

Charlie's Chatter for January

President Lauren Vaughn called the meeting to order at 7:09. Forty-one were in attendance, including guests Keira, Kaitlin, Sean, Kathy, Ron, Carol, Suzi, Rich, Marsha, and Elaine, all from TC, and Jim from Leelanau. Many of our visitors indicated a desire to become members. The club continues to grow. Minutes from the November meeting were read by Cindy and accepted as presented. Maria-Anne presented the financial report. In his vice-president's report, Jim reported there are still many openings in the 2014 meeting schedule for programs and refreshments. Discussions again were held about using club funds to bring in guest speakers. Members offered various suggestions, with several offering to contact potential speakers. The Prez reviewed the current status of the History Center. He reported the opening of a new rock shop on M-20 between Midland and Mt Pleasant. Flyers of upcoming events were available. Tom reviewed classes being offered and member use of the workroom. Four classes had to be cancelled due to the weather. It was suggested that the club recognize the time and effort of class instructors with a gift. Those instructors in attendance indicated there was no need. Maria-Anne D'Hooghe was recognized as Rockhound of the Year for 2013. In addition to keeping the financial records of the club organized, Maria-Anne helps with the club's auction, rock show, and Christmas dinner each year. She is truly indispensable. The door prize, a beautiful necklace with a Fordite pendant, donated by Ken Schug, was won by Carley, sister of November's winner. Tasty treats were provided by Dave, Karen, Maria-Anne, and Bruce. Afterwards, those present participated in the annual "Funny Money Auction." With each person presented with \$500, the bidding was spirited. Items auctioned off included a wide variety of rocks, slabs, rock-related items, and mouth-watering food items. Tom did a great job as the auctioneer. What a swell time! Thanks to all who participated. See y'all at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

February 18th

Long Program

Mystery DVD

Short Program

"Little Pine Garnet Mine"

by Lauren Vaughn

Door prize -

Cynthia Vaughn

Snacks:

- Collick family
- Lorna Coe
- Jack & Bill Campbell

NOTE: Members can continue signing up for snacks, door prizes, and program presentations for 2014 at the February meeting. There are still a few spots unfilled.

Pictures from the January Meeting



Attendees at the meeting (above)

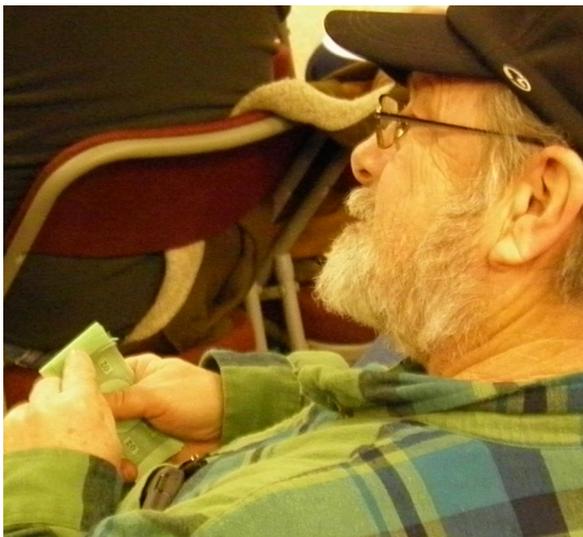


Door prize winner
Carley (right)

A lucky bidder picks
up her prize (left)

"Counting his Money"
(lower left)

Tom signals a winning
bid (lower right)



MOBILE STAND

A handy mobile stand for your flexshaft can be made easily and quickly from the base of an old swivel office chair. You can find these chairs being thrown out at office buildings and schools. I just ask the custodian in my building to set one aside for me.

To separate the chair from the wheeled base, simply remove the spring clip from the center bottom. I use a small screwdriver or a pair of pliers.

To make the stand, you'll need two pieces of threaded galvanized steel pipe and a pipe fitting from a hardware store. The first length of pipe is 3/4 inch diameter to fit the hole in most chair bases. The second piece is a length of less expensive 1/2 inch pipe. Total length of the two pipes should be five feet. I used a two foot length of 3/4 pipe and a three foot length of 1/2 pipe. They are joined together by a pipe fitting called a 3/4 to 1/2 reducing coupler.



LOCAL METALS SOURCE

Local sheet metal shops typically have barrels of scrap copper, brass and aluminum sheet that they save for recycling. Shops will usually let you go through the barrels to select the shapes and thicknesses you want. Prices vary but will generally be just a little more than the wholesale per-pound scrap value.

I've found it's much cheaper to buy metal this way than ordering from a catalog. There's no shipping charges, and you'll be supporting a local small business in your community. Do remember to bring your thickness gauge and work gloves if you try this.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith (Santa Monica, CA) at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips or [Facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club (GTARMC) is open to the public. Promoting our hobby is our goal.

All regular meetings & classes are held at the History Center (the old library) on Sixth Street in Traverse City on the Third Tuesday of each month, at 7pm, unless posted otherwise in the newsletter.

If you have received a complementary newsletter, we welcome you to attend our next meeting. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings of the GTARMC.

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

Annual Membership

Adult \$15.00 / Jr. (8-17) \$5.00
Couple \$20.00
(children \$3 ea.)

Dues are payable to:

GTARMC

c/o Maria-Anne D'Hooghe,
Treasurer

P.O. Box 218

Kewadin, MI 49648-0218

CLUB OFFICERS 2013

Lauren Vaughn, President	276-6150	maple2b@aol.com
Jim Gary, Vice President	735-1217	jpgary@dls.net
Cindy Wicksall, Secretary	946-7517	dogface05@charter.net
Maria-Anne D'Hooghe, Treasurer	617-699-7896	maria-anne@elkrapidsnet.com
Tom Fordyce, Education	590-4980	tom514@centurytel.net
Dave Speirs, Newsletter Editor	995-9056	djspeirs@charter.net
Lauren Vaughn, Webmaster	276-6150	maple2b@aol.com