



October 2026 issue

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City.

Join us for a special short program presentation by Pebble Pup Brody Dymond.

Prepare to have your understanding of prehistoric Earth shattered as renowned Pebble Pup **Brody Dymond** peels back the mysterious layers of Brilliant, Alabama's petrified wood to reveal an explosive cosmic creation! Brody will take you back 85 million years to the moment a massive asteroid slammed into Elmore County—about 140 miles southeast of Brilliant—blasting open the 5-mile-wide cosmic scar known today as the Wetumpka Impact Crater. The catastrophic heat, shockwaves, and unimaginable pressures unleashed by this celestial collision utterly transformed the surrounding geology, forging an ancient forest into a truly extraordinary, stone-bound crucible. Don't miss this adrenaline-fueled deep dive into one of Alabama's most thrilling geological marvels, where rockhounding meets cosmic destruction!

The main program is by Steven Veatch.

Title: In the Shadow of the Betsie River: The Serendipitous Recovery of an Early Archaic Artifact

For ten thousand years, a nearly perfect projectile point lay cradled in the glacial sediments of the Betsie River, a silent witness to a world of retreating ice and vanishing mastodons. Crafted by an Early Archaic master of survival, this light-tan chert point eventually found its way into a local museum display, where it sat for years overlooked as just another "arrowhead." In this immersive presentation, we break that silence to explore how a routine spring cleaning at the Benzie Area Historical Society Museum transformed this anonymous stone into a profound portal to Michigan's deepest past. Representing the earliest identifiable evidence of human habitation in Benzie County, the artifact offers a visceral connection to a 10,000-year-old culture and the intense reality of prehistoric life sustained on the banks of the Betsie River.

In an exclusive highlight for this presentation, Veatch will share—for the first time—his meticulous original research and archaeological analysis used to reclassify this remarkable find. We will step into the role of a modern researcher, gaining a firsthand look at the technical investigation that confirmed the point's Early Archaic origins. Through an exploration of specific chert sourcing and unique flaking techniques, we will see how a single, overlooked artifact can rewrite the archaeological record of an entire region.



The Pebble Pups next meeting of the school year will be held on October 15 at 5:30 pm, just before our regular meeting. The program will be “Giants of the Ice Age”.

September Highlights

The short program was Brody Dymond sharing, “Unlocking the Secrets of Anyolite”, aka Ruby in Zoisite. His article that you will see later in the newsletter features his research on the topic and was published in the September Mini-Miners Monthly newsletter. Steven Veatch presented the main program “From Horseback to High-Tech: How Three Generations of Scientists Revealed Michigan’s Ice Age”. Daniel Schafer also shared information on slag and had some rough slag for observation.

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.

Lance Nichols is the September Rockhound of the Month

Help needed for October 14 Pebble Pups event at National Fossil Day

Pebble Pups will celebrate National Fossil Day and Earth Science Week on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. The day is celebrated annually to highlight the importance of preserving fossils for future generations and to recognize the scientific and educational value of paleontology.

Pebble Pups will celebrate this at the Boardman River Nature Center by presenting demonstrations. I need a club member to bring some rocks, minerals, and fossils and work at a table called *Earth's Hidden Treasures: A Geologist's Showcase*. Bring a loupe and a microscope if you have one. You just have to meet the public and talk about your rocks, minerals, and fossils that you bring and set on the table. I should be able to provide a pebble pup helper. Your table will be one of 6 other tables for this event.

We present from 5:30 PM 7:30 PM. We set up at 5:00 pm.

Let me know if you can volunteer by sending me an email.

Thanks.

Steve

Steven.veatch@gmail.com

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

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

For those registered, 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.

Club Show Thank You

To make the show run, it takes many volunteers for various positions. I would like to thank all of you that volunteered to make our show very successful again this year! We are also thankful to our vendor members and club officers that helped make the show possible. Thanks to those of you that put out signs, distributed show promotional information, or shared word of mouth and social media.

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](#)

Upcoming Events

October 11 – Open house at the Samel Farm in Williamsburg from 1 to 4 pm. This area was a Native American settlement for many years, and many discoveries have taken place there. Displays will be available for viewing and many other activities.

October 17 – Our lease with the City of Traverse City for our club workroom is ending on October 31. A few volunteers are needed starting at 10:00 am at the Crooked Tree Art Center (former City Library and History Center), 322 Sixth Street in Traverse City. We will be moving all our machines and supplies out of the building on that day into storage until next May 1 when we will be moving the work room to North Royal Drive.

December Dinner Meeting – President Eric Hallman has said that he is not wanting to continue as President in 2027. If you are interested in being on the ballot for this position, please let Eric know.

Club T-Shirts

Contact Cathy Prieto-Smith if you are interested in ordering a club T-Shirt. Two colors of shirts and different logo location choices are available.

New Club Secretaries

Laura Burget has volunteered to be Club Secretary and Lance Nichols will be filling in when Laura is not available. Thanks to you both!

Page 6

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 LaFoilie
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.

Pebble Pups News

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

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



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

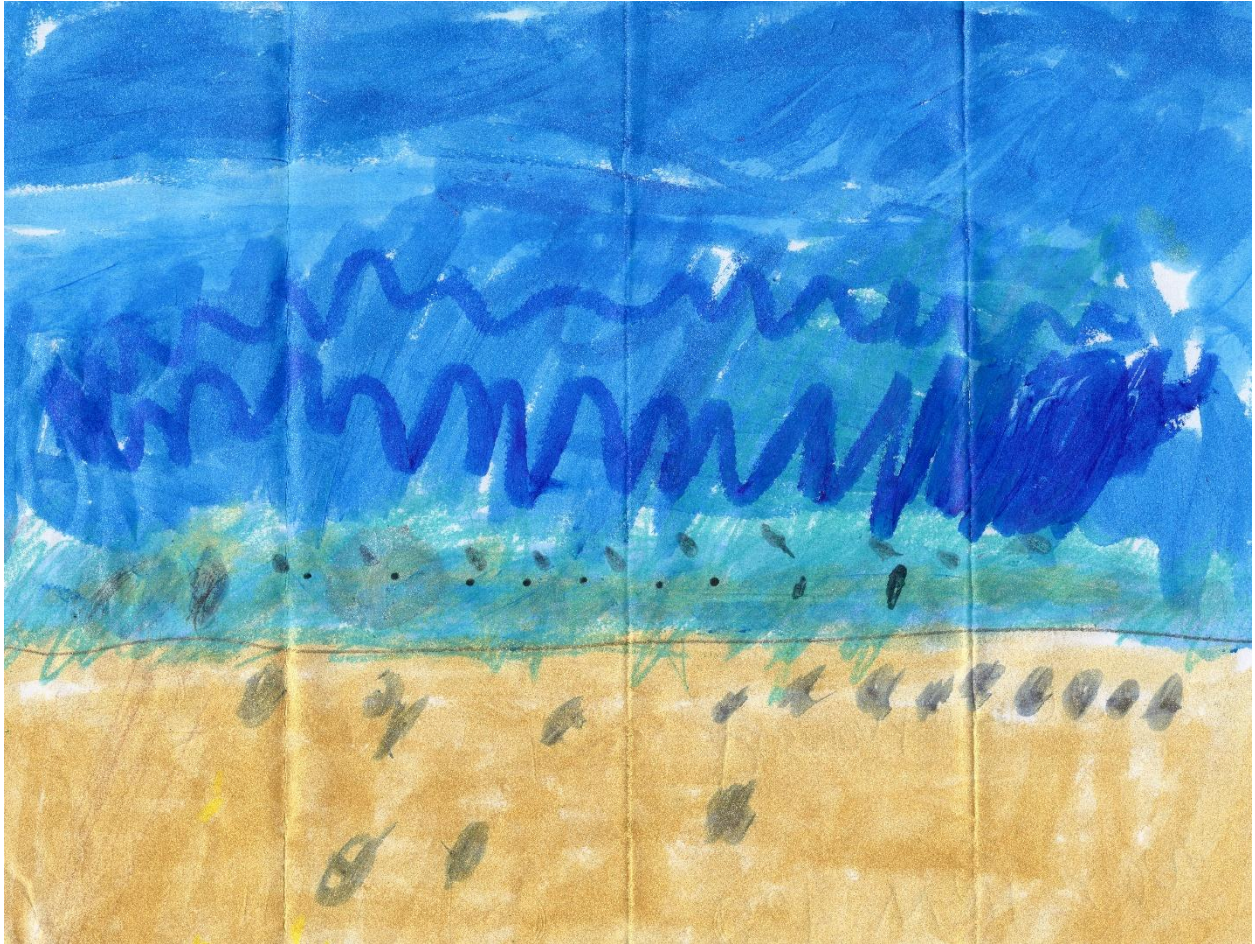
- **Perky Boxes:** Clear acrylic display cubes with mounting putty bases.
- **Riker Mounts:** Glass-topped, cotton-padded display trays for flat or delicate samples.
- **Foldable Cardboard Trays:** Assembling portable, multi-compartment field collection boxes

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.

New Pebble Pup Artwork



Ammonite by Vincent Stone



Fossils on Beach by Desmond Stone

Following is the article produced by Brody Dymond for his presentation on Anyolite from our last meeting.

Unlocking the Secrets of Anyolite!

By Broden Dymond

Have you ever seen a rock that looks like it has a ruby hidden inside it? If you have, you might have seen anyolite! Anyolite is a metamorphic rock made up of three different minerals: zoisite, ruby, and sometimes amphibole. It is also known by its trade name, “ruby in zoisite.”



Figure 1. Anyolite from Mundarara Mine, Tanzania. Red colored ruby inclusions are visible. Specimen on display at the Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello, Idaho. Photo source Wikimedia Commons.

The Discovery and Trade of Anyolite

Anyolite was first discovered in 1954 in Longido, in northeastern Tanzania. The mine where it was first discovered is still in use today, and anyolite is still exported from Tanzania.

Anyolite is also used in artwork and decorative items. It can be made into sculptures, figurines, ornamental objects, and jewelry designs. Some people also use it in meditation practices because they believe it can help relieve stress and support emotional healing.

But be careful! There is a similar-looking mineral called ruby in fuchsite that can be confused with anyolite. One way to tell them apart is with a hardness test. Fuchsite has a hardness of only 2–3.

The Geology of Anyolite

Anyolite is a metamorphic rock, and it usually has a Mohs hardness of 6–6.5. It contains three minerals that give it an interesting appearance.

The first mineral is zoisite. Zoisite contains chromium, which causes its vibrant green color.

The second mineral is ruby. Ruby is made of corundum crystals, which are a crystalline form of aluminum oxide. The ruby is what makes anyolite especially interesting because the bright red ruby crystals stand out against the green zoisite.

The third mineral is amphibole. Sometimes you can see black specks in anyolite that are made of a type of amphibole called hornblende tschermakite.



Figure 2. Anyolite from Tanzania, Africa. Note rubies. Photo by Hannes Grobe Creative Commons CC-BY-SA-2.5.

The Fluorescence of Anyolite

The cool thing about anyolite is that the ruby in the rock actually glows!



Figure 3. View of anyolite. From the collection of B. Dymond. Photo by B. Dymond.

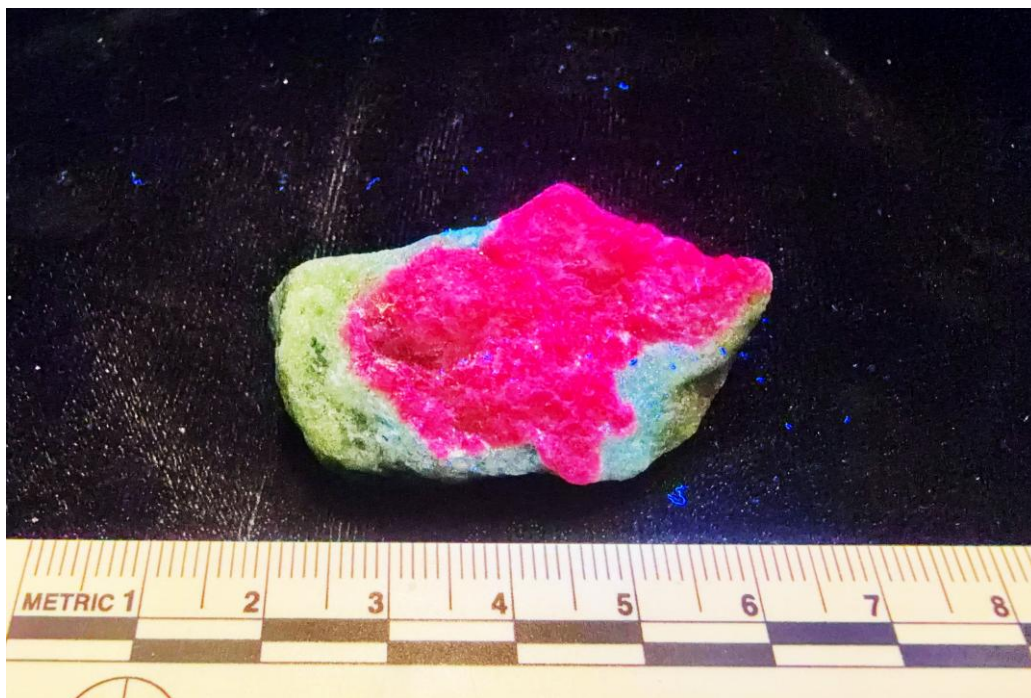


Figure 4. View of anyolite fluorescing under a UV light. From the collection of B. Dymond. Photo by B. Dymond.

When you hold a UV light to anyolite, the ruby glows. This makes anyolite even more interesting because you can see something happening inside the rock that you normally wouldn't be able to see.

So, the next time you see a green rock with red spots, take a closer look. You might just be looking at anyolite!

About the author

BRODY DYMOND is a member of the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's Pebble Pups in Traverse City, Michigan. He is from Glen Arbor, Michigan, where he lives. Brody is thirteen years old and will be starting 7th grade at Glen Lake School this year. He has been involved with Pebble Pups for over four years. He has a keen interest in rocks and fossils, and also enjoys being outdoors, biking on trails, robotics, engineering, art, gaming, and Legos. He is currently a Scout from Troop 131 in Suttons Bay, Michigan. He is a program assistant with the Pebble Pup program.