
Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

March 2020 Newsletter.



March Program:

Time and Place: March 20, 7:30 PM, St Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128.

Speaker: [Ron Wankner](#)

“Mineral Cleaning 101” Our very own president Ron Wankner will discuss his tips and tricks for cleaning your mineral specimens.

Corona Virus Info- Watch for an email or check our Facebook page for the status of our meeting. We are monitoring the situation and coordinating with the church. We will notify members if the meeting is changed or cancelled.

Presidents Message

March 2020

Finally! Spring is in the air and I’m excited about getting back out into the fresh air to start digging and collecting again. One of the important topics that’s taken me a lot of time to understand is cleaning the rocks that I find and keep. To help new members get a very basic understanding I’ll be presenting “Mineral Cleaning 101” at this month’s meeting to get ready for the summer field trip season. The purpose is to share some very basic rock & mineral cleaning knowledge that I’ve learned. I hope that this will lead to some good conversations at the meeting about the cleaning methods and home-made recipes from some of our other members. I’m certain we’ll find that everyone has a variety of slightly different approaches to cleaning our finds. There’s also a good chance that we may even learn of an old rockhounder’s secret technique that’s not published anywhere. We’d love to hear recommendations, experiences and lessons learned from our seasoned members.

We’re having our first wire wrapping class this weekend, hosted by Perfectly Twisted Jewelry, on March 14 and 15 at Lithos in Arvada. If you haven’t signed up there are 2 seats available in each class. LGMC will co-pay \$20 of the class fee for those who attend the class. If you’re interested contact Susan Gardner at perfectlytwistedjewelry13@gmail.com to sign-up.

Our April meeting will be an evening of cabbing, faceting and lapidary demonstrations hosted by the Cabbers & Faceters Group. Tables will be set up in our meeting room with demonstration stations and equipment for making cabochons, faceting stones, rock tumbling, beading and other lapidary crafts. The purpose is to let members see a broad range of activities that any of us can do at home with rocks and minerals that we field collect or purchase. If you have a craft that you would also like to demonstrate contact John Kleber (jkleber@att.net) and he’ll work with you on getting a table.

Ron Wankner
President LGMC

Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

Fri March 20

LGMC March Meeting, 7:30pm, St Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128. Speaker Ron Wankner.

We are still in need of volunteers to bring snacks for upcoming meetings Thank you!

Tue March 17th

Faceters and Cabbers - The Faceters and Cabbers group will meet on Tuesday, March 17th, starting at 7:30 PM at St. Philip Lutheran Church, and we will share and discuss our creations and other items. The discussion topics will be Malachite, as the capping material and Peridot, as the faceting material. It was just a coincidence that we chose green material for St Patrick's Day but that is cool! All Littleton members and guests are welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend and not on our email list, send me an email at jkleber@att.net for any last minute updates.

Grab Bag News Update

If anyone has any grab bag stuff; either rocks, bagged specimens, or left-over supplies, bring them to the March club meeting. I'll also have specimens anyone can pick up to bag over this winter.

John Kleber
The Bag Beggar



Calendar of Coming Earth Science Events!

Here is a list of upcoming earth science-related events and activities for coming months.

Saturday, March 21, Walk with a Geologist at Dinosaur Ridge. Join a professional geologist for a tour of Dinosaur Ridge – a 2½-hour walk and discussion of the geology and changes of the Denver area through time. <https://dinoridge.org>

Tuesday, March 24 is an EdTalk by Ed Raines about the mining history of Eastern Clear Creek County (Idaho Springs, Freeland, Lamartine, & Chicago Creek), sponsored by the Mines Museum. Talk is 12:30-1:30 pm in GRL201, across from the museum entrance on the Mines campus. <https://www.mines.edu/geologymuseum/events/>

Tuesday, March 31 is a second EdTalk by Ed Raines, this time about the mining history of Western Clear Creek County (Silver, Lawson, Georgetown, Silver Plume, & East Argentine), sponsored by the Mines Museum. Talk is 12:30-1:30 pm in GRL201, across from the museum entrance on the Mines campus. <https://www.mines.edu/geology-museum/events/>

Thursday, April 2 is a Denver Museum of Nature & Science Earth Sciences Colloquium talk by Blair Schoene (Princeton University), Dating the K-Pg Eruptions That Made Life Miserable for Dinosaurs. 3 pm. In the third-floor community room. No museum admission required.

Friday-Sunday, April 10-12, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show, Crown Plaza Hotel - Convention Center, 15500 E 40th Ave., Denver, Colorado, 10-6 Fri. & Sat., 10-5 Sun., free parking & admission. To the right or <https://www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com/colorado-mineraland-fossil-shows-2020.html>

Saturday, April 11, the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge is sponsoring Garden Park Field Trip Visit Canon City's Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center and historic quarries. Open to the public. FODR members– \$79, non-members–\$89. <https://dinoridge.org/gardenparkfield-trip/>

Peter J. Modreski

Thank you once again to Pete Modreski for sending us all the upcoming science events!

Geology Corner

Agates - Rich in Fiber!



Sometimes chalcedony including agate is described as a fine-grained quartz, but the real case isn't quite this simple. There are lots of clues for this. Arrowheads and other stone tools are harder and more durable when made from chalcedony rather than coarse quartz. On the other hand, coarse quartz is better to grind up as a concrete additive than chalcedony. The chalcedony causes various chemical reactions in the concrete which can fail, while quartz is unreactive. With the advance of modern analytical tools, the reasons for these differences can finally be investigated.

Chalcedony has a microscopically fibrous structure, made of evenly spaced silica rods. More surprising is the fact that the fibers show a regularly alternating pattern of elongation -some parts being "length fast" and some parts "length slow". This means that in part of a particular fiber, light travels faster parallel to the long axis of the fiber. In other parts of the same fiber, the light travels slower parallel to the fiber length. This further implies that the silicon and oxygen atoms for some reason regularly twist or change in orientation as each fiber grew. Mineralogists are still trying to figure out why the fibers twist and what different forms of silica are intertwined with each other.

It is these inter-grown fibers that gives chalcedony its great strength and durability. The peculiar structure also gives chalcedony its unexpected chemical reactivity in concrete.

One theory is for the growth of the fibers is being developed by two researchers (Yifeng Wang and Enrique Merino) at Indiana University. They envision agate as developing as fingers of silica growing progressively outward into a cavity filled with siliceous "media". They do not specify as to whether this "media" is a solution or a gel. The first step is the formation of a coating of silica around the cavity. The coating (this being the real world) won't be completely smooth. In some places, the coating will bulge out slightly into the "media". It is these bulges which will grow rapidly outward into the solution to form the fibers. Impurities in the solution (such as iron or copper) will slow the growth briefly until these impurities precipitate as their own minerals on top of or between the silica fibers. Once the impurity's concentration is briefly reduced in this manner, silica growth will proceed again. Withdrawal of silica makes the solution richer in impurities, causing them to form another layer. This rhythmic precipitation is repeated many times as the agate grows. These layers of impurities show up as the color banding that characterize agates.

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

References:

Heaney, Peter J., D. Verlen and J. Post, 1994, "Structural disparities between chalcedony and macrocrystalline quartz", *American Mineralogist*, vol. 79, p. 452-460.

Wang, Yifeng and Enrique Merino, 1995, "Origin of Fibrosity and Banding in Agates from Flood Basalts", *American Journal of Science*, vol. 295, p. 49-77.

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report March 2020

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show is September 18 - 20, 2020 and the theme is Fluorite. The show venue is the usual Denver Mart, 451 E. 58th Avenue. The Show Chair is George Daggett, who can be reached at geoddaggett@hotmail.com or 303-453-9651. George is always open to talking with club members regarding the show. Linda Burns has accepted the position of Show Chair Elect. Linda is a member of the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild and can be reached at 303-263-0391 or burns.henley@gmail.com.

So now that you know the details about the 2020 show, here are some facts you may not know about the show. The 2020 show will be the 53rd Denver show. The Denver show is owned by the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and is the Council's primary program. The Council was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1985 and is the successor to the Denver Council of Gem and Mineral Societies, Inc., which was incorporated in 1971. The Council is made up of the eight local clubs: Colorado Mineral Society, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, Flatirons Mineral Club, Friends of Mineralogy - Colorado Chapter, Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society, North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club, Inc., and Western Interior Paleontological Society. Each of these clubs appoints a Trustee to represent their club. The Council elects the usual officers - President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer- who along with the Trustees conduct the business of the Council. The Council was formed to promote exhibition, exploration and education in the earth sciences; for the discovery, development, and preservation of minerals and mineral deposits, and for the advancement, encouragement, and utilization of the principles of art and craftsmanship as applied to gems and minerals. Even though fossils are not mentioned specifically in the Council's mission statement, the Council fully supports the paleontological community and its activities as evidenced by grants that have been made for many paleontological projects. The Council has made approximately \$500,000 in grants to other non-profits in support of its mission statement over the years. That is an impressive history and it all results from the Denver Gem & Mineral Show. The Council also supports the local eight clubs with an annual grant of \$250 based on Trustee attendance at the quarterly council meetings.

For additional information, the Council published *The Denver Gem & Mineral Show - A Retrospective*, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the show. A copy should be available from your club. In addition, the Council publishes an annual report of the show and Council, which includes pertinent details about each show such as show theme, attendance, competition winners, exhibits, and grants made. The annual reports began in 1996 and many are still available.

So now you know! And now you know why it is so important that club members likewise support the show by volunteering. There are so many easy ways to support the show. Talk to your friends and fellow hobbyists. Find out more about the show and ways to help with the show. It is fun, interesting and educational. It will help you learn more about gems, minerals, and fossils. And after all, that is a goal for all of us, isn't it?

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Show Secretary

Field Trip News

Friday, May 1 - Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Joint Field Trip to the Thomas Range (near Delta, Utah) with RAMS Club and Lake George Club. Trip Leaders: Chris Rayburn (RAMS); Dave Alexander (Lake George G&MC); and Jim Hooten (LGMC).

The LGMC will be joining 2 other Clubs on a 3-day dig in western Utah. The schedule calls for collecting at **Searle Canyon Mine, the Solar Wind Mine, and the Maynard Mine**. The order for collecting at the 3 mines is to be determined later. Travel to the area will be on Friday, May 1st; and travel back to Denver will be on Tuesday, May 5th.

Searle Canyon will allow a unique opportunity to collect a very rare and valuable gemstone known as **Red Beryl** (also referred to as red emerald). Red Beryl is much rarer than diamonds. The working mine is world famous and you will have a chance to find your own gems—**Red Beryl, Topaz, Bixbyite, Amethyst and more**.

The **Solar Wind Mine** will provide an opportunity to collect **Bixbyite, Pink Topaz, Pseudobrookite, Amethyst and more**. As with all of the mines, you get to keep everything you find, at no extra charge—only the standard dig fee. You dig and screen your own rock. You should bring your own tools for all 3 locations (Screens, Rock Hammers, Chisels and Screwdrivers).

The **Maynard Mine** will allow you to dig for world class **Topaz** specimens, unmatched for their clarity and color (“root beer”). The Maynard is also the type locality for Bixbyite and Red Beryl, found in the 1800’s by Maynard Bixby, for which the Mine, and the mineral, are named.

The claim owners have set up a private payment portal for all participants. This will provide information on the 3 claims, costs, and payment options. Here is the link: <https://gem.tours/product/coloradodig/>

The required password is denver (all lower case).

You can pay with PayPal, credit card, check, or cash. You can pay ahead using the above link, or you can pay “on-site” (but only by using either cash or check, cash preferred). If you pay in advance and have a last-minute conflict that keeps you from attending, the claim owners allow cancellation with full refund within 72 hours of the trip. Inside of 72 hours they will work with you to find a later date for a visit.

COST: If you participate in collecting at all 3 localities, the cost is expected to be \$40 per claim per person, or \$120 per person for all 3 claims).

The primary trip leader organizing this adventure is **Chris Rayburn (RAMS)**. Chris has set a **RSVP DATE of APRIL 17** by which time he would like all interested individuals to contact either him directly, or you can contact the representatives from the other participating Clubs. These contact emails are:

Chris Rayburn (RAMS): crayburn319@gmail.com

Dave Alexander (Lake George): dave@davealex.com

Jim Hooten (LGMC): jahooten@msn.com

This date of 4/17 was set by Chris to provide the claim owners (and the organizers of the trip) with plenty of advance notice on the number of participants. From the owner’s perspective, people are welcome to join right up until the date of the trip. It is best, however, if those who are interested in attending would please contact one of the trip leaders with your name and the number of participants in your group prior to 4/17/2020.

Finally, the owners of the claims will be sending Chris information on lodging options, including good camping sites near the three collecting areas, as well as motels in and around Delta, UT. As soon as Chris receives this information, it will be made available to those who have RSVP’d. It will be easier to share lodging information with confirmed participants, rather than trying to incorporate it into the initial communications at this time.

Official MEETING TIME AND PLACE will also be made known to confirmed participants.

Hope you can make it. Sounds like a FUN ADVENTURE!

More Field Trip News

Littleton Gem & Mineral Club Members Who Expressed Interest in the New Mexico Field Trip to the Blanchard Mine:

After being left out of a trip to the Blanchard Mine in Bingham, NM last year, we were hopeful that there would be another chance to participate in this trip this year. The mine owner, Ray DeMark, initially set aside the second weekend in May for the LGMC (Saturday, May 9, 2020).

We have just received word from Ray that, for numerous reasons, he is having to cut back this year on the field trips he is offering to all Clubs, and he is only able to schedule one (1) trip in May, for this year, to the Blanchard Mine. That trip is scheduled for the 3rd weekend of May, or SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020. Another local Club, CMS, is going to go on that date, and the offer is also extended to anyone in the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club. That leaves us with the same dilemma as last year, namely that there is a conflict on that date with our Annual Founder's Day Meeting, which features the upcoming field trips scheduled for our Club, sign-up sheets, maps, and mineral examples for those trips.

So, for those who are really looking forward to going on the Blanchard Mine Trip, you can still go, but you will have to miss attending our LGMC Founder's Day Meeting. You can always read about our LGMC upcoming field trips in our Newsletter, and call or e-mail your wish to attend any of those trips.

So, keeping in mind the new Blanchard Mine date of Saturday, May 16, 2020, for those still going, here is a repeat of the information from last year regarding the logistics for this trip.

The Blanchard Mine provides collecting both underground and on the surface. Underground access is limited to those age 12 and older. Note – there is a tiny hole that provides access in and out of the mine, and you have to climb down a ladder once inside. Possible minerals to collect include fluorite, barite, galena, linarite, anglesite, chrysocolla and other minerals.

Here is a tentative schedule for the Blanchard Mine Trip:

- **Friday, May 15**, drive from Denver to Socorro, NM, approximately 7 +/- hours. Best option is to stay at a local motel in Socorro for that night.
- **Saturday, May 16**, drive 30 minutes east of Socorro and meet at the Blanchard Rock Shop (Bingham, NM), to get organized and sign the waivers. Meeting time is 9:30 a.m.
- Ray DeMark arrives promptly at 10:00 a.m. and people will leave immediately for the mine.
- If you arrive late and have not notified the trip leader, you will not be able to find your way to the mine!
- It's about 30 minutes to his Mine which includes a couple of stops to view some of the other mines. Hopefully will be collecting before 12:00 noon.
- Any vehicle can make it to the base of the mountain where the mine and camping area is. The final mile up the mountain requires 4X4 drive. We will consolidate vehicles at this point so everyone has a ride up.
- Collect underground 3 hours +/- . Those not going underground can collect on surface.
- Exit Mine and either camp out near Mine (and surface collect until dark), or drive 1 hour back to Socorro for motel.
- **Sunday, May 17**---option to drive back to Denver, or stay and surface collect at Blanchard Mine for half a day (either after breaking camp, or returning from motel in Socorro).
- After surface collecting for partial day, drive back to Denver (remember, it's about 7-8 hours back to Denver).

The LGMC representative who will be the Trip Leader for our Club is Randy Kokkinen, 720-922-1096, rkokkinen@comcast.net.

Unlike last year, currently there is no plan for an additional field trip to go to the **Kelly and/or Nit Graphic Mines** located west of Socorro, to surface collect and visit local rock shops. If anyone would like to organize this extra trip, you are welcomed to volunteer. For those interested, this could best be done on Friday, May 15, which would mean driving to Socorro on Thursday, May 14, and meeting Friday morning. The group would then return to Socorro Friday afternoon/evening to spend the night, prior to going to the Blanchard Mine the following Saturday morning. Notify Randy if you would go on this added trip.

Required items for the Blanchard Mine underground trip include hard hat, head lamp, eye protection, sturdy work boots (suggested steel-toed). Recommended digging tools include: crack hammer, chisels, crow bars, and other tools for rock wall mining. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and snacks or more substantial items to eat.

These, and other details can all be finalized prior to the May 16 weekend. **For now, just let Randy Kokkinen know if you are going to participate on Saturday, May 16, 2020.**

This year, there are **NO LIMITS** on the number of participants. As many can go as wish to.

Again, more detailed information will be forthcoming as the May 16th weekend approaches.

Club Announcements

Welcome new members! Gary and Karen Holbrook, Carl Stoker, Michael Slotnick and Sophia Overstreet.



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.

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.

Club Membership Dues

The annual membership dues are \$20.00 per family or individual per year and are due in January each year. **Ian Duncanson** will have a table setup at the monthly meeting to renew membership dues or you can mail them in to LGMC P.O. Box 283, Littleton, CO 80123

LGMC dues for 2020

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

Name(s) _____

Dues payment (\$20) _____ **Renewal**

Email address: _____



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www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com

Colorado Mineral & Fossil Spring Show




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- Free Gold Panning Lessons!
- \$5 Dinosaur Dig!
- Mineral Drawings!
- Free Rock Dig!
- \$100 Show Dealer Voucher Givaways

Crowne Plaza, DIA Hotel and Convention Center, 15500 E 40th Ave Denver, CO 80239

FAMILY FUN
ADMISSION IS FREE
PARKING IS FREE

April 10-12, 2020

Minerals, Fossils, Meteorites, Gems, Jewelry & More!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter! ~Tammy

☞ 2020 Board of Trustees ☞

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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 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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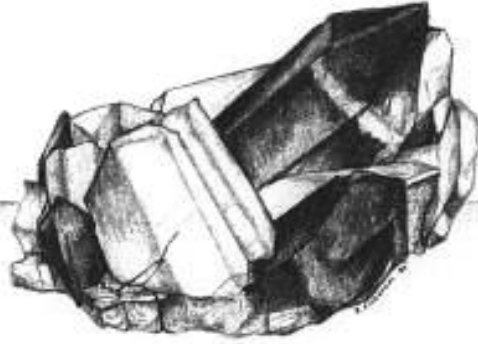
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