

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions

October and November 2023

Club Meeting: Serendipitous Discovery of Large Impact Craters – Tuesday, October 10

FMC member Andrew MacGregor, a retired photonics physicist, gives a detailed presentation about the discovery of a large terrestrial impact crater the diameter of the Washington beltway. His son Joseph was a lead participant and paper author, and the talk draws on Joseph's presentations, photos, and associated NASA videos. He relates how so much progress in science relies on luck, contacts, collaboration, and the work of multiple organizations, and how acceptance of new craters and their dating can be a fraught business.

Join us for an interesting evening, starting at 7:00 pm at Mountain View United Methodist Church (355 Ponca Place in Boulder) in Barker Hall.

Field Trip to Collect Zeolites – Saturday, October 21

North Table Mountain outside of Golden Colorado is a world-renowned site for collecting zeolite minerals. Thomsonite, analcime, chabazite, fluorapophyllite, and calcite are relatively common. Other minerals may also be found. The site is in Jefferson County Open Space Park where they allow mineral collecting. This is a great trip to take kids, as everyone will find specimens to take home. The hike to the collecting site is just over a mile, climbing about 700 feet in elevation. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information about the trip and to sign up, please visit our website at <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/>, log in, and click "Field Trips."



A nice cluster of analcime crystals, surrounded by thomsonite crystals from North Table Mountain

Jr. Geologists Activities

Our first monthly meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 18**, where members are asked to bring some of the best specimens they acquired this past year and display them on a towel. This will get you prepared for club's Towel Show in November (see below). We will also learn about the three different types of rocks – igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic.

On Wednesday, November 15, we will get ready for the club show in December, learning how to run the Rocks R Magic Show and how to put together a display case. We will also learn more about different rocks.

Meetings start at 6:30 at Mountain View United Methodist Church (355 Ponca Place in Boulder). **This year we are meeting in Room 209 (not in Barker Hall where we met previously).**

Annual Towel Show (Show-and-Tell) – Tuesday, November 14

For you who are new to our club, the Towel Show is our annual show-and-tell, where you can share some of your best finds, lapidary work, and jewelry you found or made this past year. Why is it called the Towel Show? Everyone brings a towel to display their rocks, minerals, fossils, and jewelry.

Both adults and juniors can display, with awards given for the best in the following categories: personal field trip, club field trip, lapidary and jewelry, best mineral, best fossil, best ugly rock, and even best towel.

The Towel Show starts at 7:00 pm at the Mountain View United Methodist Church, 355 Ponca Place in Boulder in Barker Hall.

Rocks & Rails, Our Annual Club Show – December 8-10

Once again, our annual club show will be held with the Boulder Model Railroad Club at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont. It's a great time to shop for that special specimen or jewelry item you've had your eye on. The club area has games for the kids, grab bags for sale, and information about our club. The Jr. Geologists will once again be performing the Rocks R Magic Shows throughout the weekend. Several members, both juniors and adults, will have displays of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Volunteer for the club area: The club area needs volunteers all three days to run games, sell grab bags, and talk about our club to interested visitors. This is a great activity for adults and families. Plus, volunteers get into the show for free. Contact Char Bourg at showvol46@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer for a time to work at the show.

Volunteer for set up and take down: Volunteers are needed to set up the show starting at 10 am on Wednesday, December 7. This involves setting up tables and putting plastic skirting around the tables. At the end of the show on Sunday evening, volunteers are needed to take down the show and pack everything away for next year. Volunteers get into the show for free. Contact Char Bourg at showvol46@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

Participate at the Artisans Table: FMC membership gives you an opportunity to sell your surplus rocks, minerals, lapidary works, and jewelry at the show. See <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-FMC-Artisan-Table-Agreement.pdf> for information. To sign up, please contact Andrew MacGregor at andrew.d.macgregor@gmail.com.

Put together a display case: Everyone enjoys seeing specimens from club members. Both juniors and adults are encouraged to showcase some of their collections by putting together a display case for the show. There will be eight display cases available at this year's show. Contact Dennis Gertenbach at gertenbach1@gmail.com for more information and to sign up for a display case.

For more information about the show, please see the flyer on page 5.



OUR ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW IS FAST APPROACHING!

The dates for the show this year are
DECEMBER 8th, 9th and 10th

We will need volunteers in several
areas of the show.

Please consider setting aside an hour,
or more, on one or two of these days
to volunteer.

Please contact Char Bourg for more
information,
showvol46@gmail.com

Collecting Rocks for Grab Bags

Every year, Flatirons Mineral Club assembles up to a thousand “grab bags”, cloth bags with ten labeled rock, mineral, and fossil specimens in them, to sell at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show and at our Rocks & Rails Show. The grab bags put specimens into the hands of interested kids (and adults) and the proceeds help fund scholarships for students in the earth sciences.

Many grab bag specimens come from club members’ personal trips. These donations can really broaden the selection of rocks that go into our bags, as individuals often get much further from home than your typical club trip. Consider collecting for the club if you take a trip out of state this winter. Roadcuts provide an easy source of fresh specimens if you are on the lookout for interesting material.

So, keep the rocks coming in and the club will keep making grab bags to inspire budding rockhounds. To make a rock donation, bring them to any club event or contact me (Anita) at anitacolin@hotmail.com to arrange a drop-off/pick-up.

Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Here are other activities of interest in the area for rockhounds of all ages.

- **October 10 (Tuesday)** from 2:00 to 3:00 will be a free program at the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science** by **Anthony Maltese**, Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center titled **To Xiphactinus and beyond: The savage seas of ancient Kansas**. In the VIP Room, all are invited, Museum admission not required; check in at the Security Post.
- **October 10 (Tuesday)**, the **Western Museum of Mining and Industry** in Colorado Springs will feature a talk by **Bob Phillips** on **The Nordberg Steam Stamp**. The Nordberg Stamp located on the grounds of WMMI is one of two remaining examples of this type of vintage rock crushing machine that was used predominately in the copper mining belt in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The subjects Bob Phillips covers in this lecture will include a range of related topics for the purpose of placing such machines in the context of time and purpose. The lecture will provide insight as to the physical placement of the stamps and the nature of their function within the ore-milling process. The lecture is FREE for museum members and only \$5.00 for guests. See <https://fareharbor.com/wmmi/items/213075/> for more information.
- **October 13 (Friday)**, starting at 7:00 pm is the **Denver Gem and Mineral Club’s Silent Auction** at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 38th & Vance. This will probably be the biggest selection the Guild has ever offered at the annual auction! Donations came from many sources from jewelry findings, slabs and cabochons, to prize and rare mineral specimens from Brian Kosnar’s collection, plus antique collecting magazines. Prices start at \$1 and go up. See <https://denvergem.org/> for more information.
- **October 14 (Saturday)** from 9:00 am to 3 pm is **Girl Scout Day at Dinosaur Ridge**. The annual Girl Scout Day will be held at the Main Visitor Center and up on Dinosaur Ridge for hundreds of local scouts who can earn special badges during the day. Girl Scouts should register in advance at <https://dinoridge.org/programs-and-events/dinosaur-discovery-days/>, but members of the public can just show up and enjoy!
- **October 14, 21, 28 (Saturday)** is the **Miners' Pumpkin Patch** at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Support the museum as you celebrate the best days of fall! Activities include the Children's Straw Maze, Giant Slide and Corn Bins, Cornhole, ladder ball and family games, Vintage Apple Cider Press, animal encounters, and Hayrides, Gold Panning, Mining Machine Demonstrations, Farmer stand, Food Trucks and

music, Pumpkin Catapult and Smashing!! PLUS, the BEST Pumpkin Patch around. See <https://minerspumpkinpatch.com/news-events/miners-pumpkin-patch.html> for details.

- **October 21 (Saturday)** 2-6 p.m. is **“Spooktacular”** at Mines Museum of Earth Sciences on the Colorado School of Mines campus, 1310 Maple St., Golden. Free, all welcome. Hands-on activities; special guests; geode cracking; face painting; goodie bag; prizes! See the flyer on the next page for more information.
- **October 21 (Saturday)** is the **Littleton Gem and Mineral Club’s Annual Auction**. For more information, see the flyer below.

**LITTLETON GEM & MINERAL CLUB
SILENT & VERBAL AUCTION**

Saturday, October 21, 2023

LOCATION:
Heritage United Methodist Church
7077 S. Simms St.
Littleton, CO 80127



**Seller set up starts at 11 a.m.
Silent auction starts at 12:00 p.m.
Verbal Auction starts at 1:00 p.m.
Checkout starts approx. 3:00 p.m.**

Bring your minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, books, and equipment to sell.
Club retains 20% commission.
Non-member Seller limited to 2 sellable flats.
Payment by cash or check only.

Email Lynette Warren at flywithle123@comcast.net to get more information on the Auction Procedures and to pre-obtain a seller/buyer number or you can get one on the day of the auction at the door.



MINES MUSEUM
of earth science

FREE!

OCT. 21

2-6PM

SPOOKTACULAR

FREE TRICK-OR-TREAT BAG & NON-FOOD TREATS!
while supplies last.

BLASTER THE BURRO - PUMPKIN CARVING DEMO - HAWK QUEST
MR. BONES - MISS TEEN COLORADO - FACE PAINTING - AND MORE!

1310 Maple St. Golden, CO
mines.edu/museum

- **October 25 (Wednesday)** Is the next fireside chat at the **Dinosaur Ridge Discovery Center**. Dinosaur Ridge Educations Programs Director **Erin LaCount** took on the task of reviewing dozens of letters written in the 1870s between Arthur Lakes and key Bone Wars figures including O.C. Marsh regarding fossils at Dino Ridge. What she read changed the timeline of our understanding, which she will present in her talk on **Setting the Fossil Record Straight**. Erin has more than 20 years’ experience in various roles at Dino Ridge starting as a teenaged volunteer and weekend tour guide. Enjoy learning about her deep dive into the correspondence between key Dinosaur Ridge figures from the mid-1870s, and the challenges of this 21st century project, with time for Q&A after the presentation. Reserve your seat at <https://dinoridge.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/dinoridge/eventRegistration.jsp?event=4948&>.
- **October 27-30 (Friday-Monday)**, explore the geology at gorgeous **Ghost Ranch, New Mexico** on the **Tour of the Tomb of the Coelophysis** with Dinosaur Ridge. Vertebrate paleontologist and geologist **Dr. Lou Taylor** will be joining this trip to help guide the explorations. Local experts will also connect with the group during tours of onsite paleontology and anthropology museums, the historical fossil quarry, and nearby geological and/or petroglyph sites. For details on this 3-night tour and to sign up click [here!](#)

- **November 6 (Monday)** from 2:00 to 3:00 will be a free program at the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science** by **Carol Dehler**, Utah State University. Her talk will be on **Our Earth Was Completely Frozen? Twice?** In the VIP Room, all are invited, Museum admission not required; check in at the Security Post.
- **November 11 (Saturday)** 1-4 p.m. is a **Free Mineral ID Day** at the Mines Museum. "Let us identify the most mysterious specimens in your collection!" All are welcome; museum admission is always free. Limit 3 specimens per visitor; only identification assistance will be provided, we will not offer value assessment.

ROCKS & RAILS

December 8-10 10am – 5pm

Adults \$8 ::: Children 12 & Under Free with paid Adult

Seniors Over 60 \$5 ::: Discount Multi-day Passes Available

**Flatirons Mineral Club
2023 Annual**

Rock & Mineral Show

Gem and mineral dealers, Exhibit displays, grab bags, children's activities including games, dig site, spin the wheel, fossils, meteorites, lapidary tools, jewelry, fluorescent mineral display, and more!

Bring your mineral treasures In for mineral identification.



flatironsmineralclub.org

FREE
PARKING

DOOR
PRIZES!

**Boulder Model Railroad Club
46th Annual**

Model Railroad Exposition

Come one, come all, and enjoy the Boulder Model Railroad Club (BMRC) Exposition where you can see different Model Train Layouts for the young and old alike. The show will also have many displays of Model Train related items to both teach and entertain everyone. This includes many vendor tables where you can purchase railroad-related items just in time for the Holidays.



bouldermodelrailroadclub.org

ATM & Food Service Available at the Show

BOULDER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS LONGMONT

MAIN EXHIBIT BUILDING 9595 Nelson Road Longmont, CO 80501

Bad Weather? Call 303-591-2830 to see if we're open

