



August 2026 issue

The next meeting will be our annual picnic. It will be on Sunday, August 23 at the home of Sandie and Dean Bull. See details later in the newsletter.

June Highlights

The main program was Gerald Wilgus presenting “The Anti-Atlas of Morocco”, featuring fabulous fossil collecting locations and specimens. Eric Hallman also shared photos and information on Suiseki Japanese viewing stones and Geologycaching locations for people to investigate.

Food Pantry Donations

Linda Keely oversees the food pantry supplies collection and Donna Kukla, the clothing donations. The program has been seeing declining participation. A decision will be made soon on whether to continue at every meeting. Non-perishable food items, **(Please no expired dates on food items)**, personal hygiene products, children’s new underwear, for elementary to teens, toothbrushes and toothpaste are desired.

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>

Club Picnic Update

Club Picnic

Date: Sunday- Aug. 23, 2026

Time: Social hour 4:00, Dinner 5:00

Place: Dean & Sandie Bull’s House

6822 Kary May Drive, Traverse City, MI 49685

Phone: 231 929-3630 or 946-9500

Notice!!!!

Changes to the club picnic.

Instead of PULLED PORK for the club picnic, we have come together with the idea that we should have something different! So, we are having a 'TACO BAR' picnic. Instead of bringing a dish to pass, each signed up member, brings something to add to the bar.

The choices of something to bring are: Taco shells, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese, Chips, Refried beans, and anything extra that you think might go good on a taco. Meat (or Meat substitute) will be provided by the club.

Bring the usual: Table service, chairs, drinks.

Please let us know if you are coming so we can be sure to have enough meat (or meat substitute) for everyone. Please let us know by August 15. We will be purchasing the meat around that date, so we need a head count to be sure to purchase enough.

Our Address is: 6822 KARY MAY DR., TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685
Our Phone number is 231 929-3630 or 231 946-9500

You can text or leave a message to either number.

Please let Dean or Sandie know as soon as possible that you will be attending and what you are going to bring.

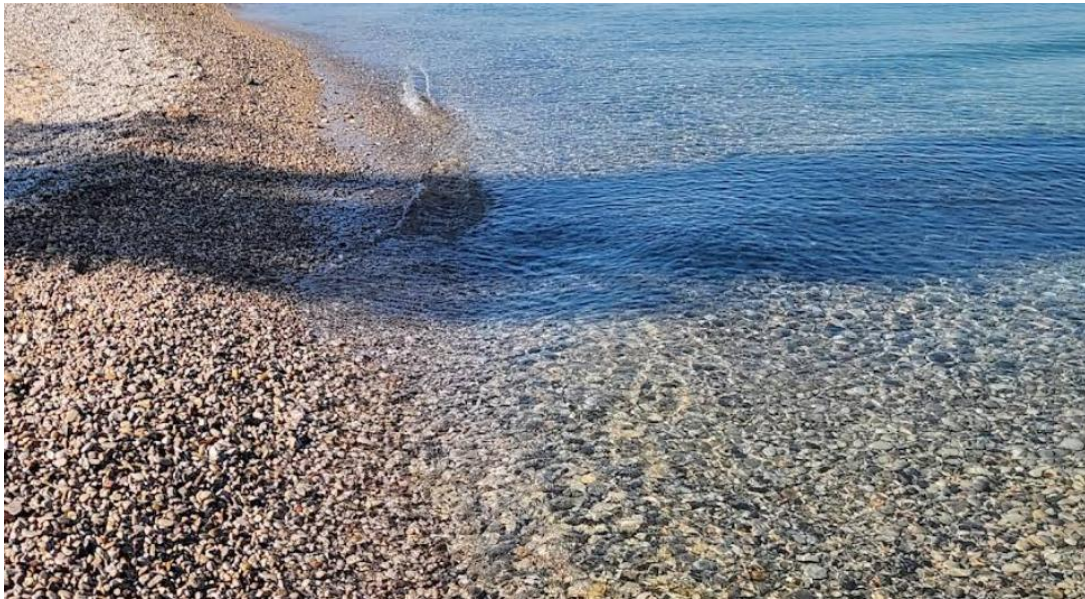
Thanks, and we hope to see you at the picnic.

PS: If you can help set up Tables and Tents - come early (2:00 pm) - Thanks!

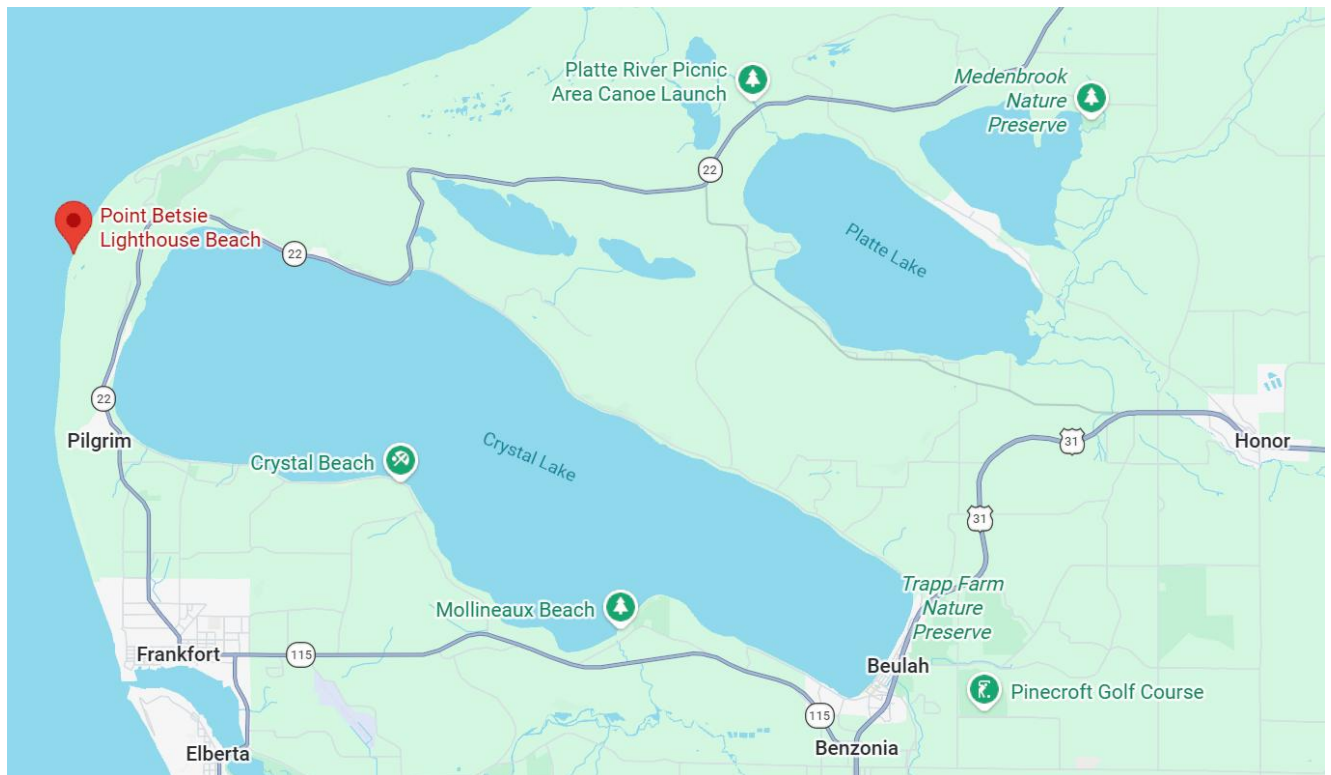
Upcoming Field Trips

GTARMC Outing at Betsie Point Saturday August 15

- Suggest arrival 11 am
- Bring a lunch and something to sit on
- Dave R will set up a tailgate canopy so we'll have shade
- Bring water shoes/knee-highs, buckets, scoop, sun protection



Take M-22 to Point Betsie Road:



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

September 12-13 Field Trip - Whitefish Point

During the May and June meetings, a consensus was reached that we will focus on the greater Whitefish Point area for collecting (instead of Grand Marais) in the eastern UP. The suggested collecting areas extend west of the USFS property boundary to as far west as Vermillion. There is no collecting at Whitefish Point itself - its part of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge. We can collect after lunch on Sat 9/12, then again on Sun 9/13, then head home/recreate as you wish.

Other fun activities at/near Whitefish include:

- Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum: [Home - Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society](#)
- Birdwatching and Whitefish Point Bird Observatory: [Home - Whitefish Point Bird Observatory](#)
- Friends of Whitefish Point Nocturnal Owl Banding: [Visit the owl banding station — Friends of Whitefish Point](#)
- Tahquamenon Falls (Upper/Lower Units)

Timing: I have reserved the covered picnic pavilion at the Lower Falls Portage Campground for Saturday Sept 12; I'll be there starting at about 10 am. My suggestion is that we convene for a BYO lunch - arrive whenever. We can discuss target collecting areas, and I can describe birding opportunities during Saturday evening and Sunday morning. We can reconvene for a potluck dinner at the pavilion Saturday evening, sharing our newly found treasures. I will bring a grill and GTARMC can provide burgers/brats. Bring a dish to share.

Lodging: on your own; it's time to start pinning down camping or lodging spots. There are several hotels/B&Bs in the Newberry area. If you don't want to stay overnight, the trip can be done as a long Saturday there-n-back.

Sept 2026 Amethyst Trip - Schedule and Lodging Information

Calling all September 2026 Amethyst Trip Participants:

I have identified a lodging option for the amethyst trip: **Camp Duncan on Loon Lake**. Check it out at:

[Camp Duncan Loon Lake Ontario](#)

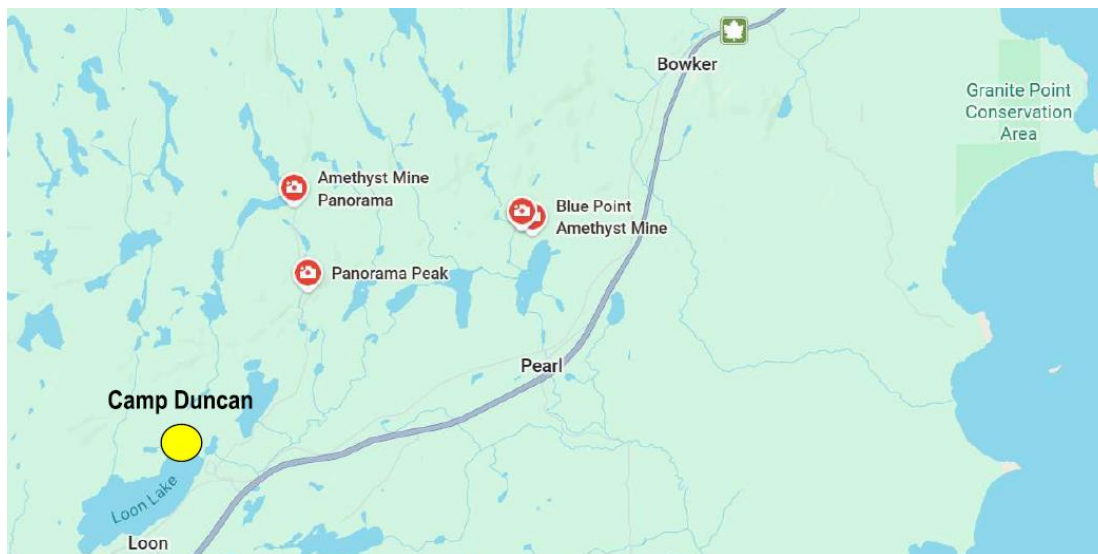
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At the Norwood picnic, there was favorable feedback on staying at Camp Duncan. If we commit to the camp, I suggest that we arrive on Fri 9/18, collect on Sat/Sun 9/19-20, and break camp on the morning of Mon 9/21 (three nights rental). Folks are of course at liberty to continue hunting at the nearby amethyst mines on 9/21.

Please look at the camp, and take into account:

- The camp consists of 10 cabins, a lodge with kitchen and fireplace, communal wash/shower houses, firepit. Total capacity is 77 campers, er, amethyst enthusiasts.
- The cabins are bunk-style with baseboard heating. **There is no indoor plumbing.** We would furnish our own bedding (i.e., linens and/or sleeping bags, plus pillows).
- There are 10 cabins; if we have as many as 20 participants, we can still have 2 persons per cabin.
- We are responsible for providing our own meals, leaving the kitchen clean at departure, and for removing our own garbage. We are not responsible for cleaning the washrooms/showers.
- Camp cost is CA\$500/night. If we have at least 10 participants, this comes out to \$100/night per couple, less than most lodging in Thunder Bay or Nipigon. Obviously, per person cost goes down the more GTARMC folks make the trip and opt for the camp.

Camp Duncan would be a convenient location, not far from our three target collecting locations, approximately halfway between Thunder Bay and Nipigon.



The three amethyst mines available to us are:

Amethyst Mine Panorama: [Home | Amethyst Mine Panorama](#)

Diamond Willow Amethyst Mine: [Thunder Bay Amethyst Mine & Rock Shop | Diamond Willow" – Diamond Willow Amethyst Mine](#)

Blue Point Amethyst Mine: [bluepointamethystmine.ca](#) (Blue Point and Diamond Willow are next to each other)

The camp would provide ample space where we can all gather, at a location only a few miles from the collecting locations, and at a likely lower cost than a motel/hotel. It would eliminate the need to pull a camper trailer. But the cabins would not be as comfy as staying at a hotel/motel in/near either Thunder Bay or Nipigon - about a 30-minute drive from the mines.

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

Please forward ideas for field trips to Dave Regalbuto at:

Class Opportunity

Upcoming Classes: Wire Weaving Class Cancelled

The classes on August 8 and 9 that were going to be taught by Alinka Lipchinsky have been cancelled due to low enrollment. Refunds will be issued to those that have already paid.

Beginning Silversmithing Class

This class will be held on October 4 and 11 at the Crooked Tree Art Center (where our club work room is) on Sixth Street in Traverse City. The class will be taught by Janet Ryan and Cathy Prieto-Smith. The cost will be tentatively \$84.00 per person. This class will be for those that have not taken a silversmithing class before. More information soon.

The end of an era!

After 60 years of business, the C & M rock shop on US-31 between Interlochen and Honor will be closing at the end of the season, around Labor Day.

For the entire summer, almost everything inside and outside is being sold at 50 percent off. Reports from some that have been there recently have indicated that items are really thinning out. Visiting soon would be a wise idea since once it's gone; it's gone. Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. They are closed on Sundays.

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 burcroffj@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 some items for the Kid's Table for the annual September show. Please see Dianne to contribute items like Petoskey Stones, Leland Blue, small and medium polished stones. They are all welcome.

Pebble Pups News

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

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



Pups in the News

In the June AFMS newsletter, on page 9 there is a feature article about **Brody Dymond** and his time at NPR radio. Also on page 13 GTARMC Pebble Pup **Landon Chichester** won a 1st place award for his poem "*Ice Age Mammoth.*", GTARMC Pebble Pup **Brody Dymond** won 2nd place with his poem "*Dinosuar.*"

These are solid wins and the club congratulates the pebble pups!

Young Earth Scientists "Unearth a Story" at Kingsley Library

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club (GTARMC) brought the fascinating world of geology to life for more than 120 children and parents at the Kingsley Library on July 15. As part of the library's popular "Unearth a Story" summer reading program, attendees dug deep into the history, science, and narratives hidden within rocks, minerals, gemstones, and fossils. The interactive session was led by GTARMC's Pebble Pup Leader, Steven Veatch, who was



assisted by senior Pebble Pup, Brody Dymond. Together, they guided the enthusiastic crowd through a hands-on exploration of the natural world, demonstrating how every specimen tells a unique story about the Earth's ancient past.

"Seeing over 120 eager kids and parents engage with geology is incredibly rewarding," said Veatch. "Rocks and fossils aren't just objects; they are chapters of Earth's history. Our goal is to spark a lifelong passion for science and discovery in these young minds."



The Pebble Pup program is a dedicated youth initiative of the GTARMC, designed to introduce children to the joys of rockhounding, mineralogy, and paleontology. Through community partnerships like the one with the Kingsley Library, the club continues to foster educational outreach and scientific curiosity across the Grand Traverse region.

About the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, collection, and enjoyment of rocks, minerals, fossils, and lapidary arts. The club hosts regular meetings, field trips, and educational programs for rockhounds of all ages.

About the Kingsley Library

Located in Kingsley, Michigan, the Kingsley Library serves the local community with a robust calendar of educational, cultural, and literacy-focused programming for all age groups.



September Short Program Announcement: Unlocking the Secrets of Anyolite!

Join us for a special presentation by Pebble Pup Brody Dymond, who will take us on a captivating journey into the world of Anyolite—the striking natural metamorphic rock composed of vivid green zoisite and deep red ruby!

What Makes This Presentation a Must-See?

Brody will break down the science behind this iconic rock and showcase a few optical surprises:

- **The Chemistry of the Green:** Ever wonder why the zoisite matrix of anyolite is such an intense green? Brody will explain the geological forces and trace elements—like chromium—that give the rock its vibrant color.
- **Fluorescent Magic Under UV Light:** The highlight of the demonstration! Brody will shine a ultraviolet (UV) light on the specimen to show how the embedded ruby crystals burst into a vivid, glowing red fluorescence right before your eyes.

Don't Miss Out! From brilliant earth science to a glowing visual demonstration, Brody's hands-on talk offers a front-row seat to the wonders of our hobby.

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!

Summer Break Opportunity

During the summer, pebble pups can work on individual projects. I have fossils, rocks, and minerals that any pup can work on. As a special bonus, the specimen can be kept by the pebble pup and it can be added to their collection.

Here is what I have to work on:

1. **"Alabama Impact Wood"** (often referred to as Brilliant Petrified Wood) is a rare, sparkling, petrified wood found in Elmore County, near the **Wetumpka Impact Crater**, and the Coker Member of the Tuscaloosa Formation. It was formed roughly 85 million years ago when an asteroid struck the region. The wood glitters with quartz crystals. I have a large piece for you to work with and to keep.
2. **Zoisite:** a striking green metamorphic rock with a red ruby in the middle. This specimen is from Africa. The ruby strongly reacts to a black light.
3. **Unusual banded chert:** Some of it has crystals all over it. Stunning samples.
4. **Upper Peninsula:** native copper in basalt. A nice museum quality piece.
5. **Amethyst crystals**
6. **Thomsonite minerals**

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The project starts by a parent letting me know of an interest in the Pebble Pup in doing this. Next, we meet at the **TC District library or the Kingsley library** to make a research/writing plan and then we image the specimen. The pebble pup then spends several weeks

researching and writing. The pup then meets Steven Veatch one or two times via zoom to review the work the pup has done. Next the article is finished up and published here:

- GTARMC newsletter
- AFMS *Crack the News*
- *Mini Miners Monthly*

This is a valuable opportunity to have three publishing credits at a young age. The experience is also a helpful experience for school.

Just let me know your interest and your availability to meet at the library. Provide your top two specimen choices. The specimens will be given out in the order in which I receive responses.

Just let me know your interest. And, when you see Wyatt on a field trip this summer, congratulate him.

Steve