

# Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

## Club News

December, 2020



### LGGM Club Memberships

Due to the cancellation of so many club activities during the Covid-19 pandemic, LGGM Club memberships from 2020 will be rolled over to 2021 at no cost to the member. If you would prefer to have a refund of your 2020 membership fee, please contact our treasurer

**Cathy McLaughlin**, Treasurer  
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Applications for new memberships can be submitted to Cathy only in January, February and March. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend the presentations at our monthly club meetings when the meetings resume, but only members may attend club field trips.

### Status of LGGM Club Activities:

The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in statewide emergency regulations and public health advisories against group gatherings. Cancellations include all **LGGM Club meetings**, and **programs**, as well as **classes** such as Rockhounding 101, Mineral Identification, and Basic Wire Wrapping. We will let you know when these events can be rescheduled.

**COMING EVENTS OUTSIDE THE LGGM CLUB:** ; (Nearby gem, mineral, fossil and geology events that you may enjoy.)

Many events that are held in college facilities or local community facilities are still cancelled until further notice. However, some organizations have resumed in-person meetings or have begun having meetings or special events online. Please check the web sites to be sure of current status.

- **Cañon City Geology Club**, cancelled until further notice. <https://www.canoncitygeologyclub.com/>
- **Columbine Gem & Mineral Society**, meetings TBD. <https://rockaholics.org/about/>
- **Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** meetings cancelled until further notice
- **Pueblo Rockhounds**, meetings cancelled until further notice.

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### Online Events

- Thurs 12-3-20 5:30 p.m. **Rocky Mountain Map Society** Online via Zoom until further notice: "How Federal Government Redlining Maps Segregated America" Zoom talk by Linda Gartz. For further information see: <http://rmmaps.org/>

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- Monday, December 7, 2020, 7 p.m. **Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS)**  
Speaker: Steve Miller; will present new policies for different aspects of fossil collection, ownership, transfer and disposal. See <http://westernpaleo.org/> for more info.

***The following are cancelled until further notice: check the following links for information on lecture series when they resume:***

**Colorado Café Scientifique in Denver**, monthly lectures on science topics see <https://coloradocafesci.org/>

**Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society (DREGS)** <http://www.dregs.org/index.html>

**Florissant Scientific Society (FSS)**; see <http://www.fss-co.org/> for details and schedules.

**Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter** <http://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/events/>

**Golden Beer Talks**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.), **At Home Editions** <https://goldenbeertalks.org/>

**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/>.

## **LGGM Club News:**

**Newsletter Article Award:** Paul Combs' article entitled Fake Fossils: Every Rockhound's Headache was published in the LGGM Club newsletter in May, 2019, and won an award a few months ago from the Rocky Mountain Federation of Gemological Societies. Now this article has won the Original Adult Article contest for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. **Congratulations Paul!**

**Member Reports on Private Rockhounding Activities.** Although the LGGM club has no rockhounding field trips or other activities planned at this time, we would welcome any information you may have about other rockhounding you may have done on public lands that allow rock collecting, or on private lands or mines which allow fee digs or rockhounding with permission. Please tell us where you went, what you found, and provide contact information for obtaining permission (if required). Your information and photos may be included in future newsletters.

## **Links to Interesting Gem & Mineral Articles Online:**

**Wayne Orlowski** sent us the following links:

1) <https://earthlymission.com/dinosaur-mummy-science-discovery-nodosaur-intact-canada/?fbclid=IwAR1Gaib05-zkohUJeT9Q9hUsKShk6aO2XZgfitGnvwNI9WcFGPnVsed38VI>

2) See how a geologist dissects and describes an outcrop - University of California, Santa Barbara

[https://vimeo.com/481343264?fbclid=IwAR11H-wP5zLMDDT\\_rZebFYFPXPtpLersdzK2Ve7ai0cSYiI0OJ2c2evNWTk](https://vimeo.com/481343264?fbclid=IwAR11H-wP5zLMDDT_rZebFYFPXPtpLersdzK2Ve7ai0cSYiI0OJ2c2evNWTk)

This is a detailed outcrop description of a famous road cut. I co-led a field trip here with John Oldo, a structural geologist from Rice University, in 1992 for a group of Earth Science teachers from the Katy ISD. The 4 day trip for 27 teachers was sponsored by Conoco and the ISD.

3) On your next trip to Iceland....

Only about 30 minutes from Reykjavík, Iceland's [Thrihnukagigur volcano](#) presents scientists and travelers with an experience you can't find anywhere else: descending into heart of a volcano.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/destinations/europe/iceland/sponsor-content-descend-into-icelandic-volcano/>

4) A great experience to visit this World Heritage site as we once did.

[https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-europe/giants-causeway-0014480?fbclid=IwAR01-L2OXGOYV9k7ID-YysYVnNSBIrb1HVCjmf-U14HQ561\\_yLBy0BOn8ao](https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-europe/giants-causeway-0014480?fbclid=IwAR01-L2OXGOYV9k7ID-YysYVnNSBIrb1HVCjmf-U14HQ561_yLBy0BOn8ao)

Thank you legendary Irish hero, Finn MacCool ( [Fionn mac Cumhail](#) ).

Watch video at - <https://youtu.be/bBARpqnYKvU>

----- Wayne C. Orlowski Geologist -----  
Carpe mañana, quam maximum credula postero  
and then  
be the person your dog thinks you are.

### The latest installments of “**Bench Tips**” by **Brad Smith**: ([www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com))

**(Note from Editors:** Last month, Brad Smith experienced email difficulties that prevented us from receiving his monthly bench tips in time for our November newsletter, so we have both November and December “Bench Tips” here.)

## November Bench Tips

### LOOSE HEADS ON TOOLS

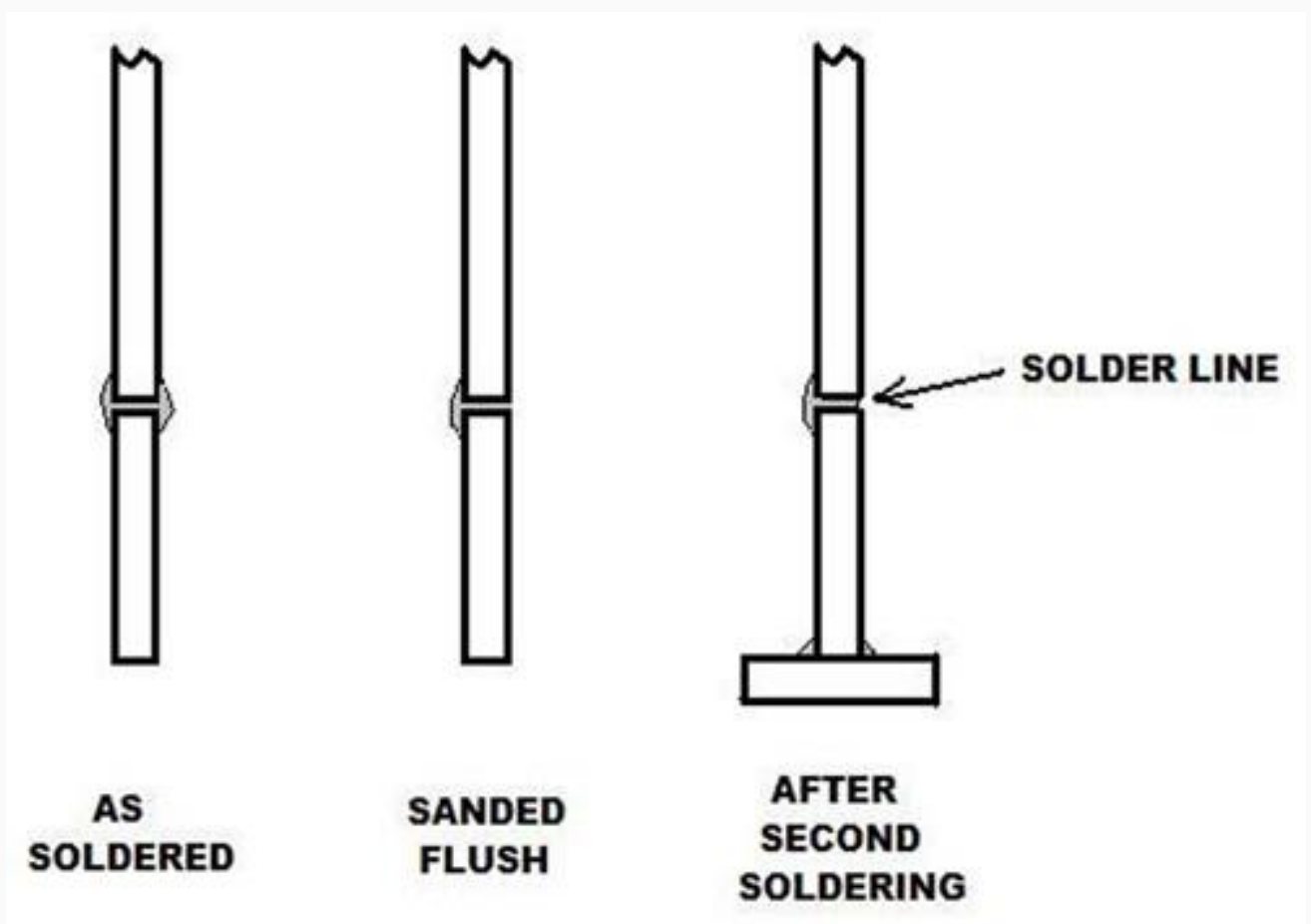


Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue. Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of two superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammer head that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.

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## AVOIDING SOLDER LINES



After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow. To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering. Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.

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### December Bench Tips

Brad's "How To" Books Make a Nice Holiday Gift  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

## TEMPLATES



**Figure 1** Templates

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out. Art stores or online sources like [cooltools.us/](http://cooltools.us/) and [kingsleynorth.com/](http://kingsleynorth.com/) sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or

sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch. One example is the brass template in the picture above that let's me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

\* \* \* \* \*



**Figure 2** Yellow Ochre

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it. I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

Wishing you happy holidays,  
Brad Smith

### Notes from the Editors

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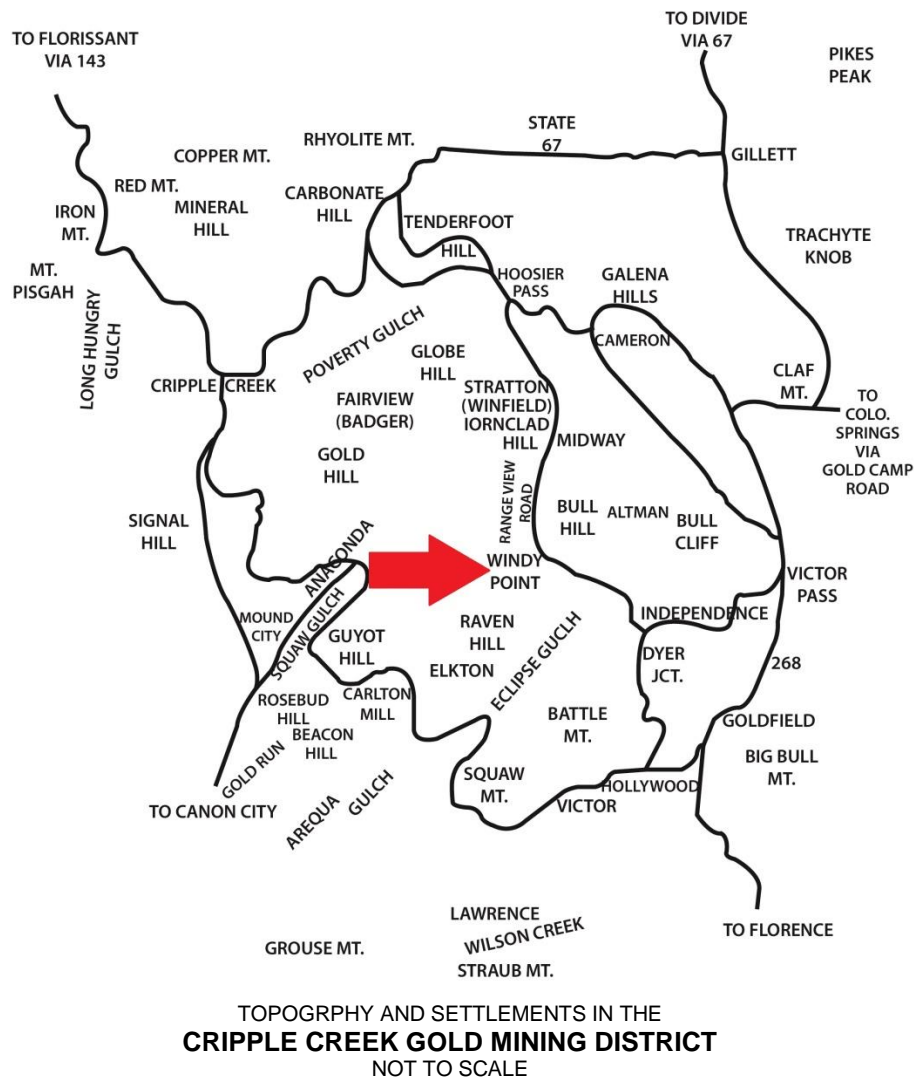
**From Co-Editor Bob Carnein:** Steve Veatch sent us this article about one of the several lost communities that grew up around the Cripple Creek gold discoveries of the late 1800s.

## Windy Point: A Photographic Essay

By **Steven Wade Veatch**

A collection of rare photographs of Windy Point, a tiny map-dot community situated on a saddle between Bull and Raven hills in the Cripple Creek Mining District, have turned up in the archives of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

Margaret Benson (Mortensen), who spent part of her childhood in Windy Point, donated those photos which belong to another time. The photographer was Nils Tycho Schedin who, with John Lehman, had a photography studio on Bennett Avenue in Cripple Creek in the early 1900s. Schedin was known in the area for his gelatin silver prints. He later moved to Leadville and had a photography studio there from 1908 to 1923 (Colorado Mountain History Collection). Margaret Benson's father was a close friend of Nils Schedin.



**Fig. 1.** A generalized map of the Cripple Creek Mining District. A red arrow shows the location of Windy Point. North is toward the top of the map. Modified from Munn (1984).



**Fig. 2.** A view of Windy Point. Mines and prospects cover the landscape. This is written on the back of the photo: "The hillside at Windy Point as it looked in 1904." Photo by Nils Tycho Schedin circa 1904. From the Margaret Benson (Mortensen) collection, courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum A8367.

The Windy Point area was open and rugged country that spread out in all directions. A few clumps of trees dotted the landscape. It was high country, swept by stubborn winds that seemed to come in one way and then another. It is now a place lost to time.

Windy Point was one of the smaller communities in the Cripple Creek Mining District where miners made their homes and worked in nearby mines (Collins, 2016). The *Directory of the Cripple Creek Mining District for 1900* listed only 44 households and one business, the Windy Point Boardinghouse, run by S.C. Hoskins, who had six boarders living there.

The women of Windy Point maintained a sororal relationship and staged social activities ranging from quilting to hosting various meetings. A reporter for the *Cripple Creek Morning Times* wrote about a Miss Brown, who hosted a meeting of a local club in her Windy Point home in January 1900 (Collins, 2016). The Benson family lived in Windy Point for several years. John Benson and his wife brought up their daughter Margaret (Mortensen) there. The persistent wind reminded the Benson family of the difficulty in living at this high elevation and enduring winters that were so cold that the air cracked like ice.



**Figs. 3 & 4** The Benson family sitting in their yard. Mining activity can be seen in the background of Fig. 4. Margaret Benson (Mortensen) wrote on the back: "My mother Christina Benson and Grandma Colley and myself in our yard in Windy Point." Photo by Nils Tycho Schedin circa 1905. From the Margaret Benson (Mortensen) collection, courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum A8369.

Floyd Miller also called Windy Point home. During the violent 1903-1904 labor strike in the district, Harry Orchard supposedly gave Floyd Miller money to buy explosives for him (Turner, 1907). Orchard used the explosives to make a bomb. On June 6, 1904, a bomb, made with between 150 and 200 pounds of dynamite, exploded at the Independence Depot of the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad, killing 13 non-union men waiting for a train (Jameson, 1998).

Windy Point was near several mines, including the New Haven and Joe Dandy. The local mines were busy, and the sounds of gold mining hung in the air. Cages shook and rattled as they carried men and ore up and down shafts. Whistles blew, ore cars clacked, bells rang, and mills thumped. The wind played among the mine headframes, making them moan. An article in the *Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette* (1904) described a gold strike at the Ramona mine on the southwestern slope of Bull Hill, next to the War Eagle mine. A later report revealed the shaft at the Happy Year mine, straight as a straw, had reached a depth of 350 feet by 1916, and the War Eagle continued shipments of ore (Carroll, 1916).

Windy Point was also a stop, about one-half mile south of the town of Midway, on the "High Line" of the Cripple Creek District Electric Railway (Directory of the Cripple Creek Mining District, 1900). The High Line trolley ran between Cripple Creek and Victor and went through several towns and mines as it



wound its way up Bull Hill, reaching an altitude of 10,500 feet; a trip billed as the highest electric railway in America (Cafky, 1955).



**Fig. 5.** The “High Line” of the Cripple Creek District Electric Railway nearing Midway in the winter. Undated photo by Edgar Yelton. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum 9254.

Riders were treated to scenic panoramas where purple mountains—old as time—cut into a quiet sky behind rounded hills. When service started on January 3, 1898, the trolley reached an average speed of about 10 miles per hour, making the round trip between Cripple Creek and Victor in 90 minutes (Street Railway Journal, 1898). Trolley speeds were later increased to make the round trip in one hour (Street Railway Journal, 1898). Later, trolleys ran every two hours on the High Line route. Additional runs were made during shift changes at the mines (Cafky, 1955).

To the Bensons, Windy Point was a gritty place where one day faded away into another—an endless sameness of mining in the gold camp. After a few years, the Benson family said goodbye to their friends and left. Others left too. And as the gold boom subsided and time passed, people continued, one by one, to leave until Windy Point was empty and as still as a stone.

The old days of Windy Point are gone, vanished from sight and memory. Much of the town’s history is lost to the erosive power of time. After the gold boom, Windy Point became a ghost town and a place for tourists to come for scenic views. And now that is gone. Current mining operations have removed Windy Point from the landscape. These rare photos and this essay save Windy Point from disappearing from history.

### **References and further reading**

Cafky, M., 1955, *Rails Around Gold Hill*. Denver, Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, p 176.

Carroll, F., 1916, *Fourteenth Biennial Report Issued by the Bureau of Mines of the State of Colorado for the Years 1915 and 1916*: Denver, Eames Brothers State Printers, p. 43.

Collins, J. M., 2016, *Lost Ghost Towns of Teller County*. Charleston, History Press., p. 158-159.

Colorado Mountain History Collection, Lake County, Colorado website retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/cmhcleadvilleco/posts> on 11/03/2020.

Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette, 1904, Five Feet of Ore: *Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette*, January 21, 1904, p. 9, col. 3.

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Jameson, E., 1998, *All that Glitters: Class, Conflict, and Community in Cripple Creek*: Chicago, University of Illinois Press, p. 218.

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Street Railway Journal, 1898, Interurban Railroading at Cripple Creek: *Street Railway Journal*, Vol 14, No. 11, p. 701-704.

Turner, G. K., 1907, The Actors and Victims in the Tragedies, McClure's Magazine, Vol. 29, p. 526.

### **Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank Ben Elick for preparing and modifying the map used for this paper. I thank Shelly Veatch for reviewing the manuscript, and Dr. Bob Carnein for his valuable comments and important help in improving this paper.

## Monthly Mineral Quiz

### Last Month's Mineral: Dioptase, $\text{CuSiO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$



Dioptase is a product of oxidation of other copper minerals, found above the water table with malachite, azurite, cuprite, and chrysocolla (with which it shares a similar chemistry but completely different structure). Unlike chrysocolla, it occurs in fine, rhombohedral crystals that make it a favorite collector mineral. Most U.S. occurrences are in the huge band of "porphyry copper" deposits in southern Arizona and New Mexico, where the crystals are generally very small. Superb large crystals, like the ones to the left, come from the great African copper deposits of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Republic of Congo. Although dioptase is sometimes transparent, its relatively low hardness (5) and perfect rhombohedral cleavage make it difficult to facet, and so it is rarely made into gemstones.

### This Month's Mineral



This month's mineral (Carnein photos and collection)

Unlike dioptase, this month's mineral is common in Colorado, occurring abundantly in the Pikes Peak pegmatites of the Lake George area. If you have a streak plate, it's easily identified; otherwise, it might be confused with another common mineral from our area. Its importance to all of us can't be exaggerated, and huge deposits occur in the midwest and many other regions (third from left, above). Its habit varies widely, including botryoidal and mammillary aggregates and oolites (photo on right, above). Fine crystals occur where Napoleon languished (second from left, above). What is it?

Eckel, E.B., 1997, *Minerals of Colorado, Updated and Revised by R.R. Cobban, et al.*: Golden, Colorado, Fulcrum Publishing.



**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 September, 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). New memberships and renewals are only accepted Jan 1 through March 31 each year.

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