the Treasurers Report. She read the results of the yearly Audit results which was approved.

#### Board reports

President – C.H. Falstad

Immediate Past President – Bob Sherwood : Bob reported that the number of people going to the Arkansas field trip is down to 28. Bob will have more updates at the General Meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Vice President – Julia Sherwood: Julia is planning the meeting for February 28<sup>th</sup> which will be a presentation by John Van Regenmorter from GVSU on the Vertebrate Fossils of West Michigan. The monthly rock contest will be on Gypsum minerals including Selenite and Alabaster.

Editor – Rudy Silich, Please have your articles in by Saturday, February 17 by 6 pm.

Field Trip Coordinator – Bob Sinke: Bob is out looking for more minerals.

Historian – Liz Hoekstra: Nothing new.

Junior Leaders – Linda Winkelmann/Rick Smith: The Juniors will have a presentation on Silica and Muscovite minerals in February.

Liaison – Deb Smith – Deb has a new email. She is gathering names of representatives from six other mineral clubs that will be invited to our spring banquet.

Membership Coordinator – Chris Silich had nothing new.

Show Chair – Sue Goedert: Sue said that several vendors have already signed up for this years show. The first Show Committee meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Social Coordinator – Linda Plumert : Linda was not present.

Directors-at-Large – Amy Dickinson. Amy is working on monthly raffles, fliers and advertising on FaceBook. Dan Nevins: not present..

**Correspondence:** None

**Recurring Business:** None

**Items from visiting members:** Ken Hoekstra asked if we have a copy of the Midwest Federation Insurance policy that is provided for all the mineral clubs in our district. We do not have a copy. C.H. will investigate.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

*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.*

The next Board meeting will be March 14, 2018..

The following General club meeting will be March 28, 2018.

Meeting notes submitted by:

Dan DeGroot, Secretary

**Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club**  
**February 28, 2018, 7 p.m.**  
**Howard Miller Community Center**

Attendance: Adults: 72 Juniors: 8

Welcome; Several New Members and Visitors were introduced and shared why they came to our club..

There was a drawing for door prizes for juniors and adults.  
Dismiss the Junior members and leaders.

President's Remarks: We are looking for a second Rock & Mineral club with which to exchange minerals.  
Vice President Julia Sherwood explained tonight's mineral contest for Gypsum. Rochelle Knoll won.

Past President – Bob Sherwood talked about our upcoming field trip to Arkansas. There are currently 26 people on the list to go. There was a short meeting for the trip after our regular meeting this evening.

Treasurer - Patti DeGroot gave the Financial Report.

Show Chair - Sue Goedert reported on the fliers that the Career Tech Center is printing up for us. The first proof print was shown to the club tonight. The Career Tech Center also printed up all new business cards for our club.

Chris Silich has a signup sheet new name tags if you need one. There are different colored outlines for board members(Green), juniors(Red) and regular members(Blue).

Field Trips – Bob Sinke is out rockhounding. In his stead; Julia Sherwood requested volunteers to help sew bags for club sales of mineral kits for kids. She has several packs of 20 available. We need women or men that can sew.

There is a Field Trip by bus planned for Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> to Wayne State University to see the Edison Mineral Collection in the morning. We will stop at Cranbrook Institute of Science during the afternoon. You can bring your own lunch or you may eat at the Cranbrook Cafe for lunch if we give them a head count of how many wish to do so. Julia will get a copy of the menu. We plan to leave the Cranbrook by 3:30 pm in order to get back before dark. There will be a cooler on the bus to keep food cold.

The next home field trip will be March 24<sup>th</sup> at Roger and Arlene Kings. They live at 2211 N. Whistlevale Dr. SW, Byron Center, MI. They will be open 1 to 4 pm. Phone # 616-878-5163.

Liaison – Deb Smith has tickets for the large quartz plate raffle. Tickets are \$5 each, 6 for \$25 of 13 for \$50. All proceeds will go towards the Gibson Scholarship fund.

Sheri Luttikhuisen has Lake Superior Agates for sale again. They are all bagged up and ready for sale.

Our Social Coordinator Linda Plumert has a signup sheet for refreshments. We need at least three volunteers for each meeting to have a selection for everyone.

Break for refreshments at 7:29 pm.

Program this evening:

1. COLLECTING METEORITES by Chris Cooper
2. FOSSILS OF WEST MICHIGAN- FINDS AND FOUNDS By John Van Regenmorter (GVSU)

The meeting adjourned after the presentations.

**Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club**  
**March Board Meeting**  
**Howard Miller Community Center**  
**March 14, 2018**

**7:00 PM – Call to Order**

Approval of Agenda: MOTION BY: Rick Smith ,second by Bob Sherwood, Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of Feb 14, 2018 - Board Meeting. Motion by Liz Hoekstra, second by Linda Plumert, Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of the Feb 28, 2018 General Membership Meeting, amended by Julia Sherwood, motion by Sue Goedert, second by Dan Nevins, Motion Passed.

February Treasurers report – Patti DeGroot

**Board reports**

President – C.H. Falstad: Commented on strange emails from a foreign source. MWF has warned of email scams targeting mineral club Treasurers and Presidents.

Immediate Past President – Bob Sherwood: Bob handed out maps to the people present who are going on the trip to Arkansas. Bob received the insurance liability documentation for the trip. Bob passed out the list of trip members names and phone numbers, Hotels, etc.

Vice President – Julia Sherwood said the speaker for the March General meeting will be (retired from GVSU) Dr. William Neal who will speak about Lake Michigan beach geology. Also our rock of the month contest mineral will be Malachite.

Editor – Rudy Silich Have your news items in by Saturday at 6 PM.

Field Trip Coordinator – Bob Sinke currently on assignment in warmer climates.

Julia Sherwood read an article in the MWF Newsletter about giving back to the Club (written by Dave Root a former TCGMC member). On that note Julia wants to subsidize the field trip to Wayne State University and the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Julia requested that we spend \$800 from the General fund to give back to the club for all the volunteers in all of our club functions to support the trip in addition to the \$295 in our Special fund for the bus trip. Each member taking the bus trip will need to pay \$30, instead of the \$50 originally planned. Our Club will subsidize each member of the bus trip with \$20 from the club. A 40 passenger bus will be provided. Our club gets to sign up first, then the Indian Mounds Club, then the Kalamazoo Club.

We will give \$100 to Wayne state for a Docent to show us around. And the bus driver will receive a gratuity of \$100. We will fund \$1095 total funds for the trip. This started out as a thank you to the club but very few members will benefit.

Julia made a motion to give up to \$800 toward the trip from the general fund plus \$295 bus fund..

It was put to a vote: 11 Yes, 3 No;

Historian – Betty Hoekstra: Some of our Club's Historical records were out to be computerized and may have been misplaced. We are investigating the details. We hope to place copies of old historical newsletter items in our monthly newsletters.

Junior Leaders – Linda Winkelmann gave a request for more minerals for the Junior study group.

Liaison – Deb Smith: Special guest invitations went out in the mail for the Spring Banquet. Deb requested that a special table be set up at the entrance of the room for the purpose of selling tickets for the Gibson Fund Quartz Plate.

Membership Coordinator – Chris Silich: Chris gave an update of member statistic; 197 total members: 37 Juniors, 57 Couples, and 46 Single Adults.

Show Chair – Sue Goedert - Sue explained that schools would like to see our club put out more educational information to justify sending students to our show. They only get 2-3 field trips per year. Soccer Stop is missing some black posts and yellow plastic chains that were used for blocking off areas. They are requesting that we check or trailers in case they were accidentally picked up by someone from our club.

Linda Winkelmann showed us some of the new show fliers that were just printed up. VERY NICE !

Social Coordinator – Linda Plumert: Our Spring Banquet will be held April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Howard Miller Community Center in Zeeland. Dr Peter Voice from Western Michigan University will be the speaker. He will speak on "Geologic Resources of Michigan: A Summary of Historic Production Data". Julia Sherwood suggested that we give out specimens of Specular Hematite as banquet favors as she has a box full of them. We will have 19-20 tables set out for food and dining. The Banquet Committee has met for planning. Please label foods as "Peanut Free" or "Gluten Free" as required. We will need additional people as runners or helpers. Workers will arrive by 5 pm to set up and move tables.

Directors-at-Large – Amy Dickinson: Has three items for this month's raffle. Dan Nevins: This year's Tailgate activity may need to be moved from Sam's Club in Holland due to a new town ordinance. Dan will investigate further to clarify and fix the situation if possible. More later.

**Correspondence:** We received a donation from the Hudsonville Library in the amount of \$20. The donation was in appreciation of volunteer work done by Liz and Ken Hoekstra. The donation will be added into the General Fund.

#### Reoccurring business:

We discussed Herrickfest and what to do in case of inclement weather. Herrick Library is planning to go to the Holland Boy's and Girl's Club building on Van Raalte street if the weather is a problem. The general consensus is that we will be there rain-or-shine. One of the board members asked if we were going to do the Fluorescent Mineral tent at Herrickfest. We have that capability now, but there was no interest to do so and Peter Riemersma doesn't have time to work on it. Bob Sherwood passed out a signup sheet for those that will attend HerrickFest and asked that we put our email addresses down so we may get notice of the alternate site in the event of expected bad weather. There was a show of hands and the majority is for using this alternate site.

There was a discussion of obtaining Optional Insurance instead of Midwest Federation insurance that we get each year. Sue Goedert investigated and found that we can get better insurance locally than that provided from MWF. We have already purchased insurance for this year but maybe next year we will be better informed and prepared to make a change. Sue will investigate the cost of D & O insurance for Board members, (Errors & Omissions insurance). If we don't take MWF insurance, will MWF refuse us membership? C.H. Falstad reported that some clubs have gone to outside sourcing for insurance.

**Items from visiting members:** Ken Hoekstra asked about why only those 40 people who go on the bus get rewarded with special funds money and consideration with food and drinks. Any additional people that want to go would have to do so at their own expense, possibly rent a van to extend the number of people wanting to attend. Also if there are not enough people from our club interested in going, we will offer seats to other mineral clubs in the area. Is this

good use of our funds to support other club members outside of our club with our money?

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Notes submitted by:  
Dan DeGroot, Secretary

*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.*

Next General meeting: March 28, 2018

Next Board meeting: April 11, 2018

#### Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club General Club Meeting March 28, 2018, 7 p.m.

#### Howard Miller Community Center

Attendance: Adults: 54 Juniors: 5

Welcome; Amy Riley a first time visitor was introduced and shared that she is a teacher and is interested in our club.

Dismiss the Junior members and leaders.

Rudy Silich reminded everyone that if they did not renew their membership, they did not get a newsletter. Also that your newsletter may be late due to a computer malfunction.

Vice President Julia Sherwood explained tonight's mineral contest for Malachite.

Past President – Bob Sherwood talked about our upcoming field trip to Arkansas. There will be a short meeting for the trip during the break this evening.

Treasurer - C.H. Falstad requested some help. We are looking for someone to take over the position of Treasurer for our club.

Show Chair - Sue Goedert reported that the first show meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup>. She asked that we support the Indian Mounds and Kalamazoo Clubs by attending their shows.

Membership Chair - Chris Silich has a signup sheet if you need a new name badge.

Field Trips – Bob Sinke is out rockhounding. In his stead; Julia Sherwood gave an update on our field trips.

There is a Field Trip by bus planned for Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> to Wayne State University, hosted by Dave Lowry, to see the Edison Mineral Collection in the morning. The bus will leave at 7 am from the Menard's Parking lot in Holland (SW corner of Highway 31 and 16<sup>th</sup> street) where there is plenty of parking for our cars. Checks should be written out to : TCGMC for \$30 and sent to Julia Sherwood, 966 Lake Street, South Haven, MI.

We have 20 people signed up so far and have a 40 seat bus to fill. We will stop at Cranbrook Institute of Science during the afternoon. You can bring your own lunch or you may eat at the Cranbrook Cafe for lunch if we give them a head count of how many wish to do so. Julia has a copy of the menu. We will be escorted through the Cranbrook by members of the local mineral club. We plan to leave the Cranbrook by 3:30 pm in order to get back before dark. There will be a cooler on the bus to keep food cold.

There will be beverages and munchies provided.

Liaison – Deb Smith has tickets for the large quartz plate raffle. Tickets are \$5 each, 6 for \$25 or 13 for \$50. All proceeds will go towards the Gibson Scholarship fund.

Our Social Coordinator Linda Plumert has a signup sheet for food for the Spring Banquet, April 25<sup>th</sup>. 6 pm for punch and 6:30 for dinner. Food should be labelled as “Peanut free”, or any other food restriction.

Break for refreshments at 7:19 pm.

Program this evening: Lake Michigan Beach Geology

By Dr. William Neal, retired (GVSU)

Minutes submitted by

Dan DeGroot – Secretary

**Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club  
April 11, 2018 Board Meeting  
Howard Miller Community Center**

**7:00 PM – Call to Order** (All present except Linda Winkelmann)

Approval of Agenda: Motion by CH Falstad, Second by Rudy Silich, Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes of the March 14, 2018 Board Meeting, as corrected, Motion made by Deb Smith, Second by Julia, motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2018 General Membership Meeting, Motion made by Bob Sherwood, Seconded by Deb Smith, motion passed.

Treasurers Report. Not available, Patti DeGroot resigned.

**Board reports**

President – C.H. Falstad :

Treasurers Report. Not available, Patti DeGroot resigned.

Immediate Past President – Bob Sherwood : Bob reported that he went to the Holland Civic Center to check it out but no one of authority was available for comment.

Vice President – Julia Sherwood: Julia is planning the meeting for April 25<sup>th</sup> which is our Spring Banquet. There will be a presentation by Dr Peter Voice from Western Michigan University on “Geologic Resources of Michigan: A Summary of Historic Production Data”.

The monthly rock contest will not be held due to all of the festivities.

Editor – Rudy Silich, Please have your articles in by Saturday, March 14 by 6 pm.

Field Trip Coordinator – Bob Sinke: Bob has returned. Bob thanked the Sherwoods for filling in in his absence. Bob may have a field trip to Wisconsin in the works for sometime this summer. Details to follow.

Historian – Liz Hoekstra: Liz commented on the death of Olga DeKok one of our Charter members. She will follow up on contacting Olga's family.

Junior Leaders – Linda Winkelmann and Rick Smith: The Junior Members will not have a presentation due to the Spring Banquet.

Liaison – Deb Smith – Deb sent out invitations to representatives from six other mineral clubs. So far eleven have confirmed that they will come to our spring banquet. Deb asked if we have a picture of the petrified wood slab that was donated by Beauties of Creation after last year's show. Rudy Silich had them but his computer hard drive crashed. We will locate the picture and forward it on.

Membership Coordinator – Chris Silich had nothing new.

Show Chair – Sue Goedert: Sue said that several vendors have already signed up for this years show. The first Show Committee meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Social Coordinator – Linda Plumert : Linda said the Banquet plans are coming along very well. Bring plenty of food.

Directors-at-Large – Amy Dickinson. Nothing new.

Dan Nevins: Dan commented on the Tailgate show at Sam's Club in Holland Township. We are not planning on any problems as reported in last month's Board meeting minutes.

**Correspondence:** None

**Recurring Business:**

The bus field trip has 22 members signed up so far. Julia Sherwood is soliciting other club members by email, who may not have heard about the trip. A motion was made to set the cutoff date and number of members required. The motion passed. There will be a cutoff date to sign up on or by April 18<sup>th</sup>. We have to have at least 35 people signed up and payed by then in order to confirm the trip with the bus company.

**New Business:**

A motion was made by Deb Smith to appoint Julia Sherwood as Treasurer. Ther motion was seconded by Rudy Silich, the motion was approved.

The approval of the contract with Soccer Stop as the venue for our Mineral Show in September is at hand. Sue Goedert made a motion to approve the contract with an amendment to change the time of the Monday table/chair pickup from 9 am to 11 am. The table provider must come from Muskegon and they are not able to make an early morning run and be able to load the tables and chairs before 9 am. Rick Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Items from visiting members:** Ken Hoekstra was present but had no comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

*The next Board meeting will be March 14, 2018..*

*The following General club meeting will be March 28 ,2018.*

Meeting notes submitted by :

Dan DeGroot, Secretary

## Field Trip to Mt. Ida, Arkansas for Quartz Crystals

March 31- April 5

By Jodi Miller

Steve and I awoke early on Saturday morning, March 31. Unfortunately, I had come down with a mild case of the flu, and I don't remember much of the preparation or the drive to meet up with the Sherwoods at the Dutch Farm Market. The two cars caravanned down to Blytheville, Arkansas and met up with many of our group at the Super 8. After a dinner at the local steakhouse, we all retired early to bed to prepare for the drive the next day.

The next morning was Easter Sunday and we began the final short drive to Mt. Ida, Arkansas, located in the Ouachita Mountains. When we were a distance down the road, we heard that John Mull and his daughter, Angie, had had car difficulties. They were going to stay near Blytheville and wait until the next day to get it checked out and hopefully repaired. The rest of us made it to the Crystal Inn Motel. Steve and I took a ride to one of the crystal stores we had passed along the way. It was exciting to see samples of the type of crystals there were in the area, and what we would be collecting throughout the week. When we returned to the motel, four other couples were making plans to go to the Shangri-La Restaurant, famous for its homemade pies, and we decided to join them. Bob and Julia Sherwood, Ray and Linda Plumert, Rick and Deb Smith, and Rudy and Christine Silich and Steve and I drove over to the restaurant, which sits on a beautiful lake and we ate a wonderful dinner. After dinner, we all went back to the motel for final arrangements before the first dig in the morning.

The next day, April 2, we all initially met in the parking lot of the Crystal Inn Motel. The weather was a little chilly with a fine misting rain. We had a brief meeting with Bob Sherwood letting us know the details of the dig. Gary Green of Norman, Arkansas was letting us dig in the Cliff Mine which is one of the Quartz City Mines. The Cliff Mine produces large, clear quartz specimens. One standout feature is that many specimens do not have a host rock matrix. The bottom of the quartz clusters is quartz. This is because there is a layer of sandstone between the quartz and the host rock. This creates beautiful displays when the crystals and the quartz they sit on are cleaned. We all went in our cars and caravan to meet Gary's son, Leo. We then all follow him in an impressive car caravan out to his mine, which includes climbing a two track up the mountain. When we arrived, we unloaded our gear and climbed up a small mountain to the area that has been opened to develop the mine. Steve and I meet Justin, who works for the mine. He was very kind and instructed us on the best way to find quartz crystals. The veins of the crystals run from top to bottom of the mine. Occasionally, these veins run into each other and may open into a pocket, which is where most of the large impressive specimens come from. But it is a lot of work to harvest the crystals, and luckily for everyone, there was an abundance of crystal points laying all over the ground of the mine. I even found some beautiful examples right on the two-track coming in to the mine. Steve and I were able to collect about four buckets of crystals, mostly points, but a couple of clusters as well, even though I was still not feeling very well. All too soon, we needed to pack up and leave. As we were coming down the mountain with our last buckets, we took a moment to look around at the beauty on the mountain. Being up that high, you actually look down at the tree tops.

Thankfully, it was not the end of our collecting for the day. Bob Sherwood had arranged for us to drive over to the home of Stuart and Sandra Schmitt, owners of Clear Creek Crystals. In the little shop on their property we were allowed to go through the boxes of materials that they had and purchase some very unique and quality specimens. Steve managed to find and buy a gorgeous cluster of quartz crystals that were black, and we discovered that they had been radiated. I bought a wavellite cabochon and a crystal specimen as well.

For dinner on Monday night, Steve and I drove to the grocery store to buy some things to eat in the room, while several others went out to the El Diamante Mexican Restaurant. When we all had finished eating, we congregated outside of the motel with some adult beverages and discussed the success of the day's digging.

On Tuesday morning April 3, the sun had come out, but so did the winds. This was the day we were going to the famous Twin Creek Mine owned by Bobby Fecho and Dixie Williams. At the Twin Creek Mine, we paid \$20 per person and the digging for the day started out slow, for everyone except Ray Plumert, who found a honey hole to dig in. We were also excited to have John Mull and his daughter rejoin us, having left his car in Blytheville to be repaired and he was able to rent a car. The view from the top of the mine was amazing. The colors of the trees across the ridge were three distinct shades of green that deepened when the sun came out from behind any clouds. Steve and I were able to collect a couple of buckets here as well and found about four specimens over 8 inches wide. We began to understand the need for all the packing material. When the crystals are sticking out of the quartz, you handle them very carefully so as not to break off the points. At around 4:00 pm, word began circulating that a severe weather warning had been issued for the area. We

quickly packed up and headed back to our motel. The storm was evident by the dark clouds that were circling around the motel. I loved the pictures I was able to take of both the storm clouds and the gorgeous sunset that followed. We later learned that golf ball sized hail had fallen in the town near us during the storm.

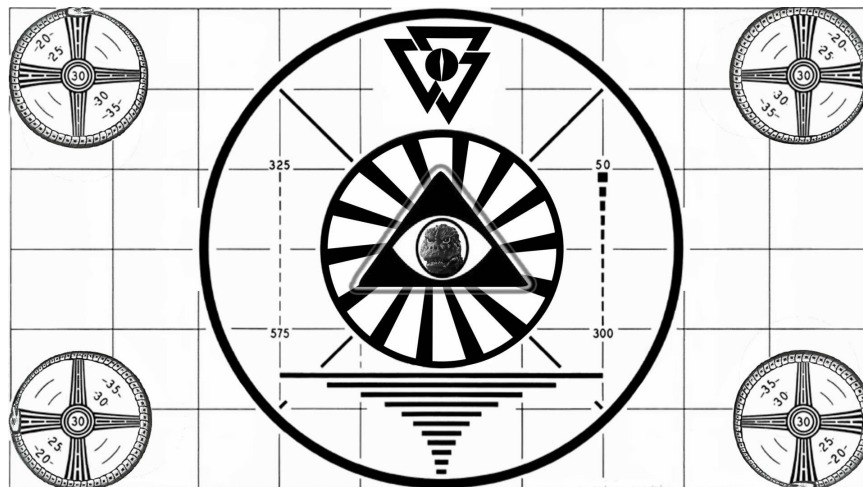
That night, the whole group descended on the Shangri-La Restaurant. It was a little overwhelming for the little place, but the food was still just as wonderful, and many more of us took advantage of the homemade pie. We gathered in front of the motel again after dinner and talked about and compared the two mines we had been to and the anticipation of the mine for the next day.

The third day of digging on Wednesday, April 4 was scheduled for the Wegner Phantom Mine. We met again in the motel parking lot for our pre-dig briefing. This dig was coordinated by Dan Nevins, and he gave us details about what we could expect. We only had a short drive to get to the Wegner complex. When we arrived, we were able to wander around the grounds and there were some very large and impressive crystal clusters displayed. There was also a beautiful memorial totem that was carved from the tree that had stood on the spot. Surrounding the base, on the ground, were thousands of crystal points. The vehicles pulled up and they were safari type jeeps. Having just recovered from my illness, I asked if I could sit in the cab as opposed to sitting out on the benches on the bed of the vehicle. The driver informed us that although it was only five miles to the mine, it would take us an hour to get there because of how slow we had to drive with the people sitting in the back. There were four of us in the truck cab, and we were treated to history and stories about the mining industry of the area. Unfortunately, the road to the mine was uneven and slightly treacherous, which caused my vertigo to kick in and I became motion sick. Luckily, I had some Ginger Ale with me, as that is the ultimate cure all for nauseas.

Digging at the Wegner was fun, and many people found some very nice specimens. This is where some of the larger crystals were found, as well as the "phantom" crystals containing manganese inclusions. Phantom crystals are caused by temporary interruption(s) of the crystal's growth process. Small bubbles, or small settling particles of shale or fine-grained minerals, adhere to the crystal faces of the growing quartz, resulting in 'phantoms' that look like a crystal grown inside of another crystal. The time went quickly, and soon it was time to get back into the safari vehicle to go home. We loaded up the buckets and clusters, including a couple of very nice "yard displays". We began the hour drive at 5 mph speed trip home and once again, I began to get motion sick. Sadly, I had no Ginger Ale to cure the pain, and I had to have the truck stop so that I could get sick....twice. It was extremely painful and embarrassing. We finally made it back to the store, and I was able to walk to our car and laid down. It took its toll, and I ended up sleeping for the next two hours, getting up in time to eat and socialize for the evening.

It was the intent of the group to go to Keokuk to collect geodes, but with the temperatures being unseasonable cold, and storms in the forecast made everyone think twice. Steve and I decided to skip Iowa and attend to some matters for our Rabbitry, so on Thursday morning, we said goodbye to the rest of the club members and headed for Minnesota. We understood that several of the others were going to Kentucky to look for Fluorite.

When we arrived home, we were able to sort our finds and we were very pleased with what we collected, along with the specimens we purchased. Our next step is to clean everything and then really grade what we've collected. Oddly, although I was sick for the first three days and then suffered a brief episode of motion sickness, it was a very successful and fun field trip.





## Junior Rock Club Page

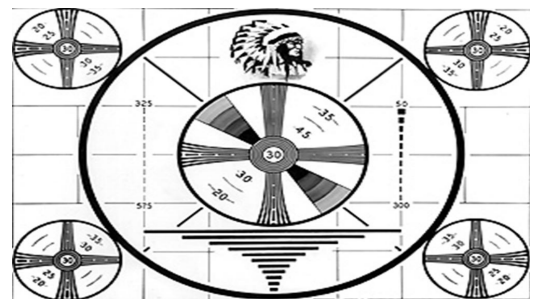
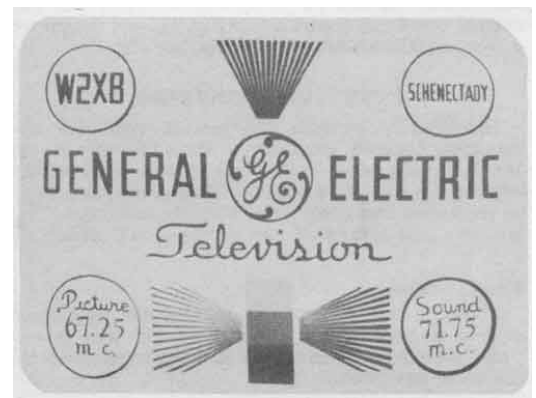
"Think Spring!"

After winter held on for way longer than many of us would have liked—"Come on! Snow in mid April?!"-- it looks like Spring is finally here. Trees and lawns and plants are getting nice and green. So let's celebrate this greening up at our May junior meeting by looking at a green colored mineral—chrysocolla. And this mineral is not just a plain, old, ordinary shade of green; here are some of the ways chrysocolla's color has been described: "a beautiful sky-blue to bluish green color," "an alluring, vivid blue-green color," a "bright attractive color," and a "rich, vibrant blue and green...reminiscent of looking down upon the earth's surface from space." How's that for a celebration of Spring green!

Chrysocolla is a member of the silicate family, so our look at this mineral will also be a continuation of our study of silicates. All juniors attending the May 30 junior program will receive their own take-home specimen of chrysocolla, plus a bonus take-home specimen—a quartz point from the Club's April field trip to Mt. Ida, Arkansas. An speaking of bonuses, the program presenter will also be a special bonus, one of our own juniors, Dakota Riemersma.

Why not join us for this celebration of Spring on Wednesday, May 30 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.



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Tulip City Conglomerate  
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