
Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

March 2022 Newsletter



Time and Place: March 18th Meeting **In-person**

St. Philips Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128

March Program: *Mineral Study Introduction/Overview*

Speaker: Richard Parsons

Speaker Bio: Richard is a life-long collector of mineral specimens, and a member of Littleton Gem and Mineral Club. He has developed a “library” of programs on rocks and minerals, which he has presented to most area clubs. Some 10 years ago, Richard and a small group of members of the North Jeffco club determined that there was interest in starting a group focused on active study of minerals. To encourage more participation, membership was opened to members of other local clubs. Over the ensuing 8 or so years, the group met regularly, and members were rewarded by substantial growth in their understanding of minerals, their origins, and characteristics. Richard has agreed to give our LGMC members an overview of North Jeffco’s experience and what a Littleton Mineral Study Group might look like.

Acting President’s Message

March 2022

Hello Everyone,

With the Covid risk remaining low, we are planning on continuing our in-person monthly meetings (3rd Friday of the month) at St. Philips Lutheran Church with the meeting starting at 7:30. Last November, many of the attendees at the meeting expressed interest in starting and attending a revived mineral study group. To that end we have decided to start off with an introductory overview for the speaker part of this month’s club meeting. We are excited that Richard Parsons will be running the mineral study sessions and that we can take advantage of his wealth of knowledge. I can personally vouch that he does a great job in teaching about minerals, as I used to attend the North Jeffco group meetings. As part of this month’s Littleton club meeting, we need you there so we can get your feedback on what you would like to learn and when the Mineral Study Group could meet that would allow for the greatest participation from our club members.

For the club’s March meeting refreshments, please bring some snacks to share with everybody (desert, veg, cheese, etc.). We can work on a refreshment sign-up sheet for next the next month.

As a reminder, due to the absence of a 2022 club President, the Board members have elected to fill-in by dividing up and taking on the presidential duties. You will be seeing us rotating through as President at meetings and Board Meetings. Lynette Warren will be leading the March meeting. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions.

Lesley Sebol for Lynette Warren
LGMC Acting President

Faceters and Cabbers News

It seems we are in a transition time with this COVID virus pandemic. The advice from professionals is that we can get together in person, indoors, if we are vaccinated, have developed an immunity, or wear masks. With that in mind, I think it is time to resume meeting in-person in our usual room at the church on the third Tuesday each month. If you are comfortable with this, **come join us at our first meeting of 2022**. It will be on **March 15th at 7:30pm**. Feel free to wear a mask.

If you would like to be added to our faceters and cabbers email list for an email reminder, or need directions, let me know at jkleber@att.net.

John Kleber

Grab Bag News Update

No new news this month. If you have any minerals or sewn grab bags to contribute, contact John Kleber, at jkleber@att.net or 303-570-8164, or Lynette Warren at flywithle123@comcast.net.



John Kleber and Lynette Warren
The Bag Beggar and Bag Party Lady

Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

- Tues, Mar. 15** **Faceters and Cabbers Meeting** – 7:30pm, St Philip Lutheran Church 7531 S. Kendall Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128.
- Thurs, Mar. 17** **Colorado Scientific Society (Sci Soc)** Zoom meeting – 7:00 p.m., all are welcome: **Comparing Stratigraphic Architecture and Petroleum Systems Across the South Atlantic Margin**, by Katie-Joe McDonough, Friso Brouwer, Brian W. Horn, and Kyle R. Reube; and **Atlantic Volcanoes: Activity in 2021 and challenges for geoconservation**, by Thomas Casadevall, U.S. Geological Survey. See the CSS website for login links; <https://coloscisoc.org/>.
- Friday, Mar. 18** **LGMC Meeting** – 7:30pm, St Philip Lutheran Church.
- Fri-Sun, Mar. 25-27** **Fort Collins Gem and Mineral Show** – at The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds, Thomas M. McKee Building, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO. 4-8 p.m. Friday, 9-6 Sat., 10-5 Sun. Sponsored by the Fort Collins Rockhounds Club.
- Fri-Sun, Apr. 8-10** **Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show**, Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver CO.
- Tues, Apr. 12** **Faceters and Cabbers Meeting** – 7:30pm, St Philip Lutheran Church.
- Friday, Apr. 15** **LGMC Meeting** – 7:30 pm, St Philip Lutheran Church.



The Denver Gem and Mineral Show – March 2022 Update

Repeat from February's announcement by Amber Brenzikofer, 2022 DGMS Chair:

The Denver Gem and Mineral Show (DGMS) will be co-located with the Hardrock Summit at the Colorado Convention Center from **September 8-11, 2022**. All the Hardrock Summit's associated shows will be at the Colorado Convention Center in 2022, including Evolution, Sparkle & Joy, and AGTA. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Hardrock Summit again in 2022. The theme for this year's DGMS show is **"Collecting Colorado"**.

We will be in the same space as last year's show, on the main floor of the Convention Center. We are planning on having dealers, display cases, fluorescent room, speakers, educational booths, Mr. Bones, and club tables. We will need volunteers again this year to set up and tear down the display cases, staff the club tables, sell grab bags and posters, and help provide information and directions. More information will be coming out soon about requests for exhibits and volunteer signups.

The Show Committee needs a Treasurer, if interested please contact Amber at the email below.

If you have any questions, please contact Amber Brenzikofer, at denvergemmineralshow@gmail.com. If you are interested in being a dealer at the DGMS, you can send an email to dealers.denvergemmineralshow@gmail.com.

Below are graphics for the Evolution Show that Amber has provided and a copy of the DGMS postcard.

2022 Denver Gem & Mineral Show

Information Packet for Exhibitors, Clubs, Competitors

Time to start the wheels rolling on the 2022 Denver Show:

- 2022 Dates – September 8, 9, 10 and 11 (Thurs-Sun).
Note this is a week earlier than most years.
- Location – The Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th Street, Denver.

This year's Show Theme – **COLLECTING COLORADO**

Within our earth science context, we *are* looking for exhibits that feature Colorado minerals, fossils, agates, meteorites, and even ephemera like mining memorabilia, equipment, documents, etc.

Exhibited material *need NOT* be self-collected.

The corona virus pandemic curtailed many of our normal social activities, but, hopefully, our determined field collectors escaped to their favorite collecting grounds so self-collected exhibits would be especially welcome.

- This year we are asking for the usual non-competitive exhibits from individual collectors and museums.
- In addition, we are offering the following **competitive exhibit** options:
 - Both Adult and Junior Prospector Competitions. Because of the pandemic, the collecting period for eligible specimens will extend from the end of the 2019 show to the beginning of the 2022 show.
 - The Best of Fossil Competition.
 - The Species Competition. The entry form presents the 8 categories with instructions.

Hoping you can join us,

Larry Havens, DGMS Exhibit Chair

Please contact Larry for entry form and instructions.

303-757-6577, lwrnchavens@comcast.net

Geology Corner

As winter closes, this topic is relevant:



Ice Mineralogy

People say there isn't much mineral collecting to do in the winter time. Yet at that time of the year is when they are most surrounded by minerals - in the form of ice and snow. People do not generally think of ice as a mineral, but it is. In fact, it fits the geological definition of a mineral perfectly. I think the reason people have trouble seeing it as a mineral is because they are so used to it in its liquid form. When faced with ice, they say "that's not a mineral, that's just frozen water". This is the same as looking at granite and saying the quartz, feldspar and mica are not minerals because they're just "frozen magma". If we lived on a much colder planet (thank goodness that we don't) where there was no liquid water, we wouldn't have such a prejudice.

Let us look at the geological definition of a mineral and how ice fits in. Most textbooks say minerals are naturally occurring, inorganic crystalline solids that are also chemical elements or compounds. Well, ice is certainly naturally occurring. Sometimes there's altogether too much of it naturally occurring! Ice is also inorganic, that is, formed without the intervention of a living organism. The ice you make in your refrigerator and freezer doesn't fit the definition. Strictly speaking, those ice cubes are not minerals in the same way that diamonds are made in a G.E. laboratory are not minerals. But most of the ice we see on earth is clearly inorganic in nature.

Minerals must be crystalline solids, meaning that they must have an orderly internal arrangement of atoms. This is also true of ice. The symmetry visible in a snowflake or in long bladed ice crystals seen in a freezing puddle are proof of this. Ice crystallizes, as most people know, in the hexagonal crystal system. Even so, it has less symmetry than people think. Ice falls into the same symmetry class as tourmaline. That means, among other things, that the tops and bottoms of ice crystals can have different shapes. If ice had full hexagonal symmetry, the tops and bottoms of the crystals would have to be the same.

Finally, in order to be a mineral, a substance must be either one of the naturally occurring chemical elements (like gold or copper) or else a chemical compound. Ice is definitely a chemical compound with a set formula H_2O . Therefore, ice meets all the necessary criteria of minerals. In fact, the seventh edition of Dana's System of Mineralogy devotes 4 pages in volume 1 to the description of ice.

Ice has some interesting mineralogical properties. Its hardness is 1.5 on the Moh's hardness scale, soft enough to scratch with your fingernail. It lacks cleavage but shows conchoidal fracture. It has a glassy luster. It is colorless to bluish or greenish (one of my students points out that it can also be yellow). Its streak is colorless. Ice can have a variety of habits. We see massive blocks (ice on lakes), skeletal crystals (snowflakes), dendritic growths (frost on windows or hoarfrost), stalactites (icicles) and concretions with concentric banding (hailstones).

If ice is a mineral, do we have rocks made out of ice? The answer is yes! In fact, ice can form the equivalent of igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic rocks! Igneous rocks form from the consolidation of molten or liquid rock. If we allow water to be an unusual composition of magma, then the ice we see, for example, on lakes is an equivalent of an igneous rock. Ice textures in fact resemble textures found in other igneous rocks such as granite and basalt. The grain size in ice is controlled in part by the cooling rate. If we have a sudden cold snap, water freezes fast on top of a lake, making a fine-grained ice. It is even possible to form an ice glass (the equivalent of obsidian) when water condenses extremely rapidly at temperatures below minus 110 degrees F. If the ice cools slowly, as it would on days and nights when the temperature stays close to freezing, larger ice crystals grow. In the spring and fall I often see such long bladed crystals in puddles on the sidewalk as I walk to work.

Ice can also form sedimentary rocks. It can form a cement between particles in a soil, making them a hard mass. The condition is temporary in our region, but in the Arctic and Antarctic "permanently" frozen ground (or permafrost) is

common. The snow cover we see each winter is in effect a sediment too. The snow has a texture like that seen in sandstone, especially those formed on beaches or in deserts. The wind blows the snow into dunes and drifts that have exactly the same features as sand dunes. A little freezing and thawing will cement the flakes with ice, making a fine sedimentary rock.

Ice deeply buried in a glacier is subjected to much pressure and stresses. It recrystallizes and deforms into a metamorphic rock. Textures seen in glacial ice resemble those seen in marble and quartzite. The great folds made in ice as glaciers move are identical in form to those made in gneisses and schists during mountain building.

We all know where to “collect” ice in the winter. There is at least one place in Wisconsin where it can be collected year-round. Byron Crowns in his book *Wisconsin Through 5 Billion Years of Change* describes a large permanent icicle in an access shaft in sandstone in the ¾ mile long abandoned railroad tunnel #3 on the Elroy-Sparta trail near Summit, Monroe County, WI. He describes the icicle as up to 11 feet in diameter and 15 feet long. In summer it has been “quarried” for use in making ice cream. One might argue that since it is formed in a human made tunnel, the ice isn’t inorganic hence not really a mineral. But that’s all a matter of how strict you are in your definitions.

So, even in darkest winter, rockhounds may take heart. Minerals fall from the sky, building up on your outdoor rock piles. Now, if it would only melt so we could get in some serious agate hunting...

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

General Club Announcements



Welcome to our Newest Members:

- Tami Blum
- Stephanie Lewis
- Ashley & Nick Sayler
- Katherine Spahr

Moving? Change of Address, Email or Phone Number?

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

Sunshine Cards: *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.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter! As this only is my third newsletter, please let me know if anything is in error. ~Lesley



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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

Club Membership Dues REMINDER

2022 Membership Dues:

We've celebrated 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**

Cheers, Ian Duncanson

From the editor:

If you want to attend club field trips, you must be a member whose dues have been paid for the current year. This is required for field trip insurance reasons. Also, members who have not paid their dues by the end of April will be dropped from the newsletter email list. If you are not sure whether you have paid, please ask Ian Duncanson at idunc@q.com.

LGMC dues for 2022

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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🌀 2022 Board of Trustees 🌀		
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Trustee (2-year term 2021 & 2022)	<i>Charlie Wall</i>	303-933-0368
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Denver Council Representative	<i>Lesley Sebol</i>	720-999-1372
Cabbers & Faceters Group	<i>John Kleber</i>	720-851-8510
Mineral Study Group	<i>Lesley Sebol/Richard Parsons</i>	720-999-1372

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, pandemic, 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.

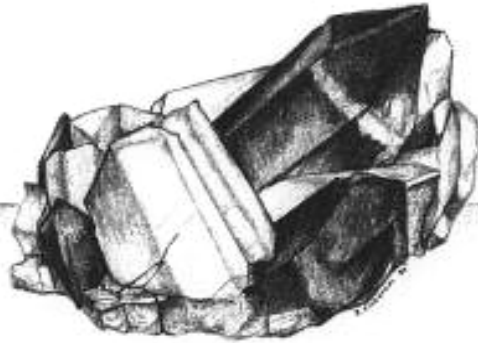
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HighLites

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