

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News,
August, 2012



SHOW TIME !

LAKE GEORGE GEM & MINERAL SHOW



LAKE GEORGE, COLORADO



Friday-Saturday-Sunday

August 17-18-19  9am-5pm

Minerals Fossils Local Specimens

Jewelry Lapidary

Free Admission Free Parking

Show Chair: Dan Alfrey AlfreyDan@aol.com (719) 440-6234 www.LGGMclub.org

Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, August 11, at 9:00AM
Lake George Community Center

After a short business meeting, we will work on the show set-up:

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Show preparations are in the final stages, and after the Saturday, August 11 meeting we will stake out the vendor spaces on the field and put up signs. I hope we will have a sufficient number of volunteers, as we have had in the past, so that the job will go quickly and smoothly.

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Show (continued): **Dan Alfrey** will have a signup sheet for volunteers to work the show. We always need several LGGMC members to be around to give specimens to kids, to explain the club activities to potential new members, and to answer general questions from the public. Be sure to wear your bright red LGGMC T-shirt if you have one.

Coming Events

- Columbine Gem and Mineral Society**, monthly meeting, 6:30PM, meeting room, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida. ... **Aug. 9**
- Contin-Tail Rock & Mineral Show**, Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista (go to www.coloradorocks.org for info) ... **Aug. 9-12**
- Special Screening: "Arthur Lakes: Discovering Dinosaurs"**, film by Friends of Dinosaur Ridge (and Beth Simmons); 12:30-3:00PM, Red Rocks Park Visitors Center, Theater Room; \$20 includes movie and snacks. Contact Clare Marshall at dinodiscovery@dinoridge.org ... **Aug. 12**
- Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show**, Details to follow. ... **Aug. 17-19**
- Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds 25th Anniversary Celebration**, with talks, tours, and banquet. Go to their website for details. ... **Aug. 18**
- "Geologic Hazards and Preparedness"**, Dinosaur Discovery Day, Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison. Go to www.dinoridge.org for information ... **Sept. 8**
- Workshop: Thin Sections of Meteorites**, Dr. Anthony Irving, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder. Limited enrollment; contact Anne Black IMPACTIKA@aol.com for info. ... **Sept. 8-9**
- Denver Coliseum Mineral Show**, 4600 Humboldt St., Denver (I-70 exit 275B at Brighton Blvd; www.coliseumshow.com for info). ... **Sept 8-16**
- Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum Annual Open house, Reception, and Silent Auction**, 6-9PM; all invited. ... **Sept. 12**
- Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show**, Ramada Plaza Hotel (old Holiday Inn), 4849 Bannock St., Denver. Free parking and admission. ... **Sept. 12-16**
- Denver Gem & Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Expo**, Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 at 58th Ave.; theme is copper minerals. Admission charge. (Go to www.denverminerals.com for info). ... **Sept. 14-16**

Club News

🔧🔧 President **John Rakowski** sent the following note about field trips: "I got a call on July 21 at 9:30 AM inquiring about plans for the Red Feather Lakes Field trip. The Field Trip Leader was meeting attendees at 9:00 AM up at Livermore, almost in Wyoming, so 9:30 AM from this area was too late; the caller missed the trip. This is a reminder to those interested in field trips: **BE SURE to look at the web site periodically for any posted changes to meeting place or other aspects of the trip.** It's also a good idea to contact the field-trip leader by email or phone a day or two before the trip to confirm that you are planning to attend and that the field-trip information you have is current. It's really a shame to miss a good trip, but a little forward planning will lessen the possibility of missing a trip you really want to attend."

🔧🔧 **Richard Kawamoto** and others have put together a great field-trip line-up for the summer. Here's a list of trips scheduled for the rest of the summer:

Aug. 16: LGGMClub "Show-Dealers-Only" Field Trip (a part of the JumpStart) (**Dan Alfrey**, leader)

Aug. 25: Last Chance Mine (Creede) (Sowbelly agate, and many other minerals) (**Dick Lackmond**, leader)

Sept. 8: Godsend mine (smoky quartz, amazonite) (**Richard Fretterd**, leader)

Sept. 15: Picket Wire dinosaur trackways (requires registration) (**Richard Kawamoto**, leader).

Sept. 16: Comanche National Grassland (septarian nodules) (**Dick Lackmond**, leader)

Please visit the Club website for detailed information about these trips.

Also, if you are one of the members who were snowed out at the Topaz Mtn. Gem Mine earlier this year, Richard reports that August 4 and 18 are open dates. To arrange to go, contact pinnacle5@pinnacle5minerals.com.

🔥🔥 **Steve Veatch** sent the following note about an outreach program for Lake George and Colorado Springs Pebble Pups: "I have been asked to help with a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant program called Beyond the School Bell. The grant is managed by School District Eleven and serves 50 Helen Hunt Elementary students. They are a low income school with 94% free and reduced lunch population. Beyond the School Bell (BTSB) after school program provides a safe place for Kindergarten through 5th grade students, 3 hours after the school day, and is housed in the school building so students do not have to be bussed. The school provides classes in literacy, science, recreation, and social skills as well as daily homework help. A licensed therapist is also on staff and works individually with students and families.

"These kids come from very difficult circumstances in their lives. My response to District 11 is to establish a satellite branch of pebble pups at Helen Hunt School. I have been successful in mixing language arts, art, and science together and have seen remarkable work completed by elementary students. In order for these 50 students to go on field trips and earn merit badges, they have to belong to a club. The CSMS charges \$10, I think. The Lake George club does not charge for a Pebble Pups membership. I am inclined to enroll these 50 kids in the Lake George Club. There is a problem with funding. The CSMS is tapped out on funding for their own group, and I see a need to provide specimens and materials to these kids. I am hoping the grant would cover that. As for field trips, well that will be interesting, but I have a host of adults who can come and help. I am checking on the grant and whether it covers a school bus to take these kids out in the field. I believe that many of them may have never been outside of an urban environment.

"I am emailing you so that all of you know what I am working on and trying to arrange. I believe strongly that the "Pikes Peak Pebble Pups" (CSMS and LGGMC) could work together so that these children can earn AFMS merit badges, learn about the wonders of our hobby, and just perhaps we can change the direction of their lives. I will keep you posted on what develops, and I will need help to run a program with 50 pebble pups. I will be asking the older, seasoned junior members and club members for help when we meet with the kids." --Steve

🔥🔥 Each year, **Bob Carnein** helps **Andy Sicree**, an old Pennsylvania friend, at Andy's "Interesting Things Minerals Do" table at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show. This year, we are soliciting help from anybody who wants to work at this VERY BUSY table. We demonstrate mineral properties, including cleavage, density, electrical conductivity, and others, to hundreds of kids and adults who stop at the table. Please contact Bob (ccarnein@gmail.com) if you'd like to give a hand. Friday is especially busy, but we can find something for you to do for a couple of hours on any show day (Sept. 14-16).

☀☀ Many thanks to **Norma Engelberg**, who has agreed to take over the Club library. Contact Norma at a Club meeting or at her office at the "Pikes Peak Courier View" (across from Walgreens in Woodland Park) to check out books or other materials.

☀☀ Members recently installed 6 aluminum signs on the Club claim, warning passersby that that mining claims exist in the area and that, although trespassing is permitted, collecting is not.

☀☀ **Reminder:** SCHEDULED OPEN TIMES IN THE LAPIDARY WORKSHOP ARE the 2ND WED OF THE MONTH, 6PM TILL 8PM and THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 1PM TILL 4PM. FEEL FREE TO CALL **RICHARD KAWAMOTO** (kawahome@wildblue.net) OR **DICK LACKMOND** (dlackmond@g.com) TO ARRANGE A SPECIAL TIME FOR YOU TO USE THE SHOP IF YOU NEED IT!

☀☀ Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds is offering one more seminar this summer:
August 4: Landmarks in the History of Paleontology in Central Colorado, by Herb Meyer and Dan Grenard.

For more information, go to www.nps.gov/flfo and follow the link to the seminar series.

☀☀ **Here are this month's "Bench Tips" and news items from Brad Smith:**

INTRO TO FACETING

Ron Gibbs has a nice presentation on faceting that is particularly well illustrated. It's from a seminar he gave at the Michigan Geology and Gemological Society.

<http://theimage.com/faceting/>

FREEFORM GEM CARVING

Have you ever wondered how to carve and polish a freeform gemstone? Hans Meevis, a jeweler from Saint Martin, has a nicely done tutorial on his work with a 10 ct Aqua. It's definitely worth a read. Enjoy!

<http://www.ganoksin.com/borisat/nenam/freeform-gem-carving.htm>

BenchTips for the Month

RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. Two solutions are either to sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. The question is, what do you use to elevate your cab?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that there's a better solution, especially for use in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose. In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.

TIP FOR A TRANSPARENT CAB

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I worry that the silver will tarnish under the stone and will destroy the brilliance of its color and pattern. So I take one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish. This Mylar is readily available in craft and gift-wrap stores, or, in a pinch,

from a party-balloon supplier. You may want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at facebook.com/BenchTip or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

Pebble Pups Corner

Here's a list of proposed topics for Pebble Pups, which starts up in September. Pebble Pups will meet on the **second Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Lake George Community Center**. New students are always welcome!

Sept.: "Planetary Geology: Is there Life on Any Other Planetary Body in Our Solar System?" —S. Veatch

Sept. 15: Field Trip to the Denver Gem & Mineral Show

Oct.: "We Know a Lot about Dino Fossils, but not so much about their Biology"— S. Veatch & Zach Sepulveda

Oct. 13: National Fossil Day celebration

Oct. 21: Field Trip to Wilkerson Pass Area

Nov.: "Where are the Big Magma Chambers that Produce Super-Eruptions?"—S. Veatch

Dec.: "Stone Age Tools and Art"—S. Veatch & Luke Sattler

Jan., 2013: Field Trip to Denver Museum of Science and Nature—S. Veatch and others

Feb.: Special class on Science Writing and Research—S. Veatch

Feb. or March: Field Trip to Cave of the Winds

March: "Minerals and How We Identify Them"—B. Carnein

April: "The Amazing World of Crystals"—B. Carnein

May: "Orienteering"—D. Alfrey

Be sure you check regularly at www.LGGMClub.org for details and updates.

Remember, Pebble Pups are welcome on LGGM Club field trips!

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
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This month, we are pleased to have a short article by **Zach Sepulveda**, a Pebble Pups Junior from the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, thanks to **Steve Veatch**. Enjoy!

Recent Fossil Finds From the Morrison Formation

Zachary Sepulveda
CSMS Junior Member

The subject matter of this short essay is a rare, agatized snail fossil from the Jurassic Period that was found in the Morrison Formation, and a dinosaur bone of an unknown species, also from the Morrison. Both specimens are from Colorado. The Morrison Formation is a sequence of sedimentary rocks that contains many Late Jurassic fossils. Iconic dinosaurs such as *Allosaurus fragilis*, *Diplodocus longus*, and *Brachiosaurus altithorax* have been found in this layer of Jurassic sediment.

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The aquatic gastropod (Figure 1) is about 165 million years old, and is assigned to the Valvatidae, a taxonomic family of small, fresh water gastropods known as the valve snails. These have an operculum ("The gastropoda"). The operculum is like a trapdoor attached to the upper surface of the foot and closes the opening of the shell when the soft parts of the snail are retracted inside. The snail is assigned to the species *Valvata scabrida* ("Humboldt State University," 2002). This snail lived in a Jurassic freshwater pond or lake.

The dinosaur bone (Figure 2) is from an unknown species, and yields clue as to where the dinosaur died. The dinosaur bone has not yet been dated, as of the time this paper was written. The dimensions of the gastropod fossil and dinosaur bone are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: The dimensions of the fossils			
Fossil	Length	Width	Height
<i>Valvata scabrida</i>	43.18 mm	22.86 mm	45.72 mm
Dinosaur Bone	~ 145 mm	~ 43 mm	~ 40 mm



Figure 1: Photomicrograph of a *Valvata scabrida*. Gastropods are characterized by the possession of a single (often coiled) shell. Photo ©2012 by S. Veatch.

As shown in Figure 1, the gastropod shells are replaced by agate, in a process known as agatization, which also occurs in other types of fossils. Agate is a beautiful material that is often used in jewelry.



The dinosaur bone (Figure 2) appears to be a fragment of a large bone, and it is attached to an extremely fine-grained sandstone, which may give clues about how the bone was preserved. Agate has formed within the Haversian canals and can be seen at either end of the fossil bone. Haversian canals are the tiny, interconnecting, longitudinal channels in bone tissue through which blood vessels, nerve fibers, and lymphatic vessels pass. Overall, these are two magnificent fossils and fascinating finds that help us reconstruct ancient worlds that have long since passed into deep time.

Figure 2: The unidentified dinosaur bone. Photo ©2012 by S. Veatch

References Cited:

The gastropoda. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/taxa/inverts/mollusca/gastropoda.php>

Humboldt State University Natural History Museum: Jurassic Period. (2002, October 15). Retrieved from

http://www.humboldt.edu/natmus/Case_indexes/Case_jpgs/Jurassic.web/

Dan Alfrey sent the following reminders about the Club Show:

We need Show Volunteers:

* Show Setup is on Saturday August 11, after our regular business meeting, to stake out the spaces and put up signage. After the staking, the volunteers will have a pizza lunch at Lake George Pizza.

* During the show, specifically Friday, Saturday and Sunday, (9am-5pm), we would appreciate volunteer members to assist in parking management, and handing out mineral specimens to kids.

--- It's fun and important to talk to the public about our awesome club activities and to discuss Geology & Earth Science with kids as well as adults interested in various aspects of our hobby

* We need Photo-takers. Take photos of show activity for updating website and other club publicity.

* Wrap-up helpers would be awesome too! Assistance is needed to takedown signage, general site cleanup (Sunday PM and Monday morning).

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

LGGMClub.org

2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State __ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Names and ages of dependent members: _____

Annual membership - dues Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 are as follows:

- Individual (18 and over) \$15.00
- Family (Parents plus dependents under age 18) \$25.00

Annual dues are due on or before March 31. Members with unpaid dues will be dropped from the roster after this date. **Any new member joining on/after August 30 shall pay one half the annual dues.**

I hereby agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of this club.

Signed _____ Date: ____/____/____

I have previously been a member of Lake George Gem & Mineral Club. Yes ___ No ___

My interest areas include:

Minerals ___ Fossils___ Lapidary ___ Micromounts ___
Other _____

I would be willing to demonstrate any of the above for a club program or educational activity? If yes, which: _____

Please indicate which of the following activities you might be willing to help with:

Writing _____ Editor _____ Mailing _____ Local shows _____

Club Officer _____ Programs _____ Field trips _____ Refreshments _____

Questions about the club or club activities? Contact John Rakowski (719) 748-3861

Rev. Jan. 2011

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

P.O. Box 171

Lake George, CO 80827

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The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geography and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts and the great outdoors. The club's informational programs and field trips provide an opportunity to learn about earth sciences, rocks and minerals, lapidary work and jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The club meets the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Community Center, located on the north side of US Highway 24 on the east edge of town, sharing a building with the county highway shops. **In the winter we meet at 10:00 AM. From April through September, we meet at 9:00 AM, to allow more time for our field trips.**

Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We also sponsor an annual Gem and Mineral show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems or jewelry. Annual membership dues (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31) are \$15.00 for an individual (18 and over), and \$25.00 for a family (Parents plus dependents under age 18).

Our Officers for 2012 are:

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