

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News,
February, 2011



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, February 12, at 10:00AM
Lake George Community Center

At press time, the February program is a bit uncertain, but we're hoping to hear from **Amanda Adkins**, CSMS member, lady prospector, and jeweler extraordinaire! She will talk about "**Examples of Colorado Prospecting, Gems, and Locales**". If Ms. Adkins can't make it, we will see "**The New Crystal Hunters**", a DVD made at **Joe Dorris's** Smoky Hawk Claim. In either case, we guarantee that you'll learn something new!

We will also have the silent auction of items benefitting the LGGMC and lucky buyers. Bring your extra specimens, books, or other items and some cash to pick up bargains!

Coming Events

- Tucson Gem & Mineral Show**, satellite shows; various venues; free admission ... **Jan. 28-
Feb. 13**
- "The History of Coal Mining"** (in the Colorado Springs region) by Al Anderson, 7PM, Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Free; call 719-488-0880 or rsvp@wmmi.org for info. ... **Feb. 3**
- "Ancient Forests Burned and Buried: K/T Wildfires and Florissant Lahars"** by Daniel D. Dunda, 7PM. Free talk at Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Info at <http://www.westernpaleo.org> ... **Feb. 7**
- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society** monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida ... **Feb. 10**
- Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (Main Show)**, Tucson Convention Center (admission charge). Theme: Minerals of California. ... **Feb. 10-13**
- Western Interior Paleontological Society Founders Symposium: "The West That Was, Exploring Colorado's Fossil Past"**, Green Center, Colorado School of Mines campus, Golden. Preregister by Feb. 5 at <http://www.westernpaleo.org> ... **Feb. 12-13**
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock. ... **Feb. 17**
- Pueblo Rockhounds** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle. ... **Feb. 17**
- Annual CSM Book Sale**, 9-4 daily at 2 locations: CSM Geology Museum, 1310 Maple St., Golden; and Arthur Lakes Library, 1400 Illinois St., Golden. Cash or in-state check required. **Silent Auction** Feb. 21, 10AM-12Noon. Go to [http://library.mines.edu/About the Library/Book Sale](http://library.mines.edu/About_the_Library/Book_Sale) for info. ... **Feb. 21-25**

- USGS Rocky Mountain Seminar Series "Water Quality Issues in Colorado"** by Steve Gunderson, 10:30AM, Bldg. 25 Lecture Hall, Denver Federal Center ... Feb. 22
- Denver Gem & Mineral Guild Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show**, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave. (Frontage Rd.), Golden. Free parking and admission; info at <http://denvergem.org/Shows.html> ... Feb. 25-27
- USGS Rocky Mountain Seminar Series: "Last Interglacial Sea Level and Global Warming: A Lesson fro the Future?"** by Dan Muhs, 10:30AM, Bldg. 25 Lecture Hall, Denver Federal Center ... March 8
- Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show**, Holiday Inn-Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St., Denver. Free admission and parking. ... Apr. 22-24
- Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Mineral Show**, next to the Lake George Post Office. Free parking and admission. (Jump Start begins Aug. 16) ... Aug. 19-21

Club News

❄️❄️ **Rich Fretterd** was unable to attend the Jan. 8 meeting, so **John Rakowski** gave a well received talk on Cleaning and Preparation of Mineral Specimens. Before the presentation, quartz crystals and green and purple fluorite from the Club claim were displayed. **Dan Alfrey** announced that **Marge Breth** has donated paintings to be auctioned for the benefit of the Alma Foundation and the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative. This year's Club research project will focus on the Crystal Peak area. Dan asked for ideas for future field trips. He and **Dick Lackmond** will research new areas to explore. Another trip to Creede is planned, and **Pete Modreski** has offered to lead a trip to the White Cloud pegmatite. Pete will present a talk on "Pegmatites of the Northern Pikes Peak Batholith" at our March meeting.

❄️❄️ Thanks to **Denay Horn** for donating a series of lapidary manuals. **Dick Lackmond** and **Dan Alfrey** are still exploring options for our lapidary lab and may have something to announce at the February meeting.

❄️❄️ Despite the best efforts of **John Rakowski** and **Ron Yamiolkoski**, there has not been enough interest to re-form the Colorado Federation. For the time being, it is hoped that other informal forms of inter-club cooperation can be encouraged.

❄️❄️ Just "FYI", have you seen this video about a 100-ounce gold nugget recently found in California? (Thanks to Pete Modreski.)
http://geology.com/news/2011/giant-gold-nugget-the-100-ounce-washington-nugget.shtml?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Geologycom+%28Geology.com%29

❄️❄️ **Steve Veatch** sent the following update on last year's Alma Project:
 I have been in touch with the Alma historical group. I have been told that Colorado Preservation Inc., (CPI), the largest nonprofit historical preservation organization in the state of Colorado, is coming to Alma Sept 9-11. CPI will be doing their annual "On the Road Event", and this year CPI is coming to Alma. This group will focus on Alma and the surrounding area.

Alma has requested the slide presentation and the tour up Buckskin Gulch, the same as we did last year. We are in the preliminary discussions on a second day where I would present and demonstrate mineral prospecting methods. They also want me to be able to offer Colorado School of Mines credit. More than 100 people are expected to attend, so it will be a miracle if we can do all of this. I might have to do the slide show and tour twice. The town will also set aside time for an art auction of **Marge Breth's** paintings. I will talk to the organizing people today and
 Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

February, 2011

get a feel for the number of paintings we will need from Marge. I will have more details after I talk to the organizing officer. The study group has also been working on a field guide that is just about ready for publication. That could be sold to the participants as an additional way to raise money for the two foundations.

***We received the following communication from a person at the Spring River Gem & Mineral Club, in Arkansas. If there is interest among our Club members in doing a "rock swap" with that club, **Bob Carnein** will follow up. Bring your "extras" to the February meeting.

Hi- I'm from the Spring River Gem & Mineral Club in Cherokee Village, Arkansas.

I checked your club on the net, and it looks like you have a dynamic interested bunch of down-to-Earth-folks there.

*We would like to do a rock swap with your club, or any individual in your club, of mineral and fossil specimens you have collected on club field trips, or individual field trips. We exchange the post office flat-rate box (\$10.70, **at least 10 pounds**). Each rock needs to be individually wrapped and identified.*

We have an assortment that may be in rock swaps: KY geodes, AR pink dolomite, drusy quartz, NC staurolites, milky quartz, bauxite, chalcedony, Apache tears, galena, etc. We include pieces of various sizes-- not a bunch of pebbles, and we don't want them either. Some good size rocks will be in our collection, and no leaverites.

Would you be interested in swapping?

Mary Kocz, SRGMC

***The Dinosaur Resource Center, in Woodland Park, has asked us to set up one or more tables and talk with visitors on April 23. If you're interested, contact John Rakowski for info.

*****Reminder** from **Dan Alfrey**: The deadline for submitting applications for the Club's annual Scholarship is March 1. Go to www.LGGMclub.org or contact any Club officer (see last page of the Newsletter) for information.

***Here are the latest "Bench Tips" from Brad Smith. Brad has offered to provide monthly tips similar to these; let me know if you like them.

BURNISHING BEZELS

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 8 x 10 cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough to hit the top of the bezel at the right angle to burnish it down onto the stone.

SUPER PICKLE

We've all made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with the pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store. Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.

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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)

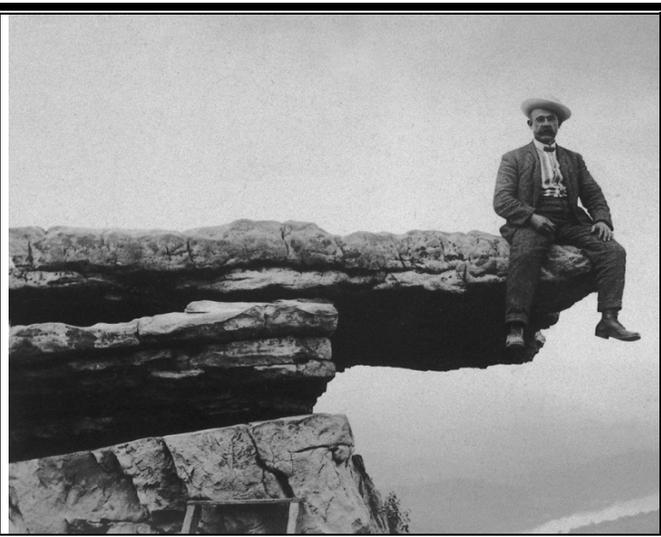
Pebble Pups Corner

Pebble Pups will meet at the usual time: 6PM, February 8, at the Lake George Community Center. The topic, to be presented by **Bob Carnein**, is a repeat of his June presentation on "**Fluorescent Minerals**", which most of the kids missed the first time. If you know interested children or home schoolers, please urge them to attend! Adults are welcome to sit in. Call **Steve Veatch** at 719-748-5010 for more information.

Dan Alfrey gave the January 11 presentation. Eight youngsters and four grownups braved the below zero weather conditions on Tuesday evening, January 11 to review some Basic Mapping & Records information together. (Some were new guest students). All were very interested and participated with enthusiasm! We reviewed compass directions & sectional breakdowns, township & range layouts, contour map features, directions to a secret claim, and even a place to get topographic maps for free. Also discussed were public records and maps, both with the County and BLM mining claim reports and navigation methods! Examples covered the table, inside information was revealed and handouts were provided. Fun was had by all !!! =Dan Alfrey

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
ccarnein@gmail.com
719-687-2739



As most of you know, our Club lost one of its most faithful and productive members recently, with the death of **Mary O'Donnell**. On January 29, a huge crowd attended a moving Celebration of Life in Cripple Creek, and we were well represented there by **Andy Weinzapfel**, who prepared the following eulogy.



Eulogy for Mary O'Donnell

(Jan 29, 2011, 10:00 AM, Cripple Creek High School Cafetorium)

Good morning, I'm Andy Weinzapfel. On behalf of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, I'm honored to share some remembrances about Mary collected from our club members. I should say up front that putting together this talk presented a challenge—there are more wonderful stories I could relate than my time slot allows.

Decades ago, Mary clearly had developed a passion for mineral collecting and the great outdoors. Like many of us who live in the shadow of the majestic mountain that inspired Katharine Lee Bates to write “America the Beautiful”, Mary had a sense of awe and deep curiosity about the natural world.

This month would have been her 20th anniversary as member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, where she served as an elected officer in several positions. In Pikes Peak backcountry, there was a need for a similar organization, near ground zero for some of the best mineral collecting in the world. Around 1998, Mary became a sparkplug in the pioneering, visionary group that founded and nurtured the LGGMC,

which today has about 150 members, one of the largest non-profits in the area. I'm going to quote from one of the founding members:

"I remember Mary as the driving organizer during the early days of the Club. She was part of what we called 'the core four'. One of the four early members that you count on to show up at a meeting in January when the temperature was below zero, the snow up to your waist and rock hunting still months away. She brought to the Club her wonderful teacher skills to get things planned, prepared and poised for the future. And to keep the rest of us in line as sometimes we were like school boys out for recess and not wanting to do our work."

Mary became the club's longest-serving elected officer. Over the years, she served as secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, and even developed the club logo, still used today.

Her baby, the LGGMC, has established, through partnership with the Pikes Peak Historical Society, an outstanding mineral collection at the museum in Florissant. Mary has contributed specimens from the Cripple Creek area. May I encourage you to visit this museum, enjoy the collection, and think of Mary; it is part of her legacy. The club that Mary helped form also has funded a paleontological summer intern at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Mary made significant contributions in gathering oral histories for the club's Victor and Alma Projects, which support historical preservation in both communities. This building has a case of minerals donated by the club in 2004, thanks to Mary.

Close to home, Mary helped clean the minerals at the Cripple Creek Museum for the past 4 years. She found the ruins of several schools in the area. She also researched the history for some of the old buildings where written histories were absent.

Every summer a big event of the club was its annual gem and mineral show. A show like this required lots of volunteers, and there was more than one occasion when Mary and I worked together. We grew to know each other's core beliefs on diverse topics from religion to the best ways of having fun. She talked passionately about her teaching in two ways: 1) she loved the kids; 2) she felt she was making a difference. She then said something like "you know, teaching isn't easy". This wasn't a news flash, since I am married to a teacher.

Mary wasn't perfect. Consistent with her Ms. Hospitality personality, she typically made coffee during club meetings, even though no one asked her to. One bitter cold morning, we arrived and there was no coffee. We must have seemed a little moody because, during the meeting, Mary blurted out "OK, I lost the coffee". Turns out Mary realized a month earlier that other clubs using the same facility were depleting our coffee without replacing it. So Mary hid the coffee, but couldn't remember its location upon her return. After the meeting, a search located it on a high hidden ledge, but raised another mystery: how the heck did Mary get it there in the first place, without a ladder? The answer goes to the grave with Mary.

If you believe that the best measure of a person's life is how they positively impact the lives of others, Mary was indeed the cream of the crop. Mary was the "go to" person when you needed a job done well. She was competent, selfless, kind, generous, always dedicated to service, to make life better for others. She went the extra mile, often working in the background without much public recognition.

Mary chose to love people, best exemplified by her service to others, the relationships she built, her exceptional spirit of volunteerism, and the legacies she left behind. Inspired by all her good works, I end this eulogy with some simple questions for all of us:

- 1) how much better would our communities be if we were all inspired to selfless service like Mary?
- 2) Are we doing all we can to better the lives of others, like Mary?
- 3) What legacies are we leaving behind?

Mary, we thank you for your life and your love. You did not forget us, we will not forget you. May peace be forever with you.

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

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

February, 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 2010 are:

John Rakowski, President
PO Box 608
Florissant, CO 80816
719-748-3861
rakgeologist@yahoo.com

Dan Alfrey, Vice President
PO Box 4164
Woodland Park, CO 80866
719-440-6234
alfreydan@aol.com

Wayne Johnston, Treasurer
207 Cooper Lake Drive
Divide, CO 80814
719-687-6067
wjohnston719@msn.com

Secretary
Charlene DeVries
dave.devries@verizonbusiness.com



C.R. (Bob) Carnein, Editor, 507 Donzi Trail, Florissant, CO 80816
ccarnein@gmail.com; 719-687-2739