
Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

March 2023 Newsletter



Time and Place: March 17 In-person Meeting
St. Philips Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128

March Program:
**“Tungsten Minerals and Tungsten Mining in Colorado” by
Kollin Olsen**

Speaker Bio: Kollin Olsen

Kollin Olsen has been a long and active member of the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club since December 2009. Kollin, along with his father, Kevin Olsen, has attended a number of field trips and events with the club. His knowledge of rocks and minerals is great, and he continues to have an infectious willingness to teach others about his passion. Kollin has loved rocks and minerals since he was a young teen, and his love has influenced his career path to this day. He is an underground miner at the Henderson Molybdenum Operation near Empire where his passion for rocks and minerals has only grown. Kollin also owns his own rock, jewelry, and mineral business, Olsen’s Minerals, which has further fueled his passion and love of minerals.

President’s Letter

I am ready for Spring! The constant snow (most often on Wednesdays, what’s up with that?) has me dreaming of being outside in the warm sunshine, searching for beautiful minerals. Traditionally in my life, I get through the dreary winter months of January and February by celebrating a series of events – New Year’s Day, our wedding anniversary, Valentine’s Day, mine and hubby Rob’s birthdays, the start of baseball spring training, and Mardi Gras. When those are done, then Spring is right around the corner. So, by that logic, the start of field season is also right around the corner! Right? Right!

I did get a taste of warm(er) weather last month. Lesley Sebol and I dodged the snow and traveled to Tucson for the multitudes of gem and mineral shows. We did shows for 4 ½ days, and barely scratched the surface of what there was to see. We ate yummy Mexican food, which was a nice change from the Tex-Mex food we get here in Colorado.

We played tourists for a day and visited the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. In addition to thousands of saguaro cacti, they have an aquarium, 2 aviaries, an underground (in a real cave!) mineral display, an art exhibit, and the most wonderful prickly pear lemonade. Of course, the highlight of the trip was the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (the main club show), which took me about 6 ½ hours to see (and even at that, I was cruising through pretty fast). Yes, I did make a few purchases, and no, I am not going to admit how much over my budget I went! When all was said and done, I had a great time drooling over the beautiful specimens and enjoying the fabulous (if somewhat alien looking) scenery.

In February, the stars aligned, and we held our first in-person General Meeting of 2023. Chris Davis spoke to us about his 40+ years of Metal Detecting in Colorado and abroad. I didn't realize there were different types of metal detecting – searching for ancient artifacts and searching for lost items in parks and playgrounds. In his adventures, Chris has found museum quality artifacts, and dozens of gold rings. Ok, I admit it, I will now be looking for a nice, used metal detector! Garage sales start soon, right?

After getting snowed out in January, last week I attended the February meeting of the Faceters and Cabbers group, which is led by John Kleber and John Revis. Because, you know, when a person just can't get enough gems and minerals, one solution is to go see more, in this case in the form of cut and shiny ones! We showcased "clear" minerals, so there were several beautiful quartz specimens, a fist sized chunk of cubic zirconia, and Herkimer diamonds. Thanks John and John for keeping this program going and thriving! I am looking forward to the next meeting, on March 21st at 7:00pm, at Saint Philip Lutheran Church. The topic will be a "smörgåsbord", so pretty much anything. Please attend if you can!

For our March 17th General Meeting, we will hear from our own President Elect, Kollin Olsen, about "Tungsten Minerals and Tungsten Mining in Colorado". He asks that members "bring in any scheelite, ferberite, hübnerite, or wolframite minerals" to show. I am looking forward to hearing some obscure Colorado mining history!

Thank you for renewing your LGMC membership. You will continue to receive Highlites and monthly meeting invitations and be eligible to sign up for field trips!

I hope you are enjoying my "Colorful Rock of the Month" photos. I know I am – my favorite minerals are the ones with the most color. For March, let's go with green for St. Patrick's Day. Because Tucson had so many gorgeous specimens and I couldn't decide which green ones to share, you get two for the price of one. Both specimens have green malachite in combination with another mineral. Enjoy!

Nancy Kimber, 2023 LGMC President
NKK9960@hotmail.com
(303) 807-8919

Faceters and Cabbers News

The Faceters and Cabbers group will meet in March, on the 21st, the third Tuesday in March, at 7:00pm, in our usual room at the church. [Note, this will occur after our main meeting not before, as in most months.] We will share our work.

John Revis mentioned that the February meeting had good attendance and there was lots of sharing and discussion. The group decided to leave the March color as “open” or “your choice” so bring some of your work to share. There will be an email reminder for the email list before the March meeting.

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 & John Revis

Mineral Study Group (**NEWish**)

Mineral Study Group meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of the month from September through May starting at 7:00pm. The next meeting is March 29, 2023, at the St. Philips Lutheran Church. We will be using the same room as our Faceters & Cabbers Group.

The February Mineral Study Group meeting was canceled due to snow. Thus, the topic will be what was proposed for the Feb meeting: COLOR.

The following challenge has been provided by Richard Parsons (this is optional and not required):

From your collection, bring specimens to the meeting as many as you can of the following criteria.

- A mineral that is always the same color.
- A mineral with a metallic luster that is always the same color.
- Two specimens of minerals that may be found in a variety of colors.
- A specimen in which the color is due to inclusions.
- A specimen of a mineral that changes color when exposed to the sun.
- Bonus double score – a specimen that exhibits tenebrescence.

Hope to see you all there, weather permitting.

If we need to cancel due to weather, I will try to send an email by no later than 5 pm of the day of the meeting.

Grab Bag News Update



If you have any minerals or sewn grab bags to contribute, bring them to a meeting or contact me, John Kleber, at jkleber@att.net or 303-570-8164, or Lynette Warren at flywithle123@comcast.net.

John Kleber
The Bag Beggar

LGMC FIELD TRIPS

IMPORTANT---REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH LGMC FIELD TRIPS

I have been organizing the LGMC Field Trips now for approximately 26 years and leading the majority of them myself. I have loved doing this and want to continue doing it in a decreased capacity. A number of factors lead me to ask for more Club involvement for the future. Other Clubs in the Council have a more inclusive participation in planning and leading their trips, and I want to move in that direction also. It will require a much greater participation from LGMC members, but I truly believe that there are sufficient members who continue to enjoy the field trips, and hopefully will be able to step forward to help.

I will still be involved, alongside any others who can help. My main request is for **ALL LGMC members**, especially, but not limited to, those who have been active in attending the Club field trips in the past, to give some serious thought to the Club's future Field Trip activities. Please think of trips that you think would be interesting and fun. Of course, there will still be some of our previous "stand-by" trips that are always fun and/or educational. I want to organize a Zoom Meeting in the next month or two, with what I hope will be a good number of interested Club members. I will want member's input for field trip ideas, especially if you have knowledge of (or direct access to) some new areas. I will ask that Club members be able to organize a trip and hopefully serve as Trip Leader. I currently have a few members who are interested and able to do this, but I would like to have a greater number of regular participants.

I will send out a notice, either in the Newsletter, at the monthly General Meeting, or through a special batch email, informing everyone of when this Meeting will take place. The hope is that, through the Zoom connection, we can discuss some new, and old, trip ideas and actually complete a calendar of dates and locations for a full season of Field Trips. Like I said, I will have made some contacts already for some of the Trips, but I want some new ideas from others. Hopefully, each member can plan on leading one (or more) of the Trips.

This notice is being sent to the full LGMC membership so you all can start thinking of how you can help with this very important aspect of our LGMC membership. Don't be intimidated if you are a new Club member, or if you haven't

done this before. It's something that anyone can do, and needs to be done, if we want to continue having a fun and exciting time digging for our favorite treasure---**Minerals** (and don't forget that Fossils are also something that many people would enjoy).

So, watch for upcoming communication regarding this new approach to our LGMC Field Trips. In the meantime, do some serious thinking regarding this important Club activity. I truly do appreciate your help.

Jim Hooten
LGMC Field Trip Coordinator

[Editor's Note: Field trips are extremely important if we want our club to grow and retain the new members.]

ADDITIONAL FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Jim Hooten still plans on conducting a Zoom meeting, hopefully in March, to get input from LGMC members regarding their desire to volunteer to organize and/or lead a field trip for this season.

Before then, here is a list of suggested field trips for consideration. Some have already been chosen by Club members. Some trips are actually educational in nature, with no actual collecting. These are still great fun.

Please review the list and see if any particular trip(s) looks like one(s) you would be interested in signing up for. Of course, if you know of any other trip(s) that are available, and not listed, and that you could organize and lead, please share your knowledge.

Many thanks in advance. Jim
Hooten jahooten@msn.com
303-548-7412

Partial List of Possible Trips

Honey Bee/Queen Bee (Club Claims)
Devil's Head
Hartsel Barite
Purple Dragon (Red Feather Lakes)
Smoky Hawk (have leader)
Topaz Mountain (have leader)
Magnetite Ridge
Collector's Edge Tour (Educ)
Wolf Creek Pass (have leader)
Two Creeks Barite
State Bridge
Missouri Ridge
Coffee Pot Springs (have leader)
Teller County Tourmaline (have leader)
Cripple Creek Mine Tour (Educ)

Georgetown Train & Mine Tour (Educ w/gold panning)
Lone Pine Peridot
Western Utah assorted localities (????)
Dinosaur Ridge Tour (Educ)
Fairburn Agate-Crawford, NE
Colorado School of Mines Museum Tour (Educ)
Tour of Steve Jorgensen's home fossil collection (have leader)

Geology Corner



Arsenic and Old Sandstone

We think of pollution as a human phenomenon, when in fact natural pollution from the break-down of minerals is also important and can come from unexpected sources.

The bedrock Wisconsin and Minnesota contains lots of sandstone beds. One of the purest is the St. Peter Sandstone, which consists almost entirely of well-rounded quartz grains. This is the rock that forms the white cliffs along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, the lower layer at Minnehaha Falls, and the steep road cuts around River Falls, Wisconsin. Where this formation is below the surface, it forms an important aquifer. Water moves readily through the spaces between the sand grains. Think of how fast a spilled soda soaks into the sand on a beach and you'll get the idea.

Imagine the horror of people in east-central Wisconsin who have drilled wells into this rock and find themselves drinking water with hazardous quantities of arsenic! Measurements in Outagamie and Winnebago Counties find some wells with arsenic concentrations up to 2,000,000 micrograms per liter. (The U.S. E.P.A.'s recommended maximum is 50 micrograms per liter). A home owner's first reaction, after going to get bottled water will be to look around to sue whoever it was who has been dumping arsenic. The problem is that the arsenic is coming from the sandstone itself.

If one looks at the St. Peter sandstone, one sees scattered rusty red zones. This is the result of the weathering of pyrite. By the time the sandstone is exposed at the surface, the pyrite has decomposed to hematite. Below the surface, some zones of St. Peter sandstone are peppered with bright brassy pyrite. Pyrite is ideally made of iron and sulfur, but minerals in nature are rarely pure. Pyrite has a nasty habit of picking up arsenic and including it in its structure in the place of some of the sulfur. As the pyrite begins to break down, it releases the arsenic into the surrounding ground water. This was what was happening in eastern Wisconsin. The arsenic may have gotten into the rocks at the time of formation of the lead and zinc ores in southwestern Wisconsin when metal-bearing fluids were moving through the area. Indeed, the pyrites found in some of the old mines is an arsenic-bearing variety known as bravoite.

A similar problem occurs in southeastern Michigan, this time with a different formation called the Marshall sandstone. In one county 30% of the well tested in this formation yielded arsenic contamination, at times reaching concentrations as high as 350 micrograms per liter. Investigation again showed that the Marshall Formation contained pyrite and that the pyrite had trace amounts of arsenic.

In the play, "Arsenic and Old Lace" part of the comedy comes from the idea of sweet old ladies poisoning their guests. Who would think danger could come from such an innocent-looking source? Our sandstones look like nice clean sand. Who would have thought that some of them release arsenic to our drinking water? - Dr. Bill Cordua, University of Wisconsin-River Falls References:

Cannon, W., A. Kolker and D. Westjohn, 1998, "The Geological Source of Arsenic in Ground Water in Southeastern Michigan", Institute on Lake Superior Geology, 44th Session, Abstracts with Programs, p. 50 -51.

Dutch, S., J. Moran and R. Stieglitz, 1998, Geologic Traverse of East-Central Wisconsin, in Guidebook to Field Trips in Wisconsin and Adjacent areas of Minnesota, ed. of M.G. Mudrey Jr., for 31st Annual Meeting of the North Central Section of the Geological Society of America, p. 3 – 11

Upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

Mar 17: LGMC meeting 7:30 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

Mar 21: LGMC Faceters & Cabbers meeting 7:00 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

Mar 24-26: Fort Collins Gem & Mineral Show, Larimar County Fairgrounds at 5280 Arena Circle Loveland, 4-8 Friday; 9-6 Saturday, 10-5 Sunday

Mar 25-26: WIPS Symposium (details below)



Mar 29: LGMC Mineral Study Group meeting 7:00 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 7-9, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA, 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver. <https://www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com>. Free admission; 10-6 Fri. & Sat., 10-5 Sun.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 22-23, Southern Colorado Gem and Mineral Show, Pathfinder Regional Park & Event Center, Florence, CO. "Earth Day weekend". This is a new gem and mineral show to Colorado, just now being organized. See <https://socorockandmineralshow.com/> or www.facebook.com/socorockshow for more info (forthcoming).

Sat. May 6, Colorado Mineral Society Silent Auction, at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 7530 W. 38th Ave., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; see <http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org/> for details.

General Club Announcements



Welcome to our New Members:

- Johny Reyes
- Mark & Kelli Hoefler
- Wade Waldrup & Claudette Bujoid-Poirier
- Doran & Elissa Adams

Moving? Change of Address, Email or Phone Number?

Please notify **Ian Duncanson** of any changes at idunc@q.com or 303-798-9174. For email address changes, please also email editor.lgmc@gmail.com

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! Don't forget to send in your own field trip reports with photos. Email them to editor.lgmc@gmail.com. Make sure to label each photo with the trip and who is in the photo. If you did not take the photo, add that info also so proper credit can be given. Also send photos to our Club Historian at Gail Tracy at gctracer@gmail.com

~ Lesley



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LGMC Website

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!

P.O. Box 283, Littleton, CO 80160

Established 1960 <http://www.littletongemandmineralclub.com/>

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Cabbers & Faceters Group	<i>John Kleber, John Revis</i>	720-851-8510
Mineral Study Group	<i>Lesley Sebol/Richard Parsons</i>	L: 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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