

# The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

## Club News

July, 2017



**Please Note: Membership in the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club is now closed for 2017. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings but not field trips.**

### Program for the month: Saturday July 8, 9AM:

At 9 AM on July 8 at the Lake George Community Center, we will meet to talk about the annual show, which will be held August 18-20 in the field next to the Lake George Post Office. We will try to finalize a list of volunteers for various jobs at the show, including the set-up. Please come and volunteer to lend a hand at this, our main fund-raising event!

### 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 Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., 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** and others sent notices of the following upcoming events:

**July 14-15-16**, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily, there will be a “**Home Rock Show (Sale)**” by John Haney, 4242 Thompson Court, Denver CO. 80216 (south of I-70, east of York St. & west of Steele St.). “Rough rock, slabs, cabs, enhydros, fossils, amber, minerals, crystals, gemstone bowls & boxes, lapidary equipment & supplies; discounts for lapidary students.” Contact, [Rocksisme@comcast.net](mailto:Rocksisme@comcast.net), [303-296-8268](tel:303-296-8268).

**Sat.-Sun., July 15-16**, The Florissant Scientific Society will hold its annual multi-day event at the Bear Basin Ranch in southern Colorado, south of Canon City. “Gary Ziegler, ranch owner and international archeologist will show us the culturally modified trees there and tell us about his work in Peru. There is a cabin where 6-8 people can bed down for the night. Campers are welcome. You can look at the Bear Basin Ranch's website to get a feel for the ranch. Other

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accommodations are available in Westcliffe and Florence. More information, including costs, to come later." See <http://www.fss-co.org/> for future info to be posted.

**Fri.–Mon., July 21-24, Gold and Silver Deposits in Colorado.** The symposium will take place in Berthoud Hall on the Colorado School of Mines campus (plus field trips), Thursday evening through Monday, July 20-24, 2017. It will consist of: Thursday, July 20, Welcoming Party at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, 5 to 8 p.m.  
Friday, July 21, Field trips (to any of 4 locations)  
Saturday, July 22, Lecture presentations + a poster session, 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; 6:30, banquet at the Table Mountain Inn, Golden (southwest style fajita buffet dinner) with a speaker, Ed Raines, "Silver as a precious metal from the Greeks to today".  
Sunday, July 23, Lecture presentations, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday, July 24, Field trips (to any of 4 different locations).

The talks at the symposium will encompass a mixture of geology, mining history, mineral exploration, and mineralogy, all on aspects of gold and silver deposits in Colorado. We believe the program will be of interest to those with a wide range of interests relating to Colorado's history of gold and silver mining.

Full information, including a registration form and detailed description of all the field trip choices, can be found at this link, <https://tinyurl.com/goldsymposium>, which will take you to a page of the website of the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter. Registration fee for the symposium is \$100; for full-time graduate or undergraduate students, \$50. There will be a \$40 charge for each day's field trip you choose to go on, and the optional Saturday evening banquet cost is \$40. Only symposium registrants are eligible to go on the field trips. Registration will include: a copy of the program/abstracts volume, the field guidebook volume, attendance at the welcoming party (spouses/partners are invited to attend also), and coffee, soft drinks, and snacks during morning and afternoon breaks. The field trip choices include:

Friday July 21:

- A. Jamestown; including an underground mine visit
- C. Georgetown/Empire (including a ride on the Georgetown Loop Railroad)
- E. Alma/Fairplay area
- G. Central City/Black Hawk/Idaho Springs

Monday July 22:

- B. Caribou area, Boulder county, including an underground mine visit
- D. Leadville
- F. Cripple Creek
- H. Aspen, including an underground mine visit

To register, one must print out and mail in the registration form with a check, as per the instructions on the website. Attendees can preregister for the symposium through June 30. Onsite registrations will be accepted if space is available; attendance is limited to 140 by capacity of the meeting hall. You must preregister to attend any of the field trips. Attendance on each field trip may be limited to approximately 20 persons or to a number determined by the field trip leader.

**Aug. 4-6, Creede Rock & Mineral Show**, at the Creede Underground Mining Museum and Community Center, Creede, Mineral County, CO. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily; see <http://creederocks.com/>.

**Aug. 10-13, Contin-Tail rock & mineral show**, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, CO; see [www.facebook.com/ContinTail](http://www.facebook.com/ContinTail)

**Aug. 17-20, Woodland Park Rock, Gem, & Jewelry Show**, Woodland Park, CO; see <https://www.facebook.com/woodlandparkrockandgemshow/>

**Aug. 18-20, Lake George Gem & Mineral Show**, sponsored by the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, Lake George, CO. See <http://www.lggmclub.org/>; set-up will be on August 12.

**Sep. 8-16, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Fall Show**, Crowne Plaza Hotel - Airport, 15500 E. 40th Ave. Denver, CO.

**Sep. 9-17, Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, and Gem Show**, Denver Coliseum; see <http://www.coliseumshow.com/>

**Sep. 13-16, Denver Fine Mineral Show**, Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Blvd.; see <http://finemineralshow.com/denver/>

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**Sep. 15-17, 50<sup>th</sup> annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show**, Denver Mart, 451 E 58<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO. **Gold and Silver** is the 2017 show theme. See <http://denvershow.org/wp/>

**Nov. 11-12, 38<sup>th</sup> annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium**, at New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, NM; see <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm>

**Nov. 17-19, Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden CO.

✓ ✓ **Bob Baker** sent this note about this summer's field trips:

### 2017 Field Trips

July 15: St. Peters Dome

July 19: Smoky Hawk claim (amazonite/smoky quartz) (Dorris claim)

July 26: Badger Flats (magnetite/fluorite/barite/malachite) (easy)

July 29: Harvey blue barite mine (barite) (easy)

August 2: Mushroom gulch (jasper)

August 9: Spruce Grove (topaz) (moderate hike at 9000 ft.)

August 12: Specimen/Sentinel rock (fluorite/amazonite/quartz) (extreme hike)

August 26: Eureka mine (fluorescent zircon/riebeckite/astrophyllite) (moderate walk)

Sept. 8-10: Great Salt Plains (gypsum crystals) (3-day trip to Oklahoma)

Bob Baker

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✓ ✓ Bob also sent this note about a recent field trip:

## BLUE MOON FIELD TRIP

Fifteen club members accepted Karen Vogl's invitation to prospect on her claims. The weather was perfect as we spread out over the 80 acres of the four new claims.

Karen Johnson was the first to discover an area of pale green amazonite and she led about half of us to the area where we picked up a few specimens. When we got back to the parking area, Joe and Susan Mahan were eager to show off their finds. **SPECTACULAR!**

They showed us the way back to their dig area and we were all invited to dig alongside them. A very successful and enjoyable day.

✓ ✓ Secretary **Norma Alexander-Rhodes** sent this item:

Hello Members! Due to the vast size of our membership, I have been getting some emails "kickbacked" to me because they suspect I'm a spammer! To avoid this, please add me, [normajalexander@gmail.com](mailto:normajalexander@gmail.com), to your contact list. You might also search your spam folders, for any subject that contains LGGMC and then click "not spam" if you find it. Thank you so much!! Norma

✓ ✓ I am very pleased to announce that **Jack Shimon**, a Pikes Peak Pebble Pup, won **first place** in the American Federation of Mineralogical Society's annual contest for **Best Junior Article**, 12-17-year-olds - **1st Place - Jack Shimon - The Rudist Fossil Story - Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter, December, 2016.**

Thanks to **Steve Veatch** for mentoring Jack, who has written several excellent articles.

# 18th Annual Lake George Gem & Mineral SHOW!

**AUG. 18-19-20, 2017**

FREE Admission! FREE Parking!!

Located in beautiful  
Lake George, Colorado on Hwy 24

*Local Specimens, Rocks,  
Minerals, Fossils, Gems, Beads,  
Jewelry, Lapidary & More!*



[www.LGGMclub.org](http://www.LGGMclub.org)



Scan to view our Website!

✓ ✓ Danyar Volkov sent some pictures of the Badger Flats trip:



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✓ ✓ **Wayne Orlowski** sent several interesting links, including the following:

### **Geology and biology agree on Pangaea supercontinent breakup dates**

<http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/geology-and-biology-agree-on-pangaea-supercontinent-breakup-dates>

"After excluding species that could easily move between continents, a new comparison of these two independent dating methods, applied to the breakup of Pangaea over the past 180 million years, finds good agreement between the two methods.

Lead researcher Sarah McIntyre said geologic dating of the continental drift and biological dating of the genetic drift provided independent estimates of the break-up dates over the past 180 million years.

### **...and: Mass Extinctions**

[https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoGeologicalSurvey/posts/1590309290987774?ref=notif&notif\\_t=notify\\_me\\_page&notif\\_id=1497447338098899](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoGeologicalSurvey/posts/1590309290987774?ref=notif&notif_t=notify_me_page&notif_id=1497447338098899)

NICE SHORT SUMMARY -- Mass Extinctions How many mass extinctions have there been?  
Special thanks to [MinuteEarth](#) for the video  
[#LearningGeology](#)

### **...and: Greenland's thinning ice**

With temperatures around the world climbing, water melting from the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica are raising sea levels. This video describes how these ice sheets are melting from both above and below.

<https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/news-articles/greenlands-thinning-ice>

**...and: Diatremes link** (diatremes are explosive volcanic features that occurred at Cripple Creek, among other places):

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<http://www.cas.miamioh.edu/~rakovajf/WTTW%20Diatreme.pdf>

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

### **FANCY RIVET HEADS**

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin".

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball-peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.



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### **EASIER PRONG SETTING**

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel. Then rough polish the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

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See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

## Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein, Editor

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Some of you know that I collect antique and miniature mining items. This is a common side-line for many serious mineral collectors, and numerous articles and books cover this field. The following article celebrates a relatively unknown husband-wife team in Victor, Colorado, who craft fine miniature miners' tools.

### Mining Miniatures of the Victor Trading Co.

by Bob Carnein



How many world-class craftspeople do you know? Most mineral collectors know a few gem cutters or metalworkers who might fit into this category. But how about a tinsmith or someone who can make superbly crafted miniatures of miners' candlesticks? This article honors a local husband-wife team who, together, make the finest miniature mining items I know of.

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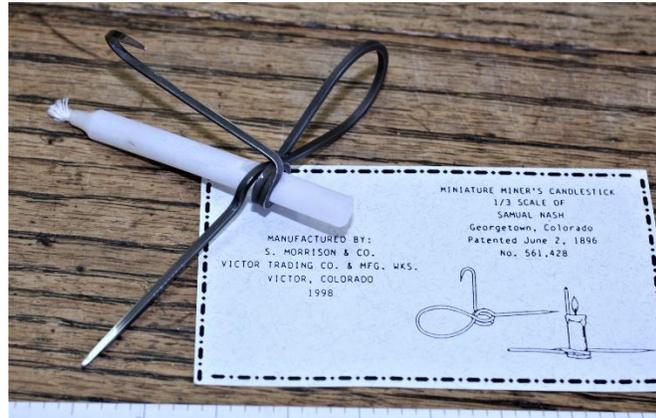


**Item 1 (refer to last section of article for captions; scale is in inches; all photos by the author)**

The writer started collecting miners' lamps and other items over 40 years ago, as a newly minted geology professor in Pennsylvania. Knowing that Pennsylvania is rich in antique mining items, a mineral dealer asked me to watch for unusual items, for which he would trade mineral specimens. After a few false starts, I realized that these remnants of mining's past were fascinating in their own right, and I began to assemble a small collection of my own. This was the heyday of collecting, and, because there are thousands of different brands and dozens of different kinds of mine lights, I realized that I would have to specialize. One area that spoke to me was miniature miners' lamps and other miniature items.

Miniatures date as far back as the nineteenth century. Some were made as good-luck charms, salesman samples, or as indicators of the skills of the tinsmiths, blacksmiths, or other craftspeople who made them. Quality varies a lot, and prices of antique items are all over the map. The one common feature, though, is their scarcity—especially for those made in America. By far the commonest objects are miniature safety lamps from the U.K., where mining has a longer history and where it was long a family affair with attendant traditions of pride in the profession. For the American collector, it's a shame that more miniatures weren't made here.

In the late 1990s, on a casual visit to Victor, CO, my wife and I discovered the Victor Trading Co., a store most widely known for its impressive variety of hand-made brooms and its catalog of some 5K (yes, that's 5000) tin cookie cutters. As is typical, I gravitated to a small cabinet containing high grade ore samples from the Victor and Cripple Creek area. In the same cabinet were some very finely made miniature miners' candlesticks, and I talked my wife into buying me one for my birthday. I also noticed some miniature miners' lunch boxes and other items, and found that they were made by the store's proprietors, Karen and Sam Morrison.



**Item 2 (left): Pleasants candlestick; and item 4 (right): Nash candlestick.**

After moving to Florissant in 2007, my wife and I began to make a habit of taking visitors to Victor—one of my favorite places anywhere. We especially make a point of visiting the Gold Camp Bakery and the Victor Trading Co. Much to my chagrin (having purchased only the one miniature candlestick), I noticed that the Morrisons' stock of mining items was slowly decreasing with time. I thought an interview was overdue, so I went up to Victor in late June, 2017, and they were generous enough to share the following information. I believe that local mineral enthusiasts and mine-history buffs who aren't familiar with this aspect of their work will find this interesting.

Sam and Karen Morrison started making miniature miners' tools about 1996, after moving to Victor from Wheat Ridge. Sam keeps a notebook, in which he records dates, the number of items of each type made, and inventory. Normally, Karen does the tin-smithing and soldering while Sam takes care of designing or choosing which full sized antique items to reproduce as miniatures. His specialties include bending and twisting specially purchased steel, brass, tin, and even Sterling silver stock.

Items once made by the Morrisons include miniature candlesticks (one made as a tie-tack) (as well as the candles), ore-raising buckets, gold pokes (that's a bag, for you westerners), dynamite warmers (and sticks of dynamite to go with them), lunch boxes, canteens, letter openers, and candle boxes. One of my favorites is Prof. Repetschnig's world famous salting gold—just load it into a shotgun and blast away!



**Miniature candlestick tie-tack.**



**Item 7. Ajax mine-cable letter opener.**

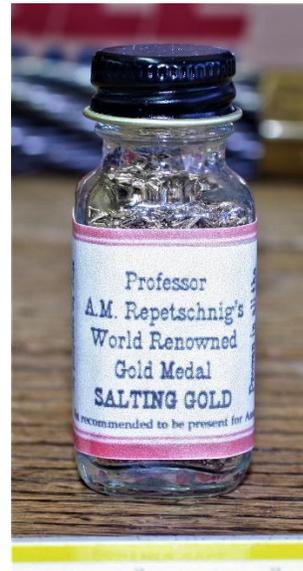
Typically, the Morrisons produce runs of only 25 or fewer examples of each item. Sam says that, once the challenge of figuring out how to make an item is gone, he doesn't feel the need to make more examples (despite pleading by customers like me). He told me several times that there isn't much interest in his and Karen's work, but I find that hard to believe. I think the small runs mean that only a relatively small number of mining-artifact collectors know how fine their work is, and it's impossible to build a complete collection. (Even the Morrisons lack examples of some of their output.)



Miniature candle box with candles.



Item 6. Miniature canteen.



Salting gold.

Nearly every part of every mining miniature is made by hand by the Morrisons. Among the few exceptions are a few screw-on caps that are new old stock from a business in Leadville, and the string wicks in their custom-made miners' candles. Sam even "ages" his hand-sewn goat-skin gold pokes in a cement mixer.



Item 9. Dynamite thawer.



Item 10. Ore raising bucket.

Although most of the objects shown in this article are no longer available, the Morrisons still have a few items in stock, along with a “cigar box” full of partially completed miniatures. I hope that, at some point in the not-too-distant future, they can be persuaded to make some new items. I’m convinced that these are future heirlooms that will be much valued by the next generation of collectors who are interested in the great mining history of our nation.



**Item 8c: Miniature lunch box with close-up of removable warmer**

For history’s sake, here is a partial list of the Morrisons’ output of mining miniatures. Numbers were assigned by the writer and correspond to numbered objects in photos scattered in the text.

- Item 1: Brass miniature miners’ “Christmas” candlestick with fancy file work, in hand made tin box with custom printed labels and hand-made 1/3-size candles (1996; edition of 12)
- Item 2: William Henry Pleasants patent 1/3-scale miniature candlestick, square steel stock (original made in Victor, 1899) (1998; edition of 37)
- Item 3: Allen Powell patent 1/3-scale miniature candlestick, square steel stock (original from Lead, SD, 1899) (1998, edition of 17)
- Item 4: Samuel Nash patent 1/3-scale miniature candlestick, square steel stock (original from Georgetown, CO, 1896) (1998; edition of 8)
- Item 5: Large (slightly oversized) brass candlestick with fancy twisted square stock (1998; edition of 16)
- Item 6: Miniature miners’ canteen with hand-made leather strap (? Date; edition of ?; out of stock)
- Item 7: Brass letter opener with handle made from Ajax mine-host cable, collected in Victor, CO (1999; edition of ?; out of stock)
- Items 8a-f: 6 different 1/2-scale tin miniature miners’ lunch boxes, with various removable parts (cups, warmers, trays, etc.):
  - 8a: Round (2000; edition of 25)
  - 8b: Kidney shaped, Leadville (2003; edition of 12)
  - 8c: Rectangular, with removable heater (2003; edition of 12)
  - 8d: First miniature lunchbox, not based on a full-sized example (1998; edition of 12)
  - 8e: Square; unknown (date and edition unknown)
  - 8f: Kidney shape (1999; edition of 12)
- Item 9: Cylindrical miniature tin dynamite thawer with 5 miniature sticks of dynamite (from Victor Lowell Thomas Museum collection) (2003; edition of 25)
- Item 10: 1/14-scale miniature tin ore-raising bucket (original from Victor, CO) (? date; edition of ?)

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).

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