

# The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

**Club News,**  
**July, 2011**



**Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club**  
**Saturday, July, 9, 2011, at 9:00AM**  
**Lake George Community Center**

After a short business meeting, LGGMC member Rich Fretterd will lead the group to his **Petra Placer** mining claim, which is famous for topaz. **The trip requires a strenuous hike to over 9000 ft. elevation—BE PREPARED.** Bring hand tools, a screen, a small shovel, **plenty of water**, lunch, etc. **No small children or pets allowed. Car pooling is strongly recommended;** there are limited parking spaces at the trailhead. Rich will give rides from the parking area to the base of the steep trail in his pickup truck. Club **membership is REQUIRED.** If you need more info, **contact field-trip chairman Dan Alfrey at [AlfreyDan@aol.com](mailto:AlfreyDan@aol.com).**

Thanks to **Dick Lackmond**, we have an **alternate trip** planned (joint trip with the Columbine Gem & Mineral Society) for July 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be led by CGMS president **Steve Jones**. This is to a **private** smoky quartz & amazonite claim called "The Courtney Marie". **Permission is for this date/time only!** This alternative has been generously approved by The CGMS 'specifically' for those who cannot go on the extremely difficult Petra Placer trip.

This is a **reminder** that the **LGGMC Gem Show is Friday August 19 to Sunday August 21** with a Jump Start beginning Tuesday August 16. **We'll need volunteers** on Saturday August 13, after our regular business meeting, to stake out the spaces and put up signage. After the staking, the volunteers will have a pizza lunch at Lake George Pizza. During the show, particularly Friday, Saturday and Sunday, we would appreciate volunteer members to assist in parking management and handing out mineral specimens to kids. It's fun and important to talk to the public about our hobby and to discuss aspects of Earth science with kids and adults.

## Coming Events

- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society** monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16<sup>th</sup> (at J St.), Salida. ... **July 14**  
... **July 15-17**
- Victor Gold Rush Days**
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock. ... **July 21**
- Pueblo Rockhounds** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle. ... **July 21**
- Annual Continental Divide Tailgate (CONTINTAIL)**, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds; call 720-938-4194 for information. ... **Aug. 12-15**

**Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Mineral Show**, next to the Lake George  
Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

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Post Office. Free parking and admission. (Jump Start begins Aug. 16) (Jump-Start begins at 9:00AM, Tues., Aug. 16)	... Aug. 19-21
<b><u>Alma Geostudy Presentations at Alma</u></b>	... Sept. 10-11
<b><u>Symposium: Minerals of Russia</u></b> , Petroleum Hall, Green Center, CSM, Golden (contact <a href="mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov">pmodreski@usgs.gov</a> for info)	... Sept. 10
<b><u>CSM Geology Museum Open-House, Reception, and Silent Auction</u></b> , 6-9 PM, CSM Geology Museum, 13 <sup>th</sup> and Maple Sts., Golden	... Sept. 14
<b><u>Denver Coliseum Show</u></b> , 9-6 daily, 1900 44 <sup>th</sup> St. (from I-70, exit 275B at Brighton Blvd.; free parking & admission) (go to <a href="http://coliseumshow.com/">http://coliseumshow.com/</a> for info)	... Sept. 10-18
<b><u>Colorado Mineral &amp; Fossil Show</u></b> , Holiday Inn-Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St. (free parking & admission)	... Sept. 14-18
<b><u>Denver Gem &amp; Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Show</u></b> , Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 at 58 <sup>th</sup> Ave. (admission charge)	... Sept. 16-18

## Club News

**Welcome, New Member:**  
**Bob Jaynes (Florissant)**

❄️ Vice President and field-trip director **Dan Alfrey** has a great and ever-expanding field-trip line-up. Here's the latest list; please visit our website often for updates, and, remember, you must be a Lake George Gem & Mineral Club member to attend trips. **Please remember to pay your 2011 dues—still a bargain at \$15 for individuals or \$25 for a family; a membership form can be found at the back of the newsletter.**

**July 9: Petra Placer** (9AM); **Courtney Marie** claim (see this month's newsletter, above)

**July 16: Smoky Dog** (private claim of **Pinnacle 5 Minerals**) (amazonite/smoky quartz); 9AM

**July 23: Pebble Pups** interclub trip to New Hope amethyst deposit, 9AM-4PM (see Pebble Pups section of the newsletter)

**August 13: Lake George Gem & Mineral Show Set-Up, 9 AM; meet at Lake George Community Center. Free pizza for volunteers!**

**August 27: Hartsel** (not barite!) Pebble Pups invited too! Petrified wood on Private property.

**September 3: Trip to Devil's Hole mine**, near Texas Creek. **Very limited;** trip involves a 5-mile ride on rough roads followed by a long up-hill hike. Contact Bob Carnein [ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com) if interested in going.

**September 10: GeoStudy presentations** (Alma); also **Sedalia mine** (with Columbine Club; more info later)

**September 24: Holcim quarry;** meet 8AM in Florence

**October 1: Patience club claim** (8AM)

Dan also notes that no trips are scheduled for August 6. If you'd like to lead a trip or have a suggestion for one of those dates, contact Dan at 719-440-6234.

⇒⇒ The June 11 meeting was held at the Lake George Community Center at 9:00AM. Our secretary, **Charlene DeVries**, reported the following items. The following new members and guests were welcomed: **Linda Burns, Michael Domanski, Glenn Hagggett, Rick Schnellmann, Dave & Sharon Tally**, and **John Woods** and his daughter **Abbey**. **John Rakowski** reported that 14 dealers are signed up for the August show, with several others pending. We received a nice letter from our 2010 scholarship winner, **Erin Leidy**, who is

maintaining a 4.0 GPA at Metro State College, in Denver. **John Rakowski** reported that he will lead a field trip for middle and high school students on June 22 and needs some helpers. **Kris Dingfield** showed specimens recently collected at the Patience and Piety claims (see photos in the June newsletter). The Alma Project presentations will continue, in collaboration with Colorado Preservation, Inc., on September 10. Denver TV stations are expected to attend. We need two volunteers who know about mining. In conjunction with that meeting, several of **Marge Breth's** paintings will be auctioned on September 11. **Mary O'Donnell's** ashes are to be interred at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on June 12. **Steven Veatch** announced that he needs 2 helpers for an archaeological dig behind the Museum in Cripple Creek. Pebble Pups placed high in competitions of both the Rocky Mountain and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, with ribbons and prizes to be awarded later this summer.

⇒⇒ **Dan Alfrey** sent the following link to a Fox News report on proposed new rules for gold mining in California:

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/06/01/fortune-seekers-bemoan-potential-end-dredge-gold-mining-california/>

⇒⇒ **Dick Lackmond** reports that the lapidary shop now has a 4-wheel cabochon machine/trim saw, donated by **Quentin Good!** Dick notes that we still need the following items:  
Clamp-on lights; 100-, 600-, and 800-grit 6-inch lap plates; Wipe-up cloths

Any other equipment donations will be much appreciated.

**Dan Alfrey** reports that **Fred Ceconi** has donated dop sticks, wax, and other materials to the shop. **Thanks to Quentin and Fred for helping us put together a first-rate shop!**



Unloading the cab machine (left) and (right) the machine will need some work! (Dick Lackmond photos)

⇒⇒ Here's a recent update on the lapidary lab from **Dan Alfrey**:

On June 30, 10am, a LapShop Committee meeting took place at the Mtn Aspen Granite Co. lapshop location in WP! Present were proposed LapShop director **Donovan Sutters**, LapShop director-assistant **Dicky Lackmond**, and officers: **John Rak'**, **Wayne Johnston**, and Committee Member-Alternate **Dan**.

All the equipment was reviewed 'in detail' as to the current status, necessary needed materials, and repair & maintenance issues were addressed. A modified schedule was discussed, as well as Instruction outlook & possibilities.

Please look forward to a full update at the next business meeting. Also, expect an eMailed Questionnaire to be circulated soon for important feedback needed from all the Membership!!!

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Thanks, Quentin! (Dick Lackmond photo)

⇒⇒ **Dick Lackmond** sent the following additional information about the new lapidary shop:

The lap shop is in full operation with the lap machine, big saw, trim saws, and ring material available. It is hoped that the new, refurbished cab machine will be in operation for the next meeting on **July 13 at 6 pm**. ALL COME BY AND SEE THE FUN AND TRY YOUR HAND! If you don't have any rocks you want to cut/polish, we have several in-stock donated ones.

We have a new Lapidary WorkShop leader: **Donny Sutters**, a true rockhound. His contact info is [survive1life@yahoo.com](mailto:survive1life@yahoo.com) We will make every effort to accommodate you on any special times and dates you request other than the regular schedule.

**Remember that the Lapidary WorkSpace is donated by the MOUNTAIN ASPEN GRANITE COUNTER TOP CO --- Do you need a counter top, or know someone who does ???**

⇒⇒ **Dick Lackmond** also sent the following report on the mineral show at the Rock Mountain Federation meeting in late June.

The RMF show/meeting was a good one. The dealers' show was inside and out. I estimate there were 25 or 30 dealers total. Our club was represented well as we had 4 members as dealers, and all did well. The business meeting was calm and nothing of import was discussed. The DGMG wants to host the 2014 show, in conjunction with the September Denver Gem Show, as it is the date of their 50 anniversary. There were No volunteer clubs to host the 2012 or 2013 RMF shows.

⇒⇒ According to **John Rakowski**, 28 members enjoyed the Spruce Grove interclub-trip with the DGMG on June 11, though he isn't aware of any major finds.

**Ingrid Hamilton** provided these photos:



⇒⇒ **Pete Modreski**, who keeps us informed about events state-wide, reports the following kids' activities at Dinosaur Ridge (near Golden):

July 9: Dino Discovery Day: Hands-on activities at the Visitors' Center, with expert guides along the trail. Free hiking or fee shuttle bus;

August 13: Dino Discovery Day: "Geocaching", with hands-on fossil searches;

September 13: Dino Discovery Day: "Reading Really Rocks"; gold panning and exploring for fossils

For information on these and other activities at Dinosaur Ridge, please visit <http://www.dinoridge.org>

⇒⇒ **Dan Alfrey** reports that the Creede trip of June 18-19 was a great success:

Eleven of fourteen LGGMC members stayed overnight in the historic Last Chance Mine cabins, in Creede, which included new club member **Bob Jaynes**, who joined at the meet site. We also met up with 2 members from the Canon City Geology Club. Everyone took home some prize Sowbelly Agate (see photo), as the Mine Owner had worked up a lot of new material, and the weather was perfect for digging our own above the Mine. Cost was still only \$2/pound. Most all continued on to collect thunder egg specimens on Sunday.





Dan Alfrey photos

⇒⇒ We received the following request for amber and/or copal specimens from a scientist at the Smithsonian Institution:

Dear Mineralogical Club:

Dr. Joseph Lambert (Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, [jlambert@northwestern.edu](mailto:jlambert@northwestern.edu)) and I have been collaborating in the chemical characterization of plant exudates for years. This is a request for amber, copal and/or solid, natural exudates (not leaves or twigs) weighing at least 50 mg (roughly, the volume of an unused eraser on a pencil). We do not make a profit from our research. If you would like to help us and have easy access to any such materials, please feel free to contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely and gratefully,  
Jorge Santiago-Blay

Department of Paleobiology, MRC-121  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution, P. O. Box 37012  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012 USA

For packages sent via a fast courier (e.g. FedEx, UPS, DHL, etc.), please use the following address:

Jorge A. Santiago-Blay, Research Associate  
Department of Paleobiology, MRC-121, 10th and Constitution Avenue  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution, West Loading Dock, Washington, D.C. 20560 USA

⇒⇒ **Reminder:** Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds is offering the following seminars this summer. A more complete description of each seminar is available on the Friends' website [www.fossilbeds.org](http://www.fossilbeds.org) or at this website: <http://www.nps.gov/flfo/forteachers/seminar-series.htm>.

**Seminars related to geology or fossils are in Bold:**

1. Friday, July 8, 2011, "Natural History and Ecology of the Flammulated Owl," Dr. Brian Linkhart, Biology Department, Colorado College, \*\*5 PM to 2 AM, Manitou Experimental Forest, Woodland Park, CO.

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2. Monday and Tuesday, July 11th and 12th, 2011, Day 1 - "Wildflowers of the Central Rockies," and Day 2 - "Blowing in the Wind: Knowing Your Grasses." Doug Coleman, Director, Wintergreen Nature Foundation, Wintergreen, Virginia. 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM, Florissant

3. **Saturday, July 16, 2011, "Exploring the Basement: Learning to See What Isn't There" Reinhard Wobus, Geology Department, Williams College, MA. 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM**

4. Tuesday, July 19, 2011, "Easy Print Making - Indoors or Out,"- Toni Ratzlaff, art teacher, Woodland Park Schools, 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM

5. **Saturday, July 30, 2011m "Discovering Colorado's Ice Age Environments"- Steven Veatch, Vice-President of the Friends, 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM**

6. **Wednesday and Thursday, August 3rd and 4th, 2011m "Geologist as Detective" - Part 1 and 2, (can be done separately but #2 can't be done without taking #1)- Dr. Bob Carnein, retired, Lock Haven University of PA, 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM**

7. Tuesday, August 9, 2011, "Teaching Renewable Energy, Tools for K-12 Teachers and Parents." - Chris Tholl, Director of High Trails Outdoor Education Center, Florissant, CO 9 AM to 5 PM - Sanborn Western Camps, Florissant, CO

⇒⇒ Here are this month's "Bench Tips" from Brad Smith:

#### **TOOTHPICKS**

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, with Zam for polishing in tight spots, and with a bit of beeswax for picking up and positioning small stones. They're particularly good for testing the fit of a small faceted stone in a prong or tube set finding.

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#### **PUMICE WHEELS**

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Mohs scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howlite, etc. If you're unsure that a wheel is pumice, test it with a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale. If it doesn't scratch glass, it shouldn't scratch quartz.

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#### **MAGNETIC PIN FINISHER**

There is a good article about making your own magnetic tumbler at <http://www.rchristopher.com/tech/tumbler.html> The person reporting this on the YahooGroups Jewelry Casting list says he's made two units from these plans and they work very well. In addition to the primary job of burnishing and polishing finished pieces, he also uses the units for cleaning investment from castings.

The stainless steel pins are available from either Gesswein or Rio Grande.

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### ***Pebble Pups Corner***

We have heard through the grapevine that a recently published Pebble Pups article **will receive national recognition from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** later this summer! We'll provide more information when it becomes available.

**Meetings are suspended for the summer.** However, please remember the **field trip planned for July 23** to the **New Hope Amethyst Mine**, near Canon City. Meet at 9am, at the big pull-off just before Hwy. 9 meets US 50, west of the Royal Gorge. There are No facilities. Bring Water!

**Adults will meet for a planning session** at 5:30PM, July 6, at the Woodland Park Library. Any interested LGGMC members are welcome to attend!

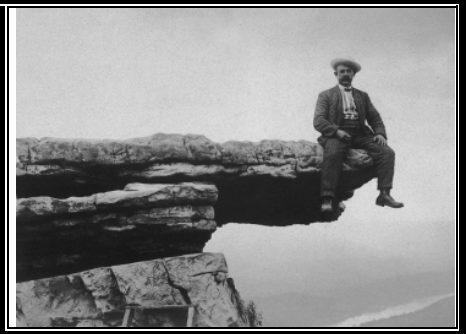
Contact **Steve Veatch** if you need more info: [steven.veatch@gmail.com](mailto:steven.veatch@gmail.com)

### **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

Bob Carnein, Editor

[ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com)

719-687-2739



We haven't had any article submissions this month, and I've been pretty tied up, so we can't offer you the usual reading material (which is probably good, considering how busy everybody is). I hope you all had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and we'll be back with at least one article in August!

As I was going to press, **Dan Alfrey** sent two photos of recent activity in the lapidary lab.



**Lake George Gem and Mineral Club**

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

[www.LGGMClub.org](http://www.LGGMClub.org)

**2011 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 19 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 president 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 2011 are:**

John Rakowski, President  
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