



July 2023 issue

The July 19 meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City.

The program will feature a short program on “A Family of Rock Collectors” by Carol Popa. The main feature will be “Geological and Paleontological Illustration” by Natalie Jastojanvic.

June Highlights

The collection of food and hygiene items continued and the annual silent auction fundraiser for the club was conducted. The club is holding an outdoor “trunk sale” on August 5. Let Pierre know by July 15 if you are interested in a 10x10 foot space for the show at Woodland Creek Furniture in Acme. There will be a small cost for the space.

Rockhound of the month for May was Cheri Huggett.

Food Pantry Donations

Lorna Coe and Jim and De Elder would like to thank everyone that has brought items for the food pantry donations. Due to the success of the program, they would like to continue this at every meeting. Non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products (including hotel soaps and shampoos), and tote bags are welcomed. All items that are donated will be given to various food pantries and other assistance organizations.

As an added incentive, every time you donate items, your name will be placed in a drawing, which will take place at our Christmas dinner.

Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars

May was the last VFW meeting for Pebble Pups until September. The Pups will be going on some field trips this summer including one on August 5. They will be contacted by email about the trips, and they will be listed on the Club's Facebook page. See more Pup's information later in the newsletter.

Classes and Workroom

As in past years, classes and workroom sessions are taking the month of July off and will resume in August. With busy summer schedules, this gives instructors, workroom monitors and club members a month to enjoy families, friends and rock hunting.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report that long time member of the club, Don Gaskell, passed away on July 2. Don was an active member that held various offices and other volunteer positions over the years. He had a great sense of humor and was always willing to help. He will be greatly missed. Visitation is Thursday, July 6 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Elk Rapids and the funeral mass will be on Friday, July 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Those that would like to send a condolence, please send those to his wife Lucy. Her address is P.O. Box 536, Eastport, MI 49627

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>

Upcoming Field Trip Planning

Here is the update on trips for 2023 from Gary Bull, Field Trip Coordinator and Deb Bull, who presented the following information.

GTARMC (members only) Field Trips

Suggestions for trips? Contact Gary at 231-590-3397.

July: To be determined. Gary is working on a quarry outing.

August 20 (Sunday) **4pm** Club picnic at John Matz's home on Old Mission Peninsula. The club will provide the meat dish. Bring a dish to pass, your choice of beverage (tea and lemonade will be provided), a chair, and your own plastic and paper picnic-ware.

September: **6-9th** Keweenaw Peninsula collecting. 7+ hour drive to Hancock, MI. This is a multiple day event, requiring a campground reservation or a hotel reservation. See Kevin Gauthier for details.

October, November suggestions??

December *Date to be determined.* Annual Club Holiday Dinner at the VFW.

The June 18 picnic and rock hunt in Norwood went very well. Here is a photo of Gary at the grill.



Membership Information

From Deb Bull, Membership Chair:

You must be a paid member in order to continue to receive club benefits (participation in club sponsored classes, outings and receiving club newsletters.)

Membership dues may be mailed to:

Deb Bull, Membership, GTARMC
6091 Creighton Rd SW
South Boardman, MI 49680

Name badges are an additional \$8 per badge. Thank you!

Club Email Addresses

gtarmc@tcrockhounds.com (main club email address)

If you have any photos that you would like to share of club events or members, those can be sent to:

photos@tcrockhounds.com or noonanjohntc@gmail.com

To view club photos on Flickr, enter the following web address:

[GT Rock & Mineral | Flickr](#)

For scheduling requests for classes or workroom time, (beginning again in August) please send email request to:

scheduling@tcrockhounds.com

President

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231-620-6567
ehall686@gmail.com

Vice President

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Club Show Chair

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

Annual Picnic

The annual club picnic will be held on Sunday, August 20 at the home of John Matz on Peninsula Drive. The specific address is available at the July meeting. The festivities will begin at 4:00 p.m. with appetizers and conversation and the main meal at 5:00 p.m. The club will provide the meat dish, iced tea and lemonade.

Please bring your own lawn chairs, a dish to pass, your items to eat and drink with and on, and drinks if you would like something other than tea or lemonade.

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Next is an announcement by Steven Veatch, about the Nature Makers Event on July 26:

The Pebble Pups of the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club are sponsoring NATURE MAKERS: Fossil Fun: Unleashing the Artist in You!

Wednesday, July 26th at 4 pm.
Traverse District Library
610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City, MI 49686

Fossil Fun: Unleashing the Artist in You!

"Fossil Fun" is an exciting and interactive program designed to introduce children to the captivating world of fossils and prehistoric creatures through the art of scientific illustration. Led by a skilled scientific illustrator, this hands-on workshop aims to ignite children's curiosity, foster their artistic skills, and deepen their understanding of Earth's ancient history.

In this program, children will embark on a journey through time, exploring the wonders of the prehistoric world. They will learn about different types of fossils, their formation processes, and the incredible creatures that once roamed the Earth. The heart of the program lies in teaching children how to observe and draw fossils accurately. The scientific illustrator will share valuable tips and techniques, guiding children step-by-step in capturing the intricate details of fossils and recreating prehistoric creatures on paper. Through a combination of demonstrations, hands-on activities, and individual guidance, children will discover their artistic potential and develop their own unique style.

The "Fossil Fun" program emphasizes the importance of scientific accuracy while embracing creativity while bringing their illustrations to life. Along the way, they will also learn fascinating facts about the fossils they are drawing, enriching their knowledge of paleontology.

By the end of the program, children will have their own scientific illustrations, showcasing their newfound skills and understanding of fossils and prehistoric creatures. They will gain confidence in their artistic abilities, develop a keen eye for detail, and foster a deeper appreciation for the wonders of Earth's history. "Fossil Fun" is a unique blend of science, art, and imagination, inspiring children to become not only better artists but also curious explorers of the ancient world. Join us on this captivating adventure and unleash the artist within you!

Next from Steven is a book review on "Michigan Rocks!"

Book Review:

Michigan Rocks!

A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Great Lakes State

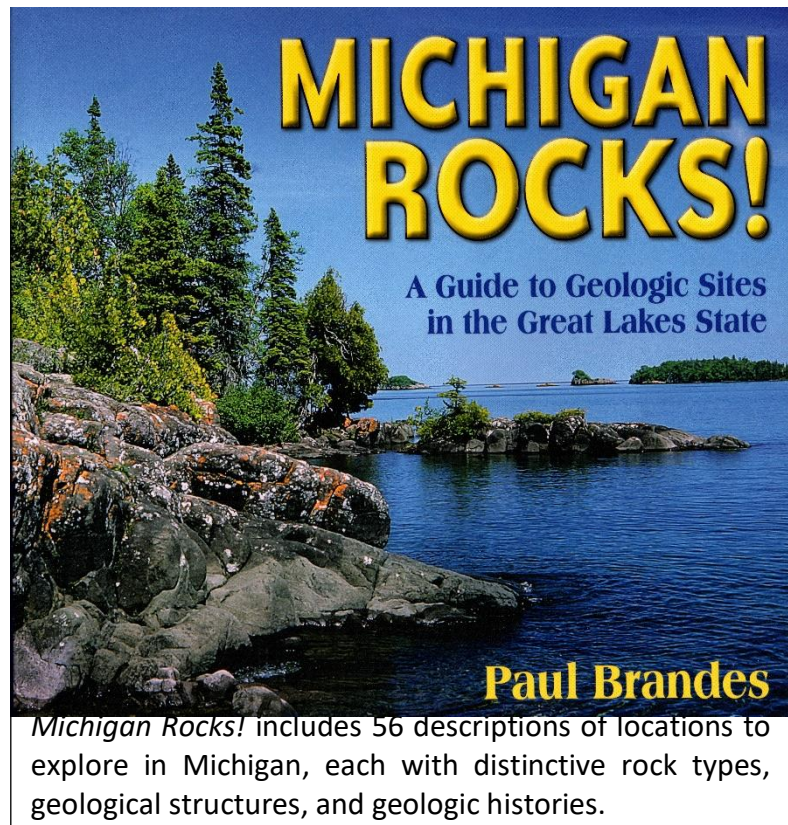
Author: Paul Brandes

Publisher: Mountain Press Publishing

Publication Date: 2023. Length: 137 pages.

ISBN 978-0878427123. Paperback. \$22.

Michigan's rocks have played a significant role in forming the state's environment, economy, and culture. The state's rich mineral deposits, including iron, copper, and salt, have fueled its industrial growth for centuries. Also, the state's natural beauty, including its many lakes, rivers, and forests, draws millions of tourists each year.



Paul Brandes' new book: *Michigan Rocks!* explores Michigan's geology and glacial history in depth. The book begins with a brief introduction to the geology of Michigan. *Michigan Rocks!* continues with detailed information—including excellent photographs and maps—on geological formations, rocks, and other fascinating natural landmarks of 56 selected geologic sites throughout the state.

The author divided these sites into four geographic areas: Northwest Upper Michigan, Central and Southwestern Upper Michigan, Eastern Upper Michigan, and Lower Michigan. The Upper Peninsula is home to some of the oldest rocks in North America, with some dating back over 3 billion years. This region encompasses a range of igneous and metamorphic rocks, such as granite, gneiss, and schist. Different types of sedimentary rocks—including limestone, sandstone, and shale—characterize the Lower Peninsula. The accumulation of sediment in ancient seas and lakes formed these sedimentary rocks over millions of years during the Paleozoic Era. Today, glacial sediments cover most of these Paleozoic rocks in the Lower Peninsula.

The last section of the text comprises a glossary of essential terms, a list of supplementary reading recommendations, and a compilation of web-based resources for readers wishing to investigate areas further.

Michigan Rocks! is written in a clear, concise style and is divided into 56 geologic sites. The author describes the processes that formed each site and provides maps, diagrams, and directions to locate each site for field trips to explore Michigan's geologic areas of interest.

Brandes includes an interesting story about the Lake Ellen Kimberlite (site 17), a rare deposit in Iron County, Michigan. This kimberlite intruded the surrounding Hemlock Volcanics Group and is exposed on the surface as a kimberlite breccia. Kimberlites are vertical magma pipes that sprang from the Earth's mantle and traveled quickly through the crust before exploding violently at the surface. Some kimberlites contain diamonds. At Lake Ellen, there are no diamonds of any commercial significance. Reportedly, this rock does have pyrope garnets and chrome diopside, both of which sometimes signal the presence of diamonds.

Reviewing the state's geology, the author delved into the Watersmeet Gneiss, the oldest rock in Michigan, which is 3.56 billion years old. This gneiss is a gray, felsic augen (eye-shaped feldspars) gneiss that was formed by heat and pressure from a compressional event. Numerous waterfalls, lakes, beaches, dunes, erratics, sinkholes, rivers, and petroglyphs are featured in the book. The author mentions the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum (site 5) on the campus of Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

Brandes discusses boudinage, an intriguing feature characteristic of a tightly folded metamorphic rock in a local outcrop at Republic Outcrops (site 21). When a tabular body of brittle rock is stretched and twisted within a more ductile rock layer (by local tensional pressures), sausage-like structures (boudinage) are created in the rocks, as seen at Republic Outcrops.

The text concentrates more on geological formations and rocks rather than minerals and fossils. Brandes' book would have benefited from inclusion of more fossil sites. The author also could have included more Michigan mine and quarry sites, making the book more interesting to the weekend mineral or fossil collector.

Brandes earned a BS in geology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and an MS in geology from Michigan Technological University. He has worked as an exploration geologist, a geology consultant, and a professor of earth science at a community college. His passion for the subject is clear throughout the entire book.

Overall, *Michigan Rocks!* is an excellent resource for anyone interested in the fascinating geology and landscapes of the state. Whether you're a student of geology or simply

interested in learning more about the Earth's physical processes, there is much to discover in *Michigan Rocks!* that would make it a valuable addition to your library.

And to put a nice ending to this newsletter is a poem by Steven Veatch.

The Pick Boys
The Cripple Creek Mining District
By Steven Wade Veatch

From old and brittle photographs,
the faces of young boys look out.
One puffs on a spit-soaked cigar
from the corner of his mouth.
Another scrub-faced kid smiles.
Both pose with the men.

The story is clear—
When a father was killed or disabled,
some boys worked in the mines
as breadwinners. Other boys quit school
to follow the adventure of mining.

They were the pick boys
who ran errands, fetched supplies,
carried dull drills and picks
to blacksmiths for sharpening,
lugged water to thirsty miners,
and tended the donkeys.

They tramped deep underground.
Timbers creaked and water dripped.
Grime stained their clothes
from the damp and muddy
places they worked.

Endless blackness swallowed
flickering candlelight.
Deadly gases threatened.
Rock dust from drilling, fumes of blasting,
and smoke from candles burning filled the air.

The roar of blasting and the racket
of drills was constant. Yet they worked
in deliberate routines to earn their meager pay
in a time and place so different from today.



A Pick Boy at work. This AI image was created by the author with the assistance of DALL·E and MS Bing.



A Pick Boy takes a break deep underground. This AI image was created by the author with the assistance of