



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

November 2023

Volume 56, Edition 10

Microbialites

Guest Speaker, Dr. Dylan Wilmeth
Visiting Assistant Professor, GVSU

Dr. Wilmeth's area of focus is on Microbialites: fossilized microbial colonies, which he often affectionally calls "fossil pond scum". We amateur rockhounds also call it Stromatolite when we find examples on the beach. They are Earth's earliest fossils (3.5 billion years old) and are the only fossils for most of Earth history in the Precambrian. They tell us of a very different world than we know today, one in which there was very little oxygen.

Professor Wilmeth's talk will take us on a tour through space and time, and he'll share his current research at GVSU; examining Michigan's oldest fossils in the Kona Dolomite (2.2 billion years old). Many of us have been to the Lindberg Quarry near Ishpeming and had a hard time deciding which pieces are the greatest example of Kona to load up & haul home. Fortunately, the price is right so a big load is almost free.



This November General Meeting will also be Election night for the proposed slate of Officers for the 2024 Board of Directors. Please come meet them and VOTE!

Monthly Contest

We'll be switching it up this month. Please bring in your favorite Stromatolite.
We'll vote with pennies as usual.



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 Luttikhuizen
sluttikh@oaisd.org

Liaison - Mary Johnson
maryjohnson299@gmail.com

Membership - Rhonda Gehringer
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

11/29 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

12/06 Tulip City Board meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

12/20 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

1/17 Tulip City Board meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

1/31 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2024 Board - Slate of Officers

Here is the final slate of officers for next year...

President	<i>C.H. Falstad</i>
Vice President	<i>Bill McDonald</i>
Secretary	<i>Alex Vanderski</i>
Treasurer	<i>Kurt Brinks</i>
Field Trips	<i>Jon Mull</i>
Historian	<i>Betty Hoekstra</i>
Juniors	<i>Shari Luttikhuizen</i>
Liaison	<i>Mary Johnson</i>
Membership	<i>Rhonda Gehringer</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Jodi Miller</i>
Webmaster	<i>Aaron Nelson</i>
Show Co-Chairs	<i>Teresa DeMol & CJ Proos</i>
Social Chair	<i>Michelle Lanting</i>
Director at large	<i>Gary Katt</i>
Director at large	<i>Patsy Williamson</i>
Past President	<i>Mike Larson</i>

When you see Tom DeMol, Becky Siegel, and Julia Sherwood at our general meetings, take a minute to thank them. They will be leaving the board and have faithfully served the club this year.



~ **President's Message and an Important Notice** ~

In reflection this month I am so thankful to our magnificent board and all the members who step up to make our club everything that it is. This past year we had Becky Siegel step up and served as show co-chair. Between her and Shari Luttikhuizen (and the seemingly hundreds of others helping out) we had a great show. We'll be seeing two new show chairs next year, CJ Proos, and Teresa DeMol! Julia Sherwood served this past year as co-vp with Alex Vanderski, and we've had some marvelous monthly programs. Alex is moving to a new board position and Julia is taking a year of retirement after serving on the board for many years in nearly every board position. Gary Katt stepped in and served as Field Trip Chair giving us a very active trip year. (He's even got a few exciting plans for this winter.) Bill McDonald stepped into one of our Director at Large positions (and will be stepping UP to VP next year!. Becky, Alex, Gary, and Bill each served in their first year on the Board. I am very grateful to each of these members and all our Board.

It has become clear that our club could benefit from becoming an IRS non-profit. To accomplish this, we discovered we need to make some changes to our bylaws to fit the IRS 501(c)(3) regulations. The board has worked hard with our current bylaws and made some amendments. Some of these are to make them more modern, and others are to fit those 501c3 requirements. You will be receiving a copy of the proposed amended bylaws in their entirety. Article IX is in blue and is required almost verbatim. Other changes are in red text with recommended portions eliminated in strikeout and new proposed text underlined. This serves as the required 30-day notice to the members prior to voting at our general meeting on December 20th. I plan to put each section on the overhead so we can discuss and hopefully approve the recommended changes. I will enlarge the changes, but if you are seated in the back you may wish to bring a copy of the proposed bylaws to follow along. We are looking forward to the future and want to make sure all members are informed about these proposed changes so they can participate in the approval of them. Hope to see you this month and in December.

C.H. Falstad

~ Editor Feature ~
State of the Month!

The state of this month is grateful! I have very much enjoyed producing this newsletter for our club and have really appreciated how supportive everyone has been and I thank you for that. I always imagined this would be at least a bi-monthly thing I would do but life gets busy and when our club is busy the newsletter fills up with all our other fun content like field trip write-ups, workshop reports, and show wrap-ups! But I have a little extra space this month so I get to share one of my favorite states, and that is UTAH. For geologic wonder there just isn't a much better one. There is exceptional collecting all over the state of course, and many of the locations have been shared and are accessible to the general public. Right off the top, there is a famous Topaz location in Utah, which also happens to be the birthstone for November. I know someone with a birthday in November. *Happy birthday sis!* Topaz Mountain is known for its honey colored Topaz crystals. The site is located in the mid-west portion of Utah and the



crystals are found in cavities of the Topaz Mt. rhyolite, which is 6 to 7 million years old. Topaz crystals from this location are sensitive to UV light and sadly their color can fade quite a bit if not protected after collecting. Not to be outdone and just over an hour to the southeast is another amber colored gem, this time a form of Labradorite called Sunstone. Once again found in a volcanic host, but this time basalt or breccia, and much younger, only 750k to 1.6 million years old. The Sunstones have been weathering out and can be found in an area called Sunstone Knoll.

Of course I have to include two of my personal favorites and both can fall into the category of geode but each are wildly different. The example that serves as our mascot is the Utah Septarian nodule. Very distinctive with it's two generations of Calcite growth and quite a bit lighter than those found in Michigan, the Septaria from Utah are quite a bit larger and quite beautiful, especially cut and polished.

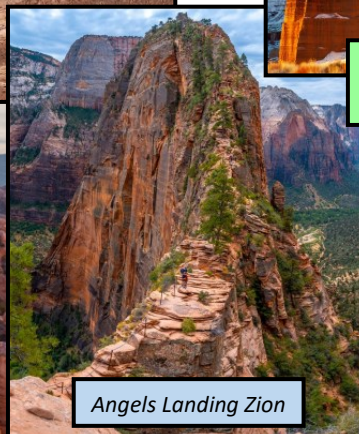
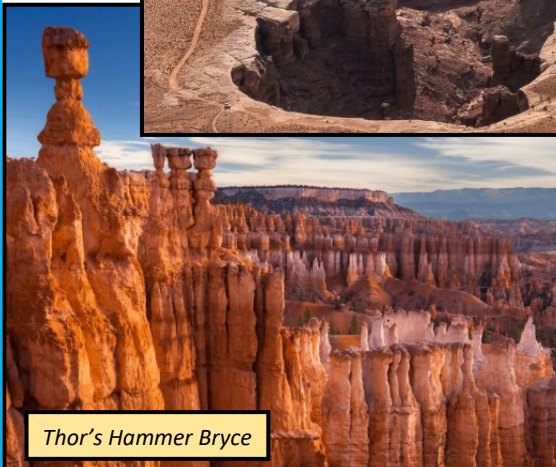


~ Editor Feature cont. ~

The other fantastic geode from Utah is from Dugway. You may recall we talked a little about this one back in March of last year. Once again these geodes are found in volcanic rocks but something I didn't know is that they were originally weathered out of their host rhyolite by the wave action of Lake Bonneville and redeposited in their current location as lake sediments which is why their current host rock is like rhyolite, but not exactly! Dugway Geodes have stunning druzy formations in them as well as very often banded "rinds" The quartz interiors can vary in color from clear-ish blues and grays to purple or pink. To put a little icing on it, they often fluoresce a brilliant "Mt. Dew like" green.



Finally, the most spectacular thing about Utah is the quantity and quality of the national parks found in the state. If you ever get the chance to visit any of these do NOT miss it. They are best described in pictures. Bryce, Zion, Canyonlands, Arches, and Capitol Reef.



Field Trips



Stay tuned!

There may yet be a basement field trip this winter. Details are to be determined.

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club - Oct. 14, 2023 Board meeting

Howard Miller Community Center, Zeeland Mi

Board members: CH Falstad, J Sherwood, M Larson, T&T DeMol, J Mull, B Hoekstra, M Lanting, B McDonald, R Gehringer, S Luttkhuizen, B Siegel

Absent: A Vanderski, A Nelson, G Katt, M Johnson, K Brinks

Guests: L Falstad, R Sparks, B Sherwood, K Hoekstra, C Parks, P Williamson, CJ Proos

Call to order: 7:00 pm by President CH Falstad, quorum declared

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

Approval of minutes: August minutes were not available for approval. No meetings or minutes for September

Guest Presentation - Linda Falstad, 501(c)(3)

501C3 in for IRS, Not for profit is State. All filing is online. Could take up to 6 months for approval. Local companies could sponsor club related events including field trips, scholarships, & JR activities. Would allow the club to set up credit card payments at show. Will require changes to our income tax handling and tax filing. Bylaws will need updating.

Board reports

President : Moran display now at Outdoor Discovery Center, not sure when it goes active.

Treasurer Kurt B: Absent

V.P. Oct Gen mtg silent auction, 20-25 pcs per member, no color contest, JRs meet downstairs. Extra \$50 fee. Yearly Cal. Set w. Show 2nd weekend after Labor Day. Dr. Dillon Wilmeth is Nov. speaker on Kona

Sec Teresa D: no report

I.P.P. 2024 board member nomination slate set. See Oct. newsletter for full list.

Editor Jon M: Newsletter articles asap. Oct. show wrap up with pictures

Field trip Coor. Absent

Historian Betty H: no report

Juniors Shari L: made gem trees. Oct. is meet & greet, scavenger hunt. DeMols donated several boxes of Alpena fossils!

Liaison: Absent

Membership Rhonda: 42 new memberships. Working in google suite w/ Aaron to set up online sign up sheet.

Show Chair: GREAT show, thank you to ALL involved. (\$ struck for privacy). Geodes were huge hit, will repeat
Teresa DeMol & CJ Proos have agreed to be co-chairs for 2024

Webmaster Absent

Social Michelle L: Need Snacks

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

Recurring business:

1. DeGraaf geo path clean-up, Oct 14 9-10:30. 2. Bylaws will be reviewed by L Falstad w/ report to CH. 3. Strategic planning - more outreach to youth / JRs

New Business:

1. Motion made by J Mull to file for 501C3, seconded by M Larson. Vote called, all in favor.

2. No to participating in MWF tee-shirts. 3. Donation Comm - R Gehringer, CH Falstad, M Lanting, J Mull, S Luttkhuizen. Major amount of donations, trying to sort and put in Oct. auction. Questions about list of materials and donors to share with board.

Guidelines for the committee?

Visitor Comments

B Sherwood suggested making a major effort to greet new members, one to one, at general meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm - Minutes by Teresa DeMol

! IMPORTANT !

If you have materials from the show, vests, signs, etc. Please bring those to the meeting in November so they can be stored.

Please also watch your email for a pdf of the amended bylaws

~ Masthead "Mascot" ~

The image this month is a classic septarian nodule from Utah. The "filling" is Calcite, brown and "milky" with the later fluorescing under LW-UV About 5" in diameter - Jon Mull

~ JUNIOR SECTION ~

Tigers eye, Labradorite and Feldspar...Oh MY !

Hey Juniors, have you ever held a piece of Tigers Eye in your hand, moved it from side to side and saw light move across the surface? This is called Chatoyancy, and it is what makes Tigers eye so attractive. This month we will learn what causes chatoyancy in Tigers eye, what other rocks and minerals have it, and some other specimens that have something like it, but different. If you have a specimen that displays chatoyancy, bring it in to show us! See you at the Junior club (held during the business meeting, 7:00 pm)





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**.

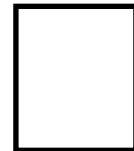
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

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 Goblin Valley State Park, also UTAH