



April 2019 issue

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## Our next regular meeting: Tuesday, April 16 - 6:45pm

At the Traverse Area District Library on Woodmere

**Five Minute Program:** John Matz speaking on “Selenite – Identification, Use, History and More”.

**Main Program:** “Crater of Diamonds State Park” by Lisa and Gary Knudsen

**Door Prizes:** Kevin Gauthier, Lisa Knudsen and Jenny Sharp

**Snack Hosts:** Loretta LaFoilie, Lisa Knudsen, Debby Laslo and Tricia Stevens

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## March Highlights

Kevin Gauthier presented information on this year’s field trip planning meetings and upcoming trips.

The programs featured Deb Kennedy sharing information about Japanese Suiseki Rocks and Jared Bowen presenting, “ Michigan Glacial History”.

Door prizes were donated by Kevin Gauthier, Elaine Sylvain-Riddle and Gail Swed

Snack Hosts were Pat Captain, Marianne Pagel and Jenny Sharp.

Thank to our volunteer providers and presenters.

## March Field Trip Report

“In March of 2019, several members of the GTARMC visited the Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish and Wildlife Area in search of fossils. This old strip mining site contains lots of coal, petrified wood, and special ironstone concretions that contain fossils. This location is referred to as a lagerstätte of Pennsylvanian age fossils because of the magnificent preservation of even soft tissue organisms such as jellyfish. We won't know what most of these concretions contain until we break them open. These are the geodes of the fossil world- a plain surface hides wonders within! Updates to come later.

On Friday March 29th, some members did some initial scouting of the area- finding slabs of what are most probably Green River Formation fish fossil slabs in a ditch. It is a mystery how these Wyoming fossil ended up in a park in Illinois.

The main fossil hunting day for the club was Saturday. We searched for exposures in the woods and slugged through mud. Luckily the rain from the night before had let up by Saturday morning. After a hard day of rock hunting, many members enjoyed burgers at the Wicked Cricket bar nearby.

Sunday, most of the club left for home. Jared Bowen and Jenny Burcroff braved the below freezing temps and thick brush to scout more areas for our next trip.”

## Upcoming Events:

A collecting trip is being planned to the Charlevoix area for beach collecting on April 27th, weather permitting. Lorna Coe provided the following information.

“April 27th at 11:00 a.m. Meeting at the lighthouse at 11:00 a.m. for easy access to the beach area. You may want to go up the road by the Mushroom Houses to another parking area. There are lots of steps to that part of the beach. We are also setting up tours for the Mushroom Houses. The cost is \$18.00 payable at the time of the tour. More info by our next meeting. The tour lasts about 45 minutes.

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It is also restaurant week. Check the Charlevoix website for more info.

Another good rocking spot is at Fisherman's Island State Park. You can park down at the end of the road. If anyone has more ideas and wants to share, please let us know.

Dress warm, may want to have extra clothes. One car holds 5 people, working to get another car that will hold 12."

## July

Registration is now open through Michigan Tech University for the July 16 – 20 Keweenaw Mineral Days collecting events in Copper Country. Follow the link from the Sponsors/Links page on our club website ([tcrockhounds.com](http://tcrockhounds.com)) to register for the event .

## August

The Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club also will have collecting events in August. The events will be on the 6th through the 9th. The information was posted on March 15 and registration began that day. When I checked a few days ago, their 4 dig location trips were full. They have their Rock and Mineral Show on August 9 – 11.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club has collecting events either side of their August 3 show. Friday, the 2nd will be collecting at the Republic Iron Mine, Sunday the 4th will be collecting at the Lindberg Quarry for Kona Dolomite. The final event will be on Monday, August 5 at the Michigan Gold Mine. Registration details for the gold mine will be posted soon and there is a limit of 40 participants.

Both of these clubs have a link on our Sponsors/Links page.

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**There are several openings on the 2019 meeting schedule for snacks, door prizes and programs.**

**Please see Janet Ryan to volunteer to fill in one or more of these openings. Thank you!**

## **Facebook Page**

Many thanks to Jenny Burcroff for creating a GTARMC Facebook page. To take a look use this web address. I will be putting a link on our club website soon for another way to access the Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/TCRockhounds>

From the March Illinois field trip.



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Tom Fordyce is selling some lapidary equipment and specimens.  
Please see information below from Tom.

“I have a 14” Highland Park Slab Saw, cuts real good, blade good.  
Lortone Arbor with 2 – 8” wheels, one 80 grit and one 220 grit. Lots of  
rocks for sale, specimens, slabs and rough. All prices negotiable.  
Please contact Tom Fordyce at 231-590-4980 for appointment.”

See you all on the 16th.