



THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE



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

Website: www.Tulipcity.org

February 2020

Volume 53, Edition 2

Now, 2020
Club Dues Due!

Feb 29-Mar 1 , 2020
Des Plaines, IL
Annual Show

Mar 6-8, 2020
Richmond, IN
Annual Show

Mar 7-8, 2020
Macomb, IL
Annual Show

March 11, 2020
Board Meeting
HMCC 7pm

Mar 21-22, 2020
Wheaton, IL
Annual Show

Mar 25th, 2020
General Meeting
HMCC, 7pm

This Edition

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Don't forget to get your door prize ticket from Mike Grabner, who is typically lurking near the entrance!

General Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 7pm
Howard Miller Community Center

“Our Otherworldly World”

Jon Mull is our presenter this month, and he shares the Field Trip Coordinator position with Bob Sinke. He was brainstorming with Bob one day, trying to come up with fun and interesting field trips for the year, when he came up with an intriguing idea for this month's presentation. In his own words:

“Jon, I think one of our field trips should be to the moon...” This is followed by a brief chuckle. “No pressure or anything”. Bob Sinke chimes back by pointing out, “there is always Craters of the Moon in Idaho!”. That is how this idea began. There are countless places right here in Earth that look like they were lifted right off an alien planet. Some of these places have just the right amount of “otherworldly” qualities that they get used in movies as alien landscapes. Some of them even get used by NASA to represent the extra planetary environments we hope to explore, some day. I happen to be a bit of a nerd.. Well, that's not accurate. I am a big Nerd! One of my nerdy qualities is that I am a fan of Sci-fi and Fantasy movies. It just so happens that I have been to a few of the places that have been used in such movies. I have consumed a fair amount of free time looking up pictures of these sites (also nerdy). I could not help but spout off the names of a few more places that look alien, and how fun it would be to gather up a nice slideshow. So that will be our program for February! I have collected a “small” list of some of my favorites and even did a bit of research on the underlying geology in whatever capacity I could. Hopefully you will enjoy a look at our “otherworldly world.”

Our Specimen of the Month contest is back!! This month, in support of Jon's talk, please bring in the most “alien” looking or strangest rock that you have collected. Lets have fun with it! The members will vote, and Jon graciously agreed to bring in a small prize for the winner.

Also: If you have a specimen that you would like identified, please bring it in and put it on the MYSTERY table. There will be a small form to fill out, and then (hopefully) other club members will help you with an identification.

Inside Scoop: This month will be “What really is a puddingstone anyway?” If you have an idea for a short, 5 minute informational topic, or tips and trick with lapidary, lets Shari Luttikhuizen know!



The photo above is from Zhangjiajie National Forest Park in Hunan China. It was the inspiration for the Hallelujah Mountains in the movie Avatar.

Club Calendar 2020

Mar 25 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Mar 28-29 – Canton, IL Annual Show
 Mar 28-29 – Cedar Rapids, IA Annual Show
 Mar 28-29 – Janesville, WI Annual Show
 Apr 4-5 – Marion, IL Annual Show
 Apr 15 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Apr 22 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Apr 25-26 – Bay City, MI Annual Show
 Apr 29 (Wed) – Banquet! 6p, HMCC
 May 13 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 May 27 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jun 10 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jun 17 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jun 24 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jan 15 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jan 29 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Jul 18 (Sat) – Picnic!
 Aug 12 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Aug 19 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Aug 26 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 September - 51st Annual Show, TBA
 Oct 14 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Oct 21 (Wed) – Show Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Oct 28 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Nov 4 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Nov 18 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Dec 2 (Wed) – Board Meeting, 7p, HMCC
 Dec 16 (Wed) – General Meeting, 7p, HMCC

HMCC = Howard Miller Community Center, 14 S Church St. Zeeland, MI
 Major source of material is from: <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Calendar/>

Our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/tulipcityclub/>

2020 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Mike Larson	mblarson300@yahoo.com
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Robin Kreun will be assisting the Jr. Club Coordinators

For 2020, there are fifteen (15) positions, which have one vote each. There are currently (17) persons on the Board (four persons share two positions).

Show Corner

We're starting to get the dealer agreements and deposits for the coming show! Our first show meeting will be April 23 at 7pm in the lower level of the Howard Miller Library. We still have some open chair positions, but even if you don't do that, we love when people bring ideas. Hope to see you there!

Sue Goedert
Show Chair

2020 Dues

Since this newsletter is a bit late, and because I committed a horrible typographical error in "January's" issue (did you notice it?), I will show show mercy and beg forgiveness by NOT cutting off this month's newsletter for those who are tardy in paying 2020 Club Dues. Please oh please remember that your 2020 Club Dues were due December 31. Please see Christine Silich about renewing.

If you have NOT paid them, this will most likely, *high probability, near certainly* be your **LAST** newsletter, which is almost as horrible as a "January".





Field Trip Save The Dates

March 20th -- Indiana Fossils

Spend the day in South Eastern Indiana at the St. Leon, Brookville, and Liberty road cuts
I plan to travel to Greensburg Indiana on Friday.

Meet at the Shell Gas Station at the Intersection of I74 and Highway 1 on Saturday at 8am.

Road cuts are along the route back to the north towards Richmond.

Sign up sheet will be at the Feb meeting. Limits to be determined. Please consider carpooling.

Spring Break April 8-11 -- Arkansas Quartz

Travel on Wednesday.

Collect Thursday through Saturday at Quartz mines around Mt. Ida.

Limit of 12 people. Sign up sheet will be at February Meeting.

Memorial Day Weekend May 29-31 -- Keokuk Geodes

Travel on Thursday.

Collect Friday through Sunday.

Hopefully Amish, St. Francisville, Nicks, Jacobs

Sharing with the White River Club.

Sign up in March. Limit 12. More details to follow.

Basement Field Trips

Two basement field trips are scheduled for February 22nd 2020. They will be open rain, snow, or shine from 1-4 pm on this Saturday. Both locations are in the western side of Grand Rapids as follows:

Don and Lois Van Dyke
4296 Oakview
Hudsonville, Mi. 49426
616-669-6932

Don has a large collection of Agates and other copper country specimens. **All junior members coming to the house will be able to select 12 specimens (in egg cartons) from a selection of more than 2 dozen rocks & minerals. (In some cases there will be a limited number available)**

Roger and Arlene King
2211 North Whistlevale Dr. SW.
Byron Center, Mi. 49315
616-878-5163

Roger has a large collection of Fluorite, gypsum, and many rock sculptures he has made and they are available for sale!

We hope you can view these two collections to see what others are doing and how they are displaying and labeling their collections.



Beading Workshop

On Saturday, four members began Step 1 of a necklace and prepared to return on Sunday for Step 2.

Sunday's session lasted several hours and the necklaces will be finished at home to be shown off at the February meeting. Look for Vicky Hartung, Mary Johnson, Carol Belknap, Theresa Nowak and Robin Knapp.

Another small group can participate in a new session of "Cabochon Beading 101" on March 21 and 22. Sign up at the February meeting. Class size limit 5.

Many thanks,
Julia Sherwood

Tumbling Words of Wisdom

Robert Zigler is a charter Member of Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club. He is retired and now lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Here is an excerpt of a letter he sent to Ken Hoekstra and Shari Luttkhuizen:

Dear Ken and Shari,

I see by the club bulletin that you are going to present some information to beginners in the rock tumbling activity. At 94 years of age, my mind has forgotten if I sent my tumbling method instructions to someone in the Holland club or not. If I did, and you are aware of it forgive me for being repetitious and you can stop reading. If not read on.

Many years ago, maybe 35 years, I bought a used tumbler that held 2 - 9 lb barrels. I also had an old instruction book on tumbling. It said I could use old slurry saved from coarser grit grinds to use to thicken the fine grind slurry operation. But it also said to wash out the rocks well between each grit change. That didn't seem quite right to my little mind. Al Nutile also told me that since the grit breaks down running between changes, why wash. Just add the finer grit and keep going. That's what he did.

This all got me thinking. If it, the grit, keeps breaking down into smaller and smaller sizes, why ever change it? So I started out with a double charge of 80 grit, ran for 5 to 6 weeks, (1)opened up and washed out the rocks (2)sorted out any rocks that needed additional work, especially those with holes and tumble washed in soap and water for a few hours. Added the polishing compound with a generous supply of plastic beads and ran for 2 to 3 weeks. The polish knocked my eyes out!! That is how I do it!! I call myself "the lazy tumbler".

Bob goes on to share 2 more tips about his rock tumbling experiences. If you want to read the rest, Shari will have it at the general meeting.



Quiz on the Igneous Rock Cycle

(Last month's Junior presentation or your Field Guide)

1. Volcanic eruptions result in rocks & minerals that cool above Earth's crust. What kind of igneous process is involved?
 - a) Intrusive igneous
 - b) Extrusive igneous
2. The rocks Granite & Rhyolite have very similar "chemical composition".
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Bonus point: Are their mineral crystals the same size? _____(yes/no)
 - d) 2nd Bonus point: Why? _____
3. Granite Rock is made of 3-4 primary minerals. (Trick answers!)
 - a) Pumice, Biotite, Pyrite, Calcite
 - b) Hornblende, Biotite, Quartz, Microcline
 - c) Quartz, Feldspar, Biotite, Hornblende
4. Pyrite is only found in Igneous Rocks.
 - a) True
 - b) False
5. Pumice floats in water because_____
 - a) It is just different... like "oil on water".
 - b) It has lots of air-filled holes, where volcanic gases used to be.
 - c) It is magnetic.
6. Obsidian has a crystal structure.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Bonus point: Why? _____

7. Basalt is a fine-grained, black/dark rock that cooled deep under the Earth's surface.
- a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Bonus point: Why? _____

Double Rock Exchange with Two Clubs

The Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club (that's all of us) are going to exchange a big box of rocks with TWO other clubs this year. That's right! Double the fun! One box each. We've had so much fun doing exchanges with the Spring River Rock and Gem Club (Arkansas) in 2018 and the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Club.

Since we are a generous club, we would like to continue sharing rocks and specimens from our collections with those in other areas of the country. It is fascinating how sometimes specimens from our own region become almost boring to us, but given to someone outside our area they become quite prized due to relative scarcity.

This year we will be exchanging with the Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club (CMGC) and the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club (GJGMC). Mention both of these clubs to Mike Grabner and he'll give you an extra door prize ticket at our February meeting. The Clackamette club was organized in 1963 and meets in Oregon City, OR. They are now a 501(c)(3) educational and charitable organization with their own club building. Interestingly, they also have an active Juniors group that is watching the three rock types – metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary. The Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club meets in . . . you guess it, Grand Junction, CO (not MI). They not only have their own club house where they have displays of many fine rocks and minerals, they also have another building next door which is their lapidary lab. Last year as we celebrated our 50th anniversary show, they celebrated their 72nd!

If you have never had an opportunity to collect in either the Grand Junction, CO area or near Oregon City, OR you are like me. But we can share some of our specimens from our collections and exchange with both these entire clubs. Please feel free to contact the officers from both of these clubs. That's part of the fun of these exchanges. We get to know them better, and they get to know the better side of what we show them.

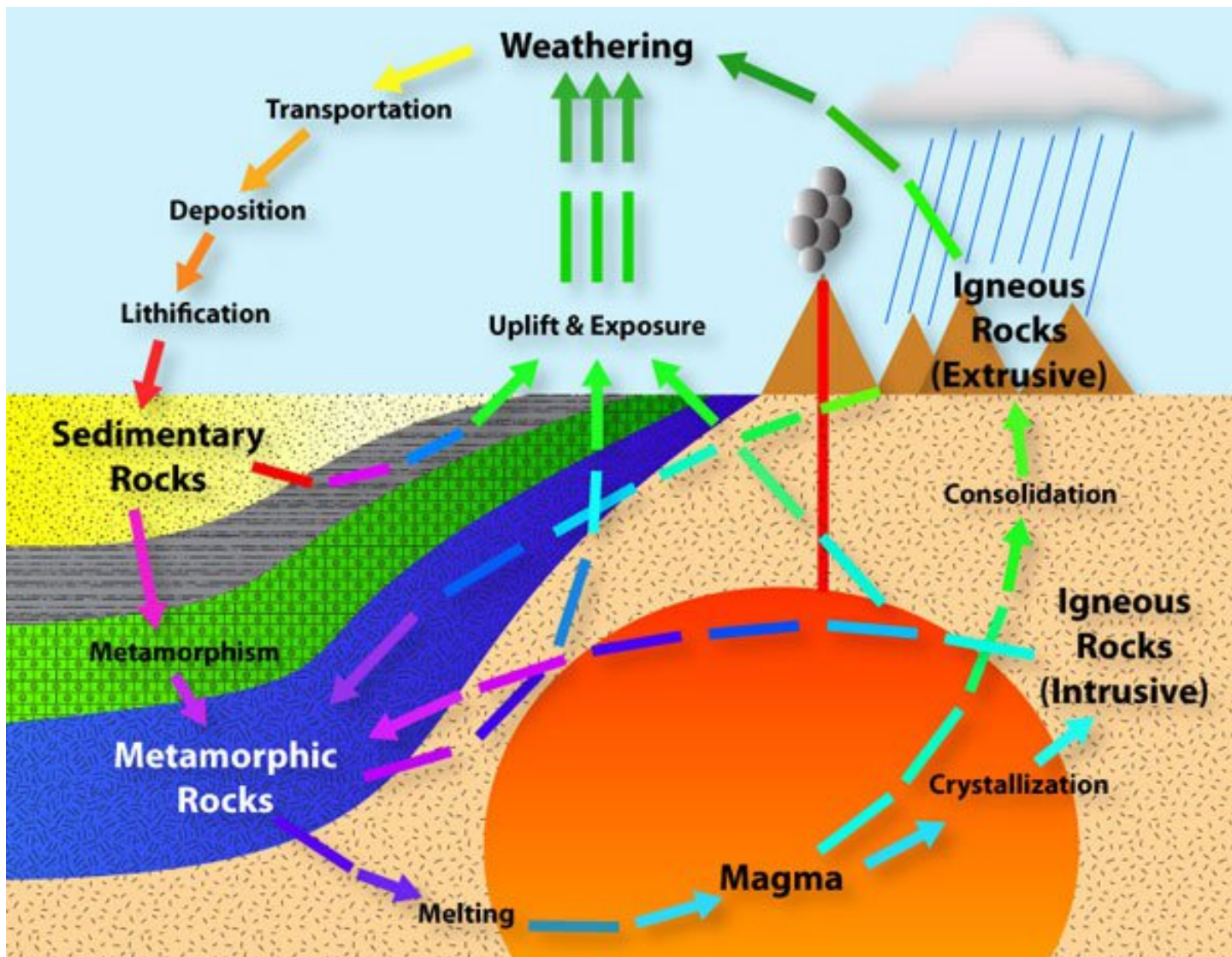
With this better side we share with these two clubs is our specimens. Please bring specimens you have that are from our area, some of our field trips or anything you feel they might not normally have collected. Ideally, if you could identify the specimen and the location it was collected the specimen would have more meaning and value to them. Bring these to put in the two USPS Priority shipping boxes in the back of our meeting rooms for both our February and March meetings. Right after the March meeting we'll ship out the boxes and should be getting identical sized boxes in return. The specimens we receive will be auctioned off at one of our upcoming general meetings. Remember, this year we have two clubs, so please be generous. Last year I was able to fit nearly 40 lbs of rocks in our exchange box we sent out. Let's see if we can get 80 lbs this year. I'll make sure they are packed safely. Just bring your identified specimens.

Grand Junction (Colorado) Gem and Mineral Club (Wayne Sims, President)

Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club Andrew Wulfhorst (Mary Sparks mksparks424@yahoo.com, contact)

Who Can Resist Looking At A Rock Cycle Diagram?

Answer: no one!



This edition of the Conglomerate was brought to you today by random fonts and font sizes. Personally, I think consistency of fonts makes for a better look. - Ed.

Junior Rock Club Page

Sedimentary Rock Processes -What are they?

Very basically, sediments are piled up layers and heaps of rocks, dirt, muds and stuff that used to be alive like old plants, shells and fossils. SEDIMENTS have been moved or altered ON OR NEAR THE EARTH'S SURFACE by water, wind, erosion, evaporation, chemical and/or biologic activity. Remember: Igneous rocks are formed from a hot magma or lava, then cooled; while Metamorphic rocks are formed by pressure and heat in deep, non-magma parts of the Earth. The Sedimentary rocks and minerals are different because all that "intense cooling, melting, hardening and re-hardening" does not happen.

Instead, SEDIMENTARY rock/mineral forms are most influenced by "whatever pushes them around" (weather or waves or changes to their original chemistry) or "how they stack up in layers". Both sand dunes AND sandstone rock are formed by Sedimentary Rock Processes, including the less intense temperatures and pressures on/near the Earth's surface.

At the Junior meeting, we'll review the change agents affecting rocks near Earth's crust. We'll see the Limestone formed from shells, Sand and Sandstone, Muds and Shales, Dusts and Chert/Flint. Old plants pile up and make coal. We'll think how an evaporate environment results in Gypsum and Salt. We'll consider how the weather affects our Earth and the rocks/minerals we find on our travels!

The Sedimentary Processes occur under the weight of the oceans and up into the mountains. Glaciers, wind-sculpted peaks and deserts create amazing landforms. Things move in rivers, floods and storms. Boulders break into rocks, then into pebbles. The chemical composition of rocks is altered as each one comes in contact with bacteria, air and water in their newer environments. Secondary minerals are created. It's exciting to find (and name) rock and mineral samples showing this stage of the Rock Cycle!

Rick Smith and Linda Winkelmann
Junior Club Leaders



KINDS OF DETRITAL SEDIMENTARY ROCKS



Breccia

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.

Curiosity selfie at Rock Hall on freaking Mars! (NASA photo)

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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