



January 2025 issue

The next regular meeting will be on THURSDAY, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City. See below for more information.

The next regular meeting of Pebble Pups will be at 5:30 pm, January 16, in the big room where the regular club meetings are held.

Class: Michigan Fossils will be examined. Mineral of the month: calcite

December Highlights

The annual Holiday Dinner was held on December 8 at the VFW.

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, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Now that we are in cold winter weather, please bring mittens and gloves, coats and other cold weather items, especially for school-aged children. 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.

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 and Special Event Information

Chase away the Winter Rock-Hunting Withdrawals by visiting the Bull's "unique" rock and mineral collection. Dress appropriately to visit the (unheated) renovated barn and extensive rock collection and a crazy amount of rock saws in the barn's Saw Room.

Saturday, January 18th, 10am-noon - Steve Veatch & crew will host a Pebble Pup visit. Beverages and snacks provided.

Sunday January 19th, 11-3. General membership. Beverages provided. Bring a snack to share if you would like.

Contact Deb directly for details at debannbull@gmail.com

Location: 6091 Creighton Rd SW, South Boardman, MI. 49680

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

Make checks out to GTARMC.

Membership dues may be mailed to:

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

Club Email Addresses

gtarmc@tcrockhounds.com (is our main club email address)

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

scheduling@tcrockhounds.com

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](#)

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
dregs9727@yahoo.com

Education & Training

Pierre LaFoilie
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.

Page 4

November letter from the President (edited for January)

To continue with common theme color for Rocks each month of the year, inspired by seasonal themes and traditional associations. These colors can help highlight different rocks and minerals that match each month's theme. Bring your favorite rock of the color indicated to the meetings.

Below is a list for the year.

- January: White, Light Blue
- February: Cherry Red, Pink
- March: Emerald Green, Purple
- April: Pale Yellow, Grass Green
- May: Cream, Lilac
- June: Pale Orange, Pearl
- July: Coral, Yellow

Pebble Pups News

GTARMC Pebble Pup Takes First Place in National Fossil Day Art Contest

In addition to the article in our December newsletter, Iris Wild has had more recognition for her accomplishment. She was featured in an article in the Record Eagle (shown below) as well as a lengthy article in the January Midwest Federation newsletter and her artwork was mentioned in the December "Crack the News", a newsletter for young rockhounds published by the American Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

Continued congratulations to Iris!!

St. Mary second grader first in national art contest

A budding young artist has put Traverse City and the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club (GTARMC) on the map with a unique accomplishment: winning first place in the National Fossil Day Art Contest, a competition sponsored by the National Park Service.

This year's theme encouraged students nationwide to explore the fascinating world of fossils and the history they preserve, inspiring students to use their creativity to depict the prehistoric past in colorful and imaginative ways.

Iris Wild, a second-grader and budding Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club pebble pup, submitted a beautifully detailed piece that stood out among hundreds of entries from across the United States.

She is a second grade student at Lake Leelanau St. Mary.

Wild's artwork captured the essence of the ancient world through a mix of vibrant colors, skillful shading, and meticulous attention to detail. Her artwork depicted a serene beach within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore with Petoskey stones, bringing to life these ancient corals that existed millions of years ago.

Iris was very excited upon

hearing the news. Fossils have always fascinated her and learning about how the Earth used to be. Winning this contest means she can now share a little bit of that history with everyone who sees her art, which is on display for the public on this website: <https://tinyurl.com/3krma94u>

National Fossil Day, observed each year in October, is part of the GTARMC pebble pup curriculum and is an initiative of the National Park Service to celebrate fossils as a national resource that offers a window into Earth's deep past. The contest, open to K-12 students, encourages young people to learn more about the ancient world and our planet's history through art. This year's submissions reflected the dedication and creativity of students who were eager to capture the beauty of prehistoric life.

As a reward for her winning piece, Iris will receive a certificate of recognition from the National Park Service. The National Park Service will display Iris's artwork on the National Fossil Day website and social media. This will allow fossil enthusiasts, artists, and students across the country to see it.

This achievement has brought pride not only to Iris but also to



Iris Wild, a second grader at St. Mary, is a Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club pebble pup.

Enterprise photo by Mike Anderson

the GTARMC's pebble pups program, and the entire Traverse City community.

Steven Veatch, pebble pup leader, shared her excitement, saying, "Iris has shown a spe-

cial talent for bringing history to life in her art. We are all so proud to see her earn such a well-deserved honor."

The National Fossil Day Art Contest has become an annual

highlight in the GTARMC's pebble pup program for young students passionate about paleontology and Earth's history, helping to foster a love for science and art alike.

Investigating A Trace Fossil on Ripple Marks in the Middle Cambrian Hickory Sandstone of Central Texas

- Sawyer Blizzard, 17, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Colorado
- Nathan Peters, 17, Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club, Michigan
- Brody Dymond, 11, Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club, Michigan
- Wyatt Maeder, 10, Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club, Michigan
- Hunter Maeder, 6, Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club, Michigan

Above is another headline from "Crack the News" with three of our Pebble Pups and one Earth Science Scholar and one from Steven Veatch's Colorado Springs group, who researched and published the article with the above title.

Great job to all of you!!

Here is the Pebble Pups 2024 report compiled by Steven Veatch.

Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club: 2024 Pebble Pup Program Year-End Report

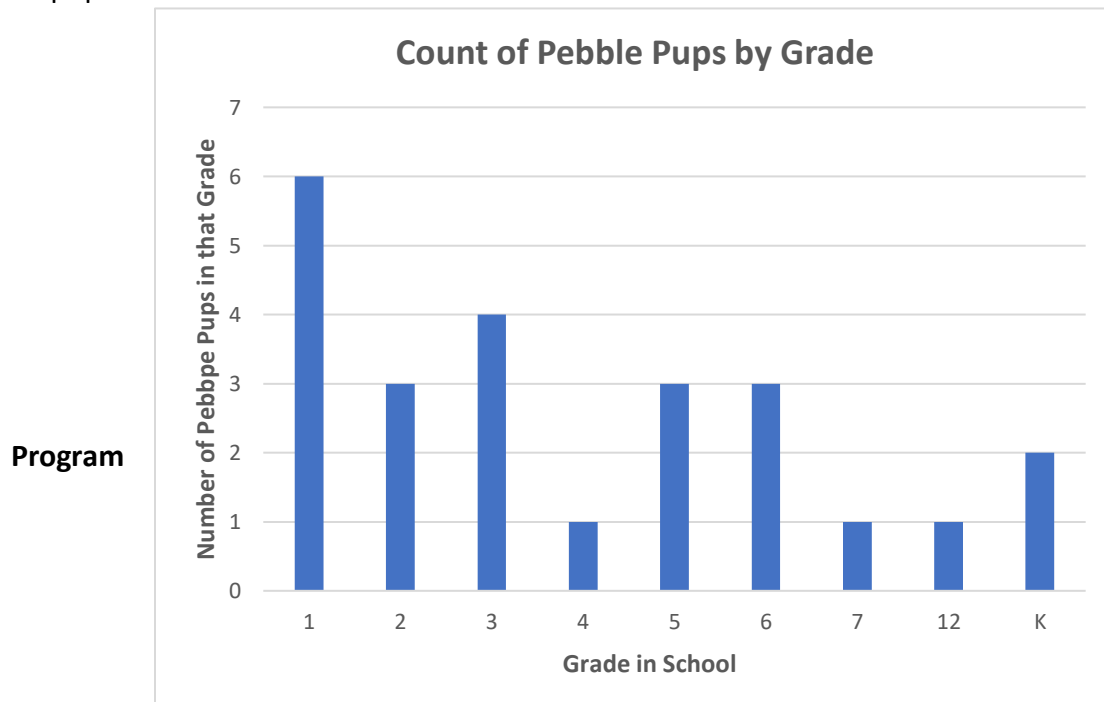
Introduction:

The Pebble Pup program, an integral part of the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club, has continued to foster curiosity and education among young enthusiasts in the field of geology, minerals, and earth sciences throughout 2024. With a mission to inspire the next generation of geologists and hobbyists, the program has seen significant achievements this year.



Membership and Participation:

The Pebble Pup program welcomed 15 new members in 2024, bringing the total number of participants to 24. The program's diverse membership includes students aged 6 to 18 from Grand Traverse and surrounding counties. Monthly attendance averaged 8 participants, demonstrating strong engagement and enthusiasm. Last November had a record attendance of 13 pups.



Highlights:

Monthly meetings during the school year at the VFW hall on the third Thursday of the month, 5:30 to 6:15 pm.

Workshops and Hands-On Activities:

- Fossil Excavation Workshop: Participants learned **excavation** techniques and identified fossils from the Devonian Period, sparking interest in paleontology at the Boardman River Nature Center.
- Participation at the MakerFest festival at the Civic Center.
- Providing programs at the Traverse Area District Library.

Field Trips:

1. *Water Reflections: Discovering Secrets Along the River*
 - Location: Fox Den Loop
 - Theme: Water Discovery Hike
 - Date: April 13, 2024
 - Joint trip with the Boardman River Nature Center
2. *Ancient Echoes Expedition: Journey into the World of Fossils*
 - Location: Sabin Loop- Fossil Beach
 - Theme: Fossil Discovery Hike
 - Date: May 18, 2024
 - Joint trip with the Boardman River Nature Center
3. *Vans Beach: A Collection Trip*
 - Location: Van's Beach, Leland
 - Date: June 28, 2024
 - GTRAMC Pup trip only

Guest Speakers:

A number of club members shared insights into the hobby. This included Michelle Peters, Bob White, Jenny and Jared Bowen.

Achievements:

- A Pebble Pup (Brody Dymond) presented two programs to the GTARMC
- A Pebble Pup (Brody Dymond) had two short articles published in the club newsletter.
- A Pebble Pup (Iris Wild) won first place in a national contest for her artwork. The GTARMC also published her art in the club newsletter. The award was given to the pup by the National Park Service.
- Pebble Pups received Rockhound of the Month awards
 - Brody Dymond
 - Iris Wild
 - Nate Peters
- The program successfully integrated STEM-based learning with engaging activities, increasing its appeal to schools and educators in the region.

Challenges and Opportunities:

While participation remains high, keeping sustained interest is key for continued success. Funding for specimens, supplies and other items has been good. Plans for 2025 include

expanding our partnership with the Boardman River Nature Center and our participation in local STEM groups. We also partner with the Traverse Area Library District where the pebble pups themselves provide various programs for local youth.

Looking Ahead:

The Pebble Pup program aims to expand its reach in 2025 by introducing virtual workshops, enabling participation from students in more remote areas. Plans are also underway to host a geology competition, fostering collaboration and friendly competition among young geologists.


Conclusion:


The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's Pebble Pup program remains a beacon of inspiration for young minds fascinated by geology and Earth sciences. Its success in 2024 is a testament to the dedication of club members, volunteers, and community partners who make these enriching experiences possible.




Join Us for a Winter Pebble Pup Adventure!

Attention all young rock enthusiasts! Deb and Gary Bull, members of the GTARMC, invite you to a special winter Pebble Pup/Earth Science Scholar (teens) field trip, where curiosity meets discovery. This exciting adventure will take place at the home of two of our very own club members, who are opening their doors to share an incredible rock and mineral collection and workroom.

 **Date:** January 18, 2025

 **Time:** 10 am to noon

 **Location:** 6091 Creighton Rd SW
South Boardman, MI. 49680



During this exclusive tour, you'll get an up-close look at fascinating specimens from around the world, learn about the tools and techniques used for polishing and cutting rocks, and even hear some behind-the-scenes stories from a seasoned collector. Best of all, each Pebble Pup will have the chance to take some special specimens home and add them to their collection. After our exploration, we'll warm up with hot cocoa and cookies—a perfect way to end our chilly winter outing. Be sure to dress warm for the rock and fossil adventure.

This event is open to all Pebble Pups and their families. Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP by January 14 to Steven Veatch at steven.veatch@gmail.com

We can't wait to see you there for a fun-filled day of rocks, minerals, and winter cheer! Stay curious and keep collecting!

I would like to take just a moment to offer congratulations to Steven Veatch for his accomplishments this year. The photo below was sent by his home Rock Club in Colorado Springs, showing certificates and plaques for his awards from the Rocky Mountain and American Federations for 2024 submissions in writing, poetry and drawings.

We are truly fortunate to have Steven with us in Traverse City and for starting our very successful Pebble Pup program. Thank you and congratulations!



As a fitting ending to this newsletter, here is a poem by Steven.

A Communion of Discovery

Dedicated to Estella Leopold, conservationist.¹

Melting ice washed gravels down,
burying the mammoth—hiding it through the ages.
And I found a rock at its grave,
with secrets deep inside.
I broke it, crushed it, sifted it;
dissolved it in a beaker,
spun it by a centrifuge,
and peeled back layers of time.

Now only hidden fossils remain:
Pollen grains and mossy spores—
once floating on an Ice Age breeze.

Now in that communion of discovery
these small fossils yield
the deepest glimpse through time
to the world before we came, and warn
of a future we must face—
while just outside forests change,
species die,
and life recedes.

By Steven Wade Veatch



An imagined scene of the Ice Age mammoth found at the Florissant Fossil Beds created by the author using AI.

¹ Estella Leopold assisted me in the actual paleontological research mentioned in this poem. A sediment layer associated with the burial site of a Columbian Mammoth at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument was found to contain Ice Age pollen and spores. This research resulted in a paper presented at the Geological Society of America in Denver in 2013. Estella was one of the original “Defenders of Florissant” and was instrumental in the Florissant Fossil Beds in becoming a national monument. Estella is the daughter of Aldo Leopold, who wrote the *Sand County Almanac*. Estella passed away February 25, 2024. She was 97 years old.

Note: this poem is an expanded version of an earlier poem entitled "Mammoth" by the author.