

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News

November, 2017



Program for the month: Saturday November 11, 10AM (Note winter hours):

The program for November's meeting **STARTING AT 10 AM** will be a discussion of the three main rock types – igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic – and some insight into the types of gems, mineral specimens, or economic uses that relate to each. We'll talk about how each type is deposited and their interrelationships. Insights will be given on how to prospect within and around each rock type. **John Rakowski** and **Bob Carnein** will tag team this presentation. You'll have a better chance of finding geodes or topaz if you know the rock types they most often form in.

This will be a good lead-in to Dr. **Bob Carnein's** informal class on the **physical properties of minerals**, to be offered at 10:00-1:00 on Saturday November 25 at the Florissant Library. It isn't too late to register for this free class—email Bob at ccarnein@gmail.com.

We will also accept nominations for Club officers, for December's election. If you or a friend wants to serve as an officer, please nominate him or her at this month's meeting.

And, finally, we will continue the monthly winter **silent auction**. Last month, members bid on several books generously donated by **Maury and Grace Hammond**; we can't predict what might show up on the auction table this month.

Coming Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wed., Nov. 8, 6 p.m., “Unveiling Reception of the Oreodont Skeleton” at the **Sherman Dugan Museum, San Juan College, School of Energy, Farmington, NM**. I’m mentioning this particularly at the request of several friends who are curators and docents at this newly established and refurbished museum, which (I’m told) has very fine and up-to-date mineral and fossil displays!

Fri., Nov. 10, 3:00 p.m., Raymond Rogers (Macalester College), **Twenty Years of Paleontological Adventure & Discovery on the Great Red Island, Madagascar**. Denver Museum of Nature & Science Earth Science Colloquium Series; VIP Room, DMNS; all are welcome, and museum admission is not required to attend. [*this talk had originally been scheduled for Sept. 22; data was changed*]

Sat., Nov. 11, **Silent Auction, held by the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club**; Columbine Hills Church, [9700 Old Coal Mine Ave, Littleton CO](#). Auction begins at 12 noon, verbal auction at 1 p.m., auction is completed and checkout of purchases begins at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome; complimentary refreshments.

Sat.-Sun., Nov. 11-12, **38th annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium**, at New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, NM; see <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm> .

Thurs., Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m., **Colorado Scientific Society November meeting**, Simone Marchi, Southwest Research Institute, **The Early Evolution of Earth—Fire from Above, Fire from Below**, at Shepherd of the Hills Church, [11500 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood](#). All are welcome.

Thurs., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., **FM-Colorado Chapter bimonthly meeting**, in VIP Room, DMNS. All are welcome. Program, “**Phosphate Minerals of Arkansas**”, by Ed Pederesen.

Fri., Nov. 17, **Colorado Science Teachers’ Conference** (full name: Colorado Science Conference for Professional Development). Held at the Denver Mart, [451 E. 58th Ave.](#), and sponsored by the Colorado Association of Science Teachers (CAST) and other science educators organizations. For full info see <http://www.coloradoscienceconference.org/> .

Fri.-Sun., Nov. 17-19, **Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden CO.

Sun., Nov. 19, **Colorado Scientific Society Family Night at the Museum**, open house at the CSM Geology Museum, 4 to 7 p.m., hosted by Museum Director (and CSS Councilor) Dr. Bruce Geller.

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Fri.-Sun., Dec. 8-10, Flatirons Mineral Club annual Gem and Mineral Show, "Rocks and Rails". Boulder County Fairgrounds, Main Exhibit Building, [9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, CO](https://flatironsmineralclub.org/about/annual-fmc-gem-and-mineral-show/). Combined Gem and Mineral Show + Boulder Model Railroad Club Exposition; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. See <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/about/annual-fmc-gem-and-mineral-show/>.

Wed., Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society Annual Meeting, Potluck Dinner, and President's Address, by Marith Reheis. At the Arbor House, in Maple Grove Park, 14600 W. 32nd Ave., Golden. Social time begins at 5:30, dinner at 6:00, program begins at 7:00 p.m.

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

MANDRELS

Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire, and frequently we need a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops.

But to get the right "look" in chain-mail designs, you must have exactly the right size mandrel, and often those are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is a set of transfer punches used in woodworking. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, and is only about \$12. In the US, it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577, and in Europe, it's available from MZS in the Netherlands as item number 250575.



JUST SAY NO TO OPTIVISORS

I was having my annual vision-check and the light-bulb went on: why not have my reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So I asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.

He checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that was a great idea and even

gave him a special device to measure how far I hold a jewelry piece from my eye, so they could get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty bulky Optivisors! (Thanks to Gary Strickland)

[See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein, Editor

ccarnein@gmail.com

719-687-2739



Thanks to **Bob Baker**, for sending the following report about a recent trip he and Leesa took to a collecting site in Nevada.

Collecting at Yellowstone #1 The McDermitt Caldera By Bob Baker

Twenty-four million years ago, the area that is currently northwest of McDermitt, Nevada, straddling the Nevada / Oregon border, was over the hot spot that is now under Yellowstone National Park, 600 miles to the east. Originally a fissure volcano, it developed into a 600-square-mile caldera after its collapse about 16 mya. The fiery cauldron of lava and ash is today a valley on BLM land, containing cattle ranches and fantastic mineral collecting.

In the recent past, the crater was mined for mercury; the McDermitt mine was the largest supplier of mercury in the United States. Today, the mining site and mill are marked "No Trespassing" due to the extreme contamination. Uranium was also mined in the caldera, and currently a Canadian corporation is trying to open a mine in the valley.

We were there for the jasper, agate, common opal, and petrified wood. Leesa and I had arranged to meet some rockhound buddies from Idaho in McDermitt. They had been to the site many times over the years and had maps and GPS coordinates to navigate the confusing maze of 4-wheel-drive roads in the valley. Every locale we visited had an abundance of easily collected material, with fanciful names like: Gary Green, Serena Green, Zebra, and Purple Cow. Petrified wood was found at several locations, most looking like chips from a recently cut tree; however, we did find 3 tree segments measuring 2' x 4' exposed in a large pit. These had not been removed because of the weight and the opalized nature of the wood, which would have fragmented.

Leesa and I returned with 10 buckets of material. I hope that on second inspection they are as wonderful as the moment we found them.

References:

McDermitt Caldera, mindat.org

Geology and Ore Deposits of the McDermitt Caldera Nevada-Oregon, by James J. Rytuba

And here's an article by **Steve Veatch** about a feature you may have noticed in Ute Pass:

A GRANITE BOULDER TAKES A RIDE IN UTE PASS

By Steven Wade Veatch

With the suddenness of a rattlesnake's strike, an enormous boulder of Pikes Peak Granite moved down one of the steep slopes of the lower part of Ute Pass, Colorado. As this rock—larger than a yellow school bus—traveled down the hill, it flattened the bushes growing in front of it, and left a trail of scraped ground behind it.

This giant rock, perched on a slope in Ute Pass along US Highway 24— between Manitou Springs and Green Mountain Falls—moved downslope from the pull of gravity in a type of erosion called *mass wasting*. When combined with the water of winter snow melt or rain that alters ground conditions, gravity can move rocks downhill—the steeper the slope, the faster the rocks and boulders move (McGeary, et al., 1992).



During a recent summer, thunderstorms poured rain on the pass. The slope where this boulder rested was saturated with water, making the ground a muddy, slippery mess. As the rain soaked into the soil, it filled

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pore spaces, which pushed apart individual grains in the soil—decreasing the resistance of the boulder to movement (Murck, Skinner, & Porter, 1997). Also, some of the grass was washed away by rivulets and rills running downslope, also adding to the conditions that mobilized the boulder.

One night when it was quiet, except for the rasp of a cricket and the passing of an occasional car on the highway, the force of gravity became greater than the resistance of the ground holding the immense boulder in place. Catching the sleeping birds in the pine trees off guard, the giant rock yielded to the endless pull of gravity and slid down the slope—a geological event that starts within the blink of an eye.

This rapid movement of rocks is a geohazard that develops over time and locally impacts Ute Pass and Manitou Springs. Ute Pass and Manitou Springs are in the path of sliding and falling rocks. Work is ongoing to mitigate some of these hazards. Travelers going through Ute Pass not only have to watch other drivers, but must also look out for moving boulders.



(Photos by **Steven Veatch**)

References

- McGeary, D., Brown, W. C., & Plummer, C. C. (1992). *Physical Science: Earth Revealed*. Dubuque: William C. Brown.
- Murck, B. W., Skinner, B. J., & Porter, S. C. (1997). *Dangerous Earth: An Introduction to Geologic Hazards*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Littleton Gem & Mineral Club Silent Auction



Columbine Hills Church,
9700 Old Coal Mine Avenue,
Littleton, CO 80123



**Seller set up starts at 11 AM,
Silent auction starts at Noon,
Verbal auction starts at 1 pm;
Checkout starts at 3:30 pm**

Bring your minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, books, and equipment to sell. Non-club members are limited to 2 flats. Club retains 20% commission. Payment is by cash or check only.

Email Lesley Sebol at Lesleysebol@gmail.com to pre-obtain a seller/buyer number or get it at the door.

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
PO Bo 171
Lake George, CO 80827



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

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

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

Our Officers for 2017 are:

John Sprouse, President
402 Fremont St.
Penrose, CO 80814
719-372-3172
coedodge@yahoo.com

John Rakowski, Vice President
PO Box 608
Florissant, CO 80816
719-748-3861
rakgelogist@yahoo.com

Cathy McLaughlin, Treasurer
11595 Owls Nest Rd.
Guffey, CO 80820
702-232-3352
cathy_mclaughlin@hotmail.com

Norma Rhodes, Secretary
7546 Duck Hawk Place,
Fountain, CO80817
normajalexander@gmail.com

C.R. (Bob) Carnein, Newsletter Editor
507 Donzi Trail
Florissant, CO 80816
719-687-2739
ccarnein@gmail.com