
Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

January 2023 Newsletter



Time and Place: January 20 In-person Meeting

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

January Program: “Collecting Colorado Fluorescent Minerals” by Brian Walko

This is an introduction into the world of fluorescent mineral collecting. The presentation will cover the electromagnetic spectrum and ultraviolet subsets of longwave, midwave, and shortwave. I’ll explain why some minerals fluoresce. I’ll review the different UV lights used for collecting. Collecting techniques for daytime and nighttime will be explained. Tips on how to display your fluorescent minerals will be provided. Finally, there will be an overview of Colorado fluorescent mineral collecting areas and specimens with a demonstration.

Speaker Bio: Brian Walko’s interest in fluorescence started in elementary school. As a kid he always was involved in collecting rocks and fossils. He first learned about the fluorescent minerals from Franklin, NJ while attending a local mineral show.

Brian has a B.A. in Earth Science – Geology from University of Northern Colorado. He has taught Earth Sciences in Chadron, NE & Longmont, CO. When the first personal computers came out, he switched careers to IT and received his Master’s in Software Engineering from University of Denver.

Brian has spent 32 years in IT working as a project manager specializing in healthcare industries. In preparation for retirement, he started Earth Extractions, LLC in 2014. Its focus is on claims evaluation and surveying. He also prospects for Boulder County’s tellurides, metal ores, REEs, uranium and anything fluorescent.

Currently, he is Lead of the Fluorescent Mineral Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter and President of Boulder County’s Flatiron Mineral club. He also helped the Fluorescent Mineral Society at the 2022 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® as a docent for the 50+ case Fluorescent Room. Additionally, he is co-host of the Fluorescent Room at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show.

President’s Letter

Happy New Year 2023! I am honored that you’ve chosen me to lead LGMC for the next year. Many of you know that I started this mineral and fossil adventure with my son Nick. For his sake, I wanted to get involved with groups that offered field trips. I found that, and so much more, with LGMC. I like to say that I introduced Nick to minerals, and he introduced me to fossils. Both have now pretty much taken over my life, as evidenced by the multiple boxes and bins of them, awaiting cleaning and sorting, in my basement, the recently washed ones, drying on my kitchen counter, and a big chunk of Amazonite, sitting on the desk in front of me, giving me inspiration to write this message!

At the moment, chaos is reigning in my life, but it is good chaos. The stars finally aligned, and my hubby Rob and I have been able to get some remodeling done. This past August was “Chaos Phase 1” – new upstairs carpet. We barely recovered from that, and now are in the midst of “Chaos Phase 2” – new downstairs hardwood. So there’s been much shuffling of furniture and rocks! Moving multiple boxes and bins of them from the dining room to the basement is the best exercise I got over the holidays!

I would like to thank our outgoing Officers for their gracious service to the Club: Past President – Ron Wankner, and Trustee – Charlie Wall. Enjoy your LGMC “retirement”! In their footsteps, I would like to welcome our new Officers: President Elect – Kollin Olsen, and Trustee – Chuck Borawa. I look forward to getting to know you better! I would also like to thank our continuing Officers: Vice President, Membership Chair – Ian Duncanson, Secretary – Larry Havens, Treasurer – Lynette Warren, and Trustee – Lesley Sebol. And, extra special thanks to Lynette, Lesley, and Larry, for stepping in as 2022 Acting Presidents. I’ve learned a lot working with you all this past year on the Board! These are just few of the hard-working (mostly behind the scenes) Board Members that make our Club special – watch for more kudos in the coming months!

Our December Holiday Party was packed with activities! To show our gratitude, we collected canned food items to donate to our host venue, Saint Philip Lutheran Church. We ate way too much chili and potluck goodies. Congrats to Kent Havens for your winning chili recipe! The kids (and adults!) enjoyed a visit from Santa. We thanked Ron Wankner for going “above and beyond the call of duty” by leading the Club through multiple pandemic years. To support club activities, we raffled off a Red Feather Lakes quartz pendant, kindly faceted and donated by John Kleber. Congrats to Susan Duncanson for winning a beautiful necklace! We announced the winners of our annual mineral competitions. Bob Burroughs won the coveted Odiorne Award, for his beautiful Amethyst Sowbelly Agate from the Last Chance Mine in Creed, Colorado. Carol Nielsen-Alt won the award for the “Best Specimen purchased from the Denver Shows, \$20”, for her mini-Amethyst geode. Larry Havens won the award for the “Best Specimen purchased from the Denver Shows, Any Price”, for his “Mango” Quartz specimen. Congrats! Finally, we took home fun door prizes to add to our collections. I hope everyone enjoyed the party as much as I did!

I am looking forward to our first General Meeting of 2023, which is coming up soon on January 20. Brian Walko will speak to us about “Collecting Colorado Fluorescent Minerals”. Seems a fitting January topic to me... We need something glowing and bright to get us through these short days!

Don’t forget to renew your membership! The annual dues are \$20.00 per family or individual. You can pay in person, or by sending a check to the LGMC mailing address (Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, P.O. BOX 283, Littleton, Colorado 80160). Only current members will be eligible to sign up for field trips. Don’t miss out!

Lastly, because everyone here enjoys seeing pretty minerals, and because my personal favorites are the colorful ones, I am going to try to include a “Colorful Rock of the Month” photo as part of this message. Since January in Colorado is brrrrr, I think a blue mineral fits. So, here’s a photo of the lovely Azurite specimen from Tongling, Anhui, China, that I won at our recent Silent Auction.

Photos by Nancy Kimber, except for portrait of Nancy taken by Mark Jacobson

Nancy Kimber, 2023 President, Littleton Gem and Mineral Club (LGMC)
NKK9960@hotmail.com
(303) 807-8919

Notices

In Memorial: Keith Sheel passed away December 12, 2022. Services will be at Olinger Chapel Hill, 6601 S. Colorado Blvd., Centennial, CO 80121, on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 10:00 am.

Keith, a lifetime member of the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, has been an integral part of the club with his involvement in various Club positions and activities, the Cabbers and Faceters Group, and the Denver Gem and Mineral Show Council and Committee. Along with these activities, he also had a business to run, K&M Enterprises, during Gem and Mineral Show events.

Keith was engaged in the Cabbers and Faceters Group and is remembered for the time he spent teaching people how to facet and cab stones. Many members will recall that day when Keith helped them to cut their first stone. He touched them with his kind smile, enthusiasm, and patience, so they could learn and expand their enjoyment of the hobby.

Keith made beautiful jewelry pieces for drawings at our Picnic's and Christmas Parties. His outstanding craftsmanship and the attractiveness of the pieces made them an exceptional prize to acquire.

The Littleton Gem and Mineral Club will miss Keith, although he will not be forgotten as we remember him in sharing in his love of rocks.



New Club Historian

We have a new historian Gail Tracy, so please also send club photos to our Club Historian at gctracer@gmail.com.

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

Faceters and Cabbers News

The Faceters and Cabbers group did not meet in December, but will meet again on January 17th, the third Tuesday, at 7:00pm, in our usual room at the church. January's main topic will be white or clear minerals.

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 (**NEW**)

The inaugural meeting of the reincarnated Mineral Study Group will be January 25, 2023, at 7 pm, using a room in the St. Philips Lutheran Church. Weather permitting of course, it is winter after all. If we have to cancel due to weather, I will try to send an email by 5 pm of the day of the meeting. We will meet on the last Wednesday of the month also going forward from September through May.

The topic for the first meeting will be LUSTER. Luster describes how a mineral appears to reflect light, ranging from brilliant to dull. Luster is something we use to help identify minerals, often without thinking about it. Attendees are welcome to bring examples from their own collection.

Lesley Sebol
Lesleysebol@gmail.com

Denver Gem & Mineral Show

Denver Gem & Mineral Show – 2023 Theme

Gemstone Minerals – Natures bling

Time to start thinking about a display you may want to put in at the show.

From Anita Colin, Denver Gem and Mineral Show Volunteer Chair:

The Denver Gem and Mineral Show: Moving Beyond 2020

The Denver Gem and Mineral Show (DGMS) started in 1967 as a collaborative effort among the Denver area's numerous rock clubs. Held annually in the Denver Merchandise Mart, the show celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017. In 2020, the show was forced to cancel due to the pandemic and, more importantly, the Denver Mart [went bankrupt from the pandemic and] was sold, leaving DGMS without a home.

In 2021, the organizers of The Munich Show in Germany sponsored their first HardRock Summit at the Colorado Convention Center and invited DGMS to join them. While the Convention Center was a big change from the Denver Mart's ample free parking and "mom and pop" vibe, the dealers and attendees were for the most part satisfied with the outcome. The 2022 HardRock Summit had several improvements and our attendees seemed to appreciate the diversity of displays and specimens for sale.

Looking to the future, the clubs that run the DGMS hope to expand the hands-on and educational activities at the show. Volunteers are needed to engage visitors in rock games, give out free specimens, and share information about our clubs. We hope to see you in Denver in September! Volunteers are reimbursed for parking, bus, and rail expenses and get free entry to the show.

Geology Corner



How fast can crystals grow?

Geologists are known for looking at slow moving events that take vast amounts of time. Some geologic events, though, happen very rapidly - floods, volcanic explosions, asteroid impacts to name a few. It is also a truism that in looking at igneous rocks, those with larger crystals have crystallized more slowly than those which have smaller crystals. What is meant by “slowly” in these contexts? We can see lava flows cool rapidly. Dark glassy crusts form on them within seconds of eruption, and cool to the touch within days. When we look at the crystals in them, they are

generally very tiny, or in the case of volcanic glass, virtually non-existent. An exception is larger crystals brought up as passengers in the magma from below, where they presumably crystallized more slowly.

There are very coarse igneous rocks called pegmatites. These are often granite, and mineral grains in them can be many feet long. Near Keystone, South Dakota, for example, one can see pegmatites with single spodumene crystals in them over 46 feet long. This tempts one to jump to the conclusion that the growth was quite slow, perhaps taking millions of years. This is a misconception. Crystals can grow very fast given the right conditions. For example, large industrial quartz crystals can be grown in days in labs under controlled conditions. Good sized ice crystals can form on lakes or puddles overnight. And, apparently, giant crystals in pegmatites can grow astonishingly fast too.

A paper by geologists at the University of New Orleans (Webber, et al., 1999) presents a detailed model for mineral crystallization in four pegmatites in California, including the Himalaya dike, famous for its large gem tourmalines. They gathered data on the temperature of the magma upon intrusion and the temperature of the surrounding rocks. They factored in such things as the rate of heat loss, thickness of the dike and the heat released as the crystals grew from the magma. Their calculations show that one pegmatite body 25 meters thick took around 9 years to crystallize, while the one-meter-thick Himalaya dike probably took about 5 days. This means that the largest gem tourmaline crystals of the Himalaya dike grew at about 4 centimeters (about 2 inches) per day!

So how do the crystals get so big if they grow so fast? The compositions of pegmatites are such that they allow relatively few crystals to grow. The main culprit seems to be the presence of abundant water vapor, which retards the formation of crystal nuclei. Those crystals that can form will be able to grow large because they will have little competition for available chemicals. It's a bit like growing carrots in the yard. If the carrots are crowded together, you will get lots of carrots, but they'll mostly be tiny. If you thin and separate them, you'll get fewer but larger carrots. When a magma cools to the extent that it gets saturated or even supersaturated in a particular mineral, those few grains of that mineral that do form will grow big in a hurry. The water also helps in circulating chemicals through the magma to the sites where crystals are growing, helping them along.

If the magma suffers a pressure loss (cracked during an earthquake, let's say), and the watery fraction escapes, a lot of crystals will nucleate and grow all at once, making a relatively fine-grained rock. We see evidence for this in lots of pegmatites, where zones in these coarse bodies grade over short distances to masses of small intergrown sugary textured crystals called aplites.

While Webber et al.'s models are specific to the California pegmatites, the principles they outline likely apply in general to many pegmatites, as well as other igneous rocks. The windows we have in the past show us only flashes of time in the earth's long history.

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

References:

Webber, K; Simmons, W.; Falster, A; and Foord, E, 1999, "Cooling rates and crystallization dynamics of shallow level pegmatite-aplite dikes, San Diego County, California" *American Mineralogist*, vol. 84, p. 708-717.

Upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

Jan 17: LGMC Faceters & Cabbers Group Meeting St. Philips Lutheran Church

Jan 20: LGMC meeting (details on page 1)

Feb 17: LGMC meeting St. Philips Lutheran Church

Feb 24-26: Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show Jefferson County Fairgrounds 10-6 Friday & Saturday, 10-5 Sunday



Mammals!
From Mini to Megafauna

March 25-26, 2023
Save the Date!
Founders Symposium
Green Center, Colorado School of Mines, Golden

westernpaleo.org
Western Interior Paleontological Society

The poster features a blue background with a yellow banner at the bottom. It includes silhouettes of a small mammal and a large megafauna animal. Social media icons for Twitter and Facebook are also present.

General Club Announcements



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](mailto:lynette.warren@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



Like us on FaceBook

LIKE and FOLLOW us @LittletonGemAndMineralClub

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!

Thanks, Gus

Its Dues Time Again

2023 Membership Dues

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 2023 dues to:

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

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: _____

P.O. Box 283, Littleton, CO 80160


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

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Trustee (2-year term 2022 & 2023)	Lesley Sebol	720-999-1372
Trustee (2-year term 2023 & 2024)	Chuck Borowa	704-953-3632

□ Chairpersons & Appointed Officers □

Sunshine Chairperson	Lynette Warren	303-956-4634
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Grab Bags	John Kleber, Chuck Borawa	J: 720-851-8510
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Denver Council Representative	Lesley Sebol	720-999-1372
Show Committee Representative	Lynette Warren	303-956-4634
Cabbers & Faceters Group	John Kleber, John Revis	720-851-8510
Mineral Study Group	Lesley Sebol/Richard Parsons	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.

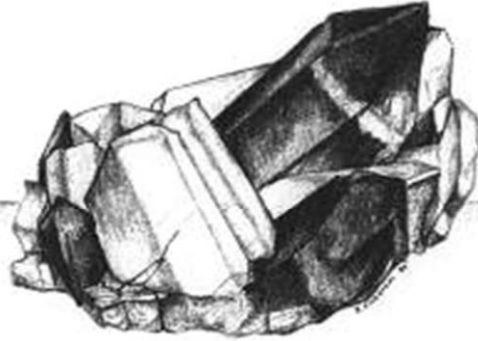
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HighLites

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