

# FMC FEBRUARY 2018 MINI NEWSLETTER

## CLUB MEETINGS

- **Thursday, February 8 - "Absolute Black" by Damon Hauschulz.** This is a story about a rock. The mystery begins with a lead provided by the Natural Building Stone Database. The journey goes halfway around the planet and way back in time to lost continents. Damon is an active FMC member and has previously written about the Natural Building Stone Database.
- **Thursday, March 8 – "Introduction to Micromounting" by Richard Parsons.** Collecting micromounts is both interesting and challenging. Many minerals only exist as tiny crystals, and a micromount is the only way to collect them. You can store a hundred specimens in a show box, rather than fill your basement and garage with rocks. Plus, the micromount photographs are beautiful.

The meetings are in the North Community Room at Frasier Meadows, 350 Ponca Place, Boulder, CO 80303, starting at 7:00 pm. As you enter Frasier Meadows, just ask the receptionist for directions.

## JR. GEOLOGISTS MEETINGS

- **Wednesday, February 21** – We will finish learning about how native peoples used rocks and minerals in their lives. This month, we will focus on rock art. You will have the opportunity to create your own rock art at the meeting. More requirements for the Stone Age Tools and Art badge will be completed.
- **Wednesday, March 21** – Since the fall, we have been polishing rocks in the rock tumbler. They will finally be finished and we will make jewelry with some of the polished rocks we have made. This will kick off the Lapidary badge.

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. Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 6:30 at the Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Road. For information about the Jr. Geologists program, please contact Dennis Gertenbach at [gertenbach@comcast.net](mailto:gertenbach@comcast.net) or 303-709-8218.

## CLUB NEWS

- **Nametags** - Need a club nametag? We will soon be placing an order for nametags. Please log into our website, <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/> and request one. They cost \$5 each at delivery.
- **Meeting Snack Czar** - We need you! The club needs a snack czar for our regular meetings. The responsibilities involve purchasing donuts and other food items on your way to the meetings. You will be reimbursed.
- **Lapidary Lab Space Needed** - Our club has a number of saws, a Genie, and other lapidary equipment. Some of this equipment is scattered in club members' homes, while other equipment is in storage. Many of you have indicated an interest in learning lapidary skills and using the equipment. Ideally, a club "Lapidary Lab" would be a great place to have this equipment available to club

members and to teach lapidary skills. Years ago, equipment was set up at Charlotte Morrison's house, and members could use the equipment one night a week.

To reestablish this, we need a space to set up the equipment for our members' use. If anyone has space in a garage or other building that you would be willing to let the club use for our new lapidary lab, please contact Tally O'Donnell at [phantom@indra.com](mailto:phantom@indra.com). The club would be willing to cover utility costs.

**OTHER ROCKHOUNDING EVENTS OF INTEREST** - Thanks to Pete Modreski of the USGS for providing many of these.

- **Tuesday, February 13**, 7:00 p.m., Kick-off presentation in a new Speakers' Bureau Lecture Series at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Colorado Springs: WMMI's former curator, Larry Frank Jr. will discuss his book, **Colorado's Great Depression Gold Rush: The Oliver Twist Tunnel**. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., lecture 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.; \$5 admission, WMMI museum members admitted free. Please RSVP by calling 719-488-0880 or emailing [rsvp@wmmi.org](mailto:rsvp@wmmi.org).
- **Thursday, February 15**, 7:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society meeting, "**In the Footsteps of Darwin**" by Rob Wesson, and "**How the 1859 gold rush put Colorado on the Map**" by Wesley Brown. At Shepherd of the Hills Church, 11500 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood CO; social time begins at 6:30; all are welcome.
- **Friday-Sunday, February 23-25, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show**. Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibits Building, 15200 W. 6th Ave. Golden CO; 10-6 Fri. & Sat., 10-5 Sun.; free parking and admission.
- **Thursday, March 1**, 7:00 p.m., First Thursday lecture series of the Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, **The Boulder County Tungsten District and its History**, by Ed Raines, Collections Manager, CSM Museum. Location TBA.
- **Thursday, March 8**, 7:30 p.m. Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, bimonthly meeting, at Lakewood Event Center, 7864 W. Jewell Ave. "**Mineral Species and Occurrences of the Swiss Alpine Clefts**", by Brent Lockhart, of Houston, TX. Alpine-cleft minerals occur in open fissures within tectonically deformed igneous or metamorphic host rocks, in the Alps as well as many other mountain belts worldwide. They are noted for quartz (smoky and "rock crystal"), adularia, fluorite, titanite, anatase, hematite, magnetite, chlorite, axinite, and many other minerals.
- **Tuesday, March 13**, 7:00 p.m., Speakers' Bureau Lecture at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Colorado Springs, "**Cripple Creek High Grading: The Untold Stories**", by Steve Veatch, Geoscientist and Geoscience Educator, and Ben Elick, WMMI and Middle School student, Douglas County School District. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., lecture 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.; \$5 admission, WMMI museum members admitted free. Please RSVP by calling 719-488-0880 or emailing [rsvp@wmmi.org](mailto:rsvp@wmmi.org).
- **Friday-Sunday, March 23-25, Fort Collins Rockhound Club Gem & Mineral Show**, at The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds, Thomas M. McKee 4-H Building, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO (I-25 exit 259, Crossroads Blvd; 4-8 p.m. Fri, 9-6 Sat., 10-5 Sun.).
- **Tuesday, March 27**, 3:00 p.m., Denver Museum of Nature & Science Earth Sciences Colloquium, "**Origins of life: Why did only Earth succeed?**", by Ramon Brassler, Tokyo Tech., & Steve Mojzsis, CU Boulder. VIP Room, DMNS.