

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News,
December, 2011



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, December 10, at 10:00AM
Lake George Community Center

The December meeting will feature the Annual **“Towel Show”**. For new club members, let me clarify – You don't come to the meeting wearing a towel; it's not a Toga Party. Rather, our Towel Show means you bring some interesting item(s) you may have found or purchased this past year to show other club members. It's a grown-up “Show and Tell” session. If you found the items exciting and interesting, please bring them to show to other club members. Also, **bring any items you're having trouble identifying** and let's see if some other club members can help you to identify the items.

The December meeting will also be a **light snack type of pot luck**. Bring a snack type dish or treat that can be shared with 8 or 10 people (bring serving utensils). Remember that others will be bringing snacks too, and one person doesn't need to bring enough to completely feed everybody. The club will supply coffee, lemonade, plates and eating utensils.

Coming Events

- Dave Bunk Annual Winter Open House/Half-Price Sale**, 1441 W. 46th Ave., Unit 8 (east of Pecos St., south of I-70). 1-6 Sat., 11-5 Sun. Info at 303-477-6897. ... **Dec. 3-4**
- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society** monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida. ... **Dec. 8**
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock. ... **Dec. 15**
- Pueblo Rockhounds** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle. ... **Dec. 15**
- Flatirons Mineral Club Show**, Boulder Co. Fairgrounds Main Exhibit Bldg., Hover Rd. and Nelson Rd., Longmont. Go to <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/fmc/fmcshow.htm> for info. ... **Dec. 9-11**

Club News

❄️ At the November meeting, the following officers were elected for 2012:
President: **John Rakowski** Treasurer: **Wayne Johnston**
Vice President: **Jo Beckwith** Secretary: **Charlene DeVries**

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

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In addition, the Newsletter Editor (currently **Bob Carnein**) was added as a Club officer.

❄️❄️ President **John Rakowski** notes that a discussion was held at the November meeting, regarding use of the Club claim and lapidary workshop. Here's a summary:

At our last meeting there was a long discussion of hobby versus business use of the lapidary workshop and collecting at the Club Claim. Since that meeting, further research has been done through contact with other clubs, and we have found a typical position: Our Club is Non-Profit and no organized or intentional business use of equipment or facilities is allowed. They are concerned about their status in the eyes of the law, in terms of taxes and other liability for a "For-Profit Corporation" versus a "Not-For-Profit Club". This is a matter we must be attentive to also.

As President of the Club, after listening to discussion at the last meeting and weighing the additional information, my position is: If a club member cuts, slabs, or cabs and occasionally sells some stones to a neighbor or friend, it may not be a big problem. But if a club member is cutting many square inches of slabs and selling them wholesale or retail at shows, this becomes a clear business use. Similarly, collecting the contents of a pocket and trading or selling some of the surplus pieces may not be a big problem. But spending five or ten trips a season and collecting many pounds of specimens from multiple pockets for sale at neighborhood sales or shows clearly becomes a business activity. Decision of the boundaries of hobby versus business use can be made by the Lapidary Workshop Chairperson or our Field Trip Chairperson. The matter is always open for discussion, and **if further discussion is desired, then let's bring it up at the December meeting.**

❄️❄️ **Dan Alfrey** sent the following report about an exciting new position he will occupy at the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

"Next time you see me, you will be looking at the new Chair of the RMFMS All American Club! I believe we have 78 clubs in 12 states in the RMF. I am extremely excited to be working with our awesome new (2-year) RMF President, DeLane Cox, on this venture & others !!!!"

Dan's new position will be Chair of a panel that judges applications from clubs wanting to be named All American Club by the Rocky Mountain Federation. Maybe our Club should apply?

❄️❄️ **Dick Lackmond** reminds members that the Lapidary Workshop will have a special program on December 18:

Fred Ceconi of the Denver Guild and Lake George Club will make a special instruction/demo - presentation at the next Sunday Lap Shop meeting (Sunday 18 Dec. 1-4pm)

This will be a fantastic intro and learning experience for our club and a chance for you to see the great Lap Shop we have put together for our members' use and learning. We now have 3ea rock saws, 2ea trim saws, 3ea lapidary machines for grinding and polishing your rocks, some ring making equipment, and more. Don't worry if you do not have specimens; we have a good supply that has been donated for your use and keeping by Kris Dingfield, Donny Sutters, Belinda Adams, and others.

Lapidary Review/ getting started: Subjects to be covered include safety, Mohs' hardness scale, selecting rough for first projects, layout, trimming, preforming, etc.

Please let **Richard Kawamoto** (kawahome@wildblue.net; 719-748-8152) or **Dick Lackmond** (dlackmond@g.com; 719-684-9736) know if you are planning to attend, as the speaker /instructor has requested this info. Maybe something special?

Last month's program on wire wrapping had to be canceled but will be given this month. Here's the description of the program:

"At the next Lap shop meeting (**Dec. 14, 6pm**), we will have the pleasure of having a Wire Wrapping lesson - demonstration to help us all understand and maybe get into wrapping. Wire wrapping tools and techniques will be demonstrated. **Our guest speaker will be Kim**



Packham, Running Boar Minerals, a well known jewelry wrapper. Kim will have many fine pieces to show and sell!

Please bring your equipment, if you have any, and learn how to use it. Kim will bring hers, so you can play and get a feel for how it works.

What a great opportunity--- SEE YOU THEN!!!!"

Location: Mountain Aspen Granite Countertops, 213 Aspen Garden Way #4

Remember, **Glenn Raymond**, the owner of the business, has made the space available to the Club at No Cost!!! In return for his generosity, we encourage all Club members to keep Mountain Aspen Granite Co. in mind for stone counter tops, hardwood flooring and window coverings. They have polished natural granite and other rock that they can custom fit to kitchens, bathrooms or elsewhere. Phone 719-641-0214.

If anyone who plans to attend has access to a video recorder, please bring it. We would like to record the presentation and have it available in the Club library.

--Dick Lackmond

❄️ **Stan Klein**, aka the Opal Man, from the Denver area, has donated a big slab saw to the Lapidary Workshop. **Dick Lackmond** is now in the process of evaluating it. Many thanks to Stan for the great donation!



✿✿ Please note that Secretary **Charlene DeVries'** e-mail address has changed to dave.devries@verizon.com.

✿✿ If any member has extra specimens of slate, **Bob Carnein** (ccarnein@gmail.com) is looking for about 10 pieces for the December Pebble Pups class.

✿✿ Here's a special opportunity for kids, from **Steven Veatch**:

The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs was built by Spencer Penrose after he made a fortune in mining Cripple Creek gold and Utah copper. My grandfather was his personal secretary and on occasion was given items from Mr. and Mrs. Penrose. One of these items given by the Penrose family is an unusual piece of carved amber depicting three monkeys with the theme "see no evil, say now evil, and hear no evil."

I am looking for 3-5 pebble pup authors who would like to work with me as a team via the Internet on this artifact. We will work on the historical angle and the paleontological angle. Each team member will be given a simple writing assignment to work on. I will then assemble the work into a cohesive article and submit it to the newspapers and an International gem and mineral magazine for publication.

I think we have an interesting and unusual story to tell here. I am copying Dr. Gertenbach who works with the Pebble Pups in Denver so that all Colorado Pebble Pups will have a chance to work on this paper, and with luck, we can get it published in the newspapers and a magazine. If any Pebble Pups are interested and have some time, please let me know. I will give each respondent an assignment to work on that would require about 2-4 hours of work. I would like to have a due date of about mid-January.

Pebble Pups: Please email me back with this information: Your name, your grade, club you belong to, an email with parent's permission to be a part of this project, and a statement saying you are interested.

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Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

December, 2011

Steven Wade Veatch
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❄️ **Pete Modreski** sent the following, which should be of special interest to teachers:

I would like to share information about a very worthwhile class for teachers. “All About Mining - A Total Concept of the Mining Industry” is a unique, 4-week, 6-credit recertification class for teachers conducted through the Colorado School of Mines Continuing Education/Teacher Enhancement program. Now in its 44th year, the class is sponsored by the Colorado Mining Association Education Foundation. Its purpose is to show educators, via hands-on, practical experience, the importance of mining and related mineral industries to Colorado, the U.S., and the world. Teachers from any grade level and any subject area, science or not, can take the course. It is a mixture of classroom sessions and field trips, including a three-day trip to western Colorado, with visits to such sites as underground and open pit coal mines, a power plant, the Cripple Creek & Victor gold mine, the Henderson molybdenum mine, a steel mill, a gypsum mine and sheetrock plant, and more. I personally help lead one of the field trips and give one of the lecture presentations for this class. Over the years I have met many teachers who have taken the course (well over 1000 have done so), and everyone who has, counts it as one of the most unforgettable experiences of their lives. The tuition fee is \$250, which covers tuition-credit costs, but a greater amount in trip and class-related expenses is covered by the sponsoring organizations. Some scholarship assistance is available and can be applied for to defray expenses for participants who live beyond daily commuting distance to the CSM campus; teachers from any part of Colorado and from anywhere in the U.S. are encouraged to apply to attend the class (past attendees have come from all corners of the U.S., including Alaska). The CSM-Continuing Education registration page for the class is at, <http://te.csmospace.com/register.php?c=48>

with more information posted at: <http://www.allaboutmining.org/Register.htm>

The 2012 class will run from June 11 through July 6.

In the past few years, sign-ups for this course have been slow in coming, and the number of registrants has not filled the class to capacity. Please help us insure that the class continues into the future by spreading awareness of it via your club newsletter, as soon as you are able to do so! I hope that club members who read this, whether in Colorado or elsewhere, will pass this information on to any teachers they know.

Sincerely, Dr. Peter J. Modreski, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO, pmodreski@usgs.gov

❄️ If you'd like to lead a field trip next season or have a suggestion for one, please contact **Richard Kawamoto**, kawahome@hughes.net, who is our new field-trip coordinator. Speaking of which, **Beth Simmons**, of the Denver Guild, has volunteered to give Lake George Club members a "behind the scenes" tour at the Colorado School of Mines Museum. We'll hear more about this later—possibly next spring.

❄️ **Reminder:** We now have an expanding **Club library**, overseen by **Duane Russell** duaneruss@msn.com. If you have something to donate, please get any additions to our collections to Duane and he will update the inventory.

❄️❄️ Do you recognize these "before and after" pictures?



Carnein photo, summer, 2011



Courtesy of Beth Simmons, 11/28/11

❄️❄️ Here are this month's "Bench Tips" from Brad Smith:

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough. You can do this either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling one hole correctly, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's always difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult this is. The problem is easily solved by screwing a nut onto the bolt before cutting it.

So here's how I do it. Screw a nut onto the bolt, grip the bolt by the piece to be sawed off, saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt straightens out any damage to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece you're throwing away.

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More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at: groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips).

Pebble Pups Corner

One Pup showed up for **John Rakowski's** presentation on Sedimentary Rocks on November 15.

Please note: At the December Pebble Pups class, **Bob Carnein** will cover **Metamorphic Rocks**. The meeting will be held on **December 13**, rather than the 20th, to avoid interfering with holiday travel plans. **Cookies and free samples will be featured.** We hope to see you there!

Please check out the article about Steve Veatch's newest Pebble Pup project, earlier in this newsletter!

Remember, parents and other guests are welcome to attend Pebble Pups meetings, which are normally held at **6PM on the third Tuesday** of the month in the **Lake George Community Center**.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
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719-687-2739



I saw this article, which originally appeared in the North Seattle Rock Club newsletter (www.northseattlerockclub.org), in "Chips from the Rockpile", the Pueblo Rockhounds' newsletter. It looks like a useful, step-by-step treatment of a basic lapidary technique.

General Tumbling Instructions by North Seattle Rock Club

Are you interested in tumbling stones for our grab bags or your own collection, have a tumbler and the stones but don't know how to get started? Confused about how much grit to use? The following is an overview of the steps to take to create beautifully tumbled gemstones (thanks to Loretone).

Step 1: (80 Grit) Fill the tumbler barrel 2/3 to 3/4 full with properly graded and sized stones. If the barrel is not full enough, you won't get the proper tumbling action in the later steps. Add the necessary amount of coarse grit to the stones in the barrel (see table). After adding the grit, slowly add water until the water level is just touching the bottom of the top layer of stones. **Do not overfill**, because too much water will inhibit the tumbling action. Run the tumbler for 24 hours, then open the barrel to release any slight gas built up during the coarse grind. If the slurry appears pasty or very thick, add a small amount of water. Let the tumbler run for an hour and recheck; add more water as needed. The first (coarse) grind is the most important step and will take 7 to 10 days—be patient and don't stop too soon. **Note:** If the stones are not all smoothly rounded, it is necessary to repeat the coarse grind step using a charge of new grit. The original grit will have broken down too much to provide additional shaping. After the first grind, you must **clean the barrel and stones thoroughly to remove all traces of the coarse grit slurry**. Do not pour slurry into your plumbing system; it will settle in the pipes and harden like cement. There should be no visible grit or slurry left on the stones. You are now ready for Step 2.

Step 2: (220 Grit) Place the cleaned stones in the barrel, inspecting them as you go and removing any that need more coarse grinding. If you have less than 2/3 barrel full of stones, add plastic pellets to make up the additional volume. Add proper amount of water and grit, according to the table. Then reseal the barrel and let it run for 2 to 3 days before checking stones. On the 7th day, they should have a smooth, matte finish over their entire surface; if not, run for an additional 2 to 3 days. Plastic pellets will float to the top. Remove and clean them, as they can be used again. Use the same cleaning procedure as in Step 1.

Step 3: (600 Grit) Fine, or pre-polish. Place the stones into the barrel, following previous instructions. Run for about a week, checking progress every other day. Clean and inspect stones for final polishing stage.

Step 4: (Cerium Oxide Polish) Gently place the stones into the barrel to avoid any scratching or chipping. After charging the tumbler with water and polishing compound (see table), add plastic pellets to increase volume to 2/3 to 3/4 full. The pellets will help carry the polishing compound, and that will cushion the stones. Polishing should take 5 to 7 days. At the end of this time, remove and inspect several stones. If they look the same when dry or wet, your batch is finished. If your polished gemstones have a slight film on them, it can be removed and extra shine and luster added by the burnishing step (below). Before burnishing, be sure to thoroughly clean the barrel and stones and recover the plastic pellets.

Burnishing: Place your stones into the barrel, add the same plastic pellets and proper amount of powdered soap (**do not** use liquid detergents, dishwasher powders, or any products that contain bleach or additives, as these products will damage the barrel and ruin the polish). Add water as in previous steps and run for at least 4 days.

RECOMMENDED TUMBLING COMPOUND QUANTITIES

Barrel Size (pounds)	CAPACITY (Max Volume)	Step 1 Course	Step 2 Medium	Step 3 Fine	Step 4 Polish	Step 5 Burnishing Soap
	CUPS	TABLESPOONS OF TUMBLING COMPOUND				
1.5	1-3/4	4	4	5	2	1/2
3.0	3	4	4	6	3	1
4.5	5	8	8	8	4	1-1/2
6.0	7	10	10	12	5	3
12.0	15	20	20	24	8	4

Source: www.northseattlerockclub.org/

Here's another article, this one from the November issue of "Tips and Chips". Considering that we had an article about gypsum last month, this is an appropriate follow-up. Many thanks to **Beth Simmons**, who is the "Tips and Chips" editor and who wrote the article.

A TOWN NAMED GYPSUM

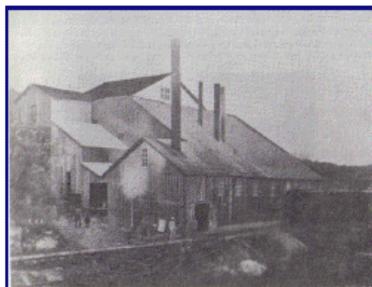
By Beth Simmons

Native Americans first quarried gypsum in the American west. They used it to "whitewash" the insides of their adobe homes. When Dominquez and Escalante took their tour through what is now western Colorado, eastern Utah, and northern Arizona and New Mexico in 1776, they noted the abundant gypsum deposits and how the natives were quarrying the soft mineral.

In 1859, George Morrison came to Mt. Vernon Village (where Matthews-Winters Park is today) and began quarrying stone of various types—sandstone for grinding stone and building, limestone for foundations and building, and gypsum for plaster. By 1869, Morrison had erected a primitive plaster kiln along the shores of Bear Creek. The town of Morrison quickly became the center of lime and plaster production in the west.

Alfred Wild started quarrying gypsum west of Loveland in 1895;

George Morrison's ad for Plaster of Paris, 1869, *Rocky Mountain News*



Buckhorn Plaster Mill, west of Loveland, 1900; man in white suit is Alfred Wild

Courtesy Jim Wild

he built the large Buckhorn Plaster Mill. Both deposits were sold to large gypsum producers in the early decades of the 20th century.

Gypsum, the town, along I-70, sprang up in 1881 as a ranching community along the Eagle River. Vast gypsum deposits occur along Gypsum Creek, and early settlers made use of it. However, large-scale gypsum mining of surrounding Pennsylvanian-aged red beds with their vast resources of gypsum did not start until a century later. The town's present economy depends on the American Gypsum (formerly CENTEX and before that, Eagle Gypsum Limited) drywall plant, the 5th largest producer in the country, which makes a variety of wallboard products, shipped by rail and truck across the country. The company operates an open pit gypsum mine in the hills north of town. The mine currently in operation is the second to have been located in the area. Its grade is quickly dropping, and the company intends to close and reclaim it soon. A new mine, roughly a mile away, has been permitted, and is in the development stage. The Eagle mine uses machines similar to pavement mills to cut 6-inch-deep swaths through the relatively soft rock. Front-end loaders then sort the material by color (white is gypsum, brown is waste) and load it into trucks to be hauled either to the plant or to waste

Gypsum mine at Gypsum
Photo by Vince Matthews



piles or to construct the haul-road to the new mine.

The mill, one quarter of a mile of conveyor systems, crushers, hammer mills, feeders and mixers, along with the primary forming line, produces 113 miles of wallboard daily! The wallboard is stacked high in a short-term finished goods warehouse, then shipped to its ultimate destination in either a home or building. From a broad river valley on the western slope of the Colorado mountains, a small town that was named Gypsum long before mining came to town now produces quality sheet-rock for building the houses of the nation, sending one of Colorado's most valuable natural resources, gypsum, across the country.

The mill at Gypsum produces 113 miles of wallboard daily!

References:

- Matthews, Vincent. 2009. *Messages in Stone*. 2nd ed. Colorado Geological Survey p. 129
- Rocky Mountain News*, 1869
- Town of Gypsum website/History
- "Uptime is key to production at American Gypsum plant" <<http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/3222/uptime-american-gypsum>>
- Warren, Ted. 1995. *The Dominguez-Escalante Journal*. U. Utah Press. p. 100
- Wikipedia/Gypsum, Colorado

DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE!

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

LGGMClub.org

2011 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

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 2011 are:

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