The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News, May, 2013

Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, May 11, at 9:00AM
Lake George Community Center

After a brief business meeting, we will make a visit to Rich Fretterd's "Ace in the Hole" mining claim, near Crystal Peak. Minerals include amazonite and smoky quartz. 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

Columbine Gem and Mineral Society, monthly meeting, 6:30PM, meeting room, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida.	… **May 9**
Pueblo Rockhounds, monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo.	… **May 16**
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, monthly meeting, 7PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs.	… **May 16**
Colorado Mineral Society, Silent Auction, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 920 Kipling St., Lakewood CO.	… **May 4**
Dinosaur Discovery Day and Boy Scout Day at Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison, CO; 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. See http://www.dinoridge.org/ . "Dinosaur Discovery Days" (free public tour days) continue on the first Saturday of each month, through October.	… **May 11**
Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter, Silent Auction, 12 noon – 3 p.m., Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood CO.	… **May 11**
The Day the Mesozoic Died, by Pete Modreski, USGS, 6:30PM, Canon City Geology Club, First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (northwest corner of 9th St and Main), Canon City. Please call 719-275-9781 for more information.	… **May 13**
Monthly meeting of the Florissant Scientific Society, field trip to visit sites near Cañon City, including the Indian Springs trace-fossil site, the dinosaur quarries and oil-spring site near Garden Park, "and if time permits a drive up Skyline Drive". For information contact Beth Simmons, cloverknoll@comcast.net.	… **May 19**

Pikes Peak Gem and Mineral Show and Rock Fair, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Theme: "Meteorites and the 40th Anniversary of the Canon City Meteor". … **June 7-9**

1st Annual Victor, Colorado Gem and Mineral Show, "in historic downtown Victor". … **June 22-23**

30th Annual Contin-Tail Rock & Gem Show, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds … **Aug. 8-11**

Annual Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Gem & Mineral Show, Lake George … **Aug. 16-18**

Welcome Recent New Members:

John & Heather Buckner, Guffey
Ronnie & Leesha Dobbs, Florissant
Christine Hashimoto, Sedalia
Jutta Haumbolt
Bruce & Judy Paulsen, Salida
Frank & Ellie Rosenberg, Colorado Springs
Harold Teff, Morrison

Club News

I'm happy to report that we have a winner for our annual scholarship. He is **Wyatt McClure**, a senior at Cripple Creek High School. Wyatt hopes to attend Colorado School of Mines to major in engineering.

Club officers met in April to compose a letter responding to the USFS concerns about the Club claim. **Please do not visit the Club claim until further notice. Any violation may result in a fine or prosecution.**

Here's a 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.

May 5: New Hope Amethyst (Canon City Club claim; **R. Kawamoto**, leader)
May 11: Ace in the Hole (private mining claim; **Rich Fretterd**) smoky quartz, amazonite
May 18/19: Geo/Paleo tour of El Paso/Teller counties (**Bob Carnein & Paul Combs**, co-leaders) (Contact Bob Carnein ccarnein@gmail.com to receive a copy of the field guide/itinerary.)
May 25: (open date); Book Cliffs trip (Denver Gem & Mineral Guild; **Bob Pfeiffer**)
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**)

Speaking of The Prospectors, here's a note from **John Rakowski** about some possible fallout from that show: "I heard from a neighbor that on Sunday there were 10 trespassing vehicles on a private property north of Crystal Peak off Trail Creek Road.

"I suspect this is representative of the onslaught of interest we will see by persons spurred by the enthusiasm of the Prospector show, but not knowledgeable of property rights (or common sense). That property owner will be putting up signage and arranging with a towing company to remove unauthorized vehicles.

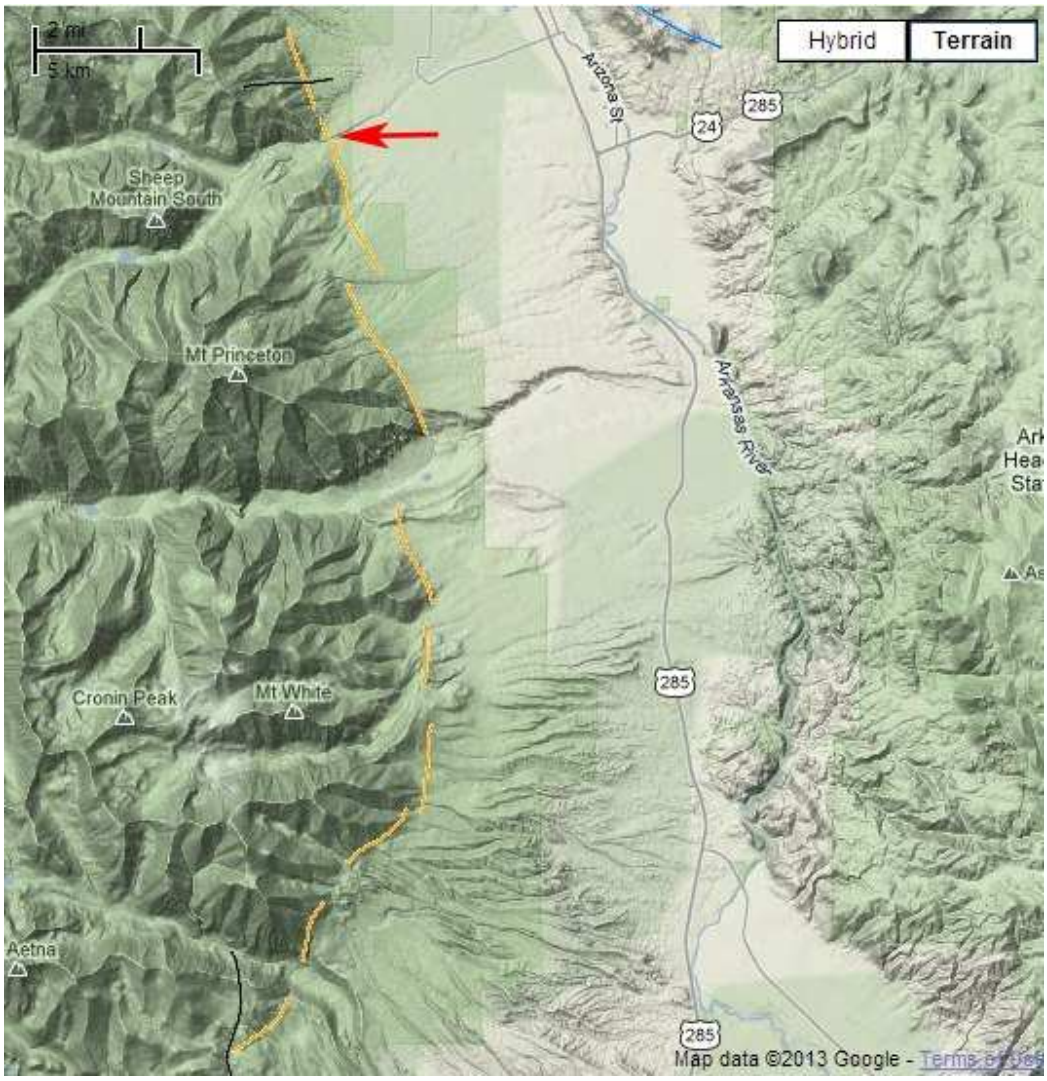
"We'll need to make sure that on all of our field trips we **are prepared with written permission** if on private property and make sure our people are exercising common sense on public and private property."

Norma Engelberg reports that she and **Susan Core** have updated the list of resources available in the Club library. Please contact Norma if you'd like a copy (nengelberg@ourcoloradonews.com).

Dan Alfrey sent a list of Colorado State Parks events information that's too long to include here. However, you can access it by e-mailing wildlife.dowinfo@state.co.us

Here's a notice about a special trip to the Mary Nevin mine, in Cripple Creek.

Here's some interesting information about Colorado geology:



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DID YOU KNOW? That the Southern Sawatch fault is one of three in Colorado that are in the USGS National Seismic (Earthquake) Hazard Map. It extends from west of Salida to west of Buena Vista (yellow lines), and is deemed capable of generating a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. The red arrow points to the mouth of Cottonwood Creek where evidence of repeated offset was one of the criteria for including it in the map. Scientists don't know when the next large earthquake might occur in the Arkansas Valley. However, a sophisticated hazard-analysis program indicates that a Magnitude 7.0 would cause over $4 billion in economic losses. For a short video on Colorado earthquake hazard, visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE_NJEeQaB0&feature=youtu.be.See More

Dick sent this report about the continuing Denny's meetings to see The Prospectors on Tuesday nights at 7PM: "I think we have seen 5ea shows and there are 4 remaining, which will also be at the Denny's. Of interest last week, we had 20 persons at the viewing with **Rich Fretterd** in attendance. You can expect an appearance soon also by **Amanda Adkins**."

Here are a couple of pictures from the Prospectors showing at Denny's on 4/23/13.

Here's a picture of the current lap-shop set-up, as of 4/29/13.

To use the equipment, which is set up at Dick's house, call or email 719-684-9735 dllackmond@q.com to make an appointment. Thanks to Dick, **Bob Kane**, and **Richard Kawamoto** for agreeing to store various components of the lap shop.

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

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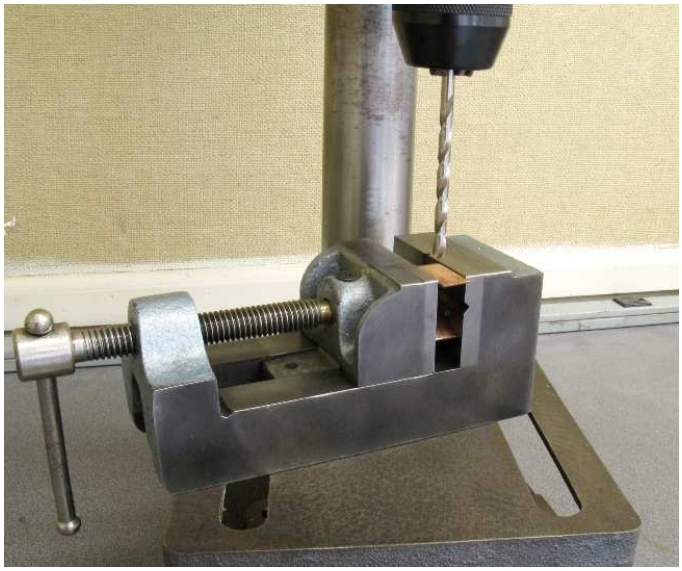
DRILL-PRESS VISE

A drill-press vise is a versatile tool to hold a work piece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the risks of working with high power motors, use of larger drill bits, and higher heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill-press table if needed and is quite handy for bench use to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine-tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel, and I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates to help hold a punch straight up or to hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search "vise" or "drill press vice" at micromark.com use-enco.com smallparts.com grizzly.com sears.com



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DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. You might think you could melt it and roll out your own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains to make it a good material in your mouth cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet.

Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal, so a reasonable alternative is to try incorporating it into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If not, try melting it on a solder pad and, while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick and then flow the metal again to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs.

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More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at facebook.com/BenchTips/
or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.

Earth-Science Scholars/Pebble Pups Corner

Six Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars attended the meeting on April 16, where **Bob Carnein** presented a talk/hands-on lab on basics of crystallography.

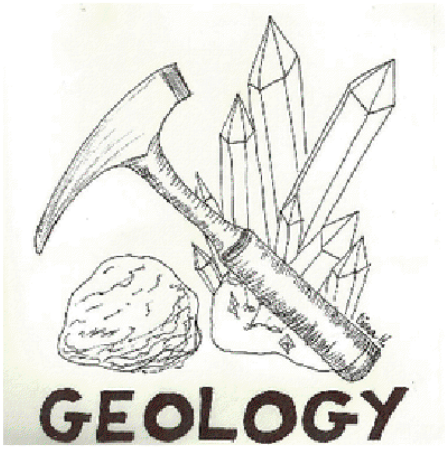
Earth-Science Scholars and Pebble Pups meet on the **third Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Lake George Community Center**. Be sure you check regularly at www.LGGMClub.org for details and updates.
Here's what's left of this year's schedule:

May 11: Field trip to Helen Hunt Falls zircon locality**.** Contact **Steve Veatch** (steven.veatch@gmail.com) or **Roger Pittman** (719-684-6286) for details.

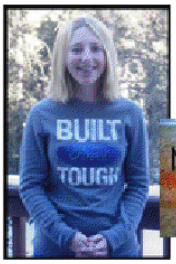
Steve sent the following poems and artwork by Pebble Pups:

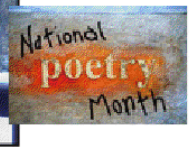
Fun with Geology
By: Ciena Higginbotham

Geology is very fun
So much to explore
Digging, searching, all day long
Crystals, gems and more
Geology is very fun
So much to uncover
Topaz, pyrite, quartz, and gold
Look, I found another!
Geology is very fun
So much to survey
Where should we go searching next?
Let's go! Come this way!



Original sketch © Ciena Higginbotham





About the author: Ciena Higginbotham is 15 years old and a 9th grade homeschooler and lives in the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Colorado. She's always had a fascination with geology and has been collecting rocks since she can remember. Ciena has attended the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club Pebble Pups since 2010.

Fossils are hidden

Ensnared by water or sand

And they lie waiting

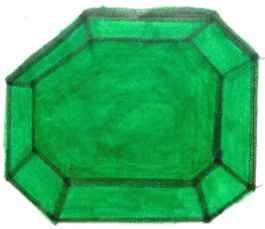
Photo © Reed Noller

Author's bio: Reed Noller is 11 years old and in 5th grade. His favorite subject in school is Art, and he attends his school art club. Outside of school, Reed loves to play hockey and learn about rocks in the Colorado Springs Pebble Pups. Reed has helped on several Pebble Pup outreach projects. He spent the day at Colorado City Founder's Day and another day at the Cool Science Festival promoting the Pebble Pup program in the Pikes Peak region.

Under the gray ground

Emeralds on a blue field

Waiting to be found

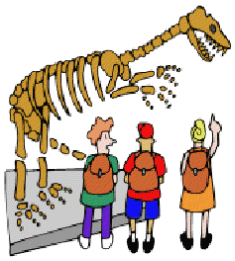


Original artwork © by Gavin Noller

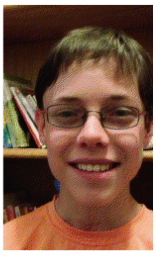
In an age long past

Giant creatures roamed abroad

Whose bones turned to stone



Author bio: Gavin Noller is a 12-year-old middle school student in 6th grade. His favorite subject in school is science, and he loves finding rocks and fossils in his free time. Gavin also has a strong interest in archaeology. He is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and has worked on day-long outreach projects at the Colorado City Founder's Day celebration and the Cool Science Festival at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs



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

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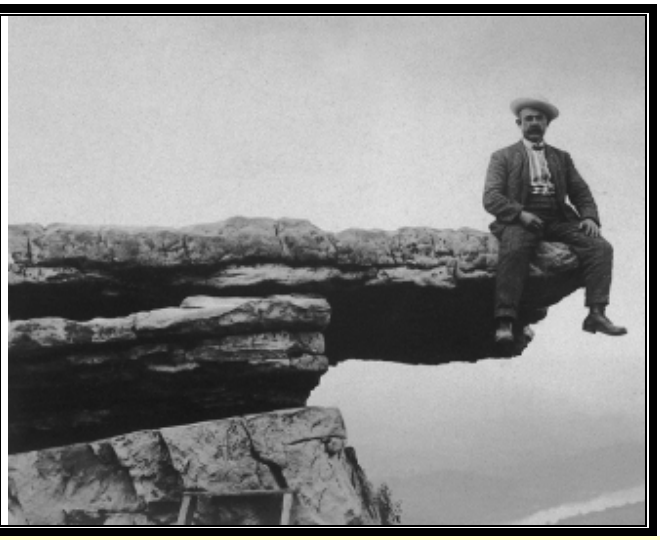
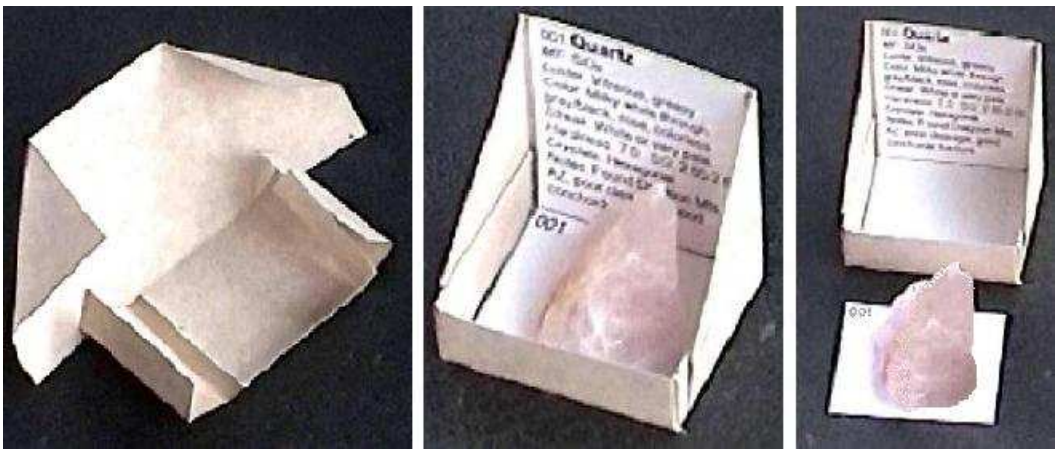
719-687-2739



Here's an interesting article, forwarded by **Dick Lackmond**, about making your own boxes to house your collection. It's reprinted from alysion.org.

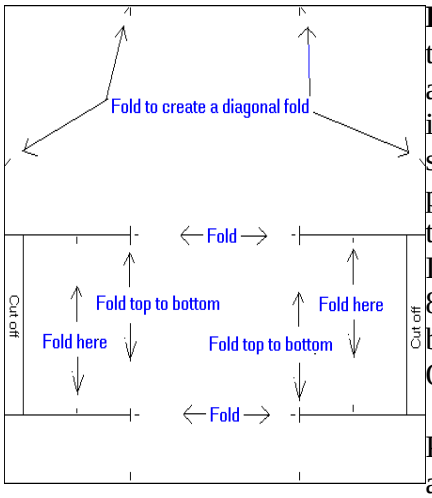
Making Boxes for your Rock and Mineral Collection

Show off your collection with these deluxe display boxes



A Rock Box template (right click on this link, then **Save Target As** to a folder of your choice) can be used to make attractive boxes with room for labels for a thumbnail sized collection of rocks and minerals. The boxes are 1.5 x 1.25 inches, and are 1.6 inches high in the back. The boxes are easy to pick up, and labels can include a lot information about the rock or mineral.

We used MS Paint, which comes with all versions of Windows, to print the labels (look under **Programs**, then **Accessories**). Before printing from Paint, go to **File**, then **Page Setup**, and change left, right, and bottom margins to 0.5, and the top margin to 0.4. Our printer happens to print at 120 dpi, so if it turns out that the printout doesn't fill the page or prints on several pages, the size of the graphic will have to be resized. If your printer prints 72 dpi (72 dots per inch) then resize the file from 120 to 72 (72/120= 0.6 so reduce the graphic to 60% of its original size). If your printer prints at 92 dpi, then reduce the size of the graphic to 80%. Using Paint, go to **Image** menu, then **Attributes** and change both "100" values to "80" or "60" to resize to 80% or 60% as needed. Other programs may be able to do this easier or do it differently.



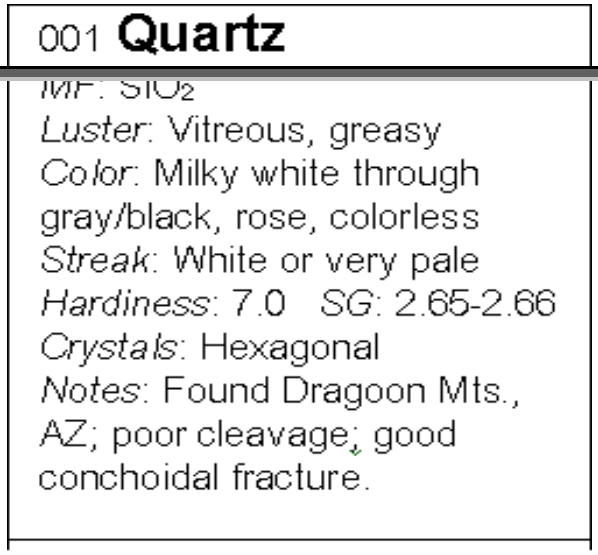
Print the template on 65 pound "cover stock" paper available from any office supply store (copy shops would also have it and often sell it by the sheet--20 sheets will make 120 boxes). This is easier to fold than card stock (110 pound) paper, but is still sturdy. Cut exactly on all solid lines, and use the short lines as guides when folding (fold so these marks are on the outside of the box where you can see them). A glue stick can be used for the final gluing (get the ones colored purple but dry clear so you can easily see where you applied the glue). After cutting, pre-fold using the short lines as guides, then unfold and glue. First glue the upper sides and fold over the diagonals. Next put glue on the middle flap that folds over the side strips that are connected to the front of the box, fold over this strip and press firmly to glue. Finally put some glue just below the diagonal fold and glue the back flaps to the sides.

Printing Labels for your Rock and Mineral Collection

After boxes have been made, you can use the Mineral Label template (right click on this link, then **Save Target As** to a folder of your choice), a .doc file in Word format, for printing labels. Print on card or cover stock for added strength. The labels, once cut out, are folded twice on the lines and inserted into the box and glued.

Small specimens can be stuck on a card using poster putty to keep them centered in the box. A Small Specimen template (right click on this link, then **Save Target As**), another Word file, prints out rectangles (use cover or card stock) of the right size for easy cutting. You could use cards for all your specimens and number the card instead of the specimen, which is what we decided to do. This allows each specimen to be positioned for best viewing. You can still remove the card with specimen from the box and even the specimen attached to the card for close viewing.

The general form of the label is as follows:



Name
***MF*:**
***Luster*:**
***Color*:**
***Streak*:**
***Hardiness*: *SG*:**
***Crystals*:**
***Notes*:**

Name

Your collection will probably number fewer than 1000 specimens, so number them 001, 002, 003, ...999. You should paint a white spot on each specimen and number it also with a fine tipped marking pen, or print numbered cards and stick the specimen to the card. The mineral's name, writ large, follows the number on the label.

MF

Molecular formulas tell you what atoms a mineral is composed of, and helps you see relationships between minerals that may have very different names.

Luster

Luster describes how light reflects from a mineral. To identify a mineral it is important to distinguish between metallic (or submetallic) luster and nonmetallic luster. All transparent or translucent minerals are nonmetallic. Luster can be described using the following terms: vitreous (glassy), greasy (oily), silky, waxy, dull, resinous, earthy, pearly, opalescent, adamantine, metallic, or submetallic.

Color

Color is due to how light is absorbed (you see the colors not absorbed), and can be a useful property for identifying a mineral, but it can be misleading (quartz, usually white, can be black).

Streak

The color of a mineral's powder is more uniform than its surface color, so the color of its streak is important in identifying a mineral. While a ceramic streak plate is nice to have, you can get by without one by crushing a small sample into powder (hit it with a hammer against a metal block or another hammer), then rubbing the powder on a piece of white paper.

Hardness

Hardness is another important property used to identify minerals. Hardness means resistance to scratching. In the field you will just need your fingernail (hardness 2.2), a pre-1982 copper penny (hardness 3.5), your geological hammer (hardness 5.1) or a pocketknife (hardness 5.2), and a piece of quartz (hardness 7.0). A piece of window glass (hardness 5.5) is also useful. An old

penny is needed because new ones are copper plated zinc. When testing the hardness of a rock, use the rock to try to scratch the hammer, knife, or glass and not the other way around.

SG

Specific Gravity (SG) is a measure of a rock's or mineral's density compared to the density of water (1.0), so a rock with a SG of less than 1.0 would float on water (like pumice). To calculate SG yourself, weigh a sample in air, hang it from a thread, submerge in water, and weigh again. Subtract the weight in water from the weight in air, and then divide that number into the weight in air. To make your own mass balance scale from coat hangers, click here.

Crystals

"Crystals" is short for crystal system. Minerals fall into families of crystal types: cubic, hexagonal, trigonal, triclinic, monoclinic, tetragonal, orthorhombic, and amorphous (glass-like having no crystal form). If you can see crystals and can identify the crystal type, identifying the mineral will be easier.

Notes

Here you can mention where a specimen was found, when, or how it was acquired. You can say something about its cleavage if it has any (poor, fair, good, perfect, distinct or indistinct), or its fracture (conchoidal, fibrous, splintery, brittle, hackly, uneven/rough, flexible). You might note if it is translucent. You could also note if the specimen is a variety of another, such as chalcedony being a variety of quartz.

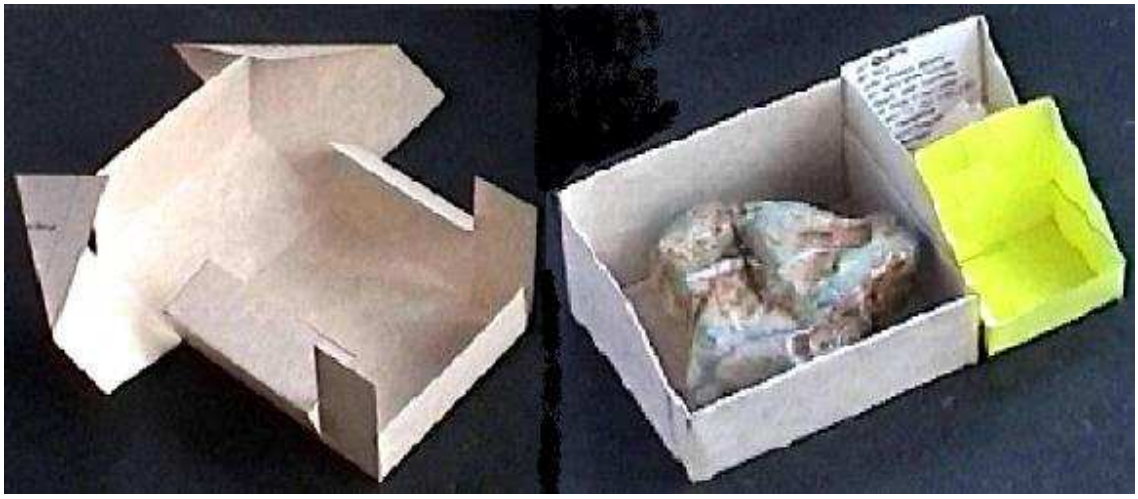
Rocks

For rocks, use the Rock Label template (right click on this link, then **Save Target As**) in Word format. After number and name, you will just note the type of rock: igneous (pyroclastic), sedimentary (diagenetic), metamorphic (migmatitic), fossil, meteorite, fulgurite, or pseudo-rock, and its SG if you determine it. Hardness can also be estimated using fingernail, penny, knife, and quartz. You should also note what minerals the rock is composed of. You can also note where the specimen was found, what it may be used for, and such things as whether the grains interlock, or whether the rock is foliated, fragmental or layered.

Bigger Boxes

For larger specimens, print Big Rock boxes (right click on this link, then **Save Target As**), which are two times larger by area, 3x1.25 inches, but of the same height. Cut, fold, and glue pretty much as above.

For bigger specimens print Bigger Rock boxes (right click on this link, then **Save Target As**), which are four times larger by area, 3x2.5 inches, but of the same height can be made. Card stock makes for stiffer boxes, but cover stock works well. Cut, fold, and glue as above. Below is one such box.



For yet bigger specimens print Biggest Rock boxes (right click on this link, then **Save Target As**), which are six times larger by area, 4.5x2.5 inches. Print in landscape mode and set top and bottom margins to 0.4 inches. Cut, fold, and glue as above.

For labels for these bigger boxes, use this Word file-- Big Box Labels (right click on this link, then **Save Target As**), as a template.

Since the bigger boxes are multiples of the small boxes in size, they will co-exist nicely in the same case. We found some cardboard boxes, white, about 15x12 inches and 2 inches high at an office supply store (Staples). With some minor alterations, these can be used to store your collection, at least until you can make a glass case for them.

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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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