



# CLUB NEWS

## NOVEMBER 2025

**NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING: CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER AND SHOW & TELL!**

**Saturday, November 8 at 10 AM**

**Lake George Charter School**

As the year draws to a close, the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club invites members and guests alike to join us for one of our most anticipated gatherings – our annual holiday get-together and Show & Tell event! This relaxed and festive meeting will begin with a brief business session, followed by time to socialize, share stories, and enjoy the treasures and discoveries made throughout 2025. Bring along some of your favorite finds to display, or a box of specimens to trade or give away. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn, laugh, and connect with fellow collectors before the winter break.

Please bring a holiday snack or brunch dish to share – think deviled eggs, cookies, fruit, veggies, or anything you enjoy making! Coffee and drinks will be generously provided by Dave Bruess and Laura Canini. This meeting is open to everyone – members, friends, and anyone curious about the club. Feel free to bring a guest who might be interested in joining next year!

Let's help make this the best club meeting possible and finish 2025 on a high note! Please note: There will be no meeting in December due to Lake George Charter School's closure. Our next gathering will be in January 2026 to elect new officers and kick off another exciting year of collecting, learning, and exploring!



**Club President, Dave Bruess, at the 2022 mtg with his impressive collection!**



**Don't miss out on seeing our members' favorite peices!**

# MORE CLUB NEWS

## THANK YOU, JOHN RAKOWSKI CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP

It's hard to imagine a Lake George Gem & Mineral Club meeting without John Rakowski, but this fall marks a new chapter for one of our longest-serving members and most dedicated leaders. John is moving to northern Colorado, and our October meeting was his last as an active club member. Those who attended joined together to celebrate John's many contributions — with heartfelt words, laughter, and a few sweet treats — as we wished him well on his next adventure. John's name is woven into the very foundation of our club. Over his 20 years of service, he has worn many hats — serving as club president for 6 years, a longtime officer, and a patient, inspiring teacher in our Pebble Pups program. Alongside a friend, John even located and staked the club claims that so many of us continue to enjoy today. John's quiet generosity, deep knowledge, and willingness to help others have left a lasting mark on every corner of our club community. Whether offering field-collecting advice, leading a group of curious kids, or sharing a particularly striking specimen, John always brought enthusiasm and kindness to the table. While he may be calling northern Colorado home now, we expect to see him again! If you've shared memories with John or would like to express your gratitude, we encourage you to add your thoughts and well-wishes in the comments on the Facebook post. To learn more about John's remarkable work in mineral collecting and education, check out this feature in The Flume: [Mineral Collecting in Florissant, Colorado](#)

Thank you, John, for your years of leadership, your friendship, and the legacy you leave behind. You've helped shape the heart and history of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club.



John Rakowski, President PPHS stands between the 2 Smokey Quartz specimens on display at the museum in Florissant. Courtesy photo

# POETRY IN MOTION



## Ways Chaotic

Species—familiar, strange, exotic—  
slip away in unruly currents,  
lost to firestorms, floods,  
and the hungers of the sea,  
on this turning blue marble  
adrift in darkness.

Climate tilts,  
the air heats,  
seasons slip their patterns,  
and life's choices are few:

move  
adapt  
or  
vanish.

Life, stubborn and luminous,  
leaves traces in drowned sediments,  
whispers pressed into mud, silt, and sand—  
echoes that wait beneath the tides of time.



Beneath our feet are fossils in stone,  
giant skeletons keeping their watch;  
leaf veins tracing delicate memory into  
shale.

A single claw curled in sleep,  
a forest frozen mid-breath—  
all relics whispering the same law.

The present thins like a morning mist,  
but these fossil-bound tablets,  
holding stories of the past  
will outlast our shadows,  
and speak to whoever listens:

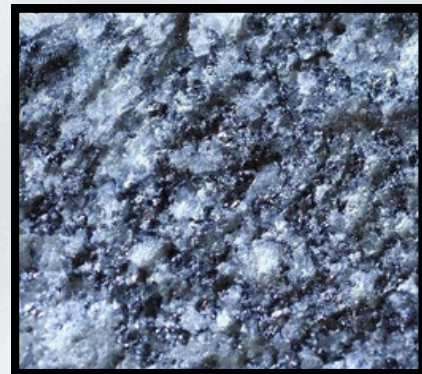
This is what lived here.  
This is what was lost.  
This is what happened.

**By Steven Wade Veatch**

**Club Vice President, Bart Zobel, at one  
of our past show-and-tell events.  
Bring your specimens to the  
November 8 meeting!**

# MONTHLY MINERAL QUIZ

## Monthly Mineral for November, 2025 (Carnein photos and collection)



**The November mineral** is one that isn't usually very showy but is especially important to Colorado's economy. Its H is less than that of a fingernail, SG is about 4.7, and it crystallizes in the hexagonal system (as shown in the left photo, above, which is from Canada). It more typically forms fine-grained aggregates on thin fracture surfaces (see the other two photos, which are a Colorado example). The streak is bluish gray, which helps to distinguish it from a common mineral that it resembles. Associates include quartz, pyrite, fluorite, and scheelite or wolframite (both tungsten minerals). It's a very important source of a strategic metal that is used to harden steel. Research by the owners of the main Colorado deposit resulted in development of many other uses over the last 100 years. The largest Colorado deposit was developed during WWI and now belongs to Freeport McMoRan.

What is this crucial mineral?



**Last Month's mineral: Fluorapophyllite-(K),  $\text{KCa}_4(\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{20})(\text{F},\text{OH}) \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .** Members of the apophyllite group are complex layered silicates with perfect cleavage, a hardness of 4 ½ to 5, and a vitreous to pearly luster. As you might expect, given its chemical composition, fluorapophyllite-(K) has a relatively low SG (2.33 to 2.37) and is generally light colored or colorless. Crystals, which are very common, are tetragonal (they have a square cross section perpendicular to the long or short c-axis). Watch for this mineral whenever collecting in volcanic rocks that have gas cavities. Beautiful crystals from the basalts of India are commonly available at shows at reasonable prices. That's how I obtained the specimen pictured.

Submitted by Robert "Bob" Carnein

# READ ALL ABOUT IT!

## USGS Unveils the Most Detailed National Geologic Map Ever

Big news for rockhounds and geoscience fans! The U.S. Geological Survey has released the most detailed national-scale geologic map of the United States — a groundbreaking tool that lets users explore what lies at and beneath the Earth's surface in stunning detail.

Called The Cooperative National Geologic Map, this interactive web map brings together more than 100 existing maps into one easy-to-use platform. With just a few clicks, you can view layers of data showing rock types, ages, and formations, revealing the deep geologic story of our nation.

Beyond its visual beauty, the map is a powerful tool for understanding natural hazards, locating mineral and water resources, and even guiding land use and infrastructure planning. It's also mobile friendly, so you can explore it right from your phone or tablet — whether you're in the field, at home, or dreaming up your next rockhounding adventure.

"This map provides complete, analysis-ready geologic data for the nation," said USGS geologist Joseph Colgan. "By putting it online, we're making geology more accessible and engaging than ever before."

You can explore the new map here: [The Cooperative National Geologic Map](#)



## Jet Stone - The Black Gem with a Mysterious Past

Once prized by queens and monks, jet stone has been carved, worn, and misunderstood for thousands of years. Though it's technically not a mineral — more a "mineraloid" born from ancient trees — jet's deep black luster has made it both sacred and stylish across centuries. From Roman amulets to Victorian mourning jewelry and modern Gothic revivals, this lightweight, mirror-shiny stone refuses to fade from fashion.

[Read more in Rock&Gem](#)

# READ ALL ABOUT IT!

## When Tariffs Rock the Gem World

Heist at the Louvre? Sure, that's exciting – priceless art, high drama, and maybe even a touch of James Bond flair. But what's unfolding right now in Washington, D.C. might have a far bigger effect on the world of gems – and on every collector, cutter, and jeweler who depends on a steady flow of stones from around the world.

When tariffs hit gems, the effects ripple far beyond jewelry counters. Mining communities lose income, schools go underfunded, and long-standing trade relationships falter. Conversely, when trade flows freely, everyone – from field collectors to lapidary artists – benefits.

So while a “heist at the Louvre” might make better movie material, this real-life drama about gemstones and trade policy is a reminder that even the smallest minerals can have world-spanning importance.

Learn more about the American Gem Trade Association's work to protect the global gem trade:

[The U.S. and the International Colored Gem Market – Why It Matters](#)

This is an opal with a perfectly preserved insect trapped inside! The insect, possibly millions of years old, was encased in silica-rich water that eventually solidified into opal, preserving it in stunning detail. The vibrant play of colors in the opal contrasts beautifully with the delicate fossil, making this an extraordinary example of nature's artistry and the mysteries it can hold.

[Read More About This Amazing Discovery](#)



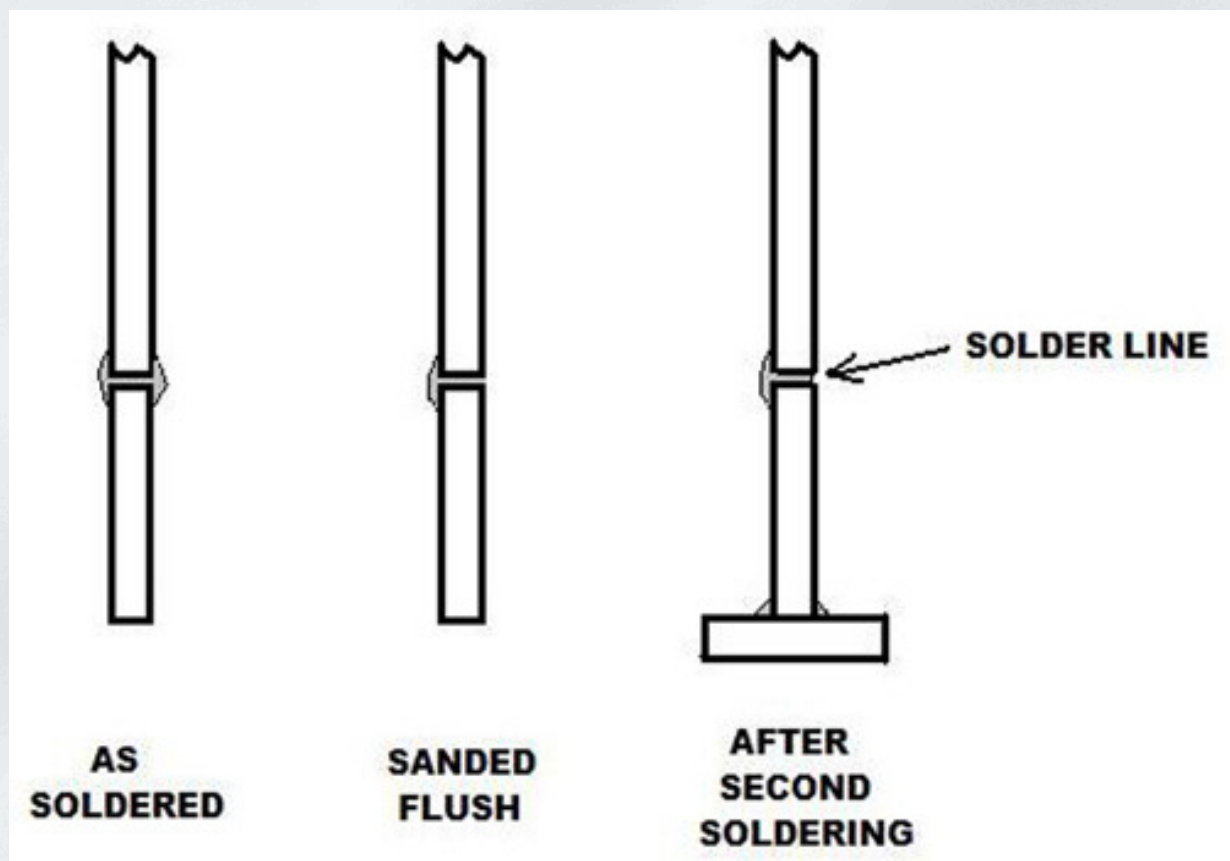
# NOVEMBER BENCH TIPS

## How To Avoid Solder Lines

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all the soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible, like when a soldering operation prevents you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre helps a bit, but is not a complete solution.



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

# NOVEMBER BENCH TIPS

## Loose Heads!

Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammerhead. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammerhead is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

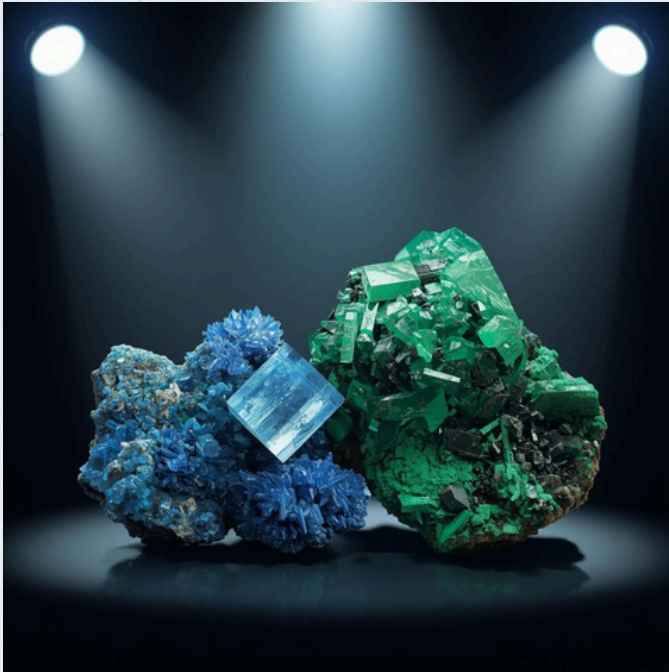
Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammerhead that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.



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

# SHOW UPDATES

## JEFFCO Mineral Show



**Start Date: 11/14/2025**

**End Date: 11/16/2025**

**Hours: 10am - 5pm daily,  
last day 10am - 4pm**

**Venue: Jefferson County  
Fairgrounds**

**Address:**

**15200 W 6th Ave**

**Golden , CO 80401**



**Tell your friends to meet you  
on Saturday, November 8 at  
10 AM at the Lake George  
Charter School.**

### **NEWS ABOUT NEWS!**

This newsletter is more than just updates and announcements – it's the living history of our club.

Each story, field trip photo, discovery, and memory you share helps preserve what makes the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club so special. Whether it's a favorite specimen, a great find, or a lesson learned in the field, your voice adds to our collective story.

Please consider sending your ideas, photos, or short write-ups for upcoming issues!

**Contacts on next page**

# 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](mailto:david@bruess.me)

Vice President Bart Zobel [bezobel@gmail.com](mailto:bezobel@gmail.com)

Secretary Steve Kahler [pippophet@gmail.com](mailto:pippophet@gmail.com)

Treasurer Karen Vogl [bigmabe@hotmail.com](mailto:bigmabe@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor Angela Wilson [AngelaWilso@gmail.com](mailto:AngelaWilso@gmail.com)

Field Trip Coordinator Corey Miller [corythevaulter@gmail.com](mailto:corythevaulter@gmail.com)

Show Coordinator Carol Kinatec [kinatec@aol.com](mailto:kinatec@aol.com)

**November Club meeting  
Celebrate the Season  
Annual Holiday Get-Together  
Show & Tell  
Saturday, November 8  
10 AM  
Lake George Charter School**

