

# Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

## April 2021 Highlites Newsletter.



April (no meeting)

### Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm** **Faceters and Cabbers** - The Faceters and Cabbers group continues to use Zoom for our regular monthly meetings. Our next meeting will again be on the third Tuesday of the month, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm. For April's discussion we decided to again make it "cutter's choice" for any cabbing material and faceting material we want to share. We will continue meeting on Zoom for now. If you need suggestions on how to share your work in a Zoom session or if you would like to join our group, and are not on our email list, contact me at [jkleber@att.net](mailto:jkleber@att.net) for meeting information.

**April (no meeting)** **LGMC Meeting, no meeting this month, we will see you in May.**

### Grab Bag News



April Grab Bag News

If you would like to sew some bags while stuck at home, contact Lynette Warren at [flywithle123@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:jkleber@att.net) or 303-570-8164 to make arrangements.

The Bag Party Lady and the Bag Begger

Lynette Warren and John Kleber

### Denver Gem and Mineral Show News

The 2021 Show Is A Go!

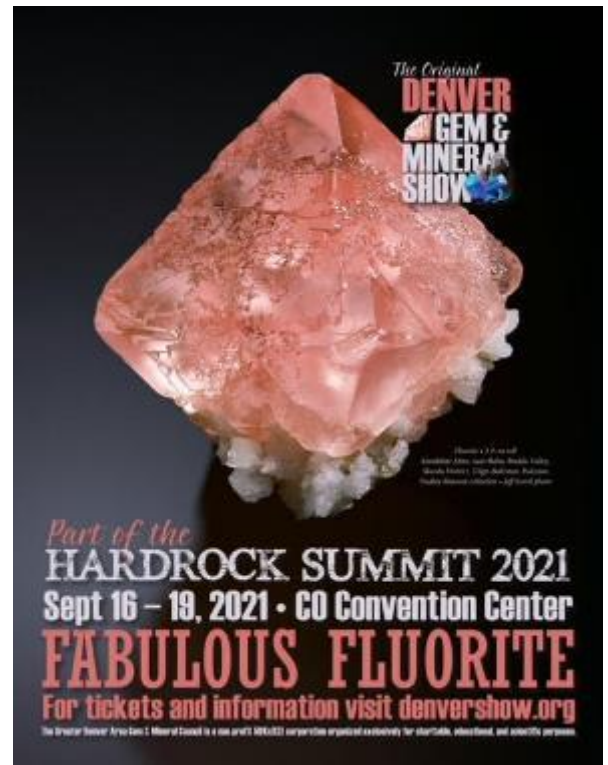
The Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 2021 Denver Gem & Mineral Show in conjunction with the Hardrock Summit, to be held at the Colorado Convention Center September 16-19, 2021.

The closing of the Denver Mart necessitated that we find a new venue. Numerous ideas were floated and organizers from a number of shows generously offered us space. The Council and Show Committee decided that the Hardrock Summit was the best fit, allowing the Original Denver Gem & Mineral Show to retain its identity and include some of the defining aspects of our show and organization.

The new high end Evolution show (Sept 16-19) as well AGTA Denver (Sept 18-21) will also fall under the Hardrock Summit umbrella, providing marketing potential that the Denver Gem & Mineral Show cannot offer as a stand-alone show.

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show will occupy the space on the upper, entry level of the Convention Center. The 2021 show will include club tables, speakers, special exhibits, and 40 to 70 dealers. Everything will be scaled back as a result of space limitations; we are nonetheless grateful for the opportunity to be part of the debut year of the Hardrock Summit, which is positioned to be Denver's premier gem, mineral, and fossil show.

We wanted to get the news to you as quickly as possible and have not had a chance to update our websites or social media, but in the coming weeks, we invite you to visit [hardrocksummit.com](http://hardrocksummit.com) and [denvershow.org](http://denvershow.org) for more details about this exciting new event, our organization, and plans for the future.



## 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 intergrown 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.

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## Field Trip News

### Trip 1

**COLLECTOR'S EDGE TOUR, Golden, CO, Friday, May, 7, 2021.** Have been able to schedule a repeat of a fascinating tour taken a few years ago by the Club. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that they're still exercising COVID caution and, for now, are limiting the number of participants to 16. Also, due to their busy weekends, the tour is planned for a week day, **Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**. That may not work for some members who are working that day. Due to this limited number of attendees, only current LGMC members are eligible to participate, and we ask that any young children (under age 10), not be brought along at this time. If there is a strong response, I may be able to schedule another tour later this Fall or next Winter.

**Meet at Collector's Edge main building (490 Orchard Street, Golden, CO). The tour will begin at 10:00 A.M. so be sure to arrive around 9:30 A.M.** There will be a short PowerPoint slide overview to bring everyone up-to-date on their mining progress at the Detroit City Portal of the Sweet Home Mine. They will then be able to show some of their latest mineral finds from around the world. We'll be able to see the beautiful minerals in their retail gallery, check out their huge wholesale warehouse, and visit their world-class mineral specimen preparation lab. The tour should conclude around 12 Noon.

Should be lots of fun, but, remember the limited number of participants. First come, first served for reservations.

**Call or text or email Jim Hooten (contacts below) if you are able to attend this tour. Please only sign up if you are sure you can attend.**

Jim Hooten / 303-548-7412 (cell) / 303-770-7177 (home) / [jahooten@msn.com](mailto:jahooten@msn.com)

### Trip 2

**WESTERN MINING MUSEUM**, located on the northern edge of Colorado Springs, just off of I-25, near the Air Force Academy (225 North Gate Blvd).

Please read over the below description, and, if interested, please respond to me **ASAP** (*email, text or phone*) so I can make arrangements with the Museum.

I have mentioned a date to them of **Saturday, May 22, 2021**, but I need to get back to them with a firm commitment and a number of participants, before that date if filled with other Groups.

Their hours are 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., and the tour will likely be sometime late morning (you can stay and visit further if so desired). They say the tour duration is approximately 1 hour, with an optional movie on Mining History that is possible, adding an additional 30 minutes. The tour is led by a very knowledgeable Docent.

**The tour covers** the mining history of Colorado and the American West, with a new exhibit specifically on the mining history of Colorado Springs. The general Tour features mining machinery, interactive exhibits, a model mining drift, a gold panning station, and more, all within the 12,200 square foot exhibit hall.

**There is a charge for attendance:**

**Adult (18 and older) -- \$11 per person (\$10 if 15 or more participants)**

**Seniors (65 and older) -- \$9 per person (\$8 if 15 or more participants)**

**Children (under age 18) -- \$8 per person (\$7 if 15 or more participants)**

More information is available on the [Western Mining Museum website](#), for those interested.

**Call or text or email Jim Hooten (contacts below) if you are able to attend this tour. Please only sign up if you are sure you can attend.**

Jim Hooten / 303-548-7412 (cell) / 303-770-7177 (home) / [jahooten@msn.com](mailto:jahooten@msn.com)

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## LGMC Summary Minutes

LGMC Summary Minutes - Board Meeting 2/22/21 by Zoom video conference

Called to order at 7:01 pm by Pres. Ron Wankner.

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

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes for 1/8/2021 were approved and accepted as amended. Motion to accept: Hooten; Second: Duncanson. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lesley presented the summary of activity for January of 2021. All income was from dues, and there was one minor expenditure for postage. Motion to accept: Lynette; Second: Ian. Motion passed.

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

**Membership:** Ian reported that he had received member applications from Teresa and Kyle Gordon and their 3 children of Aurora and from Jeff and Karen Gross of Littleton. Ian has received 58 due so far, and hopes for around 90.

**Field Trips:** Ron emphasized the need to prioritize the planning and offering of field trips as the most important outreach and engagement tool that we have at our disposal given the restrictions on social interaction that are still in place for in person activities. Jim reported that there were at least eight or ten trips last summer and expects to have a similar number this year. Jim has put out feelers to the RAMS regarding a Utah trip. Lesley suggested contacting Pete Modreski about a walking tour of North Table Mt. to hunt for zeolites. While Florissant trip had sparse attendance, it was an entertaining and well-received. Phil Persson might lead an educational trip to some of his favorite pegmatite locations. Ian observed that there's a good chance we could have our picnic (Aug.15) this year.

Ron said we should continue to pursue exchange trips with other clubs.

Ron noted that when we find a new Face Book person he would remind him/her that information about field trips should be very stingy about detailing directions to the sites.

Ron noted that Gus and Ian did a good job of assuring that signing up for trips was limited to members only. Ian will keep Gus supplied with updated rosters. Gus said he could post trip maps on the members only section of the website.

**Programs:** Perhaps something from the Faceters and cabbers group. Brittany was not present.

**Facebook:** no report.

**Faceters/Cabbers:** Going strong, even on zoom.

**Mineral Study Group:** Lesley emailed Richard Parson about his series of “courses” on crystallography. He was having computer problems, but offered power point files once he was back in action.

**Highlites:** Tammy was not present – no report.

**Website:** Gus renewed the hosting fees for the site.

**Old Business:** Ron brought up the need for finding someone to stand for election for several offices and chairs.

**New Business:** Lesley gave an overview of the several options available to the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Larry added some additional information, but suggested that we are more in the dark than knowledgeable.

Club sustainability: Place flyers in mineral/craft stores listing all the area clubs.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, 3//22/2021 – Zoom conference.

Meeting adjourned 8:31 pm. *Respectfully submitted, Larry Havens, Sec*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:flywithle123@comcast.net).

## 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!!!!**.

Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

## 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 2021 dues!

Thanks,  
Gus

Don't delay!!! Send your 2021 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:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Like us on FaceBook*

LIKE and FOLLOW us @LittletonGemAndMineralClub

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter!

~Tammy

☞ **2021 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 2021 as past President)	<i>Travis Leach</i>	303-887-9787
Trustee (2-year term 2019 & 2021)	<i>Lynette Warren</i>	303-956-4634
Trustee (2-year term 2019 & 2021)	<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 &amp; 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.

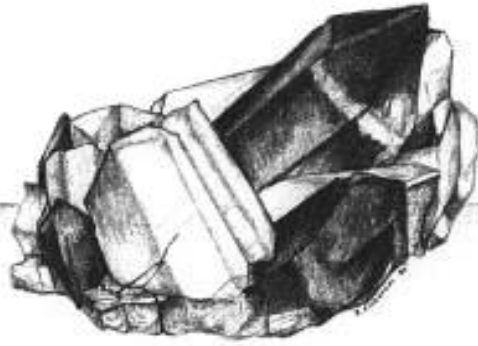
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# *HighLites*

LITTLETON GEM & MINERAL CLUB



HARRIS PARK AMAZONITE & SMOKY QUARTZ

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Littleton, Colorado 80160

FIRST CLASS MAIL

