

# The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

## Club News

**December, 2018**



**Program for the month: Saturday, December 8, 10:00AM.**

**Our annual election of officers, potluck brunch and grown-up "Show and Tell".** LGGMC will supply water and coffee/tea, along with plates, napkins, forks, and knives. For the potluck, please bring snacks or light lunch food to share. This might include chips and dip or cheese or cut vegetables, fruit, ham, turkey, chicken chunks, crackers, brownies or fudge, cookies, etc. Serving size for each should be about a dozen people; you don't need to assume you alone are feeding everybody. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Community Center.

We'll have a traditional LGGMC "Towel Show", which is essentially a grown-up "show & tell". We're asking you to bring one or more minerals, fossils, or cut stones that you'd like to show to the rest of the members. It might be something like "Here's a rock I found in my driveway; what is it?" or it could be as complex as showing off a collection of Chinese fluorite specimens that you bought. Just plan on putting them on the table on top of a towel or other piece of cloth with any labeling you think is appropriate. Using a towel keeps each display to a reasonable size. This would be a good time to show off what you found last summer!

Also, bring your "unknown" specimens to try to get them identified. Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars and their families are invited to come to this event and participate!

**Officers for 2019 will be elected during a short business meeting; if you would like to serve, we can still accept nominations.**

**Silent Auction: We need donations for the silent auction!** If you have "extras", whether minerals, fossils, books, or other items, and if you have a label saying what the item is and where it came from, we can use it. If not, bring some cash and be prepared to help support Club activities, including scholarships, Pebble Pups, and other items.

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

What a great year we have had: fantastic field trips for gemstones, geodes, and fossils; excellent educational presentations at our monthly meetings; wonderful wire wrapping classes; and a great gem show that put over \$1500 in our club account. We will end our year with the election of officers, a Towel Show, and a Pot Luck. Next year, we will continue the monthly meeting presentations, already planned: a paleontology talk by Paul Combs, a presentation by the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center; Newmont CC&V will have a geologist speak at our meeting; Bob Carnein has 2 related talks on local geology to precede field trips in our

area. There are many others in the works, including John Rakowski's excellent annual Rockhounding 101 class, which begins our field trip season.

**Please plan to attend the December meeting to voice your opinions and to vote for next year's officers.**

–Bob Baker

✓ ✓ **Upcoming Programs:**

**Watch this space for monthly programs for 2019!**

**Coming Events**

✓ ✓ Several mineral, fossil, and geology clubs meet relatively nearby and encourage visitors. These include:

> **Cañon City Geology Club**, meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6PM in the United Methodist Church, Cañon City;

> **Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**, meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7PM in the Mt. Carmel Veteran's Service Center, 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs;

> **Columbine Gem & Mineral Society**, meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:30PM in the meeting room, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16<sup>th</sup> (at J St.), Salida;

> **Pueblo Rockhounds**, meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo.

✓ ✓ **Pete Modreski suggests the following upcoming events:**

**Sat.-Sun., Dec. 1-2, Dave Bunk Minerals**, annual end-of-year open house and mineral specimen sale. All are welcome: at his shop, 5695 Yukon St., Olde Town Arvada; 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sat., 10-5 Sun.

**Mon., Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m.**, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Earth Science Colloquium, **The Improbable Fossil Record of Jellyfish and Their Kin**, by Graham Young, Manitoba Museum. VIP Room, Museum admission not required.

**Mon., Dec. 3, 2:00 p.m.**, **WIPS (Western Interior Paleontological Society)** annual auction. Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood. "All are welcome to attend; proceeds benefit grants & scholarships in paleontology; earth science books; fossils, fossil replicas, minerals, art, "you never know what you'll find"; potluck refreshments provided by our members". Doors open at 2 p.m. for setup, silent and verbal auctions take place from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Mon., Dec. 3, 6:00 p.m.**, monthly meeting of DREGS (Denver Region Exploration Geologists' Society), featuring a talk by Ned Sterne, Consulting Geologist, "**A restorable, crust-scale cross section traversing the Colorado Rocky Mountains along Interstate 70—Possible structural implications for the distribution of some Colorado mineral deposits???**" Berthoud Hall Room 241, Colorado School of Mines campus, Golden; social time with refreshments at 6 p.m., program at 7. All are welcome. Ned Sterne gave another version of this talk to the Colorado Scientific Society in October.

**Fri.-Sat.-Sun., Dec. 7-9, Flatirons Rock and Mineral Show, "Rocks & Rails"**; Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont CO. The Flatirons Mineral Club Rock & Mineral Show is combined with the Boulder Model Railroad Club Model Railroad Exposition. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day, adult admission \$5.

See <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/about/annual-fmc-gem-and-mineral-show/> .

**Tues., Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m.**, Rocky Mountain Map Society, monthly meeting, "**How maps reveal (and conceal) our history**", by Susan Schulten, University of Denver; Denver Public Library, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Gates Room, free and open to the public.

**Tues., Dec. 11**, 6:30 p.m., at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Gates Planetarium, “**Cities, and a World, at Risk**”, by Dr. Bob Reynolds. Colorado Scientific Society annual President’s Address; 6:30 p.m. social time, 7:00-9:00 p.m., presentation and discussion. All are welcome; no admission charge. See <http://coloscisoc.org/> for more information.

**For more lecture series during the year see:**

**Colorado Beer Talks** (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.), Windy Saddle Café, 1110 Washington Avenue, Golden, “Golden’s grassroots version of TED talks, Expand your mind with a beer in your hand”, <http://goldenbeertalks.org/>

**Colorado Café Scientifique in Denver**, monthly lectures on science topics held either at Blake Street Station or Brooklyn’s, Denver; open to the public, no charge other than refreshments you may choose to purchase; see <http://cafescicolorado.org/> .

**Colorado Scientific Society** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7 p.m.), see <http://coloscisoc.org/> . Meets at Shepherd of the Hills Church, 11500 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood CO, except when noted.

**CU Geological Science Colloquium** (Wednesdays, 4 p.m.) see <http://www.colorado.edu/geologicalsciences/colloquium>

**CSU Dept. of Geoscience Seminars** (Fridays, 4 p.m.), see <https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/geosciences/geosciences-seminar-series/>

**Van Tuyl Lecture Series, Colorado School of Mines**, (Thursdays, 4 p.m.): <https://geology.mines.edu/events-calendar/lectures/>

**Denver Mining Club** (Mondays, 11:30), see <http://www.denverminingclub.org/> .

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Earth Science Colloquium series**, 3:00-4:00 p.m., VIP Room unless noted, day of the week varies. Museum admission is not required; see <http://www.dmns.org/science/research/earth-sciences/>

**Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society** (DREGS; 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7 p.m.), <http://www.dregs.org/index.html>  
**Florissant Scientific Society** (FSS); meets monthly in various Front Range locations for a lecture or field trip; meeting locations vary, normally on Sundays at noon; all interested persons are welcome to attend the meetings and trips; see <http://www.fss-co.org/> for details and schedules.

**Nerd Night Denver** is a theater-style evening featuring usually 3 short (20-minute) TED-style talks on science or related topics; held more-or-less monthly at the Oriental Theater, 4335 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver; drinks are available; for ages 18+. Admission is \$6 online in advance, \$10 at the door. See <https://www.nerdnitedenver.com/> .

**Rocky Mountain Map Society** (RMMS; Denver Public Library, Gates Room, 3<sup>rd</sup>Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.), <http://rmmaps.org/>  
**Western Interior Paleontological Society** (WIPS); beginning January, 2019, WIPS will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 7 p.m., at Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way, Denver; <http://westernpaleo.org/> .

✓ ✓ Here’s an item from **Steve Veatch** about an upcoming event at Western Museum of Mining and Industry:

On behalf of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry I would like to invite the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club to join the Pebble Pups at the Family Geology Day on January 5 (Saturday), 2019. This involves setting up a table with a display that promotes our hobby and having someone from the club to sit behind it and meet the public. This day can be shared between several members. The museum will provide a table.

The Family Geology Day is from 10am-3pm; set up anytime between 8-9:30am. The museum opens at 9am so visitors may start arriving prior to 10am. Museum closes at 4pm, so take down any time after 3pm but probably closer to 4pm (depends on visitors). This is an excellent chance to have a display on a table and meet the public while you promote our club. **Please let me know if you or other members from the club can participate.**

✓ ✓ **Billy Bell** sent the following item about Club field trips:

The Field Trip season has come to an end this year. We had some awesome RockHounding field trips. Debbie and I just wanted to say thank you to all the folks who helped out on the trips. Some

**Lake George Gem and Mineral Club**

**December, 2018**

led the trips, some did behind the scenes work, but without all the help we would not have gotten the club to some of the fantastic spots we got to go RockHounding

Special thanks go to:

**Bob Baker**-Trip leader, Research, & Advisor

**Linda Watson**-Trip Leader

**John Rakowski**-Research & Top Advisor

**John Sprouse**-Trip Leader & Research

**Bob Carnein**-Trip Leader, Research & Advisor

**Norma & Roger Rhodes**-Trip Leaders & Research

**Paul Combs**-Trip Leader & Research

**Karen Vogl**-Trip Leader

**Paul Hatfield**-Trip Leader

**Loren Lowe**-Trip Leader

**Richard Walker**-Trip Leader

**Joe & Susan Mahan**-Research

**Frank Rosenberg**-Photography & Social Media

**Russell Huards**-Magnetic Signs for Field Trips

**Richard Kawamoto**-Research & Advisor

**Danny Alfrey**-Research

**Cathy McLaughlin**-Research

and for keeping us looking awesome on the internet:

**Joey Korzekwa**-Web Updates & Design

In Highly Missed Memory Of: **Dick Lackmond**-Research

In reading this list, you see all the people who made this year's field trips possible. There were some more super folks who helped us this year also. Thank you all so much.

We got to go RockHounding looking for:

Amazonite, Topaz, Blue Barite, Garnets, Fossils, Rose Quartz, Meteorites, Gold, Epidote, Peridot, Fluorite, Calcite, Aragonite, Geodes, Actinolite, Malachite, Amethyst, and a lot more!

What You Can Do Now-

**We need new suggestions to put in the field trip line up for next year!** So if anyone has a cool place for the club to visit, please let us know.

And if you want to volunteer to do research or lead a club field trip, Let's Do It!

Remember, More help = More field trips

Thanks again to everyone, Billy & Debbie Bell

✓ ✓ **Wayne Orlowski** sent the following interesting links:

\*\* The worst year in history is directly related to geologic events:

[https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/11/why-536-was-worst-year-be-alive?utm\\_campaign=news\\_daily\\_2018-11-15&et rid=377269358&et cid=2490907](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/11/why-536-was-worst-year-be-alive?utm_campaign=news_daily_2018-11-15&et rid=377269358&et cid=2490907)

\*\* ...and, possibly related,

**Massive crater under Greenland's ice points to climate-altering impact in the time of humans**

Though not as [cataclysmic as the dinosaur-killing Chicxulub impact](#), which carved out a 200-kilometer-wide crater in Mexico about 66 million years ago, the Hiawatha impactor, too, may have left an imprint on the planet's history. The timing is still up for debate, but some researchers on the discovery team believe the asteroid struck at a crucial moment: roughly 13,000 years ago, just as the world was thawing from the last ice age. That would mean it crashed into Earth when mammoths and other megafauna were in decline and people were spreading across North America.

\*\* Colorado officially named **rhodochrosite** as its state mineral in 2002.

Here's a video from 1993 of Bryan K. Lees collecting the famous "Alma King" rhodochrosite from the Rainbow Pocket at the Sweet Home mine, Alma, Colorado!

<https://www.facebook.com/collectorsedgeminerals/videos/348665429012419/>

You can fast forward through the 1st 2/3 of the video if you wish.

✓ ✓ We received this **request for assistance** from a teacher:  
To Whom It May Concern,

I am an interventionist at Madison Elementary School in School District 11 in Colorado Springs. We are holding a STEM Day on December 19, 2018. Each teacher will be heading a different subject from the STEM fields in their classroom. This will include lessons, presentations, and activities on the subject to get students interested and excited about STEM. The students in each grade will rotate to the different classrooms to get a wide variety of exposure.

One of my teaching partners and I would like to bring in paleontology and paleobotany as our subject. We feel that with all of the attention given to engineering and technology, sometimes the importance of the sciences is not brought to light, even though engineering and technology are used in conjunction with the sciences. Our students love learning about the animals and plants of the past, but many do not know that this is a field that they can learn more about and even grow up to join professionally. We want to show them the excitement of the profession with images and an activity that mimics searching for bones and fossils using instruments like brushes and picks. We also have some fossils to show them.

We were wondering if one of your scientists would be willing to make an appearance at our STEM Day, or if you know of any paleontologists or paleobotanists in the area that might be willing to make an appearance. We would be open to any sort of visit, which could include: small classroom visits, grade-level visits, or larger assemblies. Any sort of visit would be highly appreciated. However, a big presentation is not necessary. Even if someone would be willing to be present for part of the day and inspire our students with some of their stories and wisdom, we would be honored.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope we will be able to arrange an unforgettable experience for our students.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Black  
719-963-0605  
[starbuck.black@yahoo.com](mailto:starbuck.black@yahoo.com)

► ► And here is the latest installment of “**Bench Tips**” by **Brad Smith** ([www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)):

## TAKE A BETTER PHOTO

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion, and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the colors will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask how to do this, but it's really worth it.

That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

- Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.
- Turn the camera's flash off.
- Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the frame.
- Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.
- Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle, or white background paper.
- Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.
- Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.
- Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.
- Set the lens opening to the highest number to get the maximum depth of field.

- Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, light bulb, fluorescent, etc.).
- Set the timer for delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to adjust lighting or reduce any final reflections.
- Set the image size to the maximum resolution. You can size it down later, but you can never increase it.
- Take the shot.

Pick Up a Few New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books

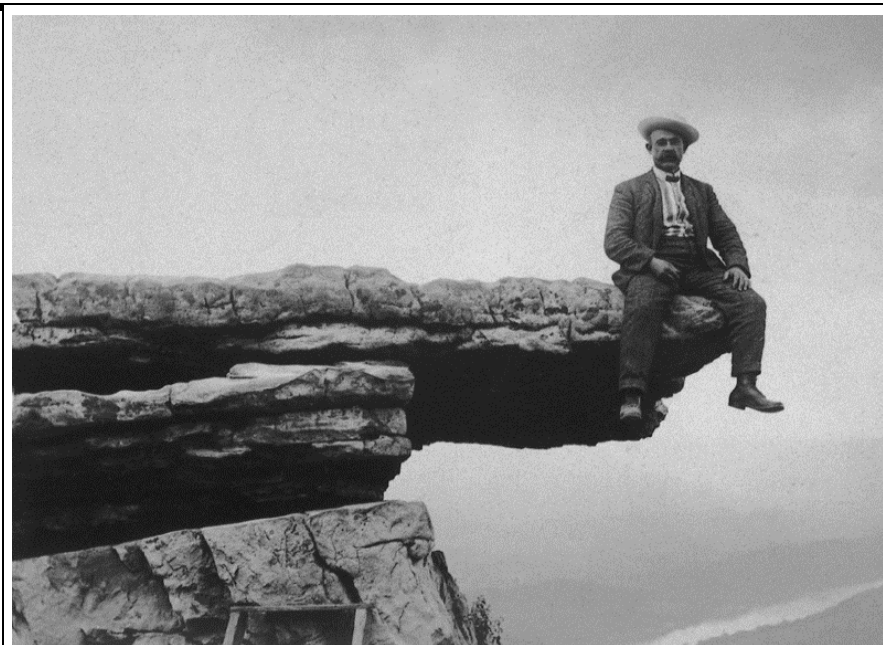
<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

## Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein, Editor

[ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com)

719-687-2739



Here's a short article about a new business that has opened in Florissant, and an announcement from **Steve Veatch** about his annual writing class.

### *Florissant Rocks!*

Bob Carnein

As far as I know, nobody has ever tried to figure out the economic impact of rocks, minerals, and fossils on Teller County. There's the obvious stuff, like the Cripple Creek mines, which have produced over 25 million ounces of gold since 1891. Then, there's the impact of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, which attracts over 60,000 visitors per year, bringing in millions of dollars. But how do you measure the contribution of mineral collectors who come from all over the world, or the impact of the Dorris family claims (e.g., the Topaz Mountain Gem Mine; Smoky Hawk claim)? I think we all know that fly fishing brings in money and visitors, but I don't think anyone has tried to measure the importance of our hobby. Most of those impacts are beyond the scope of this article, but I'm beginning some research that might help to demonstrate that, over the last century and a quarter, "rockhounding" and related hobbies and businesses have made surprising contributions to the local economy.

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

December, 2018

Since I first visited the area in 1971, I've known that local rock enthusiasts have been selling minerals for many years. Some of the businesses were combined with other enterprises (for example, I remember seeing Carl Quist's amazing beryl crystals and other minerals in his gas station at the CR96/US24 intersection in Lake George), while others focused specifically on minerals, jewelry, and fossils. Among the latter is Marion Clare's shop, just south of the feed store on the west side of CR1, in Florissant. Marion has been selling Eocene fossils and petrified wood, as well as minerals from the Crystal Peak district and elsewhere for many years. The Clare's Florissant Fossil Quarry, overseen by Marion's mother-in-law Tony, is busy nearly every day in the summer. Then there are less formal businesses, such as the flea market next to the Thunderbird bar, where a hodge podge of specimens and tourist items are offered on summer weekends. And, of course, our own Gem & Mineral Show, in August. Although we have no way of knowing how much money changes hands at the show, we know it has an economic impact on the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, bringing in enough money to help support our scholarships and other educational activities.



**Second Nature Colorado is located on the second floor of the old Park State Bank building.**

A brand new addition to our local mineral and fossil "industry" had its soft opening in Florissant on November 15 and will formally open on December 1. It is called "Second Nature Colorado", and it's located in a suite on the second floor of the old Park State Bank building, next to the post office in Florissant (entrance is at the rear). Operated by local resident and longtime mineral collector Jeff McCammon, the shop contains a fascinating mix of world-wide mineral specimens, gemstones, and fossils, as well as Native American artifacts, mounted insects, and historical memorabilia. The walls are so covered with old maps, prints, and postcards that it's doubtful that Jeff can fit in another item. Eventually, there will be a space for antiques in an adjoining room.





Owner Jeff McCammon sells minerals from world-wide localities, as well as gems, fossils, artifacts, and historical memorabilia.

Jeff is a certified gemologist who does gem cutting himself, though he also has a couple of faceters who cut stones for him. He has collected minerals since age 6, and his father, Ray McCammon, is a long time world-class collector. Originally from Los Angeles, Jeff and his wife made the unfortunate decision to open their first shop in Salida just before 9/11. They moved to Cripple Creek 15 years ago, where Jeff worked in a casino. Florissant became home 12 years ago, and Jeff has been heavily involved with the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum as a docent. The McCammons sacrificed a planned 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary trip to India to open Second Nature Colorado.



Second Nature Colorado features items for both beginning and advanced collectors.

Besides the items he has for sale, Jeff plans to offer some other services related to the hobby. For example, there will be introductory gemology and crystallography classes to help beginners learn “the

[Lake George Gem and Mineral Club](#)

December, 2018

basics". There will also be a crystal-growing class, followed by a contest with prizes for the best home-grown crystals. Guided field excursions will be offered for collectors, who will be able to keep everything they find. Considering his far ranging imagination and ideas, I don't doubt that other surprises are in store for Jeff's customers. I hope our Club members will welcome Second Nature Colorado as a great addition to the long tradition of Earth-science businesses operating in central Colorado.



## Winter Writer's Nonfiction Writing Class

*Come to a writing class for students and learners of all ages!*

**January 26, 2019**  
9:00 am to 12:30 pm

**Western Museum of Mining and Industry**  
225 N Gate Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3004  
719.488.0880 | Toll Free: 800.752.6558

The course fee is \$45 for adults and \$15 for students (21 and under). WMMI members receive \$5 off adult fee. CSMS and Lake George Club members receive a \$30 discount.

Are you ready to take your writing to the next level? The Western Museum of Mining & Industry provides an intimate, inclusive program in a remarkable setting. This class combines excellent instruction with valuable resources and is ideally suited for the general public, teen writers, and beginners.

Immerse yourself in this intensive, half-day winter writing class designed for those who want to learn more about nonfiction writing and publishing. Writing about nature, science, history and other nonfiction subjects offers exciting

opportunities to be published. Magazines, newspapers, bloggers, clubs, and schools are looking for articles to share with their audience, and this class can teach you how to publish.

### Class highlights

- Work with published authors who will teach the class
- Learn about creative nonfiction, nature writing, science writing, and history writing
- Discover powerful research methods
- Identify and develop story ideas
- Practice how to outline and structure stories
- Learn potent craft tips
- Work with photos for your articles
- Understand the role of an editor in the publication process

**Lake George Gem and Mineral Club**

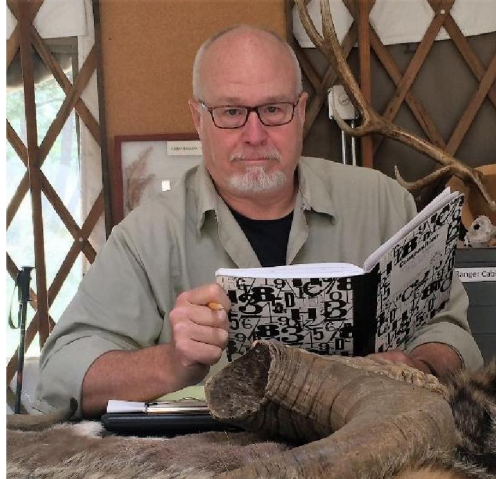
**December, 2018**

- Discuss publication issues and learn some tips on publishing

A certificate will be awarded by the museum upon completion of the class. All other course materials will be provided including a morning reception. A writer's resource kit on digital media will be available for purchase from the instructor for \$10 to continue the training beyond the class at the museum.

#### **Instructor bios:**

**Steven Veatch** grew up in the Pikes Peak region and earned degrees at Colorado State University at Pueblo (BSBA), Webster University (MA), and Emporia State University (MS Earth Science). He is a writer of essays, book reviews, science articles, and professional papers. He has published over 150 articles on nature and science. He has contributed chapters to these three books: *Field Trips in the Southern Rocky Mountains, USA, Field Guide 5*; *The Paleontology of the Upper Eocene Florissant Formation, Colorado*; and *The World's Greatest Gold Camp: An Introduction to the History of the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining District*.



He was an associate editor of *Leonardo*, a literary and art journal published by the English Department of Central New Mexico Community College for three years. He is a regular at a writer's retreat held in the woods of northern Michigan at the Interlochen College of Creative Arts.

**Ben H. Elick** has published a number of nonfiction articles in newspapers and magazines, notably the international Earth science magazine *Deposits*. He recently presented his co-authored paper on repeat photography at the Geological Society of America's North-Central Section Meeting in Ames, IA and on Cripple Creek minerals at the New Mexico Technical Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro. This will be his third year assisting with this writing class. He is currently a student and lives in Douglas County.



## Monthly Mineral Quiz



**Last Month's Unknown: Malachite**  $\text{Cu}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$  is a common mineral found with azurite, chrysocolla, and other secondary copper minerals in the oxidized portion of copper deposits. It's an indicator of copper mineralization, though its presence doesn't necessarily mean that the deposit has any economic value. This particular piece exhibits green malachite staining on a Late Paleozoic conglomerate and came from a prospect hole near Dave Harvey's blue barite deposit southwest of Hartsel, in Park County, Colorado.

**This Month's Mineral:** Here's a mineral that will provide a challenge for some of you. It's a very hard (7 1/2-8) beryllium mineral that has a specific gravity of about 3.0. Although it has a good cleavage, its hardness and tenacity make it a valuable gem mineral. Crystals are hexagonal-rhombohedral; the photos show hexagonal prisms terminated by rhombohedra (right), or common "drill-bit" twins (left). Although the finest crystals occur in Myanmar, the mineral is relatively common at Mt. Antero and other localities in central Colorado, where crystals are generally rhombohedral without an obvious prism. What is it?



Lake George Gem & Mineral Club  
PO Bo 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 opportunities to learn about Earth science, 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 on 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 10:00AM. From April through October, we meet at 9:00AM, 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 2018 are:**

**Robert Baker**, President  
2100 Valley View Drive  
Woodland Park, CO 80863  
719-464-7102  
[bobsboards46@gmail.com](mailto:bobsboards46@gmail.com)

**John Rakowski**, Vice President  
PO Box 608  
Florissant, CO 80816  
719-748-3861  
[rakgeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:rakgeologist@yahoo.com)

**Cathy McLaughlin**, Treasurer  
11595 Owls Nest Rd.  
Guffey, CO 80820  
702-232-3352  
[cathy\\_mclaughlin@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_mclaughlin@hotmail.com)

**Norma Rhodes**, Secretary  
7546 Duck Hawk Place,  
Fountain, CO80817  
719-229-5379  
[normajalexander@gmail.com](mailto:normajalexander@gmail.com)

**C.R. (Bob) Carnein**, Newsletter Editor  
507 Donzi Trail  
Florissant, CO 80816  
719-687-2739  
[ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com)