



CLUB NEWS

JANUARY 2026

January Club Meeting – Saturday, January 10 at 10 AM Lake George Charter School

Let's Plan for a Great 2026. The Lake George Gem & Mineral Club will kick off the new year with a planning meeting on Saturday, January 10, at 10:00 a.m., at the Lake George Charter School. We encourage all members to attend and share their ideas.

This January meeting will focus on planning for 2026, including a first look at potential field trips for the coming year. We'll also discuss and gauge member interest in pursuing an opportunity to hold our annual club mineral show at a new location and date, including the possibility of hosting the show in Cripple Creek this year. Your input will help guide these decisions and shape the year ahead.

Winter weather reminder: During the winter months, please be sure to check [the club's Facebook page](#) before heading out to a meeting. If road conditions are unsafe due to snow or weather, meeting cancellations will be posted there. We never want members to feel pressured to drive in poor conditions for a club meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in January and starting 2026 with good conversation, good planning, and a shared vision for another great year of collecting and learning.

2026 Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Membership registration is now open. You may join or renew your membership through the end of March 2026.

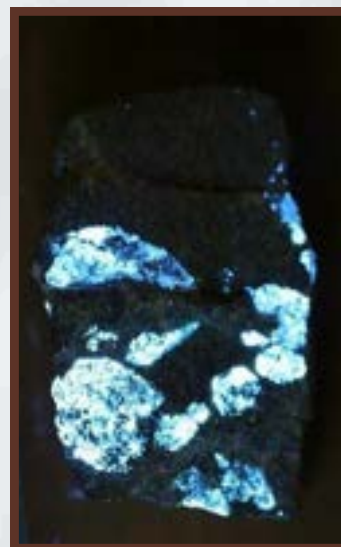


**Come
Explore
With
Us!**

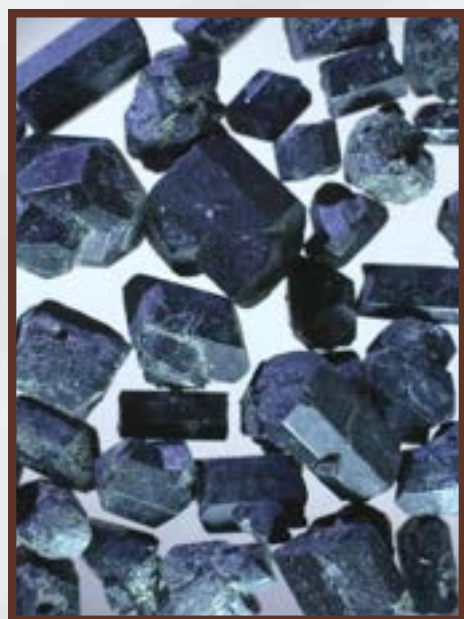


MONTHLY MINERAL QUIZ

Monthly Mineral for January, 2026 (Carnein photos and collection)



The monthly mineral for January is one you may have collected at the Gold City Claim, west of Lake George (second from left above, in SWUV). It's very difficult to identify unless you have a SW UV lamp (see two photos to the right, above). This mineral is a very important source of a metal used for high temperature, dense steel alloys. In fact, it was considered a strategic metal during the Cold War, and there were government incentives for prospectors to search out deposits in the U.S. The ore mineral has a high SG (6.1), moderate H (4 ½ to 5), and occasionally occurs as fine tetragonal crystals (left-most photo, above). It is not rare in Colorado; several small deposits occur near Lake George, and well crystallized examples can be found near Ouray. In the UV photos shown, one has a much more blue-white fluorescence, compared with the other. This is a "pure" example; the one with yellowish fluorescence contains an "impurity" that's considered to be detrimental to its use as an ore. Do you know this mineral?



Last Month's mineral: Augite, complex Ca, Mg, Fe silicate Last month's mineral is very widespread, but, because it belongs to a large, complex mineral group (the pyroxenes), it's hard to identify without a chemical analysis of some kind. However, if you see a black or dark green mineral with two cleavage directions at about right angles to each other, you probably have augite. Crystals are stubby and prismatic (like those to the left, which came from McIntyre Mountain, near Guffey) and may be clearly monoclinic (like the one just to the left of center in the photo). H is 5 ½ to 6 and luster is somewhat dull on crystal faces, though it may be vitreous if the crystals are fresh and unaltered. You should look for augite in dark-colored volcanic rocks, such as basalt. It's sometimes confused with hornblende, but the cleavages of the two can be used to distinguish them.

SHOWTIME!

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society proudly presents:
**THE 71ST ANNUAL
TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

**RED,
WHITE
& BLUE**

CELEBRATE THE
Spirit of Minerals



**FEBRUARY 12 - 15, 2026
TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER**



for more information, visit:
www.tgms.org



Scan code for information about our Tucson Gem & Mineral Show!

[Download the \\$2 Off coupon](#)

RMGM Tucson Mineral & Fossil Show
January 30 - February 14, 2026

Tent Show January 30 - February 14, 2026
Wholesale (3 Dealers): January 23 - February 7, 2026 (metal building)
Jeanne's Rock Shop (Miracle Breeze Bld)
January 23 - February 14, 2026

1920 N. Oracle Road, Tucson, Arizona
Hours: Everyday - 10 am to 6 pm
except Saturday - February 14, 2026 : 10 am - 4 pm

FREE SHOW

- Fossils
- Minerals
- Cabochons
- Cutting Rough
- Metals-Gold/Silver
- Meteorites & Tektites
- Carvings & Decorator Items
- Gems, Minerals, Jewelry & More ...



FREE PARKING

Retail sales tax license required for wholesale purchases.



large ruby crystal 4.37" (1.994 pounds)
G.D. Gem, Avon Pogorelec
Bulgaria Gem Co

2026 SHOW SCHEDULE:

- Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show: April 17-19, 2026
NEW LOCATION! National Western Center, 5115 Race Court, Denver, CO 80216
- Texas Mineral and Fossil Coconee Show: April 24-26, 2026
The Lone Star Convention Center & Expo, 9955 Airport Rd, Coconee, TX 77003
- Texas Mineral and Fossil Dallas/Plano Show: May 15-17, 2026
Plano Event Center, 2000 E Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074
- Colorado Mineral and Fossil Fall Show: September 11-13, 2026
Delta Metals Denver / 18 E 129TH Ave, Northglenn, CO 80233



www.rmgmshow.com

DESERT GARDENS ROCK GEM & MINERAL SHOW

January 1 – February 28

Denver Gem & Mineral Guild

Upcoming Colorado Show: The Denver Gem & Mineral Guild Show will take place February 27–March 1, 2026, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, located at 15200 West 6th Avenue in Golden. Show hours are Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission and parking are both free, making it a great opportunity to explore minerals, gems, and jewelry close to home.



Check out RMS!

Your source for Rock and Mineral Shows,
Clubs, Rock Shops, & Mineral Museums.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!



The release of the 2024 annual report was delayed, but the good news is that it is [now available online here](#). The 2025 annual report will be released this coming spring.

Speaking of the Mines Museum, be sure to check out “Treasures Through Her Eyes,” a new exhibit at the Mines Museum of Earth Science in Golden, Colorado, on the Colorado School of Mines campus. The exhibit highlights geologic specimens and stories through the perspectives and contributions of women in the geosciences, offering an inspiring look at Colorado geology and beyond. It’s well worth a visit for anyone interested in minerals, history, and the people behind the science.



Celebrate National Hobby Month!

...and rockhounding reminds us that the best hobbies involve dirt on your boots and rocks in your pockets.

...the perfect time to remind yourself that rockhounding is cheaper than therapy.

...and rockhounding proves that “just one more rock” is never really just one.

JANUARY BENCH TIPS

FOREDOM MAINTENANCE If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of instructions on how to do everything.



The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. Any repair parts needed are available from the Foredom site or from many jewelry supply catalogs. If you have any question about their products, a phone call or an email will get quick answers.



Just a drop!

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.



[See More of Brad Smith's Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making](#)

HERE'S TO A NEW YEAR... AND NEW DISCOVERIES!

The Bone Hunter's Odyssey

Moving across the vast arid expanse,
the fossil-hunter walks where
wind sculpts the sandstone cliffs.
She moves, a dark silhouette
against the open sky, her gaze
probing the land for ancient whispers.

Each step brings her closer to
forgotten worlds, a boot print left
where titans once roamed.
In her hands, the map is a mere outline,
but her heart knows the language
of the earth.

The first find is modest: a piece of a tooth,
jagged, yellowed, kissed by time's
slow grind. She kneels, brushing away eons of dust
with reverence— as though waking a sleeping king.

The storms come fast in the badlands,
thunder growling like the ghosts of giants,
and still she presses on, for somewhere
beneath the layers of sandstone,
a story waits, curled in the rock's embrace.

One evening, the setting sun paints the cliffs in fire,
and there it is: a curve of rib, a fragment of a skull,
a whisper of something vast, something
that once thundered across the land now hushed
beneath the layers of hard sediment.

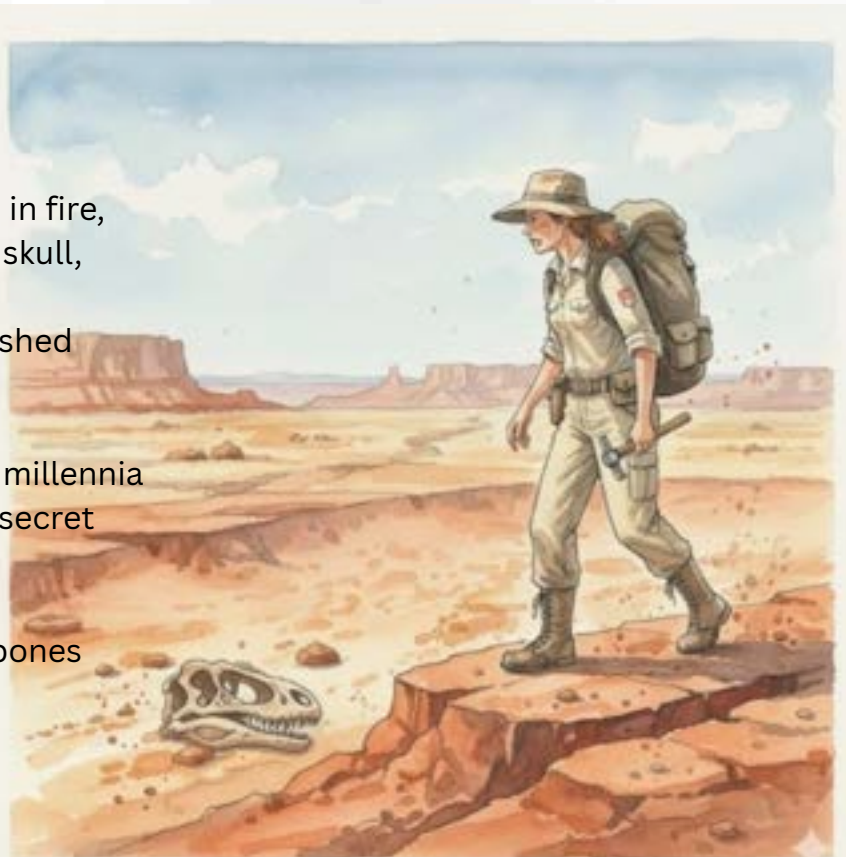
She digs until the moon rises, chipping away millennia
with steady hands, the fossil emerging like a secret
told too long ago to matter anymore.

What was it, she wonders, this beast whose bones
she cradles? A scavenger, a predator, a titan
of green forests? She dreams of it moving—
great muscles rippling under plated skin,
a roar that could split the silence of time.

When the season ends, she packs her finds,
loading crates with the weight of history.
The land watches her go, its treasures
uncovered its riddles offered but never
fully solved.

And as she drives away, dust rising in the wake
of her truck, she glances in the rearview
mirror, knowing she'll return. For the earth whispers
to her an endless call to adventure.

By Steven Wade Veatch



LAKE GEORGE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

About Us

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology 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, fossils, lapidary work, 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 normally meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Charter School gym, located on the south side of US Highway 24 approaching the town of Lake George from Florissant. A link to a map of the meeting location is provided on the sidebar under "Contact Us". Between Oct – Mar, our meetings start at 10 AM. From Apr-Sep, our meetings start earlier, 9 AM, to allow for more time for any subsequent field trips.

Club Officers

President Dave Bruess david@bruess.me

Vice President Bart Zobel bezobel@gmail.com

Secretary Steve Kahler pippophet@gmail.com

Treasurer Karen Vogl bigmabe@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor Angela Wilson AngelaWilso@gmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator Corey Miller corythevaulter@gmail.com

Show Coordinator Carol Kinate kinatec@aol.com



Yellowstone's Morning Glory Pool has changed from deep blue to vibrant greens, yellows, and oranges due to human debris clogging its vent and cooling the water. As temperatures shifted, heat-loving bacteria and algae moved in, creating the pool's striking, multicolored appearance.