



July 2024 issue

The next regular meeting will be on THURSDAY, July 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City.

The July 18 meeting will feature a yet to be disclosed short program and the main program will be Deb Bull speaking on “Rare Earth Minerals”.

The next regular meeting of the Pebble Pups will be in September. There will be some field trips and other events this summer.

June Highlights

The June 20 meeting featured our annual Silent Auction, club fundraiser. Club members brought items to donate for the auction and then members and guests had the opportunity to bid on the items. There were two rounds of good-spirited bidding.

48 members and guests were present and enjoyed silent auction and the door prize drawings. Officer reports were given including some upcoming field trips and a possible August 3 outdoor Tailgate Sale at Woodland Creek Furniture in Acme.

Food Pantry Donations

Lorna Coe and Jim and De Elder would like to thank all that have brought items for the food pantry and clothing donations. Due to the success of the program, it will continue at every meeting. Non-perishable food items (no expired dated items, please), personal hygiene products, children’s new underwear, sizes elementary to teens, are welcomed. An additional item of need is toothbrushes and toothpaste. As an added incentive, every time you donate items, put your name in the hat for a drawing, which will take place at our Christmas dinner.

Rockhound of the Month

Michelle and Nathan Peters were named Rockhounds of the Month for their fantastic work helping Steven Veatch with the highly successful Pebble Pups program.

Upcoming Field Trip and Special Event Information

July 21 Fisherman's Island State Park – details will be available soon

August 4-11 Keweenaw Mineral Days – Not a club field trip. This is offered by the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club and the dig events at old copper mines are currently full.

August 3 Tailgate Sale at Woodland Creek Furniture (tentative)

August 18 Annual Club Picnic (John Matz' home – tentative)

Sept 15 Cranbrook Institute: Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Sept 28-29 GTARMC Rock and Mineral Show (Sat/Sun)

Oct 19-20 Rockport/Rogers City, MI Fossil Hunting Trip

December ? - Holiday Party

Membership Information

From Cathy Kowaleski, Membership Chair:

You must be a paid member to continue to receive club benefits (participation in classes, outings and receiving club newsletters.) Dues are \$15 Adult or \$20 for a couple, Juniors (8-17) \$5, and those under 8 are free with an adult membership. Make checks out to GTARMC.

Membership dues may be mailed to:

Cathy Kowaleski, Membership Chair
801 S. Garfield Avenue #241
Traverse City, MI 49686

Page 3

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

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>

Page 3

Club Email Addresses

To send a request for classes or workroom time, please send an email request to our club scheduler.

scheduling@tcrockhounds.com

gtarmc@tcrockhounds.com (is our 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](#)

Club Member Assignment

To assist the new committee that is looking at potential new locations for our club workroom and classroom, Jim Elder is asking all club members to let him know about possible locations that you may be aware of, that may work for the club. The space should be in the greater Traverse City area but doesn't have to be within the city limits.

A good size for the room would be 400 to 600 square feet and must have a restroom for member use. This would give us adequate space for our equipment and enough room to hold classes.

President

Eric Hallman
231-620-6567
ehall686@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob White
231-676-3644
bluerockcreative@gmail.com

Secretary

De Elder
231-360-7111
jde123123@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Sandie Bull
231-929-3630
sandie.bull@yahoo.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Dave Regalbuto
517-256-4716
dregs972@yahoo.com

Education & Training

Pierre LaFolle
586-907-3512
pals0210@gmail.com

Workroom & Classes

Denise Groesser
231-714-4559
scheduling@tcrockhounds.com

Facebook Page

Jenny Burcroff
231-499-4714
burcrofj@gmail.com

Newsletter & Website

Lauren Vaughn
231-276-6150 H
231-342-3613 C
maple2b@aol.com

Membership

Cathy Kowaleski
231-633-0700
ctkowaleski@gmail.com

Refreshments

Pat Captain
231-946-3026 H
231-342-6674 C
cappat@aol.com

Club Show Chair

Lauren Vaughn
231-276-6150 H
231-342-3613 C
maple2b@aol.com

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

GTARMC Pebble Pup Info

More Rock & Mineral Specimens Needs for the Pups

The Pebble Pups need specimens for study and for Steven Veatch to give out at the Pup's meetings and for public outreach events that are staged about 4 times a year. People can contact Steven at steven.veatch@gmail.com or bring them to the meetings for him.

Upcoming Events

PEBBLE PUP PROGRAM WITH THE TC LIBRARY

Adventure Begins at Your Library: Mysteries of the Earth

Dive into the fascinating world of rocks, minerals, and fossils with our captivating tween program! In this dynamic and hands-on course, young learners will embark on an exciting journey through Earth's history, uncovering the secrets hidden within its ancient rocks and sparkling minerals. Through engaging activities and interactive demonstrations, students will explore the incredible diversity of our planet's geological treasures, from the towering formations of igneous rocks to the delicate beauty of fossilized remains. Led by the Grand Traverse Rock and Mineral Club Pebble Pup instructors, this educational adventure will ignite curiosity, spark imaginations, and instill a lifelong love for the wonders of the natural world. Meet the Pebble Pups and take a deep dive into the world of rocks, minerals, and fossils. Do real science. Do some art. Write a story about a dinosaur. Join us and rock on towards discovery!

Dates: July 11 (Events were also held June 13 and 27)

Time: 4:00 to 5:30

Place: Traverse City District Library

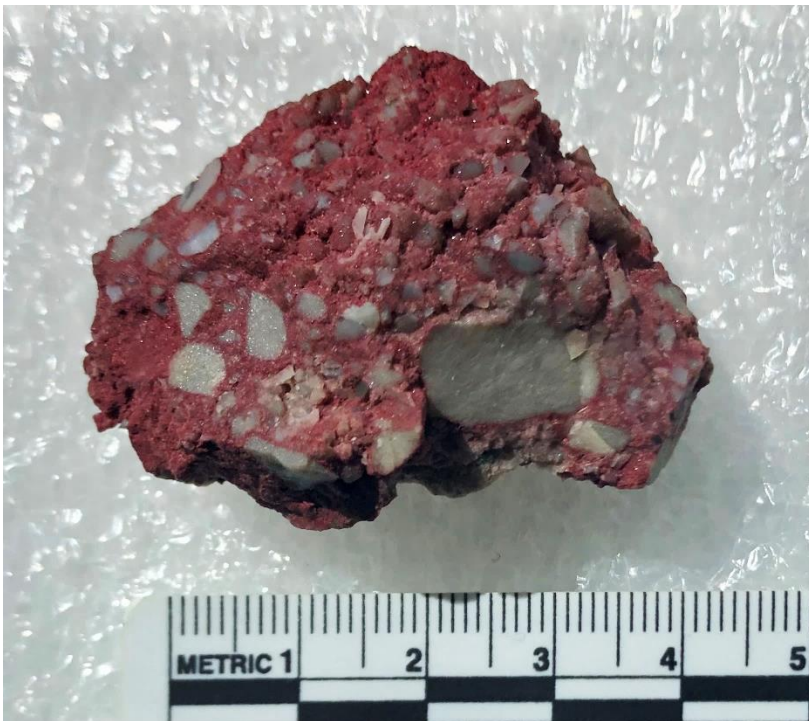
Next is an article written by Steven Veatch regarding Harrington's Cinnabar.

Geological Anomalies: Chalcedony Breccia in a Cinnabar Matrix and the Disappearance of Michigan's Geology Professor

By Steven Wade Veatch

Hidden among geological marvels at a mineral show was a cinnabar-bearing chalcedony breccia-specimen (Figure 1).¹ The term "breccia" refers to a rock composed of angular fragments, while "chalcedony" describes a type of cryptocrystalline quartz. Adding "cinnabar" specifies the presence of mercury sulfide, which creates a distinctive red color.

This breccia specimen reveals the Earth's natural forces and is a reminder of the mysterious disappearing act of a professor. The specimen, a chalcedony breccia, embedded in a



cinnabar matrix, unveils a story of geological upheaval. It is also a reminder of the personal upheaval of the man who collected it.

Professor M. W.

Harrington collected the cinnabar specimen from a streambed in Nappa County, California

(Figures 2 and 3). At some point after he collected this sample, he

disappeared. His wife and son relentlessly searched for him over many years. This article takes

Figure 1. Chalcedony breccia in a cinnabar-matrix. From the collection of S. W. Veatch. Photo date 2024 by S. W. Veatch.

¹ While attending the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society rock show in 2023, the author noticed this specimen for sale by a vendor and purchased it for its interesting geological story and the sad tale about its original collector.

us on a journey to uncover the mysteries and wonders of this fascinating specimen and the tragic tale of its collector.

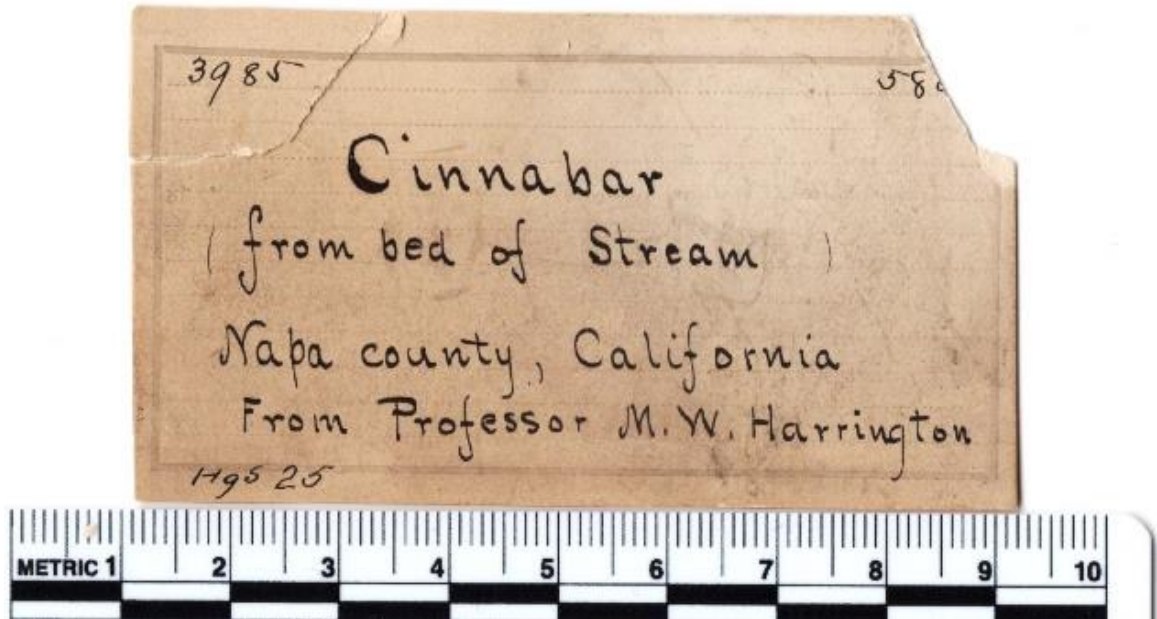


Figure 2. Label of the cinnabar-bearing chalcedony-breccia specimen collected by Professor Mark Walrod Harrington for the University of Michigan's Natural History Museum in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Photo date 2024 by S. W. Veatch.

The formation of the chalcedony breccia, which consists of chalcedony fragments embedded in a matrix of finer-grained, granular cinnabar, results from complex geological processes. These types of breccias usually develop in areas of intense tectonic activity or volcanic eruptions, where rocks break apart and then fuse back together.

The distinctive feature of this specimen is cinnabar, a vibrant red mineral consisting of mercury sulfide. Cinnabar typically is found in veins associated with volcanic activity and alkaline hot springs (Chesterman, 1990). It's the primary ore used to refine elemental mercury and has historically been used to create vibrant red pigments like vermilion.

Geological thought suggests that the formation of this chalcedony breccia within its cinnabar matrix likely occurred during periods of volcanic activity and low temperature hydrothermal circulation. The fracturing of the pre-existing chalcedony, possibly because of

volcanic eruptions or tectonic movements, provided the initial substrate for the deposition of chalcedony fragments. The introduction of a cinnabar-rich solution through subsequent hydrothermal processes led to the cementation of the breccia, resulting in the creation of the intricate mosaic we currently observe.

From a scientific standpoint, this specimen offers valuable information about past geological events and environmental conditions. Researchers can reconstruct part of the region's geological history by studying the composition and texture of the chalcedony breccia and its association with cinnabar. These investigations enhance our knowledge of volcanic processes, hydrothermal activity, and mineral-deposit formation.

The cinnabar- and chalcedony-breccia specimen discussed in this article was collected by Mark Walrod Harrington (1848–1926) for the University of Michigan's mineral collection. Harrington was born in the pleasing town of Sycamore, Illinois. He attended the University of Michigan. The grandeur of the historic buildings on campus captivated his eyes while the distant sound of student chatter filled the air. Graduating in 1868 with a bachelor's

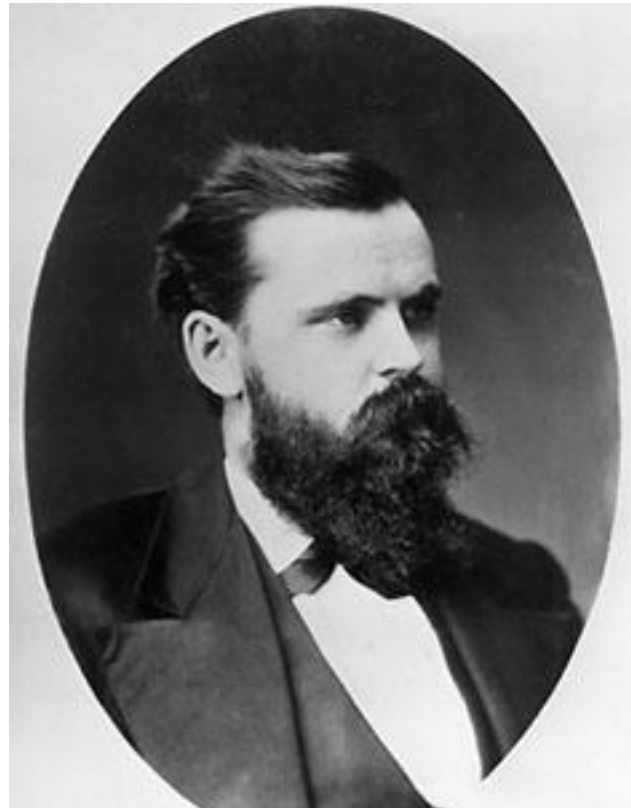


Figure 3. Photograph of Mark Walrod Harrington, during his tenure as Director of the Observatory at the University of Michigan, which he held from 1879–1891. A renowned American scientist in the late 19th century, he held the distinction of being the first civilian to head the United States Weather Bureau and had previously served as president of the University of Washington. He also held positions at the United States Weather Bureau before his disappearance in around 1899. Photographer unknown. Public domain.

degree, he continued his studies, delving into the world of academia, as the aroma of old books and the sound of pages turning surrounded him. In 1871, he earned his master's degree, and his heart filled with a sense of accomplishment. He then started his career as the assistant curator at the University's Museum of Natural Sciences in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The hushed whispers of students exploring the Museum echoed in his ears. With each step, he felt the weight of knowledge and responsibility grow. Eventually, the university made him the professor of botany, zoology, and geology, and then gave him the honor of directing the esteemed Detroit Observatory, where at night the twinkling stars above filled him with awe and wonder (Mark Walrod Harrington, 1895-97, n.d.).

In 1874, he married Rose Martha Smith, a woman hailing from his Illinois hometown. Shortly after, they welcomed a son into their family. However, tragedy struck in 1876 when their young child passed away. Initially, Harrington had intended to take a year-long sabbatical in Germany alone. However, because of the heart-wrenching loss, he and his wife embarked on the journey together. During their time in Europe, they immersed themselves in the German language, embraced a simple lifestyle, and grieved the loss of their son (Swanson, n.d.).

The president of the University of Michigan appointed Harrington to be the director of the Detroit Observatory in 1879. The Harringtons welcomed their second son, Mark Raymond, in 1882. The boy, like his father, had an insatiable curiosity. Harrington divided his time between the Observatory during the day and exploring the Ann Arbor countryside with his son in the evenings and on weekends, looking for plants, rocks, and arrowheads (Swanson, n.d.).

After leaving his university post, Harrington took on the position of the first civilian director of the United States Weather Bureau, which fell under the authority of the US Department of Agriculture (US Department of Commerce, n.d.). He only maintained this

position a few years before problems with managing non-academic staff led to his dismissal. Next, he became the president of Washington Territorial University, but he faced issues again and had to resign. His leadership abilities seem to have been impacted by a newly emerging mental illness. After briefly returning to the Weather Bureau in a lower position, he resigned in 1899 (Swanson, n.d.). Later that year, on a summer evening, he told his wife and 17-year-old son that he was going out for dinner (Swanson, n.d.). He never came back home (Swanson, n.d.). He vanished for almost a decade, a tragic event that overshadowed his academic accomplishments.

During the lost years, it appears that Harrington first spent his time working menial jobs. After that, he traveled to China where he tutored students in English. Unfortunately, he became ill during his time there, but he managed to save up enough money to sail back home. Upon his return, he landed in the American South after passing through the Panama Canal (Swanson, n.d.). He worked on sugar plantations for a while before deciding to travel west and stake a mining claim. Eventually, he found work as a lumberman. After these adventures, he returned to a sleazy Chicago flophouse and later made his way to New Jersey (Swanson, n.d.). Sadly, it was in New Jersey that his memory finally and completely failed him.

In 1907, alone and frightened in Newark, he sought shelter from the rain at a local police precinct. Upon seeing his condition, the authorities took him to a mental institution and admitted him under the name of “John Doe No. 8.”

Harrington’s whereabouts remained a mystery to his wife Rose and her son for the next 10 years. During his collection of Native American artifacts out west, Mark Raymond, Harrington’s son, stumbled upon a newspaper report in 1908 about a peculiar admission to the Morris Plains Asylum for the Insane. He wasted no time contacting his mother, who soon found out that the man identified as John Doe No. 8 was her long-lost husband.

While at the asylum, the doctors determined that Harrington was suffering from severe mental illness. According to the University of Washington in Seattle, his wife claimed that while he was investigating clouds over the campus during his brief tenure as president there, lightning struck him. The exact cause of his madness, however, remains unknown. Although there was some improvement in Harrington's mental state, he was never able to return to a normal life and refused to acknowledge his former name or personal history. As a result, he remained institutionalized for the rest of his life and passed away in the New Jersey State Mental Hospital at Morris Plains in 1926.

Harrington was a resolute scholar who delved into various fields including botany, astronomy, meteorology, and geology. He actively contributed to these disciplines through his studies and publications. His knowledge extended beyond his vast scientific skills, as he was proficient in six different languages.

The chalcedony breccia, with its intricate patterns and vibrant hues, is a mesmerizing sight. As we gaze upon it, the contrasting colors of the delicate chalcedony captivate us against the vibrant red backdrop of cinnabar. The texture of the chalcedony feels smooth and cool to the touch, and the smell of earth and minerals fills the air. Professor Harrington's cinnabar is a testament to the timeless beauty and geological complexity of our planet, reminding us of the boundless wonders that lie beneath the surface. And this specimen recalls the sad end of a brilliant scientist.

References and selected reading:

Chesterman, C. W. 1990. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals*. New York: Knopf.

Mark Walrod Harrington, 1895-97 [Review of *Mark Walrod Harrington, 1895-97*]. University of Washington Libraries Special Collections. Retrieved April 12, 2024, from <https://www.lib.washington.edu/specialcollections/collections/exhibits/presidents/images/mark-walrod-harrington-1895-97/view>

Swanson, F. (n.d.). *Fault of His Stars* [Review of *Fault of His Stars*]. Bentley Historical Library. Retrieved April 2, 2024, from <https://bentley.umich.edu/news-events/magazine/the-fault-in-his-stars/>

The Seattle Post-intelligencer 22 August 1895 — Washington Digital Newspapers. Retrieved May 1, 2024, from <https://washingtondigitalnewspapers.org>.

US Department of Commerce, NOAA. "History of the National Weather Service" Retrieved May 11, 2024 from www.weather.gov.