



November 2023 issue

The next regular meeting will be November 15 and will start at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City. The program will be “Christmas In November” with several members offering items for sale for your Christmas Shopping pleasure.

The next regular meeting for Pebble Pups will be on November 15 at 5:30 pm at the VFW. See more Pups information later in the newsletter.

October Highlights

The main program was Don Reed sharing some great photos of rocks and minerals with pictures in them, from his collection.

Holiday Dinner Details

Holiday Dinner 2023 / Saturday December 9th at the VFW

5:00pm for appetizers and socializing, 6pm dinner

Deadline for reservations is Wednesday November 15th at 8:45pm.

The Board is modifying the approach to the 2023 Holiday Dinner. Similar to our annual club picnic (and past club dinners historically) the club will be providing the main dish (which will be shaved ham) and attendees will bring a dish to pass.

The club will **not** be paying for use of the kitchen, so side dishes should be brought ready-to-serve, or on ice or in warming appliances such as crock pots if necessary. Please bring your own extension cord and bring serving utensils, also.

This is also a “bring-your-own-beverage” event. Plan to bring your own beverage or purchase from the VFW Canteen. **NOTE:** the VFW insists it will maintain **strict** oversight about personal adult beverages remaining **in the hall premises only**. Beverages are forbidden from being taken outside the rented hall itself or the event will be closed down. This means not outdoors, nor on the patio, nor in the foyer, as well.

There is a small cost of **\$5 per person** to offset the cost of the VFW Hall and the cost of meat. Space is limited. Payment can be mailed to Deb Bull to secure your reservation: Deb Bull 6091 Creighton Rd SW South Boardman, MI 49680. Payment will also be taken at the November meeting.

Also, PLEASE consider bringing warm weather clothing donations such as gloves, hats, socks, etc for our annual Mitten Drive. Food pantry and personal hygiene donations greatly appreciated as well. There will be a special drawing for members who contributed pantry items at our meetings during the year. Contact Lorna if you have any questions.

Back by popular demand: the gift exchange, organized by Janet Ryan. Interested members are to bring one wrapped gift (approximate value of \$15 gift) per individual. This can be white elephant, or lapidary, or holiday related, or food related (for instance: pies, olive bread, etc).

And as always, volunteers are needed to set up (4:00) and to tear down afterwards.

There will be a more organized approach for the dinner than with our pot-luck picnic, with sign-up sheets for specific contributions. Besides side dishes, we have a few other practical needs on the list. Deb will know where there are gaps in the menu list or see the list on the front table at the November meeting.

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. Thanks to Ben and Karen Card for collecting and taking the October donations to the Father Fred food pantry. 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

The Pebble Pups have been invited to host a station on Friday, November 17th, from 5:00- 7:00 PM at the **Boardman River Nature Center**. They will be demonstrating the hobby and making fossils (several pebble pups are coming to help with this). This will be an important event in recruiting more pebble pups.

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's Pebble Pups participated in an after-hours STEM program at the Traverse District Library on October 13, 2023. We met a large number of young people and their parents. We hope to see them at the next Pebble Pup meeting. . Brody, one of our pebble pups, ran the table. An older student (6th grade) was so intrigued with what we were doing that he joined us on the spot and sat behind the table and began greeting the public and showing them rocks, minerals, and fossils. We made contact with over 100 students and provided each parent with the pp flyer. We hope to see some of them next Wednesday at the meeting.



Photo courtesy of the Traverse Area District Library.

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

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 in order to continue to receive club benefits (participation in classes, outings and receiving club newsletters.)

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 November 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

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The above contact list will be included in each newsletter so that you know who to contact for various items.

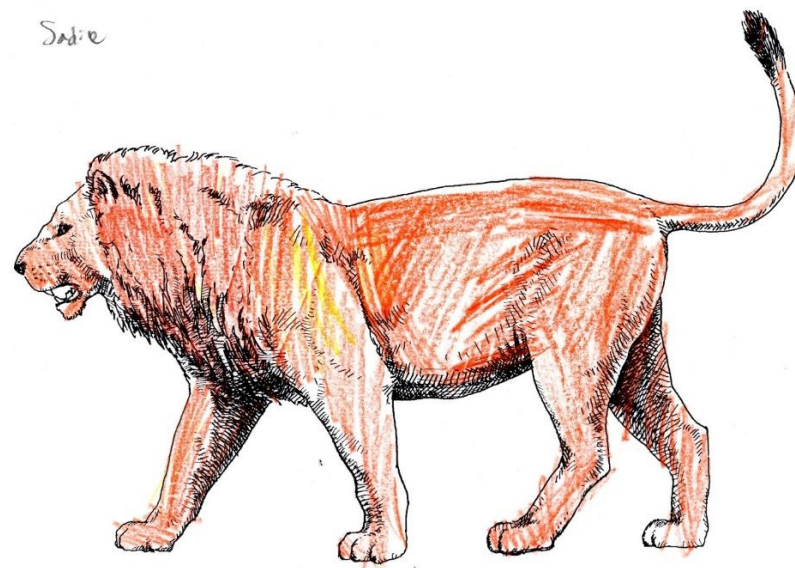
Facebook Page

Visit the club's Facebook page at this web address. There is also a link on our club website. <https://www.facebook.com/TCRockhounds>

New Member Class

Steven Veatch taught a new member class on Saturday, October 28th to 18 of our new members. The following is what is covered at the class.

Class description: This class will provide the basic knowledge to get started with "rockhounding" or "recreational geology" with the Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club. You will learn about how the club works and receive information you need to prepare for your first rockhounding trip. The information in this class will cover all the bases, including a review of rocks, minerals, and fossils, how to make a collection, equipment you need, and on down to the safety rules you need to observe on a field trip. Michigan rockhounding resources will be handed out in the class. You will leave the class with a better understanding of the club and this hobby.



A North American Lion prowling around during the Ice Age. By Pebble Pup Sadie Marx.

Pebble Pup Rock Youth Group: Paving the Way to Being a Rockhound

In the heart of our club, a groundbreaking initiative is making waves, and it is the Pebble Pup group. This innovative program, established in February, has become a shining example of how dedication, collaboration, and a commitment to education can truly transform the lives of our youngest members. The Pebble Pups group was founded with a singular vision: to empower and inspire the youth of our club to reach their full potential, not only in our hobby, but in their lives. This group provides a safe, nurturing, and intellectually stimulating environment for young people to excel in their studies, develop essential life skills, and cultivate a passion for learning and rockhounding.

One of the key factors behind the program's success is its dedicated support from our club. Parents and club volunteers have all come together to make this initiative possible. Their dedication and investment in our youth's future have not gone unnoticed. The sense of unity and shared purpose within the club has been instrumental in creating an environment where success is encouraged.

Pebble Pups take an integrated approach to learning. It doesn't merely focus on rock hunting and collecting, but also recognizes the importance of the science behind our hobby. Through a combination of expert tutoring, engaging, and mentorship, young participants are given the tools they need to thrive, both in our hobby and in their classroom.



A Pebble Pup takes a closer look at a fossil. Photo by Michelle



Pebble Pup Brody is helping with a demonstration table at a science festival this spring at the TC Civic Center. Photo by Michelle Peters.

The early success of the Pebble Pups is evident in the positive results achieved in a brief time. There are 14 registered Pebble Pups and nine attend meetings on average. The meetings are from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm, just before the club meets. Many pups have gained newfound confidence and self-esteem, thanks to the supportive and encouraging atmosphere of the program. Beyond club meetings, the pups have gone on field trips and participate with various initiatives with the Traverse Area Library District and the Boardman River Nature Center

where they demonstrate the many exciting mysteries of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

The Pebble Pup Group is not just a program; it's an inspiration for the future. It reminds us of the boundless potential of our youth and the extraordinary things that can be accomplished when a community rallies together in support of Earth science education. This initiative serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that with the right resources and a shared vision, we can foster success in our youngest generation.



Teen members of Pebble Pups are called Earth Science Scholars. Steven Veatch, Pebble Pup leader, is discussing research opportunities with two teens. Photo by Michelle Peters.

Pebble Pup and Earth Science Scholars Leaders	
Steven Veatch	
Michelle Peters	
Melanie Ackerman	
Dr. Natalie Stojanovic	
Eric Hallman	
Kevin Gauthier	
Nate Peters/Tim Bashore Teen Assistants	
Jared Bowen (consultant)	



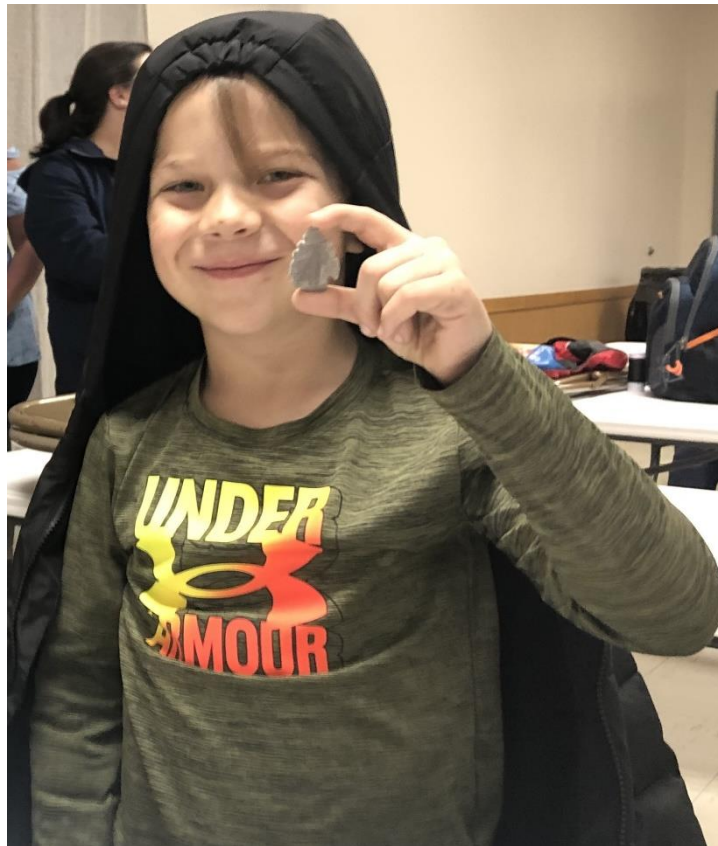
Kevin Gauthier demonstrating lapidary skills to the Pebble Pups. Photo by Michelle Peters.



Pebble Pups learning lapidary skills. Photo by Michelle Peters.



Pebble Pups watching Kevin saw a geode. Photo by Michelle Peters.





A Pebble Pup outreach program. Photo by Steven Veatch.



Summer fieldtrip to Van's Beach. Photo by Michele Veatch.

Here is Steven's most recent dinosaur drawing of a Stegosaurus.

