

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions

October and November, 2020

Although we are not able to meet and some activities have been cancelled, we still have several programs for members. Here is what is coming the next two months.

Virtual Club Meeting - Thursday, October 8

During the Cretaceous Period, 145.5 and 65.5 million years ago, dinosaurs ruled the land and giant marine reptiles swam the seas. So, what was it like during this period of Earth's history in the Boulder area? Based on studies of the rocks and fossils along the Front Range, this month's presentation will attempt to answer this question.

Join our virtual meeting on Thursday, October 8th, where **Dennis Gertenbach** will present **Boulder in the Cretaceous**. The link to join the meeting on Zoom will be sent to all members the day before the meeting.



Club Silent Auction - canceled

Because of the current Boulder County regulations on the number of participants allowed at indoor meetings, this year's club silent auction, originally scheduled for October 6, has been canceled. The auction has been rescheduled for next April.

Virtual Towel Show - Thursday, November 12

One of the favorite meetings each year is the Towel Show, our club's annual show-and-tell, where both adults and juniors display their best finds and lapidary projects from the year. The Towel Show this year will be a very different, run virtually. All members, young and old, are encouraged to take up to six photos of their best specimens and lapidary projects from this past year. These will be shown during the Virtual Towel Show on Thursday, November 12, with each participant explaining his or her entries.

So, pick out your best from the year and take pictures of them to enter in the Virtual Towel Show. November's newsletter will have more details.

Jr. Geologists Activities

Monthly Jr. Geologists meetings are on hold until the Covid-19 restrictions for indoor meetings are lifted. However, we are planning an outdoor activity for October, where we can maintain social distancing protocols. Once the plans are finalized, details will be sent to all Jr. Geologists families. If your family is not on the Jr. Geologists' email list, please contact Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com to have your name added.

Dues Extended for an Additional Year

Because COVID-19 restrictions canceled most club activities this year, the Board voted to extend every member's dues through October 30, 2021. So, your current dues are good for another year.

We hope the coronavirus pandemic wanes next year, so club meetings, field trips, Jr. Geologists programs, and other activities can resume in 2021.

Write an Article for the Club Newsletter

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



Consider submitting an article, photo, poetry, or artwork for the next newsletter. We are looking for items from all age groups, including adults and Jr. Geologists. You can send your newsletter contribution to Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com. All contributors will receive a nice wulfenite specimen like the ones shown in the photo. If you need help with your contribution, please contact Dennis. **Deadline is October 27.**

Rocks & Rail Show - canceled

On Thursday, September 17th, the Flatirons Mineral Club and the Boulder Model Railroad Club received notice from the Boulder County Fairgrounds management that all activities except for a very few small/limited events have been canceled through the rest of calendar year 2020. The fairgrounds management decision was driven by the need to follow all state, county and local rules and restrictions currently in place for large gatherings.

Thus, the two clubs, which normally have an annual combined model railroad and mineral show titled Rocks & Rails on the second weekend of each December at the Fairground main exhibit hall has been canceled.

All parties' primary concern is the wellbeing of our visitors, dealers, exhibitors and volunteer staff, along with fairgrounds employees. The fairgrounds management and the two clubs could see no way to attempt a show that would even remotely resemble the norm, due to the Covid-19 restrictions and protocols required to be followed.

We hope that you will join us again in 2021. Your participation and camaraderie in 2021 will help us forget the disappointments of 2020.

On behalf of the Boulder Model Railroad Club and the Flatirons Mineral Club, may you and your family and friends stay safe and well until we gather again next year in early December.

Sincerely,
Brian Walko, FMC Show Chair
Gerald Naugle, Show Treasurer
Doug Geiger, BMRC President
Jeff MacDonald, BMRC Show Chair

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.

- **October 3 & 4 (Saturday & Sunday) - The Western Museum of Mining & Industry** in Colorado Springs is holding their **Reynolds Ranch House Harvest Festival**, featuring a pumpkin patch, demonstrations on a vintage apple press, life-size outdoor games, hay maze, keep-what-you-find gold panning, antique cars, machine demonstrations, live entertainment, and lots more. See their webpage for tickets or more info at <https://www.minerspumpkinpatch.com/harvest-festival>.

- **October 3 and 17 (Saturdays)** you can **Walk Dinosaur Ridge with a Geologist**. Join a professional geologist for a tour of Dinosaur Ridge – a 2½-hour walk and discussion of the geology and changes of the Denver area through time. This walk begins at the Dinosaur Ridge Main Visitor Center, 16831 W. Alameda Parkway. You will be transported by van from the Visitor Center to the west side of Dinosaur Ridge for a 1½-mile walk back. These exclusive tours offer you private access to scientists who can give you insider secrets about all of the sites at Dinosaur Ridge. This tour is designed for participants aged 16 and up, with a maximum of 9 individuals. At this time, all participants must wear a mask (available for purchase in the gift shop). <https://dinoridge.org/tours-programs/special-events/>
- **October 5 (Monday)** is the online WIPS 35th Anniversary Celebration Online starting at 7 pm. Speakers on WIPS history include Wayne Itano, Lou Taylor, Shellie Luallin, Malcolm Bedell. Their website will have more information. <http://www.westernpaleo.org/>
- **October 10-11 (Saturday-Sunday)** is the **Dinosaur Ridge Field Trip to Picket Wire Canyonlands** to La Junta, Colorado, to explore the Comanche National Grasslands and see the largest dinosaur track site in North America. Led by Dr. Martin Lockley, paleontologist and WIPS charter member. Open to members and non-members. See <https://dinoridge.org/picket-wire-canyon/> for details
- **Everything Dinosaur Talks / Now Online!**
This 12-part public lecture series is meant to introduce the amazing world of dinosaurs! **Dinosaur Ridge's Education Programs Director, Erin LaCount**, delivers fun and educational talks about paleontology all year long. Attend as many as you would like in any order. Registration is \$2 per person, per talk. Dinosaur Ridge volunteers can register for free.
 - **October 7** | 10-11:30am | [Register Talk #3](#)
Talk #3: **Sauropods** — This third talk focuses on long-necked dinosaurs, the sauropods!
 - **October 14** | 10-11:30am | [Register Talk #4](#)
Talk #4: **Theropods** — This fourth talk focuses on meat-eating dinosaurs – the theropods.
 - **October 21** | 10-11:30am | [Register Talk #5](#)
Talk #5: **Thyreophora Part 1 (Stegosaurus)** — This fifth talk focuses on a group of dinosaurs with spikes on the tail and plates along their backs—the stegosaurus.
 - **November 4** | 10-11:30am | [Register #6](#)
Talk #6: **Thyreophora Part 2 (Ankylosaurus)** — This sixth talk focuses on tank dinosaurs—the ankylosaurus.
 - **November 11** | 10-11:30am | [Register Talk #7](#)
Talk #7: **Iguanodonts** — This seventh talk focuses on thumb-spiked dinosaurs—the iguanodonts.
 - **November 18** | 10-11:30am | [Register Talk #8](#)
Talk #8: **Hadrosaurs** — This eighth talk focuses on the duck-billed dinosaurs—hadrosaurs.
 - **November 25** | 10-11:30am | [Register Talk #9](#)
Talk #9: **Pachycephalosaurs** — This ninth talk focuses on the bone-head dinosaurs—pachycephalosaurs.