



May 2026 issue

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City. The programs will be announced at the meeting.

The next meeting of Pebble Pups will be at 5:30 p.m. on May 21.

April Highlights

The programs were: "Geology Poetry" by Kirk Waterstripe and Eric and other members presented information on items of club interest including needing to change our rock room location, field trips and membership items.

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 food items, they can't be used by food banks)***, personal hygiene products, children's new underwear, for elementary to teens, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

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>

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://forms.gle/femNiQXHH7VcDno8>

Upcoming Field Trips

GTARMC Leelanau Glacial Geology Field Trip & Peterson Park Outing Saturday, May 23, 2026 (Will be postponed in case of forecast inclement weather)

Field Trip: 10 am - Noon

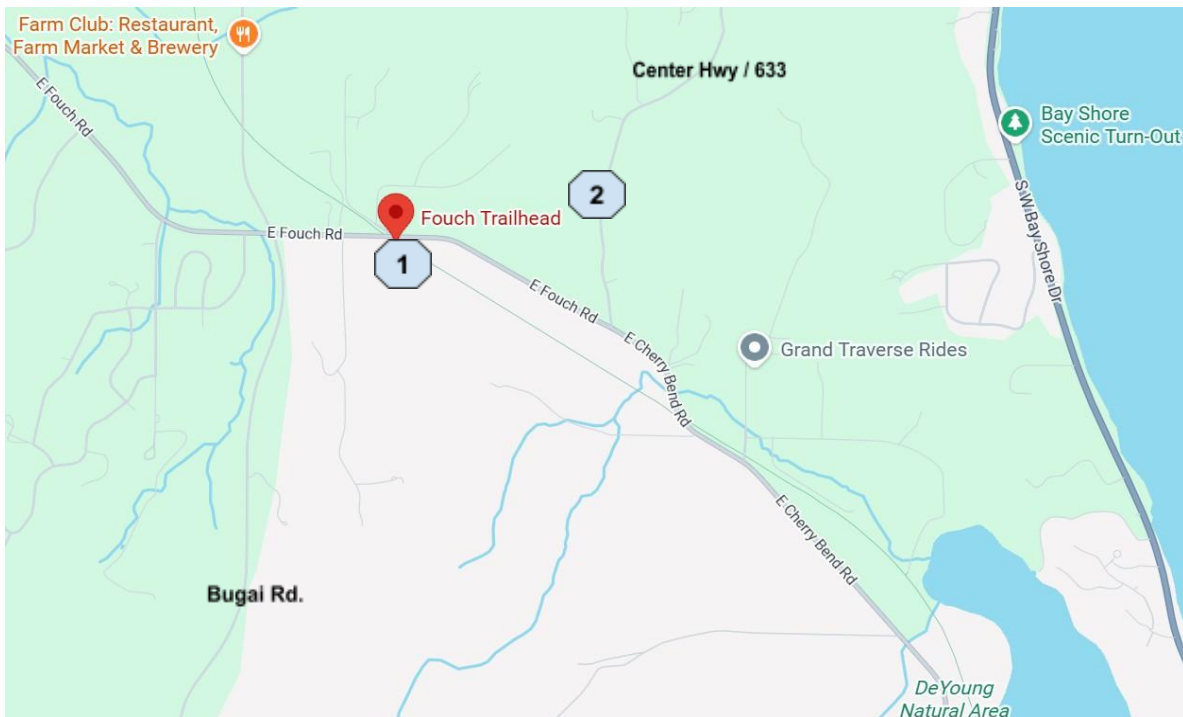
Peterson Park Picnic and Collecting: Noon until ???

Stop 1 / Meet Point at 10 AM

Leelanau/TART Trail - Fouch Trailhead

Stop 1: Glacial Lake Algonquin drainage way between Lake Leelanau embayment and Grand Traverse Bay during Lake Algonquin stage. Meet in the trailhead parking lot, on south side of Fouch Road (Leelanau 614)

- 0.3 mile east of Bugai Rd
- 0.6 mile west of Center Hwy (Leelanau 633)



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Stop 1 -> Stop 2: 0.6 mile east on Fouch Rd to Center Hwy (Leelanau 633). Left on Center Hwy, 0.3 mile to Popp Excavating pit on the west side of road.

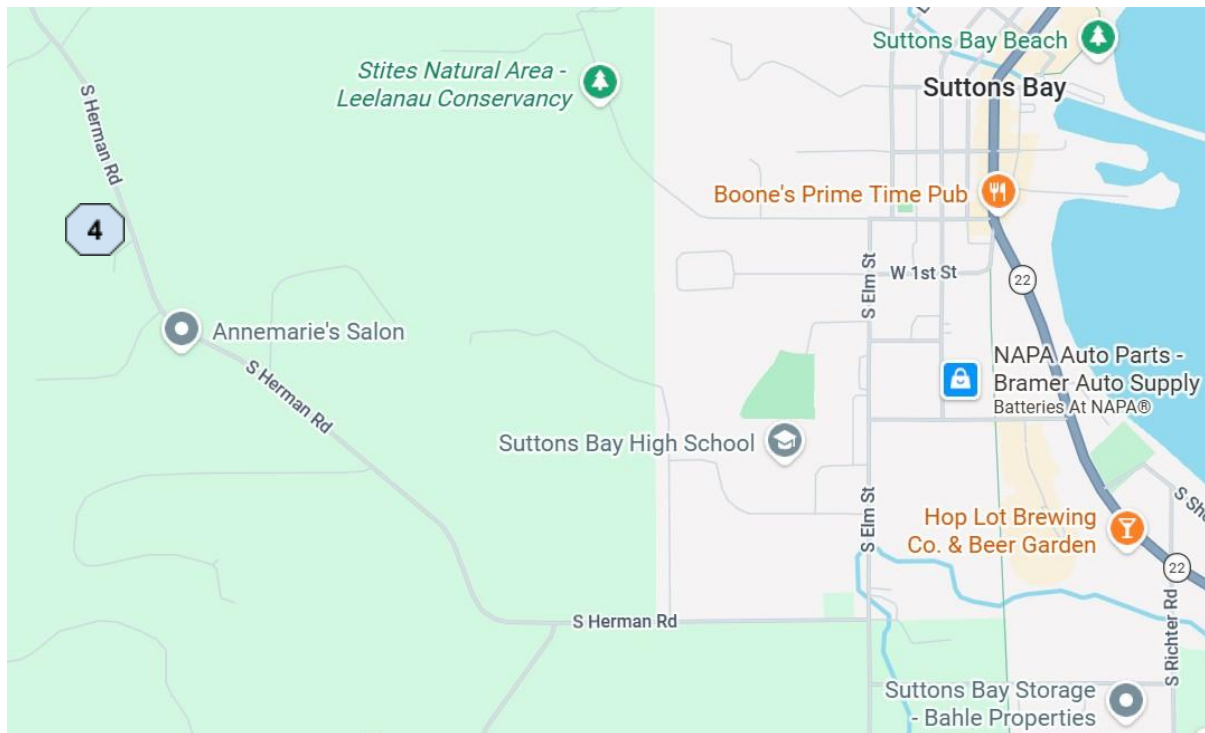
Stop 2: Exposure at the eroded south end of the **glacial till** layer that covers most of northern Leelanau County. Note large erratic boulder embedded in this sandy loam till; note meltwater sand deposits at surface. Glacial till is a mostly non-stratified deposit of eroded bedrock and/or pre-existing glacial material, often formed at the base of a glacier; may contain material remaining from a melting ice front, so may contain localized meltwater sediments.

Stop 2 -> Stop 3: Continue 6.5 miles north on Center Hwy to the intersection with Elm Valley Rd. (NOTE: southbound vehicles on Center Hwy DO NOT have to stop) Slight left (45 degrees) on to stay on Center Hwy; proceed north 1.25 miles to Stop 3 at the Hillside Market parking lot.

Stop 3: Another exposure of Leelanau County's till plain; this exposure is covered with thick stratified sand belonging to the Suttons Bay Fan Deposit (Larson et al., 2000) - supra-glacial sediments that were eroded from till and deposited into ancestral (Algonquin stage) Sutton's Bay.



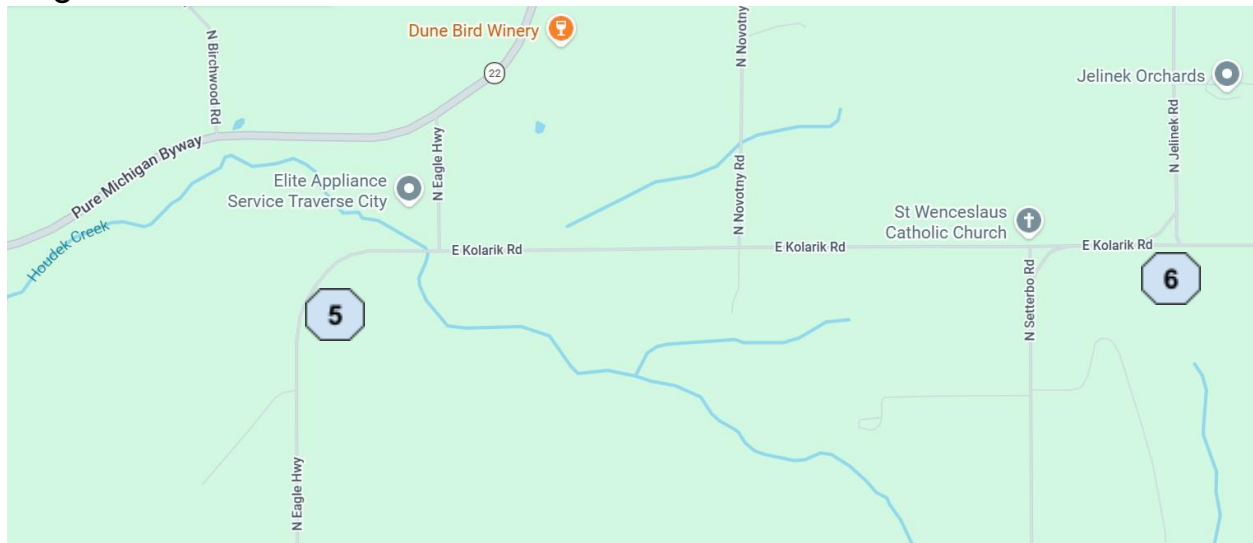
Stop 3 -> Stop 4: Continue 2.2 miles north on Center Hwy to Herman Road; left on Herman 1.2 miles to the large pit. We cross flat-lying glacial Lakes Algonquin and Nipissing sediments



Stop 4: Climbing out of ancestral Sutton's Bay, we see another exposure into the heart of the glacial till covering Leelanau County. Much of the mining here targets the stratified (meltwater) sandy deposits covering the till.

Stop 4 -> Stop 5: Continue 1.6 miles north on Herman Road; left on M-204, then 0.9 mi to Eagle Hwy. Right on Eagle Hwy (County 626); 4.9 miles to where Eagle Rd curves, becomes Kolaric Rd.

While on Eagle Hwy, on both sides note several aligned and narrow elongated hills, beginning near Horn Road. Many of you may already be familiar with this glacial landform: **drumlins**, formed near a receding ice edge, due to accumulation of eroded glacial debris under the ice, with spreading or "smearing" in the ice-flow direction. Drumlins are found globally, and are widespread across the US Midwest, covering much of northern and south-central Leelanau County.



Stop 5: Two glacial features: 1) large gravel spit developed along the Algonquin shoreline; 2) drumlin to the east that was actually a small wave-eroded island during Algonquin time.

Stop 5 -> Stop 6: head east 1.4 miles on Kolarik Rd, past St. Wenceslaus church.

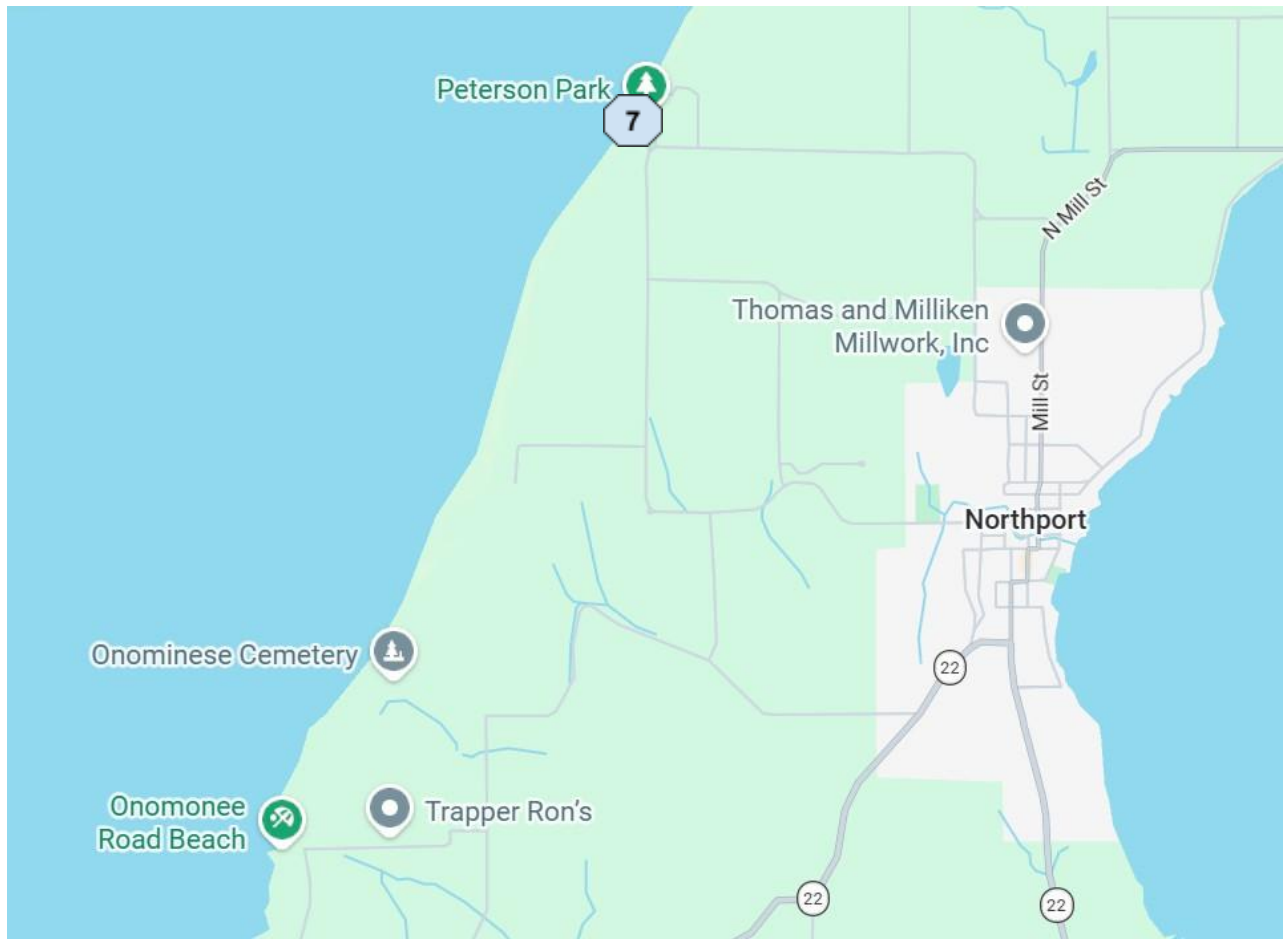
Stop 6: Roadcut through the “upflow” end of a narrow drumlin. Note the abundance of mostly limestone cobbles. Most of northern Leelanau County is covered by this drumlinized till plain.

Stop 6 -> Stop 7 (Peterson Park): Proceed north 2.0 miles on Jelinek Road to M-22. From here, choose your preferred route to Peterson Park. Suggested simplest route is follow M-22 to the south side of Northport; turn left on M-201; go through Northport (M-201/Mill St.); continue north about 1 mile to Peterson Park Road. See map of Northport area, below on next page.

Peterson Park:

- There is a steep stairway down to Lake Michigan.
- Bring your own picnic lunch
- Rockhound along Lake Michigan before/after lunch - as you wish.
- Picnic table and restroom available
- Bring waders/water shoes, scoops, buckets
- Dress for weather
- Bring a tailgating canopy if you have one

Stop 7: Peterson Park is a close-up exposure of the glacial till that we have observed in several locations this morning. In fact, in descending the stairs to the lakeshore, we are seeing an excellent cross-section of a drumlin! Notice gravel/cobbles embedded in the silty sand matrix. These larger stones are constantly eroded from the till and end up along the shore.



Please forward ideas for field trips to Dave Regalbuto at:

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

Class Opportunity

Upcoming Classes: Wire Weaving Basics

We're excited to welcome Alinka Lipchinsky, who will be teaching two hands-on wire wrapping classes on August 8 and 9 at the New Approaches Center in Traverse City. Whether you're new to wire weaving or looking to refine your skills, these classes offer a wonderful opportunity to create beautiful, wearable art.

Saturday, August 8, 12:30 – 4:30 PM – Three-Wire Bracelet

Cost: \$45

This class explores a variety of simple wire weaving patterns used to create a custom three-wire bracelet. You'll leave with a finished piece and the confidence to continue weaving on your own. All materials and instruction are provided.

Sunday, August 9, 12:30 – 4:30 PM – Wrap Your Rock

Cost: \$45

In this class, students will focus on creating a pendant using a wire frame and bail. Techniques will include wrapping rocks, girdled and flat cabochons, and other flat objects. Participants are encouraged to bring their own rocks, cabochons, or found objects. Materials and instruction are provided.

Each class runs for 4 hours, and participants may register for one or both sessions.

Class size is limited to 10 people, and registration is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants must be current GTARMC members to attend. Payment must be made in advance, as spaces are not confirmed until payment is received. Electronic payment is preferred. Those paying by check should mail payment to Cathy Kowaleski, 801 S. Garfield Avenue #241, Traverse City, MI 49686. Payment must be received by Friday, July 17. After signing up, you will receive an email with a link to the electronic payment page if you are accepted, or notification if you have been placed on the waiting list.

Class Location:

5123 N Royal Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Note: Parking and entrance is at the back of the building.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/NhJuX5ANnyfnRo9h8>

NMC Trilobite Exhibit

Some members have already attended the “Trilobite Treasures” exhibit at the Denno Museum at NMC and said that it is a very nice exhibit. It runs through May 31 and admission to the museum is \$10.00.

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](#)

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 needs a helper or two for the Kid's Table preparations for the annual September show. Please see Dianne to volunteer.

Pebble Pups News

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

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

Calling All Rockhounds: The Pebble Pups are Hitting the Road!

Get ready to rumble! Our Pebble Pups have been officially invited to take center stage at **five area libraries** this summer! We're bringing the world of geology to the community, and we need **YOU** to help us make it a smashing success.

To make this hands-on experience unforgettable, we are providing a fossil, mineral, and rock "dig" for the kids, and we need a mountain of specimens.



What We're Looking For

We need items that are small but mighty! Please check your stashes for specimens **no larger than the size of a quarter**:

- **Tumbled Stones** (Smooth and shiny!)
- **Small Crystals** (Quartz, calcite, you name it.)
- **Crinoid Stems** (The classic "cheerio" fossils!)
- **Fossils** (Brachiopods, trilobite bits, chain coral, Favosites, Petosky stones)
- **Unique Specimens** (Anything cool that fits the size limit!)

How to Donate

Pack up your treasures and bring them to the **next two meetings**.

Drop-off Point: Please hand your donations directly to **Steven Veatch**.

Let's show these libraries why our club rocks! Thank you for supporting the next generation of geologists and the growth of our club.

Eureka in Traverse City: Pebble Pups Strike Gold!

The air was thick with anticipation—and a little bit of splashing—at the Pebble Pup meeting as the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club hosted one of its most "enriching" Pebble Pup sessions yet. Forget the meeting; 13 eager Pebble Pups rolled up their sleeves for a high-stakes, hands-on lesson in the art of gold panning.

The Midas Touch

Under the expert guidance of instructor Kenny Shug, the Pups learned that finding gold isn't just about luck—it's about physics. Assisted by Brody Dymond and Michelle Peters, the students mastered the rhythmic swirl required to separate heavy minerals (and gold) from ordinary earth. As the "pay dirt" washed away, the tension rose. One by one, eyes widened as shimmering glints appeared against the dark backdrop of the pans.

"I see it! I actually found some!" rang out across the room as the Pups carefully plucked small gold nuggets from the black sands.

Each treasure was triumphantly placed into a special glass vial, serving as a permanent trophy of their hard work and a sparkling addition to their growing collections.

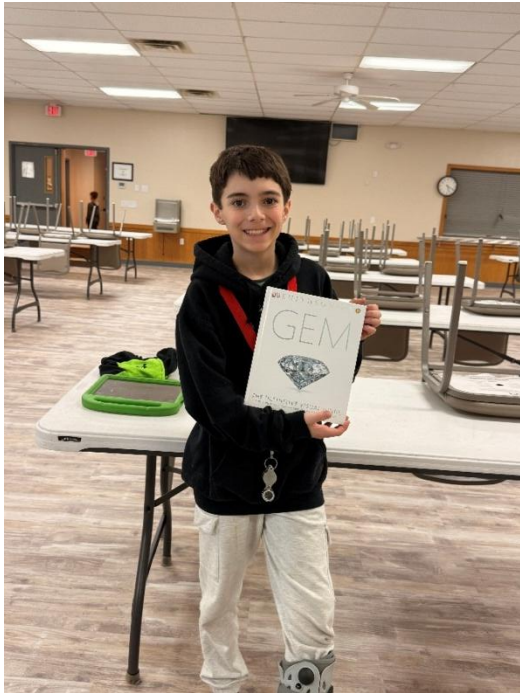
More Than Just Glitter

The evening wasn't just about the "bling." In recognition of their new skills and focus, every attendee was honored with an American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) merit badge for gold panning.

But the rewards didn't stop at the gold:

The Library Grows: Each Pup received a brand-new book dedicated to the hobby of rockhounding to help them identify future finds.





National Treasures: To jumpstart their home displays, the club provided several high-quality specimens, including:

Pecos Diamonds: Doubly-terminated quartz crystals from New Mexico.

Petrified Wood: Ancient, mineralized timber sourced from the deserts of Nevada.



A Bright Future for Young Rockhounds

With 13 Pups in attendance, the energy was electric. Thanks to the dedication of Kenny, Brody, and Michelle, these young geologists walked away with more than just rocks—they left with the skills and passion to keep digging into the wonders of our earth.

Congratulations to all our newest merit-badge earners! Keep your eyes on the ground and your pans in the water.

Mission: Growth!

This isn't just a presentation—it's a recruitment drive! We'll be inviting the kids we encounter and their families to join our rock club family. Your donations help us give these potential new members a "piece of the hobby" to take home. It is estimated that we will be working with over 300 kids at these libraries:

- Traverse Area District Library
- Interlochen Library
- Kingsley Library
- Frankfort Library
- Beulah Library

Vincent Stone Rocks the AFMS Merit Badge Program!

Our very own "Pebble Pup," Vincent Stone, has been digging deep into the world of geology lately! We are thrilled to announce that Vincent is officially participating in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) badge program.

Often referred to as the "Young Rockhounds of America" by our junior members, this program is designed to cultivate the next generation of geologists, paleontologists, and lapidary artists.

What is the FRA Badge Program?

The AFMS program is a series of 20 different merit badges that cover everything from basic Earth science and Fossil Study to advanced skills like Lapidary Arts and Gold Panning. To earn a single badge, Vincent must complete at least three specific activities from the AFMS manual. These aren't just "book learning" tasks—they involve:

- Building mineral identification kits.
- Creating "The World in Miniature" displays.
- Exploring the "Rocking on the Computer" digital resources.
- Hands-on polishing and specimen collecting.

Vincent's Journey to "Rock Star" Status

Vincent is currently working toward his first milestone. In the AFMS system, once a youth member earns six badges, they are awarded the official Rockhound Patch and added to the national Honor Roll. Vincent has earned four badges; he only has two more to earn the Rockhound Patch.

But Vincent has his eyes on the ultimate prize: the Rock Star status. This coveted title (and the accompanying cloisonné pin) is reserved for those dedicated few who complete 20 badges.

Why It Matters

As the AFMS states, our junior members are the "future hobbyists, professionals, and scientists" of our community. Seeing a young member like Vincent dive into the 2026 badge updates—which now include modern tech like 3D printing and digital design—shows that the future of rockhounding is in great hands.

"The best way to learn is to roll up your sleeves, slice a rock, and watch your thumbnails disappear as you shape your first gem!" — AFMS Program Philosophy

Way to go, Vincent! We can't wait to see your collection grow and your vest fill up with those hard-earned badges. Keep on digging!



Pebble Pup Vincent Stone wears a sash that shows how hard he has worked to earn 4 badges so far.

Young Geologists Shine: GTARMC's Pebble Pups Take Over Traverse City MakersFest

The Howe Civic Center was buzzing with energy this past Saturday, April 25, 2026, as the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's "Pebble Pups" displayed their passion for Earth sciences at the annual Traverse City MakersFest.



From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Pebble Pups commanded a massive three table layout that quickly became a centerpiece of the event. By the end of the four-hour stretch, the young enthusiasts had shared their knowledge with over 600 children and parents, proving that the curiosity for what lies beneath our feet is stronger than ever.

Hands-On Science at Every Station

The booth was organized into four distinct, high-energy stations designed to give visitors a "day in the life" of a geologist or paleontologist:

- **The Rock & Mineral Gallery:** Pups guided visitors through the identification of local and exotic specimens, explaining the unique properties of Michigan's geological history.
- **The Fossil & Amber Lab:** This station featured a high-power microscope where attendees could peer into ancient history, viewing perfectly preserved insects trapped in golden amber.
- **The Excavation Zone:** For those who didn't mind getting their hands dirty, a dedicated "dig box" allowed kids to practice a professional paleontological excavation
- **"Make-Your-Own-Fossil" station** allowed visitors to take a piece of the experience home.



A Team Effort

The success of the day was a true multi-generational achievement. Operating in two-hour shifts, six Pebble Pups worked alongside their parents and grandparents to manage the constant flow of curious visitors. This collaborative environment allowed the Pups to take the lead as "junior experts," explaining complex concepts to their peers with confidence and wit.

Growing the Pack

The enthusiasm was infectious. Throughout the day, brochures detailing the Pebble Pup program were *"vigorously handed out and eagerly accepted."* Many local children expressed an immediate interest in joining the club, looking to turn a one-day event into a lifelong hobby. "It was an incredible day," noted one club volunteer. *"Seeing the Pups step up and teaching other kids about fossils and minerals is exactly what this program is about. The energy in the Howe Civic Center was electric."*

As the MakersFest drew to a close at 2:00 pm, the Pebble Pups walked away with more than just dusty hands—they left with the satisfaction of having inspired a new generation of rockhounds in Northern Michigan.





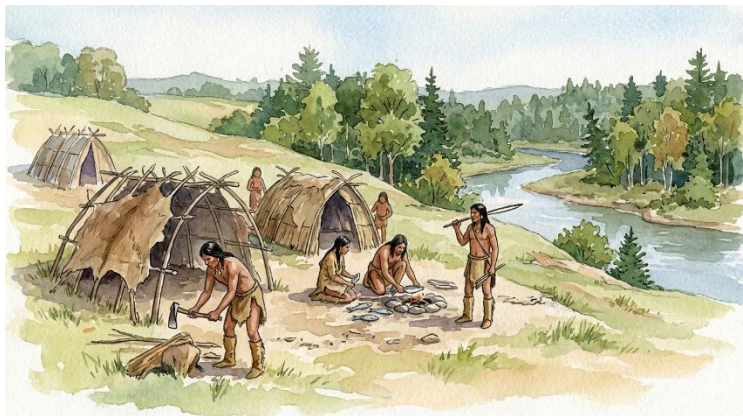
PEBBLE PUP FIELD TRIP

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

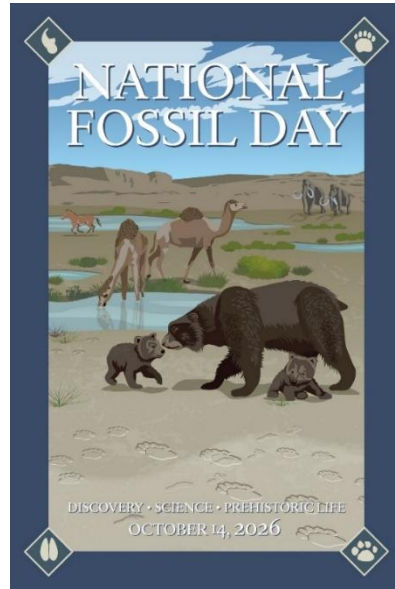
Audience: Families and children



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!



Steven Veatch to Headline Geology Program at 2026 Aldo Leopold Festival

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club is proud to announce that member and educator Steven Veatch will be a featured presenter at the annual **Aldo Leopold Festival**, held May 27–31, 2026 at the Hessel School House in Les Cheneaux, MI.

The festival honors the enduring legacy of Aldo Leopold, one of America’s most influential naturalists and conservationists. Against the backdrop of the very woods and waters that shaped Leopold’s early environmental ethics, the event offers a week of immersive nature-based activities, including paddling, wildflower tours, and birding.

Discovering "Treasures Underfoot"

On the festival’s opening day, Veatch will lead an intensive, hands-on workshop titled **“Treasures Underfoot: Discovering Rocks & Local Geology.”**

Designed for both aspiring hobbyists and nature enthusiasts, the program bridges the gap between scientific theory and the thrill of discovery.



ALDO LEOPOLD FESTIVAL
MAY 27 - 31, 2026
 LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS, MICHIGAN

Celebrating One of America's Most Influential Naturalists

WILDFLOWER WALKS + PRESENTATIONS + BIRD WATCHING TRIPS
 NATURE HIKES + PADDLING EXCURSIONS + NATURE INSPIRED ART

"Our program combines educational fun with an exciting outdoor adventure," says the festival organizers. "We'll kick things off with a captivating lecture... followed by hands-on activities, just like a geologist."

The program includes:

- **Expert Instruction:** A comprehensive lecture on the methods and essential concepts of building a rock collection.
- **Hands-on Lab:** Participants will practice identifying and classifying various specimens using professional geological techniques.
- **Field Exploration:** A guided beach walk where participants will hunt for specimens while learning about the unique geological history of the Les Cheneaux region.
- **Catered Experience:** The session includes a boxed lunch provided for all attendees.

Event Details

- **Date:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Location:** Les Cheneaux, MI (Specific meeting locations provided upon registration)

About the Aldo Leopold Festival

The Aldo Leopold Festival is a premier environmental celebration in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It invites participants to experience the natural world through the lens of conservation history, offering a diverse schedule of excursions and presentations that highlight the importance of protecting our ecological heritage.

About Steven Veatch

Steven Veatch is an active member of the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club. He is well known for his work in Earth science education, helping people of all ages connect with the geological stories hidden beneath their feet.

We close with a very interesting poem by Steven Veatch

Ice Age

By Steven Wade Veatch

Orbital shifts	Snow	Accumulation	Ice	Glacier	Advance
Ice fields	Ice flows	Cirque	Chatter marks	Till	Moraine
Terminal	Melting	Retreat	Kettle lake	Tarn	Outwash
Streams	Eskers	Stagnation	Permafrost	Bog	Fen
Swale	Wind	Dunes	Paleolithic	Migration	Fire
Cave art	Chert	Artifact	Hunting	Mammoth	Extinction

