

# The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

**Club News,**  
**September, 2012**



**Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club**  
**Saturday, September 8, at 9:00AM**  
**Lake George Community Center**

We will have a business meeting at the regular time. **Please note that the field trip to Rich Fretterd's God Send claim, originally scheduled for Sept. 8, has been postponed until Sept. 9. Meet at the community center at 9AM.** This trip requires a high clearance 4WD vehicle. Once we're at the site, the terrain is easy, with gentle slopes. Bring: hat, rain gear, sunscreen, hiking shoes, gloves, goggles, shovel, rock pick, 3-prong rake, plenty of fluids, and lunch (we plan to stay until about 4PM). **Hazards:** Rich's claim is in the Hayman burn area, so falling trees are potentially hazardous. For more details, go to the website or call Rich Fretterd (719-687-0671) or Richard Kawamoto ([kawahome@wildblue.net](mailto:kawahome@wildblue.net)).

## Coming Events

- "**Geology and Minerals of the Cripple Creek District**", by Bob Carnein, monthly meeting of the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild, 7:30PM, Berthoud Hall, CSM campus. ... **Sept. 7**
- "**Geologic Hazards and Preparedness**", Dinosaur Discovery Day, Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison. Go to [www.dinoridge.org](http://www.dinoridge.org) for information ... **Sept. 8**
- Workshop: Thin Sections of Meteorites**, Dr. Anthony Irving, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder. Limited enrollment; contact Anne Black [IMPACTIKA@aol.com](mailto:IMPACTIKA@aol.com) for info. ... **Sept. 8-9**
- Denver Coliseum Mineral Show**, 4600 Humboldt St., Denver (I-70 exit 275B at Brighton Blvd; [www.coliseumshow.com](http://www.coliseumshow.com) for info). ... **Sept 8-16**
- Columbine Gem and Mineral Society**, monthly meeting, 6:30PM, meeting room, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16<sup>th</sup> (at J St.), Salida. ... **Sept. 11**
- Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum Annual Open house, Reception, and Silent Auction**, 6-9PM; all invited. ... **Sept. 12**
- Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show**, Ramada Plaza Hotel (old Holiday Inn), 4849 Bannock St., Denver. Free parking and admission. ... **Sept. 12-16**
- Denver Gem & Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Expo**, Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 at 58<sup>th</sup> Ave.; theme is copper minerals. Admission charge. (Go to [www.denvermineralshow.com](http://www.denvermineralshow.com) for info). ... **Sept. 14-16**
- Pueblo Rockhounds**, monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. ... **Sept. 20**
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**, monthly meeting, 7PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs. ... **Sept. 20**

## Club News



We did pretty darn good 'this year' at Our Annual Gem & Mineral show, largely due to the above key peeps from last year!  
~ Dan.



**Dan Alfrey**, our Show Chairman, sent the following e-mail about this year's show:

"The 2012 Annual Lake George Gem & Mineral Show was pretty good -and- Awesome FUN !!

Special Thanks to **Bob Kane**, who provided security for six (6) nights, as well as helping with setup & teardown!

Thank You to **Dick Lackmond**, who attended the Buena Vista & other area events to help me recruit vendors!

Much much appreciation to **Jennifer Alfrey**, who set up our (new) Vendor Contact database & called every single one!

THANK YOU to all the Volunteers for show setup, manning the Club info booth, & tear-down!  
Wow, u Rock!! This is Your Show & YOU did AWESOME !!!!

As new Show Chair, my concentration in 2012 was F-U-N and Getting the Vendors.... We had 29, plus 2 for food! A majority of the LGGMClub Officers have voted me back for 2013, cool ! :) :D . Thus, next year, we'll continue our FUN by working on our banners, flyers, and getting the word out better! Thank You !!

~ **Dan Alfrey**, LGGMClub Show Chair

Here are some photos from Dan of some show participants.





...and more of the same from **Bob Carnein**



**Rich Fretterd polishing a Jumbo crystal**



**Jumbo Agate butterfly**



**Azurite/malachite jumbo!**



**Recent Rich Fretterd finds from the Gold King and Mary McKinney mines, Cripple Creek.**



**Left to right: Ethiopian opal; corundum crystals; a rainbow of polished stones.**

...and some photos from **Norma Engelberg**, showing some of the show's planners, movers, and shakers:



☑☑ **Richard Kawamoto** and others have put together a great field-trip line-up for the summer. Here's a list of trips scheduled for the rest of the summer:

**Sept. 1:** New Hope amethyst locality (call **Richard Kawamoto**, 719-748-8152 for info)

**Sept. 9:** God Send mine (smoky quartz, amazonite) (**Richard Fretterd**, leader)

**Sept. 15:** Picket Wire dinosaur trackways (requires registration) (**Richard Kawamoto**, leader).

**Sept. 16:** Comanche National Grassland (septarian nodules) (**Dick Lackmond**, leader)

**Sept. 22:** Possible trip to Devils Head area (**John Rakowski**) Check the website for details.

**Please visit the Club website for detailed information about these trips.**



☑☑ **Student Group from Georgia: Dave and Linda Leidy** were thanked for their hospitality extended to a professor and seven students from the University of West Georgia. The group was visiting Colorado for an educational field trip about pegmatites. They were thrilled with Dave's field trip, which allowed them to do some collecting. The group found us because of the Website and complimented us on the site and the activities of the Club.

☑☑ **AFMS:** The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies has awarded **Bob Carnein** a first place and **Andy Weinzapfel** a sixth and a seventh place in the 2012 National Newsletter and Adult Articles Contest. You may remember Bob's article, "The Gist of Gypsum", and Andy's articles, "Geology and Global Politics of Rare Earths" and "On the Trail of Colorado Blue Quartz", from past newsletters. Our friends at the DGMG received the 3<sup>rd</sup>-place Club Award, and **Beth Simmons** and **Linda Honda** of the DGMG were awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Adult Articles category. Colorado Rocks!! LGGMClub needs to work on an application for next year's Club Award contest! Trophies and certificates were handed out at the July 29 breakfast during the AFMS Show in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Congratulations to all!

☑☑ **Reminder:** SCHEDULED OPEN TIMES IN THE LAPIDARY WORKSHOP ARE the 2ND WED OF THE MONTH, 6PM TILL 8PM and THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 1PM TILL 4PM. FEEL FREE TO CALL **RICHARD KAWAMOTO** ([kawahome@wildblue.net](mailto:kawahome@wildblue.net)) OR **DICK LACKMOND** ([dlackmond@q.com](mailto:dlackmond@q.com)) TO ARRANGE A SPECIAL TIME FOR YOU TO USE THE SHOP IF YOU NEED IT!

☑☑ Here are this month's **Bench Tips from Brad Smith:**  
**BenchTips for the Month**

#### **CLEANING SOLDER OUT OF A BEZEL**



Sometimes when you solder a bezel to a base plate you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of tool for this is called an "Inverse Cone" bur used in a rotary tool or flexshaft (see picture). It cuts on both the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there's less chance of cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more common cylinder bur shape. The 2 mm size is useful for most any bezel.

#### **FAUX SILVER**

I'm fortunate to live in a big city that has frequent jewelry shows where I can buy supplies. But there are certain risks in buying at one of these events or from some of the online venues. Recently, a friend bought a package of 12 mm Sterling jump rings that became copper plated in the pickle. There was no sign of any steel contamination, so I tested them with a magnet to discover they were just plated steel.

I ran into a similar misrepresentation a couple years ago. I bought some "genuine" turquoise beads that I needed for 10mm cabs only to find they were a white magnesite that had been dyed.

Best solution is to carry a couple simple tools with you when you go to buy stones or findings. I usually carry a ten power loupe and a small vernier caliper to measure things. From now on, I'll also be carrying a small, strong magnet with me to test the findings. Dealers are not necessarily the problem. Many have no idea their metals are plated. They were duped by their supplier. Regardless of who's to blame, I think it's worth reporting any problems you find to both the dealer and to the show promoter.

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In addition, here's a story written up by a friend in my club. It was originally published in the Nugget, newsletter of the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Culver City, CA. The club shop is a small building with two doors that we usually keep open for ventilation. A friend of mine was working at the bench on a pendant/earrings set she had already sold to a client. Then as they say on the news programs "Something went terribly wrong". Here's her story. Enjoy !

### "THE CROW"

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What a beautiful sunny day! To me, this is the best incentive for creativity, and so I pick up my silver and tools and go to the shop - I am going to realize my multi-stones pieces!

There, I find some more people cutting rocks and making cabs - it's always nice to share our work and ideas, and get a little distracted, including by that beautiful crow that just landed at our back door - he seems quite domesticated; he accepts food and doesn't fly away - OK, back to work!

And cut and assemble and solder and sand... ready for the drilling now... I pile all my pieces in front of me, the Foredom ready to operate, the Optiviser on my eyes, and in a few seconds I'll be ready to polish! Suddenly, here is the crow again - oh my, this time he enters the shop and lands right on my bench and he just looks at me! Well, I can't resist. I start playing with him using my file and he picks up the end once, twice, and then he stops and looks at me... suddenly my blood freezes with fear: I know what he's going to do! He takes a quick look at the pile of silver pieces, looks at me again and in a fraction of second, he grabs half of the pieces of jewelry and flies out! I cannot believe what just happened - I run after him and he is right next door on a telephone post - I am still in shock and try to telepathically convince the bird to drop my pieces down - then I get back to reality and I swear at him, and he starts having fun with me! He gently puts the jewelry down, screams at me three times, grabs the jewelry and moves up one step, and he does it again and again, until he flies away.

So, I was laughed at by a crow and left with three different sets of jewelry totally messed up - but you know what? Besides having amused everybody, I completed the jewelry, I went to my client, told the crow story, and sold all the pieces!

Look for fun in everything!

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More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at: [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips); or at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/).

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

Here's a poem and drawing by a Colorado Springs Earth-Science Scholar, **Zach Sepulveda**. You may remember Zach from his article in the August newsletter.

### ***Smilodon***

By Zachary Sepulveda

The frigid bite of winter's light  
Shines on sabers sharp and bright  
Speeding towards you through the snow  
Your heart and mind fill with sudden woe

You turn to run but it's too late  
Those flashing sabers seal your fate  
Then a sudden blinding pain  
So much blood it looks like rain

The final image sears your brain  
Those gleaming sabers, *Smilodon's* claim to fame



**Author's Bio:** Zach is a junior member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and helps instruct the Pebble Pup program. His science papers and poetry have been published in a variety of newsletters and magazines.

Starting this month, Earth-Science Scholars and Pebble Pups will meet on the **second Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Lake George Community Center**. Here's this year's schedule:

**Sept. 11:** "Planetary Geology: Is there Life on Any Other Planetary Body in Our Solar System?" –S. Veatch

**Sept. 15:** Field Trip to the Denver Gem & Mineral Show

**Oct.:** "We Know a Lot about Dino Fossils, but not so much about their Biology"—S. Veatch & Zach Sepulveda

**Oct. 13:** National Fossil Day celebration

**Oct. 21:** Field Trip to Wilkerson Pass Area

**Nov.:** "Where are the Big Magma Chambers that Produce Super-Eruptions?"—S. Veatch

**Dec.:** "Stone Age Tools and Art"—S. Veatch & Luke Sattler

**Jan., 2013:** Field Trip to Denver Museum of Science and Nature—S. Veatch and others

**Feb.:** Special class on Science Writing and Research—S. Veatch

**Feb. or March:** Field Trip to Cave of the Winds

**March:** "Minerals and How We Identify Them"—B. Carnein

**April:** "The Amazing World of Crystals"—B. Carnein

**May:** "Orienteering"—D. Alfrey

Be sure you check regularly at [www.LGGMClub.org](http://www.LGGMClub.org) for details and updates.

**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



I'm sorry to say that I ran out of steam this month, and, because nobody submitted any articles, the newsletter is a bit shorter than normal. Things should slow down a bit in October. Please try to attend the Denver Show—definitely my favorite!!



**DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! (Now half priced for 2012!)**

**Lake George Gem and Mineral Club**  
Box 171  
Lake George, Colorado 80827  
LGGMClub.org

## **2012 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 John Rakowski (719) 748-3861**

Rev. Jan. 2011

**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 September, 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 2012 are:**

**John Rakowski**, President  
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