

# Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

## November 2023 Newsletter



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

***November Program: The Lyons Formation***  
***Speaker: James Hagadorn from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science***



James Hagadorn is the Tim & Kathryn Ryan Curator of Geology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (whew!). Trained as a geologist, James enjoys deciphering earth history and making science and scientific thinking relevant. A former syndicated science columnist and regular science spokesperson, Hagadorn has authored hundreds of peer-reviewed and popular scientific articles, has a diverse digital media reach, and is known for inspiring and mentoring the next generation. As custodian of the museum's rock, mineral, meteorite and fossil collections, James also helps curate and showcase geologic materials for public benefit.

## President's Letter

***Pictures provided by Nancy Kimber***

It is a smidge late and a smidge early, but Happy Halloween and Happy Turkey Day! This years' field season is a happy memory, and now we have fall and winter festivities to enjoy. I can do without the snow, though. But I will definitely enjoy the extra hour of sleep this weekend!

I've been out and about travelling a lot the past few months. I blew through over 5000 miles on my car in less than 2 months, which has to be a new record for me. But the main goal of my most recent road trip was not rockhounding, believe it or not! My goal was to observe a very large rock, passing in front of the sun with clear skies! As you know it's a gamble picking a location to observe an eclipse. I lucked out in going to Roswell, New Mexico. I enjoyed beautiful clear skies, no significant traffic, and a successful "ring of fire" annular eclipse!

Speaking of space rocks and rockhounding... how about when the rockhounding is done and carried back for us? I'll bet we've all wished for that while schlepping a heavy backpack back to the car. After travelling for 7 years, and 3.9 billion miles, the OSIRIS-REx mission returned to Earth on Sept. 24, 2023, and dropped off material collected from the near-Earth asteroid Bennu. The spacecraft, which was the first U. S. mission to collect a sample from an asteroid, delivered the sample to the Department of Defense's Utah Test and Training Range, where the OSIRIS-REx team was

waiting to retrieve it. Since then, the sample has been transported to its permanent home at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. So far, the team has collected bonus material from outside the delivered canister and is now slowly working to open the canister and access the priceless material within. Reference, and if you'd like to learn more: <https://science.nasa.gov/mission/osiris-rex/>.

It is a good thing we don't have to compete against OSIRIS-REx in our upcoming Odiorne Award competition! Don't forget to bring your best field collected specimens to the November general meeting. Your specimens can be mineral or fossil, collected from public, private, or pay-dig locations, and be from any field trip (LGMC sponsored, other club sponsored, or personal) in the past year. The lucky winner (\$50! Bragging rights! A book trophy! A commemorative patch!) will be announced in December. And, while you were enjoying the Denver Fall mineral shows, I hope you were able to purchase specimens for our other two competitions – Best \$20 Specimen & Under; Best Any Price Specimen above \$20. Don't forget to bring these to the November general meeting as well. The savvy winners (\$20! Bragging rights!) will be announced later that evening. Good luck to all participants!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our October Silent Auction! We drooled over beautiful donated specimens, had our short business meeting, participated in friendly bidding competitions in both the silent and verbal portions of the event, caught up with friends, and sampled yummy snacks. As you may know, this is the club's main fundraiser.

I don't yet have final financial results, but my understanding is that the event was a success. I know I personally came home with more than I brought! So, again thank you, to those who volunteered their time, and to those that parted ways with their hard-earned cash. Both are important ways to support your favorite mineral club!

Our extracurricular groups continue. In October, the Faceters and Cabbers group discussed mineral cleavage, which is the tendency to split into fragments along plane surfaces. The next topic will be "tourmaline". The Mineral Study group had a small group in October but is gearing up for some make-up sessions and then moving on to physical properties. Everyone is welcome at these extra meetings. You don't have to be an expert, just willing to learn. Please join us if you can! Same venue as our regular meetings (although in one of the small back rooms).

Faceters and Cabbers group: November 21, 2023, 7:00 pm

Mineral Study group: November 29, 2023, 7:00 pm

I have already mentioned the three friendly competitions that will make up part of our November 17 general meeting. Our speaker will be James Hagadorn, Curator of Geology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, who will talk about the Lyons Formation. Additionally, we will hold our annual club elections. Please see further down in this newsletter for photos and information about the 5 candidates. Annual elections are important to the continuity of the club, so please plan to attend this busy and fun evening! And, as a heads-up early notice, we're already planning for the December Holiday Party. It will feature all your favorite activities, including a chili cook-off and of course Santa Claus. So, start perfecting your favorite chili recipe!

Last but not least, is the November "Colorful Rock of the Month". This one is not what I would personally consider to be really colorful, but it is most definitely Thanksgiving colored, so I'm calling it close enough. I collected this petrified wood specimen on one of my very early organized field trips, so it is one of my favorite pieces. Enjoy!

*Picture provided by Nancy - Petrified Wood, Elizabeth CO, Paleocene, Dawson Arkose Fm, 66-56 mya.*

*Each year we have a contest. So, bring your competition specimens to the November meeting. You might win a prize. The categories are as follows:*

### **Best Purchased Specimen from the Denver Show.**

The contest's 2 divisions are:

- 1) BEST SPECIMEN \$20 AND UNDER, and 2)  
BEST SPECIMEN OVER \$20.

The specimens could be purchased from the main Denver Gem & Mineral Show, or from any associated satellite show. For the Best Purchased Specimen over \$20, an individual may show up to 3 specimens if they wish. Votes will be counted, and the winners will be announced at the November Meeting.

### **Odiorne Memorial Award.**

Also in November, we will have our annual Tom Odiorne Memorial Award competition for Best Field Collected Specimen in the Last Year. This is also known as the ODIORNE AWARD. Bring your specimen to the November meeting for judging. The winner of this award will be announced at the December Meeting.

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## **LGMC 2024 Slate of Officers Bios**

*New this year we are providing a blurb and photo of our officers nominated for the club 2024 board of directors. Although Kolin is not technically being voted in (he was last year as PresidentElect, we have included him here.*

### **President**

**Nominee: Kollin Olsen**

**Bio:** Hello fellow LGMC Members and families. It is I, Kollin Olsen, your soon to be president of the club and I am so excited for the upcoming year. As your upcoming president, I am looking to focus on bringing in more families and events to our great club. I am looking to advance and upgrade some areas but, my main objective is for everyone to be excited and enjoy an amazing adventure this coming 2024. Happy Holidays to everyone and Happy New Year to my gem and mineral family.

*Picture provided by Kolin.*

### **President Elect**

**Nominee: Johny Reyes**

**Bio:** Age six brought me into the fascinating world of mineral/fossil collecting. Where each specimen is unique to itself, one of a kind in nature Since then, I have had the opportunity to collect throughout the world.

Though the mineral/fossil trips are an important part of being a club member, there is so much more. I believe the camaraderie where you meet like-minded people is valuable. Learning from members and guest speakers, the

Mineral Study Group classes, interacting to provide and receive new ideas and the social gatherings combine to make being a club member a completely well-rounded experience. To be part of an organization that strives to enlighten, educate and be fun is a valuable resource and I am proud to be part of such an institution. *Picture provided by Johnny.*

## **Vice President**

**Nominee: Nancy Kimber**

**Bio:** I've been an LGMC member since 2015 My son Nick and I have done as many monthly meetings, field trips, picnics, and parties as possible I've recently started attending the extra Faceters & Cabbers and Mineral Study meetings I've loved every single activity and have learned so much from them.

So why am I running for Vice President? I want others to experience the same fun that I've been lucky enough to have. I want LGMC to continue to provide mineralogical programs and field trips. I want to promote earth science. The club

can only do these things with willing, enthusiastic volunteers. While I do not have a mineral or geology background, I can provide the enthusiasm. It is my turn to pay it forward. Plus, I've enjoyed being on the LGMC Board for the past 2 years (this year as President), so I figured I should stick around a while longer.

*Picture provided by Nancy- Petrified Forest National Park, near Holbrook AZ, Triassic, Chinle Formation, 217 mya.*

## **Treasurer**

**Nominee: Lynette Warren**

**Bio:** Our family started our rock adventure with the Littleton Club back in the 1960's As time went on my folks stayed as active members in the club and I moved to the Western Slope and pursued a Geology Degree at Mesa College in Grand Junction After graduation, in the early 1980's I moved back to the Denver area. Since that time, I have reconnected with the Littleton Club and have been active with the Faceters and Cabbers Group, Mineral Studies Group, making Grab Bags, Sunshine Chair, Trustee, Program Chair, and current Treasurer.

*Picture provided by Lynette.*

My occupational work over the last 40 years has required correct accounting skills in such areas as AR, AP, and PR amongst many other tasks I take pride in what I do and try to do the best I can to ensure accuracy in my work Through my commitment to the club and work experience as a reference, I am hoping you will consider voting for my continuation in the position of Treasurer with the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club for 2024.

## **Secretary**

**Nominee: Larry Havens**

I was a speech and English teacher at Arvada West High School from 1967 until my retirement in 2000. In the early '70's my wife Kathy decided we needed a family hobby that would get us all (2 boys also) into Colorado's gorgeous mountains. We opted for rock hounding and soon after, with Tom Odiorne's encouragement, we joined the Littleton club. We were members for most of the time until now. Along the way I have held most all of the board positions save field trip director (Thanks, Jim).

*Picture provided by Larry.*

My son Kent and I have been active in several committee positions on the Denver Show Committee from 2000 into the present. My favorite mineral to collect is barite, but my collection covers most of the common collectible minerals from all over and now numbers over 1600 cataloged specimens.

## **2-Year Trustee**

### **Nominee: Lesley Sebol**

I have been a mineral collector for decades and enjoy the hobby. My favorite mineral is fluorite, but I love them all, well most of them actually. While I belong to three mineral clubs, I do the most for the LGMC where I have had many roles (treasurer for about 6 years, president elect, president, past president, trustee for

2 years, and representing the club as a trustee on the Denver Gem and Mineral Show). Thus, I have been continuously on the Littleton board or represented the club since about 2012/2013. I have offered to do another 2-year trustee role starting in 2024. *Picture provided by Lesley.*

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# **2023 LGMC Auction Report**

We had a wonderful auction this year that went much better than expected Thank you to everyone, whether you were a helper, buyer, or seller - it was you that made the auction a success. Also, a big thanks needs to go out to all who donated auction items for the silent, verbal, and kids table sale items. Proceeds from these sales allow us to help fund activities and pay expenses for the club. We appreciate everyone's participation.

We are always looking for ways to improve future auctions. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact flywithle123@comcast.net with your ideas. Also, we would like to know what you think Are we doing something right or what we can do to make it better Your thoughts are valued! Thanks, Lynette Warren

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## Faceters and Cabbers News

The Faceters and Cabbers group will meet at 7:00pm on November 21st, the third Tuesday, in our usual room at the church. We will share our work. The group decided to suggest “Tourmaline” as the November discussion material. Bring some of your work, thoughts, photos, or questions to share. The projector will again be set up to show photos on our phones.

There will be an email reminder for the email list before the meeting.

*Picture provided by Nancy Kimber.*

If you would like to be added to our Faceters and Cabbers email list for an email reminder, or need directions, contact John Kleber at [jkleber@att.net](mailto:jkleber@att.net). Co-Chairs John Kleber & John Revis

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## Mineral Study Group

Mineral Study Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00pm at the St. Philips Lutheran Church. The next meeting is November 29th. We use the same meeting room as our Faceters & Cabbers Group.

The October meeting only had 4 attendees, three of which are shown in the picture (Tami, Richard, & Lesley), which was taken at the end of the meeting by the fourth attendee Nancy. This was a very low turnout. We need to increase attendance and participation to continue these meetings.

Richard Parsons led the meeting, discussed future meeting topic organization, and had free physical property testing kits to hand out. For those who needed them, scratch plates were made available by Lesley for member purchase, to reimburse their purchase by her. These were added to the test kit.

Co-chairs Lesley Sebol and Richard Parsons

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## Grab Bag News Update

### November Grab Bag News

If you have any minerals or sewn grab bags to contribute, bring them to a meeting or contact us: John Kleber, at jkleber@att.net, or Chuck Borawa, at chuck6436@gmail.com, or Lynette Warren at flywithle123@comcast.net.

We expect to have specimens and supplies at the November meeting for members to take home to assemble over the winter. I do that while I watch football games.

John Kleber and Chuck Borawa, The Bag Beggars

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## Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

**Nov 14 (Tues): LGMC Faceters and Cabbers meeting** 7:00 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

**Nov 17<sup>th</sup> (Fri): LGMC monthly meeting** 7:30 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church

**Nov. 17-19 (Fri & Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-4): Denver Area Mineral Dealers Gem & Mineral Show**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Golden, CO. Free admission and parking

**Nov 29 (Wed): LGMC Mineral Study Group meeting**, 7:00 pm, St. Philips Lutheran Church **Dec**

**2 (Sat): WIPS Annual Auction** 1 to 5 pm, Clements Center, 1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood

### Additional Events Forwarded from Pete Modreski:

Here is the Colorado Scientific Society schedule for the rest of the year:

- Thurs., Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society November meeting, Colorado Structural Evolution, by Lon Abbot, University of Colorado; in-person meeting at Calvary Church Golden; see <https://coloscisoc.org/> for details. All are welcome.
- Thurs., Dec. 14, 6:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society, December Annual Meeting, Potluck Dinner and Presidential Address, Cal Ruleman, US Geological Survey (presentation title TBA); in-person meeting at Calvary Church Golden; see <https://coloscisoc.org/> for details. All are welcome.

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## Geology Corner

### A Mineral from Giant Red Suns

Rockhounds know that silicon carbide, or carborundum, makes great grit for polishing rocks. SiC can also be found from time to time in rock shops as beautiful iridescent crystal clusters. All this material is artificial. SiC does occur rarely as a natural mineral, and it can form under rather astonishing conditions.

Natural SiC is called moissanite after its discoverer. It forms very tiny green to black to bluish hexagonal plates. It is found sparingly in metamorphic rocks in Bulgaria and Russia. It was first found in meteorites. Moissan had a hard

time convincing colleagues that he had found a real mineral and not grit that had been introduced into the sample during its cutting and polishing. Eventually his discovery was accepted.

Moissanite is found as microscopic grains in a particular class of meteorites called "carbonaceous chondrites". They formed in the solar nebula about 4.6 billion years ago, at the same time as the sun and planets were forming. Carbonaceous chondrites get their names from the fact that they contain carbon compounds and unusual nodules called chondrules.

Chondrules are made of silicates and seem to have formed by rapid crystallization. They have a low density and contain lots of gases such as water and CO<sub>2</sub>. Carbonaceous chondrites are referred to as "primitive" because they do not appear to have been changed chemically since they were first formed from the nebula's dust and gases. Edward Anders of Cal Tech and Ernst Zinner of Washington University recently reviewed information on these meteoric moissanite grains. They noted that the grains showed so much damage from cosmic rays, that they must have been exposed to space for billion years BEFORE being incorporated into meteorites 4.6 billion years ago. Thus, the moissanite grains are examples of an exotic set of particles in these meteors that actually PRE-DATE the formation of the solar system.

If there was no earth, sun, or solar system, then where did these grains come from? Anders and Zinner speculate that they formed in flares jetting out of stars called red giants. The particular combination of chemicals and temperatures in these flares give conditions just right for the formation of moissanite. The tiny grains then drifted haphazardly through space, until, by chance, they became part of the solar nebula and were involved in its collapse to form the sun, planets, and meteors. So, these tiny grains - falling to earth from space, are like bottles washed up on a beach, bearing news of events long ago and far away.

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

#### References:

Anders, E. and E. Zinner, 1993, "Interstellar grains in primitive meteorites: diamond, silicon carbide and graphie", *Meteorics*, vol. 28, p. 490-514.

Hamblin, W.K. and E. Christiansen, 1990, *Exploring the Planets*, Macmillan Pub., N.Y.

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## General Club Announcements

**Welcome New Members: Jeff and Nancy Corson**

**Moving?** Change of Address, Email or Phone Number?

Please notify [Ian Duncanson](#) of any changes at [idunc@g.com](mailto:idunc@g.com) or 303-798-9174. For email address changes, please also email [editor.lgmc@gmail.com](mailto:editor.lgmc@gmail.com)



**Club Vests:** Show your club support at our meetings and other events! **Ian Duncanson** has club vests available for sale. Price includes vest with a sewed-on club patch.

\$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](mailto: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](mailto: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 club-related photos to our Club Historian at Gail Tracy at [gctracer@gmail.com](mailto:gctracer@gmail.com).

Cheers, Lesley



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## LGMC Website

**Message from the webmaster:** Register now on the club website (if you haven't already) to access the "Members Only" pages. Detailed field trip information and forms will be accessible to members, but you must sign in. The field trip sign-up forms will be available online. If you have any trouble on the website, contact Gail Tracy, [gctracer@gmail.com](mailto:gctracer@gmail.com)

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 2024 dues!

P. O. Box 283, Littleton, CO 80160

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

### 🌀 2022 Board of Trustees 🌀

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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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