



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

December 2023

Volume 56, Edition 11

SELENITE SURPRISES

On Our 2023 New Mexico Field Trip - *with Rick & Deb Smith*

Back over the 2023 Spring Break, Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club offered a field trip to New Mexico. Field Trip leader Jon Mull had lined up collecting opportunities for fluorite, petrified wood, chalcedony, agate, thundereggs, and lava cap geodes, along with other activities. He even spotted a serendipitous, unexpected common opal outcrop near the Arizona border for an unscheduled collecting opportunity. But, with one exception, collecting selenite was not part of the plan, so Deb and Rick Smith were surprised by the number of times they wound up encountering and even collecting selenite. The Club's December general meeting program will provide an overview of that New Mexico field trip, and will focus on the unexpected selenite (and gypsum) minerals that Deb and Rick Smith discovered along the way.



Monthly Contest

Please bring in your favorite Clear or white specimen. Think ice and snow!
We'll vote with pennies as usual.

See more on Pg. 3



Events



FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND!

2024 TCG&M Board

President - C.H. Falstad
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V.P. - Bill McDonald
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Show Co-Chair - Teresa DeMol
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Dir. at Large - Gary Katt
kattfiles@gmail.com

Dir. at Large - Patsy Williamson
patsywi61206@gmail.com

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

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

2/14 Tulip City Board meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

2/28 Tulip City General meeting - Wed, 7pm
Howard Miller Library, Zeeland

Well, we have a full board for next year! Thank you to everyone who serves and has served on our board. It is very much appreciated. Give a smile and a nod to Tom DeMol, Becky Siegel, and Julia Sherwood when you see them, they will be departing the board. You can also cheer on CJ Proos and Patsy Williamson, joining the board for the first time, and Jodi Miller who has recently returned to our neck of the woods. I'll be handing off the Editor torch to her. An excellent crew! For sure.

Thank you 

~ My Final Masthead "Mascot" ~

I like to call the specimen this month "The Perfect Cut." I bought this 5" geode, unopened, from a rock shop in Vernal, Utah, on one of our summer adventures. It sat in a box for several years and I finally got around to cutting it. There must have been some cosmic good will on my side because the cut left the beautiful lemon Calcite completely untouched. The shop owner wasn't certain of the origin, but suspected it was a Mexican Coconut.

I thought it was just "perfect."

- Jon Mull

! HOLIDAY CELEBRATION !

It's the perfect time of year to pull out your best holiday treat recipe. **Please bring snacks to share** and dress in your favorite holiday garb. You can gear up with an ugly sweater and a set of foam antlers, a sparkly dress and green and red striped leggings, or just your favorite candy cane bow tie! There won't be a contest this year, but if you're feeling festive, dress the part.



There will be a modest, optional, gift exchange. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped rock specimen or rock related item with a value somewhere between \$10 and \$20. Make sure to include details such as origin and identification, if you can. There will be a table to put them on and we will designate a time and a method for the exchange during the meeting. This won't be a white elephant affair, so no gift stealing. If you would like to trade with someone, and they are willing, then have at it!



Field Trips



Stay tuned!

We are looking at a possible bus trip in February and perhaps a basement field trip before the snow melts. There is a tentative plan to go back to the southwest for spring break in 2024 so keep those dates in mind if you like to travel and collect.

Please also watch for a link to a survey about our field trips. It will really help with the planning.

! IMPORTANT !

Membership renewal is upon us. Get your dues in soon so you don't miss a newsletter. Our form is on the last page or visit our website for all the details.

<https://www.tulipcity.org/join-us.html>

! ALSO IMPORTANT !

If you still have materials from the show... How come?! Bring em' on in to the December meeting so they can be properly stored.

A vote on the amended bylaws will be coming soon!

Recent losses...

It's so hard losing a loved one. There's just no preparing for the space that is left behind. Our club recently suffered a couple of losses. Hopefully you saw the email about Roger Nielsen passing on Nov. 18 and got a chance to send out condolences. I was also reminded that Harold Knoll passed away at the end of September. I understand that cards were sent to Vondalee and Rochelle, but I failed to include a note in the October newsletter as well. I really didn't know Harold well at all but I'm sure I saw him at a meeting or two over the years. After being such a long time member I wanted to make sure he was mentioned here. Vondalee and Rochelle, my heartfelt condolences to you both and my apologies for this unfortunate omission on my part. Peace to you! If you recall, our club has a tradition of placing books at local libraries in memory of our departed club members so watch for information about those soon. - Jon Mull

Harold Knoll - Dec 16, 1934 - Sep 29, 2023



Harold was a long time resident of the area and attended Holland Public Schools and Hope College. After attending Western Michigan he returned to the area as an educator in the OAISD teaching in Special Education and Elementary roles. He worked as a turkey farmer at the Knoll Turkey Hatchery and spent his vacation time traveling across the US and Canada, fishing, sightseeing in our National Parks, and of course, rock hounding. It was fascinating to learn he made a valiant attempt to sail around the world and although he didn't get quite as far as intended he had many adventures and wrote about them. You can read his full obituary at the link below and if you have a chance, give Vondalee and Rochelle a hug. <https://www.beaconfh.com/obituary/harold-knoll-jr>

Roger Nielsen - May 29, 1942 - Nov 18, 2023

Roger was born and raised in Grand Haven, MI. He and Juanita were married for over 20 years. Roger had his own real estate business, Nielsen & Associates, and ran that for 60 years. Juanita said the only thing he enjoyed more than rocks was flying airplanes, which he had been doing for 50 years. He is survived by Juanita, two daughters, and three grand children. He and Juanita had a place in Quartzsite where they had kept many of the rocks they collected over the years. He will be sorely missed. You can find his obituary here.

<https://www.clockfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Roger-William-Nielsen?obId=29947278>



While searching for “a rock with a bow on it,” I got the result on the left. What a spectacular misinterpretation of my search! This seastack is called Bow Fiddle Rock, it is in Scotland. Now I have to figure out how to go see this amazing geological structure.

December Raffle News !!

Be sure to check out December's raffle! There will be some new items we haven't seen on the raffle table before, including a piece of ice cream opal, a large piece of selenite and an old (1890!) specimen of Bornite, Chrysocolla and Malachite from the Keweenaw. Plus these are just a **sampling** of the items you will find this month. Don't forget your holiday beauties and bling! Hope to see you there!!

Your Liaison and Head Raffleteer -

Mary Johnson



Looks like a bit of hardened taffy!



I think that color only comes from one place!



Yup, that's OLD!

A Parting Message from this Editor...

I know I have already said this, but it really has been a great experience building our newsletter for you every month. It was good fun searching for little bits of clip-art, choosing pictures, and collecting articles to share with you. Many thanks to the folks who provided me with endless support and kudos. Special thanks goes to Mary Johnson, our Liaison, who provided almost as many articles and write-ups as I did through out these last two years. Since I only have one more page left, I choose to fill it with pictures of a few of my favorite moments from this year, and some pictures of one of my cases at home. Someday I hope to have my basement clean enough to entertain a basement field trip, but for now, this will have to do.

To start this off, below is a picture of one of my favorite specimens that I collected purely on a whim. It is also appropriate that it happens to be mostly Selenite! We were headed west to meet up with other members of TCGMC on a trip out to Montana. Driving on I90 just south of Sheridan, WY, I started to see glittering on the side of the road in dark material that looked like coal. It turned out to be just that, in a rather degraded form. The long crystals of clear-ish Selenite are resting on a petrified fern called *Tempskya*, later identified by our friend Kevin Ponzio! Specimen is 10" x 4"

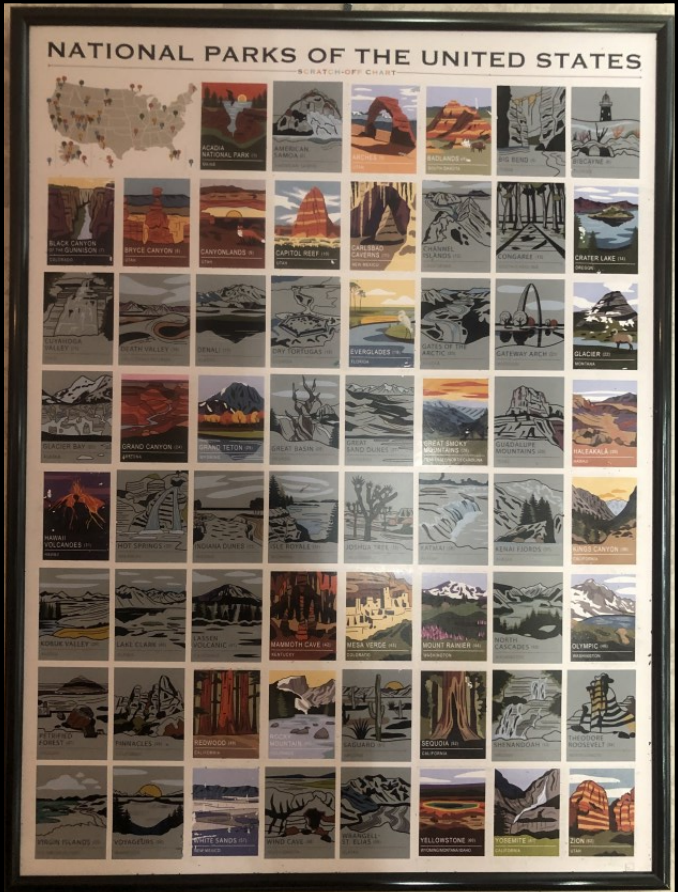




Cracking geodes along the Mississippi River. Labor day field trip.



One of my favorite gifts, those in color we have visited. How many would be in color for you?



My kids looking for Sapphires in Montana

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club - Nov. 13, 2023 Board meeting

Howard Miller Community Center, Zeeland Mi

Board members: CH Falstad, J Sherwood, A Nelson, T&T DeMol, J Mull, B Hoekstra, M Lanting, B McDonald, R Gehringer, S Luttkhuizen, A Vanderski, K Brinks, G Katt, M Johnson

Absent: B Siegel, M Larson

Guests: B Sherwood, K Hoekstra, Steve & Jodi Miller, G Fochtman, 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: October minutes were not available for approval. October board minutes will be printed if provided.

Board reports

President: All good

Treasurer: See official report

V.P. Nov. gen. meeting will be on Stromatolites by Dylan Wilmeth. VAP GVSU. Penny contest is Stromatolites

Sec Teresa D: All good

I.P.P.: Absent

Editor: All good

Field trip Coor: No field trips on calendar, no basements set up yet. Possible trip to GR Public Museum

Historian: Alex & CJ will be helping to "digitize" historical documents

Juniors: All good

Liaison: All good

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

Show Chair: All DONE.

Webmaster: Working on Google space, uploading info, setting up user accounts. Aaron made a motion to add an additional account for the workspace. Seconded by J Mull. Approved by board

Social: All good

Dir. at Large: All good

Recurring business:

1. Quilt donation by G Fochtman. Cotton batting had some shrink, quilt needs work. Board had more discussion how to display and use the quilt
2. Bylaws revision. CH Falstad read thru bylaws. Board suggested changes. Vote to accept revisions passed the board. Rhonda was asked to change membership form to match bylaw wording.
3. Rock Exchange. Nothing new

New Business:

1. Discussion on optimum general meeting schedule. Ideas. Get rid of 15 min. break. 45 minute meeting. Junior door prize done on their time. 6:45 social time. Pros & cons discussed. No decisions except moving Junior door prize to their time. Need further discussion and finalizing. Move to Jan agenda

Correspondence: Mary briefly touched on MWF newsletter

Visitor Items: CJ gave an update on new possible show sites. Civic center, Ridgepoint Church, Zeeland Sport complex. Holland township building new area - not ready for 2024. No decision yet. Will present more at Dec. meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm - Minutes by Teresa DeMol

Next board meeting: Dec. 6, 7:00 pm

Next general meeting: Dec 20, 7:00 pm

Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club - Nov. 29, 2023 General meeting

Howard Miller Community Center, Zeeland Mi

7:00 Meeting opened by Pres. CH

Attendance: 62 Adults, 4 Juniors, 5 new members

Door Prize winners: Jrs - John McDonaled, Adult - Julia S.

Jrs dismissed

Pres. CH spoke about status of 501C3 and the bylaw revision

VP Julia spoke about the Stomatolites program and penny contest. Winner was Robin K.

Treasurer Kurt said budget is good. \$6.50 per member goes to MWF insurance from dues.

Election of new board members for 2024. Slate presented in newsletter. Officers were introduced. Vote was unanimous.

Raffle Items: Lamp and mags, Jasper, Fire Opal, Blue Forest pet. Wood, Blue Lace Agate, Unknown Pet. Wood.

- Break -

VP Julia introduced speaker Prof. Dylan Wilmeth from GVSU. Presentation on "Microbialites: fossilized microbial colonies" or "fossil pond scum"

- Meeting adjourned 9:10 (?)

~ JUNIOR SECTION ~

Into the Great Blue... Yonder... Forest!

Hey Juniors, what if you could find a specimen that includes both blue agate and petrified wood? If this sounds interesting, then our December junior meeting is for you!

We are going to study Blue Forest petrified wood, which is found in Sweetwater county, Wyoming. This petrified wood is very distinctive, known for grain and color ranging from light brown to black, and many pieces also contain blue chalcedony, sometimes forming agates in the voids. You might also see druzy quartz, calcite, opal, and stromatolites. We will look for evidence of limb scars and burrowing insects. Scientists have found that Blue Forest petrified wood went through a three step mineralization process. Using loupes and black lights, we will explore specimens to find evidence of each of these steps.

Come to the next Junior club meeting and join the fun!



Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

Membership Application / Renewal for 20__

Paid for: ___ Individual (\$15.00) ___ Family (\$20.00)

Newsletter Delivery: ___ Email (FREE) ___ U.S. Mail \$10.00



PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY (Must have a postal mailing address)

Adult Name: _____

DATE: _____

2nd Adult Name (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ *Home or Cell*

Secondary Phone: _____ *Home or Cell*

Primary E-Mail address: _____

Secondary E-Mail address: _____

Please make check payable to :
Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

Mail to:
Rhonda Gehringer
1980 Driftwood Dr,
Holland, MI 49424

Questions can be e-mailed to:
tcgmc.news@gmail.com

If this is a family membership, please list ALL participating family members' names and birthdays.**

** Family membership include parents/guardian and all unmarried children under the age seventeen and living at home.

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

**Additional children information may be written on the back of this paper.
We need this for MWF insurance purposes.**

CHECK interest(s) in club:

- ___ Faceting
- ___ Metal Craft
- ___ Beading / Wire Wrap
- ___ Lapidary
- ___ Tumbling
- ___ Rock / Minerals
- ___ MicroMounts
- ___ Fossils
- ___ Juniors
- ___ Field Trips
- ___ Collecting

TCG&MC PRIVACY POLICY: For purposes of planning field trips and other TCG&MC Social activities, the club will annually distribute a listing of adult member names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses to all club members. The TCG&MC officers will never knowingly distribute your address information to any other group or organization.

As a condition of membership, and in consideration of any mineral collecting, use of facilities, equipment, and other educational opportunities available to me as a club member, I hereby agree to hold the Club and its officers, Directors, committee members and agents harmless, and to indemnify them against any loss and claims arising from me or my family's participation in Club activities:

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: We must have a SIGNED copy of your application/renewal form on file.

Term of Membership and Dues. TCG&MC memberships run January – December. NEW members joining after September 1st will have their dues credited through the end of the following year. Memberships must be renewed by December 31st to be in good standing.



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**.

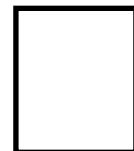
Our Junior Club welcomes and encourages young rockhounds and meets separately during the meeting. To become a member, complete the form at www.tulipcity.org

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 the Cave of Giants - Niaca Mine, Mexico