

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News, January, 2012



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Saturday, January 14, at 10:00AM Lake George Community Center

Our program for January will be presented by **Chris Peterson** from Guffey, Colorado. Chris is active with the **Cloudbait Observatory**, which seeks to record the paths of large meteoritic fireballs. The fireballs can be analyzed by data from various observers, and those data are then plotted to get an indication of whether the meteors might survive entry and allow meteorites to be found on the ground. Chris gave a great presentation to our Pebble Pups last year, and all of us adults present enjoyed the talk immensely. I think the whole club will enjoy Chris's discussion. –John Rakowski



Coming Events

- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society** monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida. ... Jan. 12
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock. ... Jan. 19
- Pueblo Rockhounds** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle. ... Jan. 19
- Tucson Gem & Mineral Show**, Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church St. Go to www.tgms.org for information. ... Feb. 9-12
- Denver Gem & Mineral Guild Show**, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, Golden. Contact Joe Payne (303-783-0221) for info. ... Feb. 24-26

- Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention and Show**, Creative Arts Bldg., NM State Fairgrounds, Albuquerque (advance registration by March 1.) Go to www.RMFMS.org for information. ... **March 16-18**
- Ft. Collins Rockhounds Annual Show**, Larimer Co. Fairgrounds, Ft. Collins. Contact Dave Halliburton (970-493-6168) for info. ... **March 23-25**
- Colorado Mineral Society Annual Auction**, Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 920 Kipling St., Lakewood. Contact Richard Nelson (rsnelso@gmail.com) for info. ... **May 5**

Welcome New Member:

Karl Burke

Club News

?? The December 10 meeting was well attended by at least 31 members and guests. Guests included **Adam, Mindy, and Francisco Sotomayor**. **Dick Lackmond** presented our first certificates to use lapidary equipment to **Richard and Jerrolynn Kawamoto**. The idea of the certification program is to make sure inexperienced members are trained before using the equipment. **Dan Alfrey** described his new position as Chair of the All American Club Committee with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. He noted that the Federation has about 78 member clubs in 12 states, and his committee's purpose is to showcase individual clubs. Winning clubs will go on to the national competition. Dan also reminded members that they need to let him know if they visit the Club claim. After a discussion of proposed rules for use of the Club claim and lapidary workshop, Dan asked that suggestions be sent to him, **Richard Kawamoto, Dick Lackmond**, or any Club officer before the January meeting. Several members provided "show and tell" specimens, including **Jo Beckwith, Richard Kawamoto, and Kris Dingfield**. "Goodies" of the edible variety and good fellowship were provided by all.

?? Are you interested in the history of mineralogy? There is a Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy at www.mineralogy.eu. 2012 is the hundredth anniversary of Max Von Laue's discovery that crystals diffract X-rays, which revolutionized the study of all materials. Among other things, X-ray diffraction was the key to finally unraveling the structure of DNA.

?? Many thanks to Duane Russell, who is stepping down as the Club's Librarian. As of now, we aren't sure where the Library will go next.

?? **Dick Lackmond** sent the following link to a great tutorial on wrapping cabochons: The wrapping tutorial is here:

<http://andy321.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=wwp&action=display&thread=30091>

?? **Roger and Dee Loest** are back in Florissant temporarily. Best wishes to Dee, who is suffering from some back problems.

?? If you'd like to lead a field trip next season or have a suggestion for one, please contact field-trip coordinator **Richard Kawamoto**, kawahome@hughes.net.

?? Several members attended **Fred Ceconi's** talk/demonstration at the Lapidary Workshop on December 18. **Dick Lackmond** sent the following photos



Fred presenting at the LGGM Lap Shop 12-18-11 (D. Lackmond photos)

On December 21, Dick presented **Glenn Raymond** with a pocket knife, in appreciation for allowing us to use his facility for our workshop.



Glenn Raymond & Dick Lackmond (Santa Hat) 12/21/11 (D. Lackmond photos)



Knife presented to Glenn Raymond

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

SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in your Foredom, you often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shaft sizes, and of course many different drill sizes. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

There's nothing you can do to avoid multiple key turns when opening up the jaws, but there's a neat trick to close the jaws around a smaller shaft. Hold the new bit in the center of the open chuck jaws, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the shaft of the bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.



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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

Five pups attended **Bob Carnein's** presentation on "Metamorphic Rocks" on December 13. All received samples of several metamorphic rocks, donated by Bob and **John Rakowski**, as well as some mineral samples donated by **Wayne Jones**.

Steve Veatch will present the January program, which will cover "**Fossils and Dinosaurs**". We will meet at the regular time, on **January 17**.

Speaking of **Steve Veatch**, his Pebble Pups trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science is coming up on January 21. Sixteen Pups from the Lake George, Colorado Springs, and Denver clubs, along with a few others, will have a special presentation by Dr. Ian Miller on the fantastic Snowmass fossil finds of last summer. E-mail Steve (steven.veatch@gmail.com) to see if any spaces are available.

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**.



Your editor's Christmas Present (A.C. Wells single-spout miner's lamp from Chuquicamata, Chile)

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
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Here's the latest news from Bruce Geller, who's in charge of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum.

Colorado School of Mines (CSM) Geology Museum Musings

Activity in our Geology Museum continues at a rapid pace. My fourth year at the helm of the Museum has seen great challenges and rewards. I'm proud to announce that we are now the second most visited university geology museum in the U.S. and the first with a lunar rock displayed. This took a lot of help from our Advisory Council, Student Aids, staff, Friends of the CSM Geology Museum (FCSMGM), donors, volunteers, specimen loaners, visitors, visiting researchers, CSM faculty, staff, administrators, and students who support us in so many ways.

Here is the year in review. Our Advisory Council has met monthly. They ratified a Research Sampling Request Form, hosted a reception for the Empress of China rhodochrosite specimen last July, and oversaw improvements in our security and insurance. Continuing projects include improving our database and revising our collections protocols.

I have met monthly with our twelve Student Aids to streamline our operation. Seven Aids are currently geology majors, and five are women! I've written several graduate-school recommendation letters this past year for those who have graduated from our program.

I held weekly meetings with our Collections managers and volunteers. These are the folks who maintain our collection, prepare new displays, and keep our Gift Shop well stocked. Our volunteer ranks have now risen to roughly 51. Our facebook fans number 478. Attendance in 2010 (the last year we have data for) was up 19% and Gift Shop revenues increased 10% in 2011, despite the national recession. These were possibly related to the reprinting and distributing of 10,000 museum brochures. We are grateful to have received grants from the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America, the Golden Civic Foundation, + the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council.

Our "Friends of the CSM Geology Museum" now has over 84 members from around the world. The Friends ratified their by-laws, filed for non-profit status with the Colorado Secretary of State's office, and were mentioned in a note in *Rocks and Minerals* magazine. The Friends ran a very popular field trip to Florissant to do some fossil viewing and collecting. In November, the Friends ran a field trip to the Questa molybdenum mine near Taos, NM. They are planning a trip to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto next March. Friends members receive 20% discounts in our Gift Shop and an e-mail newsletter. An application form can be found at: http://issuu.com/csmgeologymuseum/docs/friends_app .

Some other tasks that I was involved with since my last communication included serving on an undergraduate honors committee at CU; processing numerous donations and loans; identifying many specimens; co-sponsoring a Russian Minerals Symposium on campus that was attended by 54 participants in September; having our XRF unit repaired, returned, and re-certified; speaking to CU alumnae in Vail about CO mining history; and having one of our specimens featured on the cover of a new mineralogy textbook.

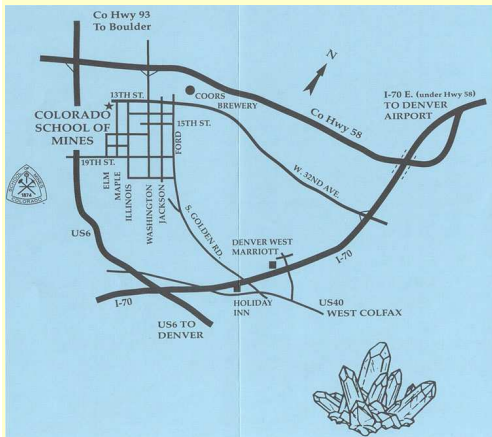
Our Annual Open House last September was an overwhelming success. Over 270 guests enjoyed our refreshments, music from the CSM string quartet, and our eleven new exhibits. We are innovatively using LED lighting and a digital photo frame for the first time. The eleven exhibits include: Ethiopian opals from the Tel Yohannes collection; Russian specimens from the Martin Zinn collection; Tsumeb specimens from the Eugene Wilson collection of Sandra Gonzales and Mark Danuser; Stalactites from the Henry and Patsy Schmidt collection; Micromounts from the Lazard Cahn, Dorothy Atlee, and Arnold Hampson collections; Silver specimens from the Cobalt, Ontario area from the Dr. Ed Metz collection; Mexican specimens from the Kerith Graeber collection; Colorado rare-earth minerals on loan from numerous private collections; and Julia Fisk Mine (Leadville) specimens from the Bill Hayward collection. Also, we have a new Apollo 15 Moon rock on display, as well as meteorites believed to be from the asteroid Vesta.

Another new feature is a sealed bid auction. Our Collections Managers have selected 13 high-end specimens that we are offering for sale through April, 2012 in a sealed-bid auction that is displayed in our basement. We invite dealers, museum curators, and collectors of all kinds to bid on these fine specimens.

Our geology trail was formally dedicated as the Robert Weimer Geology Trail at a special ceremony 10/1. Bob was instrumental in having Stop #2 of our Geology Trail designated as a National Natural Landmark by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. We now have several hundred Geology Trail Guidebooks, available for \$3 each, in our Museum Gift Shop.

As for coming attractions, we hope to have our fifth Museum Book Sale, combined with our next Garage Sale February 20-24th, 2012. Prices will decrease throughout the week. We gladly accept your book, journal, and specimen donations. We also welcome your participation in our sealed bid auction through April 20, 2012. Our Annual Open House is scheduled for September 12, 2012 from 6 to 9 P.M.

In conclusion, I encourage your club to schedule a private visit at the CSM Museum. Simply pick three nights or weekends that your club would like to visit the Museum and have a club representative contact me at 303-273-3823. I'll try my best to accommodate your club at one of those times. You're also welcome to visit on your own during our normal hours: Monday – Saturday 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Sundays 1 P.M. – 4 P.M., except for certain legal and school holidays. Admission to our Museum is free (donations are greatly appreciated), but parking fees are required in our lots and on campus streets Mondays through Fridays before 5 P.M. Further information is available on our website, or by phone.



Empress of China Rhodochrosite specimen (google.com)

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

2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Names and ages of dependent members: _____

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

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

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

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

Signed _____ Date: ____/____/____

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

My interest areas include:

Minerals ___ Fossils___ Lapidary ___ Micromounts ___
Other _____

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

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

Writing _____ Editor _____ Mailing _____ Local shows _____

Club Officer _____ Programs _____ Field trips _____ Refreshments _____

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

Rev. Jan. 2012

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

January, 2012

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 2012 are:

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