

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News March, 2016



Program for the month: Saturday March 12, 2016

President **John Rakowski** will present the March program.

Saturday March 12 Presentation: **Pikes Peak area collecting**

President **John Rakowski**, a local geologist, founding club member, and mineral collector will give a presentation about our local geology as it pertains to collectible mineral specimens and will discuss some tips for successful, fun mineral collecting on public or private lands in our area. There will be examples of mineral specimens from the Florissant-Lake George area.

We'll start with a PowerPoint general presentation then all congregate around a table where some of the specimens can be viewed and discussed in detail. We'll talk about distinguishing clear/white varieties of quartz – topaz – fluorite – calcite. We'll discuss variable colors within the same mineral, fluorite specifically. There will be examples of the rock types pointing you toward a pegmatite.

We will discuss the necessary or desired tools to have with you. You'll want a small and light set of tools for recon of an area, but more tools are needed when you encounter a pocket.

John began collecting minerals in this area as a hobby in the early 1960's and later went on to earn a degree in Geology. He has worked as a professional exploration geologist for over 40 years and still enjoys rocks and minerals as a hobby. John has been an officer of the LGGMC for a number of years.

Also, during the meeting, we will continue a **silent auction** for some cool specimens and other items donated by Club members. Thanks to **Patsy Sprouse**, who has agreed to be in charge. The way this works is that the specimens will be displayed at the back/side of the room with "bid sheets". Each item will have a minimum starting bid. You write your bid and initials in a blank space on the sheet and then watch to see if others outbid you. You can keep on bidding until the President says bidding is closed. So, bring some **CASH** and be prepared for the fun! The second mariposite bookend should appear soon!

Please Note: If the weather is threatening, the officers of LGGMC will try to make a decision the evening before the scheduled meeting to call off the meeting if road conditions might be dangerous in the area. Be sure to check your email **BEFORE** leaving your house for the meeting!

Coming Events

✓ ✓ Several mineral, fossil, and geology clubs meet relatively nearby and encourage visitors. These include:

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>**Cañon City Geology Club**, meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6PM in the United Methodist Church, Cañon City;

>**Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**, meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM in the Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., Colorado Springs;

>**Columbine Gem & Mineral Society**, meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30PM in the meeting room, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida;

>**Pueblo Rockhounds**, meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo.

✓ ✓ **Pete Modreski** sent notices of the following upcoming events:

Wed., Mar. 2, 4:00 p.m., **CU Geological Sciences Seminar**, Boulder, Density, topography and erosion: Linking mantle flow, surface processes and density variations in the Earth's crust, by Jean Braun, Université de Grenoble.

Thurs., Mar. 3, 7:00 p.m., monthly "First Thursday" lecture sponsored by the **Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum**. "Meteorites: A Collector's Perspective", by Ron Hranac, President, Denver Astronomical Society. In the Ben H. Parker Student Center, Ballroom E, Maple Street, CSM campus, Golden. Socializing begins at 6:30 p.m.; admission is free and all are welcome. Check <https://www.facebook.com/LikeCSMGeoMuseum/> for updated info.

Mon., Mar. 7, 7:00 p.m., **Western Interior Paleontological Society** monthly meeting, "Deciduousness and The KT Extinction: How an Asteroid Shaped the Forest in Your Backyard", by Ian Miller, PhD, Curator of Paleobotany and Chair, Department of Earth Sciences, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. In Ricketson Auditorium at DMNS; no charge, all are welcome, museum admission not required; enter museum at the staff/volunteer entrance to the left of the main entrance, tell the guard that you are there for the WIPS meeting. See <http://www.westernpaleo.org/> for more info and an abstract of the talk.

Tues., Mar. 8, 10:30 a.m., **USGS Rocky Mountain Science Seminar**, Constraining lithospheric structure and deformation beneath the United States, by Ved Lekic, Univ. of Maryland. Building 25 auditorium, Denver Federal Center, Lakewood CO. Visitors welcome; enter DFC through the main gate on Kipling St.; park east of Bldg. 25, enter the building through door E-14.

Wed., Mar. 9, 4:00 p.m., **CU Geological Sciences Seminar**, Boulder, Tempest at Teapot Dome, Wyoming: The Greatest Political Scandal in the History of the American Oil Industry, by Matt Silverman.

Thurs., Mar. 10, 4:00 p.m., **Van Tuyl lecture series at Colorado School of Mines**, "Massive Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary deposit and initial incision of the ancestral Desoto Canyon: New evidence for widespread Chicxulub-induced slope failure in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico", by Richard Denne, Marathon Oil. Berthoud Hall, Room 241, all are welcome.

Thurs., Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m., **Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter**, bimonthly meeting, at Denver Museum of Nature and Science, VIP Room. Special invited speaker, Jeff Scovil, internationally famous mineral photographer; "The Best of Colorado Minerals". All welcome.

Wed., Mar. 16, 3:00 p.m., **Earth Sciences Colloquium** at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Early Eocene primates and other mammals of western India, by Ken Rose, Johns Hopkins Univ. VIP room; all are welcome, museum admission is not required.

Thurs., Mar. 17, 7:00 p.m., **Colorado Scientific Society** meeting; New Hominid Discoveries from South Africa, the 'Cradle of Humankind': The Anthropological Significance, the Cave Geology, and How Google Earth Contributed to the Discovery, by Charles M. Musiba, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Denver. No charge, all are welcome; Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 11500 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood CO.

Sun., Mar. 20, noon, monthly meeting of the **Florissant Scientific Society**, "The Rise and Fall of the Rocky Mountains", led by Bob Hickey, an outdoor meeting at Mueller State Park (south of Divide, CO). Suggested: in preparation for this talk, read Keith Heyer Meldahl's book Rough-Hewn Land: A Geological Journey from California to the Rocky Mountains. Please see <http://www.fss-co.org/index.html> or contact Beth Simmons for details about the meeting.

Fri., Mar. 25, 3:00 p.m., **Earth Sciences Colloquium** at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, The beginning of the age of dinosaurs in the American west, by Randy Irmis, Univ. of Utah. VIP Room; all are welcome, museum admission is not required.

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Apr. 1-3, Fort Collins Rockhounds Gem and Mineral Show, at the McKee 4-H Building, Larimer County Fairgrounds, I-25 exit 259.

Thurs., Apr. 14, the **Colorado Scientific Society** annual Past Presidents Dinner (to honor & introduce past presidents of the society; anyone is welcome to attend) will be held at White Fence Farm, Lakewood, CO. The speaker will be Matt Silverman, on "Tempest at Teapot Dome, Wyoming: the Greatest Political Scandal in the History of the American Oil Industry". See <http://www.coloscisoc.org/> for more info.

April 15-17, Rocky Mountain Gem and Mineral Show, to be held at The Westin Westminster, 10600 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, CO 80020. See <http://www.rockygems.com/april-mineral-show.html> for more info. This new show is being sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Gem and Mineral Co-op, c/o Sandra Gonzales, <http://www.rockygems.com/> Note, the Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show, which would normally be held toward the end of April, will **not** take place this year.

Thurs., Apr. 26, 7:00 p.m., **Colorado Scientific Society** annual Emmons Lecture, "The Quest for and Origin of the Only Known Natural Quasi-Crystal.", by Lincoln Hollister, Princeton University, Professor of Geosciences, Emeritus. To be held at the American Mountaineering Center, auditorium, 710 10th St., Golden, CO. No charge and all are welcome. See <http://www.coloscisoc.org/> for more info when it is available.

Sat., May 14, Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, Silent Auction. Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood CO, 12:00-3:00 (setup begins at 11 a.m.)

July 15-19, the "2nd Eugene E. Foord Symposium on Pegmatites, Golden Colorado" will take place on the CSM campus. There will be a welcoming reception, two days of oral and poster presentations, and two days of field trips to Colorado pegmatite localities. For further information see <http://www.colorado.edu/symposium/pegmatite/> or the Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum page, <https://www.facebook.com/LikeCSMGeoMuseum/>. Pegmatite researchers from around the country and internationally are expected to attend, as well as local presenters. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Special exhibits in 2016:

A new "**Critical Materials**" Exhibit in The Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum is now open. The exhibit highlights critical materials and rare-earth elements - including the minerals the elements can be derived from - essential to the development of advanced technology and energy. The exhibit is a joint project of the Critical Materials Institute at the School of Mines and the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum. Mandi Hutchinson, graduate student at CSM, played a major role in planning and design of the exhibit. The exhibit focuses on the elements Li, Y, Te, Nd, Eu, Tb, Dy, their minerals, and their uses in technology. You'll find the exhibit downstairs in the museum, near the Gift Shop.

*The CU South Denver Campus Museum, Liniger Building, is now part of The Wildlife Experience, at 10035 S. Peoria St., Parker, CO. *[This all was new news to me—ed.]*"The Wildlife Experience—now part of CU South Denver—is an art and natural history museum that is home to an impressive wildlife art collection and interactive, educational displays including Globeology, Science on a Sphere and special exhibits." Open 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily; there is an admission charge. See <http://southdenver.cu.edu/visit-the-museum/visitor-info/>.

✓ ✓ Here's a note from **Steve Veatch**: The **Denver Gem and Mineral Show** board has requested that the Pebble Pups return again on Saturday, September 17, 2016 to speak at the noontime slot. This will be the Fourth year that members of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club.

Generally six pebble pups come forward with a topic in the spring. They spend the summer working with Steven Veatch at Colorado College's Tutt Library where they perfect their PowerPoint presentation.

The meeting room is always full each year as gem show attendees pack in to hear these young people speak about their hobby. This year the show will be held September 16-18th and the theme will be the African minerals. The Pebble Pups hope to see you there!

✓ ✓ This year's session of **Bob Carnein's** crystallography course attracted 8 participants and will start on March 13.

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✓ ✓ Remember to **Please PAY YOUR DUES BEFORE THE END OF MARCH** or you will be removed from the club rolls. **Late dues will not be accepted after that date.** If unpaid, you will have the opportunity to rejoin the club in January, 2017. If your dues are unpaid and you are removed from the rolls **that means you won't be able to sign up for field trips this summer.** Todd Mattson and several field-trip assistants will be planning trips to begin as soon as spring weather allows, and we will try to have even more field trips available this year. **Please fill out the membership application at the end of this newsletter and send or give it to Club Treasurer Bobby Korzekwa asap!**

✓ ✓ **Todd Mattson** has a tentative list of approx. 18 summer field trips already. Watch this space for details, and, if you have any suggestions for trips, contact Todd at tmattsondbc@live.com.

✓ ✓ **Pebble Pups** meeting day is the **third Wednesday of each month**, and meetings are at the PPHS Museum in Florissant from **6:00 to 6:45 PM**

✓ ✓ The following Officers were elected at the December 12 meeting. Thank You to **Char DeVries** and the rest of the nominating committee *and* to those who volunteered to accept positions!

OFFICERS:

President: **John Rakowski**
Vice President: **John Sprouse**
Secretary: **Norma Rhodes**
Treasurer: **Bob Korzekwa**
Newsletter Editor: **Bob Carnein**

Club Department Directors:

Field-Trip Coordinator: **Todd Mattson**
Membership Coordinator: **Mary Rose Doucette and Dwain Dunigan**
Show Chairman: **Steve Woje**
Vendors/Dealers: **Becky Blair**
Volunteer Scheduling: **Don and Beverly Keith**
Marketing/PR: **Norma and Roger Rhodes**
Physical Assets: **Paul Saunier**
Overnight Security: **Bob Kane**
Badge Artist: **Bill Martin-Muth**
Club Claim Manager: **Dan Alfrey**
Webmaster: **Dan Alfrey**
Pebble Pups: **Steve Veatch, John Rakowski**
Librarian: **Norma Engelberg**
Silent Auctions: **Patsy Sprouse**
Hospitality (coffee/refreshments): **remains Open**

✓ ✓ And here is the latest installment of "Bench Tips" by Brad Smith (www.BradSmithJewelry.com):

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

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INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at Radio Shack, a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. As an example of the components, see www.harborfreight.com items #43060 and #47887

File the tip of the soldering iron into the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

A tip design that I find ideal for some work is a length of small gauge wire that lets me reach in around the model to melt some wax. The wire is about 15mm long and 18 or 20 gauge. To conduct heat all the way to the tip, I use Sterling wire and silver solder it into a hole on the end of a copper or brass rod that will fit into the soldering iron.

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"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon.

Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein, Editor
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Here's an article from your editor about a mineral locality that's now producing world-class specimens.

Get it While You Can: the Milpillas Azurite Story by Bob Carnein

A Lake George Club member recently asked me why I had paid what she thought was an exorbitant amount of money for an azurite specimen from Mexico (Figures 2, 3). I bought the specimen from a Mexican dealer at the Lake George Show last year. This article will attempt to answer that question and show you why the Milpillas mine is one of the great contemporary mineral localities. It's also a warning that, like most such deposits, this one won't last forever as a source of wonderful minerals.

Many of the minerals that collectors love most are weathering products of hydrothermal sulfide deposits. These form when heated aqueous solutions carrying metal ions move upward and outward from crystallizing magma or other sources. As these solutions cool or interact with groundwater, they deposit their metals, often in combination with sulfur. Common metallic sulfide minerals include pyrite

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(FeS₂), chalcopyrite (CuFeS₂), galena (PbS), and sphalerite (ZnS). Such deposits are said to be **hypogene**, meaning they formed from ascending hydrothermal solutions.

Hypogene sulfide deposits are hard to find unless uplift, weathering, and erosion have exposed them at the surface. When exposed to air, organic activity, and water percolating downward from rain and snow melt, sulfide minerals begin to break down (see Figure 1). Ubiquitous pyrite speeds up the process. When pyrite weathers, it releases sulfuric acid, which attacks the associated relatively stable sulfides, such as chalcopyrite, sphalerite, and galena. These acid solutions descend from the surface, redepositing and concentrating the metals in secondary (**supergene**) deposits.

Supergene deposits are of 2 basic types. If the metals are redeposited above the water table, they combine with oxygen and other ions to form **oxidized** minerals. These include oxides, such as cuprite (Cu₂O), as well as carbonates, sulfates, and a host of other “ates”, depending on what’s available. These oxidized minerals are often colorful and attract attention—they are more likely to be noticed than the drab hypogene minerals they’re often derived from.

If some of the metal ions of a weathering hydrothermal deposit are carried below the water table, where there isn’t any oxygen available, they re-precipitate as secondary sulfide minerals in whatever space is available. For example, chalcocite (Cu₂S) often forms an enriched “blanket” just below the water table in copper deposits. These supergene sulfides supplement the hypogene sulfides of the unaltered original deposit, forming a zone of **supergene sulfide enrichment**.

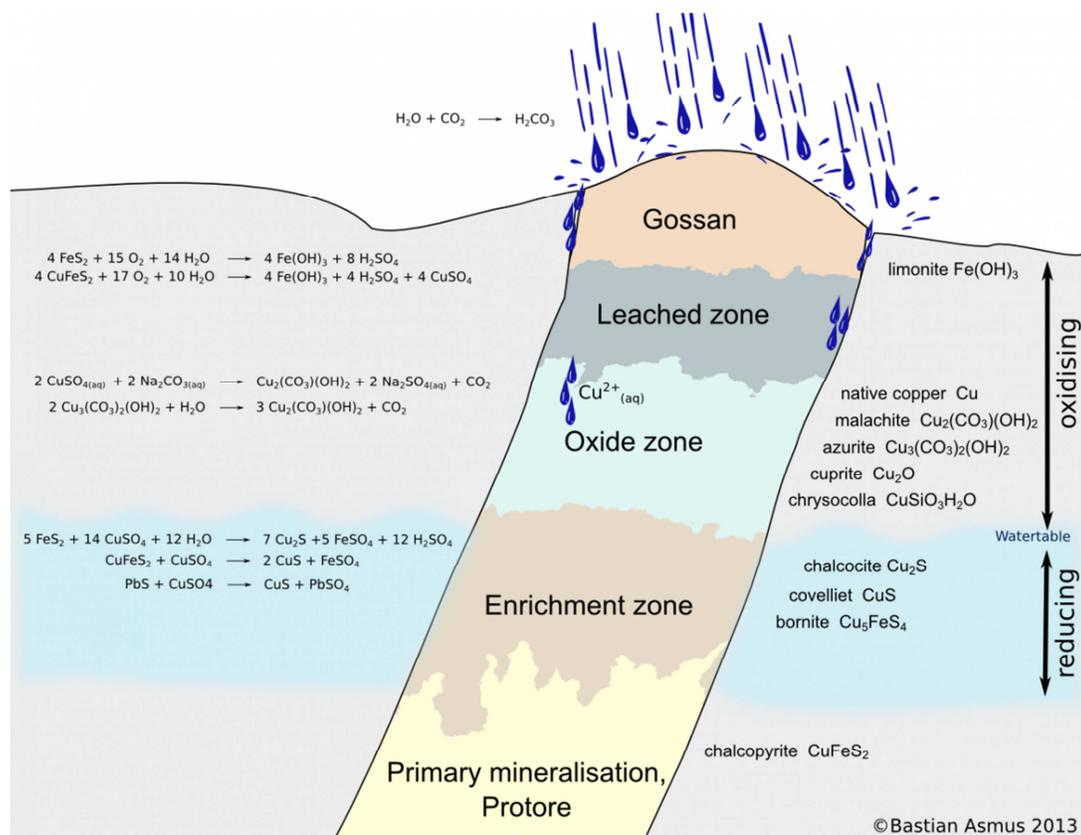


Figure 1: Supergene enrichment of a primary copper (chalcopyrite) ore. (en.archaeometallurgie.de)

The combined supergene oxidized zone and the zone of supergene sulfide enrichment are the “icing on the cake” of many hydrothermal deposits. They’re relatively close to the surface and relatively rich, making them cheap to exploit. They commonly pay for all of the infrastructure required for a mining company to process the deeper, lower grade hypogene ore, once the supergene mineralization runs out.

Certain minerals of the oxidized zone are universally coveted by collectors. If we focus on copper deposits, the most familiar ones are azurite, malachite, chrysocolla, cuprite, and a host of other colorful secondary minerals. Unfortunately, secondary copper minerals rarely occur as good specimens in Colorado. If you want to add a great specimen of azurite to your collection, you will have to buy it.

At one time, thousands of world-class azurites came from the Bisbee district and other localities in Arizona, where the arid climate favors development of especially thick and deep oxidized deposits. When I was a kid, such specimens could be picked up at reasonable prices at shows and from mail-order dealers. But fine Bisbee (or Carlota, Morenci, or Ajo) azurites have disappeared into old collections or museums, with top quality “recycled” material commanding prices in the thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands of dollars. The same is now true of superb azurites from Namibia (Tsumeb) and France (Chessy).

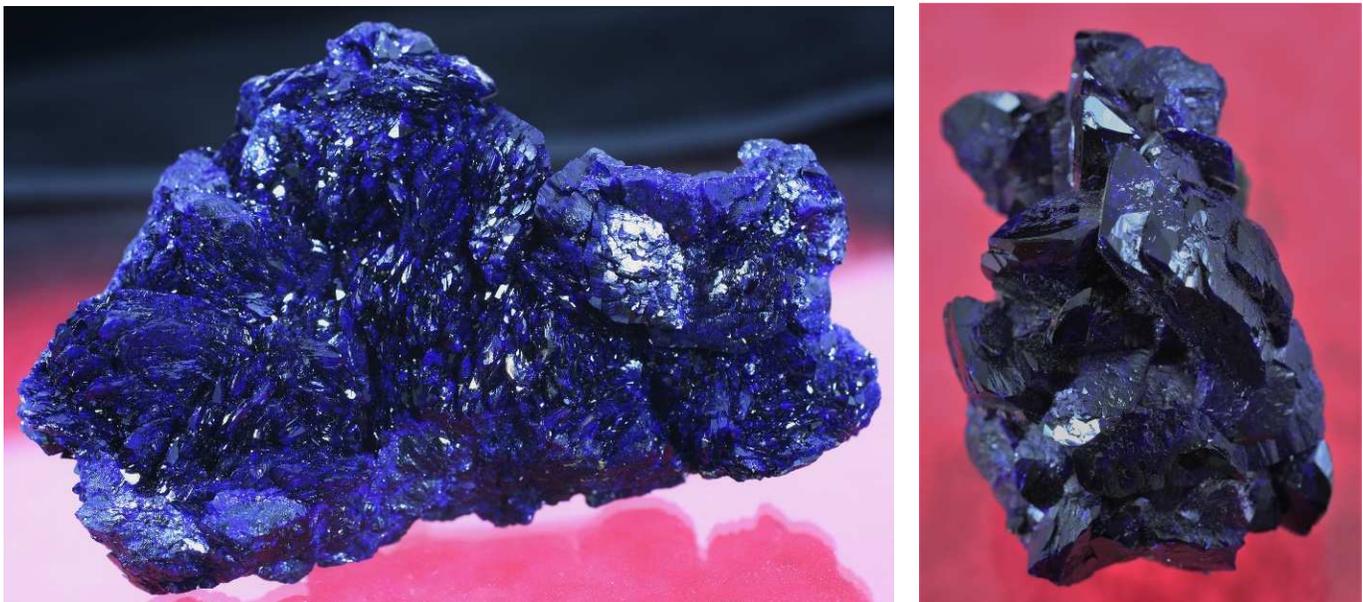
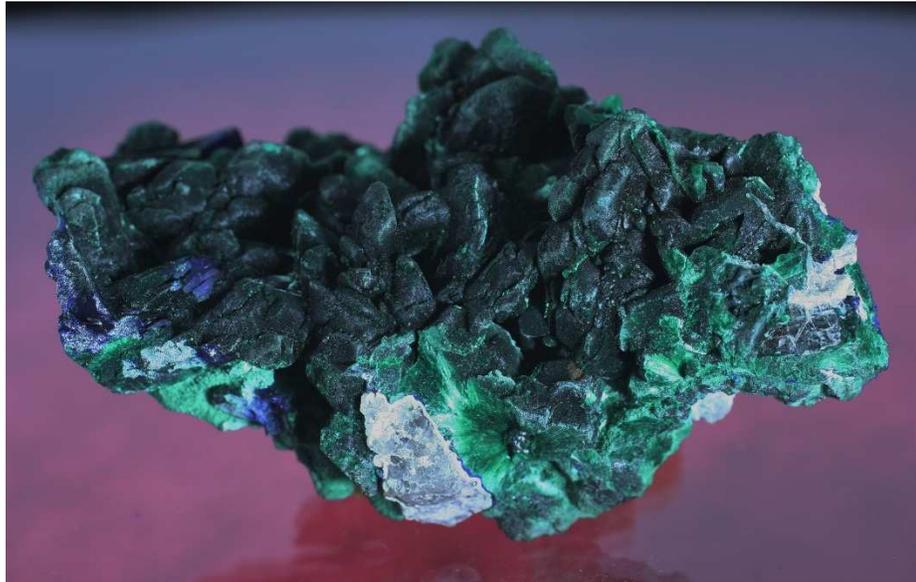
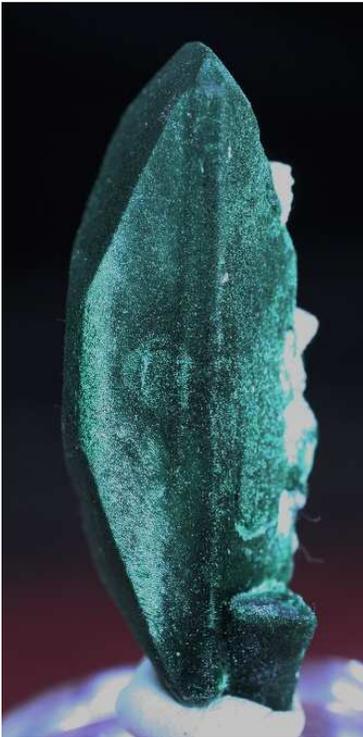


Fig. 2, 3: Two Milpillas azurite specimen. (Carnein collection and photos)

A few localities currently produce fine azurite. Specimens can be found from Morocco, China, and Laos, but these seldom compare favorably with the old time Arizona or Tsumeb material. However, one contemporary source produces truly superb azurites as well as other secondary copper minerals, at prices that are within the budgets of many collectors. This is the Milpillas mine in Sonora, Mexico.



Figs. 4, 5: Two specimens of malachite replacing azurite from Milpillas. (Carnein collection and photos)

The Milpillas mine, opened in 2006, is located in northern Sonora, about 60 km. southwest of Bisbee, AZ., The miners' village of Cuitaca, about 17 km. to the south, is the nearest settlement (Moore and Origlieri, 2008).

Milpillas is one of more than 50 major porphyry copper/molybdenum/gold/silver deposits of the southwestern U.S. And northern Mexico. (Porphyry deposits form underneath volcanoes, where porphyritic host rocks are fractured and shot full of low grade hydrothermal veinlets.) It has no surface expression and was found by mistake as a result of U.S. Geological Survey sampling in 1975. Sediment samples indicating a buried porphyry-copper deposit were actually transported in from elsewhere, but they inspired a Cyprus-AMAX subsidiary to conduct test drilling. This and later drilling by Grupo Peñoles and associates defined a high grade oxidized deposit with azurite, malachite, and other copper minerals under 300 to 500 m. of gravel and alluvium. The oxidized ores overlie lower grade secondary sulfide deposits consisting of chalcocite and minor covellite. Supergene ores typically range between 1% and 10% copper (Moore and Origlieri, 2008) at depths of 150 to 750 m. Lower grade hypogene ore occurs below.



Fig. 5: Brochantite crystals from Milpillas. (Carnein collection and photo)

Unlike most porphyry copper deposits, Milpillas is exploited by underground mining. Large trucks bring the ore to the surface, where it is crushed to pieces averaging 2 cm. across. Crushed ore is piled in leach heaps (much like the ones at Cripple Creek), where it is bathed in acid. The leachate then passes through tanks containing stainless-steel cathodes, where copper is deposited electrolytically. Copper is then stripped from the cathodes

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and shipped to customers. The high tech processing plant is designed to produce 65,000 tons of cathode copper per year. None of this favors specimen production.

Like most mining companies, Grupo Peñoles strongly discourages mineral collecting. This, combined with illicit drug operations in the area, has made it difficult for miners and dealers to recover specimens (though some drug dealers apparently accept mineral specimens in lieu of cash). Despite this, a steady supply of fine material has made its way northward since 2006. Periodically, dealers claim that mining of oxidized ores is finished, only to be followed by new finds of mind-boggling azurite, malachite, brochantite, and other minerals. However, once mining works its way downward into the secondary sulfide (chalcocite) blanket, the colorful specimens now available will disappear from the market. The supply is already decreasing, and smart collectors will buy good pieces while they are still available at bargain prices.



Figs. 6, 7: Pyrite crystal coated by bornite; barite crystals on dickite, Milpillas mine. (Carnein collection and photos)

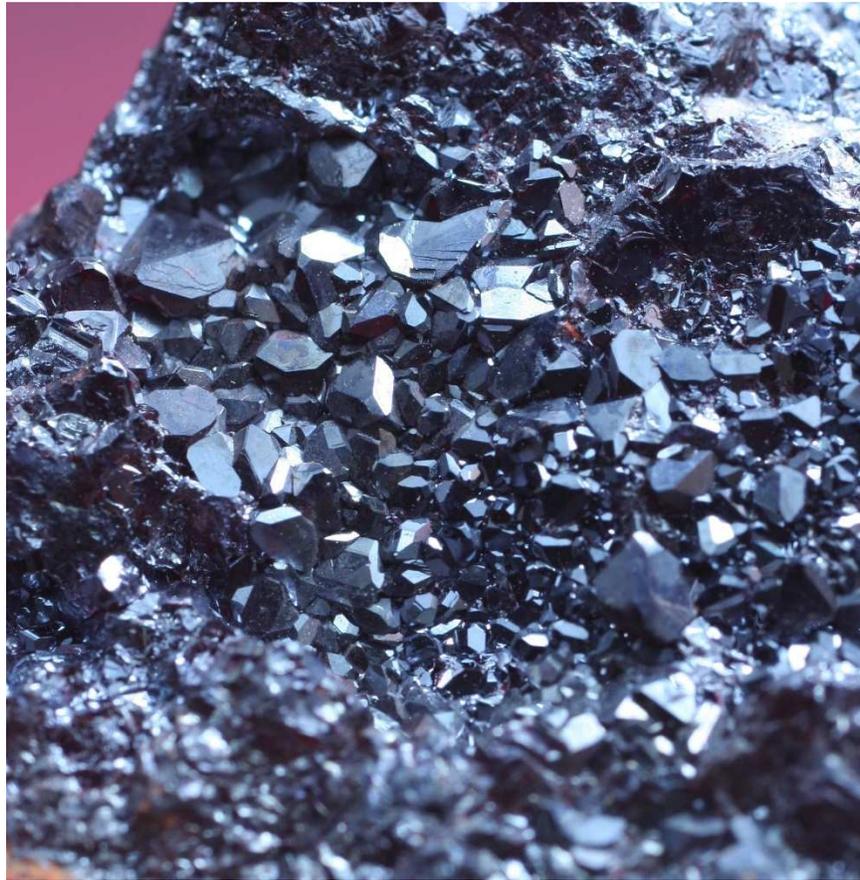


Fig. 8: Cuprite crystals from Milpillas. (Carnein collection and photo)

Reference Cited

Moore, T.P., and M.J. Origlieri, 2008, Famous Mineral Localities: the Milpillas mine, Cananea district, Sonora, Mexico: The Mineralogical Record, vol. 39, no. 6, p. 25-34.

DUES ARE DUE! (March 31 Deadline)

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

March, 2016

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Box 171, Lake George, Colorado 80827
www.LGGMClub.org

Date: _____/_____/20____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ - _____ Email (please print) _____
(required to receive newsletter and field-trip info)

Names/ages of family members (if family membership) _____

Dues for Jan 1 through Dec. 31 each year are as follows (please check membership type):

____ Individual (18 and over).....\$15.00

____ Family (includes dependents under age 18).....\$25.00

Dues are due on or before March 31. Members with unpaid dues will be dropped from the roster on April 1.

I agree to abide by the Club constitution, by-laws, and rules regarding field trips and club claim visits.

Signed _____ Date: _____/_____/20____

I am or have previously been a member of Lake George Gem & Mineral Club. Yes ____ No ____

My interest areas include (check all that apply): Minerals____; Fossils____; Lapidary____;
Micromounts____; Colorado geology____; Pebble Pups (ages 7-17)____; Mining History____;
Crystallography____; Other _____

I am willing to give a talk/presentation to (the Club) or (Pebble Pups) on _____
_____ and/or lead a field trip to (list) _____

I am willing to participate/help in the following ways (can choose more than one): Club Officer____;
Newsletter Editor/Writer____; Local Show/Show committee____; Nominating Committee____;
Winter Programs Committee____; Field Trips____; Art (badges)____; Membership Coordinator ____;
Website Assistance____; Pebble Pups____; Other (be specific)_____

Questions about the Club or Activities? Visit the website or contact a Club officer.

Updated 05/01/2015

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

March, 2016

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
PO Bo 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 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 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).

Our Officers for 2016 are:

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