

Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

January 2021 Highlites Newsletter.

Meeting to be announced



President's Message

January 2021

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a fun and festive holiday. My family enjoyed a completely different holiday....it was very peaceful, calm, and relaxing. We set a new standard for the holidays.

We're working on ideas for this month's meeting. The goal is to make our zoom meetings more interactive. We'll send out a separate email soon on the format and topic. If you have ideas for future meetings, let us know. We're open to ideas that keep us connected and are fun.

Don't forget that we're having a "Half- Price Special" on membership dues for 2021. Dues for 2020 active members is only \$10! Please send dues to:

Littleton Gem & Mineral Club
PO Box 283
Littleton, CO 80160.

Wishing everyone a fresh start to the new year.

Ron Wankner
President LGMC



Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

LGMC Meeting to be announced, if there is a meeting, emails will be sent to your inbox with a zoom link.

January 19th, 7:30pm Faceters and Cabbers - The Faceters and Cabbers group continues to use Zoom for our regular monthly meetings. Our first meeting of 2021 will be on Tuesday evening, January 19th, at 7:30pm. For January's discussion we decided to make it "cutter's choice" with any cabbing material and faceting material. We will continue not meeting in person for now. 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

January Grab Bag News

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 time of social distancing.

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 Beggar
Lynette Warren and John Kleber



Geology Corner

Epidote

Epidote is relatively common but attractive rock-forming mineral. The pleasant green mineral seen in unakite is epidote, as are the deep green prismatic crystals in the vugs in basalt in the mines of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The green color of basalts at Taylor's Falls, MN is due to abundant epidote.

Epidote is a hydrated calcium, iron, aluminum silicate and is relatively easy to identify. It is non-metallic, has a dark green to pistachio green color, and is harder than glass. It can be massive, or as drusy to radiating prismatic crystals. It is often found in veins and filling vugs. The green color is peculiar enough to be a good tip-off.



Epidote looks like green quartz, but is softer than quartz and does not have a cleavage. Epidote can resemble olivine; however, olivine is not found with quartz while epidote is often found with, and at times even embedded in, quartz.

Epidote was named by Rene Haüy, a mineralogist at the University of Natural History in Paris in the early 1800's. The name comes from the Greek "epi" for "over" plus "didonai" for "to give" which is supposed to translate roughly as "increase". This refers to Haüy's observation that some of the mineral's prism faces are longer than others. Haüy is justly famous for his pioneering work in crystallography, but the rational for the name epidote seems, as John Sinkankas put it "incomprehensible". A discredited synonym for epidote, pistacite, comes from the Greek for pistachio nut, a reference to the mineral's color.

Epidote forms from hydrothermal fluids or in rocks metamorphosed at fairly low temperatures and pressures. It forms with other green minerals such as chlorite, pumpellyite and actinolite. Thus, rocks subjected to low grades of metamorphism are often referred to as "greenstones" or "greenschists". (This is not to be confused with the gem "greenstone" which is a variety of pumpellyite. Adding to the confusion is the fact that the gem greenstone occurs in the rock greenstone.)

Epidote is extremely common in the Keweenaw volcanic rocks, which can be traced in a belt from Taylor's Fall, MN, across northern Wisconsin, and through the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan. These rocks were originally mostly basaltic lava flows. The epidote formed as the flow were buried in a thick volcanic pile, and essentially "cooked" by the heat of the overlying lavas.

Despite its hardness and deep color, epidote is not often used as a gem because the crystals rarely are clear or large enough to facet. Its most familiar lapidary use is as the material called "unakite" Unakite gets its name from the Unaka range of the Great Smoky Mountains. It refers to a particular type of metamorphosed granite in which



the feldspar is bright pink and has been partly replaced by green epidote. Light gray to white quartz is also present, giving a pleasing color contrast. Unakite is found throughout the Blue Ridge area of Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia. It can be found elsewhere. For example, metamorphosed granite similar to unakite occurs near Waupaca and Wausau, Wisconsin.

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

References:

Dietrich, R.V. and Skinner, B.J., 1979, Rock and Rock Minerals, New York, John Wiley and Sons Pub., 319 p.
Sinkankas, John, 1964, Mineralogy for Amateurs, New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 585 p.

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report

January 2021

The dates for the 2021 show are September 17 - 19 and the venue is the usual Denver Mart, 451 East 58th Avenue. The show theme is "Fabulous Fluorite". The Show Chair is Linda Burns, a member of the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild. Linda can be reached at 303-263-0391 or burns.henley@gmail.com. and is always open to your input regarding the show.

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show is sponsored and owned by the Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council but is planned and operated by the Show Committee, an august group of some 40 plus dedicated volunteers. The Show Committee meets monthly during the year, except for the months of December, February, and July. Currently, the meetings are conducted on Webex rather than in person. There are always personnel changes on the committee and a need for new members. After serving many years as the Trophies and Saturday Night Event Chair, Nick North has resigned from the committee since he may relocate to Texas. Thus, there is a need for new Trophies and Saturday Night Event Chairs. There is also a need for an Assistant Treasurer, a Tear Down Chair, and another Schools Assistant. The Schools Chair is converting to a more online approach for reaching out to local schools and home schools and consequently would appreciate assistance from someone more conversant in online communication. The Denver Gem & Mineral Show is the most exciting event in our local area for the gem, mineral, and fossil hobbies. So, since we have all be mostly cooped up during 2020, why not take on some new adventure and spread your wings to immerse yourself in these incredible hobbies that we all enjoy so much. **JOIN THE SHOW COMMITTEE!!** You will be glad you did! You will help with the show, meet new people who love the hobbies as you do, and benefit yourself as well as the local earth science community. When you join the committee, there are people who will help you orient yourself and get started in whichever area you have selected to work. We don't expect you to do that on your own. There are also Operation Procedures to assist in learning show operations. So please think about it. Get involved! The show needs YOU! You can take the first step by contacting Show Chair Linda Burns or your club representative to the committee. The representatives are as follows:

Colorado Mineral Society - Amber Brenzikofer 720-480-5234 or amberbrenzikofer@gmail.com;
Flatirons Mineral Club - Gerry Naugle 303-591-2830 or gnaugle@earthlink.net;
Friends of Mineralogy - Larry Havens 303-757-6577 (Cell 720-401-6543) or lwrnchavens@comcast.net;
Denver Gem & Mineral Guild - Kathy Honda 303-315-7749 or katherine.honda@ucdenver.edu;
Littleton Gem & Mineral Club - Lynette Warren 303-956-4634 or flywithle123@comcast.net;
North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. - Ron Knoshaug 303-423-2923 or jrknoshaug@comcast.net;
Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society - Judy Knoshaug 303-423-2923 or jrknoshaug@comcast.net;
Western Interior Paleontological Society - Nancy Kimber 303-470-6491 (Cell 303-807-8919)
or nkk9960@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to see you at a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Show Secretary

LGMC Summary Minutes - Board Meeting, 11/23/20 by Zoom video conference

Called to order at 7:07 pm by Pres. Ron Wankner.

In Attendance: Ron Wankner, Larry Havens, Ian Duncanson, Lynette Warren, Lesley Sebol, Jim Hooten, Charlie Wall, and Brittany MacRostie.

Secretary's Report: In Havens' absence from the last two meetings, president's notes stand for official minutes and were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: In lieu of a hard copy report, Lesley reported that she paid dues for RMFMS/AFMS. For the current period there were no deposits or expenses, and only interest accrued to our accounts.

Motion to accept: Hooten Second: Warren Motion passed.

Since the following proposal from Ron has to do with dues, it is included here: Ron has decided to have Tammy Jacobs send out a notice that we are having a Black Friday sale for dues to current members only – to wit, current members may renew their membership with ½ price dues (\$10 rather than \$20) for 2021, providing they re-up by the end of the year. The board expressed approval and adopted Ron's proposal waiving a formal vote.

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

Membership: Ian will do an end of the year report. One new membership was approved: Randy Carlson, a resident of Texas, and a registered gemologist. Has been active by zoom in the Faceters/cabochon group.

Field Trips: Jim Hooten reported that despite covid-19, eight trips were successfully conducted producing fairly good success for attendees. Jim thanked Tammy Jacobs for her pictorial summary of the trips in the *Highlites*. Ron noted that attendees were respectful of the covid-19 protocols.

Programs: Ron discussed the need for a social club to remain relevant in the face of barriers such as the pandemic. Solutions found under such a duress may very well carry over and be successful once a semblance of normal is achieved.

Brittany MacRostie commented on the fall meetings that she found it problematic trying to round up highly qualified specialists who are used to large audiences when we can only generate maybe 15 people on zoom. She went on to suggest that we need interactive options to engage the members. One such idea would be to have a gift exchange for the holidays. Members would be contacted by email asking if they wanted to participate to please respond in the affirmative, and Brittany would use a program to randomly match participants. Brittany explored the topic of opening up our zoom programs to a wider audience. Discussion zeroed in on notifying the other clubs through the show committee conduit, Judy Knoshaug who has all the newsletter editors contacts. Ron would like to open it up to everyone, advertising the programs on our website.

Ron wanted to start off the year with more interactive programs and made several suggestions. Brittany suggested sending out a holiday ecard. She was encouraged to do so.

"Care Packages" Needs to have a message along with the goodies (rocks and whatever). Ron identified about 25 members who joined in the last year who could be gifted. Jim could supply some specimens; more could be sourced from other places. A small group could gather to put packages together. Jim, Lynette, Charlie, Ian *et. al.* volunteered to help. This proposal rose out of concern that new members were missing out on a great deal of interaction with others. Ian noted that the club owns the DVDs of the major Agate symposium held in Wisconsin. Ian wanted to know if we could play those as a program on line. Depends on whether discs are copy protected. Lesley mentioned a game playing activity she experienced, and reported she felt better afterward despite the current conditions. Brittany suggested a mineral trivial activity.

Facebook: no report.

Faceters/Cabbers: Going well.

Mineral Study Group: currently inactive

Highlites: Tammy and family are coping with COVID-19 infections and resultant isolation - no report.

Website: Need to pay website fees.

Old Business: Update on potential auction and survey results. (Discussion on this issue began at the 1 hour, 10-minute point of the meeting). Ron reported that the responses to Brittany's survey asking who would be interested in an on-line auction indicated a 70% favorable vote.

Lynette had sent to the board a several page document reviewing elements of her research into auction sites that in turn produced a set of questions she included in this document. This document is entered into the permanent records as an addendum to the minutes for 11/23/2020.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to an in-depth discussion of all the points and questions Lynette had prepared for the board.

Here are some of the particulars and generalizations that were reached regarding the auction:

- Members only
- Conducted on the members section of the website
- Payment by check or cash
- Probably limited to 30 items up for auction
- Auction to run for 1 week, Friday to Friday.
- Preferred pickup of won items, shipping if necessary (postage to be paid by winner)
- No date set yet for auction (March or sooner depending on ease of preparation)
 - Start with most simple, streamlined and affordable model
 - Evaluate degree of success for first try, and . . .
 - If successful, consider a more ambitious auction (more items, open to other clubs, etc.)

Next Board Meeting: Friday 1/8/2020 – Zoom conference.

Meeting adjourned 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Havens, Secretary

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 or 303-798-9174.

Club Vests Show your club support **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.

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!

Its Dues Time Again!

2021 Membership Dues Slashed!!!

We're celebrating the end of 2020 and the arrival of 2021 with the hope for a return to more "normal" activities. Imagine....awesome field trips, general meetings, parties, picnics, incredible rock & mineral displays and even getting free rocks!! We're sharing our enthusiasm with existing 2020 members by **slashing the 2021 annual dues to only \$10** (from \$20.00)!! Yes, you read that right, **ONLY \$10!!!!**.

Don't delay!!! Send your 2021 dues before the end of the year to:

LITTLETON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

P.O. BOX 283

LITTLETON, COLORADO 80160

Ian Duncanson

LGMC dues for 2021

Name(s) _____

Dues payment (\$10) _____ Renewal

Email address: _____

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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>	303-489-7525
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.

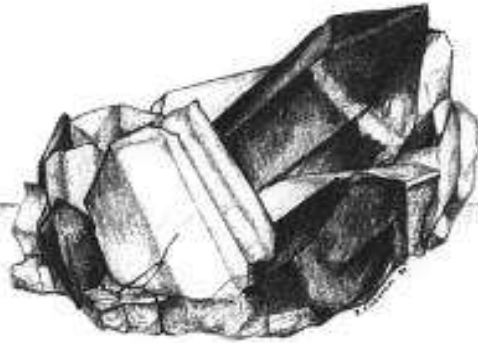
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HighLites

LITTLETON GEM & MINERAL CLUB



HARRIS PARK AMAZONITE & SMOKY QUARTZ

LITTLETON GEM & MINERAL CLUB
P.O. Box 283
Littleton, Colorado 80160

FIRST CLASS MAIL

