



September 2026 issue

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City. The short program will be: **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.

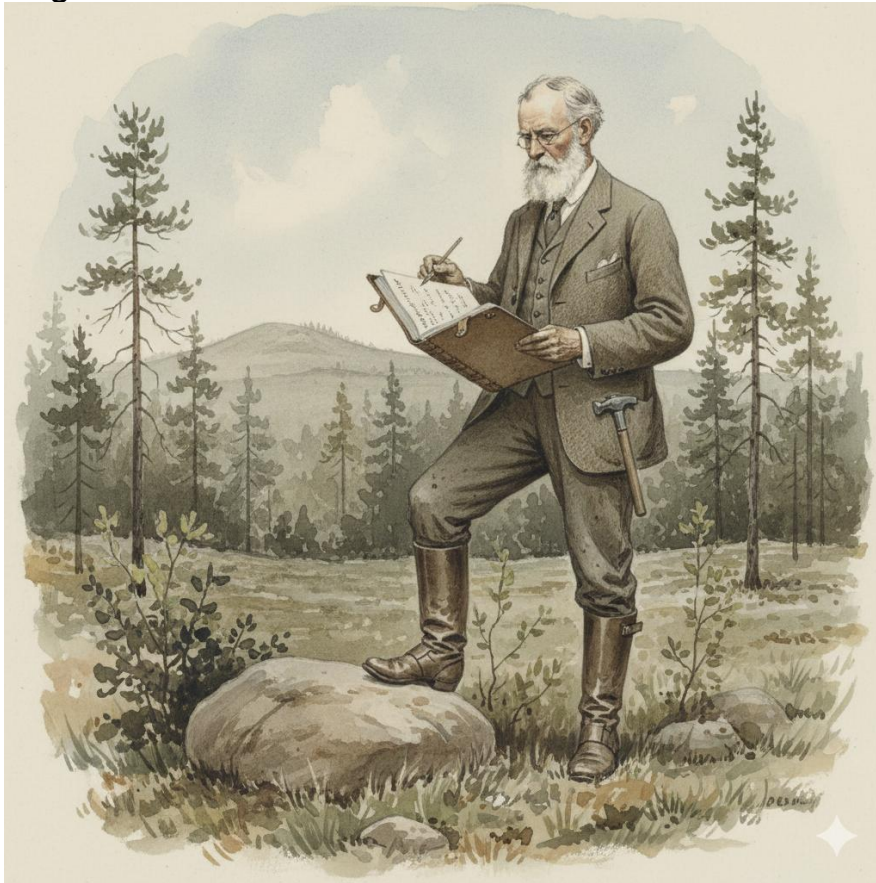
Don't Miss Out! From brilliant earth science to a glowing visual demonstration, Brody's hands-on talk offers a front-row seat to the wonders of our hobby.

The main program is by Steven Veatch.

Title: From Horseback to High-Tech: How Three Generations of Scientists Revealed Michigan's Ice Age

Beneath Michigan's forests, farms, and shorelines lies a story written by ice. Reading the Glacial Record explores how geologists learned to interpret this hidden record over three transformative generations.

Witness the evolution of discovery: from the rugged, horseback expeditions of Frank Leverett and Frank B. Taylor in the early 1900s, to Helen M. Martin's influential mid-century mapping, and finally to William Farrand's modern integration of Michigan's glacial past. Along the way, we track the shift from hand-drawn sketches to the sophisticated digital tools used by geologists today.



The Pebble Pups first meeting of the school year will be held on September 17 at 5:30 pm, just before our regular meeting. The program will be "Dinosaur Fossils".

August Highlights

The program was our annual club picnic at the home of Sandie and Dean Bull. Over 40 members participated and enjoyed the taco bar and other yummy food. A big thank you to Sandie and Dean.

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>

Upcoming Field Trips

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 - it's 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 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 Input Needed on Lodging

Calling all September 2026 Amethyst Trip Participants:

To help me prepare for and coordinate the amethyst trip to the Thunder Bay area:

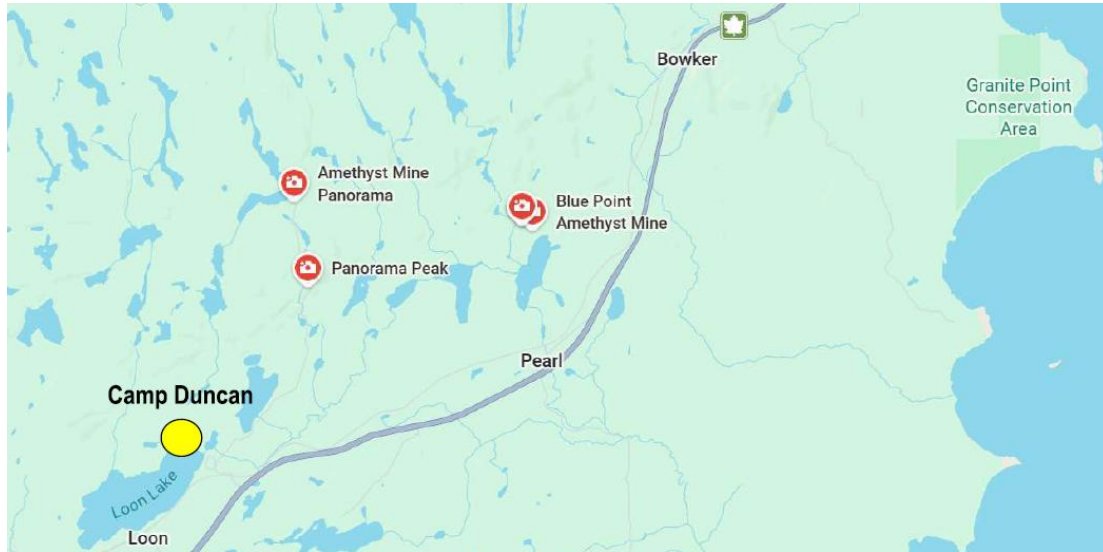
1) I need a final list of who is going. If you were **NOT** at the picnic on the 23rd, please either text, email, or call me to "sign up" or re-confirm. So far, I have received verbals/emails from at least 9 of us, including my wife Carrie and me.

2) We are staying at Camp Duncan on Loon Lake, close to the three amethyst collecting areas. Because I paid the camp deposit up front, I request that participants provide me a deposit of \$60/person, which is just about 50% of the total cost, assuming that we **arrive on Friday Sept 18**, and **break camp early on Mon Sept 21** (four days camp rental/three nights lodging). The total per person cost and deposit assumes that we'll have 12 participants. Please send the deposit right away if you have not paid already.

3) If you are doing the trip, be prepared to help plan group meals. We will have use of a full kitchen and their lodge. I will review camp amenities and their terms of camp usage.

- 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.

4) Entry into Canada/Re-entry to US: you must have either a US passport or enhanced Michigan drivers license.



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)

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

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 \$70.00 per person. This class will be for those that have not taken a silversmithing class before.

GTARMC Metals Class – Fall 2026

WHAT: 2 day Jewelry Construction Class for new GTARMC metals students

WHEN & WHERE: Sunday Oct 4 & Sun Oct 11 9am-5pm Crooked Tree Arts Center 322 6th St Traverse City, Lower level classroom. Please check your availability before completing the interest form. Attendance on both days is required.

WHO: Intended for GTARMC members who have not taken the club metalsmithing class in the past.

COST: \$70 per person

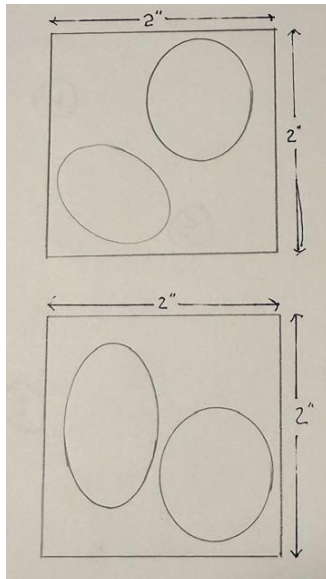
STUDENTS TO BRING: Please bring 3-4 cabochons (made by you or purchased). See notes on Cabs below. Also bring a sack lunch.

DETAILS: Janet Ryan & Cathy Prieto-Smith will be teaching this 2-day class. All materials, tools & supplies will be provided. You will learn sterling silver fabrication with sheet and wire, cutting, filing, sanding, forming, soldering, annealing, bezel making, texturing & finishing. Each student will create a ring and a pendant with a bezel set cabochon.

HOW to SIGN UP & PAY: Use the link below to request a spot. **Please note your spot is not finalized until you hear back from the scheduler that you are approved.** After approval you will receive a link for electronic payment. Please note that payment must be received by Sept 18 to reserve your spot!

LINK: [Class Interest Link](#)

NOTES on CABS: Cabs should be no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ " X 1.5" and have a wall height less than $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{3}{16}$ ". You will have a 2"X2" piece of silver for the back of your pieces so your 2 selected stones need to fit on this size piece of silver. Teachers will approve each student's cabs. See diagrams below.



Club Show is Coming Soon – Help Needed!!

To make the show run, many volunteers are needed for various positions. I sent out an email that will listed the volunteers still needed to fill the slots for the show.

The end of an era!

After 60 years, the C & M rock shop on US-31 between Interlochen and Honor is closing at the end of the season, about September 15.

Almost everything inside and outside is sold at 50 percent off, and inventory is really thinning out. Visiting soon would be a wise idea. 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

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231-620-6567

ehall686@gmail.com

Vice President

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Pat Captain

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Club Show Chair

Lauren Vaughn

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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.

Pebble Pups News

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

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



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!

Young Geologists at Work: Tools, Techniques, and Mineral Identification

Workshop Location: Northwestern Michigan College

Workshop Date: Saturday, October 17

Workshop time: 9:30 to 12:30

Step into the boots of a working field geologist! In this hands-on workshop, Pebble Pups will discover how scientists test, classify, catalog, and preserve rocks and minerals. Young geologists will get up close with handheld specimens using essential tools of the trade—inspecting crystal habits with 10x hand lenses, illuminating fluorescent minerals under ultraviolet blacklight, testing relative hardness, running streak tests, checking for magnetism, and observing chemical reactions on carbonates.



Pebble Pups will master the primary classification system that divides Earth's rocks into igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic families. Moving beyond basic identification, participants will learn professional collections management techniques, including how to catalog specimens using whiteout and fine-line markers. Every student will assemble their own micromount specimen—viewing it under a stereomicroscope station—and explore professional display options, including Perky boxes, classic Riker mounts, and fold-up cardboard collection boxes to protect and present their growing collection.

What We Will Cover & Learn

1. Tools & Physical Testing Procedures

- **10x Hand Lens (Loupe):** Focus on micro-structures, crystal habits, and grain boundaries.
- **UV Blacklight:** Discover fluorescence and shortwave/longwave color shifts in minerals.
- **Mohs Hardness Testing:** Use scratch picks and plates to determine relative mineral hardness.
- **Streak Testing:** Drag specimens across unglazed porcelain tiles to observe streak color (such as hematite's distinct reddish-brown trail).
- **Magnetism Test:** Use strong magnets to check for magnetic minerals like magnetite and ilmenite.
- **Effervescence Test:** Observe how carbonate minerals like calcite react to mild acid.

2. Rock Classification Laboratory

- **Handheld Specimens:** Observe texture, grain size, and composition up close.
- **The Three Rock Families:** Sort samples into Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic based on visible physical traits and test results.

3. Curating & Cataloging Your Collection

- **Specimen Labeling Method:** Apply a small base layer of whiteout, let it dry, and write catalog numbers cleanly using a fine-point Sharpie.
- **Micromounting:** Step-by-step assembly of a tiny, mounted mineral specimen.
- **Microscope View Station:** Inspect completed micromounts up close under a magnified viewer.

4. Display & Storage Systems

- **Perky Boxes:** Clear acrylic display cubes with mounting putty bases.
- **Riker Mounts:** Glass-topped, cotton-padded display trays for flat or delicate samples.
- **Foldable Cardboard Trays:** Assembling portable, multi-compartment field collection boxes

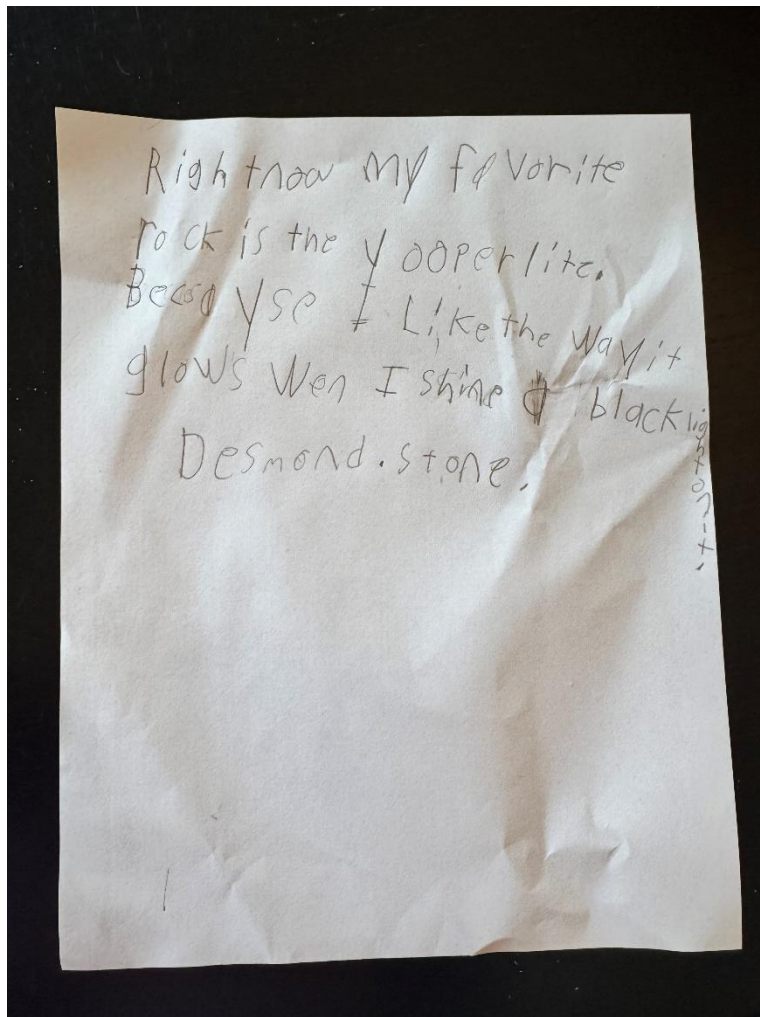
Pebble pups must register for this workshop by emailing Steven Veatch to reserve your spot. Email him at steven.veatch@gmail.com. You will be provided with the name of the building, room number, and parking instructions. Snacks will be provided.

Desmond and Vincent Stone were both featured in the monthly e-newsletter, "Mini Miners Monthly" for their "My Favorite Rock" creations. Here are their featured articles.

My Favorite Rock: Yooperlite

By Desmond Stone

Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club Pebble Pups

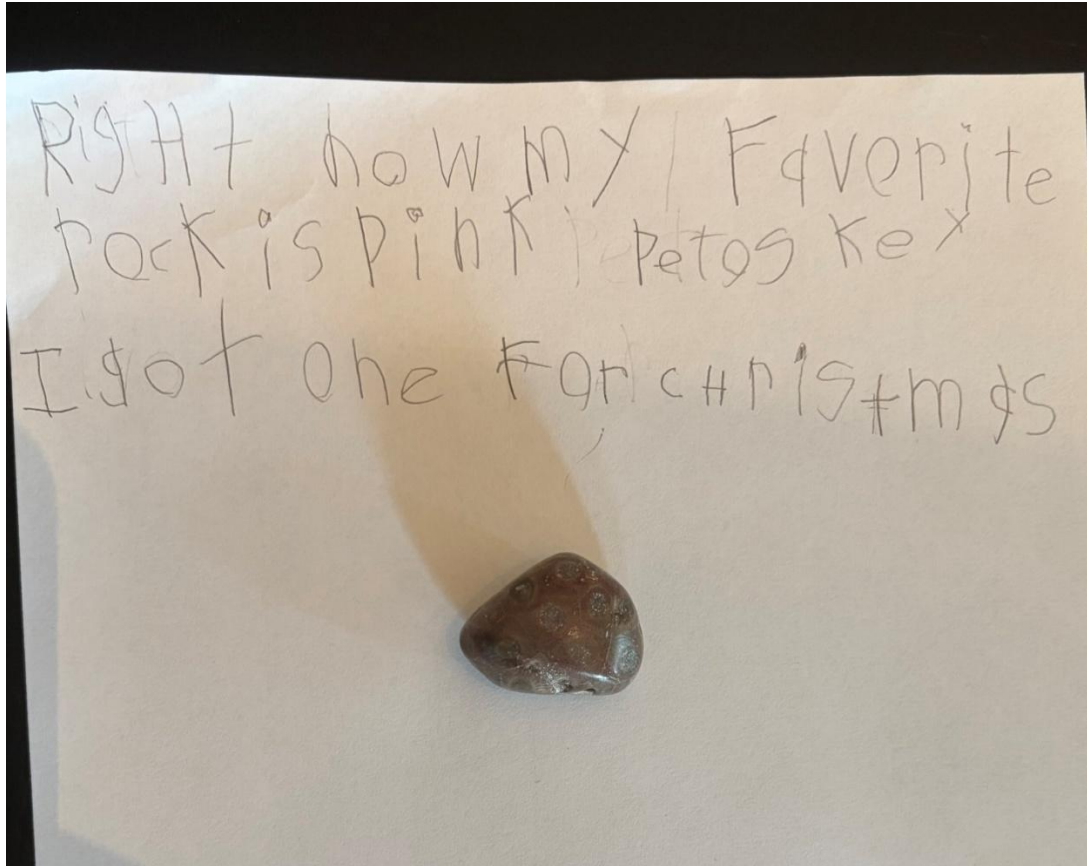


About the author: Desmond Stone is an energetic eight-year-old geology enthusiast and an active member of the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's Pebble Pups. With a keen eye for detail and a growing collection of unique specimens, Desmond loves exploring the outdoors to discover local rocks, fossils, and minerals.

My Favorite Rock: Pink Petoskey Stone

By Vincent Stone

Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club Pebble Pups



About the author: Vincent Stone is an enthusiastic seven-year-old earth science explorer and an active member of the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's Pebble Pups. Passionate about uncovering the mysteries of the natural world, Vincent loves discovering unique rocks, learning how minerals form, and studying the deep history hidden within fossils.

And to finish this month's newsletter is poem by Steven Veatch!

Deadly Dance of the Mammoth and *Smilodon*

Above the mammoth the sky turns red
as the sun rose, rising from its dawn bed.
Soon the mighty beast would know,
A new day starts where sheets of ice flow.

It was spring—a cold time of year—
when mammoths keep their young near.
A mammoth mother follows an ancient trail
with her young in tow, so tiny and so frail.

Survival is not easy and is based largely on luck.
As days lengthen and spring brings mud and muck.
The insects buzz, grass turns green, and buds burst.
Warmth brings pools of water to slake the mammoth's thirst.

There's been no sign of *Smilodon*—nothing yet to fear.
The woodlands are quiet, only a sloth might appear
The herds move together with their young for protection,
but they make too much noise, unable to avoid detection.

A *Smilodon* comes to a halt, and smells the air,
and the mammoths take off in a thundering scare.
The herd will live in peace for another day
As they rule the land and make their way.

By Steven Wade Veatch

