

December 2021 Highlites Newsletter.

December Meeting – Has been canceled



President's Message

December 2021

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!! May your holiday season be merry and bright with lots of joy!

Unfortunately, we will not be having our Christmas Party again this year due to the rising COVID case numbers and uncertainty of the OMICRON variant. We hope to see this situation change in the new year and plan to resume our meetings at St. Philip early in the year. We are planning some new, fun meeting topics for next year including: an introduction to mineralogy; rock tumbling 101; and an invertebrate fossil presentation. Stay tuned for updates.

We followed up our very successful October silent auction with a general meeting at the church in November. We had a fantastic time! It was fun to get together, share stories and show our finds from the summer. There were some beautiful minerals and fossils on display. We also voted on the Odiorne Award for best field collected specimen in 2021. The results of the voting are posted below in this newsletter. We also voted for club officers in 2022. The results are:

President Elect- Vacant
Vice President- Ian Duncanson
Treasurer- Lynette Warren
Secretary- Larry Havens
Trustee- Lesley Sebol

Thank you all for your time, thoughtful ideas, and efforts. I'm very grateful for your positive, "can do" attitude and positive energy. You make a difference! I've been very lucky to work with all of you.

Also, don't forget membership dues for 2022. You can send your dues to:

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

Reflecting on the past few years, it's been my pleasure to serve as President of the club. I've had the opportunity to spend time with many of you during my tenure and I've learned a lot about rockhounding, cabbing & faceting, minerals, and localities. I continue to learn from all your stories.....new, inexperienced members; savvy mineral collectors; talented cabbers & faceters; and seasoned veterans who incredibly continue finding stunning specimens. Thank you for sharing your unique stories, knowledge, skills, and tricks.

I wish everyone a season filled with joy, wonder and amazing opportunities to learn, grow and have fun in 2022.

Ron Wankner
President LGMC



Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

December (no meeting) – Littleton Gem & Mineral Club December meeting has been canceled.

December (no meeting) - The Faceters and Cabbers group - Zoom meetings have been suspended. If the pandemic situation changes, we will try to resume in-person meetings. Keep your fingers crossed for a January resumption. Meanwhile, zoom meetings have been suspended. I'll keep the group posted about an opportunity for an in-person Faceters and Cabbers meeting. If you would like to be added to our faceters and cabbers mail list, let me know at jkleber@att.net. John Kleber

Grab Bag News

December Grab Bag News

No new news this month. If you have any minerals or sewn grab bags to contribute, contact me, John Kleber, at jkleber@att.net or 303-570-8164, or Lynette Warren.



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

Odiorne Award Contest and 2021 Winner

Many thanks to all of the attendees at the November, 2021 LGMC General Meeting. One of the activities that took place at the meeting was the competition, and voting, for the **Annual Tom Odiorne Award** for best field collected specimen (mineral, rock, fossil) over the time period from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021. This award was instituted by the Odiorne family, in honor of an outstanding and highly recognized LGMC member, Tom Odiorne, who spent numerous years collecting and publishing on many areas, one of which was the area of the Club's Harris Park, Colorado claims. The winner of the annual award receives a patch, a \$50 cash award, and inclusion on the list of award winners contained in Tom's publication, *Colorado Amazonstone*. This Award was first given in 2010, and this year's award represents the 11th recipient (no award or contest in 2020).

There were 6 entries that were voted on by all 20 of the members in attendance at the November, 2021 Meeting. Under normal circumstances, the results of the voting would be announced at the December LGMC General Meeting/Holiday Party. Unfortunately, because of the abnormal circumstances, the meeting/party is not being held, and as a result, the winner of this year's Odiorne Award is being announced in the LGMC December, 2021 Newsletter.

The results of the voting for the 2021 Odiorne Award are as follows:

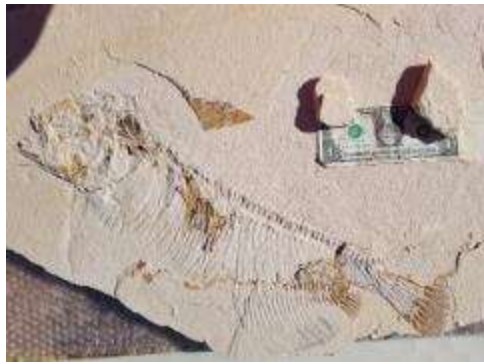
3rd Place, with 4 votes, goes to the specimen of Smoky Quartz and Feldspar from Harris Park, CO.

2nd Place, with 5 votes, goes to the specimen of Barite from the Book Cliffs, Mesa County, CO.

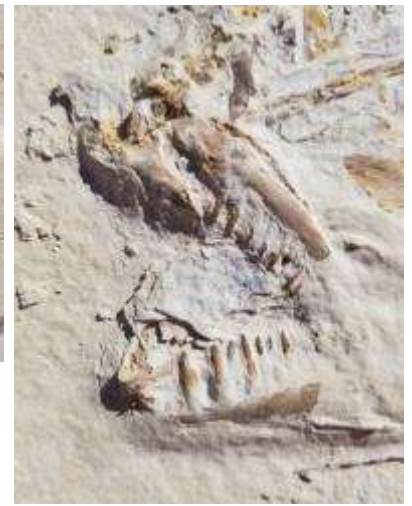
and.....

1st PLACE, with 7 votes, goes to the spectacular Eocene Fish Fossil (Phareodus encaustus), from Kemmerer, WY.

CONGRATULATIONS to LGMC Member, NANCY KIMBER, for being this year's winner.



Eocene Fish Fossil (Phareodus encaustus), from Kemmerer, WY.



We have every intention to continue the competition for this Odiorne Award over the next 12 months, so be sure to attend next year's Club Field Trips (5 of the 11 winning specimens were from these trips), and good luck on your collecting, wherever it may take you over the next year.

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 vugs 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 easily 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 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 rationale 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.,

Upcoming Geo Events

Dec. 10-12, Flatirons Gem & Mineral Show, Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont CO. Sponsored by the Flatirons Mineral Club, see www.flatironsmineralclub.org.

Feb. 25-27, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild Show, (returning to its old location), Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building. *The club had earlier announced that it would be necessary for this show to move to the Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church gymnasium; but this will NOT be necessary, the show will take place at the Jeffco Fairgrounds after all, as in past pre-covid years.*

Mar. 25-27, Fort Collins Rockhounds Show, Larimer County Fairgrounds, Longmont, CO

Club Announcements

Moving? Change of Address, Email or Phone Number? Ready to go paperless?

Please notify [Ian Duncanson](mailto:ian.duncanson@q.com) of any changes at [idunc@q.com](mailto:ian.duncanson@q.com) or 303-798-9174.

Club Vests Show your club support [Ian Duncanson](mailto:ian.duncanson@q.com) 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](mailto:Lynette.Warren@comcast.net), 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 2022 dues!

Thanks,
Gus

Its Dues Time Again!

2022 Membership Dues

We're celebrating the end of 2021 and the arrival of 2022 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!! **dues are only \$20!!**

Don't delay!!! Send your 2022 dues to:

**LITTLETON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
P.O. BOX 283
LITTLETON, COLORADO 80160**

Ian Duncanson

LGMC dues for 2022

Name(s)

Due's payment (\$20) _____ Renewal

Email address:



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LIKE and FOLLOW us @LittletonGemAndMineralClub

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter! ~Tammy

☞ 2021 Board of Trustees ☞

President Elect	<i>Need volunteers for 2022</i>	
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 & 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.

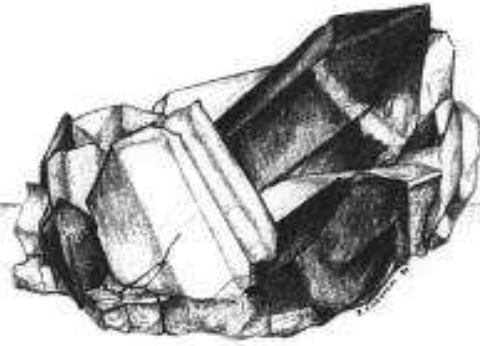
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