

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club Monthly Meeting, March 8, 2014



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, March 8, at 10:00AM
Lake George Community Center

"Update on the Cripple Creek/Victor Mining District"

Steven Veatch will provide an update on the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining District. The talk will focus on the new mill that is being constructed and some of the methods used in finding more gold. The program will also take a quick look at the long-term relationship that the LGGMC has maintained with the Cripple Creek District Museum.

Dues are due....see membership application at the end of this Newsletter. Please renew now; unpaid members will be removed from the newsletter mailing list in April and cannot attend Club field trips.

Coming Events

- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society**, Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida ... **March 13**
- Pueblo Rockhounds**, Monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. ... **March 20**
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**, Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs. ... **March 20**
- Fort Collins Rockhounds 53rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show**, Thos. McKee Bldg., Larimer Co. Fairgrounds; details at www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org. ... **March 28-30**
- North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club Silent Auction**, 6:45PM, APEX Community Recreation Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada; info at sidewindermin@comcast.net. ... **April 11**
- Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show**, Ramada Plaza Denver Central (old Holiday Inn) ... **April 18-20**
- Colorado Mineralogical Society Annual Auction**, Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 920 Kipling St., Lakewood; info at rsnelson@gmail.com. ... **May 3**
- Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, Silent Auction**, Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood. ... **May 10**
- Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show**, Western Museum of Mining & Industry; see article at end of this newsletter. ... **June 6-8**
- 2nd Annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show**; contact Ruth Zalewski at stcfg@victorcolorado.com for information (and see article in newsletter below). ... **June 21-22**

Club News

Welcome New Members:

Tom Cheatham (Woodland Park)
Jim & Barb Hickock (Lake George)
Warner & Leisa Massey (Dalhart, TX)
Perry & Judy Reeves (Florissant)
Paul Saunier
Norm Stevens (Woodland Park)

▶▶ 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!

▶▶ Speaking of the show, a Note of Thanks to **The Lake George Company** !!

We have been granted permission to hold our **August 15-17, 2014 Annual Gem & Mineral Show** in the same amazing location, under same terms!

▶▶ **Dan Alfrey** sent the following report about our Club website:

Our club web site has had over 17,500 hits since inception (Sept., 2007). **Thank You** to the officers and general membership for continued financial support, as it is apparent that it is being utilized. Please feel free to submit photos and event facts & updates to:

Webmaster@LGGMclub.org

▶▶ Field-trip coordinator **Todd Mattson** has been working hard to fill up this spring/summer's trip schedule. A preliminary (NO PROMISES) list includes the following:

Holcim quarry; Ace-In-The-Hole claim (**Rich Fretterd**); Forever mine (**Townsend and Frankie Wolfe**); Wigwam Creek; Spruce Grove Campground; Bad Boys of Cripple Creek; Petra Placer (**Rich Fretterd**); Topaz Mountain (**Joe and Krystal Dorris**); St. Peters Dome; Smoky Hawk mine (**Joe and Krystal Dorris**); Hartsel barite (**Dave Harvey**); Goethite Hill; Devils Hole mine; New Hope amethyst (**Jim Meacham**); Last Chance mine; Molly Kathleen Gold mine.

▶▶ Claim Manager **Dan Alfrey** plans to visit the Club claim in early March to check access and to see that it hasn't been disturbed. Go to www.LGGMClub.org for more information.

▶▶ **Dick Lackmond** thought members might like the following site, which includes gifts for the rockhound: <http://www.cafepress.com/+rockhound+gift>

▶ **Mike Sandifer** sent the following note about **Rich Fretterd's** recent topaz find from the Tribute Pocket: Rich Fretterd's large peach topaz, whose discovery was documented in a recent Prospectors TV show, has been faceted. It was cut by Stephen Kotlowski of Sedona, AZ. At 1345.15 carats, it is the largest faceted topaz ever to come from Colorado. A second Fretterd topaz, weighing 171.778 carats, has been given to the **Joe Dorris** family.



(left): The 1345.15-carat topaz; (right): the 171.778-carat topaz from Rich Fretterd's Agnus Dei claim.

▶ The second annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) in Victor, Colorado will be held June 21-22. The event 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, gems, hand-crafted jewelry, mining antiques, rough slabs, specimens, cabochons, hand-crafted furniture with mineral inlays, Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District gold ore and turquoise specimens, as well as gold and gem panning for the kids at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum.

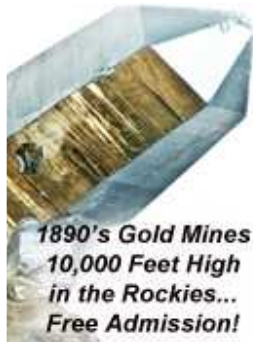
Vendors will set up and be ready for sales by 9 a.m. June 21. Show hours are from 9 to 5 on June 21 and 10 to 4 on June 22. The vendors will be set up on North Third Street in lots between the Post Office Building and the Victor Elks Lodge.

In addition to the show, the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum gift shop will be open both days from 9:30 to 5:30 with its collection of rocks, gems, minerals, rhodochrosite and aquamarine jewelry, geodes and gold panning for the kids. The museum also houses a mineral collection as well as historic mining equipment, photos, and displays. In addition, guided tours of the modern gold mine are available through the museum – see VictorColorado.com for reservations.

Victor's many shops and attractions will also be open, including Victor's Gold Camp Ag & Mining Museum, antique, art and gift shops, the old-fashioned soda fountain, German Bakery, newly owned local bar and eatery, Victor Hotel, as well as the local parks and Trails of Gold where you can explore the historic gold mining country of the area.

Vendors are welcome to sell their gems and minerals at this show. Vendor pre-registration is required for the show. Vendor fees benefit the STCFG efforts of preserving and interpreting historic mining as well as building and maintaining the Trails of Gold through the mining district.

For more information on the STCFG or this event, visit VictorColorado.com, email stcfg@victorcolorado.com, or call 719-689-2675.



At the October meeting, the following officers and committee chairs were elected 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 2014 Show Chair: **Dan Alfrey** (AlfreyDan@aol.com)
Pebble Pups Coordinator: **Steve Veatch** (sgeoveatch@att.net)

Earth-Science Scholars/Pebble Pups Corner

Here's the schedule for this year's remaining Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars classes and activities:

March: Amazing world of garnets (**Steve Veatch; Jenna Salvat**)
Field trip: Cave of the Winds

April: Colorado-Wyoming diamond area (**Steve Veatch; Gavin Noller**)
National Poetry Month

May: Orienteering (**Dan Alfrey**)

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, or contact **Steve Veatch** at 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



Now for something a little different—here's a column submitted by **Paul Combs** (thanks, Paul!) that may lighten the mood a bit:

HAVE A GNEISS DAY!

By Paul Combs

We all enjoy geology, but sometimes we wonder where those odd names come from, or whether there are any interesting stories about a certain rock or mineral. Let's look at how some minerals and rocks got their unusual names, or legends about them, or weird ways they were used in the past, or maybe how geology has changed history. If it works, you will have some new trivia to bore your brother-in-law at the next table in the restaurant tomorrow. Quartz minerals and varieties are very common in Park & Teller counties, so let's begin there:

CLEAR QUARTZ: Quartz in all of its varieties is the second most abundant mineral in the Earth's crust, after feldspar. The word "quartz" comes from the old German word "twarc" (pronounced tvarts), which dates from at least the 14th century and probably originated in a Slavic language (compare: Russian *tvordy* ("hard"), Czech *tvrdý* ("hard"), and Polish *twardy* ("hard")). This makes sense because quartz is one of the most persistent minerals. It is listed dead last in the **Goldich Stability Series**, which roughly states that the minerals that are last to crystallize also are the last to undergo chemical weathering. The Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder wrote that quartz crystals were water ice, permanently frozen after deep freezing over great lengths of time. He argued that quartz is found in the Alps, where there are glaciers, but it is not found near volcanoes. He also noted that quartz crystals are always cool to the touch. Pliny already knew that the word "crystal" comes from the Greek word *kristallos*, which means "ice." Interestingly, Pliny was also the first to write that a clear quartz crystal can split light into a spectrum. By the way, the largest documented quartz crystal was found near Itapora, Brazil, and it measured almost 20 ft long, x 5 ft thick and weighed more than 44 metric tons! I think that Rich Fretterd discovered it during a vacation, but I could be mistaken. The varieties listed below almost always form in pegmatite, or near igneous activity. I recommend that you Google them to learn more.

AMETHYST: The name comes from Ancient Greek *a-* ("not") and *methustos* ("intoxicated"), because many Ancient Greeks, and Romans too, thought the stone might provide some protection from drunkenness. This belief probably started because amethyst is wine-colored. As you will see in later articles, color alone can be enough to begin a legend that a mineral or rock has supernatural powers. It is a semi-precious stone and it can be found near

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Cripple Creek. Its famous color is caused by the irradiation of iron ions over a lengthy period of time while the mineral was underground.

CITRINE: Is golden yellow quartz, but it can also be greenish-yellow, brownish-yellow or orange. It is rarely found in our area, and it has no interesting stories. The name for citrine simply comes from the Greek word "kitrina," which means "yellow," and the color comes from iron impurities. In some places, a crystal can be citrine in one area and amethyst in another (called *ametrine*). **BEWARE:** Unscrupulous dealers have been known to heat cheap Brazilian amethyst, which causes the purplish iron ions to turn golden, producing a false citrine.

SMOKY QUARTZ (not smokey): We know it locally as having the color of dark beer, but it can be light gray to almost black (called morion). It ranges in clarity from almost completely transparent to nearly opaque. Geologists originally thought that the color depends upon traces of iron, but experts now know that the smoky color is caused by free silicon ions that were liberated by natural irradiation while the quartz was underground. In order to make up for the lack of a story about citrine, here is one about smoky quartz: Archaeologists have discovered that, during the 12th century in China, smoky quartz was cut into small, flat, polished plates and worn as sunglasses. You just can't make up stuff like that.

MILKY QUARTZ: The whitish color is caused by millions of very minute fluid inclusions, usually liquid water, trapped during the formation of the crystal. Quartz is the last mineral to crystallize in a pegmatite, and it often contains traces of other minerals and metals that have not yet bonded with anything. In the case of milky quartz, "frozen fog" micro-droplets of water are trapped inside the crystal during a process called fractional crystallization, but the water is not part of the crystal's lattice structure. It is an inclusion, an impurity. Under these circumstances, it is sometimes possible for a quartz crystal of any color to contain tiny bubbles of water that can be seen with the naked eye.

ROSE QUARTZ: According to the web site MinDat.org, rose quartz comes in two very different varieties.

(A) The first consists of masses of intergrown anhedral (no crystal faces) masses. It contains microscopic fibrous inclusions of a pink borosilicate mineral related to dumortierite. This variety of rose quartz is dichroic, which means the stone can appear to have two colors, depending upon the angle of the incoming light. This is caused by the orientation of those fibers. It is usually found in the quartz cores of pegmatites, but it has also been found in hydrothermal veins. This is the rose quartz that is used in lapidary and carvings. It may also exhibit *asterism*, giving the viewer a star-shaped image such as you might see in a star sapphire. In order to see this effect in rose quartz, however, the stone must be illuminated from behind. Crystals of this type of rose quartz have never been found.

(B) The other variety of rose quartz occurs in well-formed typical quartz crystals in pegmatite pockets. The rosy color is apparently caused by irradiation of aluminum and phosphorous atoms that substituted for silica in the crystal's structure. This variety is sensitive to both heat and light. Some of what we call rose quartz in Teller and Park Counties is actually clear quartz that contains brick-colored iron impurities, especially along hairline cracks (interstices).

▶▶ At this year's Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Gem & Mineral Show, the special theme will be the Snow Mastodon Project, with presentations by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. See the ad below:

The Snow Mastodon Project

June 6-8, Fri. - Sat. 9 AM - 5 PM

Sun. 9 AM - 4 PM

Western Museum of Mining & Industry
225 North Gate Blvd., I-25 exit 156A
Colorado Springs, Colorado (Free Parking)

Attended exhibits from the Denver Museum
of Nature and Science for their
Snowmass, Colorado excavation.

Fun for the entire family including:
Operating steam engines, antique mining
equipment and working stamp mill
Gem, jewelry, mineral, meteorite and fossil
vendors - indoor/outdoor vendor areas
Gold panning, rock identification, special kids'
area, silent auction, food vendors, club exhibits

Sponsored by:

The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
The Western Museum of Mining and Industry
The Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Co.

Show admission significantly reduced:

Adults \$5

Children free

Visit these websites for more information:

[The Western Museum of Mining and Industry](#)

[The Snowmastodon Project](#)

[The Snowmastodon Project Images](#)

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) \$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 ___ 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:

Suz Core, President

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719-687-6067
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