



August 2021 issue

WE WILL HOLD OUR ANNUAL PICNIC ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 AT THE HOME OF JOHN MATZ ON PENINSULA DRIVE. Appetizers and gathering will begin at 4:00 p.m., with dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Please bring a lawn chair, your table service and a dish to pass, including appetizers. There will be lemonade and iced tea, so if you want something else to drink, please bring it. There is plenty of space to socially distance around his yard. If you wish to feel more comfortable, please also plan on bringing your face mask so you can feel safer when in the house to get your food.

If you are not comfortable in attending the picnic, everyone will understand. These are unusual times requiring understanding and cooperation.

To get to the Matz home, take M-37 north out of Traverse City as if you were going to Old Mission Point except you will need to turn left on Peninsula Drive at the second traffic light past the Front Street traffic light. The address is 12142 Peninsula Dr. and is about 7 miles from the stoplight at M-37. Park near the bottom of the hill, near the fruit trees.

We will be having pulled pork for sandwiches or if you prefer, just a little pile of pork. This year it will be from Dickey's Barbeque Pit.

July Highlights

The outdoor meeting on July 15 went great with approximately 48 people in attendance including several visitors. Thanks to all for coming.

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Our main program was presented by Nathalie Brandes on the Swedish Copper Mining history of a mine that produced for over 1,000 years. Her enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject was very enjoyable and entertaining.

Deb Bull will be taking over the Membership Chair position.

A motion was passed to purchase more yard signs for the club show.

Facebook Page

Visit the club's Facebook page at this web address. There is also a link on our club website.

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

Field Trip Information

Gary Bull became the Field Trip Coordinator in 2021. Kevin Gauthier will still plan the trip to the U.P. in early September. Here is a report regarding upcoming trips and possible trips.

The Gem Shop: Several club members visited The Gem Shop in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, on Sunday, July 18th. They had a chance to shop at reduced prices before the shop opened to the public. They have a very wide range of rocks and minerals to choose from.

1. I have been trying to get us into the LaFarge Quarry in Alpena. It may happen later in September.
2. Kevin is organizing a trip to Copper Country, September 8th through the 11th. A stop will be made at the Lindberg Quarry between Marquette and Ishpeming on the 8th for Kona Dolomite. Make your reservations to camp at McClain State Park, between Hancock and Calumet, where many club members will be camping, or stay at another campground or motel nearby.

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Ideas or suggestions for field trips? Give Gary a call at 231-590-3397

Deb and Gary Bull still have some large sturdy buckets at their house that Jared procured. A small donation to the club is required per bucket.

In Memory

With sadness we report the death of long time member Jane Matz on July 1. Here is a tribute that was created by Pierre LaFoille.

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club (GTARMC) lost a multi-talented and long-time member, Jane Matz, this month. Jane passed away on July 1, 2021. Jane has been a member of the club since 1989, making her and her husband, John, two of the longest serving members in the club's history.

Jane caught the rock hounding fever in 1961 after finding her first agate on the shores of Lake Superior that year. Not long afterwards, at the urging of a Girl Scout leader, Jane and John joined the Roamin Rock and Mineral Club, Livonia, and were still honorary members of that organization until recently.

Jane has held the position of secretary for the GTARMC, taught Gem Picture Art, and served as newsletter editor for the Michigan Geology and Gemological Society for over 20 years. Jane and John were instrumental in helping save the GTARMC from oblivion when membership in the club during the 1990's dropped to only 12 active members. Together with the Neilsons and the Rothgarbers they managed to move the meeting place from the Senior Center to the TC History Center, and began offering lapidary classes, boosting membership to over 30 active people. (Today membership in the club stands at over 220).

Jane's initial rock hunting travels took her to the northern shore of Lake Superior to hunt for Thunder Bay Amethysts. Eventually her travels led

her to southern Oregon to hunt for thunder eggs and agates. Jane and John have hit many “exotic” places in their quest for rocks and minerals; New Zealand, Alaska, Texas, New Mexico, and Ticaboo, Utah just to name a few.

In their quest for rocks, they’ve met a cast of characters, like Rattlesnake Jones, the near-blind trapper of more than 20,000 rattlesnakes. They’ve been accused of “claim jumping” in Oregon (they weren’t); and have been hosted by the matriarch of the Stillwell Ranch in Texas who had to flee Pancho Villa’s raids in the early 1900’s.

Both Jane and John observed that the places they visited and the interesting people they met along the way would never have been possible if they hadn’t been rockhounds. Attached are some pictures that capture just some of Jane’s talents.



Figure 1 Jane's watercolor of a barn in Colorado. Inspired by her rock hunting trips.



Figure 2 Jane's watercolor of a miner's camp in the west



Figure 3 One of Jane's early gem trees



Figure 4 An example of Jane's Gem Art



Figure 5 Jane and John on one of their rock hunting trips

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The above contact list will be included in each newsletter so that you know who to contact for various items.

Club Email Address

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Join us at the Matz home on August 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Below you will find a very interesting article on written by new member Steven Veatch titled, "The Michigan Puddingstone".



The Michigan Puddingstone

Steven Wade Veatch

Michigan's puddingstones are intriguing rocks that look like a glob of pudding stuffed with raisins, nuts and bits of cranberries. These white rocks, with small red, brown, purple and black pebbles, are not a Michigan product. During the last ice age, they hitched a ride into Michigan on an ice sheet and got off in the southern part of the state when the ice melted.



Fig. 1. An unpolished puddingstone from Michigan. Some contain trace amounts of gold and diamonds. These rocks are commonly found just after farmers plow their fields in Michigan. Puddingstones were brought to Michigan by Ice Age glaciers. Jo Beckwith Specimen. Photo by S. W. Veatch.

Puddingstones went through several steps in their formation (in what is now part of Ontario in Canada), before they went on their journey to Michigan. First, a network of rapidly flowing streams tumbled red and coffee-brown jasper, funeral-black chert, hematite, and quartz in their churning water. Next, the streams deposited the material as sedimentary fill in eroded troughs and as alluvial fans, when the streams reduced their velocity and scattered the colorful pebbles onto mounds of sand (Lowey, 1985; Baumann et al., 2001).

Then, the sand and pebbles hardened beneath the Earth's surface and, over time, formed sedimentary rocks known as conglomerates (Slawson, 1933). Later, intense heat and pressure metamorphosed the matrix of sand into a light-colored, coarse-grained, sugary-textured quartzite that tightly held the pebbles (Schaetzl, n.d.). These geological forces formed the puddingstones around 2.3 billion years ago.

Today, geologists recognize these conglomerates as part of the Lorrain Quartzite of the Cobalt Series (Door and Eschman, 1970). This rock formation occurs as thick beds at Saint Joseph Island in Northern Ontario, Canada. The conglomerates also are found by the Saint Mary's River north of the Bruce Mines. This area is located 65 km (40 miles) east of Sault Sainte Marie in Ontario.

Puddingstones traveled south during the last ice age with the immense Laurentide Ice Sheet as it flowed at a glacial pace down from Canada. This ice plucked the puddingstones from the underlying bedrock, carried them hundreds of kilometers, and delivered those rocks to Michigan about 24,000 years ago.

This slowly advancing ice plowed across the landscape for thousands of years until rising temperatures, brought on by a climatic shift, ended their movement in Michigan. As the glacial ice melted, it deposited glacial till that contained the puddingstones.

Today, farmers in the southern part of Michigan find puddingstones after spring plowing. Since tightly cemented puddingstones can be cut and polished, they are in demand by Michigan artists and crafters, who make jewelry and ornaments out of them. Puddingstones are commonly found as garden decorations that adorn Michigan homes and farms. People also collect and display puddingstones for their striking colors and appearance.



Fig. 2. Since puddingstones are so hard, they take a nice polish as seen in this example. Steven Veatch specimen. Photo by S.W. Veatch.

In fact, as grandparents and parents take children outside to hunt for puddingstones, they pass an interest in puddingstones and geology down through generations of Michigan families. The tradition of looking for these goes back to the settlement of Michigan, and there is no sign of this interest ending anytime soon.

References cited:

Baumann, S. D., J. T. Arrospe, and A. E. Wolosyzn, 2011, Preliminary Redefinition of the Cobalt Group (Huronian Supergroup), in the Southern Geologic Province, Ontario, Canada. Midwest Institute of Geosciences and Engineering, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Door, J. A. and Eschman, D., 1970, Geology of Michigan: Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press.

Lowey, G.W., 1985, Stratigraphy and Sedimentology of the Lorrain Formation, Huronian Supergroup (Aphebian), Between Sault Ste. Marie and Elliot Lake, Ontario, and Implications for Stratiform Gold Mineralization, Open File Report no. 1154. Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.

Schaetzl, R. J. (n.d.), Geography of Michigan and the Great Lakes Region. Retrieved, from <http://geo.msu.edu/extra/geogmich/Puddingstones.html> on January 22, 2020.

Slawson, C. B., 1933, The Jasper Conglomerate, an Index of Drift Dispersion. The Journal of Geology, Vol. 41, No. 5, p. 546–52.