



March 2026 issue

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, **March 26, 2026**, at **6:30 p.m.** at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City. Our meeting has been moved to the last Thursday of the month due to a prior commitment of the VFW for our meeting area. The programs will be Identifying Agates and How to Use a Cement Mixer for Tumbling Stones.

The next meeting of Pebble Pups will be at 5:30 p.m. on February 26th. The topic will be **“Unearth the Past: A Deep Dive into the World of Fossils!”**

February Highlights

For the short program, Brody Dymond shared the new Pebble Pups logo and talked about “The Lanceolate Point from the Archaic Period”. Everett Lober showed the Groove Belts he has been producing with large rectangular cabochons attached and talked about the process. Deb Bull presented a program about the Jurassic Coast, England’s only World Heritage Site that has produced outstanding fossils.

Food Pantry Donations

Linda Keeley oversees the food pantry supplies collection and Donna Kukla, the clothing donations. The successful program will continue at every meeting. Non-perishable food items, ***(Please no expired dates on the food items, they can't be used by the food banks)***, personal hygiene products, children’s new underwear, for elementary to teens, toothbrushes and toothpaste. With the winter season upon us, coats, gloves, mittens, and warm hats are needed in all sizes.

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

All club members: Gary and Debbie Bull will be opening their home (and yard) for a Metal Detecting Party and Open House on Saturday April 18th from 11am-3pm. Bring your metal detector (and a snack to share) to the Bulls for detecting practice & exploration, and general club fun and camaraderie.

Calling all Pebble Pups!

Sunday April 19th from 10am-1pm the Bulls will have a guided tour of their collection and a fossil collecting opportunity. We will be outdoors, so wear outdoor gear. If you cannot make it on Sunday, please come on Saturday during the Open House and we will hit all the highlights!

All club members: if you cannot make it to the Open House on Saturday, we will welcome you after the Pebble Pups event wraps up, from (1-3)

Questions? Call Deb at 231-590-2316

Field Trip Survey

Dave and Renee have created a survey to explore the interests of members for future field trips. Here is the link to the survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXQMtxJyz7y7IIDM-q_Rt7gGH3asetAG1p4YVud9xFKtgmlg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=106321050034323826958

Please forward ideas for field trips to Dave Regalbuto at:

Dave Regalbuto
GTARMC Field Trip Coordinator
517-256-4716
E-mail: dregs9727@yahoo.com

Academic Award Renamed

To honor the memory of two of our beloved founding members, the membership heartily voted to rename the scholarship program, The John and Jane Matz Academic Assistance Award.

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 \$20 per Adult, Students (8-17) \$5, and those under 8 are free with an adult membership. Name badges are \$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:

noonanjohntc@gmail.com

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

[GT Rock & Mineral | Flickr](#)

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President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

De Elder
231-463-3793
jde123123@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Callee Newhouse
Callee.newhouse@gmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Dave Regalbuto
517-256-4716
dregs9727@yahoo.com

Education & Training

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

Workroom & Classes

Renee Libby
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.

Help Wanted

The club is still in need of a secretary. It is a position that does not require a huge time commitment. Notes are taken at club meetings and then the minutes of the meeting are created and shared with the club. Please see President Eric to volunteer for this important club position.

Also, Dianne Hallman is in need of a helper or two for the Kid's Table preparations for the annual September show. Please see Dianne to volunteer.

Rockhounds of the Month and Year

Steven Veatch has been voted Rockhound of the Year for 2025.



Mary Ann Warner is the Rockhound of the Month for February.

Pebble Pups News

For more information about the Pebble Pups, check out their website.

<https://traversepebblepups.blogspot.com/>

Note meeting change. Pebble Pups meet one week later than normal, on Thursday, March 26, 2026—one time only.

Unearth the Past: A Deep Dive into the World of Fossils!

Have you ever wondered what stories are hidden beneath your feet? Millions of years of history are waiting to be discovered, and we're about to dig them up! Join us for an action-packed journey through deep time as we explore the fascinating world of paleontology. This isn't just a lecture—it's an investigation into the creatures that ruled the Earth long before we did.



What's on the Agenda?

We'll be answering the big questions and getting up close with ancient history:

The Biological Blueprint: What exactly do animals leave behind? From shimmering shells to skeletons, learn which parts of a creature stand the test of time.

The Miracle of Mineralization: How does a bone turn into a rock? We'll demystify the rare and incredible process of fossilization.

The Fossil Catalog: Explore the different flavors of fossils, including Body Fossils (the actual remains) and Trace Fossils (the footprints and burrows that show us how they lived).

The Hall of Fame: A curated look at selected fossils, from the iconic giants of the Mesozoic to the tiny, intricate life forms of the ancient seas.

Get Your Hands Dirty!

Theory is great, but discovery is better. This Pebble Pup session features hands-on activities where you'll get to examine real-life specimens.

Don't let this opportunity become extinct—don't miss this pebble pup meeting!

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Pebble Pup Brody Dymond on IPR radio

Brody, a 12-year-old pebble pup, is co-hosting segments on the local IPR radio station (Interlochen, MI) each day for one week, February 23rd through the 27th. During the program a classical piece of music is presented with a rock. This is today's broadcast. Don't miss Brody's broadcast. Follow the steps below to listen to his fascinating broadcast. Don't miss it! Best wishes, Steve

Step 1 Put this into your browser

<https://www.interlochenpublicradio.org/podcast/intermezzo/2026-02-24/rock-music-with-brody-black-basalt-tuesday>

Step 2 Click the "Listen" button.

Farther down the page, the other four episodes are listed and you can click on each one to listen to it.

Pebble Pup Wyatt Maeder and Steven Veatch on WUWU Radio

On February 24, Wyatt Maeder and Steven Veatch were featured on the "What's Up With You?" Morning Show on WUWU radio out of Elberta/Frankfort. To listen to the podcast, click on the link below and when you arrive at the Archive, go down the list to February 24 and click on the podcast.

[WUWU Archive - Elberta Labor Heritage Center](#)

The artwork shown in the newsletter last month by Hunter Maeder, was also featured in "Mini Miners Monthly" a nationally distributed monthly e-magazine for young rockhounds. Below is a screenshot of the page in Mini Miners.

Brachiosaurus

by Hunter Maeder



Hunter Maeder. He is 7 years-old and a member of the Pebble Pup group of the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club. Thank you, Hunter, for your excellent artwork!

The Bull Home Rocks! A Backyard Geological Expedition!

Location: **Home of Deb and Gary Bull**

6091 Creighton Rd SW, South Boardman, MI 49680

Theme: Geological discovery

Date: **April 19, 2026**

Time: 10 am to 1 pm.



Get ready for an exciting field trip that will transport you to a world of ancient wonders and geological marvels!

What Awaits You:

- **Journey Around the Globe:** See rocks, minerals, and fossils from every corner of the Earth, presented up close and personal for an unforgettable experience!
- **Explore a Hidden Treasure Trove:** Dive into a private collection brimming with incredible specimens, including dinosaur bones, dazzling assorted gemstones, unique Michigan fossils, and beautiful agates.
- **Witness the Power of the Saw:** Prepare to be amazed by a live rock saw demonstration amidst the largest collection of rock saws Up North! See how rough stones are transformed into polished beauties right before your eyes.
- **Discover Lapidary Secrets:** Explore a vast array of lapidary equipment, giving you a glimpse into the art and science of shaping and polishing gemstones.
- **Magnify the Miracles:** Grab a geological magnifier and delve into the intricate details of mineral wonders and even insects perfectly preserved in amber!

Important Info: Light snacks will be provided to keep your energy up for all the exploring. Please remember to dress for the weather to ensure you're comfortable during this incredible indoor and outdoor adventure!



PEBBLE PUP FIELD TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Ancient Echoes Expedition: Journey into the World of Fossils

Location: Sabin Loop- Fossil Beach

Theme: Fossil Discovery Hike

Date: Saturday, May, 9 2026

Time: 10 am to 12 pm

Where: meet at Meadows Pavilion
Natural Education Reserve

Joint trip with the Boardman River
Nature Center (Grand Traverse
Conservation District—GTCD)

Registration: Free, **registration with the Grand Traverse Conservation District (Boardman River Nature Center) is required.**



Description: Join GTCD and the Grand Traverse Rock and Mineral Club's Pebble Pups on a trip back in time to learn how recent geological history shaped the landscapes we know and love today! Embark on a thrilling adventure that invites you to step back in time and explore the geological wonders of our planet. This immersive hike will guide families through a captivating landscape rich in ancient echoes, where fossilized remnants tell the tales of prehistoric life. Led by seasoned experts in paleontology, the expedition combines the excitement of a scenic hike with hands-on fossil discovery, offering participants the chance to learn about ancient creatures.



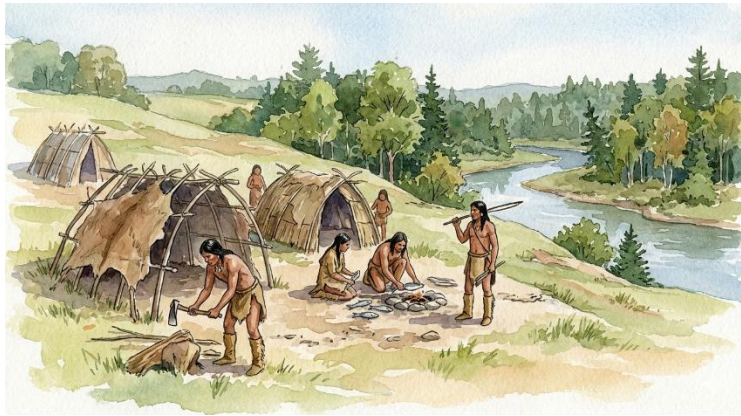
PEBBLE PUP FIELD TRIP

The History and Archaeology of Samels Farm

YOU'RE INVITED: A Deep Dive into Samels Farm!

An exclusive archaeology and ancient history adventure for the GT Area Rock and Mineral Club's Pebble Pups.

Attention Pebble Pups! Are you ready to trade your rock hammers for archaeology tools? Samels Farm cordially invites the Pebble Pups to a private, hands-on exploration of their historic grounds. Pebble Pups aren't just going to look at the surface—they will dig into the stories hidden beneath it.



On the Agenda for Visiting Pebble Pups:


The "Dirty" Work (shovel testing): Put your observation skills to the test! The Samels Farm will set up a special shovel-testing station where Pups can learn to screen soil for artifacts. They have "seeded" the area with replica treasures to teach the professional techniques of archaeological recovery.


The Forest Secrets: Join in on a trek into an Old Growth Forest. Then hunt for Cache Pits—ancient storage features—and discuss how the geology of the land influenced how people lived hundreds of years ago.

Artifact Show & Tell: Get up close and personal with genuine and replica artifacts found on the farm. Their experts will discuss the history of the farm and archaeology.


Grounds Tour: Experience a guided walk through the farm's immediate footprint to see how the landscape has changed (and what stayed the same) over the centuries.

When & Where

 **DATE:** August 5, 2026

 **TIME:** 1 pm to 4 pm

 **LOCATION:** Samels Farm, 8298 Skegemog Point Rd, Williamsburg, MI 49690

 **What to bring:** Wear your favorite hiking boots or sturdy shoes and water. Dress for a summer afternoon.

Note to Parents: This is a fantastic opportunity for Pebble Pups to see how artifacts and this ancient occupation site tell the story of human history. It's interactive, educational, and—most importantly—a lot of fun.

RSVP

Please let us know if your family will be joining the expedition by **July 20, 2026**

Contact: Steven Veatch, steven.veatch@gmail.com

We can't wait to see what the Pebble Pups Learn!

SAVE THE DATE
EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT
Earth Science Week and National Fossil
Day Celebration

When: Wednesday, October 14th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Where: Boardman River Nature Center

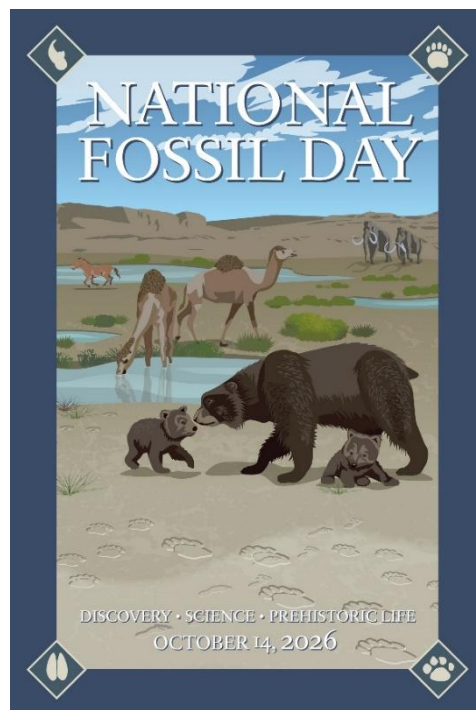
Registration: Free, registration is required through the Boardman River Nature Center

Audience: Families and children



Celebrate Earth Science Week (October 11-17) and National Fossil Day (October 14) with Pebble Pups and the Boardman River Nature Center!

This celebration will showcase the incredible ways Earth science is conducted by a diverse range of people and professions, as well as how they work together to solve critical problems that our planet and communities face. Through this year's theme, "Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society", minerals that are essential for modern life and how professionals source them responsibly will also be highlighted. Marvel over a collection of truly amazing fossils and uncover the secrets they hold about ancient life and Earth's history. You won't just learn about fossils – you'll leave with one of your own to start your personal collection!



To close out this edition of the newsletter are 2 poems by Steven Veatch

Glacial Erratic

A Haiku

Stranded by the stream
granite etched by ancient ice
warms in summer light.

By Steven Wade Veatch



***Smilodon*: A Primal Portrait**



Smilodon from 1903. By Charles Robert Knight. Public Domain.

Ancient chills cling to the earth as a heavy silence descends
Beneath gnarled branches, the very air thickens with dread
Crouched in the shadows, the *Smilodon* prepares its assault
Draped in pale gold, it haunts the brush with lethal grace
Eyes, intently focused, fix on an unseen prey
Fangs, curved like ivory daggers, catch the light
Grim power vibrates through the coarse grain of its mane
Hunched shoulders ripple; a tidal wave of force held in check
Imposing in shadow, it carves a dark shape through the green
Jaws, built for the kill, remain locked in a terrifying calm
Killing intent burns deep, the singular spark in its soul
Low to the earth, it creeps forward—a silent, golden threat
Muscles coil like wire, every fiber primed for the attack
Near the tree line it waits, a phantom in its domain
Outlining the distance, it measures the distance of its prey
Powerful forelegs, anchored deep, prepare to launch the strike
Raw sinew stretches as the great cat breaks into a sprint
Saber-teeth, the namesake of terror, are bared to the sky
Thick-necked and brutal, it slams into the side of its mark
Unstoppable momentum carries the hunter through the kill
Vales and frozen forests echo with the sounds of the struggle
Warrior of a lost world, a living embodiment of prehistoric power
Xenacious hunger drives its existence, a constant, primal need
Yielding its spirit to the cycle of life, the titan stands tall
Zenith of its era, it vanishes into the mists of time