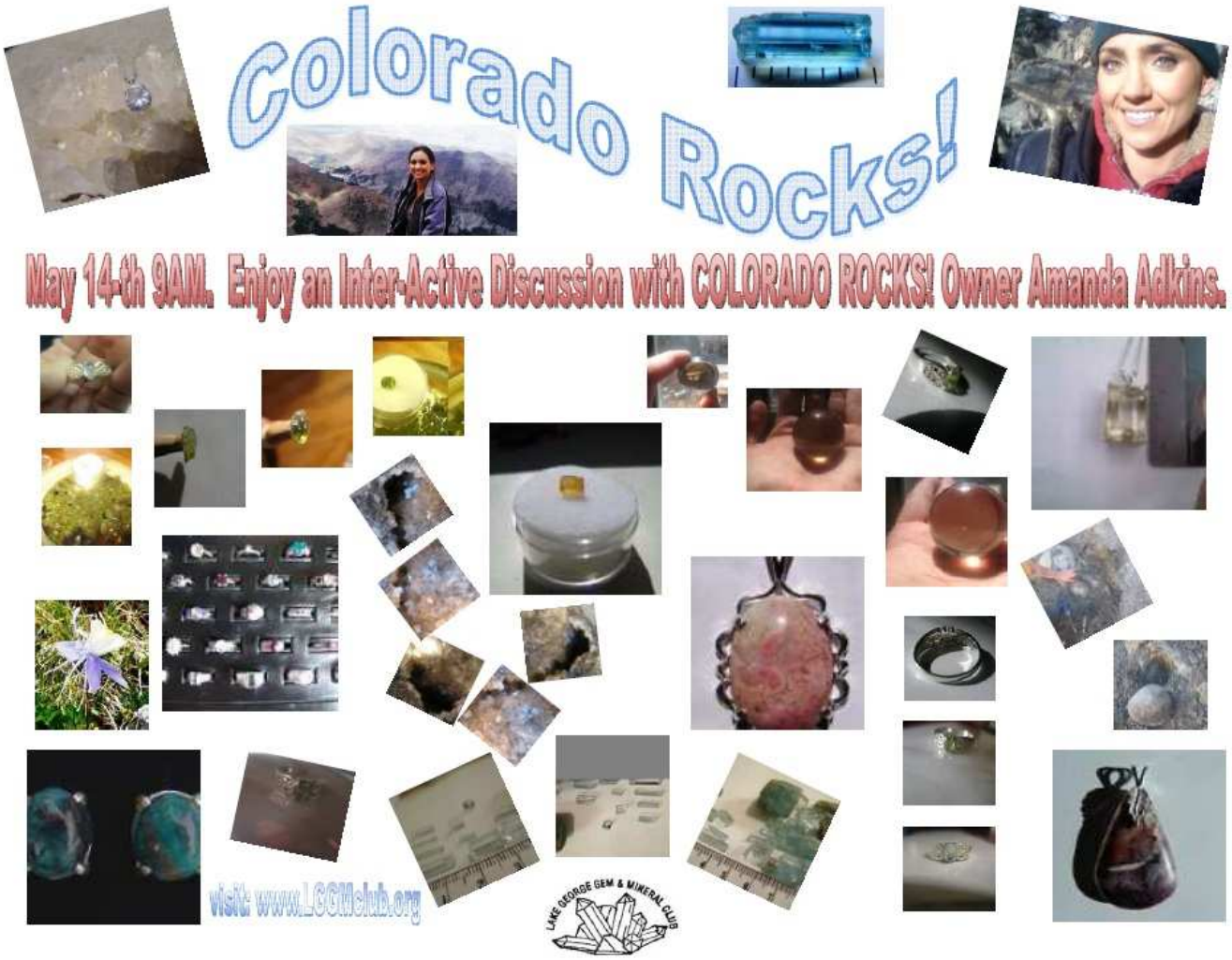
The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

May, 2011 Club News

Regular LGGMC Meeting Saturday, May 14, at 9:00AM (note time)
Lake George Community Center

After the business meeting, **Amanda Adkins** of "Colorado Rocks!" will lead an Interactive Discussion about "**Examples of Colorado Prospecting, Gems, and Locales"**. Then, members can visit **Frankie and Townsend Wolfe's** Forever Mine claim. Bring water, lunches, and collecting gear.



Coming Events

"The Sulphide Queen Carbonatite Deposit: Rare Earth Resurgence at Mountain Pass, CA" by J.O. Landreth, 7PM, Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society, Consol. Mutual Water Co. (lower level), 12700 W. 27th Ave., Lakewood (all welcome)	**… May 2**
"Genesis of Basement-Foreland Arches" by Anne Sheehan, 10:30AM, USGS Rocky Mountain Area Seminar Series, Bldg. 25 Lecture Hall, Denver Federal Center (Kipling St. south of 6th Ave.), Lakewood	**… May 3**
Dinosaur Discovery Day, Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison, 10AM-3PM (use offsite parking at Thunder Valley, north of DinoRidge Visitors Center on Rooney Rd.; $5 charge). Special Boy Scout/Cub Scout activities (see registration form at www.dinoridge.org)	**… May 7**
Colorado Mineral Society Silent Auction, 11PM-3PM; verbal auction at 1PM; Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 920 Kipling St. (3 blocks north of 6th Ave.), Lakewood	**… May 7**
Mineral Sale, Ray & Eloise Berry, 9AM-4PMm 7513 Tudor Rd., Colorado Springs; call 719-598-7877 for info)	**… May 7-8**
Columbine Gem & Mineral Society monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida.	**… May 12**
Silent Auction, Colorado Chapter Friends of Mineralogy, 12 noon to 3PM, Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St. (just west of Colfax and Wadsworth), Lakewood, go to http://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/ for info.	**… May 14**
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock.	**… May 19**
Pueblo Rockhounds monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle.	**… May 19**
Rock Fair and Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show, Western Museum of Mining and Industry and Best Western Academy Hotel, 225 Northgate Blvd (I-25 exit 156A) and 8110 Academy Blvd. (I-25 exit 150); go to http://www.csms.us/ for info	**… June 24-26**
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2011 Convention and Show, hosted by Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; call 316-742-3746 or 719-488-5526 or visit the website (above) for information.	**… June 24-26**
Victor Gold Rush Days	**… July 15-17**
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 Post Office. Free parking and admission. (Jump Start begins Aug. 16)	**… Aug. 19-21**
Alma Geostudy Presentations at Alma	**… Sept. 10-11**
Symposium: Minerals of Russia, Petroleum Hall, Green Center, CSM, Golden (contact pmodreski@usgs.gov for info)	**… Sept. 10**
CSM Geology Museum Open-House, Reception, and Silent Auction, 6-9 PM, CSM Geology Museum, 13th and Maple Sts., Golden	**… Sept. 14**
Denver Coliseum Show, 9-6 daily, 1900 44th St. (from I-70, exit 275B at Brighton Blvd.; free parking & admission) (go to http://coliseumshow.com/ for info)	**… Sept. 10-18**
Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show, Holiday Inn-Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St. (free parking & admission)	**… Sept. 14-18**
Denver Gem & Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Show, Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 at 58th Ave. (admission charge)	**… Sept. 16-18**

Club News

Welcome, New Members:
John Kurth (Lake George)
Jan & Mitzi Leaver (Denver)
Bill & Mary Lopez (Cañon City)
John Mull (Holland, MI)
Jack & Nancy Skala (Woodland Park)

❄❄Vice President and field-trip director **Dan Alfrey** has a great and ever-expanding field-tip line-up for the coming summer. 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.**

May7: New Hope Amethyst Mine (9AM) Be at the Pullout on Hwy 9, 250 yds North of Hwy.50
May 14: the Forever Mine (9AM), follows LGGMC business meeting at the LG Community Ctr
May 28: Patience club claim (8AM) Meet at Langstaff-Brown in Woodland Park
June 4: To be re-scheduled; Devil's Hole mine (Texas Creek) See: ccarnein@gmail.com
June 11: Spruce Grove interclub trip (with Denver Gem & Mineral Guild) 9AM
June 18: Pebble Pups interclub trip to Leadville (with CSMS and FMC)
June 18-19: Last Chance Mine (Creede) and Bonanza/Marshall Pass exploration! See Dan!
July 9: Petra Placer (9AM) difficult trip at over 9,000' elevation for Colorado topaz!
July 16: Smoky Dog (private claim of **Pinnacle 5 Minerals**) (amazonite/smoky quartz); 9AM
July 23: Pebble Pups interclub trip to New Hope AMETHYST Mine near Canon' City.
August 27: Pebble Pups interclub trip to Hartsel petrified wood (and maybe Agate!!!)
September 10: GeoStudy presentations (Alma); -and- Sedalia Mine (InterClub with Columbine Club; more info later)
September 24: Holcim quarry; meet 8AM in Penrose
October 1: Patience club claim (8AM)

♦♦ On April 9, about 35 members gathered at the Lake George Community Center for the monthly meeting. Several guests attended, including **Jim Bechtle** (Hartsel), **John Kurth** (Florissant), **Betty Royse** (Guffey), **Judy von Ahlefeldt** (editor and publisher of the *Black Forest News*), and **Mary Glover**. Pebble Pups **Patrick Glover, Auston Mammenga, Ciena Higginbotham, Jessica Kennedy**, and **Ruth Powell** were recognized for their work on the article recently published in *Deposits* magazine. **Steve Veatch** also presented copies of the February, 2011 (Vol. 33, No. 1) issue of *New Mexico Geology* to members of the Alma Study Group. That issue contains the abstract for the presentation at Socorro last November. **Duane Russell** announced that the Club Library database is ready; members can borrow items from Duane or **John Rakowski**, with a 2-week renewal, if needed. **Willy Hofmeister** reported that the lapidary workshop is nearly ready (see notice below), but we need the following items: a cabochon template; an alcohol lamp; a rough (80-grit) cabochon grinder; folding chairs; and some advice from experienced lapidarists. It was also announced that the Lake George Club's monthly newsletter will receive one of the top 3 awards for newsletters in the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, at the June meeting in Colorado Springs. After the business meeting, **Steve Veatch** gave a fascinating talk titled "The Greater Alma Mining District: A Colorado Mining Legend". He showed photos of what remains of several famous mines and historic photos of the people and places included in the district. Cake and lemonade followed the presentation.

💧💧 About 23 members turned out for a great trip to **Joe Dorris'** Topaz Mountain Gem mine, north of Lake George, on April 16. A lot of great topaz was found, but **Richard Kawamoto** found 2 great crystals (pictured below) that took top prize for the day. The first is a completely rounded 110-carat bicolored stone; the second, the top of a well formed bicolored crystal weighing 180 carats. This stone has great symmetry and a complex collection of well defined faces. Both stones contain significant quantities of transparent gem rough. Luckily for me, though I was working next to Richard and Jerolynn, the crystals I found were simple keepers without much monetary value. **Many thanks to Joe** and his family for allowing us access to this fantastic locality!

Topaz crystals from Topaz Mountain Gem Mine trip. Richard Kawamoto photos.

Farming for Colorado topaz (Dan Alfrey photos)

💧💧 **Dick Lackmond**, who maintains mineral-collecting contacts all over the US, recently sent a copy of an extensive discussion between rockhounds and Forest Service employees in the southern Appalachians. If you'd like to see where collecting on Forest Service land appears to be headed, contact Dick at dlackmond@msn.com for your own copy.

💧💧 **Dan Alfrey** sent a group of photos from the recent Earth-Day activities at the Dinosaur Resource Center in Woodland Park, in which LGGMC members participated.

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

May, 2011

💧💧 In case you haven't seen it, here's the official announcement of the opening of our new lapidary workshop, at Mountain Aspen Granite Company in Woodland Park.

The LGGMC now has a Lapidary Work-Shop!

~ GRAND OPENING ~

May 1st 1-3pm

LAKE GEORGE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Lapidary Workshop: The Lake George Gem & Mineral Club **(Members-Only!)** now have a lapidary workshop on the premises of the **Mountain Aspen Granite Company**, just East of the Safeway shopping center in Woodland Park.

(NOTE: The Owner of the business has made the space available to the club at No cost !!!).
*In return for his generosity we want to encourage all club members to keep **Mountain Aspen Granite Co.** in mind for stone counter tops, hardwood flooring and window coverings. They have polished natural granite and other rock that they can custom fit to kitchens, bathrooms or elsewhere. Thank-You Glenn!!!*

☼ *Please recommend **Mountain Aspen Granite** at **719-641-0214** (Glenn Raymond, owner)* ☼

WorkShop Contacts are (in This ORDER!) below:

1. **Willy & Connie Hofmeister** cwhofmeister@q.com (719) 687–2620
2. Dick Lackmond dlackmond@q.com (719) 684 – 9736
3. Dan Alfrey alfreydan@aol.com (719) 440 – 6234

Please contact Willy & Connie for an Inventory of Equipment, Schedule information, and general lapidary Interests or Questions. (Note: Experienced Instructor volunteers are needed !)

➲ ***Please Park in FRONT !***

➲ ***Use the Front Entrance !***

We need Donated Equipment & Materials:

-Grinders, -Saws, -Polishers, -Stencils, -Folding Chairs, -Grit, -Polish, -Dop Wax, -Blades, etc.

We need Volunteer Instructors!

** R.S.V.P. to Connie **
cwhofmeister@q.com
(719) 687–2620

➲ *(She needs an idea of how many treats to bring!!!)*➲

♦♦ **Steve Veatch** sent this about a Tour of the Ajax Mine surface workings, in Victor, Colorado.

Press Release: Tour Victor's Ajax Mine May 28

High above Victor, the giant metal head frame of the Ajax Mine glimmers golden in the evening light, a landmark for gold mining and testimony to the wealth that made its owners proud. The mine has been dormant for 30 years but the legend of the Ajax lives on as one of the largest gold producers of the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District.

A special tour of the Ajax Mine surface structures, including the giant metal head frame and its hoist house, will be held Saturday, May 28, Sponsored by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) and Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company (CCV). The tour begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum and will be led by former Ajax miner and Victor resident Gary Horton. Horton worked in the Ajax during its 1980's production years. Historian Ed Hunter will also be on hand. The cost of the tour (donated to the STCFG) is $10 per person. Make reservations at VictorColorado.com/stcfgnews.htm or by email to stcfg@victorcolorado.com.

Payment (cash only, no credit cards are accepted) will be collected at the museum the day of the tour).

Meet at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum at Third & Victor Avenue at 9:30 a.m. Since this tour is on CCV mine property, all tour participants must view a mine safety video and will be required to wear hard hats and safety glasses (furnished by CCV) for the tour. There will be a shuttle to the mine; limited seating is available and some carpooling will be required. If you are not comfortable driving on small mountain roads, please reserve early for the van ride. This mine is located on CC&V privately owned property - do not miss this exclusive opportunity to visit the Ajax Mine and catch breath taking views of Victor and the mountains to the southwest. Dress warmly for spring weather and bring sunscreen, hat and footwear suitable for walking over gravel and rocks.

The Ajax Mining Company shipped granite honeycombed with gold telluride beginning in 1895 and was owned in 1903 by famed entrepreneurs Charles Tutt, Spencer Penrose, Charlie MacNeill, Clarence Hamlin and Oliver Shoup. In 1947, after changing ownership several times and being combined with other claims, the Ajax was the seventh largest gold producing mine in the United States. The steel head frame was erected in 1959 and came to Victor from the Pikes Peak Coal Company in Colorado Springs. Operations ceased in 1961. The last operations in the underground mine were conducted in the early 1980s at the depth of 3,350 feet below the surface.

The Ajax Mine tour event is held during Colorado Historic Preservation Month and is the seventh annual historic mine tour the STCFG has sponsored as part of the month-long event held every year to focus on Colorado history. For information, visit VictorColorado.com.

Ajax mine (Victor Lowell Thomas Museum)

Steve Veatch also sent the following list of summer seminars, offered by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds.

FRIENDS OF THE FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS

SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES 2010

This is the 17th summer that the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds have offered seminars for the general public. Continuing Education credits (CE) through BOCES and undergraduate and graduate credit are available through Adams State College. If you are interested in any of the seminars listed below, please call the Florissant Fossil Beds NM at (719) 748-3253 and ask for Seminars ext. 109. Registrations will be taken anytime after April 15. Discounts are available for members of the Friends and teachers. We look forward to seeing you this summer at one or many of our seminars. A more complete description of each seminar will be available on the Friends' website www.fossilbeds.org after **April 15** or at this website: http://www.nps.gov/flfo/forteachers/seminar-series.htm. **Seminars related to geology or fossils are in BOLD.**

2011 SEMINARS:

1. Saturday, May 7, 2011, "Choices for Sustainable Living and Learning to Grow Your Own Food" Larry Stebbins, Director of Pikes Peak Urban Gardens, 9 AM to 5 PM at Harlan Wolf Ranch in Colorado Springs.

2. Saturday, June 18, 2011 - "Historical Ranch Sites of the Sanborn Western Camps, " Jerry McLain, Director of Alumni Relations, Colorado Outdoor Education Center, 9 AM to 5 PM, Sanborn Western Camps, Florissant, CO.

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

4. 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

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

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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 Geology professor, 9 AM to 5 PM, Florissant Fossil Beds NM

9. 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

💧💧 As of "press time", I have not received this month's "Bench Tips" from Brad Smith.

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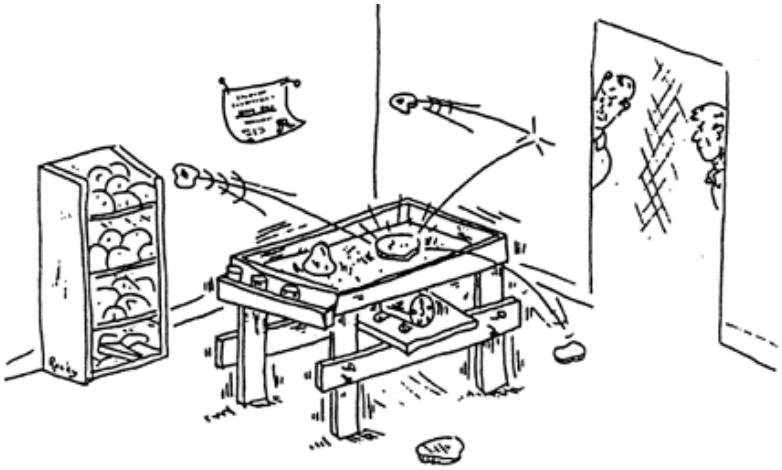
More **BenchTips by Brad Smith** are at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or: facebook.com/BenchTips

Pebble Pups Corner

Pebble Pups will meet at the usual time:
6PM, May 10, at the Lake George Community Center.

Dan Alfrey has arranged for **Chris Peterson of Cloudbait Observatory** to talk about meteors and fireballs at the May meeting.

John Rakowski provided the following photos of recent meetings, including the April LGGMC meeting.



YOU'RE RIGHT FRANK---
YOU HAVE GOT A PROBLEM!

By Harlan "Rocky" West
From T-Town Rockhound 11/61 & 7/98

'Hope this isn't our new Lapidary workshop!

Thanks to **Dick Lackmond** for the cartoon!

Pay your Dues, so you can participate on our Field Trips!

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club
Box 171
Lake George, Colorado 80827
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 (when our Show starts!) 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

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 171
Lake George, CO 80827
www.LGGMclub.org

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
PO Box 608
Florissant, CO 80816
719-748-3861
rakgeologist@yahoo.com

Dan Alfrey, Vice President
PO Box 4164
Woodland Park, CO 80866
719-440-6234
alfreydan@aol.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
dave.devries@verizonbusiness.com

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