The Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

-Club News-
September, 2009

There will be <u>NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING</u> in September

SEPTEMBER 12-th: There are <u>2 FIELD TRIPS</u> to choose from instead !!!

Our field-trip coordinator, Dan Alfrey, has arranged **2 inter-club trips on Sept. 12, 2009.**

<u>Neither trip requires much walking or physical exertion.</u>

- **Field trip No. 1:** Inter-club trip to Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society **Peridot** Claim. Meet at Bayou Salado Gift Shop, in Hartsel, at 9:30AM. Contact Ron Yamiolkoski at Ron.Yamiolkoski@aecom.com for details.

- **Field trip No. 2:** Inter-club trip (with Canon City Club) to Canon City **Amethyst** claim. Meet at wide parking area at intersection of COHwy 9 and USHwy 50 (west of Canon City) at 9:30AM. Bring tools for breaking hard rocks (three-pound sledge, gloves, chisels, etc.). For more details, contact Dan Alfrey at alfreydan@aol.com .

Coming Events

<u>Friends of Mineralogy Monthly Meeting</u>, Dr. Karen Weinrich, "The current plight of uranium deposits and mining in the world"; 7:30PM, CSM Museum	**… Sept. 10**
<u>Monthly meeting, Columbine Gem & Mineral Society</u>, Chris Marchase talk on "Joseph Lesher and the Lesher Dollar"; 6:30PM, Shavano Manor, Salida	**… Sept. 10**
<u>North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club Annual Towel Show</u>, 7:30PM, Senior Rec. Center, 6842 N. Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada	**… Sept. 11**
<u>Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show (Fall)</u>, Holiday Inn, 4849 Bannock St., Denver (free admission); info at MartinZinnExpositions	**… Sept. 16-20**
<u>Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, Gem, & Jewelry Show</u>, Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt St.; $3/$2 admission; info from Lowell Carhart, 719-886-7046.	**… Sept. 16-20**
<u>Bead Renaissance Show</u>, Crown Plaza, 15,500 E. 40th Ave., Denver; call 575-894-1293 for info.	**… Sept. 17-20**
<u>Pueblo Rockhounds Monthly Meeting</u>, 7:30 PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo	**… Sept. 17**
<u>Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Monthly Meeting</u>, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock, Colorado Springs	**… Sept. 17**
<u>42nd Annual Denver Gem & Mineral Show: "Fossils—Windows to the Past"</u> Denver Merchandise Mart Expo Hall, 451 E. 58th Ave. (I-25 exit 215); $6/$4 admission.	**… Sept. 18-20**
<u>Colorado Fossil Expo</u>, Denver Merchandise Mart Plaza Annex, 451 E. 58th Ave.; $6/$4.50 admission; info at MartinZinnExpositions.	**… Sept. 18-20**

Field Studies in Paleontology: Exploring the Shelf Road from Cripple Creek to Garden Park, Colorado, Cripple Creek Parks & Recreation; cost is $69. Call 719-689-3514 to register. Can be used for 0.5 hr. grad. Credit at CSM (tuition extra).	**… October 3**
Flatirons Mineral Club Silent Auction, 7:00PM, West Boulder Senior Center, 909 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder; All are welcome	**… Oct. 8**
"Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History", by **Steve Veatch**, 9:00AM-5:45PM, Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Research Center, 201 Fairview, Woodland Park; cost is $69; call 719-686-1820 for info and registration	**… Oct. 10**
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**

Club News

➪➪➪➪➪➪➪➪➪➪➪**Welcome to the following new members:**⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦⇦

Robert Acker, of Evergreen, CO
David Cook, of Woodland Park, CO
Marty Cook, of Florissant, CO
Becky Cooper, of Fountain, CO
Jordan & Joyce Dickerson, of Colorado Springs, CO
Richard & Virginia Helfrich, of Colorado Springs, CO
Richard & Jerrolynn Kawamoto, of Divide, CO
James Schatzman
Rodney Ulferts, of Colorado Springs, CO
Dennis Whitney, of Grandview, MO

➪Club President, **John Rakowski**, sent in the following report on the Annual Show:

2009 Lake George Gem & Mineral Show Report

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Show was a resounding success this year, thanks to the help of all the volunteers, and especially those on the Weather Committee! We appreciate the Weather Committee not scheduling the tornados until two days after the show. We had plenty of help to set up signs and mark out spaces on Saturday August 8th. The crowds of visitors were greater than any of the past shows, thanks to publicity and the favorable weather. The dealers were pleased by the numbers of people viewing their wares but were a bit disappointed in the level of sales. Considering that we are in a "Recession Year" I believe the show was very successful. We had 8 dealers on our Thursday morning field trip, and they were appreciative of the educational and collecting opportunity afforded by that trip. There were plenty of give-away specimens at the club canopy for the youngsters thanks to **Rich Fretterd**, **Mary O'Donnell**, and **Lisa Files**. We had many enquiries about membership and actual signups of quite a few new members because of the exposure from the show. Our income level from 2009 is anticipated to have exceeded our income from past shows.

We had a great level of overall assistance at the show from Club Members, but I want to thank **Dee and Roger Loest** for their many hours checking people in and trying to settle complaints or disputes when I was not present. Dealer check-ins went smoothly due to the organization of **Becky Blair** with Dealer Contracts. Several people put in extraordinary hours helping with parking and overall logistics - Special thanks to: **Dave & Gerdy Wyatt**, **Dick Lackmond**, **Char & Dave DeVries**, **Wayne & MaryAnn Johnston**, **Joe Kraudelt**, **Mary O'Donnell**, and

Brooke & Ingrid Hamilton, **Jack Null**, **Lisa Files**, **Loren Lowe**, **Dave Harvey** as well as **Elaine Van de Water**.

Thanks to **Lisa Files**, **Rich Fretterd**, **Kent Greenes**, **David & Linda Leidy**, and **Mary O'Donnell** for taking care of give-aways.

I apologize if I left other significant helpers' names out; you all were a big help. Thanks to all, with that assistance, the LGGMC Show turned out very well this year! ~ John Rakowski

(Pictures above are courtesy of club member **Dick Lackmond**)

➪Thanks to **Dave & Gerdy Wyatt**, for the following report on the Aug. 29 field trip:

"We decided to go on a Rock-Hounding Expedition with our Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, looking for *Smoky Quartz* and *Topaz* just above **Glen Cove on Pikes Peak!** We were told there is some uneven terrain. The trip was in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. We started out at about 11,500', most the way up the auto road known as Pikes Peak Highway, and just past Mile Marker 13. Before long, these two flatlanders from Alabama were left in the dust. Well, our uneven path became pretty good sized boulders. After climbing for what seemed like hours on and through boulders, we finally came out on a "flatter" area. By then, we were so tired that we headed back to the car and went up to the 14,110' summit for a cheeseburger. Below are a couple of pictures. The one of the collectors is not very clear since we were quite some distance from them. By the way, I sure regret leaving my gloves in the Jeep."
~ Gerdy

➪The following letter is from a 2009 **intern** at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, who was partly supported by funds from the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club:

Dear Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds and Lake George Gem & Mineral Club:
Thank you for sponsoring the Geocorp America internship position at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, through which I was able to experience a summer at this wonderful monument. I

have desired to be a paleontologist since elementary school, and this summer has provided me with invaluable work experience in the field of paleontology. This summer I worked on two major projects, the reopening of Samuel Scudder's excavation site and the inventory and monitoring of many of the fossil sites within the monument.

The site that was excavated this summer is speculated to be the site where Charlotte Hill found several of her most beautiful specimens, including the butterfly *Prodryas persephone*, and where Samuel Scudder did some of his collecting. Following their legacy, our excavation uncovered two *Florissantia sperii* flowers (one very well preserved), a beautifully preserved wasp, a few spiders, and several other amazing leaves and insects. Aside from the rare and spectacular finds, we found many other leaves and insects that will be used to conduct diversity analyses to estimate exactly how diverse the plants and insects of the late Eocene were. This research is very important in understanding the impact of the global cooling at the end of the Eocene. By comparing the diversity of Florissant with other similar fossil sites in the late Eocene and Early Oligocene, scientists may be able to better understand the dynamics and impacts of climate change.

I also worked on the inventory and monitoring of fossil sites within the park, including both shale exposures and petrified stumps. I photographed sites from specific locations and angles and also noted changing rates of erosion or signs of theft. The data and photographs collected can then be used to observe the changes of a site over time. As a fossil park, it is important to maintain and protect the fossil sites, and through inventory and monitoring, the monument can learn which sites must be better protected for the benefit of future generations.

This summer has been a truly wonderful experience. I have learned a lot about both paleontology and the National Park Service, and I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for making this opportunity possible for me.

Sincerely,
Jamie Fearon
Carol Stream, IL 60188

⇨The Field-trip planned to the **Topaz Mountain Gem Mine** on September 26 is **filled to capacity**.

⇨Thanks to **Dan Alfrey and Steve Veatch**, the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club now has a "**Pebble Pups**" program for kids. Steve recently sent the following announcement:

"LGGMC will have a Pebble Pups program that is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). An announcement reflecting this will go out to schools, school science clubs, Teller and Park 4-H groups, home-school groups, etc. Details about costs, meeting times, etc. will follow very soon." We are very excited to get our local youngsters involved!

⇨Last month, your humble servant asked you all to send in short biographies and pictures for inclusion in the Newsletter. Thanks very much to **Mike Sandifer**, who sent the following:

"Attached is a picture and a short Bio about me for the Club newsletter:

"I've been a rock hound since I was a kid. My first memory is of collecting copper-veined quartz on a camping trip in Tennessee. I hold a "Diamond Certification" from the Gemological Institute and enjoy prospecting for gemstones, but also collect mineral specimens and fossils.

As a charter member of the Club, I'm happy to see it grow into the membership it has today.

"These days I run a Winery in Texas, build wildlife habitats, explore volcanoes, and of course.. still collect rocks." ~ *Mike*

Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein, Editor
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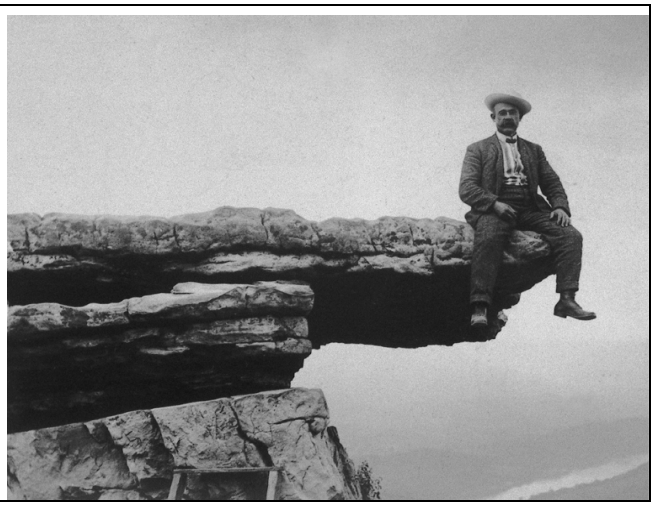

➪Many thanks to **Steve Veatch** for sending in the following article. Steve's articles relieve you of the need to read my long-winded expostulations. Hope you enjoy the following.

ROSE QUARTZ *and* BLUE QUARTZ

Figure 1. This large rose quartz specimen was found at the Devil's Hole Mine (owned by Tezaks), about a mile from the town of Cotopaxi, Colorado. Photo © 2007 A. Schaak.

by Steven Wade Veatch

Quartz (SiO_2) is a common mineral found in all three classes of rocks (igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary), in many environments, and in a range of colors. Rose and blue quartz are less common than some of the other varieties.

Rose quartz has a pale pink to rose red color thought to be caused by trace amounts of titanium that absorbs all colors except pink. This may account for its rosy color. In a laboratory experiment, samples of rose quartz from several localities were carefully dissolved in acid. The remaining insoluble residue consisted of thin microscopic fibers. These fibers may also be responsible for the color of rose quartz.

Well-formed rose quartz crystals are rarely found in nature. Rose quartz is generally found in massive chunks associated with pegmatites (*Figure 1*). The term

pegmatite refers to exceptionally coarse-grained crystalline granite. Since rose quartz is cloudy, it is not popular as a faceted gem but it is commonly formed into cabochons (*Figure 2*), rounded into beads for necklaces, or carved into various objects.

Rose quartz has been named as South Dakota's official state mineral. Here rockhounds have a good chance to find specimens ranging from shades of light pink to rose-red. Some rose quartzes from South Dakota have a distinctive asterism, a star-shaped display of light on the polished surface.

Figure 2. A cabochon pendant from the same rose quartz near Cotopaxi. Photo © 2007 A. Schaak.

Figure 3. This blue quartz megacrystal is located in the pegmatites of the Cape Ann Granite at Andrew's Point in Rockport, Massachusetts. Photo © 2007 H. Renyck.

Blue quartz, with a deep to sky blue color, is packed with tiny grains such as rutile (TiO_2) and ilmenite ($FeTiO_3$). Other inclusions might include tourmaline, crocidolite, magnesioriebeckite, zoisite, and several others. Some researchers hypothesize that the blue color comes from the Rayleigh scattering of light by these microscopic inclusions. Rayleigh scattering selectively scatters visible light of the shorter blue wavelength. However, the cause of the blue color still remains uncertain.

Blue quartz has a waxy luster and sometimes displays asterism.

Blue quartz occurs at a number of localities. In Llano County, Texas, blue quartz is found as small, doubly-terminated crystals in a rhyolitic porphyry informally called Llanoite. The crystals weather out of the host rock and can easily be collected. Blue quartz is also found in a diorite near the Dairyland Power Dam near Tony, Wisconsin. Blue quartz was recently discovered in the Cushing Point Formation at Peak's Island, Maine. The specimens there have inclusions with the chemistry of biotite. In the past, biotite has not been listed as a possible inclusion. Research now suggests that the inclusion of biotite on

Figure 4. A zone of blue quartz is clearly seen in the Cape Ann Granite. Photo © 2007 H. Renyck.

Peak's Island may be responsible for giving quartz its blue color. Blue quartz is associated with pegmatites of the Cape Ann Granitite at Andrew's Point in Rockport, Massachusetts (*Figures 3-4*). The author has found blue quartz at two Colorado locations: Park County near Hartsel and on the tailings of the Bull Domingo Mine in Custer County northeast of Silvercliff. A famous site—Antequera—near Malaga, Spain yields translucent crystals of intensely blue quartz.

While some varieties of quartz are well known, such as amethyst and smoky quartz—blue quartz is a lesser known variety. The sapphire-blue quartz is wonderful to behold and exciting to find in the field. The rich blue colors hold your attention and move you to plan a collecting trip. The variable rose colors beckon the collector to cut and polish slabs of rose quartz rough. Both varieties of quartz truly deserve a spot in your collection.

Figure 5. Close-up view of Cape Ann Granite at Andrew's Point in Rockport, Massachusetts. Photo © 2007 H. Renyck.

References:

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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 October, 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).

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