

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News, June, 2013



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, June 8, at 9:00AM
Lake George Community Center


After a brief business meeting, we will make a visit to Rich Fretterd's "Petra Placer" mining claim. Minerals include TOPAZ. This trip involves a long, hard hike. Please contact Richard Kawamoto (kawahome@wildblue.net) for details about what to bring.


Dues are due....see membership application at the end of this Newsletter. You must be a paid member to attend Club trips.

Coming Events

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| <u>Columbine Gem and Mineral Society</u> , monthly meeting, 6:30PM, meeting room, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16 th (at J St.), Salida. | ... June 13 |
| <u>Pueblo Rockhounds</u> , monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. | ... June 20 |
| <u>Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society</u> , monthly meeting, 7PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs. | ... June 20 |
| <u>Pikes Peak Gem and Mineral Show and Rock Fair</u> , Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Theme: "Meteorites and the 40 th Anniversary of the Canon City Meteor". | ... June 7-9 |
| <u>1st Annual Victor, Colorado Gem and Mineral Show</u> , "in historic downtown Victor". | ... June 22-23 |
| <u>Workshop at CSM: "Looking at Plants of the Past: A Tour Through Geological Time"</u> , by Walt Wright; 3-day workshop plus field trip. Fee. Contact Beth Simmons, cloverknoll@comcast.net for information. | ... July 18-21 |
| <u>30th Annual Contin-Tail Rock & Gem Show</u> , Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds | ... Aug. 8-11 |
| <u>Annual Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Gem & Mineral Show</u> , Lake George | ... Aug. 15-18 |

Club News

 The Forest Service has not yet responded to the letter sent to them by the officers in May, in response to their "cease and desist" order relative to the Club claim. **Please do not visit the Club claim until further notice. Any violation may result in a fine or prosecution.**

 Here's an updated list of **field trips** that have been scheduled so far. Please contact **Richard Kawamoto** at kawahome@wildblue.net for details, and watch the Club website for updates.

[June 1](#): Spruce Grove – topaz; **John Rakowski**, leader

[June 8](#): Petra Placer (extreme!; **Rich Fretterd** claim) topaz

[June 15](#): Topaz Mtn -\$50 fee; 10 people required (not including children); **contact R. Kawamoto** for reservation


[June 22](#): (open date)


[June 29](#): Hartsel Barite (**Dave Harvey**, leader)

[July 6, 7](#): Devils Head (smoky quartz, amazonite, topaz); **John Rakowski**, leader


[July 13](#): Smoky Hawk claim (**Joe Dorris**)


[July 20](#): "Ace in the Hole" claim (**Rich Fretterd**)

 President **Glenn Haggett** presented our annual \$500 scholarship to Wyatt McClure at the Cripple Creek-Victor High School graduation ceremony on May 25. Wyatt plans to attend UCCS for a year before transferring into the Petroleum Engineering program at Colorado School of Mines.

 **Dic Lackmand** sent the following note about the lapidary workshop: "Please explain that the 24" rock saw the club owns is in temporary storage at the Aspen Granite Shop and seriously needs to find a usable storage area. Needs 5 foot by 6 foot by 5 foot space. Aspen Granite has agreed to store it for only 2 or 3 months!

"Also the lap shop is open for members' use-- Please contact me at 684-9736 to make an appointment to use."

 **Dan Alfrey** sent the following note about our website: "At some point over the last ten days we surpassed well over the 14,000 hits plateau!!! (Our site was created in September 2007 and was more functional by that Christmas/New Years)" Thanks to Dan for his continuing work as our webmaster!

 **Duck Lickmond** also sent some photos of amethyst collectors at the field trip to the New Hope claim, which was May 13.





Five faithful members, **Maury and Grace Hammond, Norma Engelberg, John Gibbs, and Jo Beckwith**, spent two days exploring central Colorado geology with **Paul Combs and Bob Carnein** on May 18-19.

CSM Mineral Museum Curator **Bruce Geller** reminds anyone interested that the Mineral Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9-4; Sunday 1-4, except holidays. Admission is free (though donations are appreciated). Parking is free on neighborhood streets north and east of the museum; pay to park on campus streets and lots.

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

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.

Easiest way to cut 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 and then do a rough polish with a knife-edge silicone wheel.

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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More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.

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 Lake George Community Center.** Be sure you check regularly at www.LGGMClub.org for details and updates.

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

Here's an article about a couple of CSMS Pebble Pups/poets, sent in by **Steve Veatch**.

Pebble Pups Recognized at the Student Literary Awards

By Julie Shimon
Colorado Springs Pebble Pups

On May 16, 2013 two Pebble Pups, Caden Rothzeit and Jack Shimon, both in 2nd grade, were invited to attend the Student Literary Awards hosted by Colorado Humanities as finalists in the River of Words (ROW) poetry contest. Unlike all the other finalists who entered the contests through their schools, Caden and Jack have to thank their Pebble Pups teacher Steven Veatch for not only bringing ROW to their attention, but more importantly for inspiring their creativity through his Pebble Pup club. The reception was held at the Denver Public Library and honored poetry and art finalists from ROW as well as Letters for Literature.



River of Words honorees at the Denver Public Library

The reception began with an introduction by Maggie Coval, Director of Colorado Humanities, who was thrilled to “honor the finest student writing and art” out of hundreds of entries within Colorado alone. She said this year had some of the “most beautiful and memorable entries”, and after attending the reception and listening to 1st place finalists read their work I have to agree.

The River of Words judges for Colorado were **Jim Ciletti**, a master poet, and Justice Gregory Hobbs of the Colorado Supreme Court, who has been judging this contest for twelve years. Justice Hobbs was in attendance and hosted the poetry awards. The finalists in each category were called forward to receive an anthology of the work and then the 1st place winners read their poetry. Caden did an amazing job reading his 1st place poem in Category 1 (K-2nd grade) called “The Volcano Poem.” He even got some giggles at the end with his final line “I love to learn about them, I don’t think they are a bore.” Jack took second place in this category with his poem “The Waldo Canyon Fire.”



1st Place winner Category 1,
Caden Rothzeit with Justice
Hobbs



2nd place winner Category 1 and
National Finalist, Jack Shimon
with Justice Hobbs

At the conclusion of the State Poetry Awards Jack was called forward to read his poem which was also a National Finalist. The State and National awards are judged independently by a completely different panel of Judges. This was a big honor for Jack. At the end of the awards

presentation all the winners and families were invited to enjoy a nice reception and each winner received a cool certificate and gift bag.



Jack Shimon (left) and Caden Rothzeit (right)

Lake George Earth-Science Scholar **Caleb Bickel** submitted the following poems:

“A meteor and the sun”

by Caleb Bickel

Meteor
Dark, lifeless
Floating, ignored, but free
Small, insignificant—Enormous, all powerful
Rotating, admired, radiating
Glowing, stationed

I used to be...

“A grain of sand”
Once upon a time
I used to be
A grain of sand
Among thousands trying to be different
But now I am
A pebble
Above the thousands of the lost

About the poet: Caleb is attends Woodland Park High School, Colorado and is in the 9th grade. He participates in the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club Earth Science Scholar program. Caleb recently won a second place medal in the southern Colorado Science Olympiad in the Rocks and Minerals section.

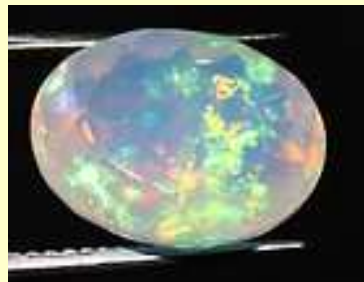


NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
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I found the following article about Ethiopian opal in the current issue of the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, newsletter. You may have seen the fine precious opal from Welo (or Wollo) Province, Ethiopia at mineral shows. (Photos from eBay.com)



Notes from the world of minerals:

Ethiopia: Rough Gem Exports to Be Banned

By Mahlet Mesfin, 13 January 2013

The federal government will soon ban the export of rough opal, a precious gemstone; a move aimed at persuading exporters to add value and hence increase revenues, according to senior officials at the Ministry of Mines.

It will be the second extractive resource to be banned, after the Ministry stopped the export of unprocessed tantalum five months ago.

Although opals remain low in the nation's growing revenues from exports, the precious gemstone has gained momentum recently, after being included in the list of exportable items, in 2005. It has since increased, both in terms of production and revenues.

Opal is used to produce ornaments and jewellery (sic), largely blended with gold and diamond.

Ethiopia exported 10,104Kg of gemstones during the last two quarters of the current fiscal year; 600Kg larger than the Ministry's anticipated capacity. This has generated 4.6 million dollars in export revenues, which is equivalent to what gold has brought in, during the same five months, in 2012/13.

India, one of the largest exporters of gemstones in the world, is also the largest destination for opal, buying close to 80pc of Ethiopia's exports last year.

Close to 2,061 individuals, organised (sic) under 17 associations, are engaged in opal mining, in Wollo, Delanta, Amhara Regional State, where the precious stones are extracted. These artisans extract the stones and sell them on to the 200 exporters, recognised (sic) by the ministry.

Almost all export the precious stone in its rough form, without any value addition, according to Tekle Yilma, president of the Ethiopian Gemstone Association.

"The industry is pretty new and requires time to evolve," he told Fortune. "It is a recent phenomenon to see the sector is booming."

Of the total amount of opal exported, only 5.83Kg is done so after being polished, generating a mere 184,724 dollars, whilst the remaining rough stones generated 4.4 million dollars. Senior officials at the Ministry, last week informed exporters to prepare for value addition, through the procurement of opal polishing machines.

The ban has been prompted by the significant price gap between polished and non-polished opal, hence depriving the country of obtaining more benefit from its resources, according to an economist at the Ministry.

Only six of the 52 members of the Association have cutting and polishing machines, which cost between 800 dollars to 3,500 dollars.

"We support the idea," Tekle told Fortune. "Returns for polished opal are high for the country as well as for us. We're not only exporting the stones to India, but also creating employment opportunities that we need here so badly."

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

LGGMClub.org

2013 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 30 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 Glenn Haggett (719) 687-6549

Rev. April, 2013

**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 2013 are:

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