

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions

December 2020 and January 2021

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.

Club Holiday Party Canceled

Another COVID casualty is our annual holiday party in December. Hopefully, we will be able to hold the party again next year.

Virtual Club Meeting - Thursday, January 14

Plan to join us at 7 pm on January 14, where **Markus B. Raschke**, from the Department of Physics, Department of Chemistry, and JILA at the University of Colorado at Boulder, will present a program on **Xuebaoding – Mining Above the Clouds**. The Xuebaoding Mountain with its tungsten-selenium-beryllium deposits has emerged as a world-class specimen locality for scheelite, cassiterite, and beryl since its discovery in the 1950's. It is situated high above tree line on the northeastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau – an area known for its extreme earthquakes and vertical relief with mountains rising up to 7,500 meters (24,000 feet) in elevation. Large well-formed crystals of scheelite (like the one to the right), beryl, and cassiterite, and their aesthetic associations typically on muscovite matrix as well as the rare tin-bearing minerals mushistonite and k esterite made the locality famous with the opening of China in the 1990's. At an elevation above 4,200 m (14,000 feet), the locality is a full day trip and almost 3,000 m (9,800 feet) above the adjacent valley floor. Marcus will discuss his field trip adventures in pouring rain and overcoming landslide obstacles, while providing new insight into the mineralogy, notably the unusual beryl of tabular habit.



Jr. Geologists Activities

Our first monthly online Jr. Geologists meeting will be Sunday, December 6, starting at 2 pm. We will play **Name That Dinosaur**, where we test your dinosaur knowledge. So, study up for Sunday's meeting using the flashcards sent to the families. The Zoom link will be sent to all the Jr. Geologists families the day before the meeting.

We will continue to hold monthly online meetings until we can meet again. If you have children who would like to join us and you are not on the Jr. Geologists' email list, please contact Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com to have your name added.

Virtual Rocks & Rails Show

Due to COVID-19, Flatirons Mineral Club cannot hold its annual December Rocks & Rails show at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont. So, we are trying something new - a Rocks, Minerals & Jewelry Virtual Show.

This is an effort to help to our participating dealers through this difficult year. It is no cost to them, and we are not taking any cut from sales that they might make.

So, if you are looking for some nice rock-related gifts, check out our the Virtual Show website at <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/about/annual-fmc-gem-and-mineral-show/>. There you will find links to our dealer's sites, where you can peruse their merchandise and buy some interesting gifts. In addition, you can sign up for the Gold Nugget Door Prize between now and December 23rd.

Please share this link with your rockhounding friends to support our dealers.

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 December 29.**

Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Although COVID-19 has shut down most rockhounding events, Dinosaur Ridge has several programs of interest.

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.

- **December 9** | 10-11:30 am | [Register Talk #10](#)
Talk #10: **Ceratopsians** — This tenth talk focuses on the horned dinosaurs—ceratopsians.
- **December 16** | 10-11:30 am | [Register Talk #11](#)
Talk #11: **Non-Dinosaur Archosaurs** — This eleventh talk focuses on archosaurs, the crocodilians, pterosaurs, birds, and a bit on the dinosaurs.
- **December 23** | 10-11:30 am | [Register Talk #12](#)
Talk #12: **Mammals** — This twelfth and final talk focuses on prehistoric mammals.

Walk with a Geologist Guided Walking Tours

Have you ever wondered about the geology behind the discoveries and fossils at Dinosaur Ridge? 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. The first quarter-mile of the walk gains approximately 100 feet of elevation. The remaining 1¼ miles of the walk is downhill. These exclusive tours offer you private access to scientists who can give you insider secrets about all of the sites at Dinosaur Ridge.

Tour Dates:

- Saturday, December 5, 12:00 pm
- Saturday, December 19, 12:00 pm

Tour Specifics:

- **Tour is suggested for ages 16+**
- Length: 2.5 hours
- Minimum of 2 and maximum of 9 participants
- \$15 for adults
- Tour may be called off for active precipitation, temps below 32 degrees, or lack of registrations.
- Appropriate attire: comfortable shoes, sun hats, sunglasses, removable clothing (windbreakers, fleeces, etc.)
- Bring water
- **At this time, all participants must wear a mask** (available for purchase in our gift shop).

Register:

- \$15 per person (ages 16+)
- Reservations by phone: 303-697-3466