

# *Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions February and March 2025*

## **Club Meeting – Tuesday, February 11**

Last summer, **Ron Wolf** attended two estate sales. In each case, the deceased was a retired mining engineer. In each case, the sale included a few hundred rocks, none of them labeled as to species or source. The companies running those estate sales had no idea what minerals they were selling.

At one of the sales, people were handling rather rich, powdery specimens of carnotite and were wondering whether it was sulfur. Ron interceded with the hosts of the sale to get the stuff labeled, have them put the specimens in plastic sandwich bags, and advise buyers that they needed to take precautions. At the second sale, the deceased had an unlabeled cardboard box of fairly hot uraninite specimens in the garage. Ron put a Geiger counter on the box, so the folks running the sale could see what they had, and then he advised them not to sell the stuff. This led to Ron's presentation about **The Safe Handling and Storage of Radioactive Specimens (Plus, Everything Else You Need to Know About Collecting Radioactive Minerals)**.



Uranophane. Credit: Ron Wolf

Join us at 7:00 pm in Barker Hall at Mountain View United Methodist Church (355 Ponca Place in Boulder) for a great program.

## **Club Meeting – Tuesday, March 11**

At our March meeting, **Markus Raschke** will be speaking about the **Uranium King Mine**, located on ranch land near Encampment, Wyoming, in a medium-sized pegmatite formation. Early on, the mine was evaluated for commercial mining potential, but it was determined that the mine did not contain enough commercial-grade ore, and no uranium was produced. However, recent analysis of ore samples from the mine have found the deposit to contain not only uranium, but also thorium and the rare earth elements samarium (mainly), europium, and yttrium. The mine and surrounding pegmatite outcrops are currently being evaluated for producing these rare earth elements, with uranium and thorium as byproducts. It will be a very interesting program with lots of photos.

Previously, the University of Wyoming, the US Geological Survey, and the Atomic Energy Commission had misidentified the main ore-mineral coming out of the mine. Markus's work has corrected this error.

## **Wire Wrapping Class on March 30**

Many of us have seen Caren Johannes' beautiful wire wrapping jewelry at Rocks & Rails Shows. She will share her wire-wrapping knowledge in a class on March 30. Come learn the basics of wire wrapping and stone-setting as you make a beautiful cabochon pendant! No previous jewelry-making experience is necessary. Bring yourself and your imagination!



The class will be on Sunday, March 30, starting at 1 pm in Frasier Parlor at Mountain View United Methodist Church in Boulder. The cost for the class is \$75, which covers the cost of materials (wires and stones), instructions, and tool rental. The club will pay half, so your cost will be \$37.50, payable at the beginning of class.

The class is limited to 12 students (adults and juniors in middle or high school) and only two people per family. You can sign up with Gerry Naugle at [gnaugle@earthlink.net](mailto:gnaugle@earthlink.net) or 303-591-2830. Currently, there are two spaces left, then we will start a waiting list.

And be sure to send a photo of your creation for the next newsletter and display your piece in the Towel Show next fall.

## Jr. Geologists Activities

At our February meeting, we will learn more about gemstones, including the interesting history of famous gems, as we earn the Gemstone Lore and Legend Badge. Come and learn more about these fascinating gems, plus take home a few gems for your collection. The meeting will start at 6:30 on Tuesday, February 18, in Frasier Parlor at the south end of Mountain View United Methodist Church, 355 Ponca Place in Boulder.



The Jr. Geologists program is open to all Flatirons Mineral Club families with children 6 years and older. For more information about the Jr. Geologists, please contact Dennis Gertenbach at [gertenbach1@gmail.com](mailto:gertenbach1@gmail.com).

## Needed: Your Input for 2025 Field Trips

We have an exciting 2025 field trip season coming up and are looking for people who want to lead a trip. Leading a trip is a fun and rewarding experience, and we are here to help you make it a success. Even if you don't have a destination in mind, we can work with you and suggest some of our tried-and-true locations. Please reach out to Jasper Seldin ([jseldin@gmail.com](mailto:jseldin@gmail.com)) if you are interested or have any questions!

And be sure to attend our May club meeting to learn about all the trips we have planned for this year.

## 2025 Dues are Due!

Dues are still only \$18 for individual and family membership. Your membership entitles you to attend our field trips, plus you will receive our newsletter and email updates. You can pay in three ways:

- **PAY online** by credit card at [FMC Renewal](#) or via this QR code. [Issues? Email [fmc.boulder@gmail.com](mailto:fmc.boulder@gmail.com) to report the problem, and we will contact you.]
- **PAY Gerry Naugle**, Treasurer and Membership Chair, at any FMC monthly meeting. Gerry is at or near the sign-in table when you enter the room for the monthly meetings.
- **SEND a check or money order** made to "Flatirons Mineral Club" or "FMC" to P.O. Box 3331, Boulder, CO, 80307. Please do not send cash in the mail.



## Contribute to Our Club Newsletter

Our club's award-winning newsletter is known for the adult and junior members' articles, photos, artwork, and poetry in each issue. Consider writing an article or contributing photos, artwork, or poetry for our newsletter. It can be about a favorite collecting place, one or more interesting specimens in your collection, a piece about Colorado's mining history, lapidary and jewelry projects, a personal or club field trip, or anything related to rockhounding.

You can send your contributions to Dennis Gertenbach at [gertenbach1@gmail.com](mailto:gertenbach1@gmail.com). If you have questions about contributing to our newsletter, please contact Dennis.

And, who knows? Your contribution might place in the Rocky Mountain Federation newsletter contest next year.

## Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

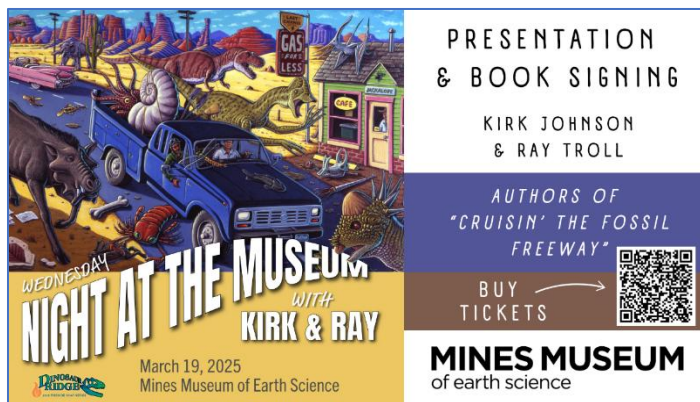
Here are other activities of interest in the area for rockhounds of all ages.

**February 14 (Friday), 5:00-7:00 pm - What's Lava Got to Do With It? Valentines Lecture for Volcano Lovers. Dr. Libby Prueher** is a geologist and volcanologist at Dinosaur Ridge. On this special Valentine's Night presentation, she will share about Colorado's explosive past and how an ancient eruption helped shape Dinosaur Ridge during the Mesozoic Era. Colorado's past includes volcanic eruptions and lava flows, as well as dinosaurs- what a combo! At the Martin G. Lockley Discovery Center, 17861 W Alameda Pkwy, Golden, 80401. More information or buy your tickets [here](#).

**March 1-2 (Saturday and Sunday)** is the **Mines Museum of Earth Science Rock, Mineral & Fossil Sale** at 1310 Maple St, Golden, CO 80401. Shop a large selection of discounted rocks, minerals, fossils and other treasures! And while you're there, stop in the Museum (it's free) and see some of the fabulous mineral, rock, and fossil exhibits. See [Mineral & Fossil Sale](#) for details.

And while you are at the sale, take advantage of the free **Mineral Identification Day**, 1:00-4:00 pm on **Saturday, March 1**. Bring your most mysterious rocks, minerals, fossils, and gems to the museum to be identified by our panel of experts. Limit three samples per person. The museum cannot provide valuations or appraisals on any objects. See [Mineral ID Day](#) for more information.

**March 19 (Wednesday)** The **Mines Museum of Earth Science** presents **Kirk Johnson and Ray Troll** for **"Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" Presentation & Book Signing**. There are two options, one for a presentation by the authors and a reception and book signing. See



<https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/event/cruisin-the-fossil-freeway-presentation-book-signing/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

**March 22-23 (Saturday and Sunday)** The **Western Interior Paleontological Society** is celebrating its 40th year with an amazing **symposium** that will look at key discoveries, new technologies, and revised opinions about research and topics in paleontology over the past 40 years. Expect a lineup of astute speakers, a potpourri of great artwork on display, and thought-provoking cases and posters.

The event will be held at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. Remember that your participation will also help fund grants for paleontological research and education. Check out [westernpaleo.org](http://westernpaleo.org) for more details. Registration is now open. **Get on board early to explore Retrospectives: Celebrating 4 Decades of Paleo Advances!**



**March 28-30 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)** is the **Ft. Collins Rockhounds Annual Gem & Mineral Show**. This year's show features feldspar and jasper. The show is at The Ranch, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland. For more information, see <http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/gemAndMineralShow.shtml>.

