

Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

August 2020 Highlites Newsletter.



August Program: **Meeting Cancelled**

President's Message

August 2020

Hope that everyone is finding ways to enjoy their summer and have some fun this Summer. We've had some nice turnouts and good results on our field trips this year. I saw some great finds on the trips I attended and even had a few myself. Granted, our opportunities have been limited this year, but it's been nice to see members having fun in the mountains and enjoying each other's company.

We're getting ourselves organized for the Fall and have a few updates:

- The church still is not open for us to hold our General Meetings, but we are hoping to hold Zoom meetings starting in September. Our Program Chair, Brittany MacRostie, is working on getting speakers lined up for the Fall. We'll keep you posted on our plans.
- John Kleber continues hosting Cabbers & Factors via Zoom meetings while we are social distancing. Contact John if you'd like to join the monthly meeting.
- Gus Hansen has created a Members Only section on our website to sign-up for field trips, classes and accessing our newsletters. Be sure to register and set up your account.
- The Board continues to work on the annual Silent and Verbal Auction that we plan to hold in October. Lynette Warren has been exploring alternatives in the event we can't have our auction at Heritage United Methodist Church.
- As always, we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and adjust our plans as the situation evolves.

In the meantime, I hope that you take some time to enjoy these long, summer days and fresh air while we can.

Regards,

Ron Wankner

President LGMC

Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

Cancelled **LGMC August Meeting,**

Cancelled **LGMC Picnic**

August 18th **Faceters and Cabbers** - The Faceters and Cabbers group has been meeting with Zoom for our regular monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday evening, August 18th, at 7:30pm. We will not be meeting in person. If you would like to join our group, and are not on our email list, contact me at jkleber@att.net for the meeting information.

Grab Bag News

August Grab Bag News

As previously mentioned in the newsletter, we will not be having a Grab Bag Sewing Party this year. If you would like to sew some bags while stuck at home, contact Lynette Warren at flywithle123@comcast.net or 303-956-4634 if you need any information on that. We would welcome any that you can make during our confinement.



If you have any specimens at home to donate for grab bags, let me know and I can arrange to pick them up. I can also arrange for supplies if you need any. Contact John Kleber at jkleber@att.net or 303-570-8164 to make arrangements.

The Bag Party Lady and the Bag Begger
Lynette Warren and John Kleber

Geology Corner

Rockhounding Colorado: Saguache / Houselog Creek Geodes! By Caelen Burand



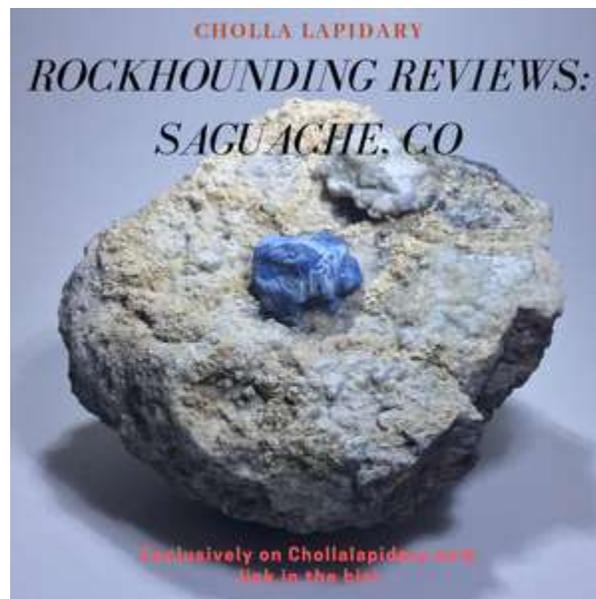
A scenic 40-minute drive southwest of Saguache reveals a treasure trove of agate and chalcedony for any collector! Bring your digging tools and 5-gallon buckets for this rewarding locality!

Summarized Geology: Thundereggs, like those found at this site, are the result of very felsic fluids entering air pockets in rhyolitic or basaltic lava flows while in a plastic state. The fluid enters these air pockets and as the surrounding lava cools into a solid, the interior fluids become agate and chalcedony! The Rio Grande thundereggs formed within the massive rhyolitic lava flows during the Oligocene epoch. During this time south-central Colorado was a lake of lava, the result of various volcanic

eruptions, primarily those of the San Juan caldera where Creede now rests. This is relevant to your rockhounding pursuits because these flows and subsequent thunderegg deposits stretch for hundreds of miles. Reports of Rio Grande thundereggs range from Twin Mountains near Del Norte to Saguache, hundreds of square miles. Thus, *do not* search exclusively in one area, there are literally hundreds of square miles where these thundereggs are located. Below in the section titled "The Maps" we include the USGS geologic survey map to show the expansive nature of the deposits as well as to help inform your search.

Our Finds:

While rockhounding we each found a 5-gallon bucket of incredible Rio Grande thundereggs! They display beautiful chalcedony and



stunning agate within, ranging from clear to dark blue. The agate had a variety of formations, we found moss agate and waterline agate. The chalcedony came in interesting stalactitic formations and as the classic "bubbly" formations. There is no clear way to determine the inner contents of a whole geode so we advise avoiding cracking the geodes to avoid shattering the fragile interiors. The waterline agate we found displayed beautiful white and black patterns hosted in a light blue-grey agate and the moss agate came in primarily white in the same light blue-grey agate.

Rockhounding: Location, Tools

As previously highlighted, the rockhounding area for finding Rio Grande thundereggs is very expansive. Accessing this area may seem a drawback, but the beauty of the long drive only adds to this site's wonderfulness. The roads are not treacherous and are generally well maintained.

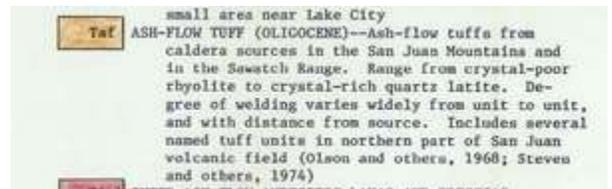
We mark a second location, twin mountains. We DID NOT rockhound there. We have only heard its reputation. It is in the same geologic formation and is known for parallel thundereggs, we encourage you to explore it as well as other areas you believe would be fruitful. They likely will reveal beautiful treasures!

When rockhounding this area it is critical to avoid simply searching the surface for rocks. The area we highlight is very well known and searching the surface will only reveal small fragments of the thundereggs. Digging is necessary to find large quantities of whole geodes. Luckily, the ground is soft and we were able to dig several feet in a few hours and found many geodes in this endeavor! We highly recommend searching the surface until you find a location with a high concentration of fractured thundereggs. After finding this location we recommend digging to find whole thundereggs. It is useful to bring shovels, chisels, and picks to maximize your time collecting.

The Maps:

The drive from the site south towards Del Norte is beautiful and an additional perk of the site. On google maps is the twin mountain location previously mentioned. We DID NOT rockhound here but the site is famous for parallel thundereggs and is worth taking a look at.

We found that the elevation of 9400' was optimal for finding thundereggs. The Taf layer that the thundereggs is found in is reported as (see picture right): We recommend searching for thundereggs anywhere in the Taf area near 9400'.



This is the link to the USGS maps of the area. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/i2799/>

Help Requested to Store Club Files

I am asking any LGMC Member for a favor, to help me and to help the Club. I have been storing 5-6 small to large boxes with Club historical documents (old newsletters, field trip info, rosters, Claim info, yearly files, Board Meeting Minutes, etc, etc). The time has come that I need to clean out these items, and I am asking any Club Member to volunteer to use some garage space, storage shed space, basement space, or any other space you might have, to store these boxes. Altogether, it doesn't take up all that much space, but I need to do some purging. Thanks for considering my request. You can contact me anytime, with any questions, or to offer your assistance.

Many thanks,
Jim Hooten
303-548-7412 (mobile)
303-770-7177 (home)
jahooten@msn.com

Field Trip Pictures!

Topaz Mountain Field Trip, pictures by Lynette Warren





What are you working on?

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

Jacobstammy80@gmail.com

New Field Trip Added

Sat., September 12, LGMC Honey Bee/Queen Bee Club Claim. NO LIMIT to participation number. Trip leader Jim Hooten (303-548-7412). Amazonite, smoky quartz, fluorite, etc. 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 thru 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. We will continue to practice social distancing and wearing face masks while in close proximity to each other. Once the group has spread out over the collecting area, follow these guidelines at your discretion. Continue to **BE SMART**.

Dist = 60-70 mi. 4WD = Opt Kids = OK Tools = D

Don't forget to go to Club website and sign up online, list the number of people attending, and print out the waiver and liability forms.

Earth Science Coming Events

Aug. 29, Dinosaur Ridge Boy Scout Day - Update

Due to the coronavirus, the 2020 Boy Scout Day at Dinosaur Ridge has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 29th. The event will be from 9 am - 3 pm at the Visitors Center, which is located at 16831 W. Alameda Pkwy in Morrison, just east of the Hogback.

Colorado Scientific Society Fall Schedule

Whether these meetings will be virtual or in-person is dependent our nation's progress containing the COVID-19 epidemic. See <https://coloscisoc.org/> for details and updates.

Symposium on Water and Energy in Colorado: Cosponsored by the Colorado Scientific Society, Center of the American West, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. This will be a **virtual meeting(s)**, over several days. Please see the CSS website for details once the dates and schedule are decided upon.

Sep. 10, CSS Past Presidents' Dinner: Rise of the Mammals: Exceptional Continental Record of Biotic Recovery after the Cretaceous–Paleogene Mass Extinction Tyler Lyson and Ian Miller, Denver Museum of Nature and Science

The CSS Past Presidents' Dinner is rescheduled for September 10, 2020 at the Mount Vernon Canyon Club.

LGMC Summary Minutes - Board Meeting, 6/22/2020 by Zoom video conference

Called to order at 7:03 pm by Pres. Ron Wankner.

In Attendance: Tammy Jacobs, Ron Wankner, Larry Havens, Ian Duncanson, Lynette Warren, Lesley Sebol, Travis Leach.

Minutes were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: Lesley e-mailed the treasurer's report and will continue to do so as long as we can meet only by video conference. Due to the lack of activity, very little transpired to impact the numbers in the report. Only 2 new member dues were deposited, and no checks were written. The fee for the picnic site will be carried over to 2021.

Motion to accept: Larry Second: Ron Wankner Motion passed.

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

Membership: Ian has purged the non-paying members from the membership list and will send updated roster to Tammy for sending *Highlites*. Two new members were approved: David Wilson and Corey and Maggie Miller.

Field Trips: The member section of the club website now has a sign-up process for field trip attendance. Some refinements to the process, such as confirmation that applicants for a spot for a trip have qualified. Also, it would help if attendees were to print and fill out waiver forms and bring them to the trip leader rather than waiting to fill them out on the trip site. It was suggested that it would lighten Jim Hooten's load if field trip leaders would contact the people who applied to confirm their attendance and/or notify alternates, etc.

Programs: Ron plans to contact Tammy in the coming week to discuss fall programs.

Facebook: no report.

Faceters/Cabbers: The meeting agenda had a bulleted item that read "Good experience having Zoom meetings." I have check marked that item. Regrettably, I don't remember if that meant that John Kleber has had good experiences with "Z"

or what. We should also keep advertising in the *Highlites* to encourage new members for the craft group.

Mineral Study Group: Nothing scheduled for the rest of the year.

Highlites: As reminder from the May minutes, note the following: Tammy would like to include more Colorado mineral reports and locations available for collecting. Nicole suggested that one could feature a member and their collecting photos.

Website: Ron praised Gus for having set up the sign-up process for field trips. Members should be encouraged to send Gus and Tammy photos of collecting activities, etc.

New Business. Picnic – has been cancelled; our site fee will be carried over, and the site will be reserved for the same weekend.

Open Floor: Alternatives to our live auction were discussed by Lynette Warren.

On-line, E Bay style auctions were considered.

Nicole Bolger explained an option involving a site on which some number of items would be pictured and a two-week period for bidding would ensue. It was agreed that should we want to try some kind of remote auction we should start small. The web site "32auctions.com" features a 4-step process for creating your silent auction, allowing up to 1000 items.

Would we have to establish a PayPal account or use Stripe?

More to come I'm sure. Next Board Meeting: 8/17/2020 – Zoom conference. Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Havens, Secretary

Club Announcements

Welcome to Our New Members:

Clare and Melia Sinacori

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.



Like us on FaceBook

LIKE and FOLLOW us @LittletonGemAndMineralClub

LGMC Website

Our website has been updated!

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://littletongemandmineralclub.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 2020 dues!

Thanks,
Gus

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter! ~Tammy

☞ 2020 Board of Trustees ☞

President	<i>Ron Wankner</i>	303-618-5549
Vice President and Membership Chairman	<i>Ian Duncanson</i>	303-798-9174
Secretary	<i>Larry Havens</i>	303-757-6577
Treasurer	<i>Lesley Sebol</i>	720-999-1372
President elect	<i>Ron Wankner</i>	303-618-5549
Program Chairman	<i>Brittany MacRostie</i>	630-699-2415
Field Trip Chairman	<i>Jim Hooten</i>	303-770-7177
Highlites Newsletter Editor	<i>Tammy Jacobs</i>	303-680-8830
Trustee (Year of 2019 as past President)	<i>Travis Leach</i>	303-887-9787
Trustee (2-year term 2019 & 2020)	<i>Lynette Warren</i>	303-956-4634
Trustee (2-year term 2018 & 2020)	<i>Charlie Wall</i>	303-933-0368

☞ Chairpersons & Appointed Officers ☞

Sunshine Chairperson	<i>Lynette Warren</i>	303-956-4634
Refreshments	<i>Anne Jenkins</i>	303-730-7696
Librarian	<i>Mary Davis</i>	303-680-5112
Historian	<i>Open</i>	
Facebook Editor	<i>Nicole Bolger</i>	720 344-5280
Hospitality	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177
Grab Bags	<i>John Kleber</i>	720-851-8510
Web Administrator	<i>Gus Hansen</i>	480-489-3978
Show Committee Representative	<i>Lynette Warren</i>	303-956-4634
RMFMS & AFMS Representative	<i>Larry Havens</i>	303-757-6577
Denver Council Representative	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177
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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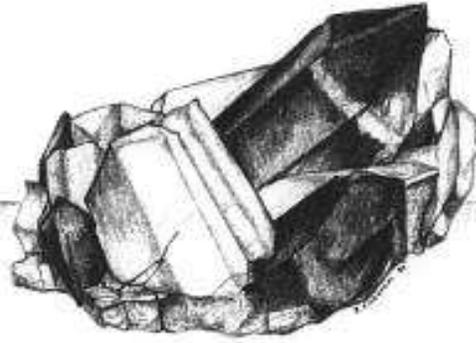
****The deadline for submissions is the 1st Friday of each month.** Please send your material by email to jacobstammy80@gmail.com.

Advertising Rates: \$50 / Full Page. \$30 / Half Page. \$20 / Quarter Page.



HighLites

LITTLETON GEM & MINERAL CLUB



HARRIS PARK AMAZONITE & SMOKY QUARTZ

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

