

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club Monthly Meeting, May, 2014



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Saturday, May 10, at 9:00AM

Lake George Community Center

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

After a short business meeting, we will assemble to visit the Club claim at Wigwam Creek. Details can be found on the Club website and in an e-mail sent to all members on May 1. Remember:

Dues MUST be in good current status to receive the Newsletter & attend Club field trips.

Coming Events

- Colorado Mineralogical Society Annual Auction, Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 920 Kipling St., Lakewood; info at rsnelson@gmail.com. ... May 3
- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society, Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida. ... May 8
- Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, Silent Auction, Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood. ... May 10
- "Bats in south-central Colorado" by Amy Englert, Canon City Geology Club monthly meeting, 6PM, First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9th & Main Sts., Canon City ... May 12
- Pueblo Rockhounds, Monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. ... May 15
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs. ... May 15
- Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show, Western Museum of Mining & Industry; ... 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
- Contin-Tail Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds (free) ... Aug. 7-10
- Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, in the field next to the Lake George Post Office. ---SAVE THE DATE--- ... Aug. 15-17

Club News

Welcome New Member:
Jennifer Gerring (Cotopaxi)

▶▶ **Ron Yamiolkoski** sent the following link about a new mineral, recently described in *Mineralogical Magazine*:



http://www.salon.com/2014/04/26/the_worlds_newest_mineral_is_unlike_anything_weve_ever_seen_bef ore_partner/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow

▶▶ **Norma Engelberg** sent the following reminder about the Club Library:

To all members: The Lake George Gem & Mineral Club has been building its library for several years. It is an underutilized resource that includes books, magazines and CDs on a variety of subjects, everything from wire-wrapping and jewelry making to plate tectonics and Colorado geology. Please check out the library list on our website. If you are interested in checking out an item for a month at a time, email Norma Engelberg at njengel60@gmail.com before the next meeting. I will bring the item to the meeting and keep track of who has it. Keep the item until the following meeting or email me to recheck it for another month.

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

May 10: Wigwam Creek (Club's Patience claim; **Todd Mattson**; **John Rakowski**);

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

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

Information for each of these will be on the Club's website: www.lggmclub.org.

A preliminary (NO PROMISES) list also includes the following:

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

▶▶ Here's some information about an upcoming Chautauqua at the Pikes Peak Historical Society, featuring LGGMC member **Rich Fretterd**:

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

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

The Pikes Peak Historical Society invites you to learn more of this Rock Star's fascinating life story when they host Rich Fretterd on **Sunday, May 11**, for their monthly Chautauqua (free program), **at 2:00 pm at the Florissant Library**. The Library is located adjacent to the Florissant Community Park on 334 Circle Drive in Florissant. Fretterd's program is presented as a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. Admission is free, and refreshments are served. Seating is limited. For more information, call 719-748-3562.

▶▶ Here's some late-breaking information from **Beth Simmons**:

Congratulations to members of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club for awards they won in the 2014 RMFMS Bulletin editors' contest. Although I cannot reveal the placings I can tell you that the following members will receive ribbons or trophies at the Editors' Breakfast in Tulsa in July:

Steve Veatch and **Betty Cain** for their Poetry Chapbook and Steve for his art work on the covers of the book; **Dan Alfrey** for his show flier; **Ceinna Higginbotham** for her art piece of Victor, City of Mines; **Bob Carnein** for his photo article "Quixote Quartz" and his article about "The Rediscovery of a Legendary Topaz Occurrence in El Paso County," **Frank Rosenberg's** "Ace in the Hole Field Trip" photo report, and **Richard Kawamoto's** photo report of the "Topaz Mountain Trip." Junior poets **Caleb Bickell** (A meteor and the sun), **Nathan Gallup** (Celestine), **Jerrod Gallup** (Selenite), and **Ciena Higginbotham** (Victor, CO, the City of Mines) all will receive awards. **Andy Weinzapfel's** "Pioneer Collectors" articles placed in the adult advanced article category. **Bob Carnein's** adult advanced article, "World's Newest Birthstone," was shipped immediately to the AFMS for judging because of his previous win at the RMFMS level.

Thanks to **Betty Cain**, who has agreed to attend the Editors' Meeting to accept the awards.

▶▶ The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument has two "Night Sky Watching" events scheduled for May 23 and June 21. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:30 on each night. Telescopes will be provided! Call 748-3253, ext. 202 for information.

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

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

We **need for a Volunteer** to *either* become the new Chair *or* be the Leader of a Show *Committee*. There are excellent printed guidelines w/ logistic contacts & dates already in place! These were established by John Rakowski & Rebecca Blair. Dan & Jennifer Alfrey have updated the Vender/Dealer electronic database. The club has permission to hold the 2014 Annual Show in the same beautiful location in Lake George. We have many repeat dealers & several new ones with interest in our fun event! We also have had great participation from the membership is assisting while the Show is 'on' and getting better every year!!

- Rebecca Blair has agreed to assist & Char DeVries will coordinate the actual ShowTime Volunteer sign-up Sheet. * Submit your name to help out !

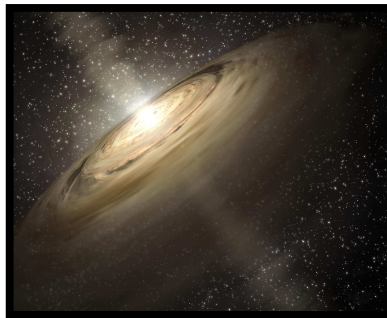
Ideally, the new volunteer should become involved *as soon as possible* in order to smooth the transition on tasks. Keep in mind, by the Show's end, a good portion of the next year's event is set in place. Give back. **Your club needs You**. Contact an Officer today!

▶▶ **Steve Veatch** sent the following haiku by a Pikes Peak Pebble Pup:

The Space Haiku

By Caden Rothzeid

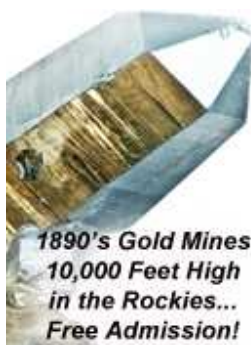
Learning about space
Is amazing and is cool
Home: The Milky Way



Poet's bio: Caden Rothzeid is an 8 year-old, 3rd grader from Explorer Elementary school. He loves robotics, earth sciences, building with Legos, and being active in Boy Scouts. Caden just won 1st place in the Bears Cub Scout Den in the 2014 Pinewood Derby race. He enjoys helping his dad take apart computers, playing video games on his iPod, especially MineCraft, and he love setting up traps and alarms with his Spy Gear. He is also enjoyed Chess Club and Student Council at school this year.



▶▶



▶▶ At the October meeting, the following officers and committee chairs were elected for 2014:

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

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

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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: Dan Alfrey (AlfreyDan@aol.com)
Pebble Pups Coordinator: **Steve Veatch** (steven.veatch@gmail.com)

Earth-Science Scholars/Pebble Pups Corner

Here's this year's remaining Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars class/activity:

May: Orienteering (**Dan Alfrey**). All members are Welcome!

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



Here's an essential article about our area that appeared in the May *Tips and Chips*, used with permission of **Beth Simmons**.

WHEN AND WHO DISCOVERED THE FIRST AMAZONITE ON PIKES PEAK?

From: *An Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains Performed in the Years 1819-1820* by Edwin James, Document No. AJ-144B; published in 1823 by Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orman and Brown, London; www.americanjourneys.org

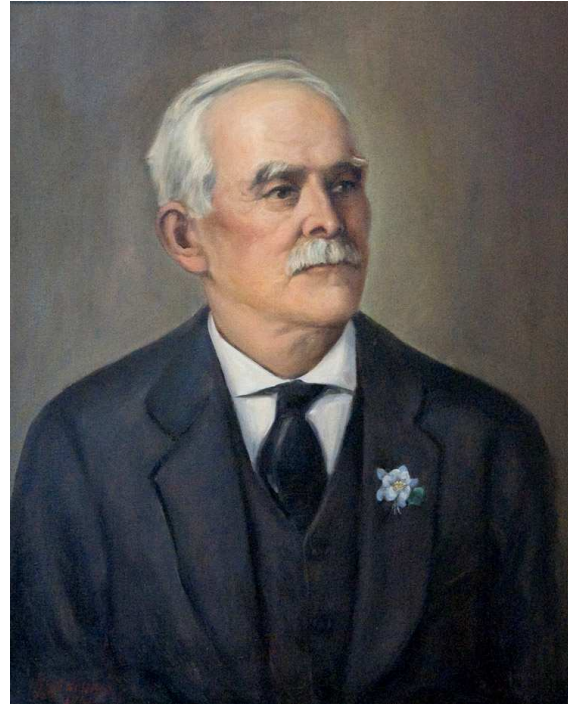
Did J. Alden Smith, the first territorial geologist who reported amazonite in his many early Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

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reports (1860s) of the minerals of Colorado (recently republished by local mineral historian Mark Jacobsen) make the first mention of amazonite? Or was it Arthur Lakes, who not only described it, but drew it in numerous publications (1880s)? No, it was MUCH earlier than that!



(www.dailycamera.com)



Arthur Lakes (www.sciencebuzz.org)

In 1820, the American government sent Major Stephen Long on an expedition to explore the territory east of the “Snowy Range.” His group came from the east along the Platte River and along the base of the mountains, where botanist Edwin James described the first sign of mountain minerals far out in the plains near the forks of the Platte River.



Edwin James (1797-1861) (www.csupomona.edu)

“The valley of the Platte, above the forks, is much narrower, and a little more irregular in direction than below, and is frequently interrupted by small hills running in towards the river. On ascending these hills, we found them of a coarse sand, and containing more gravel

and small pebbles than below. Among the gravel stones, small fragments of flesh-coloured feldspar are distinguished. About the summits of the hills we saw some detached pieces of fine carnelian, with agates and chalcedony... Near the forks of the Platte, we first observed that the waters of that river bring down, among other matters, numerous small scales of mica. The fragments of unmixed and crystalline feldspar, which now began to be of frequent occurrence, were considered as the first convincing evidence of the primitive character of the Rocky Mountains.... These fragments of feldspar, we believed, could have been derived from no other than primitive rocks." (p. 154-155)

So that is the first report of AGATES, MICROCLINE, CARNELIAN, and CHALCEDONY from Colorado, made June 21, 1820. Later, James described the rock layers along Indian Creek, west of "Defile Creek, which has its course in a narrow defile." "Defile Creek" was apparently our Plum Creek.

"Our camp was immediately in front of the chasm through which the Platte issues from the mountains(from which annexed view was taken)." [painting at end of article] "The valley which intervenes between this huge parapet of sand-rock and the first range of the primitive is nearly a mile in width; it is ornamented with numerous insulated columnar rocks, sometimes of a snowy whiteness, standing like pyramids and obelisks, interspersed among mounds and hillocks, which seem to have resulted from the disintegration of similar masses. This range of sandstone would appear to have been originally of uniform elevation and uninterrupted continuity, running along the base of the mountains from north to south; but it has been cut through by the bed of the Platte, and all the larger streams in their descent to the plains.

"From our camp, we had expected to be able to ascend the most distant summits in sight, and return the same evening; but night overtook us, and we found ourselves scarcely arrived at the base of the mountain. The lower part of the sandstone stratum, being exposed at the western declivities of the hills, and in the parts nearest the granite, contains extensive beds of coarse conglomeratic, or pudding-stone, often of a reddish color. The more compact parts of the rock contain the remains of terebratulæ, and other submarine animals. Among these, few are entire or in good preservation." (p. 189)

Then, apparently following up a stream west of their camp now called Indian Creek to what is now Roxborough Park, James described the strata they passed through.

"As they travelled along the bed of this [stream], they found the several rock formations beautifully exposed, and in the following order: Commencing from the alluvial of the plain on the east, they saw:

First, Horizontal sandstone, embracing extensive beds of coarse conglomeratic, and commonly of a light gray or reddish yellow color.

Second, Fine compact gray sandstone, containing a few impressions of organized remains, resembling those in the sandstones of coal formations. This rock is inclined at an angle of near twenty degrees towards the west. It forms continuous ranges of hills, not difficult of ascent from the east, but their western declivities are abrupt and precipitous.

Third, Lofty and detached columns of sandstone, of a reddish or deep brown colour. These are irregularly scattered throughout a narrow untimbered valley. Some of them rise probably three hundred feet above the common level of the plain, and are so steep on all sides as to preclude the possibility of ascent. Others are accessible at some points, and one of these we ascended.

Fourth, Coarse white pudding-stone or conglomeratic and sandstone, of a deep red colour, alternating with each other, and with beds of fine white sandstone, and resting against the granite in a highly inclined position. This rock contains well preserved remains of terebratulæ, productus, and other bivalve shells. These are usually found on or near the surface of large nodules of a fine flinty stone, closely resembling petrosilex. The same rock also contains an extensive bed of iron ore; and from its eastern side flows a copious brine spring.

"About this spring, which had evidently been much frequented by animals, we saw the skulls of the male and female big horn, the bones of elk, bisons, and other animals.

"The granite, which succeeds the sandstone last mentioned, is of a dark reddish brown colour, containing a large proportion of feldspar, of the flesh-coloured variety, and black mica. The crystalline grains, or fragments of the feldspar, are large, and detached easily, so that the rock is in a state of rapid disintegration. This granite rises abruptly in immense mountain masses, and undoubtedly extends far to the west." (p. 200-204)

The spring could very well have been Lamb Spring, a now famous paleontological site just east of Roxborough Park. Then the intrepid explorers followed Plum Creek south to Castle Rock, the famed landmark, which they climbed to see what they could see. Artist Samuel Seymour made the first sketch of Castle Rock known.

"The summit of this hill is of an oval form, about eight hundred yards in length and five hundred in breadth. Its surface is undulating, and is terminated on all sides by perpendicular precipices. The elevation of the hill is about one thousand feet, and the height of the perpendicular precipices, from the summit of the debris to the top of hill, about fifty. Horizontal strata of sandstone and coarse conglomerate are exposed on its sides, and the summit is capped by thin stratum of compact sandstone, surmounted by a bed of greenstone trap, or trappea porphyry. The loose and splintery fragments of this rock sometimes cover the surface, making a clinking noise under the feet, like fragments of pottery." (p. 200)

So thus was made the first description of the CASTLE ROCK RHYOLITE or Wall Mountain Tuff, as geologists call it today.

So—are we there yet? After traipsing south over Monument Hill and along the Front Range, the crew's guide, a French trapper named Bijeau, who had been captured by the Spanish at this very spot, overshot their destination which was the "Boiling Spring," what we now call Manitou Springs. The group returned north and made a camp along the Fountain de Quille. Then Dr. James and four men headed upstream, first to the "boiling spring" where the horse tenders camped, then three of the men started up the mountain on foot.

"The sandstone extends westward from the springs, about three hundred yards, rising rapidly upon the base of the mountain; it is of a deep red colour, for the most part compact and fine, but sometimes embracing angular fragments of petrosilex and other siliceous stones, with a few organic impressions. The granite which succeeds to this is coarse, and of a deep red colour; some loose fragments of gneiss were seen lying about the surface, but none in place. The granite at the base of the mountain contains a large proportion of feldspar, of the rose-coloured variety, in imperfect cubic crystals. The mass appears to be rapidly disintegrating, under the operation of frost and other causes, crumbling into small mass of half an ounce weight, or less."

The three continued to climb, along steep precipices covered with loose gravel, camping on the side of the mountain with a pole placed between two trees so they didn't roll down the hill. On the 14th of July, they started on their last haul up the mountain. Dr. James noticed a change in the granite just below treeline, where the granite was a "compact, fine-grained aggregate of quartz, feldspar, and hornblende; the latter in small proportion and sometimes wholly wanting" and "no mica." At 4 o'clock, two of the crew arrived on the summit, where, because of the cold they only stayed half an hour, but long enough to do a little rockhounding.

"It is a compact, indestructible aggregate of quartz and feldspar, with a little hornblende, in very small particles. Its fracture is fine, granular, or even; and the rock exhibits a tendency

to divide when broken into long, somewhat splintery fragments. It is of a yellowish brown colour, which does not perceptibly change by long exposure to the air. It is undoubtedly owing to the close texture and the impenetrable firmness of this rock that so few lichens are found upon it. For the same reason it is little subject to disintegration by the action of frost. It is not improbable that the splintery fragments, which occur in such quantities on all the higher parts of the peak, may owe their present form to the agency of lightning. No other cause seems adequate to the production of so great an effect."

"NEAR THE SUMMIT SOME LARGE DETACHED CRYSTALS OF FELSPAR, OF A PEA-GREEN COLOUR, WERE COLLECTED; ALSO LARGE FRAGMENTS OF TRANSPARENT, WHITE AND SMOKY QUARTZ, AND AN AGGREGATE OF OPAQUE WHITE QUARTZ, WITH CRYSTALS OF HORNBLende." (p. 221, 222)

Thus were the first amazonite and smoky quartz crystals ever collected from Pikes Peak described! On July 14th, 1820.



**The FIRST painting of a site along the Front Range!
"View of the Canyon through which the Platte River flows from the Rocky Mountains"
By Samuel Seymour, 1823; frontispiece to the James report**

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:

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