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# Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

## April 2020 Newsletter.



**April Program:**

**Time and Place:** Meeting Cancelled

**Speaker:**

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## Presidents Message

April 2020

Thank you to everyone who is following the state “Stay at Home” order and CDC guidelines for social distancing. This has been a difficult time for all of us and our families, but it looks like our efforts are making a difference based on the latest information. It has also been a challenging time for our club to conduct our normal role as a social club providing educational meetings, classes, and field trips. However, we are working to continue providing experiences for our members. For instance:

- We are working with Susan Gardner to offer wire wrapping classes via Zoom video conferencing. Stay tuned for emails and messages on how to be part of a class. Susan is also offering free classes for kids. Some members have posted photos of their wire wrapping projects on Facebook. There is some beautiful work being done.
- Jim Hooten is preparing a field trip strategy for the day when the Stay at Home order is lifted. See Jim’s note in this newsletter for more information.
- If you have done anything interesting to share (cabbing, faceting, wire wrapping, jewelry, etc.) send them to Tammy to share in the newsletter or post your photos on Facebook. We’d love to see your work and maybe get new ideas to do on our own. I’d like to see a LOT of photos in the newsletter and Facebook!

As a club, we will continue to follow state orders and guidelines. When the orders are lifted or relaxed, we plan to get back to normal as quickly as possible in a safe manner. The most challenging activity to replace has been our monthly general meeting. It serves not only as an educational meeting but as a social gathering for us to swap stories, experiences and win a nice door prize. Unfortunately, we have cancelled the April General Meeting. The May meeting is also unlikely, but we’ll monitor the situation, coordinate with the church and decide in May. We will keep you informed of any developments that affect the club, our activities or members.

Stay safe and healthy! I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting.

Ron Wankner

President LGMC

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# Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

**Fri April 17**      **LGMC April Meeting, Cancelled**

**Tue April 21**      **Faceters and Cabbers** - I'm sorry to say, due to the stay at home and group size restrictions we are experiencing. I am investigating the use of the ZOOM app that some are using for group meetings to see if it could work for the Faceters and Cabbers group. If it might be worth a try, I'll use the group's email list to see if we can work it out.

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## Grab Bag Sewing Party

Please note we will not be having a Grab Bag Sewing Party this year. If you have cloth material and would like to make some bags at home, we have a Word document that was put together a few years ago to help with instructions and pictures. Please contact Lynette Warren at [flywithle123@comcast.net](mailto:flywithle123@comcast.net) or 303-956-4634 so we can get it emailed to you. We would welcome any that you can make during our confinement.



If you have any specimens at home to donate for grab bags, but need supplies such as zip bags or labels, send email to me, John Kleber, at [jkleber@att.net](mailto:jkleber@att.net) or call me at 720-851-8510 and I can make some arrangements to get supplies to you. I do not have any specimens ready to pass out, but I can get some from storage, prep them with labels and zip bags, and could get them to you, if you would like. Just let me know. All contact with proper social distancing consideration!

The Bag (Party) Lady and the Bag Beggar  
Lynette Warren and John Kleber

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## Field Trip News

**FIELD TRIP MUSINGS** from Jim Hooten, LGMC Field Trip Coordinator

Greetings, fellow Rock Hounds. As I sit here at home, struggling with the fever---the dreaded "Cabin Fever" ---I wanted to pass on some thoughts on our favorite pastime, mineral hunting. You noticed I didn't say "mineral collecting", because that only comes after successful hunting.

As expected, due to COVID-19, there are no plans for any **organized** LGMC Field Trips at this time, or into the near future. Sorry, I cannot define "near future" ---still too many unknowns.

Once the orders and restrictions are lifted, we will try to do some hunting/collecting close to home. If you choose to make this commitment, we will keep the number in the group small and no car-pooling. Each person/family will drive their own vehicle. Obviously, practice all precautions suggested by the State and the Feds---social distancing, hand wipes, masks (if necessary, at restaurants or gas stations), and any other protections you practice. You can spread out while digging so that no groups are close to each other, yet still close enough to communicate if necessary. And, most importantly, if anyone isn't feeling absolutely in good health, don't even think of going anywhere. You can always go sometime later.

There are areas close to Denver where a day-trip is very feasible including **Devil's Head** and our **Club Claims near Harris Park**---both within 1 ½ hours away. Some other trips, 2-3 hours away, are still doable, but will require more planning.

Finally, I talked with Joe Dorris, owner of 2 of our popular trip locations --- Topaz Mountain and Smoky Hawk, both near Lake George, CO (Park and Teller Counties). Joe isn't looking for anything to happen until June, at the earliest. Then, it still depends on what work they're authorized to do. **If** things work out, he would love to still invite Clubs to come and dig at his Claims. He said he would limit participants at any trip to 30 people. So, at least there is some glimmer of hope for hunting/collecting---but don't make any definite plans just yet. Joe will contact me if anything becomes available, and I will then notify the Littleton Club Members via email.

Sorry that I can't offer more concrete field trip information. Like everything else, things are a little crazy this year (make that 'a lot crazy').

So, for now, to summarize, the above tentative plan is what we intend to follow. And, again, **only when all orders and restrictions are lifted!** Until then, people seriously need to follow those orders and restrictions. It definitely is the hard thing to, but it is also the right thing to do. When the time comes where it is again safe to go collecting, there still may not be any organized LGMC Field Trips this year, but hopefully people who are interested may be able to "go it in your own". Time will tell. For now, let's all Hang in There-----Together!

Feel free to email me with any questions.

Best of luck....and STAY HEALTHY.

Jim Hooten, LGMC Field Trip Coordinator jahooten@msn.com

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## Geology Corner

### New Places to Look for Diamonds

Diamonds are usually found in kimberlite, an igneous rock containing chunks of diamond-bearing rock from the earth's mantle. They also occur in surface placer deposits formed by the weathering of kimberlite. They may be rarely found as tiny crystals in certain meteorites. Now a new geological occurrence has been reported from the Kukchetin block in northern Kazakhstan. Here diamonds are found in gneisses formed by the metamorphism of sedimentary rocks.



The Kokchetev block is about 800 kilometers west of Novosibirsk, Siberia and 1000 km. north of Tashkent. It is a fault-bounded block of high-grade metamorphic rock formed approximately 530 million years ago from rocks deposited as sediments about 2 billion years ago. The diamonds are found as perfect cubes and octahedrons about 0.0005 inches in diameter enclosed inside garnet and zircon crystals. Other minerals found here as inclusions in garnet and zircon are titanite, phengite (a type of mica), K feldspar, quartz and kyanite. None of these minerals are traditionally thought to be associated with diamonds. In addition to these minerals, the gneisses contain pyroxene, plagioclase, biotite, chlorite, calcite and graphite.

The diamond-bearing rock was once a sediment deposited on land about 2 billion years ago. It was then buried deeply, metamorphosed and uplifted back to the surface. A major question is whether the diamonds actually grew during metamorphism or whether they had been deposited in the original sediment from an eroded kimberlite somewhere else. This is an important question, because diamonds had never before been seen growing within rocks of the earth's crust.

Sobolev and Shatsky (1990) studied this question with some care and showed that the diamonds did indeed grow in the rock during metamorphism. They cite a number of pieces of evidence for this. First, the diamond crystals' shapes are such that they could not reasonably have survive any degree of transportation as a sediment. Also, the diamonds are intimately intergrown with minerals such as garnet that were known to grow in this rock during metamorphism. Plus, the associated minerals show that the rock was subjected to temperatures of 900 - 1000 degrees C and pressures of over 40,000 atmospheres. This puts them within the stability field of diamond. This also implies that the sediments were buried to depths of over 100 kilometers (60 miles) within the earth. After metamorphism the rocks were uplifted

to the surface. The diamonds, which should logically have converted to graphite, survived by being insulated within the garnet and zircon crystals.

There are several interesting implications to this find. First is what I will refer to as the "elevator concept". To make the diamonds, these sediments had to be pushed down into the earth over 60 miles then brought all the way back up to the surface. The forces and causes of such large vertical movements are unknown. Geologists for years have focused on the large horizontal movements of blocks associated with plate tectonics. A small group of geologists, most notably Russian, have argued that large vertical movements were also important. These little diamond crystals are proof that their arguments are justified. I predict that in future years geologists will be thinking more and more about large up and down movement of crustal blocks. The second implication is that if diamonds can be found in a particular rock in one place, they will be found in the same kind of rock elsewhere. These diamonds are very tiny, hence easily overlooked. Most geologists studying high grade gneisses would also not be expecting to find diamonds. A truism in geology is that you usually find only what you are looking for. Now geologists will be on the look-out for diamonds in high grade gneisses in other parts of the world and I think they will find them. Some logical places I would look are in the gneisses of the Adirondacks in New York, of the Beartooth block in Wyoming and, yes, of the Minnesota River Valley around Redwood Falls.



Even though these diamonds are too small to see without extensive magnification, they are important for what they tell geologists about the complex history of this marvelous planet.

Dr. Bill Cordua, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

#### References:

Sobolev, N.V. and V.S. Shatsky, 1990, "Diamond inclusions in garnets from metamorphic rocks: a new environment for diamond formation," *Nature*, vol. 343, p. 742-745.

Claue-Long, J.C. et al., "Zircon response to diamond pressure metamorphism in the Kokchetov massif, U.S.S.R." *Geology*, vol. 19, p. 710- 713.

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## What are you working on?

### Keep the kids busy!

Video of "In the kitchen with Matt". At home activity for parents to illustrate how crystals are formed.

<https://youtu.be/ajr47FA6Sas>



**Ian and Susan Duncanson** sent in some pictures of them participating at the annual Rockhound Rodeo which took place the 2nd week in March down in Deming, New Mexico. Looks like they even had a problem with a flat tire.



**ED and Susan Wakefield** belong to the Littleton club however live in Mesquite NV. The recently spent time rockhounding in Washington County, Utah. Ed wrote “The mineral specimens are calcite on limestone. It took 90 minutes to walk to the mine but it was worth the walk. The big rock with the g-pick on it weighs around 500 pounds and is still there but what a beautiful rock. The one I brought back weighs about 25 pounds and was the biggest one I could get down the mountain. The group of us are going out again Friday and hope to get some of the bigger rock down the mountain. The good thing about Mesquite is you can rockhound all year long”.





**Jesse Mathews** is working on his self-collected tumbles.



**Nick Warren** is working on organizing his minerals for eventually displaying them

**Send us what you are doing and we will include it in next month's newsletter.**

**Lesley Sebol**  
Made a faceted garnet necklace



## Wire Wrapping Class

On March 14th Susan Gardner with Perfectly Twisted Jewelry taught a wire wrapping class for our Littleton Gem and Mineral Club Members. I thought, going into this class, we were just going to wrap some wire around a stone and call it a pendant, but I was pleasantly surprised. The pendants we made turned out beautiful, each one was unique and very professional looking. With the guidance of Susan's step-by-step instructions, she made it easy to design and create an attractive piece of jewelry. I now have something I feel proud to wear. For those of you interested in crafting something stylish like these, you may want to consider giving this a try when there is another class offered.

Lynette Warren



# Upcoming Wire Wrapping Class Info

This crazy virus crisis had to hit just as we were getting kicked off on our wire wrapping classes. Well, we're not going to let some stinking virus stop us from having fun. Susan Gardner has been putting together a plan to offer the classes via Zoom. It gives us a chance to stay engaged with our members and gives them an outlet while we're waiting for the lockdowns to be lifted.

**"Online wire wrapping classes for club members will be available soon from our Perfectly Twisted Jewelry teacher, Susan Gardner."**

Projects will range from \$10 - \$20 per student depending on the projects. Kids projects will always be \$10.

Classes will run from 1 - 2 hours (but we are not limited in time, so no worries if we run over) and I will keep club classes limited to 15 students per each in the virtual classroom. I will run classes often though, so space is always available.

**Students must have their own materials and tools or I can direct them to local shops where they can purchase via appointment and through shipping if needed.**

Classes will be run through my Zoom Classroom. **Club classes will be members only.**

Students will have the option to join the Virtual classroom via their computer, cell phone or tablet device.

They will have the option to join the classroom with their camera and speaker on or off. They will always be able to see me and they will have options to show or see each other.

After class, students will get a link to a video copy of the class for future reference also.

I will send the class project info and details once I have them published and am ready to go, I'm working really hard to get it all launched.

**I've decided to make the kids projects free to all.** I've created a page on my website specifically for easy kids and parent projects. <https://www.perfectlytwistedjewelry.com/free-tutorials.html> These are free videos with links to a local shop for materials and tools if you need them. I hope to be publishing an online adult schedule soon... but I will be for sure publishing more free wire wrap videos for adults and kids in the meantime.

Hugs you, thank you again so much!

Susan"

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## Club Announcements

**Moving?** Change of Address, Email or Phone Number? Ready to go paperless?  
Please notify **Ian Duncanson** of any changes at [idunc@q.com](mailto:idunc@q.com) or 303-798-9174.

**Club Vests** Show your club support at the meetings and other events! **Ian Duncanson** has club vests available for sale. Price includes vest, sewed on club patch (on back) and a club pin



- \$18 for small and medium sizes
- \$19 for large and X-large sizes
- \$20 for XX-large and XXX-large

*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](mailto:flywithle123@comcast.net).

## Club Membership

At the end of April, I will pare down the membership roster to only active members that are current with their yearly dues. If you have any question about your status, please contact me at [idunc@q.com](mailto:idunc@q.com) for an update.

Thank you, Ian Duncanson, membership



## Like us on FaceBook

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Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter! ~Tammy



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“ “	<i>John Kleber</i>	720-851-8510
Mineral Study Group	<i>Bob Zartman &amp; Nick North</i>	303-973-0405

**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, 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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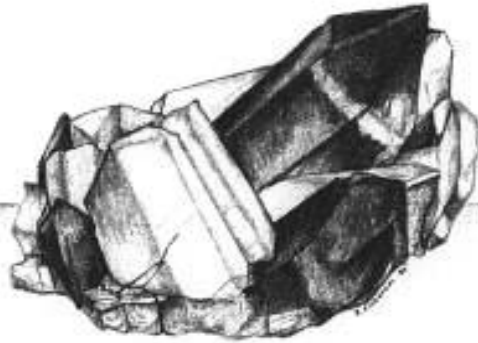
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