

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions

April and May, 2021

Good news! With more and more people getting vaccinated and the pandemic coming under better control, we now have a mix of online and in-person activities for the next two months. Here is information about what we have planned.

Virtual Club Meeting - Thursday, April 8

Gerry Naugle is the speaker for our April club meeting. His talk is about meteorites and what they tell us about our solar system. Gerry will explain the differences between the three categories - stony meteorites, iron meteorites, and stony iron meteorites - and show examples of each. One type of stony meteorites, known as carbonaceous chondritic meteorites, are some of the oldest materials in the solar system and Gerry will talk about some of the current research on this class of bolides. Also featured in the program will be two of the most famous meteorite falls in Colorado. Material from the asteroid Vesta fell 80 years and 10 miles apart in our state.

Join us for an interesting meeting about these visitors from outer space. The meeting will be on Zoom at **7:00 pm** on Thursday, April 8. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent by email a few days before the meeting.

Field Trip to the Hidee Gold Mine - Saturday, April 10

Join us for a tour of the [Hidee Gold Mine](#) in Gilpin County on Saturday, April 10th, starting at 12:30 PM. (The time may change slightly). The mine tour is led by guides knowledgeable in local mining and geology. Our tour guide will explain mining methods, both past and present. The tour includes a stop at a real 5-foot-wide vertical gold vein, where you can use a single jack hammer and chisel to chip out a gold ore sample, yours to keep! Once back on the surface, everyone can try their hand at gold panning, with instruction by the knowledgeable staff. You can keep any gold you collect in your gold pan.



The trip is open to all FMC members ages 4 and up. All Jr. Geologists will earn the Gold Panning and Prospecting Badge on this trip.

Limit: 25 people
Trip Leader: Brian Walko
More details to follow.

Note: The FMC is negotiating a discount group rate for club members. Once we know the discount, the FMC will pay the 50% of the tour and gold panning costs. Participants will pay the balance.

Please sign up on the [FMC Field Trip Registration page](#) if you are interested in attending.

Jr. Geologists Activities

- **Sunday, April 11**, will be our **virtual show-and-tell**, as we work on the requirements for the Collecting Badge. Pick out 2 or 3 specimens from your collection to show everyone at the meeting. Also, at the meeting we will learn about different crystal shapes and how they are used to identify minerals. The meeting will begin at **4:00 pm**. The Zoom link will be emails to all Jr. Geologists families the day before the meeting.
- **Sunday, May 2**, will be our first **in-person meeting** since last summer! Come and learn about **fossils**, including how fossils are formed and the different ways animals and plants can be fossilized. We will also learn how to identify different kinds of fossils. Details about the meeting will be sent to the Jr. Geologists families in a few weeks.



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.

Free Fossils, Minerals, and Rocks

Jordan Sawdo, long-time Flatirons Mineral Club member, recently passed away. His family has invited members of area rock and mineral clubs with this announcement for free specimens:

Dear area rock club members,

On **Sunday, April 11**, from **8 am to 5 pm** and on **Monday, April 12**, from **8 am to 12 noon** at Jordan Sawdo's house there will be a **FREE Give Away** of fossil, mineral, and rock specimens in the yard (front and back). There will also be **FREE** house display cases, show display cases, shelves, and sorting/storage cabinets. Please bring your own buckets, packs, or boxes. The house is located at 10956 Melody Drive in Northglenn, CO. Take I-25 to the 104th Ave. exit. Go west on 104th to Melody Drive where you will take a right and follow to the house.

Next Month's Newsletter - Where to Go Collecting

With warmer weather approaching, it's time to start making plans to get out and go collecting. The club is planning a number of trips this summer. Plus, it is a great time to get out when the weather is nice and go collecting with family and friends.

In the next newsletter, we will feature different places where you can go collect rocks, minerals, and fossils. Some of these will be club field trips and others will be places to go on your own.

We Need Information from You!

Do you know a good place to go collecting that you can share with others?

Are you leading a club field trip this summer?

If so, please consider submitting information about the site, plus a picture or two, for the May newsletter. These can be sent to Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com. **Deadline is April 26.**

Denver Gem and Mineral Show - September 16-19

The Denver Show Committee is pleased to announce that the Denver Gem & Mineral Show has an agreement in principle to be part of the exciting new Hardrock Summit 2021. The 4-day show will be held at the Colorado Convention Center September 16-19, 2021.

Everything will be scaled back for this year, but the Summit organizers have generously made room for us to have exhibits, dealers, speakers, and demos. The American Gem Trade Association will also host an overlapping 4-day show under the same umbrella.

Fabulous Fluorite, the Original Denver Gem & Mineral Show, AGTA, and the Hardrock Summit are going to blow your mind!

Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Here are upcoming activities of interest to rockhounds of all ages.

- **Monday, April 5**, at 7:00 p.m. Meeting of the Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) featuring Rebecca Hunt-Foster talking about **Monumental Discoveries at Dinosaur National Monument**. More information at <http://www.westernpaleo.org/>. Virtual Meeting using Zoom; meeting info will be displayed starting the day before the meeting.
- **Friday-Sunday, May 21-23**, is the **Colorado Mineral and Fossil Denver Spring Show** at the Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, 15500 E 40th Ave in Denver. 86,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor shopping. <https://www.rmgmpromotions.com/>
- **Western Museum of Mining and Industry** See <https://wmmi.org/> for more information about these activities.
 - **Saturday, April 10. Family Day** featuring Geology. Try gold panning, take a hayride, see our blacksmith in action. Plan lunch with Rocco's Mobile Food (great meal deals on baked ziti and chicken parm) and celebrate springtime in the Rockies!
 - **Tuesday, April 13**, at 4 pm. Meet Mr. Conrad North as he shows you our newest collection during our monthly Speakers' Bureau **Lecture Series: Ready, Set, GLOW**. Learn about these beautiful minerals and get a sneak peek at our newest collection. Call 719-488-0880 for more information and to reserve your spot (\$5 general public, Free for members.)
 - **Wednesday, April 14**. Official opening of our newest exhibit Fluorescent Minerals.
- **Dinosaur Ridge**
 - **Everything Dinosaur Talks**, now online on **Thursdays at 10 am**. This 12-part public lecture series is meant to introduce the amazing world of dinosaurs! Registration is \$2 per person, per talk. Dinosaur Ridge volunteers can register for free. For more information, see <https://dinoridge.org/everything-dinosaur-talks-12-part-lecture-series/>.
 - **Walk with a Geologist Guided Walking Tours** on **Saturdays at noon**. 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. More information is available at <https://dinoridge.org/walk-with-a-scientist-guided-walking-tours/>.



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