



# Flatirons Facets

Flatirons Mineral Club of Boulder County, Colorado  
Volume 60, Number 2

March-April, 2017

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.



## The Flatirons Mineral Club is 60 years old!

*This edition of the newsletter celebrates our 60th anniversary with 10 pages of articles about our club's history, starting on page 3. Read about our early years and some of the highlights of the past 60 years.*

### FMC Silent Auction on April 13

Our annual silent action will take place during our April meeting at the **Left Hand Grange in Niwot** (195 2nd Avenue, Niwot, 80544). It's a fun event and is a great chance to buy and sell rock and mineral specimens, as well as equipment and other related items.

Sellers are required to use our new bidding slips that are available at our website – [www.flatironsmineralclub.org](http://www.flatironsmineralclub.org) – and attached at the end of this newsletter. The slips on the website are in a PDF file. The information that sellers need to provide on the slips can be added electronically when you open the file. And then the slips can be printed on your home printer. For those of you who would prefer to fill-in the bidding slips by hand, you can do that too by printing the PDF file at the end of this newsletter.

There is also a flyer that advertises the auction at the end of this newsletter. Please help the club by printing out a few copies and posting them around your workplace or neighborhood, and thank you.

Come and join the fun of our annual silent auction!



Nice lapidary material and mineral specimens at last year's auction

## President's Message



Hello Friends!

I am very honored to be the president of this wonderful little club at this moment in time - Our 60th Anniversary Year! I hope you will join us for our celebration at our June meeting.

I have to admit that I am not a seasoned rockhound. I have only been a rockhound and member of this club for less than 10 years. What was I doing all those years before? I really don't know, but I now love being a magpie picking up any shiny pretty rock!

Our club does have so many knowledgeable members. I thank them, and all the members through the years, for being nice, generous folks who are always willing to share their information and opinions. I hope the Flatirons Mineral Club continues to be a fun and welcoming organization.

Make sure to always "save the dates" for our meetings for great talks and the company of your FMC friends.

Here's to another 60 years! Gabi

### Field Trip to Collect North Table Mountain Zeolites

For the first collecting field trip of the year, we will return to North Table Mountain outside of Golden on **Saturday, April 15**. North Table Mountain is a world-renown site for collecting zeolite minerals. Zeolites are a family of aluminosilicate minerals with different crystal structures. Thomsonite, analcime, chabazite, mesolite, and calcite are quite common, plus a number of other zeolite minerals can also be found.

The hike from the parking area is about a mile, climbing about 700 feet in elevation along a well-maintained trail. This is a great trip to take kids, as everyone will find specimens to take home. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Once again, Dennis Gertenbach will be leading the trip. If you would like to come on this trip, you can sign up at the April meeting or by contacting Anita Colin at [anitacoln@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacoln@hotmail.com). Details about the trip will be sent to those who sign up for the trip. If it snows on April 15, the trip will be postponed two weeks to May 6.



Analcime crystals surrounded by thomsonite collected from North Table Mountain

### Would You Like a Club Name Tag?

If you would like a club name tag, we will be placing an order this spring. Just let Gabi Accatino know at the Silent Auction or contact her at [accatino@colorado.edu](mailto:accatino@colorado.edu). The cost of the name tags is \$5 each.

# In Celebration of 60 Years!!

## FMC – The First Year

Dennis Gertenbach

(Reprinted from the March 2007 *Flatirons Facets*)

The idea of a rock and mineral club in Boulder was the brainchild of our three co-founders – Don Tripp, Martin Hultquist, and Roy Atkinson – and these three gentlemen were the driving force to establish the club. They set up an organization meeting in early March, 1957, advertising it in the *Boulder Camera*, and 23 people attended who were interested in establishing a rockhounding club. Those attending this first meeting set the focus of the club – minerals, geology, archeology, collecting specimens, paleontology, and lapidary work.

The first official meeting of the club was on March 8, 1957 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Hultquist, where the Flatirons Mineralogical Society came into being. About 50 members became charter members. Don Tripp was elected the club's first president, with J.M. DeFrance as vice president and Mrs. Hultquist as secretary-treasurer. The featured speaker at this first meeting was a CU student, Gerald Blanton, who talked about "Rock Hunting Locations in the Boulder Area." Annual dues were established of \$1 per person, with children paying 25 cents. The Boulder recreation department sponsored the club during the early years. Later that year, the Henderson Museum at CU provided the initial club meeting place and became an early supporter of the club.

For the April 1957 meeting, Jack Byron gave a mineral slide show. Members were asked to bring labeled rock and mineral specimens that they had collected to exhibit. Other presentations at the monthly meetings during the first year included gems, exhibiting artifacts, geology of the Front Range, physical properties of minerals, and early diamond explorations in the Belgium Congo.



Cofounder and first club president Don Tripp and his wife with Paul Ralston looking on at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Colorado State Fossil

The club's first field trip was to the quarry on North Table Mountain on May 5, 1957 in search of zeolites and other minerals. (Of note is that the club will be going there again this spring.) The trip was led by Gerald Blanton, CU student, and Melvin Judy of CSM. Later that month, the club went to the Argo Mine outside of Jamestown to collect pyrite, galena, fluorite, and feldspar crystals. Over 50 people attended this trip.

The club's first annual meeting was held in October 1957, which elected Richie Boatman as president, Roy Atkinson as vice president, and Rhoda McDuffy as secretary-treasurer. The annual meeting of the club has continued to be held each October, where officers are elected.

Dr. and Mrs. Hultquist held the first club Christmas party at their home, complete with door prizes of mineral specimens for both the adults and kids.

The following March, the club changed its name to the Flatirons Mineral Club, which we are still known by today.

## 60 Years of FMC History

Dennis Gertenbach

(Updated from the March 2007 *Flatirons Facets*)

The Flatirons Mineral Club has been active throughout its 60-year history, dedicated to developing and maintaining interest in all aspects of earth science and associated hobbies. The club has created many rockhounds over the years, due to the dedications of many, many members and former members.

From the beginning in 1957, the club has held monthly meetings, featuring a speaker on some geological topic. The early meetings were held at the Henderson Museum at CU. By 1964, the club was meeting at the Bureau of Standards. In the 70s and early 80s, the Capitol Federal Savings building was the home for the monthly meetings. Throughout the years, the club has had some outstanding presentations, including John Chronic, co-author of *Roadside Geology of Colorado* in 1958, Richard Pearl, author of several books including *Colorado Gem Trails and Mineral Guide* in 1970, and Stan Remick, "The Turquoise Man," in 1978.

Educational classes have been a focus of the club over the years. The FMC sponsored the first fossil class in Colorado in 1962, instructed by **Jordan Sawdo**. Classes in 1964 included vertebrate paleontology, mineral identification, and lapidary techniques. In 1966, alabaster carving using material collected at Owl Canyon was taught by **Gladys Sturdy**. Club President **Paul Ralston** announced the classes for 1968, which included mineral identification, vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology, soft stone carving, faceting, fine lapidary work, jewelry making, and identification of Indian artifacts.

The club's first show was held 1962 at the city recreation building, near Broadway and Pine. The show included 32 exhibits, with a special Jade exhibit as the highlight. The second show was in April 1963, highlighting gems and minerals found in the Boulder-Nederland-Ward area. The show featured exhibits by club members, cut and faceted semi-precious gems, and jewelry from bone, fossil wood, jade, and other stones. Fossils from the time when Boulder was covered by the sea and Indian relics from when the pioneers first came to Colorado were also displayed. The club members gave lapidary demonstrations, and **Lew Yoder** showed fluorescent minerals. The show also had a free swap table and hourly door prizes.

From the mid-60s to mid-70s, the shows were held at the Sacred Heart School auditorium at 13<sup>th</sup> and Mapleton. Exhibits by club members and members from other clubs and the dealer's tables became a feature at all of the club shows. The 1966 show highlighted alabaster carving. One of the most popular areas of the 1968 show was the swap table and the "whatzit" table. The theme for the 1971 show was "The Great American Rock Show," and included several science fair displays from school students from Colorado. Also, grab bags were available during the 1971 show. These grab bags were sewn by **Lucille Hultquist**. The top prize for the 1974 show was a semi-precious gem slab-topped table made by **Mr. and Mrs. Don Tripp**.

In the mid-70s the show location was moved to the Ford dealership at 38<sup>th</sup> and Arapaho. Exhibitors at the 1976 show included **Martin Hultquist** with his bowls (see the article in this newsletter about Martin's bowls), **Clause Dowse** with knives, letter openers, and jewelry made from jade, **Charles and Bernice Eller** with faceted gems, and **Mary Jane Harvey** with three cases of fossils. The 1982 show featured silversmithing, children's activities, gold panning, the "touch me" rocks, and a UV room. The club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 1983 show, which also included a kid's corner and a slide show on Mt. Saint Helens.

Later in the 80s and through the 90s, the show moved to Crossroads Mall. "Gems Galore in '94" was the theme in 1994, which featured a dinosaur egg exhibit, plus demonstrations on silversmithing, bead stringing, wire wrapping, gem carving, and lapidary. Shows have also been held at the Twin Peaks Mall in Longmont, the Elks Club in Boulder, and most recently at the Boulder County Fairground.

In 1978 FMC established a workroom on east Pearl Street with the club's saws and lapidary equipment. This workshop became a reality under the guidance of **Ralph Hills** and was funded with proceeds from the annual show. The workshop had two rooms; 8 lapidary units filled one room and the other had a long table for 8 people to work on crafts. Cost was \$1 per night to use the workshop. Classes held at the workshop that first year included lost wax casting by **Dave Meier**, silversmithing by **Charles Eiler** and **Martin Hultquist**, soft stone carving by **Stephanie Warchal**, and lapidary classes by **Ralph Hills**.

This past club show featured the club Mineral Map, showing the location of minerals found in Colorado. The map was created in 1978 by several club members, including **Marge Scanlon**, **Bill and Charlotte Morrison**, and **Polly Townsend**, and was first featured at the 1978 show. The display was portable and has been displayed at schools, libraries, and mineral shows throughout Colorado.

**Paul Ralston** presented the idea for a scholarship for college students studying geology at Colorado universities. The club Board voted that proceeds from the grab bag sales and memorials would fund two scholarships for Colorado School of Mines students each year. The first two scholarships were awarded in 1991. For the first time, both scholarships went to FMC members in 2006.

Over the years, the CU geology department receives requests for minerals and fossils from Colorado from schools, students working on science fair projects, and other educational groups. As part of the club's educational goals, the club took over filling these requests for the geology department in the early 60s, under the direction of **Richie Boatman**. By 1963, the club had filled 133 requests, many to school children.

Junior Geologist program started in 2004, when club members decided that educating the next generation of rockhounds was an important part of our educational mission. **Dennis Gertenbach** and **Charlotte Morrison** founded the program and today, there are a dozen kids active in the program, where they meet monthly to learn more about earth sciences. (See the article in this newsletter about the history of the Jr. Geologists.)

In 2002, the club began to recognize members who had contributed their time to the club as the Rockhound of the Year. Past recipients have been **Charlotte Morrison** (2002), **Paul and Martha Ralston** (2003), **Ray and Dorothy Horton** (2004), **John and Jeanne Hurst** (2005), **Ray and Joyce Gilbert** (2006), **Chuck and Jan Buda** (2007), **Cory Olin and Hallie and Dot Cook** (2008), **Shaula Lee** (2009), **Anita Colin** and **Gabi Accatino** (2010), **Mel and Charlotte Bourg** (2011), **Deborah Knox** (2012), **Ed Raines and Silvia Pettem** (2013), **Mike Smith** (2014), **Tally O'Donnell** (2015), and **Dennis Gertenbach** in 2016.

We branded the December show "Rocks & Rails" to highlight the crazy alliance we have with the Boulder Model Railroad Train Club to put on our joint show year after year. The public loves to come out on cold December days to check out our rocks and minerals and the model train layouts. A win-win for everyone.

**Terry and Tally O'Donnell** have led the effort year after year during our December Rock & Rails rock and mineral show to let visitors put a polish on a piece of fossil wood. Children and adults alike love to sit down at the Genie and watch the great colors come out when they polish a rock.

**Anita Colin** and her husband, **Don Mock**, have perfected grab bag specimen collection and storage. Don keeps a spreadsheet of the specimens collected and knows ahead of the July meeting how many bags we are going to assemble at the annual picnic. We need to donate 500 complete bags to the Denver Gem and Mineral show and have at least that many for our show in December.

In 2010, **Jim and Regina Siegwarth** came to FMC to make an alliance with us to share the care-taking and excavation at a dinosaur fossil quarry along Como Bluff in Wyoming. Jim became good friends with Walter Cronkite and Charles

Kerault of the CBS Evening News. **Anita Colin** has fallen in love with the Nail Quarry and is managing it with Jim. See the article in this newsletter about FMC's involvement with the Nail Quarry.

The past 60 years has seen the club active in providing a place where members can enjoy and develop their passion for rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, and other related areas. We expect the next 60 years to be even better.

## Jr. Geologists Teaching Kids about Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils

Dennis Gertenbach

April 2004 was the first meeting of the Jr. Geologists, a program for FMC kids and their parents. The program was conceived by Dennis Gertenbach and Charlotte Morrison to teach children about the joys of rockhounding and the earth sciences. At the first meeting, four Jr. Geologists – Addison Starn, Stefan Codrescu, Joel Hyde, and Andrew Hyde – learned how crystals formed and how to use crystals to identify minerals from Charlotte Morrison and Dennis Gertenbach. Each participant took home three different solutions to grow crystals during the next couple of weeks, as well as several crystal mineral specimens to add to their collections. Reports several days afterwards were that the copper sulfate and alum crystals were growing great.



Addison Starn, Joel Hyde, and Carol and Stefan Codrescu learn about crystal minerals from Charlotte Morrison at the first Jr. Geologists meeting

In the fall of 2004, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies introduced the Future Rockhounds of America program to encourage and

cultivate kids' interest in the earth sciences and lapidary arts. The program initially featured nine badges on different subjects and has grown to the 20 badges shown in the picture to the left. Also included in the program is a membership patch when a child joins the program, the Rockhound Badge for earning six badges, and the Rock Star Pin for earning all 20 badges.



Since the badge program began, there have been 24 kids in Colorado that earned the Rockhound Badge. All of them are Jr. Geologists from

our club. Here is a list of the recipients of this award.

Joel Hyde, 10/29/06  
Stephan Codrescu, 6/23/08  
Lucas Simon, 6/23/08  
Katherine Codrescu, 1/27/09  
Charles Mock, 1/27/09  
Nico Caballero, 11/25/09  
Perry Cheseboro, 11/25/09  
Preston Daley, 11/25/09

Gavin Morrison, 4/16/12  
Ian Crittenden, 5/20/12  
Nicolas Erickson, 5/20/12  
Cassidy Crittenden, 5/20/12  
Miu Iwabuchi, 1/29/13  
Andrew Caballero, 1/29/13  
Josiah Horning, 2/9/14  
Riley Petrone, 2/9/14

Quinn Cormier, 2/9/14  
Egan Rausch, 12/5/14  
Piper Rausch, 12/5/14  
Kevin Barz, 11/29/15  
Aden Bicknell, 11/29/15  
Michael Johnston, 12/6/15  
Ava Ream, 11/29/15  
Aden Wyckoff, 11/29/15

In addition to working on the different badges, the Jr. Geologists also go on field trips in the summer to learn more about the geology of the Boulder area and to collect rocks, minerals, and fossils for their collections. Many Jr. Geologists have put together display cases at our club's annual show to display their favorite specimens in their collections.

Here are a few pictures of Jr. Geologists activities from the last 13 years.



Ed Raines teaching Charles Mock, Perry Chesebro, Ricki Runions, and Billie Anna Runions about how sedimentary rocks are formed



Todd Shannon works with Billie Anna Runions and Lucas Simons on their Collecting badge



The Jr. Geologists showing off their volcanoes they made for the Earth Processes badge



Katie Runions collecting mica in the pegmatites west of Boulder



Preston Daley with several crinoid stems he found



Jr. Geologists collecting fossils at Crinoid City in the McCoy area



Miu Iwabuchi examines a fossil log from Snowmass at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science



Learning How to tumble-polish stones



Malakai Pinson and Andrew Caballero  
making fossils



Kevin Barz making bismuth crystals from  
melting bismuth metal

## **Dr. Martin Hultquist's Fabulous Gem Bowls**

Dennis Gertenbach

(Updated from the March 2007 *Flatirons Facets*)

One of the perks of being the FMC president is that you get to keep and display a fabulous tiger-eye bowl, made by Dr. Martin Hultquist, PhD Chemistry, for the length of your term of office. Martin was one of our club's cofounding members, whose passion was making exquisite bowls from agate, quartz, jade, lapis and other gem materials.

In 1965, Martin found a beautiful agate bowl during a trip to New York. The bowl so intrigued him that he purchased it, trying to figure out how he could make such a thing of beauty. A long-time lapidary expert, he began to study ways of making convex surfaces, determined to figure out how to create these beautiful bowls. Although expensive bowl making machines are used to make commercial gem bowls, Martin set out to create his own machinery to make bowls at home.

Using his lapidary skills and mechanical ability, Martin began using designs that others had developed. Over the next several years, he modified these designs to create unique equipment capable of creating the thin bowls he desired. He made his first hemispherical saw blade from a war-surplus oxygen tank. His later designs used stainless steel ladles purchased from a restaurant supply store. After cutting off the handle, the ladle cup was hammered into the proper shape, and an iron strip was silver soldered around the edge. Evenly spaced notches were cut into the iron strip and diamond powder was fastened into the notches to create the cutting edge of the saw.

The hemispherical saw blade was fastened to a lathe. The gem block was fastened into a custom-made jig to hold it firmly in place during cutting. Using a cutting technique that he developed, multiple cuts are made into the block of stone, creating a lens-shaped piece in the block. Eventually, the lens was completely cut from the block. Multiple cuts can be made in the block, creating as many as five bowls from a single piece of stone. The bowl-shaped slices are then

ground and polished to a brilliant finish, using techniques similar to finishing stone spheres. Martin created bowls up to 5 inches in diameter, using many materials, including agate, amethyst, rose quartz, rhodochrosite, petrified wood and bone, jasper, and jade.

Once he had successfully created several bowls, Martin searched for the best way to display them. He decided that silver made the best accent for the bowls and hammered out sterling silver bases for his cups. By elevating the bowl on a simple sterling base, the color and elegance of the bowl is highlighted.

Not one to keep his secrets to himself, Martin taught many FMC members and other local mineral clubs how to make gem bowls. Several FMC members still treasure the bowls they made with Martin's guidance. At the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting, Martin received the first ever FMC Lifetime Achievement Award for his bowl making over the years.



Some of the bowls made by Martin Hultquist. Note that these bowls have been cut so thin that they are translucent.



Martin won first place in the

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' national mineral hobby craft competition, held in Seattle in 1971 over approximately one hundred other entries. A couple of years later, he again took first place in the Salt Lake City competition. He was also honored with an article featuring his bowls in the February 1990 *Lapidary Journal*.

Martin Hultquist was inducted into the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame in the Lapidary Division in 2007 for his outstanding bowl making techniques. The National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame is located in Murdo, South Dakota, and is worth a visit. Anyone who has seen the fine craftsmanship in these ultra-thin bowls will understand why his bowls win competitions and are truly world class.

In December 2007, club members were saddened with Martin's death. In addition to his lapidary achievements, Martin held 63 U.S. patents.

Martin in 2007, with some of his bowls behind him

## An Educational Happening - The Saga for the Colorado State Fossil

By Ruth Sawdo

(Reprinted from the March 2007 *Flatirons Facets*)

At the beginning of Colorado's state fossil campaign, only three states had state fossils. Colorado's state fossil campaign generated national publicity, sparking a national interest in state fossils and mineral symbols. The champions of Colorado's campaign received letters from organizers from several states. Now 40 of the 50 states have a state

fossil. Colorado's state fossil, the stegosaurus, is due to the efforts of FMC member **Ruth Sawdo**. **Jordon Sawdo**, her husband, supported this "educational happening" with scientific input.

In 1980, Ruth started the Colorado history unit with her fourth graders at McElwain Elementary School in Thornton by reviewing Colorado symbols. Jordon brought home a leaflet from Utah, where they were surveying suggestions for a state fossil and this sparked the question. "Does Colorado have a state fossil?" (Little did anyone know that this would take three years for this to become a reality.)

After researching and asking options of professional scientists, Ruth's class decided that the stegosaurus would be the best representation for Colorado. The first stegosaurus in Colorado was found near Morrison and a nearly complete skeleton was found near Canon City several years later. One student's mother, Colorado Representative Polly Baca Barragan, presented the students' ideas to other lawmakers. The teachers incorporated dinosaur study into reading, writing, math, science, social studies, art, and drama. The students began their lobbying by doing the following: learning how to pass a bill, writing hundreds of letters explaining why the stegosaurus would be a good choice for the state fossil to Gov. Richard Lamm, senators, representatives, Colorado authors, other schools, and anyone who would listen to them. They gathered petitions at the malls, testified before committees, and followed their bill through committees. Many of the lawmakers did not think having a state fossil was important, so the students' idea never came up for a vote.

The following year, students at McElwain elementary and at other schools did not give up. They met with Gov. Lamm in his office at the State Capitol and gave him a Steggy t-shirt. They invited the governor and the legislators to a "wine and dine" (milk and dino cookies with a full lunch) in the school cafeteria. Lobbying at lunch while dressed in Steggy costumes, the kids explained why the stegosaurus should be officially recognized. However, the students failed to convince the legislature to enact the bill.

After the legislature failed to make the stegosaurus our state fossil for a second time, Gov. Lamm signed an executive order designating the stegosaurus as Colorado's official state fossil. His executive order was made at McElwain Elementary School on April 28, 1982 in front of an enthusiastic crowd of students. The hard efforts of the students, under the guidance of Ruth and Jordan, had finally paid off. Colorado's wealth of dinosaur fossils is now recognized with the stegosaurus as our state fossil.



Ruth Sawdo with her students cutting the cake at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the stegosaurus as Colorado's state fossil

Tom Noel (Mr. Colorado of the *Rocky Mountain News*) interviewed Gov. Lamm a quarter century later, where he reflected on one of the happiest highlights of his three terms as a very popular governor (1975-1987). "The dinosaurs in the legislature finally rose to the occasion and ultimately sanctioned the stegosaurus as the Colorado state fossil. They showed a bunch of talented, persistent kids that democracy really worked. Everybody won. The state of Colorado. The kids. And the dinosaurs."

The Flatirons Mineral Club hosted the fifth and tenth anniversary parties, celebrating the establishment of the stegosaurus and Colorado's state fossil. In attendance at the tenth anniversary party was the superintendent of Adams County District 12 Schools to serve the cake.

## FMC Helps Excavate Dinosaur Bones from Como Bluff

Anita Colin

Jim and Regina Siegwarth came to FMC in 2010 to find club members to help excavate dinosaur fossils at the private Nail Quarry at Como Bluff in Wyoming. The Morrison Formation in the Como Bluff area of has been a rich source of Jurassic fossils since the 1850s and was part of the "Bone Wars" in the late 1800s. Jim has worked this quarry for over 30 years and even met Walter Cronkite when he was filming his mini-series, "Dinosaur!". Club member Anita Colin has been leading trips to the quarry the past five summers and has become co-manager along with Jim. FMC members are invited to help with the excavation of 5-foot leg bones and basketball-sized vertebrae on our yearly field trips.



Jim and his homemade ore carts for removing debris from the quarry



Ron Yamiolkoski unearthing a large dinosaur bone at the quarry last summer



Jim eating one of the cupcakes his wife always packs on quarry trips

*Flatirons  
Mineral Club  
60 years of  
history*

## In Memory of Paul Ralston

Paul Ralston, a longtime FMC member, passed away on February 26, 2017 at the age of 91. Paul was born November 7, 1925 in Diamond Center, Iowa, the youngest of three children. Growing up, he lived in several Iowa towns and graduated High School in Salix, IA. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1943 from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, and taught for one year in Climbing Hill, Iowa before entering the United States Navy. Paul was a World War II veteran serving as an Aviation Machinist's Mate Third Class from March 1944 to June 1946.

He met his future wife, Martha Salato, at Lake Villa, Illinois where they were both on staff at Camp Cutten. Paul served as the camp's craft director and Martha was the camp nurse. They were married on March 10 and enjoyed 61 years together, raising four children.

In 1962, Paul, Martha, and their family moved to Colorado, first living in Boulder and then in rural Boulder County. Paul taught 25 years at Northglenn Junior High School, teaching Introductory to Physical Science and coaching 7th grade basketball.



Paul was an avid rock and mineral collector; there was never a rock he didn't love. He and his family joined the Flatirons Mineral Club in 1962. He served as Club President two times, served on the club's board, was on the show committee many years, and was Committee Chairman for the Rock and Mineral Show's Special Exhibits. He helped to initiate the Flatiron Mineral Club's Scholarship Program in 1991 when he presented the idea for a scholarship for college students studying geology at Colorado universities. The club board voted that proceeds from the grab bag sales and memorials would fund scholarships for Colorado School of Mines students each year. The first two scholarships were awarded in 1991. Thanks to Paul's vision, the scholarship program continues to this day. This month, the club board voted to change the name of the scholarship program to the FMC / Paul Ralston Memorial Scholarship Program in honor of Paul's work on establishing and promoting the scholarship program. The board also added \$250 to the Scholarship Program in Paul's name.

Paul was also a member of the Colorado Mineral Society and the Western Interior Paleontological Society. He was also involved in the Niwot Senior Advisory Committee to help seniors in the Niwot area and an Amateur Radio Operator. He was a member of The First United Methodist Church of Boulder for 55 years, serving on various committees over the years.

Paul's service will take place on Saturday, March 18th, at the First United Methodist Church in Boulder (1421 Spruce St, Boulder, CO 80302). Viewing will start at 1 pm and the service will be at 2 pm. Memorials can be given to the Flatiron Mineral Club Scholarship Fund C/O Paul Ralston at 8952 Audubon Court Longmont, CO 80503.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Martha, and their family.

## Volunteers Needed for Gold Panning

Volunteers are needed to help with a gold panning event hosted by the Western Colorado Chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA) at Camp Wapiyapi, a camp for children with cancer in Estes Park. The event will be June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:00 pm. There are camping and hotel/motel accommodations nearby. FMC folks can contact Donald Layden at [donald@pmgresources.com](mailto:donald@pmgresources.com) for the volunteer application which the camp needs, as they run background checks for anyone volunteering.

## Club Lapidary Equipment Available

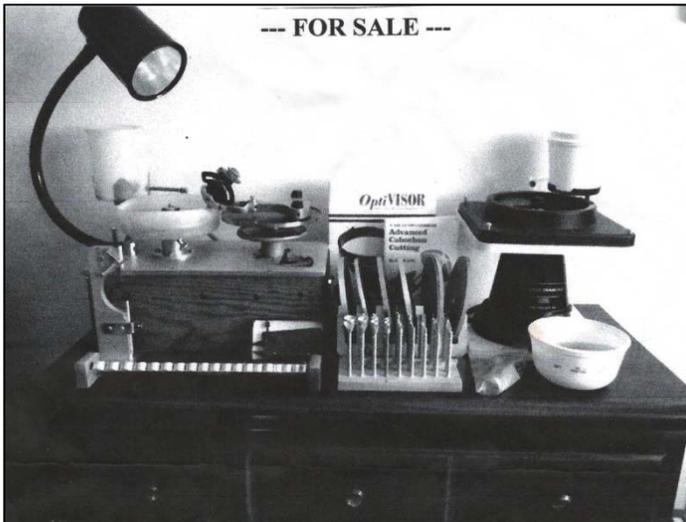
The club has 3 locations for our lapidary equipment that club members can use.

To use a Genie, Pixie, water saw, and flat lap, please contact Melanie Seaman at 561-573-3942 or [mseaman136@gmail.com](mailto:mseaman136@gmail.com) to schedule when to come and use the equipment at her house.

One of our big saws is at Markus Raschke's house. Call him at 303-499-9157 to arrange a time to use the saw.

Another saw is at Terry O'Donnell's house. His email address is [whee0297@msn.com](mailto:whee0297@msn.com).

## Equipment for Sale



Carl Kunze, long-time member of the North Jeffco club, has some equipment for sale. These include:

- Raytech-Shaw faceting machine with all accessories
- Hi-Tech cabochon cutting machine with all accessories

Carl is asking for \$600 for all. This price for all of this equipment and the accessories is really a bargain. You can contact Carl Kunz at 303-921-1513.

## Rock and Mineral Collection Sale

After 60+ years of rock hounding and collecting, Dan Lovitt has decided it is time to reduce and disperse most of his accumulated material. This is an eclectic collection and includes many different rocks, minerals, fossils, and even some landscape/yard art material. The largest volume of rocks will be of fossil wood (petrified wood); approximately 2,500 – 3,000 pounds. The second largest group of material will be agates, jaspers and various other workable stones; approximately 1,600 -1,900 pounds. Next will be mineral specimens; approximately 30–35 flats/containers. There will also be about 60 smaller pieces, a few medium to large pieces and some slabs of Wyoming nephrite jade, and many pieces of obsidian.

The collection will “be somewhat” organized by tumbling material, tumbling/cabbing material, slabbing/cabbing material, mineral specimen, fossils and other collectables.

Samples of some of the material are as follows:

- Fossil Wood – WY, CO, NE, UT, AR from one ounce to 50 pound pieces (many wind or water smoothed)
- Agate – Brazilian (slabs to 20 pound pieces collected in the 60s), Wyoming ; small amounts of lysite , youngite, Sweetwater, turritella (fossil snails), stromatolite, ( petrified algae), oolite – Mexican; lace, banded agate, sagenite nodules - Colorado; black agate nodules, Petrified Wood-Utah; red agate, petrified wood - Thunder eggs (about 100) Tree agate, Montana, Black snake, African blue lace
- Jasper—Bloodstone, picture, Colorado orbicular, chicken track, mookite, many other reds, blues, greens, tans
- Minerals—Quartz, selenite, barite, calcite, malachite, beryl, hanksite, aragonite, crocidolite, gold and blue (tiger eye/tiger iron), aventurine, fuchsite, fluorite, sodalite, and many other small specimen in plastic boxes
- Fossils - Common sea life-ammonites, baculites, belemnites, coral, shells, etc. of many kinds from Co, WY, SD, NE - Dino bone from CO, UT, IA, WY
- Other—Larger pieces of rose quartz, Blue Mountain quartz, common WY agate, petrified wood, carving talc, onyx, black/green nephrite WY Jade, various jaspers, stromatolite, turritella, soolite (pink jade), obsidian

Sale dates and times are Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 – 5:00 and Sunday, April 23, from 10:00 – 3:00

Location: 7045 Pine view Drive, Littleton, CO 80125

Soft drinks/water and hot dogs for all guests. Small gifts for all children.

## Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Here is a list of rockhounding-related activities in the area for both adults and juniors that you might be interested in. Thanks to Pete Modreski of the USGS for providing many of these notices.

**March 31-April 2** (Friday-Sunday) is the **Fort Collins Gem & Mineral Show**, sponsored by the Fort Collins Rockhounds Club, at the McKee 4-H Building, Larimer County Fairgrounds/The Ranch, I-25 exit 259. Times are 4-8 pm on Friday, 9-6 on Saturday, and 10-5 on Sunday. See the flyer to the right for more information

**April 14** (Friday) starting at 6:45 pm is the **North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club Silent Auction** at the APEX Community Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada. Setup at 5:30, auction begins at 6:45. All are invited. See the flyer on the next page for more information.

**56th Annual 2017 Fort Collins Rockhounds Gem & Mineral Show**  
 Featuring *Turquoise & Crystals*  
**Friday March 31 4pm-8pm**  
**Saturday April 1 9am-6pm**  
**Sunday April 2 10am-5pm**

Details at  
[www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org](http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org)  
[showchairman@fortcollinsrockhounds.org](mailto:showchairman@fortcollinsrockhounds.org)  
 (No dealer space available)

Thomas M. McKee 4-H, Youth & Community Building,  
 Larimer County Fairgrounds  
**The Ranch**

**Turquoise, Crystals & much more!**

**Admission:**  
 Adults (18+): \$4 daily or \$7 for 3-day pass  
 Students (12-18 yrs) with ID: \$1  
 Children under 12 FREE with adult

Fort Collins Rockhounds Club  
 P.O. Box 272777  
 Fort Collins, CO 80527

**Exhibits • Door Prizes**  
**• Grab Bags • Silent Auction**  
**• Demonstrations**  
**• Gem & Mineral Dealers**

Like Us On **facebook** **FREE PARKING**

## North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club Silent Auction

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
APEX Community Recreation Center  
6842 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003

**Setup at 5:30 PM**

Seller limits on number of items to sell:  
Club Members – No limit  
Non-members – Maximum of 30 items

**Auction Begins 6:45 PM**

Checkout Begins Immediately After Auction  
No Early Checkout  
Free Parking, Free Admission

◆ jewelry ◆ gems ◆ minerals ◆

◆ bake sale ◆ crafts ◆

◆ free refreshments ◆

◆ public invited ◆

If you need a finished piece of jewelry,  
rough material to fashion yourself,  
a specimen for your collection,  
or an interesting and fun evening,  
this is the place.

Sellers & Buyers Welcome

For more info call Bill Jones 303-503-6288  
Or email [sidewindermin@comcast.net](mailto:sidewindermin@comcast.net)

April 14-17 (Friday) is the **Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Airport, 15500 E. 40th Ave. Denver, CO. See <http://www.rockygems.com/colorado-mineral-fossil-spring-show-2017.html> and the flyer below for more information.

APRIL 14-16, 2017

## COLORADO MINERAL & FOSSIL

SPRING SHOW

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center  
15500 E. 40th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80239

Minerals  
Fossils  
Jewelry  
Retail & Wholesale  
70+ Vendors  
Kids Activities

**FREE ADMISSION!**

Doors Open Daily:  
9AM-6PM  
Sunday: 9AM-5PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Colorado School of Mines  
Geology Museum  
Fundraiser & Social  
SATURDAY 6-9PM

**MORE INFO AT  
WWW.ROCKYGEMS.COM**

Colorado Mineral & Fossil Spring Show  
Hosted By  
Rocky Mountain Gems & Minerals  
P.O. Box 100187  
Denver, CO 80250

Apr. 22 (Saturday) starting at 9 am is an **Earth Day Geology Hike on North Table Mountain**, to include seeing the Table Mountain lava flows, the Denver Formation, and the zeolite locality in the middle lava flow at a former paving stone quarry. To be led by Pete Modreski, USGS. For details please contact Pete at [pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov) or 303-202-4766.

April 22-23 (Saturday and Sunday) is the **Don Lovitt rock and mineral sale**. For more information, please see the article on pages 14 and 15.

April 29-30 (Saturday and Sunday) from 9 am– 4 pm is “**Another ridiculously exciting Book/Garage Sale**” at the **Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum**, 1310 Maple St., Golden. As the flyer on the next page states, “Thousands of maps; hundreds of books, journals, minerals, fossils, etc. Prices vary by item or box. Most prices will drop throughout the event.” For more information, please call 303-273-3815.

May (Saturday) is **Dinosaur Discovery Day – Boy Scout Day at Dinosaur Ridge**, Morrison, CO. Scouts, as well as the public, are invited. Parking will be off-site at the Bandimere Speedway overflow lot located east of C-470 and south of Alameda along S. Rooney Road. Signs will be posted. Parking is \$5 per car, paid as you enter. More than 80 earth scientists and other volunteers, including certified Merit Badge Counselors, assist with the event. There is a registration fee for participating Scouts, and a \$4 per person charge for persons (over age 3) who wish to take a bus tour of the ridge (no charge for just a walking tour). For full information see <http://www.dinoridge.org/scoutdays.html#bsa>.

*Announcing another ridiculously  
exciting Book/Garage Sale*



**CSM Museum**

1310 Maple Street, Golden, CO

**April 29+30, 2017  
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

Thousands of maps; hundreds of  
books, journals, minerals, fossils, etc.

Prices vary by item or box. Most  
prices will drop throughout the event.

Information: 303-273-3815

**May 13** (Saturday) is the **Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, Silent Auction** at Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood CO. The auction is at 12:00-4:00 (setup begins at 10:30 am, auction begins at 12:00, verbal auction 1:00, all tables will close by 3:00 pm, checkout follows).

**June 2-4** (Friday-Sunday) is the **Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show**, sponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. The show will be at the Mortgage Solutions Financial Expo Center, 3650 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs.

### **Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report - 50th Anniversary**

Don't forget - the 50th Anniversary of the Denver Gem & Mineral Show occurs this year - 2017! The dates are September 15 - 17. The theme for the show is, appropriately, gold and silver! For those of you who remember 1997 when gold was the theme, the exhibits were outstanding, featuring much crystalline gold, not just gold nuggets. Crystalline gold is in a class by itself! The Show

Chair is again the very capable, Lesley Sebol. If you wish to contact Lesley about ideas you have for the show, she can be reached at 720-999-1372 or [lesleysebol@gmail.com](mailto:lesleysebol@gmail.com).

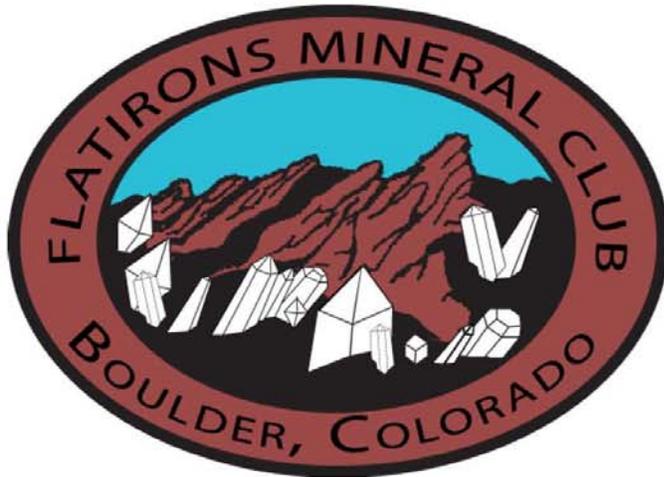
As with any endeavor put on by an all volunteer group, there is a need for lots of help from club member volunteers. There are some personnel changes occurring on the Show Committee, which has opened up a few positions. The positions needing a new chair are Grab Bags, Show Pin (need someone with a little artistic ability to design the show pin), Database (need a detailed person for data input), and Show Secretary. The Grab Bag position is primarily organizing the sale of the grab bags, pins and posters at the show. The Database job is entering information from the door prize coupons into the computer database and can be done at one's leisure during the gap from show to show. Show Secretary takes the minutes at the monthly meetings and creates mini reports to distribute to the club editors to keep the clubs informed about the show. There is always a need for new committee members with novel ideas.

As mentioned before, the Show Committee meets at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science every month, except for December, February and July. Meetings commence at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to become more involved with the show, it's easy to do! Each club has a representative to the Show Committee. Just tag along with your club rep and come to a meeting. We will welcome you and you can serve as a Member At Large until you find the niche that fits your talents.

The volunteer signup sheets are out there so watch for them. A descriptive list of the jobs is included. Be sure to sign up for numerous jobs! There are sure to be some just for you!

REMEMER - THIS IS YOUR SHOW SO LET'S MAKE IT SUPER FANTASTIC!

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Show Secretary



# ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

**Thursday April 13  
7:00pm**

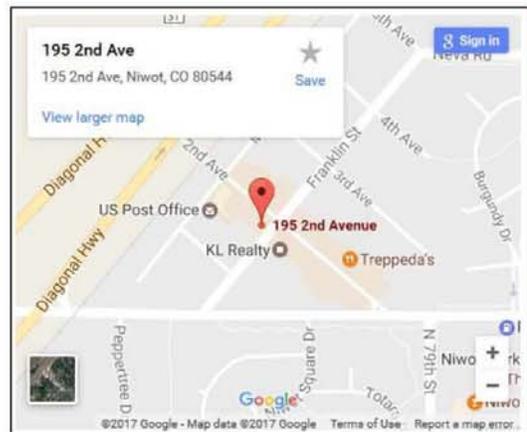
**Minerals Crystals Fossils Lapidary**

Bring items to sell or just come to browse!

**New Location!**

**Left Hand Grange  
in Niwot**

**195 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Niwot CO 80544**



**Sellers:** Set-up starts at 6:00pm

To get a seller number before the event  
email Eileen at: [elfitz891@hotmail.com](mailto:elfitz891@hotmail.com)

**All sellers MUST use 2016 or newer bid slips**

[flatironsmineralclub.org](http://flatironsmineralclub.org)





# Officers, Directors, and Other Volunteers

---

## President

Gabi Accatino, 303-809-4666  
[accatino@colorado.edu](mailto:accatino@colorado.edu)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president: Program

Tally O'Donnell, 303-494-6061  
[phantom@indra.com](mailto:phantom@indra.com)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Field Trip Chair

Anita Colin, 720-556-9889  
[anitacoln@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacoln@hotmail.com)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Annual Show Chair

Ray Gilbert 303-774-8468  
[Hoss@g.com](mailto:Hoss@g.com)

## Secretary

Eileen Fitzgerald, 303 666-1399  
[elfitz891@hotmail.com](mailto:elfitz891@hotmail.com)

## Treasurer

Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830  
[gnaugle@earthlink.net](mailto:gnaugle@earthlink.net)

## Past President

Mike Smith, 303-530-2646  
[m\\_l\\_smith@earthlink.net](mailto:m_l_smith@earthlink.net)

## Board of Directors

### Term Expires 2016

Charlotte Bourg, 970-278-0975  
[rckhnd4252@gmail.com](mailto:rckhnd4252@gmail.com)  
Kevin Notheis, 303-325-5666  
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### Term Expires 2017

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## Junior Geologists

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## Denver Show & Council Rep

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## Field Trip Co-Chair

Gabi Accatino, 303-809-4666  
[accatino@colorado.edu](mailto:accatino@colorado.edu)

## Club Claims

Brian Walko, 303-931-4283  
[earthextractions@gmail.com](mailto:earthextractions@gmail.com)

## Club Hospitality Chair

Deborah Knox  
[clanfelidae@yahoo.com](mailto:clanfelidae@yahoo.com)

## Club Show Committee Members

### Show Chair

Ray Gilbert 303-774-8468  
[Hoss@g.com](mailto:Hoss@g.com)

### Volunteer Chair

open

### Programs and Dealer Chair

Tally O'Donnell, 303-494-6061  
[phantom@indra.com](mailto:phantom@indra.com)

### Show Advertising and Admissions

Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830  
[gnaugle@earthlink.net](mailto:gnaugle@earthlink.net)

### Kid's Corner Chair

Charlotte Bourg, 970-278-0975  
[rckhnd4252@gmail.com](mailto:rckhnd4252@gmail.com)  
Eileen Fitzgerald, 303 666-1399  
[elfitz891@hotmail.com](mailto:elfitz891@hotmail.com)

### Other Show Committee Members

Gabi Accatino, 303-809-4666  
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### Grab Bags

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Charlotte Bourg, 970-278-0975  
[rckhnd4252@gmail.com](mailto:rckhnd4252@gmail.com)

### Meeting Door Prize Chair

Brad Willkomm, 303 249-8877  
[bpwillkomm@yahoo.com](mailto:bpwillkomm@yahoo.com)

### Denver Show Club Table

Dennis Gertenbach, 303-709-8218  
[gertenbach@comcast.net](mailto:gertenbach@comcast.net)

## A friendly reminder to pay your 2017 annual dues

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

**PAY** Gerry Naugle, Treasurer and Membership Chair, at any FMC monthly meeting. Gerry is at or near the sign-in table when you enter the room for the monthly meetings.

**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.

Your 2017 dues must be received by April 15th, 2017 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 2017 FMC membership card.





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

## First Class Mail

## *Upcoming Events*

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Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 pm	Jr. Geologists meeting – The Geode Quiz Show	Meadows Branch Library
Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm	Silent Auction	Left Hand Grange, 195 2nd Avenue, Niwot, 80544
Saturday, April 15	Field trip to collect zeolite minerals	North Table Mountain, Golden
Wednesday, April 19, 6:30	Jr. Geologists meeting	Meadows Branch Library
Thursday, May 11, 7:00	Summer field trip kick-off and signup meeting	To be determined