

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions August and September 2024

Annual Club Picnic – Saturday, August 17

This year's annual picnic is at Harlow Platts Park, the same place as previous picnics. The main pavilion is located just south of the South Boulder Recreation Center at 1360 Gillespie Drive in Boulder. The picnic starts at 11:00 am. Folks with last names beginning with A-M are asked to bring a covered dish and folks with last names beginning with N-Z should bring a dessert. Roll-up sandwiches and beverages will be provided by the club.

At the picnic, we will fill grab bags for sale at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show and our club show this fall, plus honor our Rockhounds of the Year and present other awards.



Filling grab bags at last year's club picnic
Credit: Brian Walko

Club Field Trips

We have more field trips planned through the fall. Here is a rundown of trips you can sign up for.

- **Gold panning in Lefthand Creek, Saturday, August 10**, led by Brian Walko
This trip is for people interested in learning the science and art of gold placer mining. Miners can keep all gold collected. If a significant find is made, please notify the trip leader for location and photographs. The creek is shallow and a short walk from the parking area.
- **Flat Tops above Glenwood Canyon, Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25**, led by Dennis Gertenbach
On this trip, participants will collect goethite pseudomorphs after pyrite and Devonian-age fossils, plus stop at Deep Creek Canyon Overlook. The area is at a high elevation above 10,000ft. Camping is available.
- **Crawford, Nebraska, Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29**, led by Brian Walko
We will be collecting agates and fluorescent minerals. On Saturday and Sunday, we will be searching for Fairburn, prairie, picture, and blue agates, plus chalcedony and petrified wood. On Saturday night we will use ultraviolet lamps to search for fluorescent agates and watermelon chalcedony.
- **North Table Mountain outside of Golden, October 26**, led by Dennis Gertenbach
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. This is a great trip to take kids, as everyone will find specimens to take home.

You can find more details and sign up for these trips at the club website at <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/>. Click "Member Login" and sign in, then go to "Field Trips". From there, you can select any field trip for more information or to sign up for the trip.

Wanted: Field Trip Photos

During field trips this summer, consider taking photos during your trip and of your best finds to include in future newsletters. Please send your best ones to Dennis Gertenbach at gertenbach1@gmail.com.

Wanted: Specimens for Grab Bags

During field trips this summer, consider picking up extra small specimens for grab bags. Grab bag specimens can be brought to any club meeting.

Jr. Geologists Activities

Although we do not have monthly meetings during the summer, we are planning several fun activities for the Jr. Geologists. Here are activities we have planned:

- A behind-the-scenes tour at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on Tuesday, August 6. This activity is full; contact Dennis to be added to the waiting list.
- The Club Picnic on Saturday, August 17, is a fun time stuffing grab bags, eating great food, and honoring our Junior Rockhound of the Year. Details are on page 1.
- A visit to the Nail Dinosaur Quarry outside of Medicine Bow, Wyoming, on Saturday, August 31. GeoExplorers (middle and high schoolers) may return the next day to help excavate dinosaur bones from the quarry.
- The geology and map reading hike in North Boulder was postponed, due to the Stone Canyon wildfire, and will be rescheduled for a later date.
- Hidden Treasures will explore interesting and beautiful secrets hidden inside of rocks. This activity will be scheduled for the fall.

The Jr. Geologists program is open to all Flatirons Mineral Club families. We meet monthly during the school year and have special field trips and other activities in the summer. For information about the Jr. Geologists program, please contact Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com or 303-709-8218.

Denver Gem & Mineral Show, September 12-15

This year's Denver Gem & Mineral Show is at a new location, Westin Hotel in Westminster, and is free with ample free parking! **Mineral Oddities** is the theme for this year's show, and you will see lots of beautiful, unusual specimens like this fossil snail replaced with rhodochrosite from Ukraine.

Vendors will have lots of great specimens to purchase for your collection.



Exhibitors will show off the oddball specimens in their extensive collections. World class speakers will share their knowledge and regale you with tales of the mineral-world oddballs.

The daily show hours are Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more details about the show, see <https://www.denvermineralshow.com/>.

Volunteer at the Show

The show is run by volunteers from Denver metro area fossil, mineral and gem clubs and societies, including the Western Interior Paleontological Society, Littleton Gem & Mineral Club, Flatirons Mineral Club, Colorado Mineral Society, Denver Gem & Mineral Guild, Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society, and Friends of Mineralogy.

Volunteers are needed for the Flatirons Mineral Club table at the show. Our table will have club information, rock-matching games, and free rock samples. If you can help with our table, please sign up with Anita Colin at anitacolin@hotmail.com.

You can also help with set-up (Tuesday, September 10), selling grab bags (throughout the show), or tear-down (Sunday, 3-6). To volunteer, please sign up at the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D45A5AD2EA2F94-49723318-2024#/>.

Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Here are other activities of interest in the area for rockhounds of all ages. Thanks to Pete Modreski for providing information about many of these.

- **August 8-11 (Thursday through Sunday)** is the **Buena Vista Contin-Tail Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show**, at the Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds. The Buena Vista Contin-Tail Rock, Gem, and Mineral Show has been running annually for over 40 years! Each year over 100 gem, mineral, fossil, handmade jewelry, lapidary artists, and rock dealers gather near the Continental Divide in Buena Vista Colorado to share their wares with the public. Free admission and parking, with more information at



https://bvrockshow.com/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR02ru8aOrMDz0dYXwxhZT19OcgAZ093yRf_xzakAb0rvZCfYHHACShgcUo_aem_JO8ewdk9XGV-yeY3RwbHDw. Fun Fact: People always ask where the name Contin-Tail comes from. It is a fusion of the words Continental Divide & Tailgate.

- **August 9-11 (Friday-Sunday)** is the **Mines Museum Summer Rocks-Minerals-Fossils Sale**. Friday afternoon the 9th is a "VIP" advance preview sale, 1-4 p.m., for members and museum volunteers only [if not a current Friends of the Mines Museum member, you can join online ahead of time]; the regular sale is 9-4 Saturday, 1-4 Sunday. See the Mines Museum website at <https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/>.

- **August 15-18 (Thursday-Sunday)** is the **Woodland Park Gem & Mineral Show** located outdoors off US-24 between Walmart and Safeway. Hours are 9:00 am-5:00 pm, with free admission and parking. They have over 40 vendors with mineral specimens from all over the world. Many of the specimens are self-collected. They also have faceted stones, gold, silver, crystals, cabochons, fossils, petrified wood and local minerals! There is a kids' area and lots of free rock for kids. See <http://woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com/> for more information.
- **August 16-18 (Friday-Sunday)** is the **Lake George Gem & Mineral Show** an outdoor show located off US-24, sponsored by the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club. Free admission and parking. See the flyer below for more information.



In conjunction with the Denver Gem & Mineral Show on September 12-15, you can participate in these shows and events.

- **Friday, September 13** (6-9 p.m.), **Colorado School of Mines Museum's annual Open House**, held during the week of the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. All are welcome! See <https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/> for more information.
- **September 7-9, Just Minerals and Crystals Event Denver**, Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park, 16455 E. 40th Circle, Aurora CO. Free parking & admission. <https://xpopress.com/show/profile/1186/just-minerals-crystals-event-denver>
- **September 5-9, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Fall Show**, Crowne Plaza DIA, 15500 E 40th Ave., Denver CO 80239. Free admission & parking. <https://xpopress.com/show/profile/546/colorado-mineral-fossil-fall-show>
- **September 6-15, Denver Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show; Denver Expo Gem Show; and Miner's Co-op Show**; all at the National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver. Free parking & admission. <https://denver.show/>