
Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

November 2018 Newsletter.

November Program: **2017 summer rock hounding trip to Oregon**

Speaker: **Dale Gann**

Time and Place: Friday, November 16th, 7:30 PM

Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123



We are in need of some volunteers to bring snacks for the meeting, Thank you!

Letter from the President

Greetings Littleton Rock hounds and Happy November to you as well! I hope everyone enjoyed our 2018 Littleton Gem & Mineral Club (LGMC) auction! This annual fundraising event is critical to our club and, thanks to your participation; the 2018 auction was a huge success! The upcoming November club meeting will include two of our club's time-honored competitions – members will vote on the best specimen purchased during the 2018 Denver Gem & Mineral Show and, in addition, will bestow the prestigious annual Tom Odiorne Award for the best specimen unearthed by a club member this year. Everyone is encouraged to participate, so get going with selecting your best specimens because, let's be honest; we all want to see lots of amazing rocks!

Last, but certainly not least, make sure to bring your checkbook to the regular club meetings for a chance to bid on some amazing pieces that will be up for grabs during a new monthly silent auction event. The auction kicks off this month and you don't want to miss out on these killer specimens!

November's featured speaker will be our very own club member, Dale Gann! Dale's enthusiasm for agates and thunder eggs is contagious and his expertise will inspire everyone to schedule an agate and thunder egg collecting trip next summer. Expect an array of agate info, including geology, scientific fundamentals, and famous localities. Additionally, Dale will display some of his best specimens, including his own finds from the many fascinating club collecting trips he has led! I can't wait to learn more about Dale's fruitful agate and thunder egg localities. Each summer Dale leads a trip to an agate locality and maybe we can even get him to spill the beans about next summer's agate adventure!

We are shaking things up and starting a new club tradition this Christmas! Everyone will be able to join in the festivities by competing in the first annual Christmas Chili Cook Off! All members are *strongly encouraged* to cook up a pot of their best chili to share with our fellow club members. Two Chili Champions will be crowned, one by popular vote and another by the three active Presidents (current, incoming and prior year). There are no categories or restrictions in our chili celebration, so make up a batch of red, green, perhaps an exotic chili, whatever just make sure you bring your best chili making game! Also feel free to bring any and all toppings, condiments and/or accouterments that will put your chili ahead of the competition. Please utilize a crock pot or hot plate for your chili, we will provide extension cords, power strips, and all the necessary utensils. If you do not have a crock-pot or hot plate please email Stacey Lestina at Smlestina@gmail.com and a loaner can be arranged.

LGMC relies and thrives when members step up to serve on the board or as a club volunteer. Remember that at our December meeting we elect new board positions, so now is the perfect time to learn about the various positions in preparation for sign ups next month.

~**Travis Leach**, LGMC President 2018

New for November

The club will hold a small silent auction using items that were donated to the club. Bid increments will be in even dollars. Bidding will occur prior to the start of the meeting and during the meeting break. Rather than using bidding numbers, we will just print our name in the bidder number line. Payment will be due at the end of the meeting by either cash or check. No deferred payments will be accepted.

We will do this mini auction on a trial basis at the November meeting. If well received and liked by the members, we will continue this event at future regular (non-holiday) meetings. The purpose is to generate funds for club meeting expenses.

LGMC Annual Election!!

Here is the slate of candidates for the annual officer elections to be voted on at our November meeting:

President - Ron Wankner
Vice President and Membership Chairman - Ian Duncanson
Secretary - Larry Havens
Treasurer - Lesley Sebol
President Elect - Kollin Olsen
Trustee (2 year term 2019-2020) - Lynette Warren

Club members who would like to throw their hat in the ring for any of the above positions should contact Ian Duncanson (idunc@q.com).

Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

Nov 16-18 Jeffco Rock Show, Jefferson County Fairground.

Tue Nov 20 **Faceters and Cabbers**, 7:30PM
Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave,
Littleton CO

Thu Nov 16 LGMC monthly meeting, 7:30PM
Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave,
Littleton CO

We are in need of some volunteers to bring snacks for the meeting, Thank you!

Tue Nov 27 Mineral Study. This month we will be focused on the minerals of Great Britain. The meeting will be held in the home of Nick North. Nick's address is 752 Meadow Station Circle, Parker CO 80138. This is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Come and be thankful with us for all the Great Minerals from Great Britain. Great Britain includes; England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. This area includes some of the most beautiful fluorites in the world as well as many other fabulous minerals.



We will be doing a chili cook off at next month's LGMC meeting so everyone be sure to pull out your favorite chili recipe for December! Watch for details in December's newsletter.

Club Announcements

Welcome to our new members:

Nicole and Mo Bolger, Paula McIntyre



Moving? Change of Address, Email or Phone Number? Ready to go paperless? Please notify **Ian Duncanson** of any changes at idunc@g.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.

Voting For the Odiorne Award

For those who may not know, the club has 3 contests that we vote on at the November meeting. Make sure to bring your specimen to the meeting!

1) The Odiorne Award is for the best specimen collected from the field by an LGMC member since the previous November. Any collected natural material, crystals, agates, faceting material and fossils are eligible for entry. No distinction will be made between specimens collected on private, federal or on a fee-only site. The winner is announced at the December meeting. The winner receives a patch for their club vest, and a \$50 cash award, and they get to sign the travelling trophy, which is a copy of Tom Odiorne's book, *Colorado Amazonstone, the Treasure of Crystal Peak*.

- 2) The best mineral purchased from one of the September rock shows for \$20 or less, and
3) The best mineral purchased from one of the September rock shows for any price.

Those 2 recognitions are announced at the end of the November meeting as soon as the results are tallied.

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Society Show

At the annual show in Rapid City, South Dakota our own **Kent Havens** walked off with a blue ribbon from RMFMS and best in show from the Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society.

Congratulations Kent!



If you have found a special specimen this past year or bought a 'special' something for very little money be sure you bring it to this November meeting so it can be judged for one of these prizes!

LGMC Summary Minutes, Board Meeting

LGMC Summary Minutes Board Meeting, October 22, 2018

Location: Church

Called to order at 7:00 pm by Ian Duncanson, Vice-president, subbing for Travis Leach who was ill.

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

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Lesley reported the financial activity for the period 9/1/18 to 9/28/18. Deposits were from picnic drawing receipts.

Expenses: reimbursement to Sheels for photo prints, paid city of Littleton for one memorial tree, last half of 2018 rent to church, and reimbursement to Jim Hooten for expenses for Club Prospector case at the show and picnic chicken.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by North; second by Wall; motion carried. Lesley reported that she had completed tallying the auction results and would soon be sending checks to sellers. Income to the club was roughly equivalent to ½ year of rent to Church.

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

Old Business:

Filling trustee vacancy: Lynette Warren will serve a 2019-2020 trusteeship. Larry Havens will serve as representative to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

New Business:

November Meeting – Dale Gann will present on agate collecting in Oregon.

This is the month when we have our contests for:

Best Show specimen purchased at one of the Denver Shows for \$20.00 and under.

Best Show Specimen purchased for over \$20.00

Tom Odiorne competition conducted. This competition is among specimens collected in the field by club members within the last year. A club member is designated keeper of the ballots and will tally them, keeping the results secret until the December meeting. Jim Hooten will liaise with Highlites editor Tammy to help with content and ensuring this info gets into the bulletin for Nov.

Programs: November – Lesley Sebol proposed that we hold mini-silent auctions at our regular meetings, using pieces from our inventory of donated materials. This would be limited to about 6 items per auction. The board agreed to conduct these on a trial basis.

December Holiday Party: There should be a notice in the bulletin explaining how this year we will change-up the menu to feature a chili cook-off (maybe not a contest *per se*) with members encouraged to bring their favorite chili recipe – red, green or who knows what. For those not chilling it, appropriate sides will be welcome.

Faceters/Cabbers: 3rd Tuesday of every month at the church.

Mineral Study Group: Meeting at Nick North's home, topic TBD.

Next Board Meeting: 11/19/18 at the church

Adjourned 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Havens, Secretary

Upcoming Geology Events

Sunday, Nov. 11, 1:00-4:00 pm, a silent auction charity event called **OH MY GEODE!** to benefit Canines for Disabled Kids on Sunday 11/11/2018 from 1-4pm. It will be held at Crystal Springs Brewery in Louisville, CO and will feature a wide range of rare rocks, gems, geodes, minerals, and handmade jewelry donated by local shops, artists, and enthusiasts. For more information, see <https://proresumebuilder.com/fundraiser/>.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7:30 pm, **Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter** bimonthly meeting; **“Still Crazy (about Franklin) after all these years: The minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey”**, by Carl (Bob) Carnein. Lakeview Event Center, 7864 W. Jewell Ave., Lakewood CO; all welcome. **Thursday, Nov. 15**, 3:00 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Earth Science Colloquium, **Mammals Inherit the Earth: How the K/Pg Mass Extinction Killed off Dinosaurs and Opened the Way for Mammals** by Greg Wilson, University of Washington. VIP Room, Museum admission not required.

See <http://www.dmns.org/science/research/earth-sciences/> for information about the DMNS talks.

November 16-18, Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds Exhibit Halls, 15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO. Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Sun. 11 am - 4 pm. Free admission, public welcome.



Mon., Dec. 3, 3:00 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Earth Science Colloquium, **The Improbable Fossil Record of Jellyfish and Their Kin**, by Graham Young, Manitoba Museum. VIP Room, Museum admission not required.

Thanks to Pete Modreski of the USGS for providing many of these notices.

Cosmetic Minerals of Ancient Egypt

Minerals have been used for adornment for millennia. The Egyptians made an extensive use of many familiar minerals, and, according to recent discoveries, synthesized other compounds using relatively sophisticated chemical techniques.

Egyptians were fond of eye and face coloration of white, green and black. Generally these were mineral powders mixed into pastes with fats. Minerals commonly used to make black powders were galena (PbS), manganese oxides such as pyrolusite, magnetite (iron oxide), cuprite and tenorite (copper oxides), and stibnite (antimony sulfide).

Green eye paints used malachite (copper carbonate) and chrysocolla (hydrated copper silicate). White face paint often came often from cerussite (lead carbonate). One might speculate on the health effects of spreading such poisonous compounds thickly over one's face!

The above mentioned minerals are common in deposits accessible to the Egyptians. Recent work on cosmetic powders preserved in their original containers and stored in the Louvre has turned up several rare minerals used as pigments. These minerals were either very rare or are unknown in Egyptian deposits. These are phosgenite (a lead chlorocarbonate) and laurionite (a lead chlor-hydroxide). Both would be suitable for white pigments, if found in quantity. Laurionite is a famous mineral from the ancient deposits at Laurium Greece, where it formed by the action of salty water on slags. It also occurs rarely in other oxidized zones over ore deposits, such as in Cornwall, England. Phosgenite is a bit more common, and can form with laurionite and other minerals in oxidized zones. The conditions of preservation of these minerals in Egyptian cosmetics make it unlikely that they are the effects of subsequent weathering of the cosmetics, but were originally pigment components.

Walter et. al., in a recent article in Nature, speculate that the phosgenite and laurionite were synthesized by the Egyptians. Both could form from mixtures of smelted lead oxides in the presence of carbonate and salt water. Walker and colleagues were able to form these minerals using techniques accessible to the ancient Egyptians. They followed recipes for medicines described on papyrus. This called for lead oxide mixed in water with salt, natron. The reaction is slow and delicate, but produced laurionite that matches morphologically that found as face paint in Egyptian tombs. A similar technique should produce phosgenite. The delicacy of the process suggests a surprising knowledge of wet-chemical techniques 4,000 years ago. Clues for their formation could have come from observations of during the processing of galena or weathering of lead articles. These papyrus list in addition, over 100 recipes using minerals or synthesized compounds or treatment of a variety of ailments.

It is apparent that ancient Egypt harbored its own creative scientists inspired by observations on minerals to create desired (if unhealthy) products.

- Dr. Bill Cordua, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

References: Lucas, A., 1962, Ancient Egyptian Materials and Industries, 4th edition revised by J.R. Harris, London, Edward Arnold Publishers.

Walter, P. et. al., 1999, "Making Make-up in Ancient Egypt", Nature, vol. 397, p. 483-484.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter!

~Tammy

☞ 2018 Board of Trustees ☞

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Trustee-at-Large	<i>Dale Gann</i>	720-981-5526
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Cabbers & Faceters Group		
" "	<i>John Revis</i>	720-569-6685
" "	<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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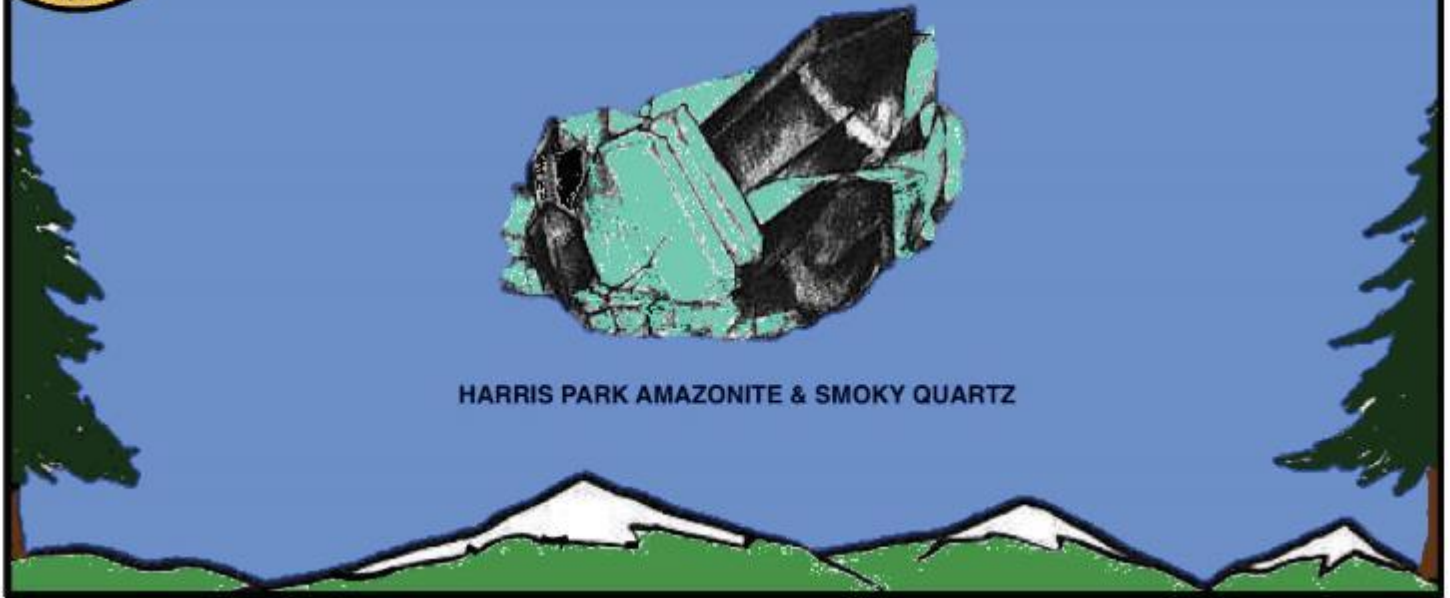
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Highlites

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