

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions

October and November, 2021

October Club Meeting - Tuesday, October 12

We are back with in-person club meetings. For our first face-to-face meeting in over a year and a half, **Dana Hauschulz** will present “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald & Banded Iron Formation”. The Edmund Fitzgerald sank in 1975 carrying a load of iron ore made from a deposit of Banded Iron Formation (BIF) mined near Lake Superior. The talk diverges from the tragic sinking of an ore freighter to follow the geologic origins of BIF, only to find that an even greater tragedy resides buried in the rock record from over 2 billion years ago. Banded Iron Formation is found all around the world and is connected to the irreversible rise of oxygen in the atmosphere known as “The Great Oxidation Event”. The rise of oxygen leads to an ice house “Snowball Earth” climate disaster. However, single cell carbon-based life does survive, thereby paving the way for the evolution of multicellular life, such as may be found listening to this story of double tragedy and genetic survival.

New Date: Club meetings will now be on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:00 pm.

New Location: We will be meeting at Mountain View United Methodist Church, 355 Ponca Place in Boulder (right across the street from Frasier Meadows, our previous meeting place). Enter the building from the south side.

Field Trips

Although summer is coming to a close, we still have two field trips planned for this fall. To learn more about these field trips or to sign up, log in to the Members Area on the club’s website at (<https://flatironsmineralclub.org/>).

Baculite Mesa, Saturday, October 23

We are joining the Colorado Mineral Society for a field trip to Baculite Mesa outside of Pueblo. The site is known for fossils of baculites (straight ammonites). Baculites are extinct sea creatures that lived during the late Cretaceous Period. Many other invertebrate fossils can be found here including ammonites, gastropods (snails), and *Inoceramus* clams). Fossils can have a fluorescent calcite inside of them.

North Table Mountain in November (date to be determined)

This site outside of Golden has white zeolite minerals filling holes in the volcanic rocks on North Table Mountain. Everyone will find analcime, thompsonite, and chabazite specimens, plus several other minerals. To reach the site, a hike of just over a mile is needed, climbing 600 feet. Once the date has been set, an email will be sent to everyone with the details about the trip.

Wanted: Pictures from the Denver Gem & Mineral Show

For the next newsletter, we want to feature photos from September’s show. If you took pictures at the show, please send them to Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com.

Jr. Geologists

Trilobites are among nearly everyone’s favorite fossils. At October’s Jr. Geologists meeting, we will learn more about these interesting animals who went extinct long before there were dinosaurs. Four boxes of shale containing trilobites have been donated for the meeting. You will have the opportunity to split pieces of shale

to hunt for trilobites and other fossils to take home. We will also perform an experiment to figure out what trilobites tasted like.

The meeting will be on Saturday, October 16, starting at 2:00 pm. The meeting will be outdoors, with the meeting location emails to all Jr. Geologists families. Because younger children have not been vaccinated for COVID, please wear a mask at the meeting.

If your family 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.

Towel Show - Tuesday, November 9

If you're new to the club, you're probably asking yourself, "What is a Towel Show?" Each year, members bring specimens they have collected, as well as lapidary and jewelry work they have completed, to show the other club members. The specimens are displayed on a towel, hence "The Towel Show".

Prizes are awarded to both adults and juniors in the following categories: personal field trip, club field trip, lapidary/jewelry, best mineral, best fossil, best ugly rock, and even best towel. Everyone votes for their favorites. So, pick out some of your best specimens in as many categories as you like, make labels for them, and bring them to display on your towel.

The Towel Show will start at 7:00 pm in the **Left Hand Grange in Niwot** (195 2nd Avenue, Niwot, 80544). If you are bringing items to show, plan to arrive 10 minutes early to set up your display. Also, bring some snacks to share with everyone.

Volunteers for Rocks & Rails Show, December 10-12

Every December the Flatirons Mineral Club teams up with the Boulder Model Railroad Club to bring a weekend of rocks, minerals, and model trains to the community! Sounds crazy but it works. Come and enjoy the show, where you can see and purchase beautiful specimens, and enjoy member displays, kid's activities, and model trains. **And, volunteers make it happen!** Volunteers are especially needed on Saturday.

More details will be in the November newsletter. So, mark the dates on your calendars and come join the fun.

Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Here are upcoming activities of interest to rockhounds of all ages. Thanks to Pete Modreski for information about many of these.

- **Friday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., Denver Gem and Mineral Guild Silent Auction**, at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, in the gym, 7530 W 38th Ave. (38th and Wadsworth), Wheat Ridge, CO. Board Meeting 6:00 pm, General Meeting & Auction 7:00 pm. "Looking for a great deal on some gently used rocks, minerals, jewelry and lapidary equipment? Join us for our annual silent auction." **Visitors Welcome!**
- **Friday-Sunday, October 8-10, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Rock and Equipment Sale.** Melanie DeHart, long-time member of the Ft. Collins Rockhounds Club and Greeley Club, has passed away and the family selling all of Melanie's collection and equipment. The sale will be at Melanie Dehart's house, 410

21st Avenue, Greeley, 80631. For more information, please contact Delyce at phildelyce9@gmail.com or 512-869-2616.

- **Saturday, October 9**, 9:00 a.m., Lake George Gem & Mineral Club meeting; program: **The Crystal Peak Amazonite-Smoky Quartz Locality, Teller and Park Counties, Colorado (1873-1986)**, by Mark Ivan Jacobson. All are welcome! The club meets at the Lake George Community Center, north side of US 24 on the east edge of town (shares a building with the county highway shops). The abstract of Mark's talk promises a very good presentation about the early history of the Crystal Peak area!
- **Saturday, October 16, is the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club Silent and Verbal Auction** at Heritage United Methodist Church, 7077 S. Simms Street in Littleton. Silent Auction for individual bidding on minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, books, equipment, and more, gets underway at 12:00. Verbal Auctioneer Auction with bidding on a variety of unique and beautiful specimens starting around 1:30. Payments by cash or check only.