

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News,
June, 2011



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Saturday, June 11, at 9:00AM

Lake George Community Center

After a short business meeting, we will caravan to the **Spruce Grove Campground area**, for a interclub topaz hunt, with the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild (DGMG). Be prepared for a moderate, half-hour-plus uphill hike. Bring picks, shovels, screens, water, lunch, hat, and clothing for changeable weather. Last year, some very nice topaz crystals were found on this trip!

Coming Events

- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society** monthly meeting: "Twinning in Crystals" by Bob Carnein, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida. ... June 9
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock. ... June 16
- Pueblo Rockhounds** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle. ... June 16
- Rock Fair and Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show**, Western Museum of Mining and Industry and Best Western Academy Hotel, 225 Northgate Blvd (I-25 exit 156A) and 8110 Academy Blvd. (I-25 exit 150); go to <http://www.csms.us/> for info ... June 24-26
- Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2011 Convention and Show**, hosted by Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; call 316-742-3746 or 719-488-5526 or visit the website (above) for information. ... June 24-26
- Victor Gold Rush Days** ... July 15-17
- Annual Continental Divide Tailgate (CONTINTAIL)**, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds; call 720-938-4194 for information. ... Aug. 12-15
- 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
- Alma Geostudy Presentations at Alma** ... Sept. 10-11
- Symposium: Minerals of Russia**, Petroleum Hall, Green Center, CSM, Golden (contact pmodreski@usgs.gov for info) ... Sept. 10
- CSM Geology Museum Open-House, Reception, and Silent Auction**, 6-9 PM, CSM Geology Museum, 13th and Maple Sts., Golden ... Sept. 14
- Denver Coliseum Show**, 9-6 daily, 1900 44th St. (from I-70, exit 275B at Brighton) ...

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Blvd.; free parking & admission) (go to <http://coliseumshow.com/> for info)

Sept. 10-18

Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show, Holiday Inn-Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St.
(free parking & admission)

...

Denver Gem & Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Show, Denver Merchandise
Mart, I-25 at 58th Ave. (admission charge)

... Sept. 14-18

Sept. 16-18

Club News

Welcome, New Members:

Don & Mary Anthony (Lake George)

Roger Christenson (Pine)

Kris & Rachel Dingfield (Kiowa)

Miriam Hillson (Cripple Creek)

Bob Holder (Buena Vista)

Greg & Cindy Jones (Woodland Park)

Bill & Deb Kenny (Monument)

Ted & Laurie Litwin (Woodland Park)

Pat Mauro (Baily)

Judy Moskal (Divide)

Clement & Darlene O'Brien (Lake George)

Judy Passman & Ernie Edgar (Larkspur)

Rick & Sally Schnellmann (Woodland Park)

Donovan Sutters (Kiowa)

Jonathan Woods (Woodland Park)

❄️❄️ Vice President and field-trip director **Dan Alfrey** has a great and ever-expanding field-trip line-up. Here's the latest list; please visit our website often for updates, and, remember, you must be a Lake George Gem & Mineral Club member to attend trips. **Please remember to pay your 2011 dues—still a bargain at \$15 for individuals or \$25 for a family; a membership form can be found on our website.**

June 11: Spruce Grove interclub trip (with Denver Gem & Mineral Guild) (tentative)

June 18: Pebble Pups interclub trip to **Leadville** (with Colorado Springs Mineral Society and FMC)

June 18-19: Last Chance mine (Creede) and **Bonanza/Marshall Pass exploration** (see Dan)

July 9: Petra Placer (9AM) Extreme Trip for prize Colorado Topaz!

July 16: Smoky Dog (private claim of **Pinnacle 5 Minerals**) (amazonite/smoky quartz); 9AM

July 23: Pebble Pups interclub trip to New Hope amethyst deposit, 9AM-4PM (see Pebble Pups section of the newsletter)

August 6: We've been invited to the famous **Dreamtime Claim** (private mine) 10AM

August 13: Lake George Gem & Mineral Show Set-Up, 9 AM; meet at Lake George Community Center. Free pizza for volunteers!

August 27: Hartsel petrified wood (not barite!) on Private Property

September 3: Trip to **Devil's Hole mine**, near Texas Creek. **Very limited;** trip involves a 5-mile ride on rough roads followed by a long up-hill hike. Contact Bob Carnein ccarnein@gmail.com if interested in going.

September 10: GeoStudy presentations (Alma); also **Sedalia mine** (with Columbine Club; more info later)

September 24: Holcim quarry; meet 8AM in Florence

October 1: Patience club claim (8AM)

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Dan also notes that no trips are scheduled for June 25, July 2 or many Sundays. If you'd like to lead a trip or have a suggestion for one of those dates, contact Dan at alfreydan@aol.com .

💧💧 On May 14, over 40 people, including several new members, attended the monthly meeting at Lake George. President **John Rakowski** announced that 10 dealers have signed up for the August show. He also noted that Pebble Pups had a great talk about meteorites on May 10 (see below); a planning meeting will be held in June to come up with a schedule for September through next May. **Dick Lackmond** reported that the Lapidary Workshop is "up and running". Thanks to **Maury and Grace Hammond** for their donation of an 18-inch slab saw with both a new and a used diamond blade. Thanks to **Fred Ceconi** for dop machine, wax, sticks and other goodies for the Lap Workshop. Thanks, also, to new member **Ronda Kinsman**, who donated cash to help with outfitting the workshop. A cabochon machine has been promised; we could still use some other items. Dick announced that the plan is to have the lab open from 6-8PM every second Wednesday (**including June 8**). Users will be asked to pay a \$2.00 fee to defray costs. The "Ute Pass Courier" and Tellnet Radio will have news reports about the workshop.



Amanda Adkins and some of her Colorado gemstones (Dan Alfrey photos)



Bob Kane, Dick Lackmond and the new saw. **Ronda Kinsman at the Piety claim.**
(Jean Kane and Dan Alfrey photos)

Members agreed to donate \$200 to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, which gives all Lake George Club members free admission to the Museum. **John Rakowski** is seeking helpers for a guided field trip in the Lake George area June 22 for the "Preserve America Youth Summit". Field-trip leader **Dan Alfrey** reminded members to "Follow the Leader" on field trips. Members also need to leave gates as they find them, leave their dogs at home, and check the website for specific instructions before attending trips. **Dave Harvey** reported that there is a

push by Park County groups to preserve some areas to protect Native American sites along Park Co. 77. This may affect digging. **Duane Russell** is accumulating materials for the Club library. He's also accepting donations; call 719-748-3946 or e-mail duaneruss@msn.com for a current list of library items.

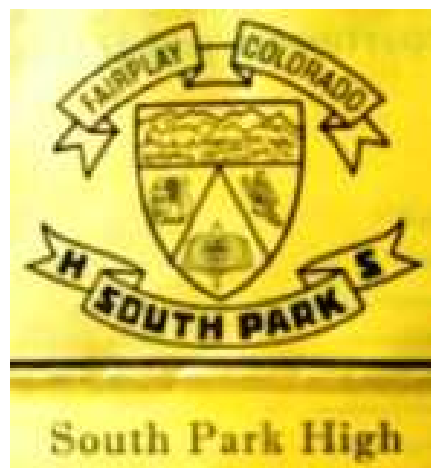
After the business meeting, **Amanda Adkins** showed off a mind-bending display of Colorado gemstone material, including rhodonite, rhodochrosite, rose quartz, Columbine agate, olivine, topaz, aquamarine, pink tourmaline, smoky quartz, turquoise, amethyst, garnet, and fluorite. Some of these were real eye-openers, including gem pink tourmaline from the Cripple Creek area (see photos above).

Thirty members then "followed the leader" to **Frankie & Townsend Wolfe's** Forever Mine. The Wolfes reported that diggers found smoky quartz, goethite, and microcline crystals and that at least one member found a smoky with attached amazonite. Another member had a problem with a low-hanging car, but we don't talk about that. Many thanks to the Wolfes for allowing club members to visit their claim again this year !



Goethite (left) and Smoky Quartz (right), Forever Mine (Frankie Wolfe photos)

💧 **Dan Alfrey** attended the Awards Ceremony at South Park High School on May 25 to present our annual scholarship to senior Sam Barrett. Dan reports that we received recognition in the program and at the graduation ceremony. Over \$43,000 in scholarships were awarded.



Dan (left) presents check to Sam Barrett (right). Photos by "Pete", SPHS "tech man"

💧 **Dan** also sent the following details for those going to the Last Chance mine June 18-19:

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We will **meet at the Mining Museum parking lot**, North of Creede, Saturday, June 18, 11am. (get there on your own)

Trip Leaders: Dan Alfrey alfreydan@aol.com (719) 440 - 6234 and Dick Lackmond dlackmond@q.com (719) 684 - 9736

A tour pit stop will take place, on the way, to the Last Chance mine.

Other specimens will be For Sale at the Mine. You can pay for Sowbelly Agate pieces, either gathered by the Mine Owner, or Collect on your own (\$2 per Pound).

After the Mine Closes, to the public, we will stay and visit with the owner. You can leave whenever you want. You are welcome to stay. (Sorry, all the mine-site cabins are reserved.)

Make your free or fee camping (or hotel) arrangements 'on your own'.

The next day, Sunday, June 19th, Dan & Dick plan to visit another local destination for collectables, then stop again, on the way back, at a third location in the Marshall Pass area. You are welcome to join us. Here is a great link for more info:
<http://www.lastchancemine.com/lcm.html>

◆◆ Dan, also sent the following report about the **Memorial Wkd.** Club trip to the **Piety & Patience claims** on May 28. That trip produced spectacular results, and the dig is ongoing.

"As a digging partner of past member **Bill Piety**, whose battle with cancer ended in October 2010, and out of respect for other dear members whom we have lost (**Mary O'Donnell**, December 2010, and **Ross Krummel**, February 2011), field-trip coordinator **Dan Alfrey** *intentionally* scheduled a Club Claim trip on May 28th. Twenty-one LGGMC members attended, along with 3 from the DGMG. The weather was beautiful, and many flowers were in bloom!

Several new members made fun finds, including purple/green fluorite, and amazonite specimens with very nice color... Then there was the 'continued dig' on the "*WillyPeter Pocket*" (discovered earlier this year by LGGMC members **Willy & Connie Hofmeister**, uncovering many doubly-terminated quartz crystals). New LGGMC member **Donovan Sutters** and **Kris Dingfield** have spent at least two days recovering several large crystals, which have created quite a worthy stir! See photos below. Another trip is scheduled on October 1st.



Piety Claim smoky quartz crystals. Dick Lackmond photos.



Sweet !!!



A "modest" microcline crystal (left); new members Kris Dingfield and Donovan Sutters with one of their finds from the Piety claim. (Dick Lackmond photos)

To our newer members:

LGGMC President **John Rakowski** & Vice President **Dan Alfrey** were largely instrumental in helping our Club establish its own claim in the Wigwam Creek area, near Cheeseman

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Reservoir. They led several search trips, installed the corner posts, and filed the paperwork with the county and BLM.

* * * Offsetting a portion of the approx. \$300 in materials & filing expenses, were 'generous cash donations' by club members **Marge Breth** and **Todd Mattson**. THANK YOU !!! * * *

John, along with late member Bill Piety, is also a member of the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild (DGMG). A second claim was staked alongside ours, for the DGMG, with the agreement that either club could dig on either claim. (Current Membership in 'one club or the other' is Required!). Several other members from the two clubs assisted with the entire process.

NOTE: Current active members are allowed to dig 'at will' on the Club claims. The only request is that your activity be reported to field trip coordinator **Dan Alfrey** at alfreydan@aol.com for annual assessment purposes. And please share pictures of what you find. *Please see Dan or John for directions and/or maps to the claims.* Enjoy! =D

💧 Thirty-eight members of the Lake George and Pueblo clubs had a great time at the New Hope amethyst claim on May 7. Literally tons of amethyst were available for the picking.



New Hope digging (Photo by Bob Kane); amethyst finds (Photos by Frankie Townsend).

💧 Reminder: Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds is offering the following seminars this summer. A more complete description of each seminar is available on the Friends' website www.fossilbeds.org or at this website: <http://www.nps.gov/flfo/forteachers/seminar-series.htm>. **Seminars related to geology or fossils are in BOLD.**

2011 SEMINARS:

1. Saturday, June 18, 2011 - "Historical Ranch Sites of the Sanborn Western Camps," Jerry McLain, Director of Alumni Relations, Colorado Outdoor Education Center, 9 AM to 5 PM, Sanborn Western Camps, Florissant, CO.
2. Friday, July 8, 2011, "Natural History and Ecology of the Flammulated Owl," Dr. Brian Linkhart, Biology Department, Colorado College, **5 PM to 2 AM, Manitou Experimental Forest, Woodland Park, CO.
3. Monday and Tuesday, July 11th and 12th, 2011, Day 1 - "Wildflowers of the Central Rockies," and Day 2 - "Blowing in the Wind: Knowing Your Grasses." Doug Coleman, Director, Wintergreen Nature Foundation, Wintergreen, Virginia. 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM, Florissant

4. Saturday, July 16, 2011, "Exploring the Basement: Learning to See What Isn't There" Reinhard Wobus, Geology Department, Williams College, MA. 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM

5. Tuesday, July 19, 2011, "Easy Print Making - Indoors or Out,"- Toni Ratzlaff, art teacher, Woodland Park Schools, 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM

6. Saturday, July 30, 2011m "Discovering Colorado's Ice Age Environments"- Steven Veatch, Vice-President of the Friends, 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM

7. Wednesday and Thursday, August 3rd and 4th, 2011m "Geologist as Detective" - Part 1 and 2, (can be done separately but #2 can't be done without taking #1)- Dr. Bob Carnein, retired, Lock Haven University of PA, 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM

8. Tuesday, August 9, 2011, " Teaching Renewable Energy, Tools for K-12 Teachers and Parents." - Chris Tholl, Director of High Trails Outdoor Education Center, Florissant, CO 9 AM to 5 PM - Sanborn Western Camps, Florissant, CO

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

MAGNETIC HOLDER FOR FILES

An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each. See <http://www.harborfreight.com/18-inch-magnetic-holder-65489.html>

Only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.

FINISHING PIERCED PATTERNS

After sawing patterns, there's always a little cleanup to do. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners. But I often find myself looking for even smaller files. I couldn't even find them at a watchmaker-tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in your Dremel or Foredom.

The wheels are inexpensive and do a great job grinding steel (poor at soft metals like silver). The disks have other uses, such as modifying pliers and making design stamps. My preference is the one-inch-diameter ones as shown at <http://www.ottofrei.com/store/product.php?productid=3919&cat=3439&page=1> Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.



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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)

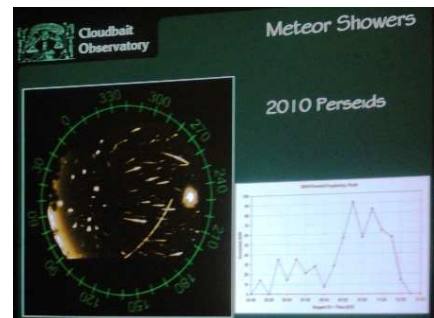
Pebble Pups Corner

Dan Alfrey reported the following on the May meeting:

Special guest Chris Peterson (Cloudbait Observatory) gave a very informative slideshow presentation on Meteors & Fireballs, and even gave an example of how his Guffey 'meteor camera' works, at our May 10th pebble pups meeting.

You can track meteor data on his website at <http://www.cloudbait.com/>

Thank you Chris !!!



Chris Peterson at the May Pebble Pups meeting (Dan Alfrey photos)

Regular meetings of the Pebble Pups have ended for the summer but will resume in September. In the meantime, **two field trips** are on the agenda:

June 18 is the inter-club trip (with the Colorado Springs group) to **Leadville**, to collect **pyrite crystals**. (Contact Steve Veatch for more information; steven.veatch@gmail.com.)

July 23 is another inter-club trip to collect **amethyst** at the **New Hope** deposit, near Cañon City. Meet at the big pull-off just before Colo. Rte. 9 meets US 50, west of the Royal Gorge.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

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You may have noticed that the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies is meeting this month in Colorado Springs (see "Events" list, above). If you wondered what "The Federation" is about, check out this article by Beth Simmons, which appeared in the June "Tips and Chips".

What's THE "Federation"?

by Beth Simmons

There are many, many rock clubs throughout the United States, members all bound by a love of the Earth and its holdings. In 1935, members from the disjunct groups in California decided to organize a "mother club" called the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Clubs in the Northwest united in 1938; Midwest groups banded in 1940, and our own Rocky Mountain Federation began in 1941. In 1946, officers from all four federations met in Salt Lake City and organized a federal group—the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Our own Colorado Dr. Richard Pearl and Chester Howard from the Colorado Mineral Society spearheaded the move. Pearl was elected Vice President and Chester Howard, the Treasurer. The first "national" show was held in 1948 right here in Denver where an estimated 3,000 attendees admired exhibits from across the country. Since then the Eastern, Southeastern, and South Central Federations have joined the organization.

What does the Federation "do" for the clubs? The overseeing American Federation sponsors annual "competitions" between newsletter editors, webmasters, and the clubs themselves. The awards are made at the annual convention. (This year's convention is in Syracuse, NY in July) The AMFS regulates competitive displays at participating shows around the country, with the winners of the regional competitions taken to the next AFMS show. Our Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies show/convention is this month in Colorado Springs at the Academy Hotel (north side of the Springs on Academy Blvd.), June 24-26.

The Federations also maintain "speaker's bureaus," both live and via various media such as instructional slide shows (now power point programs) and movies that clubs can "sign out" and use for meeting programs. Both the AFMS and the RMFMS issue monthly newsletters, keeping rockhounds across the country informed of governmental policy changes regarding collecting on public lands, focusing on junior members, scholarships (both regional and national), and other issues of interest to rockhounds and collectors.

The Eastern Federation sponsors an annual lapidary workshop at their mountain retreat in North Carolina, "Wildacres." One of their star instructors is our own Sandy Cline. Here in the Rocky Mountains, our regional retreat is more apt to take the form of a field trip(s) to club or private collecting claims in the mountains. But there will be lots of field trips in connection with the RMFMS show at the end of the month.

Our poet laureate, **Steve Veatch**, sent the following remembrance of deceased member **Mary O'Donnell**, much missed by the Colorado collecting community.

Mary O

by Steven Wade Veatch

Mary O'Donnell loved Cripple Creek's children and taught them well.

Her life was her students who loved her—this you can surely tell.

She followed her students through each and every grade,
and knew the accomplishments all of them had made.

Mary O'Donnell loved everything about Cripple Creek.

She loved its historic goldfields in the shadow of Pikes Peak.

She loved its people even more, and was a friend to all.

She treasured the Episcopal Church, and answered its call.

Mary loved Pikes Peak and its fossils, minerals, gems, and rocks.

Mary belonged to several rock clubs, and enjoyed the program talks.

She took great pleasure in the outdoors and going on club field trips,
or simply cleaning the museum's minerals while making friendships.

I will always remember Mary O'Donnell—she is eternally Cripple Creek:

when I hear the whistle blow on the tourist train and hear the trestle creak;

when I see the aspen leaves quake on the rolling hills that are a bright yellow gold;

when I walk the trail in Poverty Gulch and feel the district's rich history unfold;

when I see the Anchoria Leland's head frame on the distant hill;
when I watch the donkeys walking together in the evening air so still;
I will remember Mary O and feel that rush of times past, and really miss Mary O.
Cripple Creek is Mary's place—where she was loved by all, as we all know.

When I see the moon fade and the rising sun shine on Cripple Creek,
I see the town where Mary O lived, loved, and taught each week.
I will remember my friend, Mary O; her face forever a smile and aglow.
All of her students, and each one of us, will never forget, our Mary O.

Mary Louise O'Donnell (1947-2010) was a long-time member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and was instrumental in the founding of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club. Mary worked on all three of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club's study projects. The last study project she worked on was on the Greater Alma Mining District, and the expanded abstract she was a coauthor on was published posthumously in *New Mexico Geology*. Her hard work on the three study projects and her contributions to the community of Cripple Creek and the Pikes Peak region will be greatly missed.



Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

P.O. Box 171
Lake George, CO 80827

www.LGGMclub.org

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 2011 are:

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