

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions

With the stay-at-home order in affect in Colorado through April, all club activities this month have been either postponed or cancelled. We hope that the pandemic subsides by May and we can resume our activities. If we are still practicing social distancing in May, activities planned for May month will also be postponed or cancelled. Watch your email for announcements about further cancellations.

Silent Auction

The silent auction originally scheduled for April has been moved to October 8th.

Club Meetings

- There is no meeting scheduled for April
- Thursday, May 14. **Beth Simmons** will tell us about the **iron furnace on Marshall Mesa**. It's hard to believe that there was iron mining and smelting right here in Boulder County. Come to the meeting to learn about this interesting part of our history. In the event that we cannot meet together in the fourth floor Assembly Room at Frasier Meadows, we are investigating holding this meeting online.

Field Trips

- The April field trip to North Table Mountain has been moved to Sunday, May 3. If we are still under a stay-at-home order in May, the trip will be postponed until later in the summer.
- Once we are not longer practicing social distancing, field trip dates will be announced.

Jr. Geologists Activities

April's Jr. Geologists meeting is cancelled. Watch your emails for activities that the juniors can do at home. Right now, the Jr. Geologists are writing cards to seniors at Frasier Meadows who are isolated from families and friends. We are also working on the Collecting Badge, organizing our collections with specimen labels, cataloging our collection, and properly storing our rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Field Trip Coordinator Needed

The field trip coordinator schedules field trips for club members during the warm weather months. This person also works with other club members to identify new locations for trips and trip leaders to lead them. The field trip coordinator is also a club Board member.

Please consider volunteering for this position. Gabi has agreed to help the field trip coordinator with this job. Plus, other Board members are more than willing to assist you. To learn more about the requirements, please contact Gabi at accatino@colorado.edu or Brian at earthextractions@gmail.com.

Write an Article for the Club Newsletter

Looking for something to do, while you stay at home waiting for the coronavirus pandemic to pass? Consider writing an article for the club newsletter.

One of the best features in each club newsletter are articles and other contributions by club members. Club members have a wide range of interest in earth science and rockhounding and are willing to share their interest with other members through articles, photos, poetry, and artwork.

We are looking for items from all age groups, including adults and Jr. Geologists. This year, consider sending a contribution to the newsletter to Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com. If you need help with your contribution, please contact Dennis.

Geology-Related Videos

While we cannot get out to enjoy our rockhounding hobby these days, there are a number of geology-related videos you can watch at home. These videos have been recommended by club members. You will be both entertained and learn more about the fascinating world of geology, mining, minerals, and fossils.

Want to learn more about **Colorado geology**? This 25 minute video illustrates the geologic evolution of Colorado through time: <http://igp.colorado.edu/library/video/143654356>.

For an overview of the **geology of North America**, check out *Making North America*, a three-part series narrated by Kirk Johnson of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum that explores the geology of our continent.

- Origins: <https://www.pbs.org/video/nova-making-north-america-origins/>
- Life: <https://www.pbs.org/video/nova-making-north-america-life/>
- Human: <https://www.pbs.org/video/nova-making-north-america-human/>

If you would like to learn more about **Colorado's mining history**, the Ed Talks are for you. Ed Raines, a geologist, mineralogist, mining historian, and club member presents these interesting and informative talks.

- [Colorado gold rush](#) - the geology, history, and events leading to the Colorado Gold Rush.
- [Colorado mining : 1858 through 1869](#) - the geology of Colorado as well as the history and evolution of mining in Colorado with a focus on the years 1858 through 1869.
- [Pikes Peak minerals : beyond amazonite and smoky quartz ; Part 1 : pegmatites](#) - explains crystal growth and geologic processes responsible for the formation of pegmatites and other minerals in the Pikes Peak batholith.
- [Pikes Peak minerals : beyond amazonite and smoky quartz ; Part 2](#) - the minerals and mineralization of the Pikes Peak batholith.
- [Aspen and the Leadville Limestone](#) - takes a tour through geologic time and explains events
- [History and geology of Aspen](#) - the minerals and mining history of Aspen and describes events and people that helped shape the town of Aspen.
- leading to the formation of the Leadville Limestone and the mineralization of the Aspen area.
- [Leadville : the silver boom](#) - the mining history of Leadville, the geology and mineralization of the area, and events leading up to the Leadville Silver Boom.
- [Leadville : base metals and gold](#) - the history of mining in Leadville from the silver boom through the early 1990s.
- [Leadville : the parade of people](#) - an overview of the people who helped shape Leadville history, from mine owners and geologists to politicians, merchants, and entertainers.
- [Geology of the Gilman mining district](#) - the geologic history of Gilman and goes on to describe the minerals found in the area.
- [History of the Gilman mining district](#) - the history of the Gilman mining district. This lecture provides an overview of the mineralization in this area.

- [Geology of the Creede mining district](#) - the history of our understanding of silicic volcanism as it applies to studies of the geology of Creede.
- [History of the Creede mining district](#) - the history of the Creede mining district. This lecture includes details about the people, mines, and ores associated with the development of this mining district.

Want to try a **simple lapidary project**, suitable for all ages? Check out this video on a simple wire wrapping technique by club member Craig Hazelton: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqOzIsFyXvI>.

If you are anxious to get out into the field, club member Brian Walko has made this video about **prospecting for silver in Boulder County**: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3kXYK9EoSXGy0L4-c6cNlg>

Speaking of prospecting, here are a couple of videos about **prospecting for gold**.

- Dan Hurd (Gold Prospecting) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOReOAYx8VDLwC0pOEcQD-g>
- Great American Prospectors (Professional Gold Prospectors) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4VvNhn1YAeaOe5q35mQ4Tg>

For videos on **dinosaurs and other ancient creatures**, check out these videos.

- Dinosaurs 101, a 3½ minute long video will introduce you and your children or grandchildren to these creatures that once ruled the earth: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/video/dinosaurs-101/>
- For the most up-to-date thinking of scientists about the demise of the dinosaur and 75% of other life on earth 66 million years ago, Trick Runions recommends this NOVA show: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6d8tba>
- Another Nova show, *The Rise of the Mammals*, chronicles the fabulous discoveries made this past year right here in Colorado: <https://www.pbs.org/nova/video/rise-of-the-mammals/>

Here are a number of videos about **mining and mineral collecting**.

- Rhodochrosites from the Detroit Mine in Colorado: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8s09uO7SLg>
- Pikes Peak Batholith crystals: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLxdRxA4ugxMx-hqTuoOTzQ>
- Mount Antero Treasures (The Cardwells) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-3fwpnF9VhozmxOsWv5eDQ>
- NOVA Treasures of the Earth Series: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/series/treasures-of-the-earth/?fbclid=IwAR258RkzNE5KfDiUosyKad5Gz0YM64TcNhPGHBLItvhu2c6LA8bRbuesnYk>
- How Do They Mine Diamonds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucaVEIjiZ58>
- From Rock to Copper Metal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nneL6zDEMA>
- PBS Uranium Series: <https://www.pbs.org/show/uranium-twisting-dragons-tail/>
- 1940 Homestake Mine PSA series (part 1, 2, and 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xflN9kYdTB4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddiql0E1zGk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md3YEebKP2M>

Famous people in **geological history**.

- Florence Bascom, 1st USGS Female Geologist <https://youtu.be/TQVArui9iak>
- Princess of Paleontology <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/prolific-princess-of-paleontology-mary-anning/>
- James Hutton: Father of Geology <https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/curriculum-collections/earth-inside-and-out/james-hutton>

Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

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

All previously scheduled April activities have been cancelled. Before attending any May activities, please check that they have not been cancelled.

- **Saturday, May 2** is the **Colorado Mineral Society Silent + Verbal Auction**, 11 a.m. – 2:45 p.m., Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 920 Kipling St., Lakewood. All are welcome (non-CMS members are welcome to bring minerals to sell; limit, 3 flats of specimens). <http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org/>
- **Friday-Sunday, May 15-17** is the **Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show** at the Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, 15500 E 40th Avenue in Denver. Show hours are 10 am-6 pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10am-5 pm on Sunday. <https://www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com/>
- **Saturday, May 16**, is the **Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy Silent Auction**, noon-4 p.m.,. All are welcome; setup at 11, auction begins at noon, live auction at 1 p.m. At a new location: Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 7530 W. 38th Ave., Wheat Ridge (38th Ave. at Wadsworth Blvd.). <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/>