

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News,
June, 2012



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, June 9, at 9:00AM
Lake George Community Center

After a short business meeting, **Richard Kawamoto** will lead a trip to **Joe Dorris's** famous **Smoky Hawk Mine**, well known for smoky quartz and amazonite combos, plus topaz and fluorite. Bring: rock hammer, chopsticks, shovel, pick, pry bar, collecting bucket, sunscreen, hat, hiking boots, gloves, safety goggles, lots of fluids, snacks. Difficulty: easy, with a porta-potty on site; you'll spend most of the time on hands and knees digging. A 4WD vehicle is needed to drive to the claim.

Coming Events

- Spring Mega-Sale (extended)**, USGS store; go to usgsstore@usgs.gov for info. ... Thru June 4
- Dinosaur Discovery Day**, Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison; see www.dinoridge.org for info. ... June 9
(Other Dino Discovery Days are 7/14, 8/11, and 9/8.) ... June 11
- Denver Mining Club Luncheon**, "Impactites" by Dan Wray, Golden Corral Buffet, 3677 S. Santa Fe Dr. (purchase of buffet lunch is required) ... June 16
- Columbine Gem & Mineral Club Monthly Meeting**, "Gemstones of Mt. Antero", by Mark Krivanek, 6:30PM, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida. ... June 16
- GEodessey Annual Mineral & Fossil Home Sale**, 15339 W. Ellsworth Dr., Golden. Call 303-279-5504 for info. ... June 16
- CSMS Monthly Meeting**, "Diamond Deposits of Colorado", by Pete Modreski, 7PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Blvd. (www.csms.us for info) ... June 21
- Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show and Rock Fair**, Western Museum of Mining and Industry (<http://www.csms.us> for info) ... June 22-24
- Field Trip to Cripple Creek/Victor Mining District**, including a tour of the CC&V Cresson mine, led by Steven Veatch. Register (fee) at Cripple Creek Parks & Rec., phone 719-689-3514. ... June 30
- Western Museum of Mining and Industry 30th Anniversary and Membership Celebration** (go to www.wmmi.org for info) ... July 14
- Contin-Tail Rock & Mineral Show**, Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista (go to www.coloradorocks.org for info) ... Aug. 9-12
- Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show**, Details to follow. ... Aug. 17-19

- Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds 25th Anniversary Celebration**, with talks, tours, and banquet. Go to their website for details. ... **Aug. 18**
- Denver Coliseum Mineral Show**, 4600 Humboldt St., Denver (I-70 exit 275B at Brighton Blvd; www.coliseumshow.com for info). ... **Sept 8-16**
- Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum Annual Open house, Reception, and Silent Auction**, 6-9PM; all invited. ... **Sept. 12**
- Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show**, Ramada Plaza Hotel (old Holiday Inn), 4849 Bannock St., Denver. Free parking and admission. ... **Sept. 12-16**
- Denver Gem & Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Expo**, Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 at 58th Ave.; theme is copper minerals. Admission charge. (Go to www.denvermineralshow.com for info). ... **Sept. 14-16**

Please Welcome the Following New Members:

**Mason & Lin Deahl-Coy
Holly, Jac, and Nick Shipp
Steve Zinanti and Genice Fullerton**

Club News

☀☀ If you're wondering where the "coming events" information comes from, I get it off the web and from **Pete Modreski**, who sends out a monthly (or more often) list of talks, shows, etc. Pete sends more than I have room to include; if you'd like to join his list, contact him at pmodreski@usgs.gov.

☀☀ **Richard Kawamoto** and others have put together a great field-trip line-up for the start of the summer. Here's a list; **please visit the website often for updates and details.**

June 2: Hartsel barite locality

June 9: Smoky Hawk mine (after Club meeting) (**Richard Kawamoto**, leader)

June 17: Spruce Grove (topaz) (**John Rakowski**, leader)

June 23: Badger Creek (peridot) (**Dick Lackmond**)

June 30: Devils Head (smoky quartz, topaz) (**John Rakowski**, leader)

July 7: Devils Hole mine, Texas Creek (rose quartz, beryl, columbite, almandine) (**Bob Carnein**, leader)

July 14: Petra Placer claim (topaz) (**Rich Fretterd**, leader)

July 21: Victor Gold Rush Days

Sept. 8: Godsend mine (smoky quartz, amazonite) (**Richard Fretterd**, leader)

Sept. 15: Picket Wire dinosaur trackways (requires registration) (**Richard Kawamoto**, leader).

Sept. 16: Comanche National Grassland (septarian nodules) (**Dick Lackmond**, leader)

☀☀ **Dan Alfrey** sent an update on the August show:

I added an introductory letter and updated all the dealer documents. Dealer Packets are avail. On the web site www.LGGMclub.org We went completely through the entire database. My awesome wife Jennifer helped call every single one (Thank-You! :) Many many have disconnected phone numbers... and most have no email. I contacted for dumpsters and porta-lets; all set. Dick Lackmond did the Notices (Thank-You! :) I'm working on an updated flyer... will have it to the membership for June mtg.; can discuss volunteers then.

☀☀ **John Rakowski** sent the following report on the May 26 trip to Wigwam Creek: "We had 12 participants in the field trip to the Wigwam Claims on Saturday May 26. No big finds were made, but everybody found a few pieces. One interesting item for club members to Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

June, 2012

note is that some of the fluorite from the claim is phosphorescent as well as fluorescent. The fluorescence is bluish purple to green. Several pieces will continue glowing light green for a minute or two after the UV light is removed. I even noticed that a couple of pieces were activated by my flashlight and would glow green after the flashlight was turned off."

⚙️⚙️ Does anybody recognize this photo?



That's our fearless leader, in 1991, digging out a huge amazonite crystal (to left of gad bar) where a tree had blown over.

⚙️⚙️ Several members joined other clubs on a trip to North Table Mountain, in Golden, on May 5. It was a hot, sunny day and a long hike up, but everybody found something worth carrying down the mountain. Here are a couple of pictures by **Fred Ceconi**:



Thomsonite on chabazite found by **Bob Carnein** (left); you couldn't pay me to do this (right)

⚙️⚙️ **Reminder:** SCHEDULED OPEN TIMES IN THE LAPIDARY WORKSHOP ARE the 2ND WED OF THE MONTH, 6PM TILL 8PM and THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 1PM TILL 4PM. FEEL FREE TO CALL **RICHARD KAWAMOTO** OR **DICK LACKMOND** TO ARRANGE A SPECIAL TIME FOR YOU TO USE THE SHOP IF YOU NEED IT!

⚙️⚙️ Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds has announced the following seminars for this summer:

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

June, 2012

July 7: Birding 101, with Debbie Barnes;
July 13-14: Wildflowers of the Rockies, and Knowing Your Grasses, by Doug Coleman;
July 19: Easy Fossil Making in the Classroom, by Toni Ratzlaff;
August 4: Landmarks in the History of Paleontology in Central Colorado, by Herb Meyer and Dan Grenard.

For more information, go to www.nps.gov/flfo and follow the link to the seminar series.

☀☀ **Here are this month's "Bench Tips" and news items from Brad Smith:**

MISC ITEMS ~~~ Two recent news items you may find interesting:

METEORITE RINGS

Want to make your own special "out of this world" ring? Take a chunk of Gibeon meteorite, forge it into a thin strip, and cut the strip into several short lengths. Then forge weld the lengths together, twist the resulting ingot, and finally form it into a ring shape.

See pics of this special wedding ring at <http://imgur.com/a/ZjCaW/all#0>.

DRAGON'S BREATH

Here be dragons. And then here be the steam machine of the Dragon's Breath. If you like small working steam engines, you'll be impressed by this one created by Hans Meevis from Saint Martin. It's made entirely from silver, gold and hand carved gemstones. Runs on steam or compressed air.

<http://ganoksin.com/blog/meevis/2012/04/08/dragons-breath/>

BenchTips for the Month

STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out your silver wire and found that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit. Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 Ga. If you're working on thick wires and pulling hard, be sure to brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

DO BEZELS SHRINK?

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering. If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howlite, you can use a sanding stick. But for harder cabs like jasper or agates, you have to use a diamond file or one of the ruby nail files from the drugstore.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment in the stone size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress on the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over onto the stone.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at [facebook.com/BenchTip](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTip) or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

☀☀ **Don Keith**, of the Pueblo Rockhounds, sent the following reminder about Cripple Creek mine tours:

"Last year we took a tour of the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine, which was very enjoyable. The tour includes a van ride beginning at the top of the huge open pit mine, with stops at various points all the way down to the bottom. You get to see mine operations such as the large power shovels loading the 250-ton mine trucks and a tour through the crusher operations with narratives by the tour driver. You also get to take pictures with and climb all over the gigantic mine haul trucks.

The tours are being given again this summer. Following are the details:

Tours depart from the Lowell Thomas Museum located at 3rd & Victor Avenue in Victor, CO.

Cost is \$7.50 per person.

Participants must be age 5 or over.

Length of tour is approximately 2 hours

Schedule: Tours at 10 am & 1 pm May 27-Labor Day, 2012, daily except no tours on Thursdays."

Reservation is required Make reservations either on line at VictorColorado.com or by phone 719-689-4211.

☀☀ Speaking of Cripple Creek, here are a couple of pictures taken by **Bob Carnein** on the May 26 trip to the Anchoria Leland mine:



(l. to r.) Ed Hunter addresses group; galas and shiv wheel of headframe; remains of hoist.

☀☀ **Bruce Geller**, of the CSM Geology Museum, sent the following update on activities at the museum:

Colorado School of Mines (CSM) Geology Museum Musings

I have lots to report about our Museum this round. Since my last communication, we: had our combined Book Sale/Garage sale, which was successful; held many receptions from across campus; received a grant from the Golden Civic Foundation; displayed at the Tucson, Denver Guild, and Fort

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

June, 2012

Collins mineral shows; and have received many donations. In late April we closed the bidding on our Sealed Bid Auction and notified the winning bidders.

Our semester has recently wound down and expect five of our twelve Student Aides to graduate on 5/11. Knowing that, I had to interview another crop for staffing us this autumn, and then created summer schedules for the Aides who will help us during our heaviest visitation months.

The Advisory Council has met monthly and ratified an Optical Instruments Protocol. On-going projects involve cataloguing new specimens and improving our database.

I held weekly meetings with our collections managers and volunteers. These folks ran our Book/Garage Sale and have been busy keeping our Gift Shop well stocked – so much so that our year to date sales are up 110% over the same period in 2011. Our volunteer ranks have now risen to 54, with the addition of several high school students. Our facebook fans number 529. We just revised our brochures and had 20,000 reprinted through the generosity of Jane and Marshall Crouch.

One of our Student Aides, Patricia Littman, compiled our attendance data from 2011, which were really impressive. For example, we had over 20,500 visitors from all 50 states and 62 foreign countries. This means that we averaged 56 guests per day, an increase of 22% over 2010. Interestingly, over 80% of our guests were first-time visitors, and only 18% were K-12 school students.

Our Friends of the CSM Geology Museum support group is going strong. We now have over 112 members since our inception 2.5 years ago! Three FCSMGM members toured the Royal Ontario Museum, and eight members toured a Denver area collector's "rock room" in March. Several field trips are being planned for later this year. As always, FCSMGM members receive 20% discounts in our Gift Shop.

Similar to last year's display of Colorado rare earth specimens loaned to us by various Colorado mineral collectors, **our featured Colorado mineral this year is barite** (from as many collectors and Colorado localities as possible) for display. We invite all barite collectors to submit digital photos of these specimens. We realize that many of you may have qualifying candidates, so our Museum staff reserves the right to select the very best loans for this display. Those selected pieces should arrive in our Museum sometime before August 1st, so we can begin creating the exhibit. The loan paperwork is simple and the loan period will be for one year. This will be one of the new displays we want to feature at our Annual Open House on September 12, from 6 P.M. - 9 P.M. Please phone me any questions or concerns.

Of course, all your club members are welcome to attend our Annual Open House. Come meet some of our Museum Advisory Council members, Student Aids, volunteers, members of the Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Museum, see our new acquisitions, our ever evolving collection, and our newest displays. Some of you might even enjoy a visit to our Gift Shop. We hope to see you then.

Come visit our Museum 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. From May 15th -August 15th, free parking is permitted in the neighborhood streets north and east of the Museum.

Wow....
Bruce Geller
303-273-3823

Pebble Pups Corner

Pebble Pups wrapped up their regular meetings for the year on May 15. Following is a report from **Dan Alfrey** about that meeting:



First two photos are the Pebble Pups checking out the rock tumbler grits, all the way from the rough to the fine polishing material. Third photo: Ciena Higginbotham was presented a personal copy of DEPOSITS Magazine from England, which published her Gold Miner poem. Ciena then read the poem to the group. (Dan Alfrey photos)

President **John Rakowski** let the Pebble Pups check out the rock tumbler grits, all the way from the rough to the fine polishing material!

Steven Veatch donated prize labradorite specimens from Madagascar w/ labels & boxes, to each student present!

Richard Lackmond donated small breccia pieces from a recent field trip, with peridot gems embedded inside to all!!

Remember, Pebble Pups are welcome on LGGM Club field trips!

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
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Steve Veatch presented the following paper to the Geological Society of America in Denver in 2010. It documents a collection that Steve, **Bob Carnein**, and **John Rakowski** recently catalogued as a part of an ongoing project for the Cripple Creek District Museum.

WHITMAN CROSS AND RICHARD ALEXANDER FULLERTON PENROSE, JR.: THE FIRST SCIENTISTS TO INVESTIGATE THE GEOLOGY OF CRIPPLE CREEK, COLORADO

[VEATCH, Steven Wade](#), The Cripple Creek District Museum, 500 Bennett Avenue, Cripple Creek, CO 80813,

The Cripple Creek Mining District, located on the western slope of Pikes Peak, Colorado, was established in 1891 when underground mining sought high-grade gold telluride veins. In 1894, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sent two geologists to conduct fieldwork and prepare a report on the geology and mines of the Cripple Creek goldfields. The geologists were Whitman Cross, one of the founders of the Colorado Scientific Society (CSS), and Richard A.F. Penrose Jr., the Geological Society of America's (GSA) most noted benefactor.

Whitman Cross (1854-1949) was a prominent field geologist for the USGS. He did most of his work in the Colorado Rockies, mapping large areas of southwestern and central Colorado. Much of his mapping was in

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

June, 2012

rugged country, requiring travel by foot, horseback, and pack train. His major field areas were related to new mining districts and included Crested Butte, Telluride, Rico, and the San Juan Mountains. His field camps were recognized as excellent training opportunities for young geologists.

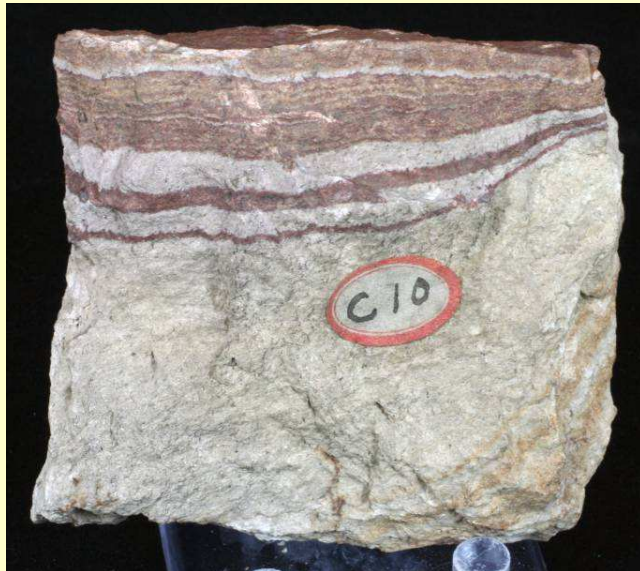
Richard A. F. Penrose, Jr. (1863-1931) was a mining geologist and investor who eventually accumulated great wealth through mining investments. Penrose received his Ph.D. at the age of 23. He worked on mapping assignments in Arkansas, Texas, Arizona, and Colorado for the USGS and was also employed as a private mining consultant. Penrose was editor of the *Journal of Geology* and on the University of Chicago faculty under T.C. Chamberlain.

The Cross and Penrose report on Cripple Creek was published in 1895, and included a geologic map based on a representative rock collection they made. The rock collection, now on display in the Cripple Creek District Museum, formed the foundation of the report. The report was the first scientific publication on the district and was used by mine owners to raise capital for the expansion of their mining operations.

The CSS and GSA have benefited from the membership of Whitman Cross and Richard A. F. Penrose, Jr.



Cripple Creek District Museum



Typical specimen from the Cross-Penrose Collection
(Carnein photos)

You may remember **Steve Veatch's** article about sandstone dikes, from last month's newsletter. Here are a couple of pictures from a recent trip Steve and **Bob Carnein** took to look at some of those dikes, for a September Florissant Scientific Society field trip.



Steven Weatch with sandstone lens surrounded by Pikes Peak Granite.



Thin, wiggly sandstone bodies surrounded by Pikes Peak Granite.

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

www.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 17 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

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Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

P.O. Box 171

Lake George, CO 80827

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

June, 2012

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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