

Crawford, Nebraska Fairburn Agates & Fluorescent Chalcedony Field Trip

When: Saturday, September 30 – Sunday, October 1, 2023

Leader: Brian Walko: 303-931-4283 Email: earthextractions@gmail.com

Limit: 40 people. Flatirons Mineral Club in conjunction with other Denver Area Clubs.

Meeting Location: Toadstool Geologic Park & Campground, approximately 20 miles north of Crawford

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM at Toadstool Park

There may be a \$3/day use fee.

Driving Directions: Denver/Boulder area to Crawford, NE: On the northeast side of Crawford, turn left onto NE-2W/NE-71 N; Continue to follow NE-2 W/NE-71 N (4.6 mi); Turn left onto Toadstool Rd (1.9 mi); Turn right to stay on Toadstool Rd (10.1 mi), Toadstool Rd parallels BNSF railroad tracks; Turn left at Toadstool Park sign, cross railroad tracks (1.4 mi) to Toadstool Geologic Park & Campground. Please exercise caution while crossing railroad tracks. Dual tracks with coal trains traveling 60 mph in both directions.

Trip Agenda: Saturday morning we will briefly explore the Brule Formation around Toadstool Park. World famous for Oligocene fossils. Please note, fossil collecting is strictly prohibited by Federal Law. However, photographs are allowed. Then we will drive east of Toadstool Park and explore the lower Chadron Formation and chalcedony beds. Later we will drive to the agate beds and start hunting for Fairburn, Prairie, Picture, Blue Agates, and Petrified Wood. Saturday evening collecting fluorescent agates and chalcedony using ultraviolet lamps. Sunday morning will be more agate hunting. After lunch you can continue agate collecting, visit the [Hudson-Meng Bison Kill & Visitor Center](#), return to Crawford and visit historic Fort Robinson and the [Trailside Museum](#), or return home.

Tools needed: Surface collecting, so bring whatever you need to gather your goodies although a small rake, trowel, rock hammer, small shovel, and container to carry your finds would be helpful.

Recommend Clothing/Gear: Hat, clothing for forecasted weather, sturdy boots, gloves, sunscreen, food, and plenty of water. No bathroom facilities outside the Toadstool Park campground area.

Where to Stay Overnight:

- Camp at Toadstool Park. Campsites, picnic tables and outhouse available. No water. \$15/night fee. The trip leader (Brian) will be camping here.
- Near Toadstool Park: [The High Plains Homestead](#) has a limited number of cabins. May require two nights. Please call them to confirm (308-665-2592)
- Camp at Crawford City Park. Tents: \$10; RVs: \$20. Water and restrooms available.
- Just outside of Crawford is [Fort Robinson State Park](#) with nice accommodations. Reservations are needed.

- Crawford Lodging: <https://hilltopmotelcrawfordnebraska.com/>
- Chadron Lodging (50 miles away): https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g45485-Chadron_Nebraska-Hotels.html

Reference Sites:

- Toadstool Geological Park NW of Crawford
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nebraska/recarea/?recid=10616>
- Hudson-Meng Bison Kill & Visitor Center
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nebraska/recreation/recarea/?recid=10621>
- UNL Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson
<https://trailside.unl.edu/welcome.html>