

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News

September, 2018



Program for the month: Saturday September 8, 2018, 9:00AM. Dave Alexander will talk to the Club about “**Prospecting in the Pikes Peak Region**”. Bring your best questions about central Colorado mineral localities!

Silent Auction: Because of a full agenda and the absence of auction coordinator Bob Carnein, we will skip the silent auction for September. However, the auction will return next month.

FROM THE PRESIDENT Although there are four months remaining in the year, it is time to think about next year: who will be your club officers, who will fill the key positions that are critical to the success of the club, how does the club budget its finances, are you interested in new club groups like lapidary and fossil study. The September meeting will briefly raise these issues and begin the discussion which will conclude at the October meeting. If you have ideas for the club or want to get involved let us know during the meeting, after the meeting, or send one of the officers an email. —Bob Baker

✓ ✓ **Upcoming Programs:** October- Hoping for a “How to clean your mineral specimen” talk; discussion of the future of our annual show and changes to the Constitution and By-Laws.

November-**Richard Kawamoto**, Mining Claims: A review of what a claim is and how to file for a claim.

December- Annual towel show and party, no presentation

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 Mt. Carmel Veteran’s Service Center, 530 Communication Circle, 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;

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>**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 suggest the following upcoming events:

Sep. 7-15, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Fall Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel - Airport, 15500 E. 40th Ave. Denver, CO.

Sat., Sep. 8, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., **Dinosaur Discovery Day** at Dinosaur Ridge, featuring “Gem and Mineral Day”. Public tour day at Dinosaur Ridge, 16831 W. Alameda Parkway, Morrison. Walk up and down the Ridge to see interpretive guides explain the various fossil and geology stations, or ride a guided shuttle up and/or back for \$4. See www.dinoridge.org.

Sep. 8-16, Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, and Gem Show, Denver Coliseum; see <http://www.coliseumshow.com/>

Sep. 12-15, Denver Fine Mineral Show, Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Blvd.; see <http://finemineralshow.com/denver/>

Sep. 14-16, 51st annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Mart, 451 E 58th Ave., Denver, CO. **Minerals of Mexico** is the 2018 show theme. See <http://denvershow.org>

Wed. Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m., Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, bimonthly meeting, after the Denver Gem and Mineral Show (rescheduled so as not to conflict with events the week of the show) Topic TBA. Lakeview Event Center, 7864 W. Jewell Ave., Lakewood CO.

Thurs., Sep. 20, Colorado Scientific Society Student Paper Night; oral or poster presentations by graduate (or undergraduate) students on their earth science research topics, with an award given for the best presentation. To be held at the Arbor House, Maple Grove Park, 14600 W. 32nd Ave., Golden CO. For more information (including for students who wish to apply to present a paper) see <http://coloscisoc.org>.

Sat., Oct. 13, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., **Dinosaur Discovery Day** at Dinosaur Ridge, featuring “**Girl Scout Day**”. Public tour day at Dinosaur Ridge, 16831 W. Alameda Parkway, Morrison. Walk up and down the Ridge to see interpretive guides explain the various fossil and geology stations, or ride a guided shuttle up and/or back for \$4. There will be special activities and earth science badges to complete for Girl Scouts, who may register in advance [\$6 for Scouts to register]. See www.dinoridge.org for more info.

Thurs., Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society October meeting, “**Structural Geology of Colorado**” by Ned Sterne, plus a possible 2nd speaker. Shepherd of the Hills Church, 11500 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood.

Sat., Oct. 20, 12 noon, **Littleton Gem & Mineral Club, silent and verbal auction**. Seller setups (club retains 20% commission) at 11, silent auction begins at noon, verbal auction at 1 p.m., checkout starts at 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 10-11, 39th annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium, at New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, NM; see <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm>.

Wed., Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., **Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter** bimonthly meeting (rescheduled so as not to conflict with people’s travel to the New Mexico Mineral Symposium the previous week). Topic TBA. Lakeview Event Center, 7864 W. Jewell Ave., Lakewood CO.

Thurs. Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society November meeting, “**Geothermal Energy**”, by Jeff Winick, DOE, plus a possible 2nd speaker. Shepherd of the Hills Church, Lakewood.

Nov. 16-18, Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden CO. Free admission, public welcome.

✓ ✓ **Many thanks to the many dealers who made our show a great success this year! Here’s a list of their names that I received from Rebecca Blair (thanks, Becky!):**

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Stephen Avery, The Gem Lapidary
Aaron Bankes, Aaron Bankes Minerals
Peter Banfield
Belinda Binette, Art By Nature and Design
Tessa Brunson, Mother's Natural Vibes
Cody Cook, Bless the Herbs
Joe Dorris, Pinnacle 5 Minerals
George C. Hall, GC Hall & Co.
Dave and Lark Harvey, Bayou Salado Silversmith
Sharon Holte
Sandy and James Jacobs, Arizona Petrified Wood
Redbird Jaekel and April Greg, Star Mountain Trading Co.
Jerrolynn Kawamoto, Alpine Rock & Rustic
Linda Leidy, Blue Owl Rocks
The Lunch Box, LLC (food truck)
Gene and Peggy Maggard, Peggy's Pearls and More
Curtis Markham, Rocks on Rocks
Andy Maravelas, Tucson Gem Network
Todd Mattson, GeoRocks
Corey McMillin, Apex Minerals CO
Michelle Marcinik
Jay Penn, El Chivo Viejo
Ray Pohlkotte, Ray's Rocks
Randy Porter, Porter's Rocks and Fossils
David Prebble
Phillip Rudd, Artifice
Bob Scholl, Banded Iron, Jade
Jeff Shepard
Mike Shoemaker, 303 Gems
Doug St. Pierre
Donovan Sutter, Rockfight Gems and Minerals
Claudia and David Umpleby, Santa Fe Silver and Stone
Karen Vogl, Fey Forest Gems & Minerals
Mike Wild
Steve Woodruff

✓ ✓ If you're one of the Club members who doesn't read the newsletter (you know who you are), you may have missed these authors' articles that recently won awards:

Paul Combs: 1st place (adult articles) in the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies and 8th place in the American Federation;

Beverly Keith: 2nd place (adult articles) in the RMFMS and 6th place in the American Federation;

Bob Carnein: 3rd place (advanced adult articles) in the RMFMS and 4th place in the American Federation;

Norma Engelberg: Certificate (for adult articles) in the RMFMS.

Thanks to these and other writers whose work appeared in the 2017 Newsletter. **If you have an article that you would like me to enter in the Bulletin Editors' contest for 2018, it must be published by November, 2018, so get it in asap!**

✓ ✓ Here's a list of remaining field trips for 2018 from **Billy Bell**:

Sept. 8: Breckenridge, dipyrimal quartz;

Sept. 15: Midway Springs, banded aragonite, actinolite, peacock? Opal; Billy B.

Oct. 5-7: Grand Junction, barite, calcite, amethyst; Billy B.

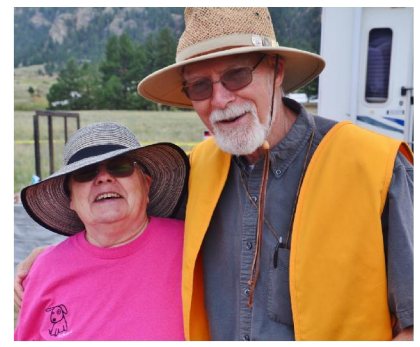
Oct. 17: Belvedere quarry, fossils; Paul C., Bob C.

Oct. 20: North Table Mt., zeolites; Bob C., ?

We are also working on a trip to the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum.

✓ ✓ Our unofficial Club photographer **Frank Rosenberg** documented activities at the August Gem & Mineral Show:





Frank also sent some shots of the August meeting. **Thank you Frank!**



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✓ ✓ **Steve Veatch** reports that 2 Pebble Pups, **Jacob Kania** and **Elkan Normandin**, will have articles published in a British rock and mineral magazine. Jacob's article on geodes originally appeared here.

▶ ▶ And here is the latest installment of “**Bench Tips**” by **Brad Smith** (www.BradSmithJewelry.com):

SETTING A RIVET

Riveting is usually done with a cross peen hammer, but I've found it's a lot easier for me to hit the rivet wire when using a small ball peen - and the smaller the better. Shown here is one I typically use. It's about 3/8 inch diameter on the back of a chasing hammer, but I've been thinking that a 3/16-inch ball might be even better. Look for a yard sale hammer you can modify to work.



SHEET WAX WITH ADHESIVE

While shopping in the Los Angeles jewelry district for supplies for our class, I found a new product that may interest some of you. Often before casting, I want to increase the thickness of a model by adding a layer of wax on the back side. For instance, models like a leaf or a flower petal do not cast well unless you add a little extra thickness. The problem is trying to apply a coating of wax that's smooth and even.

The new product I found is an easily moldable sheet wax with an adhesive coating. This lets me easily add thickness to a very thin model. With a leaf, just press it onto the wax, trim excess wax around the outer edges, and then gently bend the sandwich to the contour you would like. The wax is available in a number of different thicknesses from about 26 ga to 14 ga.

Pick Up a Few New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books

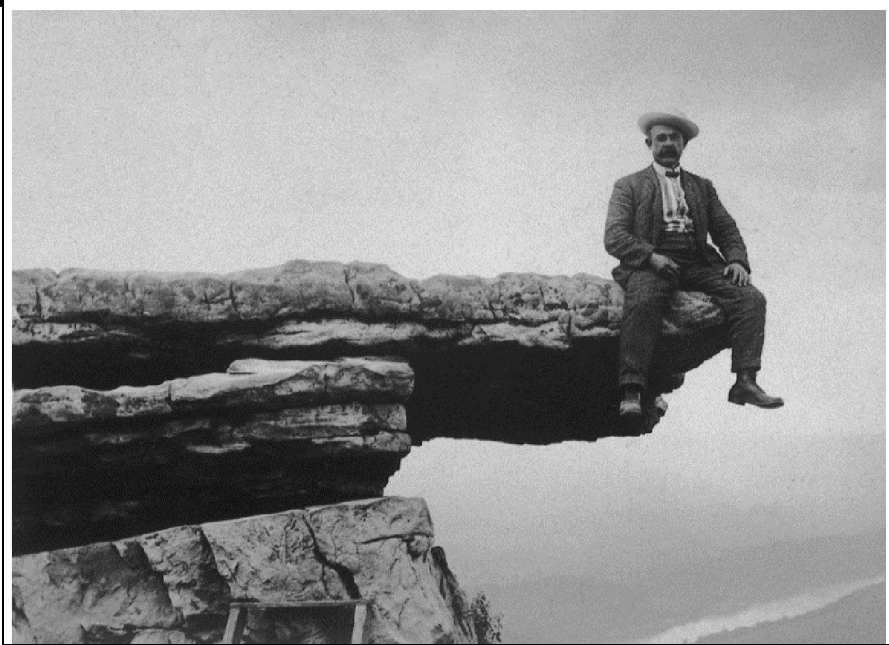
<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

Notes from the Editor

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Many thanks to **Steve Veatch**, who sent this article about Cripple Creek:

Cripple Creek's Mule Skinners By Steven Wade Veatch

In the late 1890s, Cripple Creek was the site of Colorado's last gold rush and soon became known as the World's Greatest Gold Camp. Ore from Cripple Creek's gold mines was hauled in large wooden wagons by four or six mules or horses to a team. Skilled drivers, known as mule skimmers or simply skimmers, could "skin" or outwit stubborn mules and compel them over rugged roads hauling ore, goods, and materials in and out of the gold camp.

Some mules were as mean as a surprised grizzly. Other mules were more obliging to the skimmer. A good skimmer could control his team and drive heavy, cargo-laden wagons along winding mountain roads raising dust at two to two-and-a-half miles per hour.

A mule skimmer's job was arduous. It took dogged determination and an understanding of a team of mules to make an efficient driving outfit. The work, sometimes dangerous and always hard, had long hours, starting at five in the morning and lasting long after the sunset. Young, ready men who could take the punishing work performed this job the best. Though no mules were ever skinned, these men would boast, "I can pop my initials on a mule's behind."

Most of the skimmers were as lonely as a seagull in an Iowa cornfield, and some skimmers were as mean and stubborn as their mule. The skimmers, in their quest for company, headed for the dancehalls that lined Cripple Creek's notorious Meyers Avenue.

This imagined scene applies to so many of these trips:

It's Saturday night, the sun has gone down behind Mt. Pisgah and a full moon is beginning to rise at the bottom of the sky. Coyotes prowl behind Mineral Hill in howling packs while the mournful whistle of the Midland Terminal locomotive wails through the city of Cripple Creek.

A chill shivers the night air as a small cadre of mule skimmers walk down Bennet Avenue on their way to Meyers Avenue to spend the evening in a dance hall—a place more alluring than the dream of buried gold. It's time for a big night. On Bennett Avenue, they walk past Kurth's music store

and peek through the window at the phonographs and pianos on display. The skimmers continue to a grocery where the pungent smells of coffee, cheese, and pickles in this cornucopia of



A group of scrubbed up, dressed up mule skimmers relax on a boulder in a rugged mountain clearing. In the background is a large tent and several horses grazing in the meadow. These skimmers worked for A.E. Carlton's Colorado Trading and Transfer Company in Cripple Creek. By the time this photo was taken (1906), the company had a thriving business transporting ore from the mines to the Midland terminal railhead. Photo © Cripple Creek District Museum.

plenty spill out onto the street. One skimmer walks in to buy a plug of Brown's Mule chewing tobacco and carefully counts out the money for the grocer. Next, they go past a hardware store where the window displays new picks and shovels with white-pine handles. As the skimmers turn onto Meyers Avenue, a cat creeps along the boardwalk and then zooms into the dark alley. The skimmers are as free as the night and stand together looking at the lights that flash and flare along the rip-roaring pleasure street. The wooden stomp of horse hoofs, the rolling wheels of buggies, and the sound of music fills the night air.

The group of skimmers choose a likely dancehall to enter, a hopping hive of humanity. The young men step into the smoke-filled, raucous dancehall and eagerly part with their hard-earned cash. Girls bring whiskey and beer to miners sitting at the tables. Men jam around the bar while drinking and talking about gold mines. The piano player pounds away while other musicians play their fiddles. Most of the dances were too complicated for the skimmers, unlike the other fast-drinking, fancy-stepping clientele, so they wait for the musicians to play the Monterey, a more straightforward dance they knew.

The interior lights illuminate the dancehall girls who appear as enchanting beauties—a sight for the skimmer's wearied eyes. The skimmers, with work-roughened hands and hammering hearts, each grab a girl and step out on the wooden dance floor where they join the others, dancing to the band's rendition of Mule Skinner's Delight. They go around and around in a circle—markedly self-aware—as the caller proclaims,

“honors to your partner, honors to the corner, swing your partner and all promenade.” When they finish the dance, the skimmers and their girls line up at the bar for a few drinks. The mule skimmers, full of brag, talk about their mules or horses and the perils their jobs until a work-worn miner yells: “another Mule Skinner’s Delight!” The dance was on, with skimmers spinning in a whirl as a happy reverie fills their minds and the night drifts on.

The mule skimmers in the Cripple Creek Mining District played an essential role in bringing goods to the district and hauling gold ore to mills for processing or to railroads for shipment. The skimmers did not disappear like yesterday’s snow but stepped into the pages of history. They even became folk icons when, in 1930, Jimmy Rodgers and George Vaughn wrote a song called *Blue Yodel No. 8*, also known as *Mule Skinner Blues*. Bill Monroe’s 1939 version of *Mule Skinner Blues* became a hit, and since then a variety of recording artists, including bluegrass and folk musicians, have performed the song. These songs immortalized the skimmers who played a vital part in Cripple Creek, the “World’s Greatest Gold Camp.”

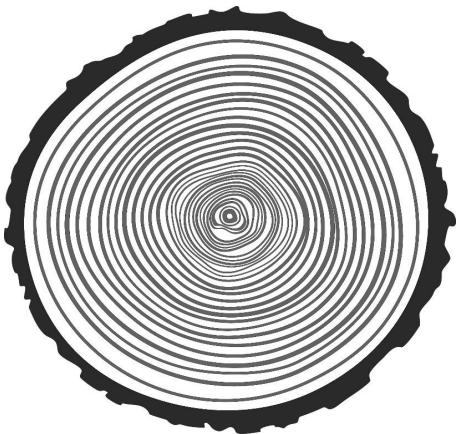
Here’s another article from Steve about resumption of Pebble Pups classes:

Pebble Pup Classes Resume this Month By Steven Veatch

The Pebble Pups will resume their meetings after the summer break on September 19 at the Lake George Community Center. The fall session starts at 6 pm with a class titled “Windows to the Past.” Fossils reveal prehistoric worlds and the plants and animals from these lost worlds. During the class the pups will learn to hunt for fossils and the proper way to collect them in the field. The pups will all take a virtual field trip to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. They will learn about the fossilization of giant redwood trees, insects, flowers, and leaves.

There will be a brief activity on climate change where the pups will work with tree rings and learn the many secrets they reveal when studied with a trained eye.

Steven Veatch is the instructor for the evening. Betty Merchant and John Rakowski will assist with the class.



▶ ▶ We received this note from **Sarah Allen**, who completed an internship at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, and whom we supported with a grant:

“I hope you have had a good summer. I received money from the Lake George Gem and Mineral club to support my research at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to attend a conference. I was part of the Geoscientists-in-the-Parks program from May 2017 through July 2018.

“Thank you again for supporting me and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. I have attached a letter and a photo that you are welcome to include in your newsletter. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.”

▶ ▶ We received a nice letter from **Rick Sauers**, of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, documenting **Ben Elick's** work at the Museum this past summer. We supported Ben's work with a grant.

Monthly Mineral Quiz

Answer to last month's quiz: Cuprite, Cu_2O , is a minor ore of copper commonly found in the oxidized zone of mixed sulfide deposits containing chalcopyrite or some other primary copper mineral. Sometimes transparent and ruby red, cuprite can be faceted, though its low hardness of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4, several directions of cleavage, high specific gravity (6.14), adamantine to metallic luster, and brittle tenacity make it very fragile and hard to see into. Better to leave it in mineral specimens for the collector to enjoy!

This month's mineral



Here's another blue mineral for you. This isometric silicate mineral has a hardness of 5.5 to 6, poor cleavage in several directions, and a low specific gravity of about 2.3. Although it's often used for cabochons, it's brittle and has a relatively dull luster. One variety is known for its tenebrescence, changing color when exposed to shortwave ultraviolet light. Although a number of localities produce this mineral world-wide, those in Ontario are especially prolific. What is the mineral?

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).

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