



February 2025 issue

**The next regular meeting will be on THURSDAY, February 20 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, February 20, in the big room where the regular club meetings are held.

Class: Into the Desert This is the story of a teenage adventurer who wandered through deserts and disappeared. We will enjoy sedimentary rocks while we talk about being safe in the field.

Lab: Field collecting - Mineral of the month: pyrite

## January Highlights

43 people attended the main meeting including 3 visitors. The Pebble Pups meeting set a new record with 14 Pups attending. For the short program, Jim Elder gave an update on the search for a larger place for our club workroom. Steven Veatch gave an excellent presentation on the Cripple Creek Gold and Silver Mining and the high-grading done by the miners there. The Rockhound of the Month award was presented to Steven Veatch and the 2024 Rockhound of the Year was given to Jim Elder.

## 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, ***(Please check to make sure that there are no expired dates on the food items, they can't be accepted by the food banks if they are expired.)***, 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

On January 18 and 19, Club Members and Pebble Pups got to visit the Bull's large rock and mineral collection and the crazy amount of rock saws and other lapidary equipment in the barn.

Please forward ideas for field trips to Dave Regalbuto. His contact information is listed below.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:photos@tcrockhounds.com) or [noonanjohntc@gmail.com](mailto:noonanjohntc@gmail.com)

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

[GT Rock & Mineral | Flickr](#)

**President**

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231-620-6567  
[ehall686@gmail.com](mailto:ehall686@gmail.com)

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Bob White  
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**Secretary**

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**Treasurer**

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**Membership**

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**Refreshments**

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**Club Show Chair**

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

## Rock of the Month from Eric

**Rock of the month for February:** is going to be any **Cherry Red or Pink rocks**.

Of course February is going to be known for red, let's translate red into stones that we can have in our collections whether it is on your finger, a pendant or a beautiful shelf piece.

### Cherry Red Stones

1. **Red Jasper:** Known for its deep red color, Red Jasper and Carnelian: Both are relatively hard and durable 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, making them suitable for various lapidary projects, including cabochons, beads, tumbling and carvings. Red Jasper is a stone of endurance and stamina. It's believed to provide strength and energy, making it a popular choice for those seeking motivation and vitality.

2. **Carnelian:** This vibrant red-orange stone is associated with courage and creativity. It's often used to boost confidence and inspire action.

3. **Ruby:** One of the most precious gemstones, and very hard, 9 on the Mohs scale. Ruby is renowned for its rich red hue. Ruby is excellent for lapidary work. It's highly resistant to scratching and can be used in intricate jewelry designs. It's a symbol of passion, protection, and prosperity.

### Pink Stones

1. **Rose Quartz:** With a hardness of 7, it's suitable for most lapidary work, including cabochons and beads. This soft pink stone is known as the "Stone of Love." It's believed to promote love, compassion, and emotional healing.

2. **Pink Tourmaline:** Its hardness of 7 - 7.5 makes it a good choice for jewelry and other decorative items. A beautiful pink gemstone that ranges from pale pink to deep red. It's associated with love, compassion, and emotional healing.

3. **Morganite:** With a hardness of 7.5 - 8, it's durable enough for various lapidary projects, including faceted stones and cabochons. A delicate pink stone that symbolizes divine love and is known for its calming and soothing properties.

4. **Rhodonite:** Slightly softer, with a hardness of 5.5 - 6.5, it requires more care during cutting and polishing but can still be used for cabochons and beads. This pink stone with black veins is known for its ability to heal emotional wounds and promote forgiveness and compassion.

These stones not only add beauty to your collection but also carry unique meanings and properties. I'll be bringing in some Red Jasper and Rose Quartz to the February meeting (Raw). If you have some cut into cabs we would love to see them. See you at the next meeting  
February 20th –

Eric Hallman

## Pebble Pups News

### **Benzie Area Historic Museum and Pebble Pups Enthrall Audiences with "Digging the Past" at Kingsley Library**

On January 11, 2025, the Benzie Area Historical Museum and the Pebble Pups youth geology club brought history, archaeology, and paleontology to life with their "Digging the Past" program at the Kingsley Library. The event was a resounding success, drawing a crowd of over 70 families, children, history enthusiasts, and curious community members eager to learn about Northern Michigan's geological and historical treasures.



*Figure 1. Families participate in "Digging the Past," a pebble pup program.*



**Figure 2.** *Children were captivated by the hands-on activities that deepened their knowledge about archaeology, paleontology, and rock collecting.*

Participants were captivated by engaging presentations about archaeology and paleontology. The museum shared their expertise, leading hands-on activities that taught attendees how to conduct an archaeological dig site and to identify and classify artifacts and other things buried in the ground. Young and old alike delighted in the opportunity to handle history in their hands.

The event fostered a sense of curiosity and connection to the past and to the natural world, leaving attendees inspired to explore more of Northern Michigan's historical and geological wonders. Feedback from participants highlighted the program's interactive approach, making complex scientific topics accessible and exciting for all ages.

The collaboration between the Benzie Museum and the Pebble Pups proved to be a perfect pairing, showcasing the power of community partnerships in sparking education and exploration. Many attendees left eager to learn more, with some expressing interest in joining the Pebble Pups or visiting the Benzie Area Historical Museum for further discoveries.

## Pebble Pups Break Attendance Records at January Meeting

The January meeting of the Pebble Pups, a geology club for young enthusiasts, set a new attendance record as 14 eager learners gathered to explore the wonders of fossils. The event, held at the VFW before the GTARMC general meeting, drew children and families excited to deepen their knowledge of Earth's ancient past.



*Figure 3. Pebble Pups learn about fossils during the meeting. Photo by S. Veatch.*

The highlight of the meeting was an engaging presentation by Eric Hallman who shared fascinating insights into fossil formation and what these preserved relics tell us about prehistoric life. Eric brought an impressive collection of fossils for the attendees to examine and to take home.

Steven Veatch provided hands-on activities that followed the presentation, where participants worked on identifying amber specimens from the late Cretaceous. The young geologists, using microscopes, learned to distinguish between plant fossils, insects, and terrestrial creatures, sparking curiosity and discussions about Earth's long history.

Pebble Pup Brody Dymond handled the last third of the class and held a hands-on demonstration of rocks and minerals for the pups. Brody is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

As a special treat, each attendee received their very own amber specimen to take home, complete with visible inclusions of ancient plant material or insects trapped millions of years ago. “This is so cool! It’s like holding a time capsule,” one excited Pebble Pup exclaimed.



**Figure 4.** Senior Pebble Pup Brody Dymond demonstrating rocks and minerals with the other pebble pups. Photo by M. Peters.

Steven Veatch and Michelle Peters expressed their delight at the turnout, noting how the club continues to inspire young minds to appreciate the natural world. “Our goal is to ignite a lifelong love for geology, and seeing this level of enthusiasm is incredible,” said club leader Steven Veatch.

The record-breaking attendance is a testament to the growing interest in geology and natural sciences among the next generation. With plans for a fossil dig adventure in the spring, the Pebble Pups are sure to keep their momentum and continue inspiring young explorers.



## Pebble Pups Field Trip to Bull's Rock Shop: A Geological Adventure

The Pebble Pups kicked off the New Year with a thrilling field trip to Bull's House of Rocks this January. The young geology enthusiasts, bundled up against the winter chill, were greeted warmly by the shop's owners, Deb and Gary Bull, who ensured their visit was as educational as it was fun.



*Figure 5. A Pebble Pup looks at some rocks. Photo by J. Noonan.*

The children eagerly explored the shop's impressive collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils. From dazzling quartz crystals to ancient ammonites, there was no shortage of wonders to admire.

Gary Bull, a passionate collector, shared fascinating stories in his shop about his lapidary equipment. The Pebble Pups listened intently, their curiosity sparking countless questions about the world of rock collecting.

The highlight of the trip came when each participant was allowed to select a few geological specimens to take home. Carefully choosing their treasures, the young geologists left with polished stones and other treasures. Their excitement was palpable as they compared their selections and imagined adding them to their growing collections.



*Figure 6. Gary Bull demonstrates how his lapidary equipment works in his workshop. Photo by M. Peters.*

By the end of the day, the Pebble Pups had not only expanded their knowledge of rock collecting but also created memories they'll cherish for years to come. Many expressed their gratitude to Deb and Gary Bull who made the trip possible.

Before leaving this amazing house, the Pups were treated to steaming cups of hot chocolate and a generous supply of Oreos. With mugs in hand and smiles on their faces, they could barely contain their excitement.

As the GTARMC's Pebble Pups headed for the Bull's door, laughter and chatter filled the air, marking the end of a perfect day. This January field trip to Bull's House of Rocks was truly a gem of an experience for the Pebble Pups!



*Figure 7. Deb Bull is explaining some of the interesting aspects of minerals and fossils to a Pebble Pup. Photo by J. Noonan.*



*Figure 8. A Pebble Pup examines specimens through a petrographic microscope. Photo by J. Noonan.*

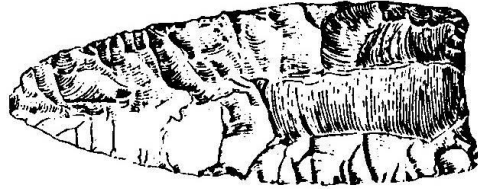


*Figure 9. Nate Peters, teen Pebble Pup assistant, looks at a display. Photo by M. Peters.*

Last but certainly not least, is a poem and a drawing by Steven Veatch!

# Clovis Once Upon the Land

By Steven Wade Veatch



Day dawns  
Morning brings  
An Ice Age breeze

Glaciers retreat  
Pathways open  
To an ice-free corridor

Distant ice  
Endless views  
Earth beneath the sky

Early migrants  
Ancient hunters  
Spread across the land

Mysterious Clovis  
Journey far  
Intrepid people

Spreading east  
Some go south  
Prospering across the land

Mother mammoth  
Baby follows  
Herds upon the meadow

Mammoths graze  
Others drink  
Soon to drift away

Distinctive points  
Superior work  
Made of jasper or of chert

Quartzite cores  
Chipping blanks  
Make deadly edges

Quiet stalking  
Lethal spear  
Hunters make their play

Thrusting spear  
Penetrating power  
Delivers lethal blow

Scraping hides  
Roasting meat  
Over glowing embers

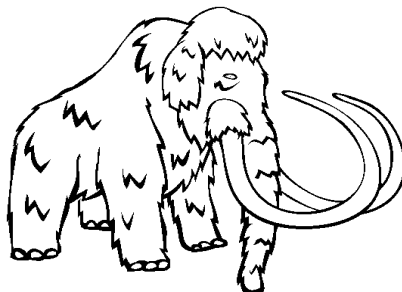
Thankful hunters  
Ritual offerings  
A shaman dances

Itinerant camps  
Family clans  
Move across the land

Centuries pass  
Clovis vanish  
No longer anywhere

Working trowel  
Sifting tray  
Excavate a buried site

Material remains  
Revealing secrets  
To learn about their ways





A mine headframe drawn by Steven Veatch