

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club Monthly Meeting, January, 2015



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Saturday, [January 10](#), at 10:00AM

Lake George Community Center

"The New Hope Amethyst Claim"

Our January meeting will feature **Jennifer Gerring**, Cañon City Geology Club president, who will present a program on the **New Hope amethyst claim**, located near Cañon City. A powerpoint presentation will describe the claim's history and the progress of the current reclamation, which kept the claim "off limits" last year. As well, she will bring a display of mineral specimens found on the claim.

The CCGC has invited LGGMC members for a field trip day to the NHAC. Jennifer is working with Todd Mattson to set a date for this event. The field trip to the New Hope is always a hit with club members because you are assured of finding amethyst.

Note: At the December meeting, Club members picked up some really nice specimens, thanks to donations by **Frank and Ellie Rosenberg, Kent Greenes** and an anonymous contributor from Kansas City. They included a superb European wolframite, a very rich Four-Corners carnotite, and some more great fluorescent minerals from the Franklin/Sterling Hill deposits in New Jersey. In January, we will have more nice collector specimens, at starting bids as low as 25 cents. Please consider donating a few of your duplicates to help the Club, and bring some cash! It's fun and it's for the Club's benefit.

Welcome New Members:

Tom, Sheri, and Sean Paiz (Northglen)

Coming Events

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| <u>Columbine Gem & Mineral Society</u> monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16 th (at J St.), Salida. | ... Jan. 8 |
| <u>Cañon City Geology Club</u> monthly meeting, 6:00PM, First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9 th St. and Main, Cañon City. | ... Jan. 12 |
| <u>Pueblo Rockhounds</u> , Monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. | ... Jan. 15 |
| <u>Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society</u> , Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs. | ... Jan. 15 |
| <u>Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show</u> , in the field next to the Lake George PO. Free admission. | ... Aug. 20-23 |

Club News

Renew your Dues! *Please renew your membership now, while you're thinking about it.*
A membership application is included at the end of this newsletter.

▶ Here's a note from incoming President John Rakowski:

"Welcome to 2015 and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club activities! We'll be setting up plans for speakers for the remainder of the winter and if the weather cooperates we will start Field Trips in April. With the start of the New Year this a reminder that dues should be paid in January. Unpaid members after March will be dropped from emails of the Newsletters and Field Trip notices.

We have many new members and I'd like to remind members about the internet site called "Bob's Rock Shop" at <http://www.rockhounds.com/>. That site is loaded with good information and is lots of fun to browse. It's great for "newbies" to the hobby or for experienced members. The website also keeps a listing of Rock & Mineral Shows around the US so that you can check for shows you might attend while traveling. The Bob's Rock Shop site appears to be affiliated with **ROCK & GEM** Magazine, a very good magazine for rock hounds. I highly recommend the magazine, which can be found in many bookstore magazine racks for \$5 per issue or monthly by subscription for \$28/year. The information from ROCK & GEM plus material from Bob's Rock Shop will help to give you more knowledge about our hobby. They will supplement the limited information that we're able to present in the winter presentations.

At the April meeting I will give a presentation on mineral collecting in the Pikes Peak Region. This presentation is specifically designed to help our members who are relatively new to the hobby. I'll talk about tools needed, techniques for seeking mineral pockets, and tips on cleaning and preserving specimens. Our Club has a mix of "newbies", experienced collectors and even professional geologists. The value of our club is the ability to learn from one another. Even if you're new, you surely bring talents and questions to the Club which will be valuable to all. And of course – we learn and Have Fun!

John Rakowski, LGGMC President

▶ Here are some pictures from the December meeting and towel show:



Dan Alfrey photos

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Tom Greene photos



Tom Greene photos

» **Beth Simmons** sent the following information about an upcoming program at the Dinosaur Discovery Center, at Dinosaur Ridge, near Morrison:

"On January 18 at the Discovery Center, the Florissant Scientific Society will be having a potluck lunch at 12:00 and then watch "**DINOSTAMPEDE**," a movie starring our own Martin Lockley and other dinosaur trackers around the world as they unravel the mystery of the Lark Quarry tracksite in Australia. FREE. Watch Martin surrounded by living, moving Iguanodons! Any interested dinosaur fans are welcome; please bring a food item (salad, dessert, chips, etc.) to share.

They also sent this link to a PBS program airing Jan. 4, with more to come:

A "dinosaur tour" of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain west . This Sunday, January 4th at 11:30am on Rocky Mountain PBS, channel 8 in COSprings; Check www.rmpbs.org for the Colorado station nearest you.

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For those of you not in the RMPBS area or If you missed episode one, I have added the link below so you can watch it on your computer.

Dinosaur Episode: <http://video.rmpbs.org/video/2365394678/>

▶▶ **Bob Carnein's** class on **basic mineral properties**, originally scheduled for last fall, will occur on Saturday, January 31, starting at **10:15AM** in the meeting room on the lower level of the **Woodland Park Library**. This is mainly for Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars, though others are welcome. The class will be a **"hands-on"** lab, with lots of examples of things like cleavage, luster, crystal habit, and other properties that are useful for the beginner trying to learn about mineral identification.

We will use the minerals of the Mohs hardness scale as a basis for the lab. **Students should bring** a small bottle of white vinegar; a small magnet (a refrigerator magnet will work); a piece of glass, a pocket knife; a penny or nickel; magnifier (if available); pencils, erasers, and a list of the minerals of Mohs hardness scale. Please contact **Steve Veatch** (steven.veatch@gmail.com) to pre-register. After the class, Steve will hold an "Earth-Science Summit" for interested Pebble Pups. Bring a lunch!

▶▶ Upcoming programs for winter meetings include the following:

Feb. Do-it-yourself ultraviolet lamp -- **Steve Woje** (see below);

Mar. Flint knapping -- **Dave Harvey**?

April. What to look for in the field? Cleaning our finds. -- **John Rakowski**.

▶▶ **Lick Dackmond** sent this link to a publication about Mt. Antero, Colorado aquamarine:

Blue Beryl Crystal versus Aquamarine. The MS19925 California Mine (patented 52 acres) is known historically to produce a wealth of blue beryl crystals. Here is an interesting report by the U.S. Geological Survey on the beryllium in the area. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/bul/0982d/report.pdf>
Interesting and historical, and free public information.

▶▶ For all you fluorescent-mineral enthusiasts, don't miss **Steve Woje's** talk at the February LGGMC meeting:

February 14th – "DIY Ultraviolet Lamps for Fluorescent Rocks"

Do you collect or would like to collect fluorescent rocks but are put off by the high cost of ultraviolet lamps needed to make them glow? After the regular February 14th business meeting, **Steve Woje** will share how, with a little e-bay savvy and do-it-yourself elbow grease, you can build a powerful long, medium, or short-wave lamp to make your rocks "pop", at a fraction of the cost of commercially made lamps. Bring one or two of your favorite fluorescent rocks to the meeting and see how they "shine"!

▶▶ **Pete Modreski** sent some information about upcoming talks, mostly in the Denver area:

Mon., Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m., Geology of the Long Canyon Gold Deposit, Northeast Elko County, Nevada, by Jeff Blackmon; at the monthly meeting of Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society (DREGS), Berthoud Hall Room 241, Colorado School of Mines, Golden; all are welcome. See <http://www.dregs.org/index.html>.

Mon., Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m., Stuck in the Pleistocene: Tar Pits from Around the World by Greg MacDonald, Senior Curator of Natural History, National Park Service; monthly meeting of the Western Interior Paleontology Society (WIPS), Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature & Science; see <http://westernpaleo.org/>

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Tues., Jan. 6, first of the year's biweekly USGS Rocky Mountain Seminar series: 10:30-11:30 a.m., **Paleotopography: From tectonics to the evolution of landscapes and life**, by **Andreas Mulch**, Stanford and Univ. of Frankfurt; Building 25 Auditorium, Denver Federal Center, Lakewood; all are welcome.

Thurs., Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m., Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter bimonthly meeting, **Mining and collecting amethyst at the Blue Point Mine, Pearl, Ontario, Canada**, by Ian Merkel; Denver Museum of Nature & Science, VIP Room, all are welcome.

Wed., Jan. 14, first of the year's Denver Museum of Nature & Science Earth Science Seminar Series: 3:00-4:00 p.m., VIP Room, "**Surviving Earth's largest mass extinction: Amphibians at the Permian-Triassic boundary**", by Julia McHugh, Museum of Western Colorado.

Thurs., Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society monthly meeting, Shepherd of the Hills Church, 20th Ave., and Simms St., Lakewood; all are welcome. Topic, "**The May 2014 West Salt Creek landslide in Mesa County, Colorado**", by Jonathan L. White, Senior Engineering Geologist, Colorado Geological Survey.

Sun., Jan. 18, 12:00 noon, potluck lunch meeting of the Florissant Scientific Society followed by viewing of "**Dinostampede**" a movie featuring **Martin Lockley and other dinosaur trackers** around the world as they unravel the mystery of the Lark Quarry tracksite in Australia. At the Dinosaur Discovery Center, west side of Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison. All are welcome; no charge.

Wed., Jan. 28, 7:00-8:00 p.m., "Expand your dinosaur knowledge with monthly presentations on all things dinosaur." First one for the year will be "**Dinosaur 101**", with Erin LaCount. Free presentation at the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center (C-470 and Alameda), Morrison CO; please RSVP to membership@dinoridge.org or [303-697-3466x107](tel:303-697-3466x107).

▶ **Correction to last month's correction:** Next year's Lake George Gem & Mineral Show will be held **August 20-23, 2015. Keep those dates open!**

▶ At the December meeting, the following officers/committee chairs were elected for 2015:

President: **John Rakowski**
Vice President: **Char DeVries**
Treasurer: **Suzanne Core**
Secretary: **Norma Engelberg**
Newsletter Editor: **Bob Carnein**

Field Trip Coordinator: **Todd Mattson**
Show Coordinator: **Rebecca Blair**
Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars: **Steven Veatch**

Many Thanks to all for their willingness to serve !

Earth-Science Scholars/Pebble Pups Corner

Earth-Science Scholars and Pebble Pups meet **from September through May** on the **third Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, in Florissant**. Be sure you check regularly at www.LGGMClub.org for details and updates, or contact **Steve Veatch** at steven.veatch@gmail.com.

Here's the schedule for this year's Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars program:

Jan.: Your Planet Earth: Volcanoes.

Field trip: Denver Museum of Nature & Science (**Dr. Ian Miller**).

Basics of mineral identification (**Bob Carnein**), Jan. 31, Woodland Park Library (see article earlier in this newsletter).

Feb.: Family Geology Day.

Giants of the Ice Age.

March: Exploring Caves: How Caves are Formed (**Blake Reher**).

Field trip: Cave of the Winds (**Steve Veatch**)

April: National Poetry Month.

Steve Veatch received a gift check from **Paul & Nancy Desilets** who would like that money to be used to provide more support to our Pebble Pup program. Our thanks go out to the Desilets for their generous donation.

Remember, new students and their parents are always welcome; Earth-Science Scholars and Pebble Pups are welcome on LGGM Club field trips.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
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I'm pleased to send along this article, written by **Jack Shimon**, a Pikes Peak Pebble Pup, about starting a fire with flint and steel:



This project all started when I made a flint knife. I was showing it to my Grandpa and he suggested we use some flint to make a fire. After that, we researched online how to start a fire with flint and steel¹. It sounded a lot more complicated than just making a spark with these two components but I became obsessed with the idea. So my Grandpa and I spent an afternoon collecting materials and trying to make a fire this way.

Step 1- Gathering the supplies: You can't start this project without the proper materials, which are shown below. You need jute rope, char cloth, steel and flint. You must first prepare the char cloth. To do this I cut up small pieces, about 1 x ½ inch, from my dad's old undershirt (you should ask first before taking a shirt), put them in an altoids tin (not overlapping) with holes punched in the top and then placed the tin in the embers of a fire we started in our fire pit using a lighter. We made about 10 pieces so I would have a supply of them. As the box heats smoke rises from the holes and the cloth turns black. It is fairly crumbly and will ignite really easily. The jute rope we cut into pieces about 3 inches long and then unraveled each strand to create a nest of fine jute fibers. I found flint in my rock bin that I found on a collecting trip and we bought a steel file from Home Depot.



Why flint? I tried using different rocks I had collected in my yard and on trips. Some of them broke because they were too soft, and none of them caused a spark until I used flint. Flint is a hard sedimentary form of quartz. When flint strikes steel the hard edge of the flint shaves off a particle of steel which exposes iron which then reacts with oxygen in the air creating a spark².

Step 2- Prepare the fire pit: Before trying to create a spark and light the fire you need to set it up. My method was to start by sticking a little newspaper in, balled up. Then I added lots of pine needles. After, I put some small wood kindling on top. Caution— don't build the fire with wet twigs or needles.



Step 3- Getting a spark: This is much harder than you expect and even when you get a spark it doesn't necessarily ignite the char cloth so you have to be very patient!! Take a piece of flint and a steel file and strike with great force while holding them close to a piece of char cloth. I tried several ways as shown- holding the char cloth on the flint in one hand and striking with the other. But I had the best luck putting the flint on top of the char cloth (with most of it visible) all on a flat surface like a log and then striking the flint with the steel. When you finally get a spark that lands on the char cloth you need to act fast. It will be obvious what is happening because the char cloth will turn orange where the spark hit and will start to burn.



Step 4- Lighting jute rope with the char cloth: This is the most exciting step. We managed to ignite many jute rope nests but some of them went right into flames and we dropped them before we even got them to our fire pit. These components burn very fast. With the lit char cloth stick it quickly into the jute rope nest and blow very hard. You will start to see smoke and then the whole thing will catch on fire. You want to be ready to stick it in the fire when this happens.

Step 5- Ball of flame used to light the pile of sticks: Once your jute rope nest is on fire, before it burns your fingers or you drop it, you need to stick it in the fire you built at the bottom so the newspaper and pine needles will catch on fire. You might need to blow on it some more as well. The goal is to create enough flame that the kindling catches on fire. I had a difficult time with this part and had to light several jute rope nests to get my fire. I also got really tired of blowing so hard on it.



Step 6- Get the fire going: If you manage to get your kindling burning you need to pile on more sticks and small twigs. As it grows add logs. This is the same method we use any time we start a fire when we are camping or using our fire pit. We have worked so hard we don't want to spoil it so we have a pile of logs ready to go and chairs set up around the fire pit for a night of fun.

Step 7- Enjoying s'mores and perhaps a scary story: No fire is complete without s'mores. Recommended additional supplies before starting your flint and steel fire are marshmallows, Hersheys chocolate and cinnamon graham crackers. With your nice hot fire you can roast a squishy marshmallow and then make the perfect s'more. I invited my friends over and we also told scary stories in the dark. Enjoy!

About the author:

Jack Shimon is in 4th grade. He is an award winning poet, writer, and researcher. Jack was an invited speaker at the Denver Gem and Mineral show. Jack has wide interests in geology, paleontology, and geoarchaeology. He has spent half of his life as a member of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups. He lives at home with his family and his dog Comet.

References:

1. "Making fire w http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flintith flint and steel".
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IERpeSRBew0>
2. "Flint". <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint>



Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Box 171, Lake George, Colorado 80827
www.LGGMClub.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: ____/____/20____

Name/s _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ - _____ Email _____
(Email is required to receive Newsletter and field trip info.)

Names/ages of family members (if family membership):

Dues for Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 each year are as follows:

- ____ Individual (18 and over) \$15.00
- ____ Family (includes dependents under age 18) \$25.00

Due on or before March 31. Members with unpaid dues will be dropped from the roster April 1.
On/after **August 15**, dues will be pro-rated by one-half for **NEW members only**.

I agree to abide by Club constitution, by-laws, and rules regarding field trips and club claim visits.

Signed _____ Date: ____/____/____

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

***My interest areas** include (check all that apply): Minerals ___ Fossils ___ Lapidary ___
Micromounts ___ Colorado geology ___ Pebble Pups (ages 7-17) ___ Mining history ___
Crystallography ___ Other _____

***I am willing to** give a talk/presentation to [the Club] or [Pebble Pups] on _____
and/or lead a field trip to (list) _____

***I am willing to** participate/help in the following ways (can choose more than one): Club Officer _____
Newsletter Editor/Writer ___ Local Show/Show Committee ___ Nominating Committee ___
Winter Programs Committee ___ Field Trips ___ Art (Badges) ___ Membership Coordinator ___
Website assistance ___ Pebble Pups ___ Other (be specific): _____

Questions about the Club or Activities? Visit the website or contact a Club Officer.

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

January, 2015

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 October, 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 2015 are:

John Rakowski, *President*

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