

# The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

## Club Monthly Meeting, June, 2014



### Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Saturday, June 14, at 9:00AM

Lake George Community Center

(Please Note: We change the meeting time to 9AM for the summer meetings.)

### Coming Events

- "20 Years of Digital Geology", by Doug Walker, monthly meeting Canon City Geology Club, 6PM, Fellowship Hall, First Methodist Church, cor. 9<sup>th</sup> St. & Main. ... June 9
- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society, Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16<sup>th</sup> (at J St.), Salida. ... June 12
- Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show, Western Museum of Mining & Industry; ... June 6-8
- GeoOdyssey Annual Mineral Sale: 15339 W. Ellsworth Dr., Golden (go to [www.geodessey-rocks.com](http://www.geodessey-rocks.com) for info) ... June 14
- Dinosaur Discovery Day, free public tour at Dinosaur Ridge, in Morrison (go to [www.dinoridge.org](http://www.dinoridge.org) for info) ... June 14
- Pueblo Rockhounds, Monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. ... June 19
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs. ... June 19
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show; contact Ruth Zalewski at [stcfg@victorcolorado.com](mailto:stcfg@victorcolorado.com) for information (and see article in newsletter below). ... June 21-22
- Contin-Tail Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds (free) ... Aug. 7-10
- Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, in the field next to the Lake George Post Office ... Aug. 14-17
- Hike to Harmonica Arch (in the Lost Creek Wilderness) with USGS geologist Pete Modreski. (contact Pete at [pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov) for info) ... Aug. 17
- Denver Mineral Show Events:
- Denver Fine Mineral Show (Denver Marriott W., 1717 Denver West Blvd., Golden) ... Sept. 6-9
  - Denver Coliseum Mineral & Fossil Show ... Sept. 6-14
  - Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show (Ramada Plaza Motel) ... Sept. 7-14
  - Denver Gem & Mineral Show (Denver Mart; admission charge) ... Sept. 12-14

**Club News**  
**Welcome New Members:**

Justin & Spencer Davenport (Cranberry Twp., PA)  
Donna DeLeon, Ken Slanovich, & Susan Williams (Aurora)  
Jeff Holubek & Kelly Lang (Estes Park)  
Stephanie Hodges (Florissant)  
Jens Moller  
Ken & Kathy Rudy (Woodland Park)  
Kelsey Stevens (Woodland Park)  
Jimmy Tillery (Rio Rancho, NM)  
Michael Bruce Williams  
Tim & Linda Wilmes (Florissant)  
Steve Woje (Florissant)

▶▶ **Dan Alfrey** sent the following request for help with **our annual gem & mineral show**, which will be held Aug. 14-17:

Our **LGGMc Annual Gem & Mineral Show** is Nearing Quickly ( AUG. 15-16-17 ) !!

[✓] **Show Flyers** will be avail. at the June 14 LGGMc biz mtg. ~ Load up & blanket your area!;

[✓] Saturday, August 9, following a short LGGMc Biz Mtg, is **Show LayOut** time. Be There !;

[✓] Thursday, August 14 many Dealers will be moved in. Dan will lead a *dealer-only Field Trip* & will need a couple volunteers (trip, & show grounds) and *most* importantly:

[✓] Please **contact Char DeVries** [swordfishblue@wildblue.net](mailto:swordfishblue@wildblue.net) to **VOLUNTEER** for Your Show!

(Sign-Up to Greet Visitors, man our Info booth, give Kids free rocks, & help direct traffic). We are open 9am-5pm on Friday-Saturday-Sunday.

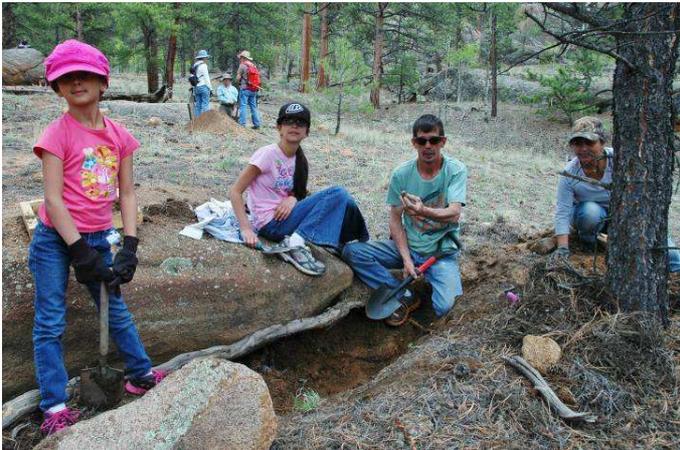
[✓] Consider assisting in *Clean-Up* on Monday morning. Venders will be out by noon.

▶▶ **John Rakowski** sent the following report on the topaz-collecting trip to Spruce Grove campground:

**Spruce Grove Area field trip report:**

On May 31 a group of 23 LGGMC members, including 4 from our Pebble Pup group, attended a field trip searching for topaz in the Tarryall area. We departed from the Spruce Grove Campground area and hiked to the location. One nice facet quality topaz was found by Frank Rosenberg, but all had fun learning how to search for topaz in that area.

**Frank Rosenberg** sent some great pictures from the trip, a few of which are included below:



▶▶ Field-trip coordinator **Todd Mattson** has been working hard to fill up this spring/summer's trip schedule. The following trips are now firmed up:

**June 7**: Smoky Hawk mine (**Joe and Krystal Dorris**);

**June 21**: Hartsel barite locality (**Dave Harvey**);

**August 16**: Topaz Mountain gem mine (**Joe and Krystal Dorris**).

Information for each of these will be on the Club's website: [www.lgqmclub.org](http://www.lgqmclub.org) .

Contact **TODD** to lead a Field Trip! [fieldtrips@LGMclub.org](mailto:fieldtrips@LGMclub.org)

▶▶ Here's a repeat of some information about the **re-scheduled Chautauqua** at the Pikes Peak Historical Society, featuring LGGMC member **Rich Fretterd**:

"Rock" star, Richard Fretterd, is a hero in the Pikes Peak region. He has been featured on the popular TV series "Prospectors," and is arguably one of the most successful miners in the area. In 2008, he first donated an extremely large smoky quartz crystal (439 lbs and 4 feet tall) to the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, aided by a special grant from the Cripple and Victor Gold Mining Company. In 2013, he donated a second very large smoky quartz crystal (345 lbs and 4 feet 3 inches tall). Experts believe that these are the largest smoky quartz crystals ever discovered in North America. Both crystals are now in the permanent collection of the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, putting it on the national map of geologic treasures. Fretterd intended the "Brother" crystals to be a memorial to his younger brother, Vincent "Scruffy," and to remain in the mountains where they were found.

Fretterd's amazing life story begins when his destitute mother had to give her two youngest children (Richard 5, and Vincent, 3) up for adoption. The two little boys deeply bonded in their temporary foster homes, and not only survived incredible challenges, but went on to become incredible adults. Rich came out west, and started a career as a hard rock miner at the tender age of 18. He has spellbinding stories of his adventures and mis-adventures deep in the bowels of Cripple Creek's gold mines. It was Rich's deep spirituality that molded his character into the popular and successful miner/pro prospector he is today.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society invites you to learn more of this Rock Star's fascinating life story when they host Rich Fretterd on **Sunday, June 8**, for their monthly Chautauqua (free program), **at 2:00 pm at the Florissant Library**. The Library is located adjacent to the Florissant Community Park on 334 Circle Drive in Florissant. Fretterd's program is presented as a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. Admission is free, and refreshments are served. Seating is limited. For more information, call 719-748-3562.

▶▶ **Linda Watson** sent this photo of specimens she collected on the Wigwam Creek trip:



▶▶ **The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument** has a "Night Sky Watching" event scheduled for June 21. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:30. Telescopes will be provided! Call 748-3253, ext. 202 for information.

▶▶ **Request for Annual Show Chair or Committee-Head Volunteer.**

This will be the *last* year for our current Show Chair **Dan Alfrey**.

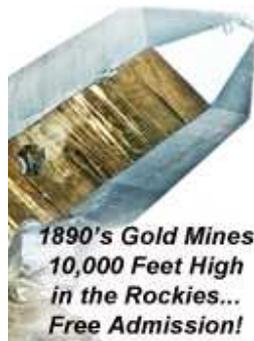
We **need for a Volunteer** to *either* become the new Chair *or* be the Leader of a Show *Committee*. There are excellent printed guidelines w/ logistic contacts & dates already in place! These were established by John Rakowski & Rebecca Blair. Dan & Jennifer Alfrey have updated the Vender/Dealer electronic database.

The club has permission to hold the 2014 Annual Show in the same beautiful location in Lake George. We have many repeat dealers & several new ones with interest in our fun event!

We also have had great participation from the membership is assisting while the Show is 'on' and getting better every year!!

Ideally, the new volunteer should become involved *as soon as possible* in order to smooth the transition on tasks. Keep in mind, by the Show's end, a good portion of the next year's event is set in place. Give back. **Your club needs You**. Contact an Officer today!

▶▶



▶▶ Lake George Gem & Mineral Club officers and committee chairs for 2014:

President: **Suz Core** (suzc@peakinet.net)

Vice President: **Jo Beckwith** (shawneewolf@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: **Wayne Johnston** (wjohnston719@q.com)

Secretary: **Norma Engelberg** (njengel60@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: **Bob Carnein** (ccarnein@gmail.com)

Membership/Badges: **Jerolynn Kawamoto** (Jerrolynn@wildblue.net)

Field-Trip Coordinator: **Todd Mattson** (busman842@q.com)

Webmaster and August Show Chair: **Dan Alfrey** (AlfreyDan@aol.com)

Pebble Pups Coordinator: **Steve Veatch** (sgeoveatch@att.net)

### ***Earth-Science Scholars/Pebble Pups Corner***

**Dan Alfrey** reports: *The final Pebble Pups class was an amazing success! We really packed a lot in & they got it done!*

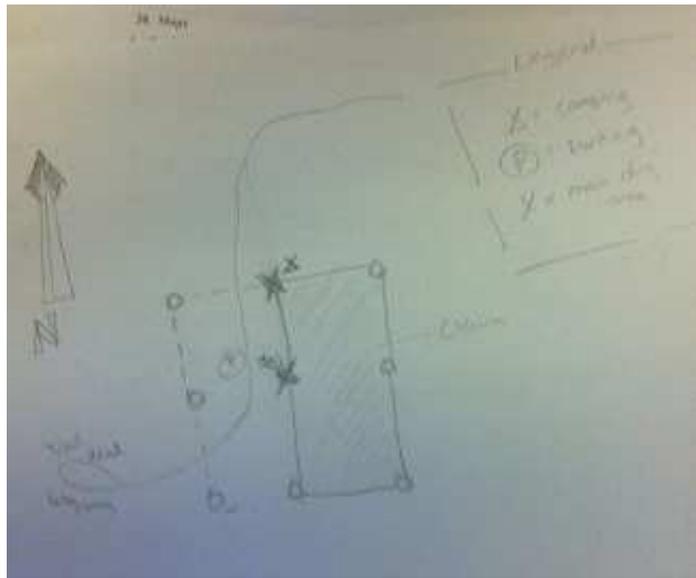
The following five Earth-Science Scholars **earned** their AFMS Future Rockhound of America (20. Maps) **Badges** by completing Tasks 20.1, 20.2, and 20.3 (required 3 of 5) on Tuesday, May 20th:

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

**June, 2014**

- ( ) Hunter Higginbotham
- ( ) Eddie Hunt
- ( ) Krystal Conley
- ( ) Ciena Higginbotham
- ( ) Kamila Conley

In addition, they each *a/so* met the **8.2 "Field-Trip planning"** requirement.



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](http://www.LGGMClub.org) for details and updates, or contact **Steve Veatch** at [steven.veatch@gmail.com](mailto:steven.veatch@gmail.com).

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

### **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

Bob Carnein, Editor  
 ccarnein@gmail.com  
 719-687-2739



This month, it's a pleasure to include an article sent by LGGMClub member **Paul Combs**.

## "Geology's Influence on History"

People often give little credit to geology as a shaper of historical events, maybe because rocks don't do much. But this is far from the truth. History furnishes hundreds of examples of wars fought and colonies established because someone wanted to enjoy someone else's geological riches.

If Germany had not had huge deposits of coal and iron next to each other, she might not have become an industrial giant. The same lucky facts are also true of Great Britain, which started the Industrial Revolution. Here are three more examples, and how they played out:

**EXAMPLE ONE:** The United States did not go to war with Mexico over geology, but the war was concluded in February 1848 and gold was discovered later that same year. When California became a state on September 9, 1850, the nearest state was Texas, a slave state. Before and during the Civil War, there was considerable fear that the Confederates might try to seize control of California. There were some Confederate attempts to destabilize California before and during the war, similar to what Russia is now doing in the Ukraine. It made sense. The Confederacy desperately needed California gold. Almost as important, controlling the flow of the gold would severely hamper the federal war effort and possibly bring about a treaty. It was also possible that Mexico might use the distraction of the war to retake California. This is why California was originally ruled by a military governor. The federal government kept sizeable military and naval forces in California throughout the Civil War.

Besides those worries, the famous Comstock Lode silver strike made the news in Nevada in 1859. Washington had to know what was happening out west, so it instituted the Pony Express in April 1860, prior to the start of hostilities. (By the way, it might interest Coloradans to know its official name was the "*Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company*.") The Pony Express shut down when the transcontinental telegraph was completed in October, 1861. The telegraph shortened communications with California from 10 days to almost instantaneous. At the height of the war, in 1863, railroads were begun in San Francisco, California, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, heading east and west, respectively. Railroad workers were exempted from the draft because the work was so important. Although it wasn't completed until 1869, the main reason for the first transcontinental railroad was the security of California and Nevada and their treasure. Geology had decided policy.

**EXAMPLE TWO:** The British expanded into what is now the Republic of South Africa in 1806 because they wanted a safe harbor near the mid-point between the UK and her favorite colony, India. After all, Britain was at war with Napoleon and the seas were dangerous. The French navy was second only to Britain's. The British seized Capetown, which was pretty small back then, but that was only the beginning of the story. In 1868, the world's first large-scale diamond rush near Kimberly brought thousands of miners from as far away as the USA. Eighteen years later, prospectors made an enormous gold strike near Pretoria. Thousands more eager miners flooded into the area, and several European powers began discussing the need to "stabilize" the situation. Of course, the British knew that gold and diamonds were the motive for the attention, not stability. And it was a short trip inland from their Capetown colony to where the money was.

Between 1880 and 1881, the British fought an unsuccessful little war against the original Dutch colonists (the Boers), and another war erupted in 1899. This time, it was plain that the riches were worth committing the armed might of the British Empire. By 1902, the British had won, and the new Union of South Africa remained part of the empire until after World War II, when it became a republic. During those five decades, Great Britain held a virtual monopoly on

diamonds, extracted billions in gold (at today's prices) and made a great deal of money from the geology of her colony.

**EXAMPLE THREE:** In the mid-1400's, legend has it that a Tyrolean farm girl near Innsbruck picked up a funny-looking rock and took it home to show. Later, someone realized that it contained silver, and lots of it. Europe's biggest silver rush began, and it sent ripples through the fabric of the continent for hundreds of years. Private citizens became fabulously wealthy; the Church became fabulously wealthy; cities like Innsbruck, Augsburg, Verona, and Venice became fabulously wealthy. Universities were created and infrastructure was greatly improved. It led to the creation of the Renaissance a few years later. Arts and sciences flourished, creating names that are familiar to this day, like Michelangelo, da Vinci, Copernicus, Tycho, Galileo, and scores of others. Many people could afford rare spices from the east, like black pepper and cinnamon. Navies were constructed, armies were equipped, and just in time. Turkey was beginning its invasion of southeastern Europe and the Austrian silver paid for the arms that led to her eventual defeat at the gates of Vienna.

At the other end of Europe, much of Spain had been occupied by the Moslem Moors since the 800's. The slow guerilla war hadn't kicked them out, partly for lack of money. Isabella of Castile, later queen of Spain, managed to reform her country's treasury, using silver from Austria, and she equipped her army and hired mercenaries from all over Europe. This brought about the surrender of the last Moors in Grenada in January of 1492. She then used some of that silver to finance the voyage of Christopher Columbus in August of that year, which led to enormous discoveries of silver, gold and emeralds in Mexico, Peru and Colombia.

British pirates (privateers) stole a lot of that wealth, which helped Britain to enlarge its own navy. This led to colonies in North America and around the world.

And we can trace it back to an Austrian farm girl with a curiosity about rocks.



The author getting down and dirty. **Frank Rosenberg** Photo.

**Lake George Gem and Mineral Club**

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

LGGMClub.org

**2014 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) ..... still Only! \$15.00
- \_\_\_ Family (Parents plus dependents under age 18) ..... Great Value! \$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 \_\_\_ Crystals \_\_\_ Micromounts \_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to give a talk to the Club or Pebble Pups. \_\_\_ If yes, what topic?:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Suz Core (719) 689-2092.**

Rev. December, 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 2014 are:**

**Suzanne Core**, President  
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**Jo Beckwith**, Vice President  
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