



December 2023 issue

The next regular meeting will be January 17 and will start at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City.

The next regular meeting for Pebble Pups will be on January 17 at 5:30 pm at the VFW. See more Pups information later in the newsletter.

November Highlights

The main program was “Christmas In November” with several members offering items for sale for member’s Christmas Shopping pleasure.

Food Pantry Donations

Lorna Coe and Jim and De Elder would like to thank all that have brought items for the food pantry and clothing donations. Due to the success of the program, they are going to continue this at every meeting. Non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products (including hotel soaps and shampoos), cold weather new, or clean, lightly-used items and tote bags are welcomed. As an added incentive, every time you donate items, put your name in the hat for a drawing, which will take place at our Christmas dinner.

Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars

Please see the Pebble Pups reports, announcements and art at the end of the newsletter.

More Rock & Mineral Specimens Needs for the Pups

The Pebble Pups need specimens for study and for Steven Veatch to give out at the Pup’s meetings and for public outreach events that are staged about 4 times a year. People can contact Steven at steven.veatch@gmail.com or bring them to the meetings for him.

Upcoming Field Trip Planning

PLEASE NOTE – WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A NEW FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR TO TAKE OVER FOR GARY BULL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE POSITION, CONTACT GARY.

Here is the update on trips for 2023 from Gary Bull, Field Trip Coordinator and Deb Bull, who presented the following information.

GTARMC (members only) Field Trips

Suggestions for trips? Contact Gary at 231-590-3397.

December 9 Annual Club Holiday Dinner at the VFW.

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 \$15 Adult or \$20 for a couple, Juniors (8-17) \$5, and Rockpups under 8 are free with an adult membership. Make checks out to GTARMC.

Membership dues may be mailed to:

Cathy Kowaleski, Membership Chair
801 S. Garfield Avenue #241
Traverse City, MI 49686

Name badges are an additional \$8 per badge. Thank you!

Club Show Signs

Please bring any yard signs to the Christmas Dinner or the January meeting if you would like to get them out of your house. If you would rather keep them until next year, that would be fine, just let me know how many you have and you must promise to put them out next year. My email is: maple2b@aol.com

Club Email Addresses

gtarmc@tcrockhounds.com (main club email address)

If you have any photos that you would like to share of club events or members, those can be sent to:

photos@tcrockhounds.com or noonanjohntc@gmail.com

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

[GT Rock & Mineral | Flickr](#)

For scheduling requests for classes or workroom time, please send email request to:

scheduling@tcrockhounds.com

President

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

Vice President

Janet Ryan
262-939-6315
janetannryan@att.net

Secretary

De Elder
231-360-7111
jde123123@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Sandie Bull
231-929-3630
sandie.bull@yahoo.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Gary Bull
231-590-3397
debannbull@gmail.com

Education & Training

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

Workroom & Classes

Denise Groesser
231-714-4559
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.

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>

Here is some great Pebble Pup art from Roslyn.

The Paleozoic Sea



November Pebble Pup Report

The pebble pups had a special treat when Earth science scholar Nate Peters brought in a large rock full of Paleozoic fossils for the group to work with. The pebble pups were able to break it apart and get a sense of field collecting. There are 16 active pebble pups registered with 6 in attendance at the November meeting. Pebble Pups will resume meeting in January.



Club's Pebble Pups Announce Field Trips Planned with the Boardman River Nature Center

Steven Veatch, pebble pup leader, met with the Boardman River Nature Center's programming staff last week to work on the details offering, jointly, a series of youth oriented, Earth science related hikes on various parklands managed by the Grand Traverse Conservation District. The nature center's naturalists, along with pebble pup teachers and club geologists, will be providing these hikes:

- Winter Discovery Hike in January
- Water Discovery Hike in April
- Fossil Discovery Hike in May
- Exploring the Ice Age in June
- Soil Discovery in October

These guided trips will emphasize Earth science and will be marketed to the public by the nature center. In addition to the club's pebble pups and Earth science scholars, these trips are open to families who participate in the nature center's offerings. This will be an excellent chance for the Traverse City region to meet the pebble pups and for the club to recruit new children into the ranks of the pebble pups. More details and dates will be forthcoming. In the meantime, Michelle Peters, a pebble pup teacher, and club member, is working on several collecting trips. One is being planned for early next year, just after the ice is gone on a special beach, where the pups will find many geological treasures.



View of the Boardman River from a trail below the Boardman River Nature Center. Photo by S. W. Veatch, 2023

Club's Pebble Pups Part of Public STEM Outreach at the Boardman River Nature Center

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's pebble pups set up a table featuring Earth science activities on Friday, November 17, 2023, at the Boardman River Nature Center. These public events are important as they showcase the club's youth group to the area residents. Brock Faubus, a 6th grade pebble pup, or at his age, an Earth Science Scholar, spent the evening with Steven Veatch engaging with families as they visited the nature center. The pebble pup table was set across from the club's display case. Other local regional STEM-based organizations also set up tables to share science and their organization with families. Everyone was busy with the visitors who came.





And finally, an article from Steven Veatch.

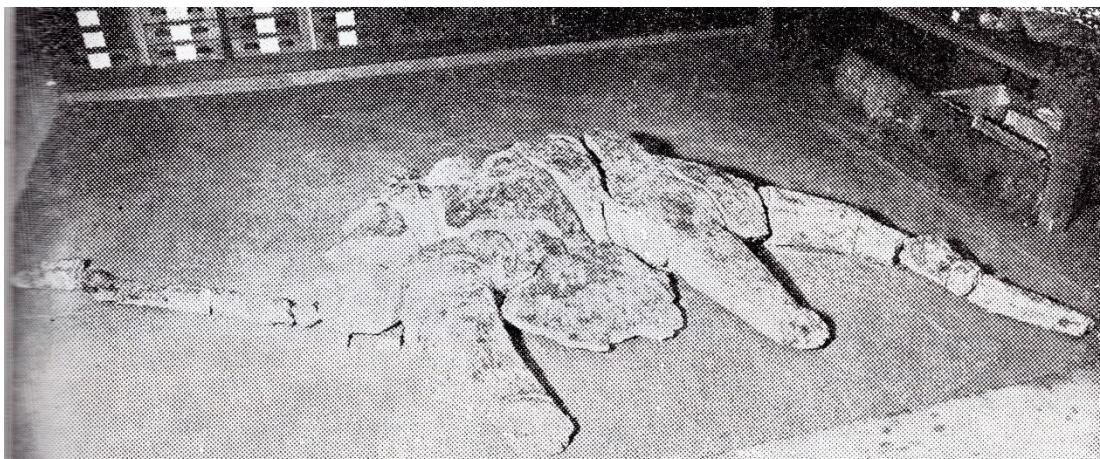
The Mystery of Genevieve: The Golden Dinosaur from the Depths of the London Mine

Steven Wade Veatch
and
Teresa L. Stoiber

The legend of “Genevieve,” a fossilized dinosaur not only made of stone—but also of gold—began on July 3, 1932. That was the day W. K. Jewett, owner of the London Mine near Alma, Colorado, stopped at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs and made the official announcement of its unearthing. The story was picked up by the news services, and word of the fantastic find spread through the scientific world like a prairie fire.

The golden dinosaur was discovered by William White, 700 feet underground—deep in the London Mine. Curiously, the miners had been using the creature’s nose as a lamp holder, not realizing there was a “dinosaur” (if that is what it was) there. White, a hard rock miner, believed at first he was looking at two stumps. In reality, it was a dinosaur lying on its back with its limbs at an angle of 75 degrees. Eager to retrieve it from its rocky tomb, miners blasted it out of rock at the 700-foot level of the London Mine with dynamite. The explosion shattered the specimen. Bits and pieces of the dinosaur were hoisted to the surface, where curious crowds gathered to see the prehistoric monster.

As the story goes, a geology professor at Colorado College, Robert Landon, traveled to Alma so he could examine Genevieve—an extraordinary record of a former world. The measurements he made revealed that the animal was 18 feet long and 6.5 feet high. The creature had a long neck that supported a small head. It also had a long tail.



The only known photo of Genevieve taken in the basement of Cutler Hall, Colorado College. Photo credit: *Colorado College Tiger*, August 12, 1932. Page 3. Courtesy of Colorado College Tutt Library, Special Collections.

Jewett, who gave to the city of Colorado Springs the Patty Jewett golf course, presented the dinosaur to the Colorado College museum. The 16-ton (14.5 metric ton) dinosaur reached Colorado College by truck, where a crew of men carefully carried it to the basement of Cutler Hall. College technicians spent countless hours in the basement, where they enthusiastically cemented together what the newspapers hailed as the rarest find ever made in paleontology. After the repair of the fossil dinosaur, it was moved to Colorado College's museum and put on display.

There is a real mystery that surrounds this dinosaur. In the 1960s, the museum closed and Genevieve's display was removed. No one seems to know what happened to this specimen. Was Genevieve smelted down, put in the basement archives and forgotten, or taken to a professor's house for a private collection? The mystery of her disappearance still stands to this day.

Three critical questions must now be answered: Was Genevieve a dinosaur, where did she go, and was she really made of gold? The past would not easily give up these secrets, including unfortunately, the origin of its lovely name.

An article, from Greeley, Colorado's *Tribune-Republican*, dated July 2, 1932, stated the dinosaur remains were made known to Mr. Jesse Figgins, Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History (noted for work on the famous Folsom archaeological site in New Mexico), who said this unusual dinosaur fossil must be the remains of a marine reptile. Nowhere in the article does it report that Genevieve was made of gold—but it does state that she was shattered when dynamited out of the mine, and that restoration wasn't expected to take long.

When asked about Genevieve, Colorado College archivist Jessy Randall said she had been questioned about her before. The last time was in 2004, when Professor Emeritus Bill Fischer, the former chair of the geology department, was still alive. Fischer gave this response:

"The one man who would have had the answers, Professor Bob Landon, died in 1995, and all of the people associated with the college museum are also deceased. . . I never heard of the specimen during my 50-year association with the school, and I suspect that it really was never installed in the museum and that the college newspaper account that 'it was resting on a pedestal in the museum' is totally false. From the photograph, one can see that with 16 tons of matrix and bone it would have taken months if not years to prepare the specimen for display. Now for a few thoughts as to the fossil itself. First of all, it is not a dinosaur and probably not a rhynchocephalian reptile. The photograph is of very poor quality, but my best guess is that it may have been a Phytosaur—but regardless of the correct identification it was a very valuable find, and I am sorry if it ended up in a smelter. . . Good luck in your search and sorry I couldn't be of more assistance". Signed: Bill Fischer.

Sadly, it looks like Genevieve's case has gone cold. The museum has long been closed, and those associated with the museum are deceased. It is doubtful that she was made of gold—but she was found in a gold mine, the source of a good rumor and the basis for a great story surrounding her mysterious existence and disappearance.

Although Genevieve remains a mystery, this article has dug up and weaves together most of what is known and speculated about her. Although her real story has been buried with the museum workers and gold miners who have passed away, there are still a few miners who, while relaxing at a local saloon, fondly ponder the puzzle of Genevieve. They raise their shot glasses and make this toast to the miners who found Genevieve, the golden dinosaur: "May you always stand on ore and your labors be in vein."

Acknowledgments

The authors thank Danny Alfrey for bringing Genevieve to our attention. We also appreciate Ben Elick's help in obtaining the photograph of this mysterious fossil.

References

Find Skeleton of Dinosaur in Ore of London Mine. (1932, July 2). *Colorado Springs Gazette*, p. 2.

Genevieve, Colleges Latest Acquisition Now Ready to Receive Callers. Made Presentable by Profs. (1932, August 12). *Colorado College Tigers*

W. K. Jewett Gives Skeleton of Prehistoric Animal to Colo. College Museum. (1932, July 3). *Colorado Springs Gazette*, p. 2.

Will Bring Dinosaur Here Late this Week. (1932, July 6,). *Colorado Springs Gazette*, p. 5