

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

**Club News,
October, 2009**



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, October 10, 9:00AM
Lake George Community Center

Our Club Constitution and ByLaws call for an election to be held at the October Meeting. At present, the existing President, Vice-President and Treasurer have agreed to be nominated for an additional year. Our Secretary would prefer to not run again due to work obligations, and we need a volunteer for that position, which involves taking Minutes at our regular meetings and emailing those Minutes to members. **We need a volunteer please!**

Nominations:

President: John Rakowski

Vice President: Dan Alfrey

Treasurer: Wayne Johnston

Secretary: Open

After the election, we will have an opportunity to collect pegmatite minerals at the Godsend Claim, north of Lake George, thanks to **Rich Fretterd**. **Bring pick, shovel, and small hand tools**, as well as plenty of water and snacks. Carpooling is encouraged.

Coming Events

Flatirons Mineral Club Silent Auction, 7:00PM, West Boulder Senior Center, 909 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder; All are welcome ... **Oct. 8**

Monthly meeting, Columbine Gem & Mineral Society, "Aquamarine Collecting at Mt. Antero"; 6:30PM, Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida ... **Oct. 8**

Monthly meeting, Denver Gem & Mineral Guild, "Traveling in Brazil", by Bill Whitehead; 7:30PM, Berthoud Hall, Colo. School of Mines ... **Oct. 9**

Free GPS Map and Compass Class, USGS, Building 10, Federal Center, Lakewood; 9AM to 4PM; call 302-202-4689 for information and reservation. ... **Oct. 9**

"Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History", by **Steve Veatch**, 9:00AM-5:45PM, Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, 201 Fairview, Woodland Park; cost is \$69; call 719-686-1820 for info and registration ... **Oct. 10**

- Dinosaur Discovery Day**, Dinosaur Ridge Visitors' Center, 16831 W. Alameda Pkwy, Morrison; 10AM-3PM. Many activities for kids and adults, led by over 60 geologists and paleontologists. Call 303-697-3466x13 for info. ... **Oct. 10**
- "Mineral Collecting in the Pikes Peak Region"**, by John Rakowski, 1PM, Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, Woodland Park. Call 686-1820 for information. ... **Oct. 11**
- Earth-Science Week**. The 2009 theme is "Understanding Climate". For more information, go to www.earthscienceweek.org ... **Oct. 11-17**
- Earth-Science Week Geology & Nature Hike**, led by Pete Modreski (USGS), North Table Mtn. (a famous zeolite locality), Golden, Colorado, 4:30-6:30PM. Contact pmodreski@usgs.gov for directions and more information. ... **Oct. 13**
- Pueblo Rockhounds Monthly Meeting**, "Gemstones of Colorado", by Pete Modreski, 7:30 PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo ... **Oct. 15**
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Monthly Meeting**, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs ... **Oct. 15**
- Mineral, Fossil, Gem, & Jewelry Show**, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave. service road (west of Indiana St.), Golden. Free admission. Fri./Sat. 10-6; Sun. 11-4. ... **Nov. 6-8**
- 46th Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show**, Phil Long Expo Center, Colorado Springs, contact Rick Copeland, 719-332-7915 or rick@rockymountainwonders.com ... **Dec. 5-6**
- Denver Museum of Science & Nature Programs** (visit their website for more info):
- Oct. 13: Digital Earth: Explore the World from Space**
- Oct. 27: Human Evolution and the Myths of Creation**
- Nov. 3: Life Out There**
- Nov. 15: Meet Charles Darwin!**
- Dec. 3: The Tangled Bank: An Introduction to Evolution**
- Dec. 10: Sandstorms to Snow Leopards: The Cretaceous Tourist in Mongolia**

Club News

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John Gibbs
Norma Engelberg
Owen Engelberg
Aily Wright
 (all of Colorado Springs)

✂ **The Pebble Pups Committee** has finalized a list of topics for monthly meetings of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club's new youth group. Under the direction of **Steve Veatch** and **Dan Alfrey**, and with the help of **Bob Carnein**, **Mary O'Donnell**, **John Rakowski**, **Judy St. Peter**, and **Mary Ellen Zimmerman**, the Committee has met several times, and the following programs will be offered:

- October: The Dangerous Earth: Geologic Hazards (Veatch)**
- November: Ice Ages (Veatch)**
- December: Common Ore Minerals: Where do Metals Come From? (Carnein)**
- January: Minerals and How to Identify Them (Carnein)**
- February: Building a Rock Collection (Veatch)**
- March: How Do You Drill an Oil Well? (Rakowski)**

April: Field Methods for Collecting Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils (Veatch)

May: Fossils: Windows to the Past (Veatch)

June: Common Industrial Minerals (Carnein)

July: Nature's Hidden Rainbows: Fluorescence and Phosphorescence in Minerals (Carnein)

August: What Crystals Tell Us (Carnein)

In addition, field trips are planned to the following: **Western Museum of Mining and Industry; Dreamtime Claim; Red Rock Canyon Open Space; and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.**

Pebble Pups (ages 7-11) and Juniors (ages 12-18) will meet from **7:30-8:15PM** the **second Tuesday of each month at the Lake George Community Center**. Parents are encouraged to attend. Go to the LGGMC website or call **Steve Veatch** at 719-748-5010 for more information and to register. Steve noted that **John Rakowski** has done an outstanding job on publicity, contacting the Lake George Home Schoolers, Lake George Charter School, Ute Pass "Courier", "Mountain Jackpot", "Fairplay Flume", and Park County Library system. He also submitted a grant request to WalMart.

✂ **Steve Veatch** also coordinated the Club's Victor Study Project, which recently completed a milestone by finishing a draft of the abstract for the talk Steve will present at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium, in Socorro, in November. The abstract is titled:

Victor—Colorado's City of Mines Its History, Geology, Mines, and Minerals

by Steven Wade Veatch, C. Robert Carnein, Marge Breth, Dan Alfrey, Wayne Johnston, Roger Loest, Dee Loest, Mary O'Donnell, Jo Beckwith, Judy St. Peter, and Brent Geraughty

The complete abstract will be available on the Club's website.

✂ **Dick Lackmond** sent in a link to a fantastic website that tells you everything you wanted to know about quartz crystals. To visit it, go to www.quartzpage.de/crs_habits.html

✂ **John Rakowski** notes that 14 Club members attended the New Hope Amethyst Prospect trip just northwest of Canon City on September 12. **James Meacham** from the Canon City Club hosted the field trip to their claim. There was plenty of amethyst found by everybody, and the logistics were very easy. This was an ideal trip for persons who have difficulty walking, as the vehicles pulled up within a few feet of the digging area, and there were plenty of amethyst pieces littering the ground! Several Club members sent photos from the trip; here's a selection.



Gathering at the meeting place
Dick Lackmond photo



All kinds of diggers showed up
Ingrid Hamilton photo



Masses of amethyst in place
Ingrid Hamilton photo



A few typical samples
Todd Mattson photo

✂ Although I didn't hear how members made out at the Topaz Mountain Gem Mine (on Sept. 26), **Ingrid Hamilton** sent along a few photos. It looks like there was a good turnout and some great finds! Thanks to **Joe Dorris** for his hospitality.



A beautiful place and a beautiful day to dig topaz
Ingrid Hamilton photo



Our host, **Joe Dorris**, explains the "bags"
Ingrid Hamilton photo



A screen is an important equipment item
Ingrid Hamilton photo



WOW!!!!!! Let's do this again!
Ingrid Hamilton photo

✂ **Steve Veatch** sent the following item about a book that may be of interest to Club members:

Victor Lowell Thomas Museum Hosts New Book Signing

On August 29th a new book on the history of the Cripple Creek/Victor Mining District was released and two of the three authors were at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum to meet the public and sign copies of the book.

The book, *The World's Greatest Gold Camp: An Introduction to the History of the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District* was released this summer and is the second of a series of mining history and technology books published by the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) in Colorado Springs and includes a dozen articles on the gold rush – from geology to secret codebooks used by mine owners like Stratton to communicate their treasured information.

The morning event was well attended. Refreshments were served while the authors signed the new book and talked with all of the attendees.

Authors include Victor resident and retired mining engineer Ed Hunter, Paul Mogensen of Montana and Steven Veatch of Florissant.

Hunter worked in the metal mining industry, underground and surface, from Arizona to Alaska and from miner to manager for over 50 years. He is an avid mining historian and has been active in the WMMI.

Veatch is a geologist, historian and author. Veatch's great grandfather worked at the Elkton Mine between Cripple Creek & Victor for 30 years. Steven Veatch is a member of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club.

Copies of *The World's Greatest Gold Camp: An Introduction to the History of the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District* are now available at the WMMI and other area outlets.



Ed Hunter (left) greets Steven Veatch (right) as they get ready for the morning book signing session. Hunter and Veatch have collaborated on many projects over the years.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Carnein, Editor
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Many thanks to those members who have sent reports and pictures from Club field trips! I'm always looking for material for the Newsletter, including articles and short biographies.

This month, it's a pleasure to include an article that I found in the September, 2009 issue of the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club's newsletter, "Highlights". It's by H. H. "Tom" and Ann Odiorne. Some of you may remember that Mr. Odiorne is the author of the 1978 book *Colorado Amazonstone-the Treasure of Crystal Peak*. Hope you enjoy this bit of comic relief!

"Finger Lickin' Good" by H.H. "Tom" and Ann Odiorne

...I remember years ago that we were constantly being asked to identify some rock, mineral, or fossil, just because we had collected for so long. Now, what we know about mineral and rock identification could be "put in a nutshell," or discovered with one click of a computer mouse.

Besides the usual means of checking for hardness, crystal habits, color, weight, etc., almost everyone would examine a specimen and eventually lick it! True colors and patterns seemed bound to be revealed by us amateurs! Some novices even tried biting a specimen, or smelling it to guarantee that it was not alive! I have to admit that licking a specimen can have its drawbacks, too; for example, all of the following.

Some layers of bentonite and varved clays encased in layers of strata in the Pacific Northwest states of Washington and Oregon look beautiful enough when dry to be cut and polished, but to reveal their color and patterns by licking them is like sticking one's tongue on a cast iron pipe in the middle of wintertime.

Leo Little and his wife once taught many of us older members lapidary skills on a handful of laps, etc., down in their basement where once a week or so we met and learned how to shape, cut, and polish pieces. Leo could always find an interesting picture or pattern in a slab before working it, and he seemed to find these oddities in every stone. However, once I opened a small box of cotton surrounding a round marble-sized stone that he asked me to identify. It looked like a rough garnet or piece of corundum to me, and, of course, I just had to lick it. "God, no," he screamed, "That's my gallstone!"

Another time during my stint as a geologist, I had a boss who always went from A to Z when making promotional business decisions. He requested that I investigate Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

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phosphate nodules that were imbedded in limestones found near the town of Conaway, Arkansas. He had me dig them out of Mississippian strata and bring them to Denver for analysis at a lab. Little did I know of his grandiose plans to promote the crushing of nodules that he had mined by a local contractor. The powdery end-product gathered in piles was to be used for fertilizer. This he planned to ship all over the Western farmlands. Before the completed analyses could be reported back to me, the studies revealed a large quantity of sharp crystals of the mineral axinite, discovered in the lab. Meanwhile, long-distance phone calls reported that "chickens were dying all over the place with fertilizer stuck in their craws, bleeding!"

Yes, some rocks and minerals can be dangerous, or, at the very least, harmful— asbestos, sharp quartz shards, and many ores of metals, such as mercury and arsenic! And as our mother used to warn us, "Wash your hands as you don't know where that rock has been." My final documentation should serve as a warning, or at least as a caution.

Years ago out near Fruita or Mack on the Western Slope north of Grand Junction, there once was a great rock shop. Inside were specimens of petrified wood, agates, and fossils, long since vanished from the immediate area and adjacent Utah. Outside were tons of beautiful rocks used for cutting and exhibiting when polished. Ann and I, however, did notice a large dog wetting the rocks, perhaps claiming his or her territory. Shortly afterwards, two nice little old ladies appeared at the shop, began checking out the rock pile, and, of course, found them to be "finger lickin' good!"



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MOST WONDERFUL DEPOSIT OF
GOLD EVER DISCOVERED IN THE WORLD.
CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT, CRESSON MINE, 1200 FOOT LEVEL.
(PHOTO BY WOODARD, VICTOR, COLO.)

Here's an historic postcard from Bob Carnein's collection.

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club
Box 171
Lake George, Colorado 80827

2009 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. **Anyone joining after August 30 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

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 2009 are:

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