
Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

May 2023 Newsletter



Time and Place (In-person Meeting): May 19th at 7:30 pm
St. Philips Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128

May Program:
Founders Day Celebration with Field Trip Review

President's Letter

Someone just asked me what I was going to write about this month. Woo hoo! I am going to take that to mean that my efforts at summarizing recent mineral related news have not gone unnoticed. So! Recently, it was announced that an ocean, containing more water than on the Earth's surface, was discovered beneath the Earth's crust. I had to check Google – water does not qualify as a mineral (because it is not solid), but naturally occurring ice does. I am calling that close enough! In this case, the water is held within the mineral ringwoodite, about 400 miles underground. It was discovered when scientists, using seismometers, noticed shockwaves after earthquakes. So close, but yet so far! Reference, and if you'd like to learn more: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/massive-oceandiscovered-beneath-the-earths-crust-containing-more-water-than-on-the-surface/ar-AA19FAFi>

In April, we learned about "Meteorites and Solar Eclipses", from local astronomy (and many other topics) enthusiast Dan Wray. He brought two meteorites from his collection to pass around – it was fascinating to be able to hold such rocks. They were literally cool – you'd think meteorites would be red-hot at impact on Earth, but they are not, because the heat does not have time to reach the interior of the rock. Also, I can't wait to see the two upcoming North American eclipses!

Our field trip planning meeting was a big success! At last count, we're planning for about 20 events this summer. Some are old favorites, some are new adventures, some are club activities, and some are museum tours. So, there is something for everyone! Collectors, families with kids, and everyone in-between should find something of interest. Please see below in this newsletter for full descriptions of everything planned. Thank you to everyone working to make this field season a success. It's awesome that we have both returning and new field trip leaders. It's going to be a busy and fun summer, and I am SO looking forward to it!

As many of you know, our long-time member, Keith Sheel, sadly passed away last year. But this past weekend, his family gave us a wonderful opportunity to remember Keith – by sharing some of his rocks and books! His family hosted a rock sale, that was well attended by LGMC members, me included. It was a beautiful day, and the local

wildlife thought so, too. At one point, we were pleased to see two eagles fly overhead. It seemed a fitting tribute. Thank you to Keith and Maxine's daughter Norma, and her husband Scott, for sharing this opportunity with us.

No snow cancellations for our extracurricular groups in April – The Faceters and Cabbers group, and the Mineral Study group, both were able to hold meetings!

Faceters and Cabbers displayed “purple” creations. The topic in May will be “orange”. The Mineral Study group discussed an introduction to symmetry and “isometric (cubic) system forms”. I didn't know that in the mineral world, there are so many different shapes that count as cubic. Some are hardly recognizable! The May topic will be “tetrahedron and orthogonal”. As I have said before, everyone is welcome at these extra meetings. You don't have to be an expert, just willing to learn. If you can, please join us for the next meetings, at the same place as our regular meetings!

Faceters and Cabbers group: May 16, 2023, 7:00 pm

Mineral Study group: May 31, 2023, 7:00 pm

Our May 19th General Meeting will be our annual Founder's Day meeting! We will hear from our club Historian, Gail Tracy, about club history and see photos from past events. There is a lot to cover, so it is no easy feat. Thank you, Gail, for taking on the important club Historian role. Additionally, we will announce our 2023 Field Trips! Signups will be available both in-person and online via the club website. Also, if you are hankering for a new mineral to add to your collection, there will be a mini auction to tempt you. Finally, there just might be a special, celebratory snack!

Last chance before field season! You must be a current club member if you wish to attend field trips. If you haven't already, please renew your membership. You will continue to receive Highlites and be eligible to sign up for field trips.

Since Memorial Day is fast approaching, for “Colorful Rock of the Month” this month, I am going with Red, White, and Blue. These specimens came from Keith Sheel's backyard rock sale, and I have no idea what they are, especially the red one. So, there's a good chance that you will see these specimens again, in an upcoming “Name That Rock!” question.

Have a great and safe summer! As was often said in the TV show Hill Street Blues, “Let's Be Careful Out There” because I want to see everyone again this Fall!

Nancy Kimber

Nancy Kimber, 2023 LGMC President

NKK9960@hotmail.com

(303) 807-8919

Mineral Study Group

Mineral Study Group meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of the month from September through May starting at 7:00pm. The next meeting is May 31st, at the St. Philips Lutheran Church. We will be using the same meeting room as our Faceters & Cabbers Group.

The April meeting had 11 attendees and was presented by Richard Parsons, who did a fabulous job discussing the geometry of crystals. This included a general introduction to symmetry and details of the isometric system. For the May meeting topic, we will continue with the tetragonal/ orthorhombic crystal systems.

Remember if we need to cancel due to the weather, I will try to send an email by no later than 5 pm of the day of the meeting.

Co-chairs Lesley Sebol and Richard Parsons

I wish to thank Carol Alt for donating sewn grab bags again. At the April meeting she brought 125 for us and at a prior meeting she brought an additional 125. Also at the May meeting, Ray Vigil and Danny donated barite specimens for grab bags and at a prior meeting Bill and Mary Davis donated bagged and labeled Psilomaline specimens.

If you have any minerals or sewn grab bags to contribute, bring them to a meeting or contact me, John Kleber, at jkleber@att.net or 303-570-8164, or Lynette Warren at flywithle123@comcast.net.

John Kleber, The Bag Beggar

News of the 2023 DGMS Club Booth

It is time to think about plans for the Littleton Club booth at the 2023 Denver Gem and Mineral Show. We will need people to talk to visitors about club opportunities and to hand out polished rocks to kids.

If you have a rock tumbler running, think about donating some of your polished rocks for the rock give away. Last month Nick and Lynette Warren donated polished rocks, and we appreciate that. We have space at the club booth if you would like to come demonstrate a rock-related activity and tell visitors about it.

Last year the club did not have a display case at our club booth. If we are to have a display case at our booth this year, we need someone to pull together a display for it. Possible themes for the case are wide open and could highlight any part of our hobby from member lapidary activities, field collecting, or personal mineral collection, just to name just a few possibilities. It is always nice to have a display case at the booth because it attracts visitors.

We will need people to sign up to staff the booth for two or four-hour stretches during the show to meet guests and tell them about the Littleton club. They will also hand out rocks to kids.

Volunteers will get a free admission pass for the whole DGM show, including the Hard Rock Summit show and parking will be reimbursed. We will be canvassing for volunteers during the club picnic and asking for people to sign up, or you could talk to me or a board member.

LGMC 2023 FIELD TRIPS

Reminder – Only paid-up club members can go on field trips for insurance reasons. Did you remember to renew for this year? If not contact Ian Duncanson or do so at the May meeting.

This is the list of the LGMC 2023 field trips. For all field trips, bring a backpack with rain gear, gloves, tools, water, lunch, and sunscreen. Some people bring a 5-gallon bucket for equipment and to use as a stool to sit on (and to carry specimen back to vehicle). Appropriate field boots are strongly suggested. Do not recommend tennis shoes. No open-toe shoes are allowed. Wear a good sun-protecting hat.

If any trip has limitations on the number of participants, this will be designated. Registration for all trips will be done either at the in-person May 2023 LGMC meeting or on-Line, through the Google Form in our website. Registration will be on a “first come, first served” basis, and the running total of members enrolled for each trip will be listed as people sign up. Names will continue to be added to the list, even past the cut-off limit, in case someone who is initially signed up must cancel. If this occurs, the person next in line will be offered that position on the trip. Please contact Jim Hooten if you are unable to register on-line.

We ask that each person/family travel in their own vehicle. Also, since the number of people on some trips may be limited, we ask that only LGMC Members attend the trips---no non-member guests, unless individually approved.

Many of the Club members have been on one or more of these trips, and hopefully are familiar with how to get to the respective Meeting Places. If you enroll for a particular trip and are not familiar with where to go, please email Jim Hooten (jahooten@msn.com) to request a copy of a map showing directions.

Field Trip Legend:

Dist = approx. one way driving distance to meeting place from metro area.

4WD = *No*, not needed; *Opt*, optional (useful if you have one, may need to ride short distance with someone if you don't); *Rec*, recommended; *Yes*, required.

Kids = *OK*, a good place for kids; *Sup*, some potentially hazardous areas (steep cliffs, mine tunnels, etc.). Small children will require supervision; *NR*, Not recommended to bring kids.

Tools = *L*, light collecting tools (rock pick, shovel, sack, scoop); *D*, typical pegmatite digging tools (rock pick, pick and shovel, pry bar, chisels, trowel, brush, screwdriver probe, etc.); *H*, tools for heavy rock breaking (rock pick, sledge, chisels, pry bar, eye protection, etc.).

Camping = if noted, camping (optional for an overnight stay) is possible at the site.

Fee = Noted, if any.

2023 FIELD TRIPS LIST:

North Table Mountain, Golden

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Meeting Time: 8:00 AM

Locale: Golden CO

Target Specimens: *zeolites (mostly white).*

Trip Leaders: Lesley Sebol (720-999-1372 lesleysebol@gmail.com) and Nancy Kimber (303-807-8919 nkk9960@hotmail.com)

Directions and Meeting Location:

From Highway 58, take McIntyre Street exit and head north. Turn left on W 44th Ave. Turn right on Salvia Street and follow to the end into a gravel parking lot. Note, if you get to the train museum entrance on 44th, you have just passed Salvia Street. Park to the left side of the long rectangular gravel lot at the end of Salvia Street. This is part of the Tony Grampsas Memorial Sports Park. We will car pool from here to the trail head at W 43rd Drive as it has minimal space for parking and is in a residential neighborhood.

The single person width dirt trail is rated “more difficult” (the Park’s middle rating), but quite passable if it did not rain the day or so before. It will take about 45 minutes to walk to the quarry or longer depending on how often folks stop to rest. The elevation at the trail head is 5825 ft. Quarry elevation is ~6175. Thus, there is about a 350 ft elevation climb.

As the volcanic rock is very hard, bring at least a 5 lb. sledge hammer and stone chisels. Also bring a little wrapping material for the zeolite specimens. Bring lots of water and your lunch, a hat, and sunscreen. Recommend you have a backpack to carry your supplies and treasures.

Note: there is no shade on the trail and there are no bathroom facilities. A little shade may be available amongst the boulders in the quarry. It can also be quite windy at the quarry since it is near the top of the mesa.

Distance = 25 mi. 4WD = No. Kids = Sup. Tools = H. Fee = None.

Honey Bee/Queen Bee

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM

Locale: Harris Park, CO

Target Specimens: Amazonite, Smoky Quartz, Fluorite, etc.

Trip Leader: David Deard (303-463-4796 daverave31@comcast.net)

Meeting Location: Meet at 9:00 AM at Community Center in “downtown” Harris Park. Cars will then caravan from there to the collection site. Easy walk from parking area. Directions: To get to Harris Park, take U.S. Hwy 285 southwest from Denver approximately 30 miles. Go through Conifer, then Pine Jct., then about another 4 miles until you come to a stop light at the junction of State Road 43 (can only turn right—north). Turn north onto State Road 43 (may also be called 43A), and drive about 10 miles to Harris Park. The only potentially confusing point is where Road 43 turns to Road 47, maybe 6-7 miles up the highway. Just stay on the primary paved road (keep to right) and it will take you to Harris Park. The Community Center is the only “large” building around. Everything else is individual homes/cabins.

Distance = 60-70 mi. 4WD = Opt. Kids = OK. Tools = D. Fee = None.

Colorado School of Mines Museum Tour

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Colorado School of Mines, [General Research Lab \(GRL\) building, 1310 Maple St., Golden, CO 80401](#)

We are looking for an indication of interest for the guided museum tour. The tour is for 1 hour. Tours are no longer free. If we have enough interest, the tour can be for up to 15 people and is guided by a museum volunteer (possibly a Mine's student). **The cost is \$13 for Adults; \$7 for Seniors; and \$5 for Children.** Before and after the tour, the museum can be viewed free of charge. Museum hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. **Trip Leader:** Kimberly Straith (720-447-4794 kimberlystraith@gmail.com)

Highlights of the museum: The Mines Museum is home to one of Colorado's two Goodwill moon rocks collected during the Apollo 17 mission, had its beginnings in 1874 with the collection of geologist, Arthur Lakes, and includes the historic Colorado State Mineral Collection created by the Bureau of Mines in the 1890's. The museum serves as the state repository for Colorado's mineral heritage and showcases the most extensive public collection of minerals from Colorado.

Please let Kimberly Straith know if you are interested in going. 720-447-4794 or kimberlystraith@gmail.com. The sooner, the better. Thank you.

Smoky Hawk Mine

Saturday, June 24, 2023

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM

Locale: Lake George

Participants: Limit of 30 Participants

Target Specimens: Smoky quartz, amazonite

Trip Leader: Jim Hooten (303-548-7412 jahooten@msn.com)

Owner Joe Dorris has again invited us to try our luck at collecting some of the beautiful Amazonite and smoky quartz specimens that are famous from this area. Of course, no guarantees of finding any minerals, but always a guaranteed good time!

Meeting Location: Drive into Lake George, CO on Hwy 24 (approximately 35 miles west of Colorado Springs). As you come into the east side of town, you'll see a paved road going off to the right (north), Park County Road 94. Turn right onto County Road 94 and park along the side of the road, near the Ranger Station, just a short distance off the highway. Give yourself plenty of time to get there, as it is a good 2-hour drive from Denver. From there, the group will caravan to the collection site.

Bring plenty of water, your lunch, and sunscreen. Also bring some cash, credit card, or checkbook, as Joe typically has some very nice, representative specimens for sale, at deeply discounted prices. This helps him make up for his costs in making his claim available to our club, and other clubs as well. From the Meeting Place, we will caravan 15 minutes to the Claim. Most vehicle parking at the Claim will be at the base of a steep, rough road, and people will

then walk up the road to the Claim site for an introductory talk from Joe. A few vehicles will be allowed to drive up the hill (parking is very limited up top) and take people who have walking difficulty. For those who do drive up the hill, they ask that you be watchful of Joe's dog, Otis, who likes to run around.

Dist = 100 mi. 4WD = Recommended Kids = Supervised Tools = D, H Fee = None

Kemmerer Fish, near Kemmerer, Wyoming

Saturday, July 1st – Tuesday, July 4th

Participants: No limit

Target Specimens: fossil fish

Trip leader: Nancy Kimber, email: nkk9960@hotmail.com, cell: (303) 807-8919. Feel free to contact me for more information!

Description: This is a multi-day trip to American Fossil Quarry, near Kemmerer, Wyoming, and nearby tourist attractions such as Fossil Butte National Monument.

At the quarry, you'll be collecting 52-million-year-old fossil fish specimens from the Eocene, Green River Formation, Fossil Butte Member. They are a private "pay dig" location. They provide digging tools and use of rock saws to trim slabs to manageable sizes. Depending on participant preferences, I am planning on doing at least one full day, maybe 2 days. Please see <http://www.fishdig.com/> for more information. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, and insect spray.

At the National Monument, you will learn about the fossils and geology of the area. In addition to the visitor center and exhibits, there are hiking trails and a scenic drive. Please see <https://www.nps.gov/fobu/index.htm> for more information.

Logistics: It is basically a full day drive there, and a full day drive back, so July 1st and July 4th will be travel days. Accommodations will be needed for the nights of July 1, 2, and 3. Kemmerer has hotels, very limited camping, and some restaurants. I will work out the exact itinerary and meeting place and time depending on participant preferences and where people are staying. One option is, 2 full days at the quarry, a short visit to the National Monument, then drive home (getting home late). Another option is, 1 ½ days at the quarry, an afternoon visit to the National Monument, then drive home (maybe getting home in time for July 4th stuff).

Distance = 450 miles (I-25, US-287, I-80, US-30) 4WD = Opt. Kids = OK Tools: D, H (wedges and hammers provided by quarry) Fee, American Fossil Quarry = \$139/8 hours. If we have enough participants, we may be able to do a "Private Dig", which would work out cheaper. Fee, Fossil Butte National Monument = website says free.

Topaz Mountain Mine

Saturday, July 8, 2023

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM

Locale: Lake George, CO

Participants: Limit of 30 participants

Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

Target Specimens: Topaz

Trip Leader: Jim Hooten (303-548-7412 jahooten@msn.com)

Meeting Location: Topaz Mountain Mine

From Colorado Springs, take U.S. Highway 24 west to Lake George. Drive through Lake George, cross the South Platte River and turn north on Park County Road 77 (Tarryall Road). Go approximately 7 miles. Turn right onto road and cross bridge over Tarryall Creek. You should see the brown Forest Service sign marking the road (F.S. Road 211), also known as Matukat Road. Proceed about 2.5 miles and pass over cattle guard. You are now on Topaz Mountain Gem Mine. Operating sign is posted on fence to your left. Park in pullout on the right, or anywhere along the road.

Walk up to where operations are going on. You should see plenty of people and vehicles.

Joe Dorris has again invited us to their Topaz Mountain topaz claim. This is an operational mine, so some different rules apply. It is required that each individual, or family, purchase a bag of gravel for \$50 to help defray the costs for operations and facilities. Each bag will contain several topaz specimens, and possibly some amazonite and smoky quartz pieces as well. In addition, everyone can work the gravel dumps for topaz. While working these dumps, you are working for Glacier Peak Mining. Joe will assess **ALL** topaz found and decide whether to release the specimen to the finder or retain it as a “company stone”. Some stones may be offered to the finder with an option to purchase at a fair wholesale rate. If any stone(s) is exceptional, the company has the right to retain that specimen.

Although some rakes are available for use at the location, it is suggested you bring a garden rake with heavy tines, and a mattock or shovel. Optional items to bring include a screen, rock pick, collecting bags and a 5-gal bucket. Also bring plenty of water, lunch, and sunscreen. Restroom facilities are available.

Distance = 120 mi. 4WD = Opt. Kids = Sup. Tools = L. Fee = \$50/person or family for bag of topaz gravel

Montana Collecting Areas

(Crystal Park, etc.)

Saturday, June 25 – Friday, June 30, 2023

Trip Leader: Ed and Susan Wakefield (720-613-0545 ewakefield2626@gmail.com)

If you're interested in joining some LGMC members at some great amethyst collecting areas, here's your chance. Contact Ed for additional information, including places to stay.

Wolf Creek Pass near Pagosa Springs, CO

Friday, July 14 – Monday, July 17, 2023

Meeting Time: Meet at 9:00am on Saturday morning, at the Trail Head located east of the West Fork Campground. Bring water, lunch and sunscreen.

Locale: near Pagosa Springs, CO

Participants: No limit

Target Specimens: geodes and agate nodules

Trip Leader: Dale Gann (303-304-0886 gatorgann@msn.com)

Meeting Location: Just west of Wolf Creek Pass on Hwy 160. Dale has led this trip in the past and it has resulted in some beautiful specimens being found. Collecting is on an old logging road that is closed to vehicles. There is a long but moderate hike to the collecting locality. The geodes are weathered out of basalt. Some geodes can be found on the ground and others will have to be broken out of the basaltic host rock. This is the same formation that people have collected from along the upper highway, but it is a much safer route, and it has not been over-collected.

Dale will be driving down the day before (Friday, July 14) and setting up his campsite at the West Fork Campground (Forest Service campsite with fee). If possible, this is highly recommended for others, as it is a 4-5 hour drive from Denver, which would mean leaving very early Saturday morning.

Prime collecting date is on Saturday, July 15, although people can join Dale for collecting on both July 15 and 16 if desired. Dale is driving back home on Monday, July 17.

Dist = 270 mi. 4WD = Optional. Kids = OK/Supervised. Tools = D, H. Camping = OK. Fee for campsite per above.

Georgetown Train Ride and Mine Tour

Saturday, July 22, 2023

Trip Leader: Kimberly Straith (720-447-4794 kimberlystraith@gmail.com)

The **Georgetown Train Ride and Mine tour** (with gold panning and a special Sasquatch event) is confirmed for **July 22nd**. We have scheduled it for 20 people. The **train ride begins at 11:25 am** and we should be done by 2:00 pm.

Plan for heavy traffic and leave 2 hours beforehand, to arrive before the train departs. If you are early, you can enjoy the Sasquatch activities (before or after the tour). Lunch is no longer served with the tour, but there will hopefully be a BBQ food truck (this will be confirmed in early June). The **cost is \$56 for adults and \$48 for children.**

Here are the guidelines for the tour (taken from the website):

The mine tour adds another 1 hour and 15 minutes to your train trip. The mine tour is not recommended for young children who cannot walk the entire distance on their own, anyone who is mobility impaired in any way, or those who might have a problem at 9,000 feet in elevation. Strollers and wheelchairs are not permitted. Mine tours are not available on the last train departure of the day. All guests must wear hard hats.

The tours involve about **3/4 of a mile of walking into dark, enclosed spaces.** Children under 5 years of age are not permitted underground in either the Everett or the Lebanon Mines. **Children under 5 years old may visit the site of the mines but must stay above ground and under the care of a parent or guardian.** Weather conditions can change rapidly, so please come prepared for an outdoor adventure! The **year-round temperature inside the mine is 44 degrees.**

**** While every effort is made to adhere to the published schedule, the Georgetown Loop Railroad reserves the right to delay or cancel trains for any reason and will not be held liable. Locomotives and passenger cars are subject to change without notice. ****

Dinosaur Ridge Tour

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Locale: Morrison, CO

Trip Leader: Lynette Warren (303-956-4634 flywithle123@comcast.net)

Just a notification for now that Lynette is working on a field trip to visit the world-famous dinosaur footprints at Dinosaur Ridge, located west of Denver near Morrison CO. It a tour guide is reserved, there will be a fee. No fee only if everyone does their own tour. These details are being worked out. For now, if interested, mark your calendar for this date. More information will be forthcoming, and you can contact Lynette if you're definitely interested.

Coffee Pot Springs

Friday, August 4 - Monday, August 7, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM (Saturday)

Locale: near Dotsero, CO

Target Specimens: Pseudomorphs of goethite after pyrite, plus fossil collecting in the area, plus hydrothermal (?) quartz crystals. Brachiopods, clams, and other Paleozoic-age fossils in local limestone quarries.

Trip Leader: Dale Gann (303-304-0886 gatorgann@msn.com)

Typically, trip participants camp at an "open" campground a short distance from the Meeting Place (continue main road and take first left turn onto side road, then go 200 yards to camping site). Some people usually drive up on Friday, or even Thursday, so a sign may possibly be located on the main road indicating where the LGMC campsite will be. For those who have not been on this trip, it is a breathtakingly beautiful area, with meadows of wildflowers, high mountains, and deep canyons (great overlook). an enjoyable weekend in the mountains, with guaranteed mineral collecting, camping around a campfire (unless the Forest Service has a fire ban in place, which this year is likely), and good companionship. Singing is optional.

Meeting Location: Meet at the White River National Forest sign.

Nearby campsites for overnight campers (fee) or choose "open" camping (no fee). The "open" camping is what most participants choose to do. Allow at least a 3.5-4 hour drive from Denver. Go west on I-70. About 10 miles west of Gypsum turn off I-70 at exit 133 (Dotsero). Go north on CR 301 for 1+ miles and turn on CR 140 (Deep Creek Road). This road becomes steep, with hairpin turns, but it is maintained, and most cars in good condition should have no problem with the road, at least when dry (not the case if there is, or have been, heavy rains). Follow Deep Creek Road about 12 +/- miles until you see a sign saying that you are entering White River National Forest. For those using a National Forest campsite, the Coffee Pot Springs Campground (fee required) is another 4-5 miles on down the road. Other campgrounds are also in the area (fee campgrounds and optional, but storytelling is encouraged).

Dist = 150 mi. 4WD = Optional-Recommended. Kids = OK. Tools = L, D. Camping = OK. Fee = only if camping at USFS campground.

Hartsel Barite

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM

Locale: Hartsel, CO

Participants: Limit of 40 participants

Target Specimens: Clear to blue to opaque barite crystals

Trip Leader: Carol Nielsen-Alt (303-549-9490 cjcomputer@aol.com)

Clear to blue to opaque barite crystals. A fun trip and everyone is guaranteed to leave with a bag full of barite. Easy collecting area.

Meeting Location: Bayou Salado Trading Post in Hartsel (West edge of town)

You can get to Hartsel by either taking CO Hwy 24 west from Colorado Springs (approximately 65 miles—plus another 65 from Denver to CO Sp.); or by taking CO Hwy 285 southwest from Denver to Fairplay (approx. 85 miles), then turn south on Hwy 9 just west of Fairplay and go 17 miles south to Hartsel.

We'll check in with the owners of Bayou Salado, Dave & Lark Harvey, and sign waiver forms, then caravan to collection location a few miles away. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, and insect spray.

Dist = 105-140 mi. 4WD = Optional. Kids = Supervised. Tools = D, L. Fee = None

Magnetite Ridge

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM

Locale: Tarryall, CO

Participants: No limit

Target Specimens: Magnetite crystals

Trip Leader: Carol Nielsen-Alt (303-549-9490 cjcomputer@aol.com)

Meeting Location: Follow the directions below and meet at the collecting locality.

The location is just a few miles north of the Topaz Mtn Claim (see Topaz Mtn. description), off of Hwy 77 near Tarryall. Follow the directions from the Topaz Mtn trip and continue north on Hwy 77 (past the turnoff to Topaz Mtn) for another 5 miles. Just before getting to Tarryall, CO, you will see County Road 31 going to your left (south). Take CR 31 and go approx. 0.7 miles and turn right onto CR 652. Drive another approx. 0.7 miles to where you park your vehicle along the side of the road. The pine-covered ridge to your left (south), through a grove of aspens, is Magnetite Ridge. It is a fairly easy walk up to the collecting area. All along the ridge you will find exposures of magnetite within the granite pegmatite. Plenty of prospective areas to investigate and collect. You will see many holes where other clubs and collectors have dug. This is all BLM Land and is open to the public. Camping is permitted anywhere, but all vehicles cannot be driven more than 20 feet from the road. If you want to camp out, you can either camp close to your vehicle, or carry your camping gear up the hill closer to the collecting locality.

Dist = 100 mi. 4WD = Optional. Kids = Supervised. Tools = D, H. Fee = None.

Teller County Tourmaline

(Near Cripple Creek, CO)

Saturday, August 26, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM

Target Specimens: Teller Co. schorl tourmaline

Trip Leader: Jim Hooten (303-548-7412 jahooten@msn.com)

Target Specimens: Collecting black schorl tourmaline in granite pegmatite. Dig or surface collect.

Directions: Take CO Highway 24 west from Colorado Springs to Florissant, CO. At Florissant, turn left (south) onto Teller County Road 1. Drive approximately 10 miles where you'll see a llama ranch on your left. Beyond the llama ranch is a group of buildings - this is Evergreen Station. Meet here at 9:30am in the adjacent parking lot. We will then caravan a short distance to the collecting area. We will collect for 3-4 hours (1/2 day), then drive to Florissant Fossil Quarry for those interested. If not going to quarry, feel free to continue collecting at the tourmaline locality.

Distance = 100 miles. 4WD = Recommended. Kids = must be supervised. Tools = D, H. Fee = none.

Florissant Fossil Quarry

Saturday, August 26, 2023

Meeting Time: 2:00 PM (If you're not participating in the morning 1/2-day trip to collect tourmaline, meet directly at the quarry parking lot adjacent to the quarry entrance at 2:00 p.m.)

Participants: No limit

Locale: Florissant, CO

Target Specimens: Florissant fossils

Trip Leaders: Nancy Kimber (303-807-8919 nkk9960@hotmail.com) and Jim Hooten (303-548-7412 jahooten@msn.com)

Something different, for those interested. Instead of mineral collecting, this is a scheduled LGMC field trip to collect fossils at the FLORISSANT FOSSIL QUARRY, a privately owned property adjacent to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument at Florissant, CO. There is a fee for collecting of \$20/hour/person. The owner said that you can spend as much time as you want, but normally, you can find some nice specimens with only 1 hour of work.

Meeting Location: Meet at the parking lot adjacent to the quarry entrance. DIRECTIONS: To get to the quarry, go to Colorado Springs, take Highway 24 west through Woodland Park and Divide, then another 8 miles to Florissant. The town of Florissant isn't very large. There is only one highway branching off of Hwy 24, Teller County 1, going south in the middle of "town". Turn south at the Thunderbird Inn, a favorite local restaurant and "watering hole", and proceed just a short distance (1/4-mile) where you will see a small sign on your right directing you to the Florissant Fossil Quarry. Drive down this dirt road and park at the designated parking area. You can't miss it. Walk up the steps to the check-in shed. Our group will meet there.

This area is part of an ancient lake (Eocene Age—approximately 34 million years old) that was covered with volcanic ash, thus preserving many forms of plants, insects, flowers, and other life forms from that time period. The ash was interspersed with layers of clay and mud that formed “paper shales” which contains the beautifully preserved fossils. You can split apart these thin layers to reveal the fossils. The majority of fossils are leaves, but there are occasional bees, dragonflies, snails, beetles, ants, spiders, fish, and many other fascinating goodies. The quarry owners do state that any extremely rare or unusual specimen can be claimed by them. You can check out information on-line by going to FlorissantFossils@yahoo.com.

You are provided with ample pieces of “paper shale” from their quarry (collected fresh daily) that you can work on at conveniently placed picnic tables at the site. If you wish, they will provide tools to use for splitting the shale, but you might want to bring your own rock hammer (don’t need a big one), small chisel or putty knife for splitting the shale, and spray water bottle.

Depending on how long you stay, you can bring your own lunch and drinks, or there are 3 places in Florissant where you can eat. You also may want to consider driving on down Teller 1 a couple of miles to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. They have a \$10 admission for anyone age 16 and older (15 and under are free). Their outdoor exhibits are open, as is their 14-mile walking trail through the Monument. You can see the gigantic petrified stumps of 34-million-year-old Redwood trees (Sequoias), plus many other sites to see and read about on the trail loop. There is also an old homesteader’s home (The Hornbeck House), that you can hike to and tour, or you can drive there and park right next to it. It’s right off the highway and you will pass it going to the entrance to the Monument.

All in all, it should be a fun day of fossil collecting, viewing Colorado history and geology, or just taking a beautiful drive through the Colorado mountains. Hope you can join the fun.

Crawford, Nebraska Fairburn Agates & Fluorescent Chalcedony

Saturday, September 30 – Sunday, October 1, 2023

Leader: Brian Walko C: (303) 931-4283 Email: earthextractions@gmail.com

Limit: 40 people. Flatirons Mineral Club in conjunction with other Denver Area Clubs.

Meeting Location: Toadstool Geologic Park & Campground, approximately 20 miles north of Crawford. Please meet at 9:00 AM, Saturday. There may be a \$3/day use fee.

Driving Directions: Denver/Boulder area to Crawford, NE: On the northeast side of Crawford, turn left onto NE-2 W/NE-71 N; Continue to follow NE-2 W/NE-71 N (4.6 mi); Turn left onto Toadstool Rd (1.9 mi); Turn right to stay on Toadstool Rd (10.1 mi), Toadstool Rd parallels BNSF railroad tracks; Turn left at Toadstool Park sign, cross railroad tracks (1.4 mi) to Toadstool Geologic Park & Campground. Please exercise caution while crossing railroad tracks. Dual tracks with coal trains traveling 60 mph in both directions.

Trip Agenda: Saturday morning we will briefly explore the Brule Formation around Toadstool Park. World famous for Oligocene fossils. Please note, fossil collecting is strictly prohibited by Federal Law. However, photographs are allowed. Then we will drive east of Toadstool Park and explore the lower Chadron Formation and chalcedony beds. Later we will drive to the agate beds and start hunting for Fairburn, Prairie, Picture, Blue Agates and Petrified Wood. Saturday evening collecting fluorescent agates and chalcedony using ultraviolet lamps. Sunday morning will be more agate hunting. After lunch you can continue agate collecting, visit the Hudson-Meng Bison Kill & Visitor Center, return to Crawford and visit historic Fort Robinson and the Trailside Museum, or return home.

Tools needed: Surface collecting, so bring whatever you need to gather your goodies although small rake, trowel, rock hammer, small shovel, and container to carry your finds would be helpful.

Recommend Clothing/Gear: Hat, clothing for forecasted weather, sturdy boots, gloves, sunscreen, food and plenty of water. No bathroom facilities outside the Toadstool Park campground area.

Where to Stay Overnight:

- Camp at Toadstool Park. Campsites, picnic tables and outhouse available. No water. \$15/night fee.
- Camp at Crawford City Park. Tents: \$10; RVs: \$20. Water and restrooms available.
- Just outside of Crawford is Fort Robinson State Park with nice accommodations. Reservations are needed. □
The [High Plains Homestead](#) has a limited number of cabins. Nice cabins.

The trip leader (Brian) will be camping at Toadstool Park both Friday and Saturday nights. **Reference**

Sites:

Toadstool Geological Park NW of Crawford

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nebraska/recarea/?recid=10616> Hudson-Meng

Bison Kill & Visitor Center

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nebraska/recreation/recarea/?recid=10621>

Fort Robinson State Park

http://www.stateparks.com/fort_robinson_state_park_in_nebraska.html

Crawford Lodging

<https://hilltopmotelcrawfordnebraska.com/> Chadron

Lodging (50 miles away)

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g45485-Chadron_Nebraska-Hotels.html

South Park Museum

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Locale: Fairplay, CO

Trip Leader: Gail Tracy (720-495-0533 gctracer@gmail.com)

Gail is finalizing plans for this fun and educational outing. Details will be forthcoming in the mid-summer newsletter or the September newsletter. Watch for this information.

Hot Springs Arkansas Field Trip

(“Crystal Capital of the World”)

Thursday, October 19 – Monday, October 24, 2023

Trip Leader: Ed and Susan Wakefield (720-613-0545 ewakefield2626@gmail.com)

Exciting opportunity to join Ed, and other LGMC members, to collect world-famous quartz crystals and other minerals. Places planned to dig: Ron Coleman Crystal Mine, Wegher Crystal Ranch, and Crystal Vista. Also, Crater of Diamonds State Park where you can find, besides a possible diamond, amethyst, agate, jasper, garnet and more. Hope to make it to Ron Coleman twice, and Crater of Diamond once. The other dates are open in case of bad weather, and to visit possible other locations.

If interested, or want additional information, contact Ed. He can discuss lodging and associated fees for each area.

Steve Jorgensen Fossil Open House

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Trip Leader: Steve Jorgensen (303-915-5392 didyjorg@comcast.net)

This is a special opportunity to visit LGMC member Steve Jorgensen's Museum – a quality collection of fossils that he has collected over the years. These specimens are amazing, and Steve is opening his home to share his specimens with other LGMC members. The group size is limited to 10 visitors, so, if interested, contact Steve soon. First come, first served. Steve will give additional information as well as directions to his home.

Upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

Tues., May 16: LGMC Faceters & Cabbers meeting 7:00 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

Fri., May 19: LGMC meeting 7:30 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

Sat., May 20, 12 noon – 4 p.m., Friends of Mineralogy Silent Auction, Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 7530 W. 38th Ave. <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/>

Wed., May 31: LGMC Mineral Study Group meeting 7:00 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

July 27-30: Fairplay Gem and Mineral Show Fairplay River Park Event Site, 200 Platte Dr, Fairplay , CO
<http://abqfallshow.wix.com/fairplay>

Aug 10-13: Buena Vista Contin-Tail Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. <https://bvrockshow.com/>

Sun, Aug 20th: LGMC summer picnic/grab bag stuffing party

General Club Announcements



Welcome New Members:

- Ethan Morton**
- Jennifer Newton**

Moving? Change of Address, Email or Phone Number?

Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

Please notify **Ian Duncanson** of any changes at idunc@g.com or 303-798-9174. For email address changes, please also email editor.lgmc@gmail.com

Club Vests: Show your club support at the meetings and other events! **Ian Duncanson** has club vests available for sale. Price includes vest with a sewed-on club patch.

\$18 for small and medium sizes

\$19 for large and X-large sizes

\$20 for XX-large and XXX-large

Sunshine Cards: *Do you know someone who could use some sunshine?* Nobody knows everybody. If you know of a club member or family who is having a health problem or other problem, and who could be encouraged by receiving a thinking-of-you card, please let us know so that we may encourage them. Send a note to our sunshine coordinator and let her know, **Lynette Warren**, flywithle123@comcast.net.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter! Don't forget to send in your own field trip reports with photos. Email them to editor.lgmc@gmail.com. Make sure to label each photo with the trip and who is in the photo. If you did not take the photo, add that info also so proper credit can be given. Also send club-related photos to our Club Historian at Gail Tracy at gctracer@gmail.com.

Cheers, Lesley

LGMC Website

Message from the webmaster: Register now on the club website (if you haven't already) to access the "Members Only" pages. Detailed field trip information and forms will be accessible to members, but you must sign in. The field trip sign-up forms will be available online. If you have any trouble on the website, contact Gail Tracy, gctracer@gmail.com

Please check out the new "Member" section of the website! We'll archive Newsletters, share photos, and get details of upcoming field trips. To view the "Member" section, you must register as a member of the website: <https://littleongemandmineralclub.com/register/>

As only LGMC members will have access to this material, we'll be checking your name against the current club roster, so if you haven't yet, reach out to Ian Duncanson to pay your 2023 dues!



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Denver Council Representative	Lesley Sebol	720-999-1372
Show Committee Representative	Lynette Warren	303-956-4634

Cabbers & Faceters Group	<i>John Kleber, John Revis</i>	720-851-8510
Mineral Study Group	<i>Lesley Sebol/Richard Parsons</i>	L: 720-999-1372

Meetings: The Littleton Gem & Mineral Club meets the third Friday of each month, September through May, at the St Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Club and section meetings may deviate from their regular schedules due to holidays, shows, inclement weather, pandemic, etc.

The Littleton Gem and Mineral Club is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, The Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies, and the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council.

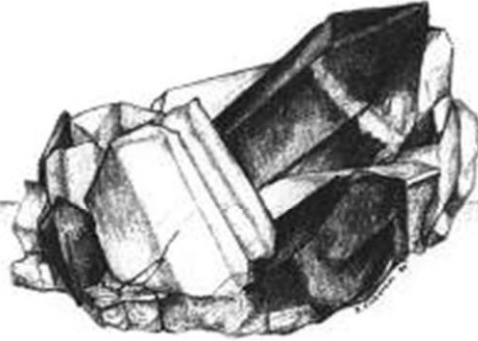
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