

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Club News

July, 2021



LGGM Club Memberships

The period for club membership applications (January 1 through March 31st) is now closed. Although both members and non-members are welcome to attend the presentations at our monthly club meetings, only members may attend club field trips.

LGGM Club Meetings & Programs:

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, July 10 at 9:00 a.m., but there is no program.

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Community Center (39141 US-24). Meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. from April through September, and at 10:00 from October through March. Programs at each meeting will begin as soon as the monthly business meeting is completed.

Program of the Month:

Topaz: A Deceptive Gemstone

by Bob Carnein

Topaz is a favorite among mineral collectors and gem lovers alike. But there's a lot of "wishful thinking" among collectors, who often have a hard time distinguishing topaz from other minerals. Even the name causes problems: how about "quartz topaz", "smoky topaz", "Scotch topaz", and "Mediera topaz"? Would you buy a pink or purple topaz? How about London blue, blue max, super blue, or sky blue? How much should you pay? Bob's talk will cover what topaz is, how to identify it, how topaz occurs, and some of the pitfalls involved in the gem market for topaz.



This one-pound topaz crystal was found near Cameron Cone in 2012.

Upcoming LGGM Club Events:

Although programs and presentations at the monthly meetings are cancelled until further notice, our Field Trip Coordinators are developing a full schedule of field trips.

SCHEDULE OF LGGM CLUB EVENTS			
Date(s)	Event Title	Event Summary	Event Leader(s)
Sa 7/10/21 9:00 a.m.	July Meeting Lake George Community Center	Program: Topaz: A Deceptive Gemstone	Richard Kawamoto (Pres.) Program Speaker – Bob Carnein
Sa 7/17/21 9:30 a.m.	Houselog Creek Field Trip	Collect thundereggs & geodes	Dave Alexander (303) 641-5567
Sa 7/24/21	Topaz Mtn Gem Mine Field Trip	Collect topaz at the Dorris family's topaz mine near Lake George	Steve Kahler
Sa 7/31/21 9:30 a.m.	Florissant Pioneer Days – Cut & Polish Event	Club Lapidary Event	Dave Alexander (303) 641-5567
Sa 8/7/21 9:00 a.m.	Blue Moon Claim Field Trip	Collect amazonite, smoky quartz, etc. near Lake George	Karen Vogl and Gary Cline
Sa 8/14/21 9:00 a.m.	August Meeting Lake George Community Center	Program TBA	Richard Kawamoto (Pres.)
F 8/20/21 – Su 8/22/21 9 a.m-5 p.m.	LGGM Show Lake George, CO	Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show	Coordinator Carol Kinate
Sa 9/11/21	Meeting 9:00 a.m. Program 10:00 a.m.	Corral Bluffs – Rise of the Mammals	Bob Baker
Sa 9/18/21 9:00 a.m.	Calumet Mine Field Trip	Collect epidote, quartz, magnetite, etc.	NEED A LEADER (or trip will be cancelled)
F 9/24/21 9:00 a.m.	Sweet Home Mine Tour	Volunteer Appreciation Event (Tour only – no collecting)	Dave Alexander (303) 641-5567
Additional Presentations, Classes and Field Trips will be added after they are confirmed.			

2021 Lake George Gem & Mineral Show

Our annual **Lake George Gem & Mineral Show** will be held Friday August 20 through Sunday, August 22 on the south side of Highway 24 between the Lake George Post Office and the Granite Canyon (formerly Starkey's) store. Enter from the Post Office parking lot (37370 US-24, Lake George, CO 80827) and exit toward the Granite Canyon Store (east side of the show grounds.) The show is currently awaiting final approval documentation from Park County.

Annual Show Volunteer Sign-up: Please contact **Carol Kinate** at 719-648-9015 (call/text) or kinathec@aol.com if you would be available to assist with the following tasks:

- assist with layout of the show grounds after the meeting on August 14
- organize the sign-up and scheduling of parking attendants
- direct parking during the show (2 hour shifts)
- tend the LGGM Club booth
- assist with children's "rockhounding" activities

Sign-up sheets will also be available at our July LGGM Club meeting.
We also need donations of small rocks for children attending the show.

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

Meetings of Nearby Geology Clubs

- **Cañon City Geology Club** www.canoncitygeologyclub.com/ccgc-programs.html 2nd Monday of each month (July 12th) at 6:00 p.m. (program following meeting at approximately 7:00) Program Speaker – Dr. Simmons, Subject: TBA
- **Columbine Gem & Mineral** <https://rockaholics.org/about/> Meetings 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm MT (location TBD).
- **Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** <http://www.csms1936.com/>
 - General Assembly – 3rd Thursday 7pm,
 - Fossil Group - 1st Tuesday 7pm
 - Crystal Group and Faceting Group – 4th Thursday, 7pm
- **Pueblo Rockhounds** <http://www.pueblorockhounds.org/> Cancelled until further notice.

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Online Events

- **Florissant Scientific Society** For further information see: <https://florissantscientificociety.co.education/>
- **Rocky Mountain Map Society** For further information see: <http://rmmaps.org/>
- **Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS)** See <http://westernpaleo.org/> for more info.
- **Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society (DREGS)** www.dregs.org/index.html

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

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

Other Upcoming Gem & Mineral Shows

Aug 12-15 **Buena Vista Contin-Tail Rock, Gem & Mineral Show**

For more information, check <https://bvrockshow.com/> .

Location: Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds (1 mile south of Buena Vista, CO)

Aug 18-21 **Woodland Park Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show** <http://woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com/>

Sept 10-18 **Colorado Mineral and Fossil Denver Fall Show**

Location: Crowne Plaza DIA Convention Center, 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver 80239

Sept 10-19 **Denver Coliseum Mineral Fossil Gem Show**

Location: Denver Coliseum, Denver

Sept 10-19 **Denver Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show**

Hours: 10 a.m. -6 p.m. Location: National Western Complex

Sept 16-19 The 2021 **Denver Gem & Mineral Show** (formerly located at the Denver Merchandise Mart) will be held in conjunction with the Hardrock Summit, to be held at the Colorado Convention Center (located in downtown Denver at 700 14th Street). Visit hardrocksummit.com/ and denvershow.org/ for more details

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LGGM Club News:

Newsletter Awards: Once again several of our members won awards for their articles in our LGGM Club newsletter:

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)

- **Bob Baker** – Adult Articles – Fire Agate and Chalcedony from Saddle Mountain, Arizona – 3rd Place
- **Carl R. (Bob) Carnein** – Adult Articles Advanced – Colorado Type Minerals: Credite – 1st Place
- **Benjamin H. Elick** – Adult Articles Advanced – The Cresson Mines: The Untold Stories – 3rd Place
- **Steven W. Veatch** – Adult Articles Advanced – The Cresson Mines: The Untold Stories – 3rd Place

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)

- **Bob Baker** – Adult Articles – Fire Agate and Chalcedony from Saddle Mountain, Arizona – Commendation
- **Carl R. (Bob) Carnein** – Adult Articles Advanced – Colorado Type Minerals: Credite – 4th Place
- **Benjamin H. Elick** – Adult Articles Advanced – The Cresson Mines: The Untold Stories – 6th Place
- **Steven W. Veatch** – Adult Articles Advanced - The Cresson Mines: The Untold Stories – 6th Place

Congratulations to all four of these authors!

Field Trips:

We've been having a great field trip season so far and have a great lineup of events for the remainder of the season! Please forward any photos you have taken of the trips and/or your finds so we can add it to the newsletter and/or Facebook group.

Need for Volunteers:

Thanks to all the leader volunteers that have helped with making this season's trips great so far. We can't do it without you! We are looking for several folks that would like to assist with field trip coordination. This is different than leading field trips, which we also continue to need volunteers for. To keep up with our great field trip calendar, we need additional help coordinating these events. This includes coordinating a date and getting a volunteer leader (could be yourself), getting the event onto our Field Trip site, entertaining questions about the trip, etc. These volunteers would shadow me to make the transition smooth and simple!

Upcoming Events:

We have several great field trips upcoming and a few special events. One event where we need volunteers is the July 31st Rough to Gem event at the Florissant museum. We will have some club rock saws and polishing equipment set up so we can demonstrate how to turn rocks

into beautiful gems. We are planning around 9am – 1pm and will need assistance demonstrating the use of the saws and polishers. We will have a tumbler and would appreciate a volunteer or two that can explain the process and show stones at various stages of polishing. We need volunteers to share your expertise with cutting, grinding and polishing. Please reach out to Richard Kawamoto, John Rakowski or myself if you can help!

We will be taking sign-ups for the pay trip to the Dorris Topaz claim at the July meeting, then opening it up to the rest of the club the next morning. That trip is scheduled for July 24th. We need volunteers for all three days of our Gem and Mineral Show Friday August 20-22. Please contact Carol Kinate (719) 648-9015 if you can help. If you haven't been to this event it is great and has many amazing dealers with great local and world material; and meeting folks is a lot of fun!

Many have asked about the Sweet Home Mine tour presented by Collector's Edge on Friday September 24. We have only 4 open spots for this exclusive trip and will be selecting folks to fill those slots from the list of volunteer field trip leaders for this season. This will be a lottery as we've had over 4 volunteers lead trips this year. I wish there were more spots available, but that is all the mine owners would allow this year. I've heard it is an amazing 2-hour tour.

We will be doing a make-up trip for the Time Assassin likely in September. We are working out the details now. I believe this will also double as a prospecting trip in the open forest next to this claim—so keep an eye out for details forthcoming.

No-show on field trips:

Thank you to everyone that has been unregistering and communicating to me when you decide you can't make the trip. I very much appreciate it and so do other club members! That said, we are still having issues with no-shows. I'm trying to send reminders prior to the event and that is helping some, but there still is a significant number of no-shows on each trip. The club is working on a no-show policy with consequences due to this continuing issue so keep an eye out for more information here.

Thanks!

Dave Alexander

(303) 641-5567

Links to Interesting Gem, Mineral & Paleontology Articles Online:

Wayne Orlowski sent us several links this month:

- I did not know of this green obsidian and have not ever seen it.
https://www.geologyin.com/2019/12/what-is-green-obsidian.html?fbclid=IwAR37oLbKdU9Bo_jHbB_-fHpWaVYea-GdtEQcEYVBpVHmMorPO-UwwP3OawM
- I never get bored watching plate tectonics in process! I get awe struck !
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfJKi4ULdf8>
- Raindrop traveling downstream
Visualization of where a rain drop goes on it's travels downstream. <https://river-runner.samlearner.com/>

The latest installments of “**Bench Tips**” by **Brad Smith**

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

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 16 or 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "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.

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow 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 with a slight groove on one jaw.

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

Happy hammering,

- Brad Smith
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Notes from the Editors

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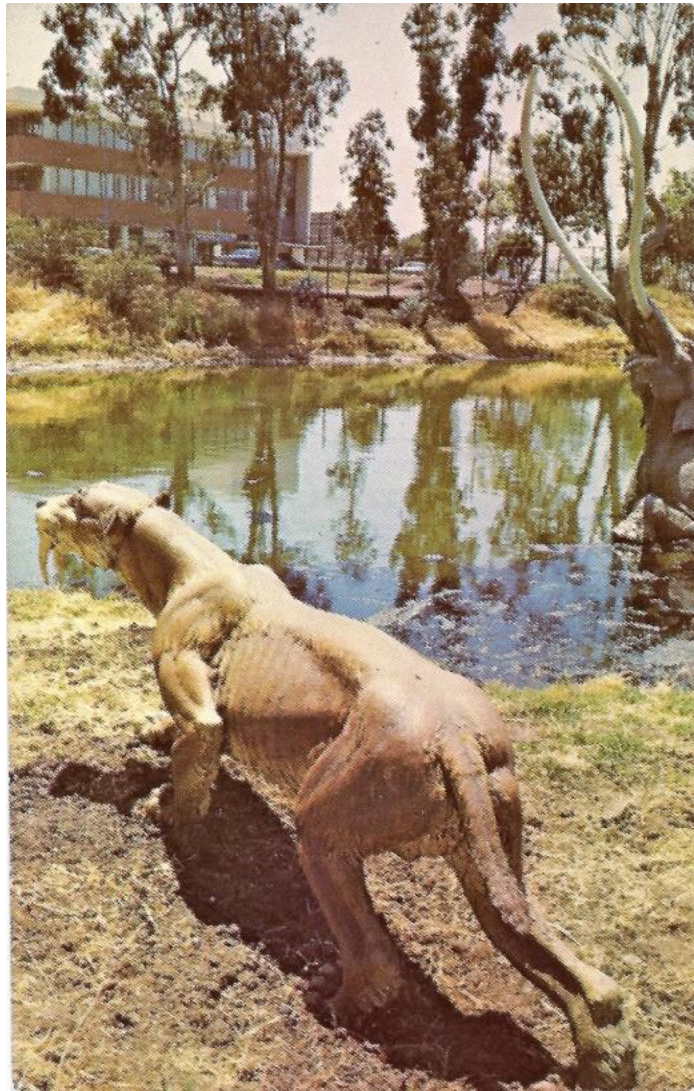


La Brea Tar Pits

By Steven Wade Veatch

From a tar seep
bubbling asphalt pools.
Here Ice Age animals
disappear and time
is trapped.

Dire wolves,
saber-tooth cats,
coyotes,
and mammoths
will one day
return as fossils.



Monthly Mineral Quiz

Last Month's Mineral: Staurolite, $\text{Fe}_2\text{Al}_9\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{23}(\text{OH})$.

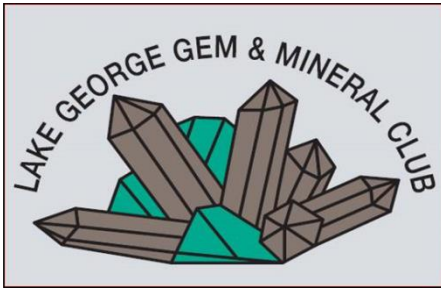


Staurolite is a common mineral that occurs as porphyroblasts (big crystals) in medium grade, foliated metamorphic rocks, including mica schist and phyllite. Twinned crystals like the one to the left are common, and, if two crystals are intergrown at right angles, these are sometimes called "fairy crosses". Such twins are produced by the tens of thousands near Taos, NM. Because fine grained muscovite often partly replaces staurolite, crystals may be "improved" by polishing off the resulting rough surfaces. Almandine garnet, another medium grade metamorphic mineral, is a common associate of staurolite. Eckel (1997) lists staurolite localities in 9 Colorado counties, the closest being in the "Gooseberry Gulch area" in Fremont County.

Monthly Mineral for July (Carnein photos and collection).



This month's "mineral" is actually a variety of a very common mineral. You might find it in geodes (left and middle, above) and as fillings in cavities, mainly in silica-rich rocks, including volcanics. The botryoidal ("grape like") habit is typical, but it may also be banded. Color varies with impurities (it's colorless when pure). Its high hardness (about 7) and toughness, combined with its sometimes attractive color, make this a popular mineral with stone cutters and carvers, especially in cabochons and cameos/intaglios. Nearby localities listed in Eckel (1997) are "10 miles south of Cañon City"; "southwest of Guffey"; and "between Hartsel and Guffey". I've found some nice pieces near the Elkhorn Road, in South Park. What is this common material?



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

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