

## Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

# Club News, June, 2022



The June meeting of the LGGMClub, which will be held at 9:00AM June 11 in the gym of the Lake George Charter School. The school is located about ½ mile east of Lake George, just south of US 24 (watch for the sign). Our program will be the video:

### **“Rhodochrosite: Red Treasure of the Rockies”**

which details the history, geology, and modern-day mining of the Sweet Home mine, near Alma. Join us and re-live the fabulous story of a very expensive specimen-mining venture that finally paid off with production of what many people consider to be the most spectacular mineral specimens ever found.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Scheduled Programs at Club Meetings:**

The Club currently has no program coordinator. If this is a job that appeals to you, please consider volunteering to do this.

- Come to the meeting and bid on some special items at the **silent auction!** If you have extra mineral/fossil samples that could be used as “giveaways” at the show or for future silent auctions, please bring them.
- **Election of officers** has been postponed. Please contact one of the current officers (listed at the end of this newsletter) if you would consider running for a 2023 office.
- We're still hoping for a talk about the famous Corral Bluffs fossil-mammal discoveries near Colorado Springs, to be followed by a field trip.
- **Carol Kinate needs your help at the 2022 LGGMC Mineral & Gem Show:**

#### **SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 19-21, 2022 (LGGMC Annual Show)**

A word from your Show Chair – I am reaching out to all members and I’m still looking for additional help with this year’s Annual Show. I am listing the current positions that need to be filled to make our show a success. My contact information is provided below.

- **Show Volunteer Coordinator** (coordinates show-volunteer *shift assignments*, field-setup/takedown shift assignments, and kids-activities shift assignments)
- **Signage** (installation/takedown of signage - currently (7) locations)

- **EXTRA ROCKS** (We need surplus specimens that you are willing to part with for “Kids Activities”)

~ Signup forms for shift assignments will be available at our June monthly meeting.

~ Postcards advertising our show (see below) are available for distribution. Pick some up at the June meeting.

~ Flyers from Rock & Gem Magazine available for distribution.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me with any questions whatsoever. Looking forward to a GREAT show!

Carol Kinate, Show Chair

[kinatec@aol.com](mailto:kinatec@aol.com)

719-648-9015 (call/text)

- **Dave Alexander sent this info about upcoming field trips:**

For field trips, we have already had an active season and it will continue. This year, the Dorris family was kind enough to provide 2 trips to the Topaz Mountain mine and the Smoky Hawk. Three of these are in June. **There are waiting lists on all three trips so far.**

Reminder that for these trips we ask that you **only go on one of the two trips scheduled for each mine** to ensure everyone has the opportunity to visit these amazing Colorado locations! Given the past years' demand, the Dorris family generously offered up multiple trips for us this year to accommodate the popularity of the trips with our club.

We will continue to allow **in-person sign-up for field trips at the club meetings for the next month's trips**, and then open them up the days following the meeting for web registration. We are getting good feedback, and this encourages folks to participate in the monthly meetings.

**If you have lapidary skills** we are looking for volunteers for the **July 30th Rough To Gem event** to socialize our club at the Florissant museum. This is a 3- to 4-hour event, and we encourage anyone who would like to learn or share their knowledge about lapidary to participate. **Please contact me to volunteer or for more information.**

Thanks to the volunteer field-trip leaders so far this season; we couldn't have such a robust schedule without your help. We have opportunities for first time leaders to co-participate with other leaders, so if you are interested but don't want to do it solo, now is the time! Let me know what you are interested in helping with!

**If you have a site you'd like to visit, let me know the details.**

Thanks!

--dave

- Dave also asked me to include this about field trips:  
**The field trip website sends out automatic email notifications from a Google email address. Can you ensure you keep our domain in your safe senders list? Lggmcflieldtrips.com**

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



## **Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show**

**June 10-12, 2022**

Sponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society at the Norris Penrose Event Center (admission charge)

## **Victor Gem & Mineral Show, June 17- June 19, 2022, 9AM-5PM (free admission)**

The annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) will be held in downtown historic Victor and is open and free to the public.

The show will include vendors from across the state selling Colorado dug minerals. Items for sale will include polished gems, hand-crafted jewelry, rough slabs, specimens, cabochons, geode breaking, gold ore specimens, Cripple Creek turquoise, and more. There will also be gold and gem panning at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. Show hours are from 9 to 5 each day.

Saturday of the weekend a free talk on the geology of the local gold mining operations will be presented. This event is at the Pinnacle Park Plaza and has limited seating. Newmont employees will also have a booth and provide information on the operations. Gold Rush Adventure history and mining tours are also offered from starting at the [Victor Lowell Thomas Museum](#).

Saturday and Sunday silent auctions are being planned. Specimens will be auctioned off with benefits going to support the STCFG historic preservation efforts.

## **Buena Vista Contin-Tail Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show**

**Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds, Gregg Dr., Buena Vista, Colorado, August 11-14, 9AM-6PM**

- **Cañon City Geology Club**, meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6PM in the United Methodist Church, Cañon City
- **Columbine Gem & Mineral Society**, meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:30PM in the meeting room, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16<sup>th</sup> (at J St.), Salida
- **Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**, meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7PM in the Mt. Carmel Veteran's Service Center, 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs;
- **Pueblo Rockhounds**, meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo.

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22nd Annual  
**LAKE GEORGE** Gem & Mineral Show  
Hwy 24 (East of Post Office) (4 mi. W of Florissant)  
Lake George, CO 80827  
[www.lggmclub.org](http://www.lggmclub.org)

**AUGUST 19-21, 2022 (9-5 Daily)**

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING**

30+ vendors - Local Specimens, Rocks,  
Minerals, Fossils, Gems, Beads, Jewelry,  
Lapidary *and* More!



**Steve Veatch sent this poem by a Lake George Pebble Pup:  
Which color's your favorite? by Josilyn Teague**

My favorite gemstone is citrine, the color reminds me of stars!  
What's your favorite gem? Or mineral? Or rock? If you have multiple, please, say what they are.  
Then I'll ask "Why?", why is it your favorite? Is it the color? The shape? Or maybe the size?  
If you like red, I suggest the ruby. It's dark mysterious crimson should appeal to your eyes!  
Not a fan of red? How about orange! Then you should like the gemstone carnelian, it's colored like fire!  
Orange isn't your favorite? Let's try yellow instead, the shade of orpiment is something to admire.  
Which color's your favorite? You have to have one! Have I listed it yet? Must I go on?  
A green gem next, malachite perhaps! This gem is green and laced with black, a true beauty to gaze upon.  
Is blue your favorite? Then a sapphire for sure, they come in so many colors but the best is the ocean blue!  
What about purple! Surely Alexandrite is the winner! The most marvelous shade, it's perfect for you!  
Which of these gems do you like best? Which color's your favorite? I have more up my sleeve!  
Let's try pink this time! I suggest spinel, this gem is an amazing shade of pink you won't believe!  
White is pretty, let's give that a try! How about moonstone? It's iridescent white is so unique and beautiful!  
If you like the mysterious color of black, I have the perfect one for you, of the black gems onyx is the most wonderful!  
Surely I guessed it by now! Which one did you prefer? Please tell me! Which color's your favorite?

By Josilyn Teague

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club Pebble Pup/Earth Science Scholar



- **Geode Event!** As part of the LGGMC's new outreach program to provide speakers to the Lake George Charter School, **Bob Carnein** and **Richard Kawamoto** visited the school on May 12. The original plan was for Bob to present a class on geodes to Ms. Swinhart's 12 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students and then give each student a free geode which Richard would crack open with his pipe cutter. Assuming that there might be a few duds, Bob ordered 20 geodes from Jeff's Geodes, which is operated by his former student, Jeff Smith. However, last-minute additions of both the 4<sup>th</sup>- and 5<sup>th</sup>-grade classes brought the total number of students to about 30. Luckily, Bob brought extra Mexican geodes from past classes in Cripple Creek and Richard brought some Dugway, Utah geodes that he collected on recent field trips. Between the students, teachers, and Dr. Wade (who didn't want to be left out), and a few duds, we actually broke about 40 geodes. The kids had a great time, and we did too!

**Wayne Orlowski sent the following interesting links about geology and mineralogy:**

- I just watched the PBS documentary "The Egg: Life's Perfect Invention" (Nature, season 37, number 12) and was blown away by the science involved in understanding the "EGG"-- highly recommend watching if you have not seen this show
- The asteroid that killed nearly all of the dinosaurs struck Earth during springtime. This conclusion was drawn by an international team of researchers after having examined thin sections, high-resolution synchrotron X-ray scans, and carbon isotope records of the bones of fishes that died less than 60 minutes after the asteroid impacted. The team presents its findings in the journal Nature. Here's a link:

<https://www.geologypage.com/2022/02/the-reign-of-the-dinosaurs-ended-in-spring.html#ixzz7T4UPZ0X6>

- The Alpine Fault of New Zealand is a major strike-slip fault with some reverse slip that brings the Southern Alps up over the coast. The fault links the changing subduction direction of the Pacific and Australian Plate motions and flips the direction of subduction. Under the north island, the Pacific Plate dives westward under the Australian Plate, and the reverse happens to the south of the south island. It is a long and dangerous fault due for a major event in human times.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJS2ZQFqRug>

**Laura Canini sent this note about a recent visit to the Ryan Geology Museum at Adam State University:**

I wanted to tell you that last week we went to the Sand dunes, and I discovered a small one-room museum on the campus of Adams State University. I called the professor in charge, and he had time to let me in for 20 minutes. It was pretty neat! I could have stayed longer but he was heading out to study landslides at La Veta pass, and invited me to come but we were driving the other direction through

**Lake George Gem & Mineral Club**

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Salida.

Here's the link:

<https://www.adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/geosciences/ryan-geology-museum/>

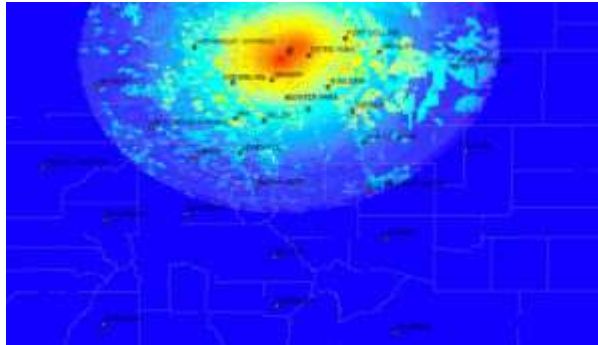
...and here are a few links I found:

- The Mines Museum, at CSM, sent their latest update. You can access it at this link:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=dad16f3b8f&view=lg&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1733289185609852330&ser=1>

- The Colorado Geological Survey recently published a new article on their "Rock Talk" blog:

**"Case Study: The Big One"**



You can view it here: <https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/1882/46696-case-study-the-big-one/>

- Earthquake prediction is on every geologist's "wish list". Here's a new article from "Science News" about recent work on that: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzGpFqXZqxhVLbmVGfRqnbsKMzdF>

**Dave Alexander** sent a large number of pictures taken by various mineral enthusiasts from the Utah field trip in April. A few are shown here; if you'd like to see more, go to this link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/a229s64uJWqQoBoP8>



Dave Alexander photo



Susan Wakefield photo



Frank Rosenberg photo



Harold Alexander photo



Kate Perkins Johnson photo



Dave Alexander photo



Harold Alexander photo



Joe Lewis photo

- Here is the latest installment of “**Bench Tips**” by **Brad Smith**: ([www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com))

### DEBURRING A HOLE

When you drill a hole, there's always a burr produced on the underside of the metal. We all have our ways of removing them - typically by filing or sanding the area smooth. But



doing it this way will put scratches on your piece that will have to be polished off.

A quick way to remove the burr is to grab a drill that's two or three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill into a holder like a pin vise.

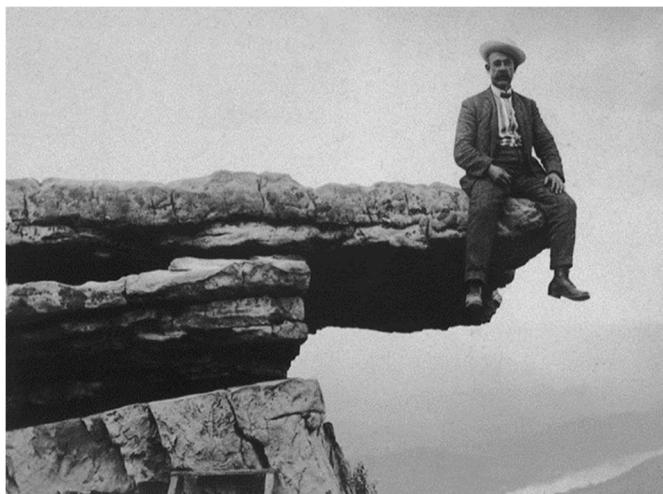
### **CLEANING STEEL SHOT**

Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish and shine your finished silver pieces. But a common problem is how to keep the shot clean. Carbon steel shot can get rusty if exposed to the air, and even stainless steel shot can sometimes develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove.

My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. Some folks like to let the bubbles in the Coke dissipate before using it so that gas pressure doesn't build up in the tumbler barrel. I've heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick.

While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and enjoy the rest of the Coke.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



## **Notes from the Editor**

**Bob Carnein**

**Newsletter Editor**  
**[ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com)**



## Monthly Mineral Quiz

### Last Month's Mineral: Sphalerite, (Zn,Fe)S .



Sphalerite is an abundant mineral found in ore deposits all over the world. It is the principal ore of zinc and is sometimes known as *blende* or *zinc blende*. It causes problems with collectors because of its varied color, which ranges from black (high iron) to colorless ("pure" ZnS). Association will help you to identify it: it normally occurs with pyrite, galena, and other sulfides, and is commonly found in hydrothermal deposits with quartz and/or calcite. You should always suspect its presence if you see pyrite and galena. Helpful physical properties include 6 directions of cleavage, nonmetallic glassy to resinous luster, low hardness (3 ½-4), light brown streak, and moderately high SG (about 4). Crystals may be complex but include tetrahedra and spinel-law twins. It sometimes fluoresces brightly. Fine specimens come from various Colorado mining districts, including the Commodore mine, in Creede, and the Eagle mine, in Gilman.

### June Mineral (Carnein photos and collection)



This month's mineral is one that's especially well represented in Colorado, so you should know this one. All of the photos above are of Colorado specimens, and I know some of you have collected at the localities represented here. This mineral occurs in a wide variety of geologic settings, including sedimentary rocks, pegmatites, and hydrothermal veins. Fine crystals have been found near Lake George, and you might have collected massive specimens near Taryall. The mineral has a high SG for a light-colored mineral (about 4.5), is soft (H=3-3 ½), and has a vitreous to pearly luster. It has perfect cleavage and is very brittle—handle with care or you might ding an otherwise fine specimen. The color varies widely and may even change on exposure to sunlight! What is this very common mineral?

Eckel, E.B., 1997, *Minerals of Colorado, Updated and Revised by R.R. Cobban, et al.*: Golden, Colorado, Fulcrum Publishing.



**The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club** is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology 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 normally 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.

### **Our Officers for 2022 are:**

**Richard Kawamoto**, President  
7584 Cedar Mountain Rd.  
Divide, CO 80814  
719-748-8152  
[rmkfishalot@gmail.com](mailto:rmkfishalot@gmail.com)

**John Rakowski**, Vice President  
PO Box 608  
Florissant, CO 80816  
719-748-3861  
[rakgeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:rakgeologist@yahoo.com)

**Lorrie Hutchinson**, Secretary  
10915 Grassland Rd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80925  
719-330-2795  
[4lohutch@gmail.com](mailto:4lohutch@gmail.com)

**Cathy McLaughlin**, Treasurer  
11595 Owls Nest Rd.  
Guffey, CO 80820  
702-232-3352  
[cathy\\_mclaughlin@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_mclaughlin@hotmail.com)

**C.R. (Bob) Carnein**  
Newsletter Editor  
507 Donzi Trail  
Florissant, CO 80816  
719-687-2739  
[ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com)