

# The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

## Club Monthly Meeting, November, 2014



**Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club**  
**Saturday, November 8, at 10:00AM**

**Note: We are now on "winter hours"—meetings start at 10:00**  
**Lake George Community Center**

After a short business meeting:

**Rich Fretterd** will give a presentation about his successful prospecting efforts in the Pikes Peak region. Rich is a self-taught individual with high energy and great powers of observation of detail. That, along with persistence, has allowed him to make excellent discoveries of the huge smoky quartz crystals now in the PPHS Museum in Florissant as well as the pink-tangerine topaz found recently.

Rich is one of the most popular persons on the “**PROSPECTOR**” TV series aired for the last two years on the Weather Channel. With his notable discoveries, he has shown himself to be one of the top prospectors of all time in Colorado. He has a good sense of humor and will have very insightful and fun stories to share with us about his collecting efforts. This is a “Don’t Miss!” program. ***Please see the article in the September, 2013 issue of the Newsletter.***

**Note:** At the November meeting, we will continue the **silent auction**, thanks to donations by **Frank and Ellie Rosenberg** and **Kent Greenes**. We will have more nice collector specimens, including excellent specimens of **fluorescent minerals** from the Sterling mine, Ogdensburg, NJ. Other items will be available at starting bids as low as 25 cents. Please consider donating a few of your duplicates to help the Club, and bring some cash! It's for the Club's benefit.

### Coming Events

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b><u>New Mexico Mineral Symposium</u></b> , New Mexico Tech, Socorro; go to <a href="http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm">http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm</a> for info.   | ... Nov. 8-9   |
| <b><u>Columbine Gem &amp; Mineral Society</u></b> monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> (at J St.), Salida.  | ... Nov. 13    |
| <b><u>Colorado Chapter Friends of Mineralogy</u></b> : "Minerals of Stove Mountain, El Paso Co., Colorado, by Gary Zito; DMNS Big Horn Rm. (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor), go to <a href="http://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org">http://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org</a> for information. | ... Nov. 13    |
| <b><u>2014 Mineral Dealers Gem &amp; Mineral Show</u></b> , Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds Exhibit Bldg., Golden.   | ... Nov. 14-16 |

<b><u>Littleton Gem &amp; Mineral Club Silent Auction</u></b> , noon-4PM, Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave., Littleton.	... Nov. 15
<b><u>Pueblo Rockhounds</u></b> , Monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo.	... Nov. 20
<b><u>Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society</u></b> , Monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs.	... Nov. 20
<b><u>CSM Garage Sale (books, minerals, equipment)</u></b> , CSM Geology Museum, 13 <sup>th</sup> and Maple, Golden.	... Nov. 22
<b><u>Flatirons Gem and Mineral Show</u></b> , Boulder Co. Fairgrounds Exhibit Bldg., 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont.	... Dec. 12-14
<b><u>Lake George Gem &amp; Mineral Club Annual Show</u></b> , in the field next to the Lake George PO. Free admission.	... Aug. 23-24

### Club News

#### **Please Welcome New Members:**

**Mark Jacobson (Denver)**  
**David McMahon (Florissant)**  
**Jeff & Brenda Schloemann (Florissant)**  
**Jim & Kathy West (Wetmore)**

▶▶ **Dan Alfrey** shared this photo from the October meeting:



**Bob Carnein** expostulating to the assembled multitudes about mineral identification.

▶▶ The following LGGMC members received awards at the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies meeting this summer. LGGMC President **Suzanne Core** made the presentations at the October meeting.

- ◆ AFMS Editors Hall of Fame: **Bob Carnein**;
- ◆ Original Adult Articles: Advanced: **Andy Weinzapfel** (3<sup>rd</sup> place);
- ◆ Original Adult Articles: Advanced: **Bob Carnein** (6<sup>th</sup> place);

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- ◆ Written Features: **Bob Carnein** (5<sup>h</sup> place);
- ◆ Drawn Features: **Steven Veatch** (1<sup>st</sup> place);
- ◆ Drawn Features: **Ciena Higginbotham** (3<sup>rd</sup> place);
- ◆ Junior Poetry: **Caleb Bickel** (7<sup>th</sup> place);
- ◆ Special Publications: **Dan Alfrey** Gem Show Flier-LGGMC Show (Honorable Mention)
- ◆ LGGMC Rockhound of the Year: **Bob Carnein**

**Norma Engelberg** sent this photo of **Ciena Higginbotham** receiving her award for Drawn Features (Victor, Colorado: The City of Mines) at the October meeting.



▶▶ Here's a note from President **Suzanne Core** about this winter's programs:

**Note from the President:**

I love our Winter Programs! They are so educational and interesting. In fact, it was the Winter Programs that first attracted me to become a member. Now I've got a few digs under my belt but I'm still such a novice at it. And I still look forward to the off-season's educational presentations.

This year is shaping up to be terrific! **Bob Carnein** gave us a great start, after an Awards Ceremony handing out the many awards to Club members and Pebble Pups from the national convention this summer. **John Rakowski** will "bring up the rear". In between is quite a variety of other experts and interests. Please join us the second Saturday of each month. (Check, if there is a blizzard!)

Here is our schedule so far:

Oct: Awards ceremony and Bob C. presentation

Nov. **Rich Fretterd** presentation

Dec: Potluck and towel show (and election of officers)

Jan. New Hope presentation -- **Jennifer Gerring**.

Feb. Do it yourself fluorescent lamp -- **Steve Woje**

Mar. Tentative: *Flint napping demo*

April. What to look for in field and cleaning our finds. -- **John Rakowski**.

May: Possibly first field trip 2015 or Video if weather is too cold.

▶▶ **Pete Modreski** sent some information about upcoming talks at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science:

November 17th, 3 pm, VIP Room, "**Reconstructing Ancient Colorados with geologically accurate animations**", James Adson, Joseph Rogers, Eric Lobato, Paul Weimer (UC-Boulder).

See <http://igp.colorado.edu/>

December 17th, 3 pm, VIP Room, "On the trail of Colorado's newest, oldest sedimentary rock formation: **Eluded at every turn by the Tava sandstone**", Christine Siddoway (Colorado College). <http://sites.coloradocollege.edu/csiddoway/>

"The presentations will be approximately 45-50 minutes in length with 20 minutes for Q&A. They will all take place in the VIP room next to the T-rex cafeteria starting at 3 pm. The websites for each of our fall speakers are given above. You can visit them to learn a little more about each of our presenters. I hope you have the chance to join us!"

▶▶ The last topic of the DMNS Colloquium Series is of local interest. **Jennifer Gerring** sent this link to a really cool article about the "mystery (Tava) sandstone" in the Ute Pass fault zone. This was the subject of a field trip led by **Bob Carnein** and **Steve Veatch** a couple of years ago: <http://www.geologypage.com/2014/09/strange-formation-on-colorado-rockies.html#.VCIYs44H7ZM.mailto>

▶▶ A new book, hot off the presses, and available in limited quantity: John Ghist and Beth Simmons, "Arthur Lakes' Dinosaur Quarries: A Pictorial Guide," summarizes in photographs the history of the dinosaur quarries in Morrison.

▶▶ Next year's Lake George Gem & Mineral Show will be held **August 20-23**. Keep those dates open!

▶▶ We have an almost complete slate of nominees for next year's officers and committee chairs:

President: **John Rakowski**  
Treasurer: **Suzanne Core**  
Vice President: **Char DeVries**  
Secretary: **Norma Engelberg**  
Newsletter Editor: **Bob Carnein**  
Field Trip Coordinator: **Todd Mattson**  
Webmaster: **Dan Alfrey**  
Show Coordinator: **Becky Blair**  
Memberships/Badges: **Jerolynn Kawamoto**  
Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars: **Steven Veatch**

If you know anyone else who would like to serve in a leadership position, please encourage them to throw their names in the hat. We will vote on new officers at the December meeting.

▶▶ In case you haven't bought your LGGMC tee-shirt or hat yet, they're selling like hot cakes. The tee-shirt company did a great job modifying the late **Mary O'Donnell's** logo design, and you can still get them at our cost.

▶▶ A couple of years ago, **Bob Carnein** offered to host a course in basic crystallography for Club members and other area mineral enthusiasts. There was not enough interest at that time, but he has agreed to try it again. This is a serious course—it will meet for 10 2-hour sessions and will cover everything you need to know to make crystallography a part of your mineral ID "toolkit". Please contact Bob at [ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com) or 719-687-2739 for more information.

▶▶ Lake George Gem & Mineral Club officers and committee chairs for 2014:

President: **Suz Core** ([sucz@peakinet.net](mailto:sucz@peakinet.net))  
Vice President: **Jo Beckwith** ([shawneewolf@hotmail.com](mailto:shawneewolf@hotmail.com))  
Treasurer: **Wayne Johnston** ([wjohnston719@q.com](mailto:wjohnston719@q.com))  
Secretary: **Norma Engelberg** ([njengel60@gmail.com](mailto:njengel60@gmail.com))

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Newsletter Editor: **Bob Carnein** (ccarnein@gmail.com)  
Membership/Badges: **Jerolynn Kawamoto** (Jerrolynn@wildblue.net)  
Field-Trip Coordinator: **Todd Mattson** (busman842@q.com)  
Webmaster and August Show Chair: **Dan Alfrey** ([AlfreyDan@aol.com](mailto:AlfreyDan@aol.com))  
Pebble Pups Coordinator: **Steve Veatch** (sgeoveatch@att.net)

## ***Earth-Science Scholars/Pebble Pups Corner***

Here's a short article by a Pikes Peak Earth-Science Scholar, **Steven Marquez:**

### **Guide to Minerals: Copper**

*By Steven Marquez*

#### **Facts on File:**

**Color:** Copper-red; tarnishes to black, blue, green

**Transparency:** opaque

**Luster:** metallic, shiny

**Streak:** rose

**Hardness:** 2 ½ - 3

**Specific gravity:** 8.9

**Fracture:** Hackly (jagged, torn surfaces)

**Cleavage:** None

**Crystal system:** Isometric

**Notes:** Copper is used in many ways that help us live. Since copper is an excellent conductor of heat and electricity, it is used for electrical wiring; consumer and industrial electronics; in plumbing; and in cooking utensils. Copper is also used in buildings, submarines, missiles, radar, cell phones, and jet planes.

Copper occurs in mineral deposits large enough to mine (ores). These include: antlerite, azurite, bornite, chalcocite, and malachite. Most copper is produced from chalcopyrite.



This native copper specimen was found in northern Michigan. A Steven Marquez specimen. Photo © by Steven Marquez.

#### **Haiku:**

*Shiny copper red  
A very unique color  
Shining in the sun*

#### **About the author:**

Steven Marquez is an Earth Science Scholar with the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. He is a volunteer in the mineral section of the Cripple Creek District Museum. Steven enjoys studying minerals and field work. He is in 8th grade.



**For further reading:**

Brady, George S., Henry R. Clausen, and John A. Vaccari. *Materials Handbook*. McGraw-Hill, 1997.

Chesterman, Charles, *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1990.

Heiserman, David L. *Exploring Chemical Elements and Their Compounds*. TAB Books, 1992.

Hombostel, Caleb. *Construction Materials*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1991.

Kroschwitz, Jacqueline I. and Mary Howe-Grant, ed. *Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1993.

Stwertka, Albert. *A Guide to the Elements*. Oxford University Press, 1996.

Earth-Science Scholars and Pebble Pups meet **from September through May** on the **third Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, in Florissant**. Be sure you check regularly at [www.LGGMClub.org](http://www.LGGMClub.org) for details and updates, or contact **Steve Veatch** at [steven.veatch@gmail.com](mailto:steven.veatch@gmail.com).

Here's a preliminary schedule for this year's Pebble Pups/Earth-Science Scholars program:

**Nov.:** Crystals (**Betty Merchant**)

**Dec.:** A Bad Day for Dinosaurs (**Steve Veatch**)

**Jan.:** Your Planet Earth: Volcanoes.

Field trip: Denver Museum of Nature & Science (**Dr. Ian Miller**).

**Feb.:** Family Geology Day.

Giants of the Ice Age.

**March:** Exploring Caves: How Caves are Formed (**Blake Reher**).

Field trip: Cave of the Winds (**Steve Veatch**)

**April:** National Poetry Month.

**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



Your editor recently had the opportunity to do some consulting work at an old, famous Colorado mineral deposit in Gunnison County. Here's a short report on this fascinating locality.

### The Vulcan/Mammoth Chimney/Good Hope Mines of the Gunnison Gold Belt by Bob Carnein

Although Colorado mines are well known sources of splendid specimens of telluride minerals (think Cripple Creek), none of those deposits rival three small, rather obscure gold mines near Gunnison for new mineral occurrences. The Vulcan and Good Hope mines are responsible for the first finds of 4 rare tellurides and a sulfate, as well as producing a variety of other rare minerals. Unfortunately, specimens from these finds are very hard to come by.

From its discovery in 1894, the deposit that includes the interconnected Vulcan, Mammoth Chimney, and Good Hope mines supported a short-lived but thriving community that included some 200 miners during the boom years through 1902. Activity centered on the town of Camp Creek, renamed Vulcan in 1897. Bonanza ore mined at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century averaged as much as 9.2 opt (ounces per ton) gold and 21.9 opt silver. Although production declined quickly, one thousand feet of vertical workings led to 1800 feet of drifts and cross cuts as of 1930 (most of it by then inaccessible). All that remained was the Good Hope, the Vulcan and Mammoth Chimney having succumbed to fires caused by burning sulfur in the early 1900s. Production totaled only 20,000 to 25,000 ounces of gold and an unknown amount of silver. Core drilling, mainly in the 1970s, failed to locate significant new ore, but the mine dumps were partially heap leached sometime in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

The five minerals first found in the Vulcan district are: **rickardite**,  $\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Te}_2$ , **weissite**,  $\text{Cu}_{2-x}\text{Te}$ , **cameronite**,  $\text{AgCu}_7\text{Te}_{10}$ , and **zincmelanterite**,  $(\text{Zn,Fe,Cu})\text{SO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , all from the Good Hope mine; and **vulcanite**,  $\text{CuTe}$ , from the Vulcan mine. Other rare minerals

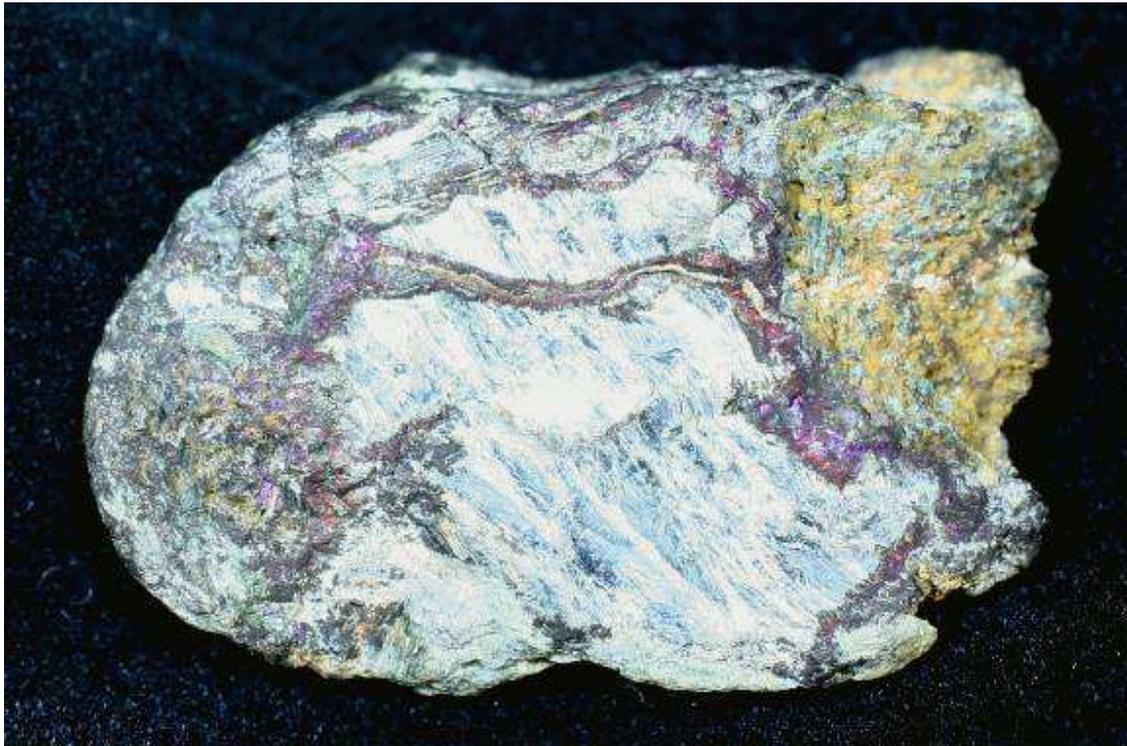


Native Tellurium, Vulcan mining district. Dave Bunk specimen; Carnein photo.

include tellurite, sylvanite, petzite, coloradoite, melonite, frohbergite, tellurobismuthite, coloradoite, and superb specimens of native tellurium. These and others occurred in a narrow band of Tertiary (?) opaline and chalcedonic quartz that follows the hanging wall of a wider Precambrian (Proterozoic) massive sulfide deposit that is, in turn, part of the 20- to 30-mile-long Dubois greenstone belt.

The massive sulfide zone may have been the source of gold, silver, and copper in the Tertiary (?) silica-rich band. During the Proterozoic, this part of Colorado was probably influenced by a nearby volcanic province. Volcanic sediments, as well as basaltic flows and small intrusives, accumulated, along with exhalative (sea-floor hot-spring) sulfides—now mainly pyrite and sphalerite—that were metamorphosed, along with the enclosing sediments and volcanics, about 1.75 billion years ago. The relatively low grade greenschist-facies metamorphism produced the schists, phyllites, and amphibolites that make up most of the Dubois greenstone belt. Laramide volcanism and faulting may have produced pathways for hydrothermal solutions to work upward along the boundary between the sulfides and schists, redepositing gold and silver in epithermal (low temperature) deposits close to the surface. In many places, a 20-foot-thick gossan (layer rich in iron oxides) extends from the surface to the water table. The gossan is itself mineralized and is overlain, in places, by Mesozoic units, suggesting that it formed prior to the Mesozoic. Mineralizing solutions took advantage of the relatively high porosity of the gossan, spreading out into a wider productive band there.

The deposit also contains an unusual, 600-foot-long, 100-foot deep, cigar shaped native sulfur-selenium "lens" that was responsible for the fires in the Vulcan and Mammoth Chimney mines. This has replaced the massive sulfide zone just above the water table. Exploited briefly in the early 1900s, the deposit averaged 50 to 80% sulfur and contained several high grade lenses with up to 17% selenium. Significant silver and gold concentrations also were reported, but the sulfur lens is underlain by a zone of loose pyrite granules that flows when disturbed, forming a pyrite "quicksand". This,



Rickardite (iridescent) in native tellurium. Dave Bunk specimen; Carnein photo.



Two specimens from the silicified ore zone. Richest ore was purple to black in color. Sample on right is opalite. (Carnein specimens and photos.)

along with sulfur's flammability, made mining very dangerous. Underlying solid pyrite reportedly contained what are, by today's standards, moderately high grade gold and silver values.

Like most old mining areas, the Vulcan district may still contain ore that can be exploited by modern recovery methods. Some parts of the dumps remain to be leached, and exploitable ore may remain underground, mainly above the 400-foot level. But repeated evaluations by major mining companies have come up short of economic ore. The



Remains of the Sulfur shaft, Vulcan mine, September, 2014. Carnein photo.



(L.) Melted sulfur, Vulcan mine dump; (R.) Charred wood and sulfur, Vulcan mine dump.  
(Carnein photos; September, 2014)

deposit is also surrounded by BLM land that is a part of the habitat for the protected Gunnison sage grouse, making permitting expensive and uncertain. Today, the dumps, which have been partially reclaimed, contain abundant pyrite and sphalerite, along with burned timbers and melted sulfur from the fires of a hundred years ago. Stream channels are clogged with pyrite "sand", and the dumps give off a strong smell of oxidizing pyrite—not the kind of place that easily attracts investment dollars.



(L.) Scorched rock and timbers, Vulcan shaft area; (R.) Sulfur on Vulcan mine dumps.  
(Carnein photos; September, 2014)

#### Additional Reading:

Drobeck, P.A., 1981, Proterozoic syngenetic massive sulfide deposits in the Gunnison gold belt, Colorado: New Mexico Geological Society Guidebook, 32<sup>nd</sup> Field Conference, Western Slope, Colorado, p. 279-286.

Hartley, P.D., 1976, The Geology and Mineralization of a Precambrian Massive Sulfide Deposit at Vulcan, Gunnison County, Colorado: M.S. Thesis, Stanford University, 96 p.

Hartley, P.D., 1983, Geology and mineralization of the Vulcan-Good Hope massive sulfide deposit, Gunnison County, Colorado, *in* R.C. Handfield, ed., Gunnison Gold Belt and Powderhorn Carbonatite Field Trip Guidebook: Wheat Ridge, CO, Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society, p. 19-27.

Lakes, A., 1898, Ores of the Vulcan mine: *Mines and Minerals*, July, 1898, p. 562-563.

Rickard, T.A., 1903, Across the San Juan Mountains: *Engineering and Mining Journal*, September 12, 1903, p. 346; 385-387.

Sheridan, D.M., and W.H. Raymond, 1984, Precambrian deposits of zinc-copper-lead sulfides and zinc spinel (gahnite) in Colorado: U.S. Geological Survey Bull. 1550.

Sheridan, D.M., W.H. Raymond, and L.J. Cox, 1981, Precambrian sulfide deposits in the Gunnison region, Colorado: New Mexico Geological Society Guidebook, 32<sup>nd</sup> Field Conference, Western Slope, Colorado, p. 273-277.

Streufert, R.K., 1999, Geology and Mineral Resources of Gunnison County, Colorado: Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 37.

Zahony, S., 2009, Mining and exploration at the Vulcan mine, Gunnison County, Colorado: a summary report; privately printed, 7 p.

**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 15 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:**

**Suzanne Core**, President  
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**Norma Engelberg**, Secretary  
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