

Charlie's Chatter for April

President Lauren Vaughn called the April meeting to order at 7:01. Guests Pete and Millie joined a good crowd of members in attending. Cindy was unable to present minutes for the March meeting since gremlins were inhabiting her computer. Maria-Anne reported that we currently have 104 memberships comprising 151 individuals for 2014. This is down 43 from last year, but there is hope for more renewals. VP Jim Gary had a number of fliers on upcoming rock shows for perusal. He also reported there is an opportunity to collect flint in the Columbus, Ohio area. If interested, contact Jim. Still some room on the 2014 schedule for programs or snacks. Prez Vaughn reviewed our support of the Petoskey Stone Festival in the past. The club passed a motion to give \$200 for this year's festival. Lauren also reported the Cheboygan Puddingstone Festival will be August 8 & 9. It is \$60 to set up a table there. Tom Fordyce says he has caught up on cabochon classes (except for a few members wintering in the south). If you are interested in a class please contact Tom. Bonnie Reed was recognized as Rockhound of the Month for March. In addition to putting up with Don, Bonnie has provided snacks, presented programs, and aided with the annual show. Thank you, Bonnie. In old news, the club is in need of some member participation (see page 2). Also, Lorna Coe still has pieces of granite available. Two door prizes - a copper specimen donated by Jane Matz won by Bill Campbell and a Petoskey stone T-shirt donated by Lauren and won by Jack Campbell. The Financial records for 2013 were reviewed by Jim Lutfy and found to be in order with the club requirements. Snacks and refreshments were provided by Bonnie, Mary Ann Warner, and Karen Perry. Yummy! For the main program, Don Reed did a presentation of the recent annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show that he and Bonnie and other members of the club attended. For those of us who haven't been able to get there yet, it was exciting to see the variety and magnitude of what is offered in Tucson. Other members brought some of their treasures to show.

Upcoming Meetings

May 20th

Kentucky Agates & Fossils

Presentation by Deb & Gary
Bull

**Short program - *Pink Petoskey
Stones* by Don Reed**

Door prize

Jill & Jim Gary

Snacks:

- Jill & Jim Gary
- Judy Owen
- Don & Lucy Gaskell

Reminder - June is our silent auction fundraiser. Start thinking of your donations.

Welcome New Members

Jef Potter	Mayfield
Tom Lufkin	Maple City
Bea Kunnert	Bellaire

Grand Traverse Rock & Mineral Club
says

"We're glad you're with us!"

Wanted - Urgent!

Newsletter Editor:

Produces the monthly newsletter which highlights the club's activities and events. This duty can be jointly chaired with a second or third person so you would not have to be responsible for the newsletter every month. If it's a chaired duty one person needs to coordinate the schedule.

Photographer:

Take pictures during meetings or events. Pictures to be used for newsletter, members directory or future programs. Again the same as the Newsletter Editor this can be a chaired duty but one person needs to take the responsibility of coordinating the schedule.

Publicity Chair for the Club Show:

Coordinate efforts to publicize the annual show in September, including signage and advertisement. If you can only be responsible for one part of publicity please let us know also. It will make the job of Publicity Chairperson easier if there are multiple helpers.

Membership Chair:

Works closely with the treasurer on membership related items. Contact members by email or phone when needed. Respond to e-mails in the clubs yahoo mailbox or forward them to the appropriate member.

The outgoing members would be happy to share their knowledge and experience with any member willing to fill the position. If interested you can send an e-mail to tcrockhounds@yahoo.com and let us know.

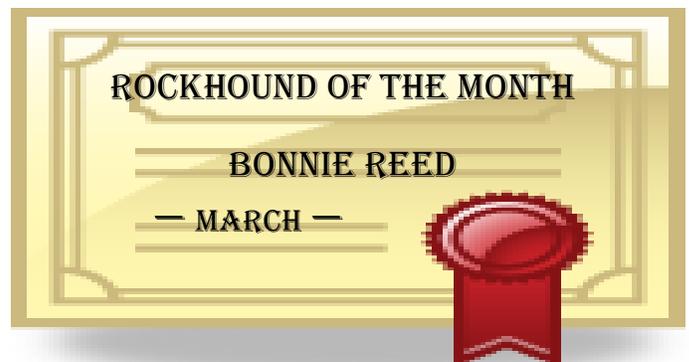
Up-coming Events

May 24 - Petoskey Stone Festival,
Barenes Park, Eastport, 10:00 am -
4:00 pm

June 7-8 - MGAGS Rockhound Seminar,
WMU, Kalamazoo, MI
www.mgags.org

August 4-9 - Keewanaw Mineral Days,
Houghton/Hancock, MI
www.museum.mtu.edu

Sorry, no pictures this month.



REVOLVING SOLDER PAD

Often when we're soldering we have multiple pieces on the pad or a single piece and would like to work on several sides of it during the same heat.

One of the ways to deal with this is to put your solder pad onto a turntable. That way you can rotate each piece into position when you need to or can rotate the pad to reach another side of a larger piece.

All you need to make one of these is a piece of aluminum sheet and an inexpensive turn table assembly. A good hardware store will have both.



In building a turntable for my 6 inch solder pad, I used a seven inch square piece of aluminum and cut out 1/2 inch notches from each corner. Then I used a bench vice to bend the sides along the dotted lines to form a tray that cradles the solder pad. I attached the tray to the turntable assembly with a couple small machine screws and nuts.

QUENCHING

Some jewelers drop the hot piece from soldering directly into the pickle. Do you hear that little hiss? The hot piece sends small droplets of acid into the air. This can rust nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. To avoid this I quench in water. A coffee cup of water at the solder station lets me cool a soldered piece before dumping it into the pickle. It's also useful for annealing metals and for cooling off tweezers.

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 2014

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