

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News *September, 2013*



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, September 14, at 9:00AM
Lake George Community Center

Important! At the September meeting, we will accept nominations for 2014 officers, with the election coming in October. Please consider nominating yourself or another member for a position for 2014.



Frank Rosenberg Photo

After the business meeting, we will head for South Park, where Dave Harvey will lead us to a collecting area near Hartsel for rare, beautiful Columbine blue agate. Please contact Richard Kawamoto (kawahome@wildblue.net) for details.

You must be a paid member to attend Club trips.

Coming Events

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>Columbine Gem and Mineral Society</u> , 6:30PM, Monthly meeting, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16 th at J St., Salida. | ... Sept. 12 |
| <u>Denver Coliseum Gem Show</u> , 4600 Humboldt St. Free admission and parking. | ... Sept. 7-15 |
| <u>Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show (Fall)</u> , Ramada Plaza Hotel, 4849 Bannock St. (free admission, shuttle to other venues, and parking) | ... Sept. 11-15 |
| <u>Denver Gem & Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Show</u> , Denver Merchandise Mart. Theme: Tourmaline. Admission charge. | ... Sept. 13-15 |
| <u>Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society</u> , monthly meeting, 7PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs. | ... Sept. 19 |
| <u>Pueblo Rockhounds</u> , Monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. | ... Sept. 19 |
| <u>"Tracking Dinosaurs and Ancient Environments at Dinosaur Ridge"</u> , field trip by Steve Veatch and Beth Simmons; registration fee; contact Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation by calling 719-689-3514 or steven.veatch@gmail.com . | ... Oct. 5 |

Club News

▶ Club volunteers have completed the required remediation at the WigWam Creek club claim. However, the Forest Service has not yet inspected the work, so... **Please do not visit the Club claim until further notice. Any violation may result in a fine or prosecution.**

▶ Here's the current list of **field trips** that have been scheduled so far. Please contact **Richard Kawamoto** at kawahome@wildblue.net for details, and watch the Club website for updates.

Sept. 14: South Park, blue Columbine Agate (Contact Richard for details).

▶ Club officers met recently to review the 2013 Show. There was a general consensus that the show went well (see **Dan Alfrey's** report, below), and appreciation was expressed to Dan for a job well done and for volunteering to continue as Show Chair for 2014! There was also agreement that whoever is Show Chair might find it helpful to have a Show Committee to share the load. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

▶ Here are some pictures from the August show, thanks to **Frank Rosenberg** and **Ingrid Hamilton**.





Extra Special **THANK-YOU** goes out to:

The Bart Johnson Family & Lake George Company for donating the space, Mr. Potts for providing port-o-johns, LongBranch for rolloff trash services, Steve Woods for mowing the field, Tiffany Alfrey for flyer design, the UPS Store for printing needs, our amazing setup crew (& LGGMc for the Pizza), our cleanup crew and give extra love to Bob Kane for so much more than site security for the entire duration!

Also Special Thanks to our dealer vendors and visitors :)

THANK-YOU to:

Our officers Glenn Haggert - pres, Jo Beckwith - vp, Wayne Johnston - tres, Char DeVries - sec, Bob Carnien - editor; Dan Alfrey & Steve Woods (dealer-only field trip leaders); club volunteers that Signed Up to man the booth (Char DeVries, Dave & Linda Leidy, Loren Lowe, Richard & Jerolynn Kawamoto, Dave & Gerdy Wyatt, Frank & Ellie Rosenberg, Kent Greenes, John Rakowski +Marian Hillson, and Dick & Auston Mazzunenga) as well as those that assisted during the fun event!

And, Thank-You Dave Harvey for the *teepee* attraction & Richard Fretterd with the *largest smokey quartz in North America* final show display!

This was such a fantastic effort by everyone involved, I apologize if I missed you by name.

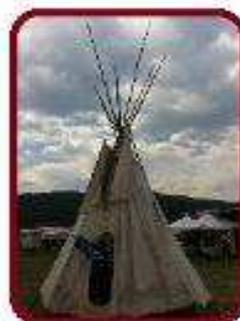
Much, much appreciation to all !!

:Danvy

Dan Alfrey, 2013 LGGMc Show Mgr.



awesome Char DeVries and a few visitors



Dave Harvey's teepee



Bob Kane rocks!



Richard Fretterd, the Smokey!, & Tiffany Alfrey

Dan Alfrey volunteers to continue on one (1) more season & be the 2014 LGGMc Show Manager!

The 2013 Show had well over twenty dealer vendors even with a half-dozen last minute cancellations due to various health issues. All the feedback I have recieved from the dealer vendors, visitors, and other club members has been very positive and everyone involved deserves high praises for a great GREAT Show!!

We now have a dust solution in mind for 2014 and also a possible backup solution. We plan to have a show sub-committee in 2014, to assist with SignUps for various volunteer tasks. We are still looking for an onsite Food solution! All input is welcomed.

Rates for 2014 have been increased by \$10 to \$70 for a Small Space and \$90 for a Large Space (longer than 35'). The JumpStart will stay the same for move-in on Tuesday, increased by \$10 for Monday move-in, and decreased \$10 for Wednesday move-in. Many dealer vendors have secured 'their spot' for the 2014 Show!

The increases in space fee is to assist in a 'small way' toward advertising and banner upgrades. You can help in a 'large way' by attending Our Banner CleanOff Party (watch for details this Winter) and by voting to approve funding for the new upgrades!

*in Thanks,
:Danvy!*

▶ Thanks to **Jerolynn Kawamoto** for agreeing to take over the tasks of updating the membership list and making name tags for members.

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

September, 2013

▶ Remember to get your Club-officer nominations to **John Rakowski** and **Bob Carnein** before the election at the October meeting.

Earth-Science Scholars/Pebble Pups Corner

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. If you have suggestions for topics for the 2013-14 program, or, if you would like to help out, please contact **Steve Veatch** at steven.veatch@gmail.com.

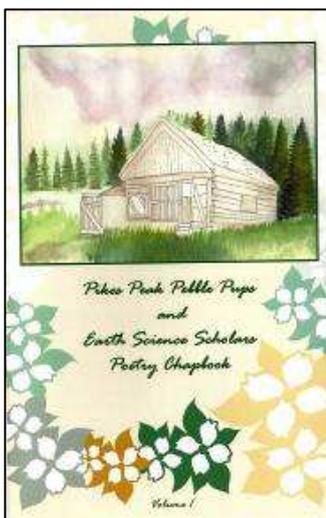
On September 21, **Bob Carnein** will present a special, hands-on lab on "Basics of Mineral Identification" at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Pre-registration is required for this lab; please contact steven.veatch@gmail.com for details.

Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth-Science Scholars Publish First Poetry Chapbook

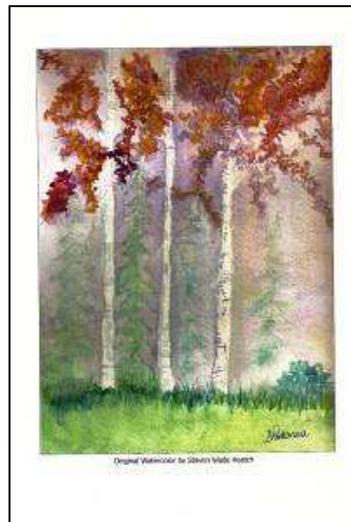
The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club both host a junior program. The first volume of their collected poems about Earth science has been published and may be purchased for \$4.00. Shipping and handling is \$1.00. These chapbooks are limited in number, and if you plan on buying one you should do it soon. Each book sold will provide each club with \$4. These will be for sale at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show in September. A second volume is being planned now and will be available later this year. To order, please send \$5 to:

Steven Veatch
1823 South Mountain Estates Road
Florissant, CO 80816

In the memo section of the check put the club you belong to so that the club will receive the \$4. Make your check payable to: Veatch GeoScience, LLC. Be sure and act quickly as these books will soon be gone. This also helps the two clubs support the work of the Pebble Pups and Earth-Science Scholars. Each month, Veatch GeoScience, LLC. will issue a check to each club for the sales of the chapbooks.



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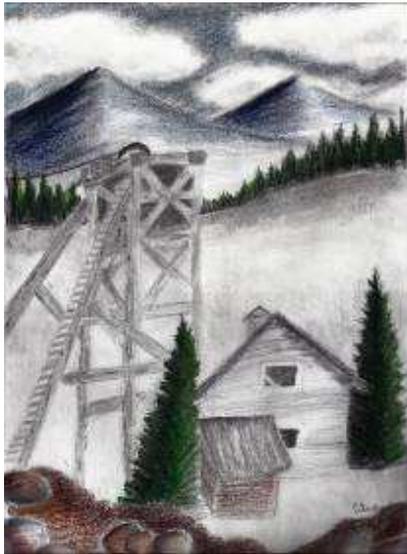
Steve Veatch reports that the current issue of "Deposits" magazine has 4 articles by Pikes Peak Pebble Pups. He also has been asked to visit Palmer High School to represent the Earth sciences at their career day.

Eight-year-old Colorado Springs Pebble Pup **Jack Shimon** recently published an article on the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups blogspot. You can access it at <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/2013/08/member-night-at-denver-museum-of-nature.html>.

Here's a poem and artwork by 15-year-old Lake George Earth-Science Scholar **Ciena Higginbotham**:

Victor, Colorado: The City of Mines
by: Ciena Higginbotham

Victor is the place to be
If it's gold you want to see
In this quaint and little town
Gold is buried underground
As you travel up that hill
Everything seems to just stand still
The place is so unique,
It's something different you'll want to seek
Where miners once walked each street
And friendly people you will meet
Visit the American Eagle Mine
And you will be taken back in time
Just like the legends of old
All these storied are still to be told
So, bring a stout heart if you dare
Phantom Canyon Road will give you a scare



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 article about a fantastic new topaz find, made by **Rich Fretterd** and **Jean Cowman**.

Rediscovery of a Legendary Topaz Occurrence in El Paso County, Colorado by Bob Carnein

Many readers visited the Lake George Gem & Mineral Show in August. If you stopped at Rich Fretterd's and Jean Cowman's tent, you probably remember the little smoky quartz crystal in the front and, maybe, a small collection of pale sherry to root-beer colored topaz crystals. These crystals were part of a fabulous find made by Rich and Jean on December 8, 2012—5 days before Rich's birthday. I believe this find will become one of those mineral-collecting legends, like the rhodochrosites from Alma and the spectacular aquamarines found on Mt. Antero a few years ago. So, I asked Rich to share some information, and that led to this article.



Rich Fretterd and Jean Cowman at 2013 Lake George show



Rich with a little smoky

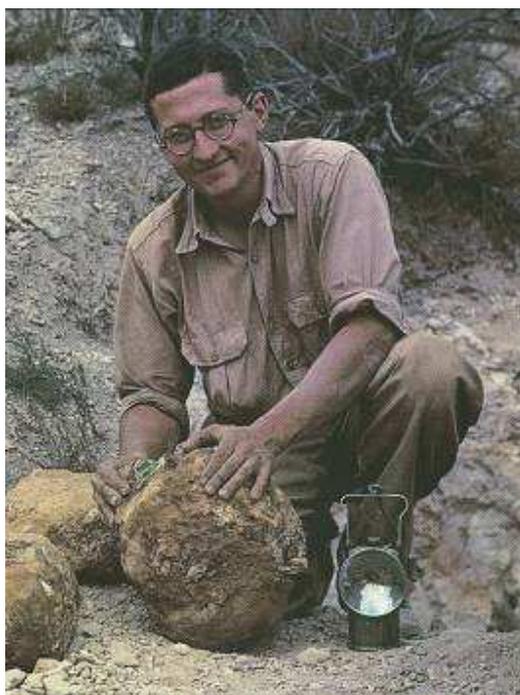
Several famous mineral collectors have made Colorado their home. Some others spent their summers here, away from teaching or other duties elsewhere. In particular, Edwin Over, Jr., and Arthur Montgomery became legends among American collectors, starting in the 1920s (Montgomery, 1997; Over, 1929).

One of Ed Over's discoveries has a direct bearing on this story. In the 1920s, he prospected several locations near Crystal Park and Cameron Cone, in El Paso County, 2 miles south of Manitou Springs. About 1 mile northwest of Crystal Park and one mile southeast of the edge of a 2 ½-mile-long potassic pluton, near the foot of Cameron Cone, he collected light brown, pinkish, or colorless singly or doubly terminated topaz crystals with striated prism faces and complex terminations, ranging from 1/8 inch up to 2 inches long (Michalski, 1986). Pink topaz is a great rarity, and references to this color have stirred many collectors' interest. The association with late stage, 970- to 995-million-year-old potassic plutons, is typical of widespread topaz occurrences in the Pikes Peak batholith. According to Rich Fretterd (personal communication, 2013), the locality was lost sometime after 1953.

Rich tried to track down specimens from Over's original find but discovered that they are unusually elusive. Famed mineral miner and dealer Brian Lees, who had helped Rich



Edwin J. Over, Jr. (Mineralogical Record Photo Archive)



Arthur Montgomery (Montgomery, 1997)

with appraisals of other mineral finds, has a fragment of a crystal (Fretterd, personal communication, 2013), but it's not known how many others are out there. The legendary pink topaz from Cameron Cone led Rich and his collecting partner Jean Cowman on a 3-year quest, starting with assembling references from the literature and then leading to 2 hikes around the steep terrain south of Manitou Springs.

Our intrepid prospectors knew they were in the general area of Over's find when serendipity showed its face. An old friend of Rich's happened to mention finding a gem crystal in that area 40 years before. Rich asked him if he could remember the site, and, thanks to Google Earth, they were able to zero in on a location. A visit to the area revealed an old mine dump and a log and canvas shack with a few scattered pry bars and other tools. Could this be the remains of the Ed Over operation from the mid-1950s?

Rich and Jean traversed the area, looking for indications of mineralization. About ¼ mile from the shack, Jean called to tell Rich that she had found a quartz "blowout"—abundant milky quartz that sometimes suggests the presence of a pegmatite. Rich told me that he "had a feeling" about the site. Digging into the blowout first produced a large pocket, dubbed the "Halo Pocket", containing large, nearly colorless but frosted, oddly asymmetrical quartz crystals weighing up to 50 pounds. Some exhibit the tapering shape known to quartz fans as *Tessin habit*. Others are peppered with purple to white fluorite cubes from a few millimeters to a centimeter across. But, except for one quartz crystal with a broken topaz attached, there was no topaz.

Below the Halo Pocket, Rich found more quartz—first a massive zone of large quartz phantoms where crystals had grown together, filling what had once been an open pocket. Below that was a zone in which the quartz was slabby or platy—not, Rich thought, a good sign. But he kept



Doubly terminated quartz from Halo Pocket (Carnein photo)



Quartz with fluorite, Halo Pocket. (Carnein photo)

digging, removing the quartz slabs. Just beneath, Rich found a well formed, sherry colored topaz crystal in a mass of altered rock that was now made up of a fine grained, whitish mixture of crumbly muscovite and feldspars. The crystal was a doubly terminated "floater". Well formed, etched prism faces gave way at both ends to unusual, multi-pointed terminations with a glassy luster—typical of later crystals found in the pocket.

Rich and Jean had hit the jackpot. They staked a claim, naming it *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God), and designating the pocket as the Tribute Pocket, in honor of Ed Over, Jr., Arthur Montgomery, and Bill Hayward, another big name in mineral history. Eventually, the pocket size expanded to 8 feet by 4 feet by 3 feet. It's aligned with the larger (12 x 3 1/2 x 2-ft) Halo Pocket, which is about 2 feet above it.



Broken topaz in altered host rock, 3.5 cm. across.
(Carnein photo)



Typical 3-cm. topaz crystal with
etched prism and multiple
termination (Carnein photo and
specimen)

Rich and Jean consigned the first crystals from the Tribute Pocket to Joe Dorris, who sold some of them at the 2013 Tucson Show. As of this time, they have found about 100 well formed crystals, ranging from about 5/8 to 5 inches in length. In color, they range from nearly colorless to pale sherry to a rich root-beer brown. Although none could be described as pink, some are pinkish. The color appears to be stable in incandescent light but fades in direct sunlight.



3.5-cm. topaz from the Tribute Pocket. This is one of the first crystals available, purchased for resale at the 2013 Tucson Show. (Used by permission of Edwards Minerals)

The topaz crystals are mostly gemmy, but several kinds of inclusions are observed. Inclusions have not been studied in detail but include dark mica flakes, crystallites that may be topaz, and a hair-like, pale, fibrous mineral. Prism faces are covered with etch pits, and some crystals have angular holes that may penetrate all of the way through the crystal. The terminations, however, are generally glassy, providing an attractive contrast to the more frosted prism faces.

Those terminations are fantastic. On many crystals, they are notched, with "peaks" (dipyramids) on both sides of the notch. They resemble a deep canyon surrounded by mountain peaks.



Two views of a typical 6-cm. crystal from the Tribute Pocket. (Carnein photos)

Rich and Joe Dorris both will sell the new topaz crystals at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show in September. When I wrote this, Rich and Jean had just removed another dozen or so fine crystals from the Tribute Pocket, and this was documented by photographers from the Weather Channel's Prospectors TV show. Rich also discovered a peculiar zone of altered material that envelops the sides of the deposit and that contains broken topaz-crystal fragments. These commonly are gemmy but don't have the collector value of the doubly terminated floaters of the Tribute Pocket.

Also at the Denver Show, Rich, Jean, and Joe will mount a special case, also containing some crystals purchased by Bryan Lees. Included will be quartz and fluorite from the Halo Pocket and some of the finest topaz from the Tribute Pocket. This exhibit, honoring Over, Montgomery, and Hayward, is sure to be one of this year's show highlights. Rich and Joe are also planning an article for the "Mineralogical Record" that they hope to publish soon. I'll be surprised if Rich and Jean's fabulous topaz find doesn't make the front cover!

Acknowledgment: My thanks go out to Rich Fretterd and Jean Cowman, who took the time to talk with me and answer most of my questions. They also provided me with the chance to photograph, and, in some cases, re-photograph their fabulous crystals. Thanks also to Edward Rosenzweig, of Edwards Minerals, Wendell Wilson, of the "Mineralogical Record", Steve Carter, of Penn Minerals, and Frank Rosenberg, of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, for permission to use photos.



One-pound topaz crystal, 7.3 x 7.6 x 5 cm., from the most recent collecting at the Tribute Pocket. (Carnein photo)

References Cited

Michalski, T.C., 1986, Topaz in the Pikes Peak batholith: in P.J. Modreski, *et al.*, Colorado Pegmatites: Abstracts, short papers, and field guides from the Colorado Pegmatite Symposium, May 30-June 2, 1986: Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy, p. 72-76.

Montgomery, A., 1997, *Reminiscences of a Mineralogist, Minerals, Localities, and Mineralogy*. Dillsburg, PA, Matrix Publishing Co.

Over, E., Jr., 1929, Some mineral localities of El Paso County: *Rocks and Minerals*, Vol. 4, p. 106-107.



(left to right) Topaz termination showing abundant inclusions in right side of crystal; "typical" gemmy topaz crystal with etched prism and lustrous, complex termination; odd quartz crystal from the Halo Pocket. (Carnein photos)

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

LGGMClub.org

2013 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 Glenn Haggett (719) 687-6549

Rev. April, 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 2013 are:

Glenn Haggett, President
PO Box 985
Woodland Park, CO 80866
719-687-6549
gshaggett@msn.com

Jo Beckwith, Vice President
PO Box 275
Guffey, CO 80820
719-689-0248
shawneewolf@hotmail.com

Wayne Johnston, Treasurer
207 Cooper Lake Drive
Divide, CO 80814
719-687-6067
wjohnston719@msn.com

Charlene DeVries, Secretary
280 Homestead Rd.
Divide, CO 80814
719-686-1822
swordfishblue@wildblue.net



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