



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

CONGLOMERATE

Monthly Newsletter of the TCG&MC
PO Box 2082, Holland, Michigan 49422

Website: www.tulipcity.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub

May 2023

Volume 56, Edition 5

So, Ya Wanna Collect Fossils ?!

With Mike Larson, Past President

For many of us, the idea of collecting fossils when we were kids has never diminished through the years. I remember the idea of finding dinosaur bones in the backyard. Piecing it back together and putting it on display at a famous museum. Well, the truth of the matter is, that will not happen to you, unless you live in Utah or its neighboring states.

Don't be discouraged though. Why would you settle for fossils that are a mere 65 mya (and require massive excavating) when you can find fossils (with minimal ease) that are over 350 million years old !!!

Hundreds of million years before the dinosaurs dominated the landscape, invertebrate life was evolving in the Paleozoic seas of Pangaea. Today over 95% of the species across the globe are invertebrates; leaving behind a rich fossil history to explore!



Join us at the May General Meeting where Tulip City's Past President Mike



Larson will share (some of) his fossil collecting experiences and tell you where you can go to find your very own fossils. Getting a late start in life to chase that boyhood dream, Mike started his fossil collecting in Grand Rapids, and it has taken him to over 10 states and Canada. All the sites covered are open to the public and easily accessible.

This months color is Tan, Gray, or Black. Common fossil colors!

Tan fossils are often iron rich shale. Think fish. Gray is common in limestone or shale. Ordovician marine fossils anyone?! Black for Phosphate rich rocks. Sharks Teeth!



Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2023 TCG&M Board

President - C.H. Falstad
cfalstad3@gmail.com

Co-V.P. - Alexandria Vanderski
alexandria.vandervest1029@gmail.com

Co-V.P. - Julia Sherwood
bobandjulia@accn.org

Secretary - Teresa DeMol
t.demol@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Kurt Brinks
kdbricks1@gmail.com

Field Trips - Gary Katt
kattfiles@gmail.com

Historian - Betty Hoekstra
kbhoek@att.net

Junior Club & Show Co-Chair
Shari Luttikhuisen
sluttikh@oaisd.org

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maryjohnson299@gmail.com

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rgehringer@homeoftheshamrocks.org

Newsletter Editor - Jon Mull
solace247@yahoo.com

Webmaster - Aaron Nelson
anelson31@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair - Becky Siegel
swordfly247@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator - Michelle Lanting
michlyngal@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Tom DeMol
t.demol@yahoo.com

Dir. at Large - Bill McDonald
bobmaciv@gmail.com

Past President - Michael B. Larson
mblarson300@yahoo.com

5/26 Tulip City Indiana Field Trip - *Collecting Friday & Saturday
Fossil sites near St. Leon, IN and Geodes near Bloomington, IN*

5/27 Chicagoland GMA Annual Show - *Kane County Fairgrounds
525 S. Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL - Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5*

5/31 Tulip City General meeting - *Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

6/10 Mid-Ohio M&F Club - *Fairhaven Hall Richland Cty Fairgrounds
750 N. Home Rd, Mansfield, OH - Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5*

6/14 Tulip City Board meeting - *Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

6/21 Tulip City Show meeting - *Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

6/23 Lawrence Cty RC Annual Show - *Lawrence Cty Fairgrounds
Hwy 50, Bedford, IN - Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 10-4*

6/28 Tulip City General meeting - *Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland*

7/15 Moose Lake Agate Days - *Carlton Cty GMC Annual Show
Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Dr, Moose Lake, MN - Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3*

7/29 Tulip City PICNIC - *West Side Cty Park*

!! PICNIC - Saturday, JULY 29 !!



Never too young to learn!
Never too old to share
your knowledge!

~ This months "Mascot" ~
The masthead this month
is VERY special. It is a
small section of Blue
Forest Petrified Wood
from Wyoming. It was
donated, prepped, and
polished by Ken Hoekstra.
It will be given away as
the door prize at the May
general meeting so make
sure you don't miss it.



Field Trips



Indiana Geodes - Memorial Day weekend May 26 & 27

A group will be leaving early on Friday May 26 to collect fossils near St. Leon, IN. We will spend Friday and Saturday night in Bloomington, IN, collect geodes on Saturday, and return home on Sunday. Please contact Jon Mull if you would like to attend any part of this trip!

solace247@yahoo.com

Thunder Bay, Ontario - Week of June 19

Thunder Bay is a prime spot for beautiful Amethyst specimens. Gary will be providing an itinerary at the May general meeting. There will be a short meeting during break for anyone who is attending / interested in this trip. **kattfiles@gmail.com**

Keweenaw, MI - July / August

Details about the Keweenaw Mineral Days can be found at the [Seaman](#) website. The Copper Country Rock & Mineral club will have collecting opportunities from Fri Aug 4 to Thur. Aug 10, with their show happening Fri to Sun Aug. 11 to 13. Here is their site. [Copper Country R&M.](#)

Ishpeming 47th Annual Show - Sat. Aug 5, 9:30 - 4:30

Several members of our club have been known to attend this show. They have many of the same attractions we have at our show including silent auctions and a kids table. They also host a couple of field trips before and after the show. See their website for details.

<http://www.ishpemingrocks.org/show.html>

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club - April 19, 2023 Board meeting

Howard Miller Community Center, Zeeland Mi

Board members: C.H. F, Kurt B, Julia S, Alex V, Mike L, Teresa D, Jon M, Betty H, Aaron N, Michelle L, Tom D, Bill M, Rhonda G, Gary K, Mary J - Guests: Bob S

Call to order: 6:39 pm by President CH Falstad - Enough members in attendance for Quorum

No agenda. Call for new business. No new business. No minutes.

Call for adjournment. 2nd by Julia. Adjournment at 6:44 pm.

Submitted by Teresa, club sec.

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club - April 19, 2023 General Club meeting

Howard Miller Community Center, Zeeland Mi

Board members: C.H. F, Kurt B, Julia S, Alex V, Mike L, Teresa D, Jon M, Betty H, Aaron N, Michelle L, Tom D, Bill M, Rhonda G, Gary K, Mary J

*extra special guest: Bob Ziegler, charter member of our club

2023 Annual Scholarship Banquet - Highlights

Wonderful Potluck dinner!! Thank you to all the cooks and food preppers. Raffle of Tommy Turtle: John McDonald.

The luckiest kid alive. Scholarships:

GVSU Corbin Ebeling, Kacey Frazier, Ethen Gardner, Brian Martinez / **Hope** Seth Almquist

Program: Mr Tom Wright, Manager of Quincy Mine Hoist Association

"History of the Copper Mining Industry in Michigan's Upper Peninsula" - "If you can't grow it, You have to Mine it"

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club - March 15, 2023 Board meeting

Howard Miller Community Center, Zeeland Mi

Board members: C.H. F, Kurt B, Julia S, Alex V, Teresa D, Jon M, Betty H, Aaron N, Michelle L, Tom D, Bill M, Rhonda G, Gary K, Shari L - Absent: Mike L, Bill M - Guests: Bob S, Becky S

Call to order: 7:00 pm by President C.H.F., enough members in attendance for quorum

Approval of proposed agenda: Proposed, seconded, and approved by board

Approval of minutes: Feb general meeting minutes read aloud by Teresa. Proposed, seconded, and approved by board.

Board reports

President C.H. F: *A motion was made to install Becky S. and Shari L. as Show Co-Chairs. Seconded and vote passed.*

Treasurer Kurt B: Money looks good. See official report for details

V.P. Julia S/Alex V: no report

Sec Teresa D: no report

Editor Jon M: please submit Saturday by 6:00 pm for newsletter

Field trip Coor. Gary K: Summer trips are still in the planning stages

Historian Betty H: no report

Juniors Shari L: no report

Membership Rhonda: still have some stragglers

Show Chair: see new business

Social Michelle L: no report

Dir. at Large Tom D /Bill M: no report

Recurring business:

Rock Exchange: no communications from the other clubs, as of yet

New Business:

C.H. lead the discussion about the board vote on 2023 show location. The show committee presented the information they had gathered at the past 2 show meetings about the possibility of renting the Holland Civic Center. Several spreadsheets were looked at, different scenarios presented, and the show committee found that the show could be moved to the civic center. A very heated and long discussion about the location took place. The new chairpeople had many questions about the Soccer Stop versus the Civic Center. The show committee presented the answers backed up by the spread sheets. A motion was made by Julia for a vote, by hand, to approve the location change to the civic center. The motion was seconded. The vote failed. A motion was made by Shari for a vote, by hand, to approve the Soccer Stop as the location for the 2023 show. The motion was seconded. The vote passed. C.H. thanked the show committee for the work they had prepared.

Herrick "How to" fest is April 15 at the library. The board agreed that the club would not be taking part this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm



We have been looking for a summer tailgate location. Thanks to the efforts of Brenda and Vern Nienhuis, the parking lot of Zeeland HS East is available to us.

If you are unfamiliar, it is at the corner of 96th Ave and Riley right across from Family Fare in Zeeland.

Saturday July 22 has been selected and more details will follow. We will be able to promote the event with banners and small yard signs and will be able to have port-a-johns on site as well.

This is a great location and will give us plenty of space and more exposure to our Zeeland community! Watch your email for further info and start gathering your extra items to sell. See you at the swap!

~ April Banquet Summary ~

There was something very welcome and familiar about this years banquet. It felt like a good old fashioned potluck. It just felt “normal” for the first time in awhile. The wonderful theme had many folks dressed in colorful flannel and ready to dig into their copper gift bags and the beautiful array of food! It was a great event. Our club awarded \$3,300 in scholarships to GVSU and Hope students, which we hope will be very useful in their future studies. Congratulations to Corbin Ebeling, Kacey Frazier, Ethen Gardner, and Brian Martinez from GVSU and Seth Almquist from Hope. The raffle of Tommy the Turtle raised \$400 in contributions that will go to the Gibson fund and be used to aid GVSU students in summer research projects. John McDonald is the new proud owner of Tommy, we’re sure he will treat him well! Our speaker, Tom Wright, from the Quincy Mine Hoist Association had many fascinating things to share about the mining industry in Michigan. It was also great to have Bob Zigler, our beloved founding member, come up from Fort Wayne and attend the banquet with us. Thank you very much to all of our members that put effort into making our banquet come together.



Bob Zigler & his daughter



The FEAST



John McDonald, proud winner of Tommy, and his dad Bill



Hope recipient with Prof. Renee Sparks



GVSU recipients with Profs Peter Riemersma & Kevin Cole

~ **More Banquet Pics** ~

Our Facebook page has more pictures from the banquet.

[Facebook Banquet Post](#)



Happy Attendees

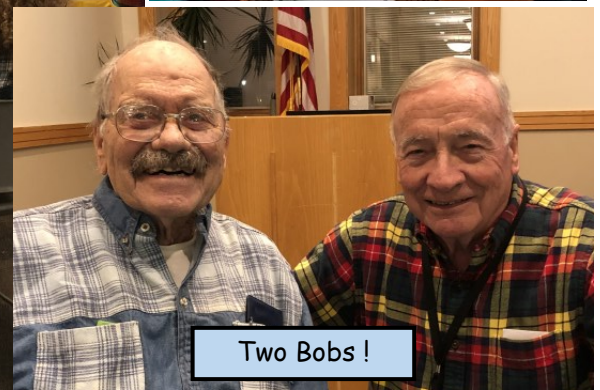


Enthusiastic future miner



Tom Wright

Defining a Geoheritage site
•Aesthetically significant
•Culturally (historically) significant
•Scientifically and educationally significant



Two Bobs !

In March, the Junior club spent time with Erik Rintamaki (of Yooperlite fame). He shared how many of the minerals around Michigan don't react to long wave UV, that Lake Superior agates do react to short wave UV, and how that revelation led to the discovery of fluorescent sodalite granite in Michigan. He answered many of our questions, and was patient and fun to hang out with. After his talk to the whole club, any Junior who came up to see him was given their own Long wave flashlight and a Yooperlite rock. Thank you for your generosity, Erik!



Ancient Elephants (*Mammoth/Gomphothere/Mastodon*)

Junior Club Members, with adventure guide Kurt Brinks, will explore and touch real fossils of ancient elephants to help us discover more about these extinct mammals.

Can you tell the difference between a Mastodon and a Mammoth tooth?

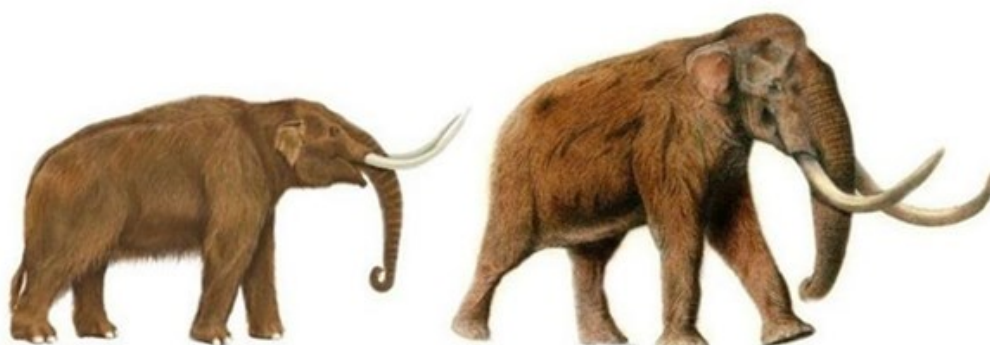
What do their teeth tell us about what they ate?

Where do people find these fossils?

What does that tell us about where they lived?

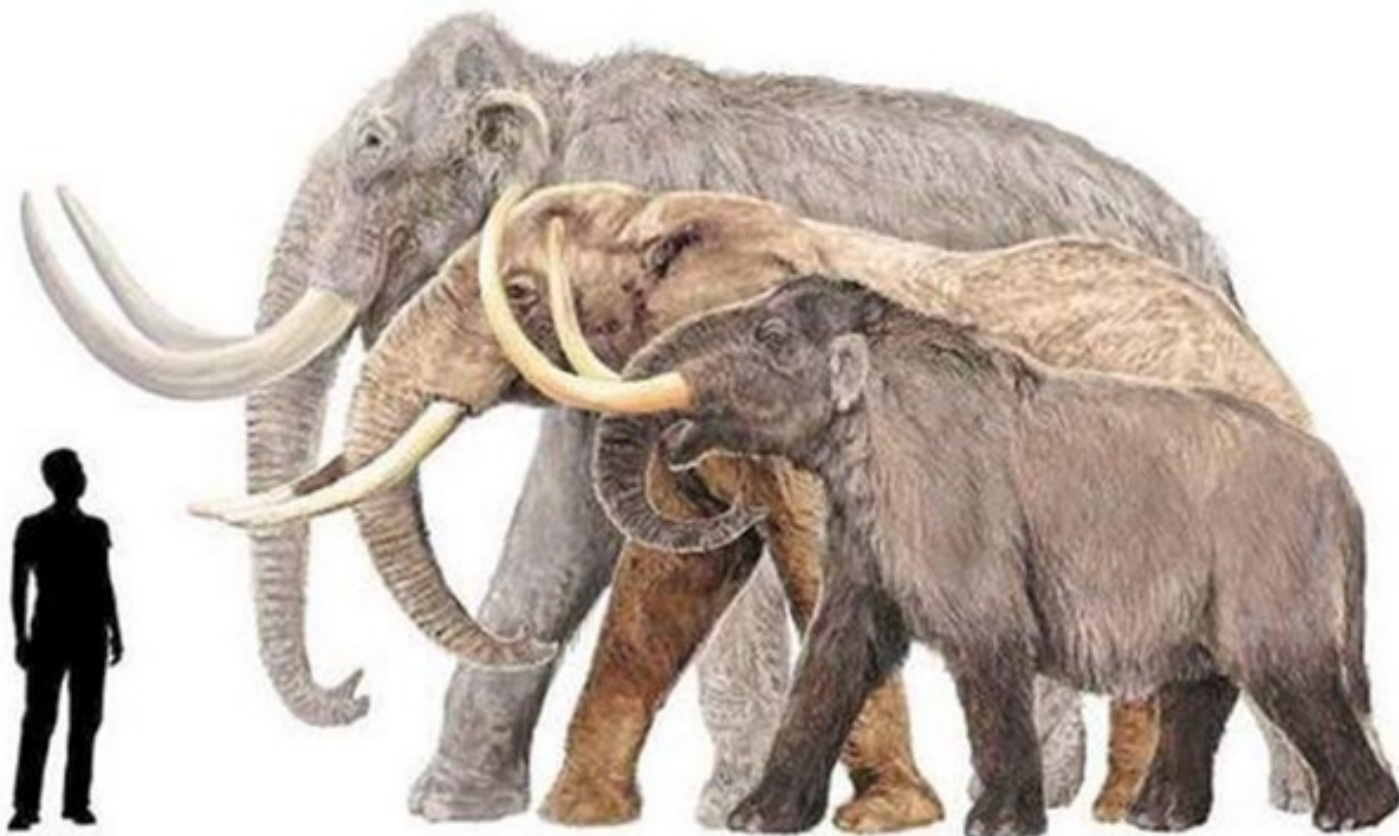
Why are these animals no longer alive?

Pack your “TRUNKS”, come with questions, and get ready to explore and touch ancient mammals of our past.



Mastodon

Woolly Mammoth





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 otherwise noted in the **TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE**.

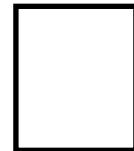
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

Advertising rates for club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for 1/4 page, \$15 for 1/2 page, \$30 for full page. non-member rates are double. Make check payable To: TCG&M with ad copy to 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 increase knowledge of minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, and the lapidary arts. The objectives of this club shall be promoted whenever possible, through family participation.

Tulip City Conglomerate

Jon Mull, Editor
14325 Essenburg Dr
Holland, MI 49424



Background photo is a large slab of Petrified Wood from the Zuhl