
Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

March 2018 Newsletter.



The next Chapter meeting will be Friday, March 16th, same time and place as usual, 7:30PM, at the Columbine Hills church. Hope to see you there.

March Program:

Closing Colorado's Abandoned Mines, by **Erica Crosby**
Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

General FYI...

<http://kdvr.com/2016/10/16/hidden-hazards-in-the-forest-closing-colorados-abandoned-mines/>

<http://mining.state.co.us/PROGRAMS/ABANDONED/Pages/impwelcomepage.aspx>

Important Announcement for those who have been receiving a paper newsletter via the USPS:

This is the last newsletter to be mailed by paper. Please contact our Membership Chairman (and Vice President), Ian Duncanson, idunc@q.com, so he can learn an e-mail address where we can send you future newsletters.



Letter from the President

Well the Tucson show is behind us and that means one thing, spring is just around the corner and we are only 2 short months away from the start of our 2018 field trip season! I am really missing springtime in Colorado and seeing all of you at our club meetings. My project in Tennessee is nearly complete and I can't wait to get back to beautiful sunny Colorado for some rock hounding adventures with all of you!

Colorado is exceptionally unique in its mineral wealth, for both commercial mining and recreational activities like rock hounding. One thing that we commonly run across at rock hounding localities in Colorado are abandoned mines. As we get out there to end the cabin fever that builds up over the winter we need to remember that while abandoned mines do give us the opportunity to collect beautiful specimens that were left on the waste dumps, they can also present serious hazards. As we get closer to getting out there for field trips, I want to remind us to always be careful and aware of our surroundings.

Sincerely Yours, **Travis Leach**

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report

March 2018

The 51st Denver Gem & Mineral Show will be held on September 14 - 16, 2018 at the Denver Mart, 451 E. 58th Avenue (intersection of I-25 and 58th Avenue). The theme this year is "Minerals of Mexico". **Lesley Sebol** is the Show Chair and can be reached at lesleysebol@gmail.com or 720-999-1372 if you have any ideas for the show. Planning is underway and we would like your ideas to make this a fantastic show.

Minerals of Mexico will be an exciting theme for the show! Everyone knows that Mexico has a wide variety of exceptional minerals. In fact, the first issue of Mineralogical Record for 2018 was devoted to the minerals of Mexico. The theme is important for the species competitions at the show. A specimen entered into the species competition must adhere to the show theme, i.e., for this year the specimen would have to be from Mexico. The categories are Thumbnail, Toenail, Miniature, Cabinet, Large Cabinet, Self-Collected, and Lapidary/Jewelry. So maybe you have an exceptional Mexican specimen and you would like to find out how outstanding it really is. Enter it in the species competition. You may win a trophy or not, but you will find out how it stacks up against other Mexican specimens. Have you seen the beautiful poster with the vibrant green brochantite from the Milpillas Mine, Cuitaca, Cananea District, Sonora, Mexico?

You know that the Denver Show is a unique show in the U.S. There is no other city in the country that has a group of gem, mineral, and fossil clubs that puts on a world-class show with all volunteers and has done so for 50 years. We should all be very proud of our accomplishments over the last 50 years. The 50 year Retrospective book documents our achievements. I hope you all have had a chance to read it.

The Show Committee is the group that plans and operates the show. The committee is a group of 50 plus dedicated persons. Some are old-timers and some are newbies. Most likely you know one or more persons on the committee. The committee is in need of a few more newbies at this time. After writing the beautiful 50 year Retrospective, Mark Jacobson is stepping down as the Historian. A new Historian is needed and Mark recommends that this is a two-person position. One of the responsibilities is photographing all the exhibits, which takes the time of more than one person. There is also a need for a Set-Up Chair. This person is responsible for set up of the show on the preceding Wednesday. Set up entails covering the dealer tables in the aisles and east area with plastic and assembling the wood display cases. Of course, the Chair has a group of experienced people from prior years to help but needs to confirm the set up volunteer list. This is not as difficult of a job as it sounds. The main floor is the responsibility of the contract decorator. So if you enjoy the show, please consider becoming more involved and join the committee. It is a rewarding venture, you will meet new people from other clubs, and you will feel great knowing that you have helped to put on the show. Where else is there such a magnificent event to fully indulge in our hobby?

The Show Committee meets at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month except February, July and December. So think it over and come to a meeting. Tag along with your club representative (each club has one) or just show up. You may serve as an At Large member until you find the position that matches your talents. I cannot emphasize enough the need for newbies.

The volunteer signup sheets should be available at your club meetings. Be sure to sign up for which ever area suites you. More than 400 volunteers are needed at the show!

Respectfully submitted, **Judy Knoshaug**, Show Secretary

Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

Wed Mar 7 Mineral Study Group for FEB, 7pm, at Lesley's house, (rescheduled from Feb 28th so Lesley could recover), looking at minerals from all remaining regions of Mexico not yet studied this year. Those regions would be: **Coahuila, San Luis Potosi, Guanajuato, Veracruz, Guerrero, Chiapas, Jalisco and Mexico**. All are welcome. If you have any minerals from those regions that you would be willing to show others, we will love to look at them with you. Or if you have none (like me!), everyone is delighted to let you look at theirs. You can contact Lesley at lesleysebol@gmail.com for more info.

Fri Mar 16 LGMC Chapter Meeting.
Presentation: **Closing Colorado's Abandoned Mines**, by **Erica Crosby**
7:30pm, Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave, Littleton CO

Many thanks to our several volunteers bringing refreshments to this meeting: **Larry Havens, Kelly Olsen, Crystal O'Fee, James Schachbel, Anne Jenkins**

Tue Mar 20 Faceters and Cabbers Meeting,
7:30, Columbine Hills Church

NOTE: THIS MONTH THE THIRD TUESDAY IS AFTER THE CLUBS FRIDAY NIGHT GENERAL MEETING.

We will still meet at the church at 7:30 on March 20th. HOPEFULLY THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING WILL NOT BE A BLIZZARD LIKE LAST MONTH ON OUR MEETING NIGHT



Mar. 23-25 Fri-Sat-Sun, Fort Collins Rock Hounds Gem and Mineral Show (See flyer next page)

Sun Apr 8 Family Day at the Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville.
For more info, see here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/166613640800455/>

Fri Apr 13 **North Jeffco Gem, Jewelry, Mineral Silent Auction**, at the APEX Community Recreation Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003. Jewelry, gemstones, mineral & fossil specimens, cabochons, craftwork, and rock-craft equipment may be available for sale. Part of the proceeds goes to scholarships at the Colorado School of Mines and the CSM Geology Museum in Golden. Looking for a finished piece of jewelry, a mineral or fossil specimen, a cabachon, or rough material to fashion yourself? Choose from the private collection of club members. Silent auction begins at 6:45 pm. Check-out is about 9:15 pm. Cash or check only. No early check-out. Free refreshments and a bake sale! See flyer on a page below.

Jun 20-22 Regional Convention of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Rapid City, SD

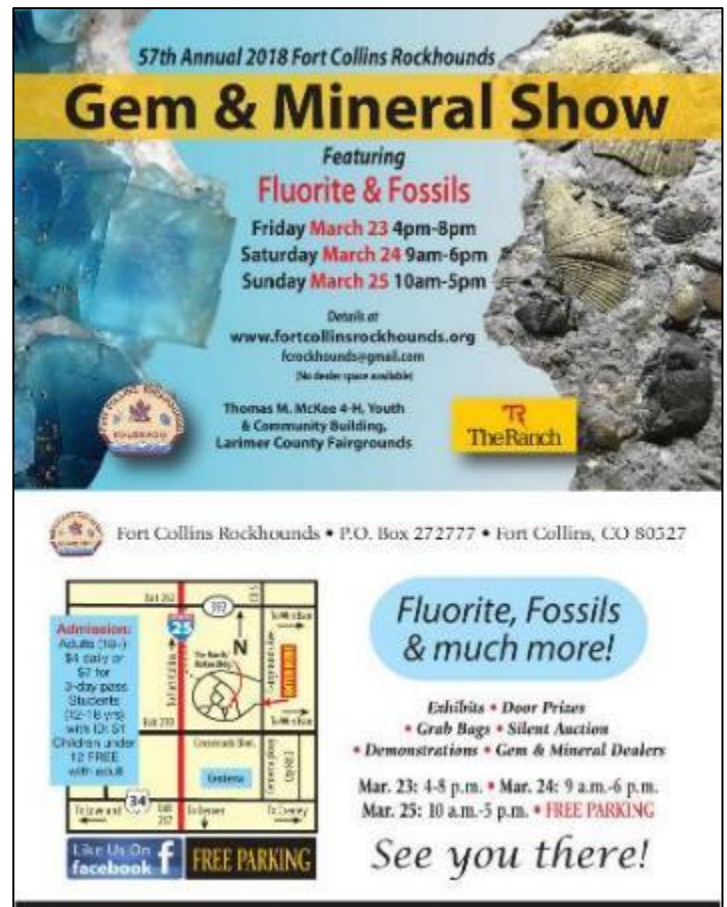
The Fort Collins RockHounds Club presents the 57th Annual 2018 Gem and Mineral Show on March 23, 24, and 25, 2018 (Friday, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) at The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds in the Thomas M. McKee Building, Loveland, Colorado. Parking is free for this event.

This year's club exhibits feature Fluorite and Fossils. Metro State University will host a hands-on rock identification educational experience. Door prizes, mineral specimen grab bag sales, children's activity table, demonstrations and the silent auction are ongoing. Gem and mineral dealers sell everything from ore-grade specimens to fine jewelry and stone beads.

Adult admission is \$4.00 for one day or \$7.00 for a 3-day pass. Student (12-18 years old) admission is \$1.00. Children under 12 free when accompanied by adult. (Admission is cash only. The dealers take plastic.)

For more information, check our Facebook page, visit our website at www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org, or email fcrockhounds@gmail.com.

Fort Collins RockHounds, Inc., PO Box 272777, Fort Collins, CO 80527



The poster for the 57th Annual 2018 Fort Collins Rockhounds Gem & Mineral Show features a yellow banner at the top with the event title. Below the banner, it lists the dates and times: Friday March 23 (4pm-8pm), Saturday March 24 (9am-6pm), and Sunday March 25 (10am-5pm). The theme is 'Featuring Fluorite & Fossils'. Contact information includes the website www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org and email fcrockhounds@gmail.com. The location is the Thomas M. McKee 4-H, Youth & Community Building, Larimer County Fairgrounds. A map shows the location near I-25 and I-70. A blue box lists admission: Adults \$4 daily or \$7 for 3-day pass; Students \$1 (12-18 yrs with ID); Children under 12 FREE with adult. A Facebook icon says 'Like Us On facebook'. A yellow box says 'FREE PARKING'. A blue circle says 'Fluorite, Fossils & much more!'. A list of activities includes Exhibits, Door Prizes, Grab Bags, Silent Auction, Demonstrations, Gem & Mineral Dealers. Hours are: Mar. 23: 4-8 p.m.; Mar. 24: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mar. 25: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with FREE PARKING. The slogan 'See you there!' is at the bottom.

FOR SALE

The LGMC is selling one of its club cameras. **\$250.00**

Leica V-LUX 1, two batteries, battery charger, 512 MB SD card, tripod shoe mount, AC adapter, electric cable release, owner's manual and brochure. The original price was \$850 eight years ago.

The lens is the Leica DC Vario-Elmarit 1:2.8-3.7/7.4-88.8 ASPH. This camera has had very little use and is in great condition. Contact Charlie Wall at 303-933-0368, or charliewall@comcast.net

If it is still available at the March club meeting it will be available to view.

[The editor says: Read about this on Amazon, and you might be impressed.]



North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club Silent Auction

Friday, April 13th, 2018

APEX Community Recreation Center
6842 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003

Setup at 5:30 PM

Seller limits on number of items to sell:

Club Members – No limit

Non-members – Maximum of 30 items

Auction Begins 6:45 PM

Checkout Begins Immediately After Auction

No Early Checkout

Free Parking, Free Admission

- ☐ **jewelry** ☐ **gems** ☐ **minerals** ☐
- ☐ **bake sale** ☐ **crafts** ☐
- ☐ **free refreshments** ☐
- ☐ **public invited** ☐



If you need a finished piece of jewelry, rough material to fashion yourself, a specimen for your collection, or an interesting and fun evening, this is the place.



Sellers & Buyers Welcome

For more info call Bill Jones 303-503-6288 Or email sidewindermin@comcast.net

Club Announcements

Welcome to our new members!

Carolyn Faux

Adrian and Kirsten Saunders



Member News:

FIELD TRIP—Special Invitation from RAMS Club



Each year the RAMS Club (Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society) has an annual picnic at their claims near Crystal Peak (north of Lake George—near Joe Dorris's Smoky Hawk Claim). They invite another mineral club to join them, and this year they are inviting the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club. The picnic is at noon on Saturday, July 21. The RAMS Club will provide: meat (hamburgers, hotdogs, etc), all fixings (condiments), chips and drinks. Each attending person/family is requested to bring a potluck dish to share with the group.

There will also be digging at their claims both **Saturday, July 21 and Sunday, July 22**. Camping facilities are available for those interested in staying overnight. Sorry, no water or toilet facilities.

This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know the RAMS members (or to renew old friendships). Plus there's a great picnic and a chance to explore for minerals (smoky quartz, amazonite, fluorite, goethite, etc.).

They need an approximate headcount as soon as possible for their planning, so please email Jim Hooten (jahooten@msn.com) if you want to go.

Moving? Change of Address, Email or Phone Number? Ready to go paperless?

Please notify **Ian Duncanson** of any changes at idunc@q.com or 303-798-9174.

Do you know someone who could use some sunshine? Send a note to our sunshine coordinator and let her know, **Lynette Warren**, flywithle123@comcast.net.

Hazardous Weather Policy

If driving conditions are perceived as dangerous, a decision will be made by 5:30 pm on the night of the meeting by the club President as to whether to cancel or not. The President will notify the trustees and officers. If you have any questions about a meeting, taking place, please contact one of the officers or trustees listed on the last page of this newsletter

LGMC dues for 2018

Please bring the following form to the next meeting with your \$20 check:

Name(s)

Dues payment (\$20) _____ Renewal

Email address: _____

LGMC Summary Minutes, Board Meeting

February 27, 2018

Location: Church

Called to order at 7:05 (meeting rescheduled for tonight due to inclement weather last week.)

In Attendance: Charlie Wall, Larry Havens, Travis Leach, Stacey Lestina, Lesley Sebol, Jim Hooten, Nick North, Ian Duncanson, Dan Lovitt and Ron Wankner.

President Travis Leach rearranged meeting agenda, placing routine committee reports ahead of old and new business in order to streamline time allocation during the meeting.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved with motion from Hooten and second by North.

Treasurer's Report:

For the period 1/1/18 to 1/31/18 – Income from dues received. Expenses included payments to silent auction sellers, postal expenses, holiday party food, RMFMS dues and insurance, Sterne Park rental for 2018, purchase of 50 Denver Show Retrospective books and miscellaneous.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Wankner; second by North; motion carried.

Ian asked to discuss his handling of membership receipts. It was decided that Ian would compile all receipts and give them to the treasurer for eventual use during annual audit.

Reminder: Any club member may ask the Secretary to see the treasurer's report at any regular club meeting.

Field Trips: Jim Hooten reported that the Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society (RAMS) has invited our club to a joint field trip and Saturday barbecue. This is an overnight trip. Details to follow at a later date. Jim is continuing to set up a tour of the Cripple Creek/Victor Mines.

Programs: Stacey reports that the March talk will explore Colorado Mine Reclamation. In April John and Donna Rhodes will present a talk on Gems and Gem Formations. They are the owners of D&J Rare Gems in Salida.

Highlites: Steve was not in attendance. He wishes to step down as editor; a replacement is desperately sought.

Facebook: Stacey encourages members to submit possible content. She also sees the site as a good place to recognize dealers who contribute specimens to our auctions

Website: Gus Hansen will be asked to update officers and committee heads. Ron Wankner discussed a number of good ideas for the site.

Hospitality: Nick North asked for the Board to set a sales price for any left-over Retrospective books.

Board unanimously approved a price of \$5. Ron W. motion; Hooten – 2nd.

Denver Show Comm.: Lesley reports that the show comm. Still needs a chair for the show set-up, and an historian. Lesley is in her third year as show chair and seeks her replacement. She also would like to add educational classes (like wire wrapping) to our show offerings.

Old Business

- Gift of microphones to church. Laid on the table indefinitely.
- Charlie offered a sales approach for the donated camera Board gave go-ahead.
- Recruitment for open club positions: News Letter editor – still need to find a volunteer.
- Discussed ways to track how new members learned of our club. Might be something for Hospitality to devise (brief summary at sign-in at meetings)

New Business

Larry proposed that the membership list be divided up among board members with the intent that each board member would, in his/her own way, reach out to the members in their portion of the list to encourage service on committees and volunteering for the show, remind them to pay dues, answer any questions about club activities, etc. To be revisited and implemented.

Lesley pursued discussion about a possible club "Garage/parking lot sale." Pending a decision from the church council, it was agreed to continue with preliminary planning.

Ian proposed that we begin phasing out printing and mailing *Highlites* to members. Ian will check those members with email addresses who are receiving mailed versions to let them know a hard copy will no longer be mailed. He will encourage as many as possible without email addresses to get one.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, 3/19/18 at the church.

Adjourned 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Larry Havens, Secretary

What the heck is limonite?

One of my first great rockhound finds was a mass of botryoidal yellow-brown limonite that I picked up when I was about 12. I was hunting for rocks around a housing development near my home in College Park, Maryland. I came home with both the rock and me covered with sticky mud. My mother was appalled at the rock's appearance, even after it and I were cleaned up. She told me it looked like fossil dog poop. I think I loved it for that very reason. It was also the first time I found something that was botryoidal -or bubbly- in habit, and one of the first times I was able to use my mineral books to identify something I had found. I still proudly display the piece.

If you research the name "limonite" you will find it a non-approved mineral name. It is usually listed under "goethite", but that isn't quite correct either. So what is this stuff?

Limonite is always fine-grained and usually quite earthy. It may be crudely fibrous, oolitic, botryoidal or stalactitic. Its hardness is usually around 4, but can be soft enough to scratch with a fingernail. It is yellow, orange or brown and has a yellow to brown streak. Some of it is described as "ocher", some as "bog iron ore" some as "gossan" and some as "minette". This is clearly interesting stuff to have so many odd names.

Limonite is a mixture of fine-grained hydrated iron oxides. It is chemically similar to goethite (HFeO_2), but varies from ideal goethite by having more water. Although goethite is a very common component, limonite can also contain many other minerals. Some are polymorphs of goethite: lepidochrochite, akaganeite and feroxyhyte. Polymorphs are minerals that have the same chemical composition but different crystalline structures. Feroxyhyte is the rarest, found in deep sea nodules, and alters to goethite upon exposure to the air. Akaganeite has chlorine with the water. Lepidochrochite can form scaly crystals and has a dull red to orange streak. All of these are found intergrown in limonite. Hematite, siderite, jarosite and clay minerals can also be mixed in. Without access to X-Ray diffractometry or other sophisticated devices, one cannot tell exactly what is in a particular limonite specimen. As an example of how misleading hand-sample I.D. can be, the "type" material for goethite from Eiserfeld, Siegen Germany, described in 1806, turns out to be lepidochrochite. Hence "limonite" is a very handy field name for such mixtures of variable composition without specifying which particular minerals are present. Limonite is really a rock name, not a true mineral name.

Limonite is an important material. It is in soils, especially tropical soils called laterites. It is part of the oxidized cap (called gossan) over sulfide ore deposits. Such gossans have lead many prospectors to important deposits of gold, silver and copper through the years. Ocher is the softer limonite used as a pigment. Some limonite is used as iron ore. "Minette" refers to an oolitic form of limonite that is the major iron ore in Lorraine and Luxembourg. "Bog iron ore" refers to masses of limonite deposited in swampy conditions. In fact, the name "limonite" comes from the Greek meaning "meadow". Bacteria likely had a major role in precipitating the iron oxides under these relatively stagnant conditions. Limonite forms from the alteration of other iron minerals such as siderite (iron carbonate), pyrite and marcasite (both iron sulfides.) Specimens of limonite after these minerals are relatively common.

It was limonite from a Cretaceous-age bog iron ore I was collecting in my younger days. The east coast has many small iron ore bodies, found in a band from New Jersey to Georgia and dominated by limonite. These were deposited in swamps about 120 million years ago and are associated with finds of plant and dinosaur fossils. (Yes not all D.C. area dinosaurs are in Congress). The limonite is associated with a very sticky clay, the Arundel Clay. That was one reason my Mom never liked me to go collect in that stuff. These deposits have been known since colonial time. In fact, their presence was a reasons the U.S. could declare its independence from Britain. With domestic sources of iron and coal being discovered, we were not dependent on these imports, and could make our own musket and cannon balls. These deposits were eventually made uneconomic by the finds of the large iron ranges in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

I embrace the term limonite as a useful rock name. What else to call the matrix on which sometimes perch dandy crystals of adamite, wulfenite and other fine minerals? - **Dr. Bill Cordua**, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Used with credit to the author, <https://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/11510>

Reference:

Gaines, R.V., Skinner, C.W., Foord, E.E., Mason, B, and Rosenzweig, A., with sections by V.T. King, 1997. Dana's new mineralogy - The system of mineralogy of James Dwight Dana and Edward Salisbury Dana: Eighth edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1819 p.

I need to stop being the newsletter editor now. Would you be interested to help the club as the next newsletter editor? If so, you can let me know.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter!

~Steve

P.O. Box 283, Littleton, CO 80160

Established 1960

<http://www.littleongemandmineralclub.com/>

2018 Board of Trustees

President	<i>Travis Leach</i>	303-887-9787
Vice President and Membership Chairman	<i>Ian Duncanson</i>	303-798-9174
Secretary	<i>Larry Havens</i>	303-757-6577
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Trustee (2 year term 2018 & 2019)	<i>Dan Lovitt</i>	303-791-3112
Trustee (2 year term 2017 & 2018)	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177

Chairpersons & Appointed Officers

Trustee-at-Large	<i>Dale Gann</i>	720-981-5526
Sunshine Chairperson	<i>Lynette Warren</i>	303-956-4634
Refreshments	<i>Anne Jenkins</i>	303-730-7696
Historian	<i>Maxine Sheel</i>	720-532-0784
Hospitality	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177
Grab Bags	<i>John Kleber</i>	720-851-8510
Web Administrator	<i>Gus Hanson</i>	
RMFMS & AFMS Representative	<i>Open</i>	Open
Denver Council Representative	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177
Cabbers & Faceters Group	<i>Keith Sheel</i>	720-532-0784
“ “	<i>Mike Snively</i>	720-981-0752
“ “	<i>John Kleber</i>	720-851-8510
Mineral Study Group	<i>Bob Zartman & Nick North</i>	303-973-0405

Meetings: The Littleton Gem & Mineral Club meets the third Friday of each month, September through May, at the Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123. 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.

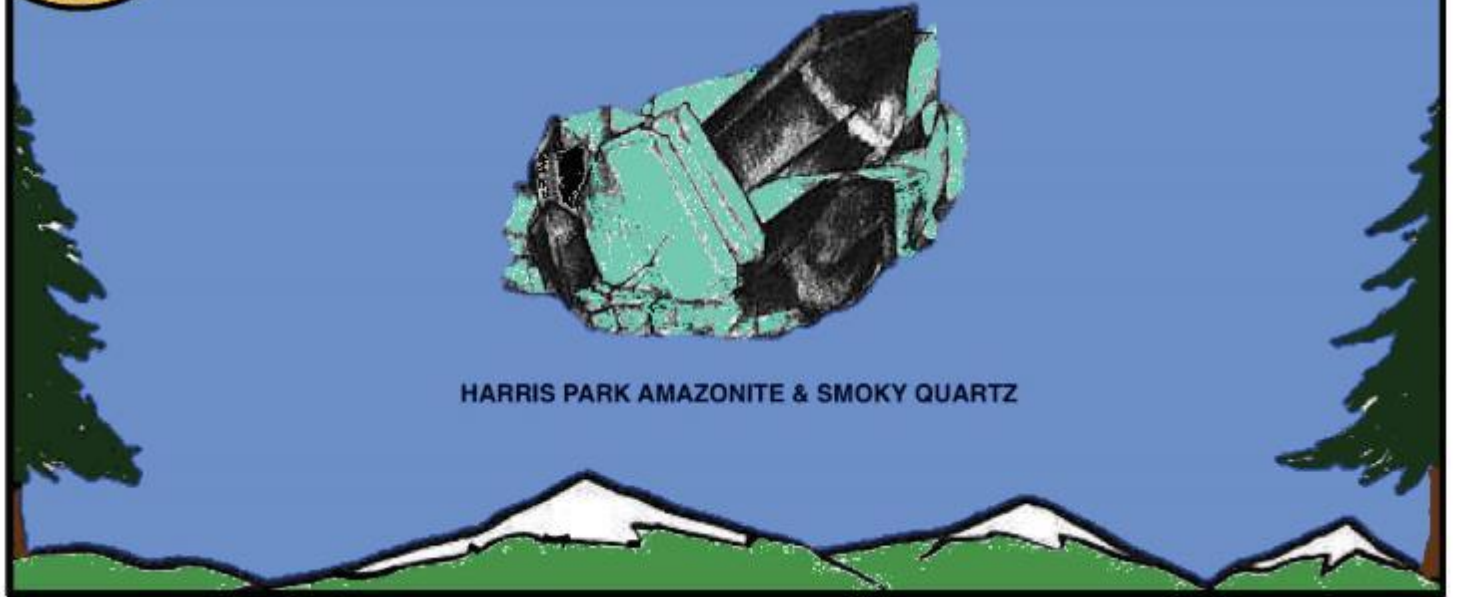
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Highlites

LITTLETON GEM & MINERAL CLUB



HARRIS PARK AMAZONITE & SMOKY QUARTZ

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