



Flatirons Facets

Flatirons Mineral Club of Boulder County, Colorado
Volume 59, Number 1

January-February, 2016

The Flatirons Mineral Club is a non-profit Organization which is dedicated to developing and maintaining interests in Earth science and associated hobbies. The purpose of this Club includes, but is not limited to, studying geology and Earth science, teaching others about our hobby, including young people, collecting gem, mineral and fossil specimens and learning lapidary skills.

The Flatirons Mineral Club is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Greater Denver Area Council of Gem and Mineral Societies.



January's Club Meeting



Dr. James Hagadorn above
Deep Creek Canyon right

Our first club meeting of 2016 is on Thursday, January 14 and our speaker is **Dr. James Hagadorn**, Curator of Geology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. He will present a fun and interesting talk about **Colorado's newest mass extinction(s): Weird strata and cool fossils from rocks you've driven by a zillion times**. Be sure to mark your calendar for this interesting program. Remember, that our new meeting place is Frasier Meadows in Boulder, starting at 7:00 pm in the Sky Lounge. Directions to the meeting are on page 3.



Coming in January and February

Thursday, January 7th, is the After Show Appreciation Party for Show volunteers. See page 3 for more information.

Thursday, January 14th, is our first club meeting of the year with Dr. James Hagadorn. See above for details.

Wednesday, January 20th, will kick off this year's first Jr. Geologists meeting. For more information, see page 4.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message



Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope you all had a fun holiday season and I send my best wishes to all for the coming New Year.

Before I talk about our upcoming events I want to thank all of the members who helped to make our Rocks & Rails Show in December a success. I so appreciate how hard our volunteers worked contributing their time and energy. I look forward to our After-the-Show Appreciation Party on Thursday, January 7 for the show volunteers. I hope to see you at our first club meeting of 2016 on Thursday, January 14. I'm certain our speaker, James Hagadorn, will be fun and interesting. Remember, that our new – and deluxe – meeting place is Frasier Meadows in Boulder. Find us in the Sky

Lounge at 7PM!

The Jr. Geologist meetings get back on track too under the wonderful guidance of Dennis Gertenbach. The first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

Speaking of Dennis, he has suggested a winter field trip to his company, Hazen Research. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 20.

I'm starting to work on the field trip schedule for the summer. Thoughts of scavenging for rocks and minerals in the hot desert help me get through these cold winter days! Please send me your suggestions.

I thought it would be good to review the ebb and flow of club meetings. Our club usually meets on the second Thursday of the month with possible exceptions during the months of August, September, and December.

In August we get together for our annual picnic which occurs on the 3rd Saturday. In September our meeting is affected by the Denver Gem and Mineral Show which occurs on the 3rd weekend of the month, although our meeting can generally take place on the 2nd Thursday. In December our meeting is always on the Thursday after our rock and mineral show. The Rocks & Rails show always occurs on the 2nd weekend of December, so that often pushes the holiday party meeting to the 3rd Thursday.

Our special meetings occur in April, May, July, and November. Our April meeting is our Silent Auction night. May is the Field Trip Signup meeting month. At our July meeting we prep our donated mineral specimens in zip-lock bags to prepare for making the grab bags that we put together for our rock and mineral shows. And in November we hold our Towel Show meeting.

Jr. Geologists Meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month except in June, July, August, and December. These meetings start at 6:30pm at the Reynolds Branch of the Boulder Public Libraries.

Please find details of everything that I have mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. And I'll see you at our upcoming meeting.

Thanks for being a member of our great little club,
Gabi Accatino

Needed: Articles and photos for Flatirons Facets

Write a story about your rockhounding interests, a great field trip, or a special lapidary project. Submit photos of your great finds and activities. Send them to Dennis Gertenbach, editor, at gertenbach@comcast.net.

Coming in January and February (continued)

Thursday, February 11th. Club meeting with Brian Walko speaking about gold panning techniques. A description of his presentation is below.

Wednesday, February 17th. Jr. Geologists meeting, see page 4.

Saturday, February 20th. Tour of Hazen Research to learn how ores are processed into metals and other materials we use every day. Details on page 4.

Club Meetings for 2016

Here are the dates and activities for the club meetings for this year. Be sure to add them to your calendar. All meetings will be at Frasier Meadows, 350 Ponca Place, Boulder, CO 80303.

January, 14	Speaker, James Hagadorn
February 11	Speaker, Brian Walko
March 10	Speaker, TBA
April 14	Silent Auction
May 12	Summer Field Trip Signup
June 9	Speaker, TBA
July 14	Mineral Specimen Prep Night
August 20	Annual Picnic
September 8	Speaker, TBA
October 13	Speaker, TBA
November 10	Towel Show
December 15	Holiday Gift Exchange Party

Directions to Frasier Meadows: Exit Foothills Parkway at Baseline and go west. Turn left (south) onto Mohawk Drive and then turn left onto Pawnee Drive, traveling to the east of Burke Park. Take Ponca Place to your left and the Frasier Meadows parking lot will be on the left. When you enter the building, tell the receptionist that you are here for a Flatirons Mineral Club meeting and ask for directions to the elevator to get to the Sky Lounge, which is on the fifth floor. For a Google map of the location, see

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/350+Ponca+Pl,+Boulder,+CO+80303/@39.9932747,-105.2356879,15.75z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x876bed9bb0459cf3:0x9bfaa244c5efe9e9>.

Weather Cancellation: If the Metro Denver area declares the roads on accident alert during a snowfall on meeting night, consider the club meeting canceled.

February Program: Gold Panning by Brian Walko

For our February meeting, club member Brian Walko will discuss gold panning. He has created a gold panning video, which will be shown. In addition, Brian will show other slides from when he taught a unit on gold panning as part of his earth sciences classes in Longmont. Come on **Thursday, February 11th** and learn more about how to find that nugget in Colorado's mountain streams.

After Show Appreciation Party

As an appreciation to all of the club members who volunteered to make the Rocks & Rails show such a success, all club members who worked at least one 2 hour shift are invited to the after show party on **Thursday, January 7th**, at the Frasier Meadows Sky Lounge starting at 7:00 pm. In appreciation for your time, there will be door prizes drawn for nice mineral specimens. Refreshments will be provided. The club show would not happen without the time our club members volunteer to plan and run the show. Thanks to all who helped!

Tour of Hazen Research on February 20



Pilot gold leaching circuit

Ever wonder how a copper mineral mined from the ground is made into the copper wire in your laptop? Or where the lithium in the battery in your cell phone is made? For more than 54 years, Hazen Research in Golden has been helping mining companies develop processes for extracting metals and other products from the ground. Their laboratories provide chemical analyses, bench-scale tests, and continuous pilot plant demonstrations for the mineral, energy, environmental, and chemical industries.

The tour will be on Saturday, February 20, starting at 10:00 am. Dennis Gertenbach will



Magnetic separator in operation

show everyone the equipment that is used for developing commercial plants to extract and recover gold, copper, and other metals from ores. The tour is available to all members, including families. To sign up for the tour, please contact Anita Colin at anitacoln@hotmail.com to sign up for the trip.

Six Jr. Geologists Earn Rockhound Badge

This fall, six Jr. Geologists completed the requirements for their Rockhound badge by earning six of the activity badges. Ava Ream, Piper Rausch, Aden Wyckoff, Aden Bicknell, Kevin Barz, and Michael Johnson joined an elite group of juniors in earning this award. Only 18 other juniors from Colorado have earned this award since it was created 12 years ago.



Did you know that there is a rock that floats? A mineral that you can write with? A mineral that glows when struck? A mineral that expands like popcorn when heated?



The Jr. Geologists learned about these properties and many others during the November meeting, as they completed the requirements for the Special Effects Badge.

Linus Raschke, Simon Raschke, Anderson Kwiat, and Calvin Kwiat will receive their badges this month. And, if you want to check your answers to these questions, see below.

This year, all Jr. Geologists meetings will be the third Wednesdays of each month and will meet at 6:30 at the Reynolds Library meeting room, 3595 Table Mesa Drive in Boulder. The next meeting is **Wednesday, January 20th**.



The Juniors discovering which minerals conduct electricity



The Jr. Geologists program is open to all Flatirons Mineral Club families. Each month we learn about different aspects of geology, minerals, and fossils, plus earn badges for different earth science activities. For information about the Jr. Geologists program, please contact Dennis Gertenbach (gertenbach@comcast.net, 303-709-8218).

Answers: pumice, graphite, piezoelectric quartz, vermiculite.

Gerry Naugle
demonstrating optical
properties of minerals

Rocks & Rails – A Great Show

Once again, this year's show was another great weekend. Although attendance dropped once the snow started on Saturday afternoon, more people came on Sunday. The Kids Korner generated a record \$782 in activity and donations for the scholarship fund, which supports a Colorado School of Mines student.

Here is what one dealer said about the show: The setup on Wednesday morning and teardown on Sunday evening went very well this year thanks to all of the FMC volunteers. Everything went really well and we are getting better and faster at both ends of this process. I also wanted to thank all of the people who wore security vests and walked around the show. I look forward to the 2016 show and all of the wonderful members of FMC.

A big thank you to all members who helped at the show. Be sure to attend the Appreciation Party on January 7 to celebrate our success. See page 3 for details about the party.

Here are some photos of the show from Brian Walko, Gabi Accatino, and Dennis Gertenbach



2015 Rocks & Rails Show



Terry O'Donnell with the ever popular rock polishing



Ed Raines identifying minerals



Charlotte Bourg at the Kids Korner



Looking at a dealer's jewelry



The fabulous UV mineral display



Selling grab bags



Kristi Traynor with one of her rockhound t-shirts

FMC Holiday Party



The club show was over and it was time to celebrate the holidays. Members enjoyed the Holiday Party on December 17th. Everyone brought a wrapped gift for the gift exchange and members took home some great gifts. It was a fun way to end the year.

Photo by Gabi Accatino

Showing off a special specimen from the gift exchange

Towel Show Results

One of the most fun activities each year is the Towel Show in the fall. Everyone brings specimens they found and lapidary work they completed during the past year, showing them off on a towel. As always, there were lots of neat specimens and some beautiful lapidary projects.

Prizes were presented to the best specimens in both the senior and junior divisions. Here are this year's winners:

Senior Division:

- Club Field Trip
- Personal Field Trip
- Best Mineral
- Best Fossil
- Best Lapidary
- Best Ugly Rock
- Best Towel

First Place

- Kevin Notheis
- Markus Raschke
- Markus Raschke
- Brennan Johnson
- Carl Bird
- Charlotte Bourg
- Brennan Johnson

Second Place

- Markus Raschke
- Karen Simmons
- Mary Barz
- Kevin Notheis
- Karen Simmons
- Anita Colin
- Baxter Vieux

Junior Division:

- Club Field Trip
- Personal Field Trip
- Best Mineral
- Best Fossil
- Best Lapidary
- Best Ugly Rock
- Best Towel

First Place

- Kevin Barz
- Kevin Barz
- Maxwell Minson
- Kevin Barz
- Maxwell Minson
- Maxwell Minson
- Maxwell Minson
- Kevin Barz

Second Place

- Maxwell Minson
- Maxwell Minson
- Kevin Barz
- Maxwell Minson
- Kevin Barz
- Kevin Barz
- Kevin Barz
- Maxwell Minson



Tally O'Donnell and Anita Landess discussing some of the entries

Photo by Baxter Vieux

Field Trip Ideas Needed

Anita Colin and Gabi Accatino have begun working on the field trip schedule for next summer. Nothing like cold weather and snow on the ground to make one anxious to get out in the field, again, once the weather warms up. We are looking for suggestions for field trips – either trips we have taken in the past or a new place to explore. If you have ideas for trips, please contact Anita (anitacolin@hotmail.com) and Gabi (accatino@colorado.edu) with your ideas.

Our New Door Prize Chair – Brad Willkomm

Do you have rock and mineral specimens that you think would be perfect door prizes for our club meeting? Please donate them to FMC! We have a new position within the club that has been filled by one of our new board members, Brad Willkomm. Brad has volunteered to keep the door prizes fresh and interesting since we all like to see if our number gets chosen at the end of our meetings.

Bring in those donations when you come to a meeting and have a chat with Brad. He is a returning member to FMC. Years ago he was a member and held a variety of board positions. I'm so glad he has returned to our Flatirons Mineral Club.



Get Your Very Own Flatirons Mineral Club Baseball Cap

The club now has baseball caps in a variety of colors for sale, sporting the new Flatirons Mineral Club logo. Buy them at any meeting. The member price is \$10 each, while the non-member price is \$15.

Forbes Lists the 10 Most Incredible Fossils Finds of 2015

Dennis Gertenbach

This was a great year for some incredible fossil discoveries. Forbes put together this list of the top 10 fossil discoveries of the year.

The Bat-Winged Dinosaur

Yi qi is an incredible find from China. The size of a pigeon, this 160 million year old dinosaur is closely related to modern birds. It had a membrane between its fingers that allowed it to glide through the trees to capture insects and escape predators.

Hellboy

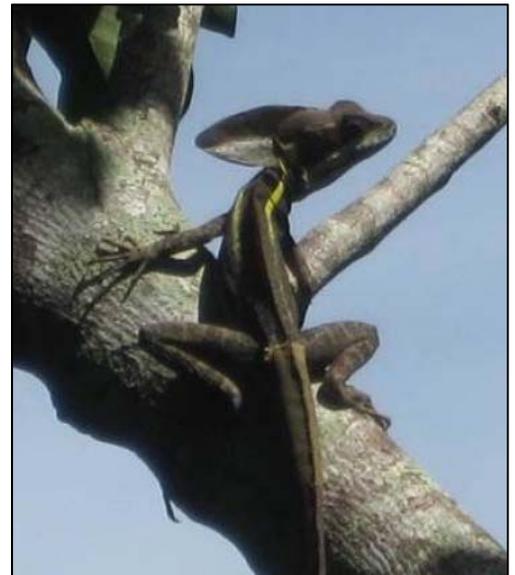
After preparing this late Cretaceous dinosaur for 10 years after its discovery, *Regaliceratops peterhewsi* was found to be one of the last ceratopsian to live before the dinosaurs went extinct. It was named after the comic book character, because it was so difficult to remove the bones from the surrounding rock for study. Certainly, this animal was an impressive dinosaur.



Regaliceratops peterhewsi (Credit: Julius T. Csotonyi, Royal Tyrrell)

Jesus Lizard

This lizard lived in what is now Wyoming during the early Eocene, approximately 48 million years ago. *Babibasiliscus alxi* belongs to the corytophanids family, which are also known as “Jesus lizards” because they can run short distances across water with most of their body above the surface. Whether this lizard could walk on water is not known.



A modern Jesus lizard (Credit: Jack Conrad)



Yi qi restoration
(Credit: Emily Willoughby)



Wendiceratops

Wendiceratops pinhornensis was another horned dinosaur discovered this year. Named after Canadian fossil hunter Wendy Sloboda, who discovered the location where these bones were excavated, this dinosaur had curled frills on its crest, as well as three impressive horns.

Wendiceratops (Credit: Danielle Dufault, Royal Ontario Museum)

Large Feathered Dromeosaur

Zhenyuanlong suni is the latest in a number of feathered dinosaurs from the Liaoning area in China. However, this one is one of the largest winged dinosaurs ever discovered. It has asymmetrical feathers, thought to be necessary for flight. However, because of its large size, it was over six feet long, *Zhenyuanlong suni* probably could not fly.



Zhenyuanlong (Credit: Zhao Chuang)



Controversial Snake

This summer, a controversial fossil was announced that may unlock the secrets of snake evolution. The new species *Tetrapodophis amplexus* is thought to be one of the earliest snakes found to date, living 110 million years ago. Most remarkable are the very small four legs this animal had. Otherwise, the fossil has all of the characteristics of later snakes. Found in Brazil, the controversy stems from its questionable origin, as fossils are not allowed to be exported from Brazil.

A reconstruction of *Tetrapodophis*
(Credit: Julius T. Cstonyi)



Pentecopterus in its natural habitat (Credit: Patrick Lynch, Yale University)

Monster Scorpion

Sea scorpions (eurypterids) were one of the largest sea predators in the ancient seas. A discovery in Iowa set the record for the record for the oldest eurypterid fossil, living 460 million year ago. *Pentecopterus decorahensis* measured almost six feet long.

Pig-nosed Turtle

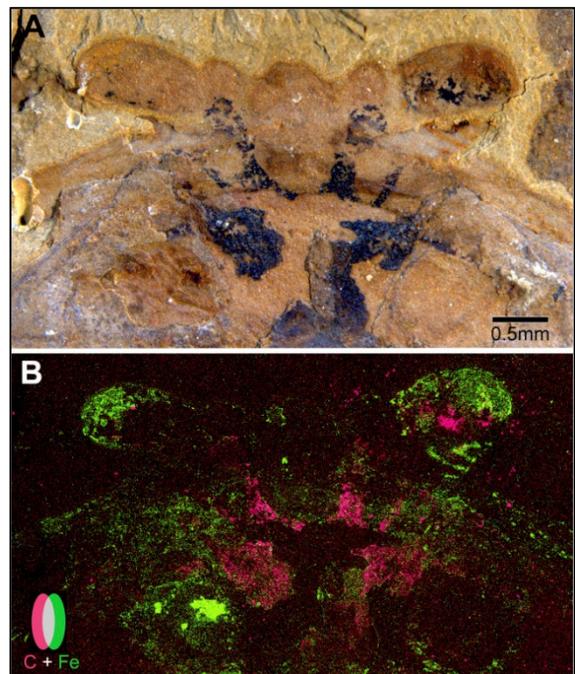
A bizarre, 76 million year old turtle was discovered in Utah. Its name translates to “bacon turtle” due to its strange pig-nose. Its discoverer described it as “one of the weirdest turtles that ever lived.”



A life reconstruction of *Arvinachelys goldeni* (Credit: Victor Leshyk)

540 Million Year Old Brain

Soft tissues, such as brains and other internal organs, are very, very rarely preserved in fossils. A Cambrian age fossil of a shrimp-like animal is an exception. This fossil preserves the brain tissue of this animal, providing clues to the evolution of the central nervous system of animals (including us).



Brain fossil under normal light and a scanning electron microscope showing carbon and iron deposits (Credit: Xiaoya Ma)

Dinosaur Dance Floor

Along the shores of the Isle of Skye, Scotland, footprints of giant dinosaur were discovered. These rare middle Jurassic sauropod trackway showed where the dinosaurs walked, lived, and fed 170 million years ago. The trackway is the only one found on the Isle of Skye and one of the only places in the world they can be found.

*A reconstruction of the beach on the Isle of Skye where dinosaurs lived 170 million years ago.
(Credit: Jon Hoad , University of Edinburgh)*



Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Here is a list of rockhounding-related activities for both adults and juniors that you might be interested in.

Thursday, January 7. Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum's "First Thursday" lecture series will begin this year with a talk by **Marty Zinn**, well-known mineral collector and manager of major commercial mineral exhibitions in Denver, Tucson, Springfield MA, and Santa Ana CA. Marty's talk title is **The Skyrocketing Prices for Minerals**. Marty will discuss this crazy volatility and show examples from his own extensive mineral collection. The meeting room for the talk has changed to Berthoud Hall Room 240, 1516 Illinois Street, Golden, CO 80401. Socializing and munchies begin at 6:00 PM, and the talk will start at 7:00. Admission is free and all are welcome. Berthoud Hall is building #7 on the campus map: <http://inside.mines.edu/UserFiles/File/facilities/MinesCampusMap.pdf>. For more information about the talk, please contact Mike Smith (m_l_smith@earthlink.net, [303.530.2646](tel:303.530.2646)). A flyer about this program is on page 13.

Friday, January 8. "Collecting topaz around Pikes Peak", by **Rich Fretterd and Jean Cowan**, at the monthly meeting of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild. Berthoud Hall, Room 109, 1516 Illinois St. on the Colorado School of Mines campus, Golden at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

Thursday, January 14 and February 12. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science will present monthly programs as part of the 2016 Earth Sciences Colloquium. All talks are from 3-4 pm in the VIP room at the museum. Museum admission not required to attend these free presentations. Here are the speakers and topics scheduled for the first two months of the year.

- January 14: **Walter Joyce** (University of Fribourg), **Sex in the fossil record**
- February 12: **Jim Kirkland** (Utah Geological Survey), **Feathering Utahraptor: The real star of Jurassic Park**

Thursday, January 14. Bimonthly meeting of **Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter**, at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, VIP Room at 7:30 pm. **Jeff Self and Donna Ware** will give a presentation about the new Sherman Dugan Museum of Geology at the San Juan College School of Energy, Farmington, New Mexico. Jeff and Donna helped design the mineral exhibits at this new museum. All are welcome to come to the meeting.

Friday, January 15, 7:30 p.m., "Mining History of the Leadville District, Colorado" by **Ed Raines**, at the monthly meeting of the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, at Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave. Littleton, CO 80123 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

Friday – Sunday, February 26-28. The Denver Gem and Mineral Guild is holding their annual **DGMG Jewelry Gem & Mineral Show**, featuring gems, minerals, fossils, geodes, and jewelry, including beautiful minerals from across the state and around the world. Activities include award winning displays of gems, minerals, and fossils, gem cutting demonstrations, grab bags, and door prizes. Dealers will feature fine gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites, jewelry, books, and more! The show is at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO. Admission and parking is free. Times are 10 am to 6 pm of Friday and Saturday, and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. See the flyer about the show on page 14 and visit their website at <http://denvergem.org/Shows.html>.

Friends of the
Organized
2009
Colorado School of Mines
Geology Museum



Marty Zinn

THE FRIENDS'
"FIRST THURSDAY"
LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS

"The Skyrocketing Prices for Minerals"
By Marty Zinn

Thursday, January 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Colorado School of Mines Campus

Berthoud Hall Room 240, 1516 Illinois Street, Golden, CO



Gold Crystals



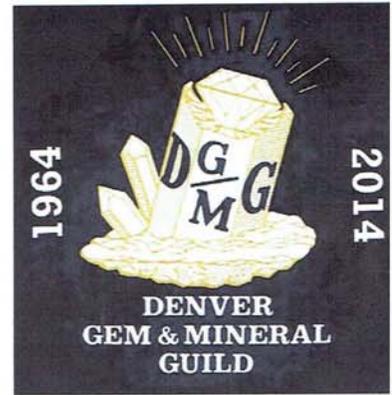
Crocoite



Aquamarine with Tourmaline and Albite

JEWELRY GEM & MINERAL SHOW

FREE ADMISSION!



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February 26- February 28, 2016

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

15200 W. 6th Ave – (W 6th Ave. & Indiana) Golden



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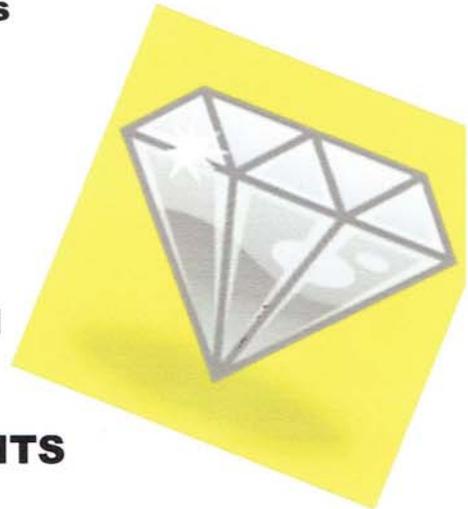
**Crystals and
Fossils**

*

Unique Jewelry

*

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GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL EXHIBITS

GEM CUTTING DEMONSTRATIONS

GRAB BAG SALES- Proceeds applied to scholarship at
Colorado School of Mines

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3rd Vice President: Annual Show Chair

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Denver Show Club Table

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A friendly reminder that the annual dues to the FMC are due on October 1st, 2015

Dues are still only \$18 per individual and their immediate family. You can pay in two ways:

SEND a check made to "Flatirons Mineral Club" or "FMC" to P.O. Box 3331, Boulder, CO, 80307. Please do not send cash in the mail.

PAY Gerry Naugle, Treasurer, or Kristi Traynor, Membership Chair, at any FMC monthly meeting. One of them is at or near the sign-in table when you enter the room for the monthly meetings.

Your 2015-16 dues must be received by January 20th, 2016 in order to stay current with the member benefits, which include electronic club newsletters containing the information about club activities, club field trips information, annual show opportunities, silent auction opportunities, and the annual club summer picnic. Your receipt is your new annual 2015-16 FMC membership card.





Flatirons Facets
P.O. Box 3331
Boulder, CO 80307-3331

First Class Mail

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 7, 7:00 pm	After Show Appreciation Party	Frasier Meadows
Thursday, January 14, 7:00 pm	Club meeting featuring Dr. James Hagadorn "Colorado's newest mass extinction(s): Weird strata and cool fossils from rocks you've driven by a zillion times"	Frasier Meadows
Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 pm	Jr. Geologists Meeting	Reynolds Library
Thursday, February 11, 7:00 pm	Club meeting featuring Brian Walko Gold panning video and techniques	Frasier Meadows
Wednesday, February 17, 6:30 am	Jr. Geologists Meeting	Reynolds Library
Saturday, February 20, 10:00 am	Hazen Research tour	Golden, CO
Thursday, March 10, 7:00 pm	Club meeting featuring Craig Hazelton	Frasier Meadows

Save the Date: Denver Gem & Mineral Show, September 16-18
Volunteer to help with the show and get in free.