

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

# Club News

May, 2022



**We are pleased to announce the May meeting of the LGGM Club, which will be held at 9:00AM May 14 in the gym of the Lake George Charter School. The school is located about ½ mile east of Lake George, just south of US 24 (watch for the sign).**

## **Rockhounding 101 by John Rakowski**

John is a retired professional geologist with a career as a petroleum exploration and development geologist. He started his own company in 1984 providing consulting services in exploration, development and acquisitions of oil and gas properties. He has been an active mineral/fossil collector for more than 60 years with experience in the Lake George area since the early 1960's. In addition to being a long term member and having served as an officer of the LGGMC for many years, John is the President of the Pikes Peak Historical Society with the museum in Florissant.

**Some of you have heard an abbreviated form of this presentation before your field trip to the LGGM Club mining claim at Wigwam Creek. This much more complete version will be an excellent introduction for new members who are just beginning rock collecting. It is also a good reminder for more experienced club members. And John's field collecting notes below may be helpful as well.**

### **Field Collecting Notes John Rakowski 4/2022**

These notes have been printed in a past newsletter but should be useful to assist new members and serve as a reminder for the older members. I encourage our more experienced members to bring extra tools when possible to help supplement tools available to our newer members on field trips.

**General:** Be sure you will be going to unclaimed public land or if not, that you have permission. If you're on a Club Field Trip pay attention to descriptions of the areas where collecting is allowed and any safety information for that site that is provided. It's safest and more fun to be prospecting or collecting with at least one other person. Make sure you tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be home. Use a map or GPS to keep track of where you're going and where you found specimens. Keep good notes of where your specimens were found and place copies in boxes with the specimens. **Stay away from mine openings** unless you're with specially trained and equipped people.

**Safety and comfort:** Make careful mental note of landmarks and surroundings so you can find your way back. Remember to bring the following: • Safety glasses (polycarbonate) or safety goggles to protect your eyes, • A comfortable back pack or 5-gallon size bucket to carry everything. • Sturdy and safe hiking or work boots for the occasion; prefer steel toes if there are lots of loose big rocks such as Mt. Antero • Sunscreen, insect spray, toilet paper (TP can be good wrapping for delicate specimens) • Plenty of water, and food if you'll be gone most of the day • Gloves -- quartz and other material can slice and dice your fingers quickly! • Light raincoat (BUT beware of lightning storms!) • Knee pads • Safety orange color vest during hunting season or in coyote hunting areas • Emergency blanket, Whistle, small first aid set with band aids and antibiotic ointment.

**Initialdigging and search tools:** • Picks, small or medium. Estwing PaleoPick is a good general tool. • Shovels, small folding or large short handled • Brush or whisk broom, magnifier and folding saw **For the initial reconnaissance**, just take the Safety/Comfort items, small pick, folding GI shovel, and brush. You can explore more area this way, and when you find a zone of interest, you can go back for more tools and packing materials.

**Pocket or specimen recovery:** • Big pick and big shovel and big pry bar to clear the area around a pocket or zone of interest and to knock down and muck out dangerous overhangs. • Quarter-inch hardware cloth mesh screen for some areas like topaz sites • Small pick and small pry bars • 3 pound sledgehammer and cold chisels of various sizes (avoid mushroomed chisels) • Small shovel, trowel, hoe, brushes • Screwdrivers straight or bent, Bamboo skewer sticks and dental picks • Egg cartons, newspaper, toilet paper, boxes, bags, Soda pop flats to protect your finds

**Additional considerations:** • Marking your small tools with bright colored paint will make them easier to keep track of. • When you find your "goodies" dig around them (not right on the edge of the specimen) to make it easier to recover unbroken specimens. • Don't dig extended undercut areas – break and muck out overhangs (cover pocket with protective cloth or newspaper which will also alert you when you're digging out that you're at your pocket). • Wrap specimens carefully-they will chip or break if not wrapped and protected. • If you find a pocket, save all pieces, take them home, and clean everything since many times specimens can be repaired. After cleaning, work on your 3-D puzzle. Not everybody will have all the tools described above but they're part of a suggested list. The most important items are the Safety/Comfort items and the material for protecting your finds.

**Note: April through October meetings start at 9AM.**

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

- **Election of officers** has been postponed. Please contact one of the current officers (listed at the end of this newsletter) if you would consider running for a 2023 office.
- **Here's a May Events list from Pete Modreski:**
  - **May 7, Noon to 4:30, Colorado Mineral Society's Verbal and Silent Cash-Only Auction.** Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 7539 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wheat Ridge. Info at [www.coloradomineralsociety.org](http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org)
- **Carol Kinate sent this info about the 2022 LGGMC Mineral & Gem Show:**  
**SAVE THE DATE – August 19-21, 2022 (LGGMC Annual Show)**

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

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

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

~ Postcards advertising our show available for distribution.

~ Flyers from Rock & Gem Magazine available for distribution.

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

Carol Kinate, Show Chair

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

719-648-9015 (call/text)

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

. The joint trip to Utah was a huge success. We had 5 clubs participate: Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, Canon City Geology Club, Mile Hi Rock And Mineral Society, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and Littleton Gem & Mineral Club. We experienced some spring weather, but that didn't stop the fun. At the Topaz Mountain Adventures claim they did the biggest blast they've ever done and everyone found some beautiful topaz. Those who ventured to the public areas also did well. We all found a variety of 550-million-year-old trilobites at the U-Dig Fossils quarry, even with an inch of snow on the ground! Several folks ventured out and collected Apache tears and mahogany and snowflake obsidian. We finally had a great dig where everyone found geodes at Dugway Geode Beds. It was a fun time!

We have many trips that are forthcoming and several others that are still taking shape. It's going to be a great field-trip season. Upcoming highlights include: Badger Flats (magnetite & fluorite), Aroya Gulch (garnets) - a week day and weekend day (per request), the popular Field Collecting 101 presentation on 5/14, followed up with actual field collecting 101 at our club claims on 5/15. All of these have space available.

I am working to get the Smoky Hawk and Dorris Topaz Mountain mine trips solidified very soon. The October Book Cliffs trip will likely be 1 day with a second day for agates in that general area. More to come soon.

**We do need some field trip leaders**, take a look at what is out there and let us know if you want to volunteer in this way.

**I am looking for lapidary folks** who can present their craft at the July 30th Rough to Gem event at the Florissant Museum. I have a volunteer for flat lap (will bring theirs and be able to show specimens, and potentially demo how to) and a couple volunteers for our saws so far. I would love to have polishing with discs, faceting, wire wrapping, tumbling or any other craft. Contact Dave Alexander [dave@davealex.com](mailto:dave@davealex.com).

I will be opening up the following month's events at each general meeting; this is the best way to guarantee getting on a field trip (and you can see amazing presentations). For those who can't attend the meetings, we will open up those trips on the website the following day. We will start sending out

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emails for trips when they are available on the website to register as soon as the website is fixed which should be soon. Check back often!

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

Thanks!  
--dave

- Thanks to **Frank Rosenberg**, who sent this report and photos from the April meeting:

Sat, April 9, LGGMC held the club's general monthly meeting in which Trip Chairperson, Dave Alexander, gave a preview of this year's ambitious field-trip schedule, including over 20 field trips. After the short business meeting, our own Dr Bob Carnein gave an excellent program on "SUCCESSFUL MINERAL IDENTIFICATION".



Group photo in the Lake George Charter School gym



Richard, Cathy, and John listening intently



Dave Alexander talking about field trips



Bob Carnein talking about minerals

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

**Please check the websites to find out current status of club meetings.**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

- 100-meters-tall tsunami traveling that fast, that sounds terrifying and like something that only happens in a disaster movie. People living in mountainous regions from Norway to Nepal should take note of this...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11jNGgQqYyg>

- **Inside the world's largest crystal 'cave'**  
13 APRIL 2022|NATURE

Discovered in 1999 inside an abandoned mine in Southern Spain, Pulpí Geode is the largest crystal 'cave' of its kind in the world. But what exactly is a geode and how do crystals form inside them? See this link:

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/playlist/world-of-wonder?vpid=p0c05x2b>

- New - old story from the Racetrack Playa in Death Valley!

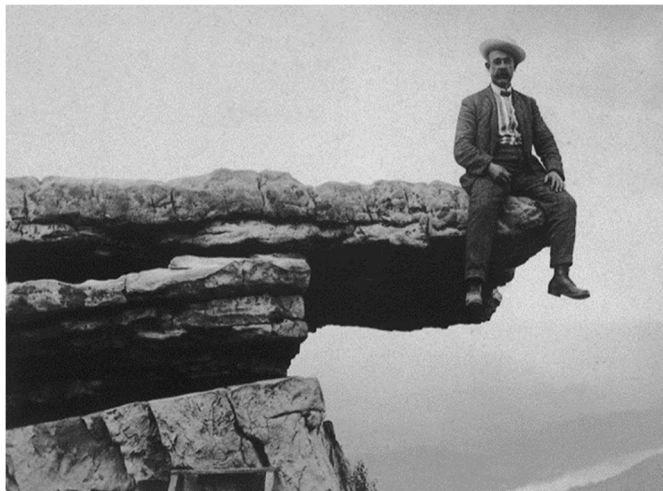
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFFhD5HeByM>

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

- So you think the dinosaurs and birds aren't related?  
[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pterosaurs-may-have-had-brightly-colored-feathers-exquisite-fossil-reveals/?utm\\_source=join1440&utm\\_medium=email#](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pterosaurs-may-have-had-brightly-colored-feathers-exquisite-fossil-reveals/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email#)

- New evidence captures the moment of the K-T extinction!!  
<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2022/4/7/2090611/-Fossils-of-animals-killed-by-the-asteroid-found?detail=emaildkre>

- Here is the latest installment of "**Bench Tips**" by **Brad Smith**: ([www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com))  
Brad didn't send any bench tips this month; we're looking forward to receiving them soon.



## Notes from the Editor

**Bob Carnein**

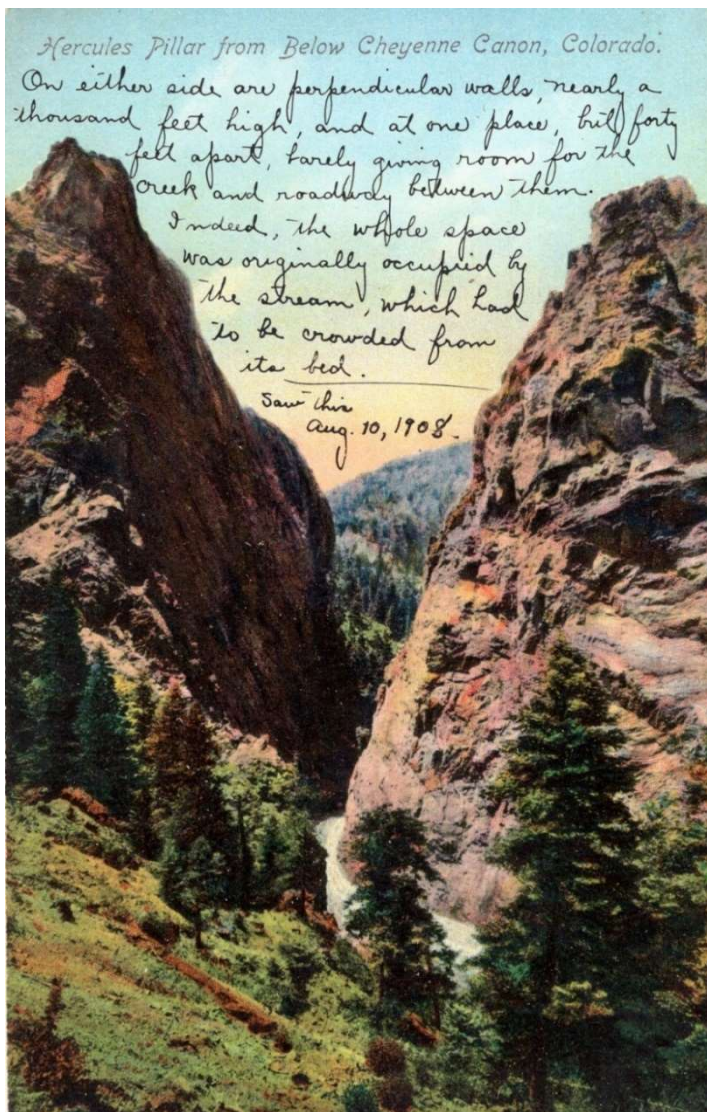
**Newsletter Editor**

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

This month, **Steve Veatch** provided this short article about a postcard in his collection.

## Pillars of Hercules

By Steven Wade Veatch



On August 10, 1908, a visitor to the Pikes Peak region traveled up the dusty, winding road through South Cheyenne Cañon. This road, long hailed as "The Grandest Mile of Scenery" in Colorado, ends at Seven Falls, a tourist attraction since the early 1880s. Fascinated with the sights along the way, he bought a postcard (Figure 1) at the local curio shop to commemorate his tour.

**Figure 1. Postcard showing South Cheyenne Creek flowing between the imposing granite Pillars of Hercules. A visitor to the Colorado Springs area in 1908 wrote a message on the front and back of the postcard. From the S. W. Veatch postcard collection.**

Moved by the striking geology along the road, he began to consider the geologic processes at work. He observed how South Cheyenne Creek relentlessly carved down through the faulted Pikes Peak Granite to create the cañon. He wrote messages on both sides of the postcard to remember how these geologic wonders moved him on that summer's day. On the front of the postcard, he wrote:

*On either side are perpendicular walls, nearly a thousand feet high and at one place, but forty feet apart, barely giving room for the creek and roadway between*

*them. Indeed, the whole space was originally occupied by the stream, which had to be crowded from its bed. Saw this Aug. 9, 1908.*

And then, on the back of the postcard, he typed:

*Before us are two tremendous cliffs "The Pillars of Hercules." They seem to stand squarely across the cañon, completely filling it and demanding a halt. The way seems barred, and the stranger is at a loss to know which way to go, but the brook has found a way and so must we. Here is a most wonderful demonstration of the action of water. For hundreds of feet the cañon at this point has been worn through the solid granite.*

The anonymous visitor did not mail the postcard but kept it with his important papers and keepsakes. That this postcard has lasted all these decades is as remarkable as the magnificent mountain scenery it portrays. The cañon continues to this day to impress visitors.

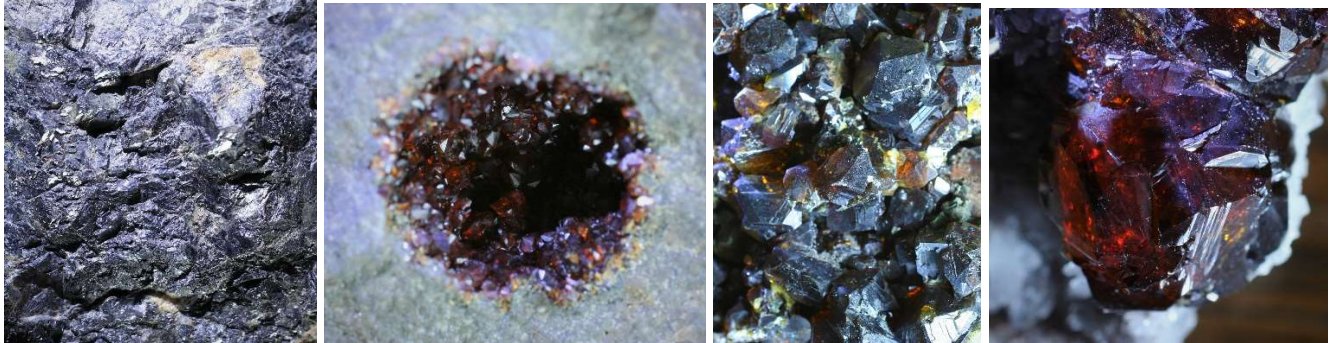
## Monthly Mineral Quiz

**Last Month's Mineral: Vesuvianite complex Ca, Fe, Mg, Al silicate with hydroxyl .**



Sometimes called **idocrase**, vesuvianite is a common constituent of contact-metamorphosed impure carbonates (rocks derived from clay-rich limestone or dolostone) and skarns. Vesuvianite is a sorosilicate—a mineral that falls into the same silicate group as the commoner epidote, with which it commonly occurs (and with which it may be confused)—along with the calcium garnet grossular and the calcium silicate wollastonite. Its color varies widely because of variations in composition. Purple specimens from the Jeffrey mine, in Québec, are especially prized. It's occasionally used as a minor gemstone that resembles peridot and other minerals. Fine crystals come from Eden Mills, VT, Val d'Aosta, Italy, Asbestos, Québec, and other locations. Colorado occasionally produces decent crystals, usually colored greenish brown like the specimen to the right, from the Gold City claims in Park Co.

**May Mineral (Carnein photos and collection)**



This month's mineral is so common that you need to know it (but most collectors have trouble with it at first). There are many Colorado localities. It's an almost ubiquitous ore mineral common in mixed sulfide deposits (Cu, Pb, Zn, Ag). It comes in a variety of colors, depending on how much iron is present (it's colorless when "pure") The name comes from the Greek for "treacherous" because it resembles other minerals. Although sometimes gemmy (as in the specimen to the right, above, from China), it has many cleavage directions (see specimen to the left, above, from Connecticut) and is too soft to be used for any wearable gemstone. The third specimen from the left came from Creede, CO, famous for gemmy "oil green" or "root beer" colored crystals. The second specimen from the left shows this mineral in a cavity in dolostone from a major midwestern occurrence. What is this common ore mineral?

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



**The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club** is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts, and the great outdoors. The Club's informational programs and field trips provide opportunities to learn about Earth science, rocks and minerals, lapidary work and jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The Club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The Club normally meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Community Center, located on the north side of US Highway 24 on the east edge of town, sharing a building with the county highway shops. **In the winter, we meet at 10:00AM. From April through October, we meet at 9:00AM, to allow more time for our field trips.**

Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain, and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We also sponsor an annual Gem and Mineral Show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, or jewelry. Annual membership dues (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31) are \$15.00 for an individual (18 and over), and \$25.00 for a family (parents plus dependents under age 18). New memberships and renewals are only accepted Jan 1 through March 31 each year.

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

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