



Flatirons Facets

Flatirons Mineral Club of Boulder County, Colorado

Volume 68, Number 3

May-June 2025

FIELD TRIP EDITION

Plan to join us on one or more club field trips this summer. Details start on page 2.



Knightia eocaena collected from the Fossil Lake Safari quarry near Kemmerer, Wyoming. The quarry is one of the field trips we have planned for this summer. Credit: Brian Stevenson

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President's Message

Gold Fever

The price of gold has skyrocketed to around \$3,200 a troy ounce. Now that winter is over, some people will try to strike it rich by finding gold in the mountains. Here is some advice: I've prospected for gold throughout Colorado. Placer mining involves recovering gold from creeks or rivers using gold pans, sluice boxes, or suction dredges. I estimate that over 40 years, I've found one ounce of gold! That is a lot of effort for flakes per trip. Lode mining involves going underground—very dangerous, even if you have been trained and the mine is MSHA certified. The best piece I found underground assayed at 7 ounces per ton—extremely high-grade ore with visible gold. Today, mines assay in grams per ton with microscopic gold.

So, do you still want to try your luck prospecting for gold? I recommend placer mining. For under \$50, you can get set up with a gold pan, small shovel, and other equipment. Next, you'll need lessons. The FMC is running a field trip to Cache Creek between Leadville and Buena Vista on August 2nd. If you want to go earlier, I recommend purchasing "Finding Gold in Colorado" by Kevin A. Singel. Kevin lists panning techniques and public places to pan. Unfortunately, most of the creeks in Boulder County are closed to panning because they are part of Boulder County's Open Space and Mountain Parks. The remaining spots are claimed by individuals or private land and closed to public panning.

Have fun and stay safe.

Brian Walko, President

The Flatirons Mineral Club is a non-profit organization, which is dedicated to developing and maintaining interests in Earth science and associated hobbies. The purpose of this Club includes, but is not limited to, studying geology and Earth science, teaching others about our hobby, including young people, collecting gem, mineral and fossil specimens, and learning lapidary skills.

The Flatirons Mineral Club is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Greater Denver Area Council of Gem and Mineral Societies.



May 13 Club Meeting — Field Trips

May's meeting will be a two-part meeting. The first half will feature club member Howard Gordon with a presentation on "Rockhounding 101." Following Howard's talk will be Jasper Selden, club field trip chair, with information about all the field trips the club has scheduled for the rest of the year.

Howard Gordon (last year's club Rockhound of the Year) will cover different types of maps (topographic, geologic and Google Earth) and how to use Rockhounding guides, Roadside Geology books, geologic articles, and how these tools can improve your ability and success in finding what you are looking for while in the field. He gave a less detailed presentation on this topic to the Geoexplorers last year, which the kids enjoyed. This is a must hear presentation for members who are unfamiliar with the above tools or are looking for a refresher as we head into the collecting season.

Jasper has organized over a dozen field trip for club members, including some club favorites, and other places that will be new for most club members. His presentation will feature information about each of these trips, including what rocks, minerals, and fossils can be found in each area. Field trip leaders will have examples of specimens found at these places and can answer questions you have about these trips.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm at Mountain View United Methodist Church, 355 Ponca Place in Boulder in **Frasier Parlor at the south end of the church**. Come and learn about all the fun trips planned this year.

June 10 Club Meeting — Filling Specimen Bags for Grab Bags

Join us in June to help fill specimen bags that go into grab bags for the Denver Gem & Mineral Show and our December Club Show. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in Barker Hall at Mountain View United Methodist Church.

2025 Field Trips

Here is a rundown of the club field trips scheduled for May and June this year. You can sign up for these trips on the club website, <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/>. Log in and go to Field Trips to learn about each trip and to sign up.

Wood's Quarry Loop Field Trip, Saturday, May 17

This hike features the geology of the Flatirons, along with history, commentary, and great views across the plains. The route is a casual-paced, less busy, 3.5-mile loop hike, with more than 50% in the shade. The hike ascends from the Skunk Creek trailhead, paralleling the Boulder fault, to the Mesa trail, east to the Wood's Quarry loop, then via the Third Flatiron overlook and Kohler Mesa back to Skunk Creek. The trail crosses several Flatirons geological strata. The descent is gradual and rocky in places. Duration is 3 to 3.5 hours. Total elevation gain 678 ft. The maximum group size is 8, due to narrow trails and weekend activity. Field trip leader: Andrew MacGregor

Sugarloaf Mountain Field Trip, Sunday, June 8

Join us for a field trip to Sugarloaf Mountain, just a short drive from Boulder. This area holds historical significance as a hub of tungsten mining during the early 20th century, when Boulder County played a critical role in U.S. wartime resource production. We will visit tailings piles from old tungsten mines and then take a short scenic hike. You will have a chance to collect ferberite, fluorite, druzy quartz (known locally as horn), low-grade epidote, and fluorescent microcline. Field trip leader: Jasper Selden



Druzy quartz (horn) from Sugarloaf Mountain



Kemmerer and Wamsutter Wyoming Field Trip, Friday-Sunday, June 27-29

This three-day trip begins with an afternoon at Fossil Butte National Monument outside of Kemmerer, Wyoming, for a fossil preparation demonstration, followed by a private talk by Arvid Aase about "Interpreting Climate from Fossil Leaves". On Saturday, we will be at the Fossil Lake Safari pay quarry to collect fossil fish. On the way home on Sunday, we will visit sites south of Wamsutter, Wyoming, to collect "Turritella agate" and stromatolites (fossil algae). Field trip leaders: Brian Stevenson and Dennis Gertenbach

Splitting shale to uncover fossil fish at the Fossil Lake Safari Quarry

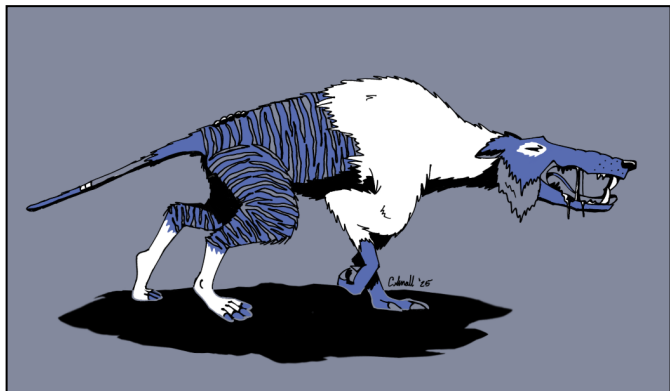
These trips are planned for the rest of the summer and fall.

- July 12 Red Feather Lakes for quartz and hematite. Field trip leaders: Gerry Naugle and Jasper Seldin
- July 26/27 Big Thompson Canyon (family friendly). Field trip leaders: Tony and Emilyn Bubb
- August 2 Cache Creek gold panning and sluicing (with LGMC). Field trip leader: Jasper Selden
- August 16 Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Claim for smoky quartz and amazonite. Field Trip Leader: Rebecca Stetson
- September 13 Magnetite Ridge and Badger Flats. Field trip leader: Doran Adams
- September 14 Hartzel blue barite. Field trip leader: Doran Adams
- October 2 Nebraska fluorescent minerals. Field trip leader: Brian Walko
- October 25 North Table Mountain for zeolite minerals. Field trip leader: Dennis Gertenbach

Watch for email announcements with more information about these field trips and how to sign up to join us.

Fossil of the Month: *Andrewsarchus*

Charlotte Small, Jr. Geologist



Andrewsarchus is a prehistoric mammal found in the Eocene deposits of China. Because only a few known specimens of this fossil have been described, its evolutionary origins are still being debated. It was once suggested to have been related to the whale family; however, I decided to run with the more recent hypothesis that this animal may have been related to the entelodont family (a pig-like group of animals).

Andrewsarchus holds the title of largest terrestrial carnivorous mammal; however, this is being questioned due to possible overestimation of overall body size.

To learn more about this animal, I suggest these links: [Andrewsarchus - Wikipedia](#) and [Andrewsarchus - Malevus.com](#)

Field Trip Report: Mines Museum of Earth Science Tour Enjoyed by All

For our first field trip of the year, 27 club members came for a guided tour of the Mines Museum of Earth Science on the Colorado School of Mines campus on Saturday, April 19. The Mines Museum of Earth Science has over 15,000 square feet of rocks, minerals, fossils, and Colorado mining history. Our two outstanding student guides highlighted many of the 2,000 beautiful specimens on display at the Museum.

Thanks to Dennis Gertenbach for arranging the tour. Enjoy the photos from the day.



Photos by Jasper Selden and Dennis Gertenbach

Jr. Geologists Activities



During March's Jr. Geologists meeting we worked on the Earth Resources Badge, learning how almost everything we use in our lives comes from the Earth. A typical cell phone needs 40 or more minerals to make, including lithium ores for the battery, quartz and rare earth minerals for the glass display, and copper and gold minerals to make the wires. The juniors learned how dry wall is made from gypsum and performed an experiment to recover nickel metal.

In April, we focused on space geology, learning about rocks and minerals found on the planets, moons, and asteroids in our solar system as they earned the Earth in Space Badge. Different types of meteorites were explained, and the juniors searched for micrometeorites. They performed experiments on how craters are formed and what scientists can learn from them.



Howard Gordon shows the Jr. Geologists how drywall is made from gypsum.



Connel Casson helps the Jr. Geologists find micrometeorites.



Mihai shows a model of the solar system he made.



Gerry Naugle shows the juniors different types of meteorites

At our May 20 meeting, we will work on the Stone Age Tools and Art Badge, learning how ancient people used rocks and minerals to make tools and in their artwork. Join us as we recreate pictographs with minerals and grind corn using stone tools. And the rocks we've been polishing are ready to take home.

The Jr. Geologists program is open to all Flatirons Mineral Club families. We meet monthly on the third Tuesdays 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-



Alaçam's Purple Heart (Alaçam'ın Mor Kalbi)

Axel Gray, age 10

Passed down through time,
Sharp clustered geode unearthed,
And then cracked open.

Editor's Note: Axel received this amethyst specimen from Turkey at a Jr. Geologists activity and was inspired to create this haiku.



CU's Earth Mysteries and Histories

Quin Armstrong, age 9

I spent the morning of April 26 in Boulder with my mom learning about the mysteries and histories of Earth, a program sponsored by the CU Geology Department.

CU put on an awesome event with interactive stations about carbonates, deep time rock clocks, earthquakes, fossils, ground water, the icy Earth, meteorites, the ocean, and volcanoes.

Here are some of the things I saw and learned:

- Carbonates fizz when acid is applied.
- After I charted a number of rocks through deep time, the person working the station gave me a piece of 60 million year old fluorite from Jamestown, Colorado.
- I learned that short, wide-based structures withstand earthquakes better.
- I got to look at a fossil of a *Leptomeryx* (a small deer-like mammal from the late Eocene) under a microscope.
- Ground water seeps through more porous material faster than less porous material.



- I got to touch an ice core sample from Greenland. I had to wear gloves.
- Meteorites are magnetic and some have regmaglypts, thumbprint-like depressions.
- The ocean becomes more acidic as CO₂ gets pumped into the air, which makes corals' skeletons more brittle.
- Volcanoes have two main types. A shield volcano is low to the ground and more dome-like. A composite volcano is more like a mountain and high off the ground.

I had a really fun time and hope I get to go back next year.

Editor's note: Quin is a fourth-grade homeschooler who enjoys learning about the many types of minerals, what they look and feel like, and how they were formed.

Member Name Tags

Would you like a Flatirons Mineral Club name tag to wear at club events and field trips? The club places orders for name tags several times a year for members.

If you would like a name tag, please log onto our website and choose the "Request a Name Tag" link in the Members Area. Add your name to the list as you want it to appear on your name tag, and it will be ordered for you. Your first name tag is free!



Example of a club name tag

Elimia tenera: The Snails in “Turritella Agate”

Dennis Gertenbach

One of our club’s field trips in June is to Kemmerer, Wyoming, to collect fossil fish. On the way home, we will stop at the “Turritella agate” site on the Delaney Rim, south of Wamsutter, Wyoming, in Sweetwater County. A plate of fossil snails from the site is shown in Figure 1 is from the site. When these plates of fossil snails are cut parallel to the bedding plane, they reveal beautiful layers of gastropods like those in Figure 2. These plates of snail fossils are widely sought by rockhounds as “Turritella agate.”



Figure 1. So-called “Turritella agate” from Delaney Rim south of Wamsutter, Wyoming, composed of *Elimia tenera* snails.



Figure 2. Cut “Turritella agate” exposing a layer of *Elimia tenera* snails.

A Snail with Many Names

“Turritella agate” is a misnomer. These snails are not fossil *Turritella*. *Turritella* are marine snails, while these snails lived in freshwater. And “Turritella agate” is not agate, either; it is chalcedony (microcrystalline silica). Agate is banded chalcedony and “Turritella agate” is not banded.

These gastropods (the technical name for snails) were originally described by James Hall in 1845 as *Cerithium tenerum*. As can be seen in the individual snails in Figure 4, each whorl has a series of parallel ridges. This species has wide variation in surface markings, and some specimens have vertical ridges, too. John Hanley studied this variation in his 1974 doctoral thesis and concluded that this variation was due to environmental conditions, not genetics.



After further study, Charles White renamed this species *Goniobasis tenera* in 1876. However, the genus *Goniobasis* was first described by Isaac Lea in 1862, while the genus *Elimia* was first described by Henry and Arthur Adams in 1854. Once it was realized that *Goniobasis* and *Elimia* were the same genus, *Elimia* became the accepted name because it was

Figure 4. Individual *Elimia tenera* gastropods showing its surface markings from Delaney Rim, Wyoming.

(Continued on page 8)

These gastropods are found in the Laney Member of the Green River Formation in southwestern Wyoming, northeastern Utah, and northwestern Colorado, deposited in the ancient freshwater lakes known as Lake Gosiute and Lake Uinta (Figure 3) during the Eocene Epoch about 48 million years ago. Today’s Delaney Rim runs along the eastern edge of ancient Lake Gosiute.



Figure 3. The three Eocene lakes that created the Green River Formation, public domain.

Once it was realized that *Goniobasis* and *Elimia* were the same genus, *Elimia* became the accepted name because it was

described earlier. Now, most paleontologists refer to this species as *Elimia tenera*.

The Lifestyle of *Elimia tenera*

When visiting the Delaney Rim site, one is struck by the huge number of *Elimia tenera* fossils lying on the ground, both as individual fossils and as plates of snail shells. Did these gastropods accumulate over a short period of time – say tens or hundreds of years – or did it take thousands of years for this many snails to live and die in Lake Gosiute?

To answer this question, one can turn to the several species of *Elimia* still living today. All are small gastropods that live in fresh water, eating periphyton (green algae and diatoms) using their radulas to scrape their food from hard surfaces. All mollusks except bivalves (clams, oysters, and scallops) have a radula, a tongue-like organ with tiny teeth that scrapes and cuts food (Figure 5). So, we can assume that *Elimia tenera* fed on algae, and indeed, fossil stromatolites formed from algae are found within a mile of the site. Also, modern *Elimia* live in large groups quite close to each other. One stream in Tennessee was found to have 900 living snails per square meter. So, it is possible that the bed of *Elimia tenera* on Delaney Rim could have accumulated in a relatively short period of time, or it may have taken thousands of years. Further study is needed to answer this question.

Just how many *Elimia tenera* fossils are there on Delaney Rim? Allmon (2009) estimated that the bed containing the famous “Turritella agate” is probably a maximum of about 40 centimeters (16 inches) thick and extends approximately 50 square kilometers (20 square miles). With a shell density of one shell per cubic centimeter (about 15 shells per cubic inch), there may be about 1 trillion individual fossil shells in just this bed. Considering that there are about 8 billion humans living on earth, that’s a lot of snails!

References and Further Reading

Allmon, Warren D. (2009) “The Natural (and Not-So-Natural) History of “Turritella Agate”.” *Rocks and Minerals*, v. 84, n. 2, p. 160-165. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c9f919e94d71a2bab6d18d8/t/5e5d2274274f4329b7cebb62/1583161973466/2009+Rocks%26Minerals.pdf>

Hall, J. (1845) “Descriptions of Organic Remains Collected by Captain J. C. Frémont, in the Geographical Survey of Oregon and North California” in Frémont, J. C., *Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842, and to Oregon and North California*, Gales and Seaton, Washington, pp. 304-310. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/120940>

Hanley, J.H. (1974) *Systematics, Paleoecology, and Biostratigraphy of Non-marine Mollusca from the Green River and Wasatch Formations (Eocene), Southwestern Wyoming and Northwestern Colorado*, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Wyoming, 285 p.

USGS Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species website, “*Elimia livescens*.” <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2233#:~:text=This%20species%20grazes%20on%20periphyton,fish%2C%20ducks%2C%20and%20crayfish.>

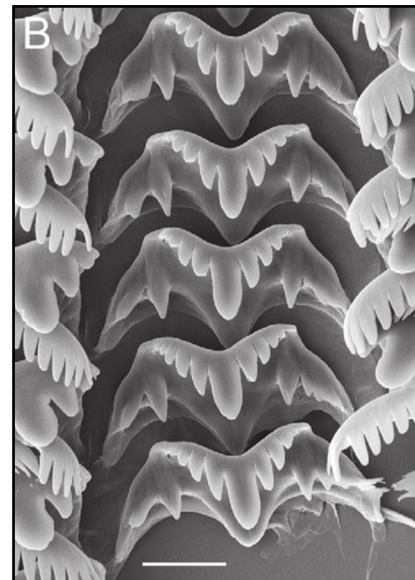


Figure 5. Radula of *Marstonia comalensis*, a modern algae-eating gastropod, scale bar is 10 μ m.

Credit: Robert Hershler & Hsiu-Ping Liu, [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported](#)

Join the club on the Wyoming field trip, June 27-29, and collect your own *Elimia tenera* fossils.

A Twist of Silver: Our Wire Wrapping Experience

Rebecca & Axel Gray

We (Axel, age 10, and mom Rebecca) stepped into the Frasier Parlor at Mountain View United Methodist Church and straight into what felt like a treasure hunt already in progress. The room buzzed with energy. Flatirons Mineral Club members huddled around tables, letting out soft “oohs” and “ahhs” as they picked through polished stones. We’d signed up for the club’s wire wrapping class, taught by Caren Johannes. Her pieces have a beautiful sense of movement and flow, and she teaches with patience, humor, and just the right amount of chaos. She brought her whole crew: her daughter, Amethyst, who helped guide us through the steps, and her husband, Bob, who cuts and shapes the stones and quietly keeps the whole operation running behind the scenes.

We each picked two polished cabochons—smooth, domed stones with flat backs. One to wrap in class, one to take home. We happened to sit next to a table of stones for sale, which made it very easy to “just take a peek”... and somehow leave with several. I (Rebecca) chose a green-and-white fluorite/amethyst from the Nancy Hawk Claim in Unaweep Canyon. I didn’t know it was a Colorado native when I picked it, but that only made me love it more. Then, mid-wrap, I realized it might have been better suited for a fourth or fifth pendant, not my very first. Axel, on the other hand, knew right away. He picked a deep purple amethyst that shimmered every time it caught the light.



The class



Caren teaching.

When we sat down, everything was ready: tools laid out, two bags of silver wire, and a finished pendant at each station for reference. We later learned the “stones” in those samples were actually repurposed chunks of bowling ball that Bob had cut and polished—and yes, they were gorgeous. Caren walked us through the basics: square wire for the frame, thinner half-round wire for wrapping. Wire cutters, forceps, pliers. We measured, cut, and straightened the square wire by hand, a task that left our fingers a little sore. Caren and Amethyst both admitted this is their least favorite step. “Best done while watching TV,” they advised.



Axel measuring.



Axel cutting.



Sample pendants



Using pliers to attach the stone

As the afternoon went on, things got trickier. Caren and Amethyst circled the room, gently helping reshape wires and encouraging us along. The hardest part came at the end, tucking in all the wire ends without shifting the stone or distorting the shape. Both of us hit the same wall here. Figuring out where those final strands should land took longer than expected. Axel managed a much more graceful wrap than Rebecca. Caren reminded us more than once, "It's better to finish than be perfect." I (Rebecca) wasn't even aiming for perfect—I just wanted to make sense of where all 14 wires were supposed to go.

My pendant ended up a bit bulkier than planned, but I finished.

By the end of class, everyone in the room held something real - a pendant they had shaped with their own hands. We left tired, proud, and already planning how to wrap our second stones. Now, when we see a wire-wrapped pendant, we won't just admire how it looks. We'll be thinking about the quiet wrestling match it took to create it—and wondering how the artist handled their final twist.



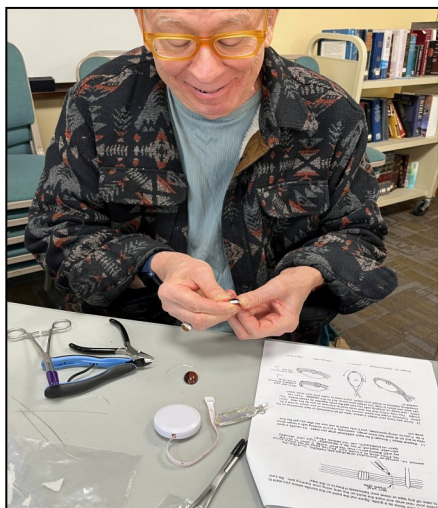
Our finished pendants



Pendant in progress

More Photos from the Wire Wrapping Class

Thank you Caren, Amethyst, and Bob for sharing your talents with our club. Here are a few more photos from the class.



Getting started



Axel working on his pendant.



The class shows off their completed first projects.

Photos from Caren Johannes

Safety: Protection from the Sun

At our high elevation, we need to be even more aware of protecting ourselves from the sun when on field trips this summer. Be sure to follow these guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



Credit: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, public domain

2025 Silent Auction Results

Gerry Naugle, club treasurer, reports that the club cleared a record amount of \$951.95 at the club's annual Silent Auction held on April 8th at the Mountain View Church. We had 46 sellers and buyers at the auction. And the club extends a special thank you to Ron Yamiolkoski and the Fluorescent Mineral Society (Steve Woje) for their exceptional donations to the club, which fetched approximately \$200 between them.

Many thanks to all of the club volunteers who helped run the auction and to all our members and attendees who purchased items at the auction.

Nominate a Club Member for Rockhound of the Year

Each year, the club honors an active member or husband-and-wife team who has contributed to the success of the Flatirons Mineral Club. Our first Rockhound of the Year was honored in 2002, and each year since, a club member or couple has been selected as our Rockhound of the Year by the club membership.

Recipients for this honor are first nominated by club members. Please consider nominating someone this year - perhaps someone who leads field trips, helps organize the club show, assists with club meetings, or helps with the Jr. Geologists. A nomination form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Please return your nomination to Gerry Naugle by July 15. It can be mailed to Flatirons Mineral Club, P.O. Box 3331 Boulder, CO 80307-3331, or emailed to Gerry at gnaugle@earthlink.net.

Field Trip Report: Front Range Geothermal Tour and Argo Mine and Tunnel Visit

Part 1: Front Range Geothermal Tour The club had 12 members attending this portion of the May 3rd tour, which covered the same stop-and-talk-spots that were described in the original 2024 tour led by CSM Geology Professor, Dr. Steven Sonnenberg.

Numerous examples of how the Lyons Sandstone and Fountain Formations were laid down during the Paleozoic Era were seen and discussed near to the town of Morrison. Then the outcrops of the Colorado Mineral Belt hydrothermal zones (past and present altering) were examined, including metamorphic bending and folding. The altering of exposed strata by hydrothermal fluids was witnessed and discussed at the remaining stops, which ended at noon just west of Idaho Springs.

If anyone would like a copy of the FMC Geothermal Narrative, which was the basis of this phase of this field trip, just send an email request to Gerry Naugle, at gnaugle@earthlink.net.



Quin and Andrew examine Genessee Marble with Bob and Niva looking on.



Pyrite and molybdenite from the Colorado Mineral Belt

Part 2: Argo Mine Visit There were 20 FMC attendees for the Saturday afternoon 2:00 guided tour the Argo Mine and Tunnel, located on the north side of Clear Creek at Idaho Springs. Attendees learned all about the mining history of the area, where an incredible \$2.2 trillion dollars worth of gold was extracted. Entrepreneurs built the Argo Tunnel to help mine owners drain the groundwater from their mines (for a fee). The site expanded into all areas of gold ore processing, taking an ever larger cut of the profits in exchange for convenience, until gold mining was declared non-essential in WWII. We toured the ore processing facilities and a museum with mining artifacts from the Gold Rush era. At the end of the tour, we all learned how to pan for gold and got a little touch of gold fever!

We thank Gerry Naugle for leading the first half of this trip and Jasper Selden for coordinating the second half of the day.



The Argo Mill



Touring the Argo Tunnel



Quin panning for gold

Photos by Jennifer Armstrong and Jasper Seldin

RMFMS and AFMS News: Come to the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention in September

Our club is part of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and this year their annual convention is in Grand Junction on September 19-21. It is held in conjunction with the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club's annual gem, mineral, and rock show.

Why come to the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention?

- Attend the Grand Junction club's gem, mineral, and rock show on Saturday and Sunday. There will be over 40 vendors, plus exhibits featuring beautiful rocks, minerals, and fossils, kids' activities and grab bags for sale, lapidary and silversmithing demonstrations, fluorescent room, silent auction, food trucks, and more. Cost is \$5 a day.
- Attend the Rocky Mountain Conference's banquet on Saturday evening and breakfast on Sunday morning.
- Join three free field trips, one each day. See below for information about each trip.
- Visit some of the other great rock-related sites in the area, including the Dinosaur Journey Museum in nearby Fruita and the beautiful Colorado National Monument. If you are traveling with elementary-school aged kids, you might like to take them to the Eureka! McConnell Science Museum.
- Set up a display at the rock show. Both competitive and non-competitive display cases are featured.

Field Trips

Friday's trip will head to Douglas Pass to collect Eocene-age insect and plant fossils. On Saturday, you can collect Yellowcat agates that take a good polish. Sunday is a trip to the Book Cliffs to collect the famous Book Cliffs barite, plus there is lots of calcite there, too.

For details about the convention, including how to sign up for the different activities this weekend, see the Rocky Mountain Federation website at <https://www.rmfmts.org/> and the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club website at <https://www.grandjunctionrockclub.org/shows/>.

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. 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.

79th Annual!

Gem, Mineral & Rock Show

September 20-21, 2025
Mesa County Fairgrounds
Grand Junction, Colorado



Beautiful Barite

Also: Hosting the RMFMS Convention! Sept 19-21

Gems - Minerals - Fossils - Rocks - Jewelry - Geodes - 40 Vendors
Kids Activities - Silent Auction - Food Trucks - Grab Bags - More!

September 20 9am-5pm & September 21 10am-4pm, 2025
Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction Colorado
2785 US-50, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Entry: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors and Military, Kids <12 Free.

Mineral specimen and photo by: Jim Schultz

Presented by the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club.
For more info, see: www.grandjunctionrockclub.org/shows
The GJGMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing scholarships to earth science students



Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

Here are other events and activities in the area that may be of interest. Thanks to Pete Modreski for providing information about many of these events.

May 10 (Saturday) Come to the Mines Museum of Earth Science in Golden for a presentation and book launch party with geologist, archaeologist, and historian **Mark S. Hanson** for his new book **Tarryall Gold: From Rush to Hush**, 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Free. <https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/event/tarryall-gold/>

May 17 (Saturday) The Colorado Chapter of the **Friends of Mineralogy** will hold a **Silent Auction** (and some vocal stuff, too) of minerals, rocks, fossils, books, etc. on Saturday afternoon at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church (7530 W. 38th Ave.) approximately noon to 4 pm. All are welcome. See their website at <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/events/> for details.

June 6-8 (Friday-Sunday) is the 61st annual **Pikes Peak Gem and Mineral Show** at the Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Road, Colorado Springs, sponsored by the **Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**. Times are 10-6 on Friday and Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday. Admission is \$5. <https://pikespeakgemshow.com/>



June 7 (Saturday) The **Mines Museum of Earth Science** is holding a free **Mineral Identification Day** from 1 to 4 pm, 1310 Maple Street in Golden. 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. See https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/event/mineral_id_day/2025-06-07/ for details.

June 12-16 (Thursday-Monday) The **Friends of Mineralogy** Colorado Chapter is pleased to announce their symposium featuring **Specimen Mines of the United States**. The symposium will be held at the Mines Museum of Earth Science & Berthoud Hall at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. For more information, see <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium/>.



June 20-22 (Friday-Sunday) The annual **Victor Gem & Mineral Show** be held in downtown historic Victor and is open and free to the public. The show will include vendors from across the state selling Colorado minerals. Items for sale will include polished gems, hand-crafted jewelry, rough slabs, specimens, cabochons, geodes, and more. There will also be gold and gem panning at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. Show hours are from 9 to 5 Friday and Saturday and 9 to 4 on Sunday. <https://stcfg.com/gem-and-mineral-show/>

Weld County Gem and Mineral Society Rock Sale

The Weld County Gem and Mineral Society received a LOT of rocks from the family of a club member who passed away some years ago. When we originally moved them, it was approximately 15 tons. We are opening them up for sale to other clubs at \$2 a pound, up to 25 pounds. After 25 pounds, \$1.50 a pound. It is a mixture of petrified wood, agates, jaspers, stromatolites, rhyolites, turritella and more. It is at our property at 23510 Co Rd 48, La Salle, CO 80645. If someone wants to come out, we ask that they contact us at 612-850-3776 to set up a meeting time. We are available most days and evenings if alerted ahead of time.

We also have some project equipment as well. Any reasonable offer will be accepted. All of this equipment needs work or is for parts.

Officers, Directors, and Other Volunteers

President

Brian Walko, 303-931-4283
bwalko@earthextractions.com

1st Vice President: Program Co-chairs

Markus Raschke, 303-499-9157
markus.raschke@colorado.edu
Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830
gnaugle@earthlink.net

2nd Vice President: Field Trip Chair

Jasper Seldin, 408-821-0240
jseldin@gmail.com

Secretary

Sharon Dooley
smandodooley@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830
gnaugle@earthlink.net

Board of Directors

Term expires in 2026

Tally O'Donnell, 303-494-6061
phantom@indra.com
Anita Colin, 720-556-9889
anitacolin@hotmail.com
Dennis Gertenbach, 303-709-8218
gertenbach1@gmail.com

Term expires in 2025

Andrew MacGregor, 720-988-3259
andrew.d.macgregor@gmail.com
Charlotte Bourg, 970-278-0975
Rckhnd4252@gmail.com
Brad Willkomm, 303 249-8877
bpwillkomm@yahoo.com

Membership

Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830
gnaugle@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor

Dennis Gertenbach, 303-709-8218
gertenbach1@gmail.com

Web Master

Brian Walko, 303-931-4283
bwalko@earthextractions.com

Scholarship

Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830
gnaugle@earthlink.net

Junior Geologists

Dennis Gertenbach, 303-709-8218
gertenbach1@gmail.com

Denver Council Representative

Tally O'Donnell, 303-494-6061
phantom@indra.com

Denver Show Committee

Anita Colin, 720-556-9889
anitacolin@hotmail.com

Facebook Chair

Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830
gnaugle@earthlink.net

Meeting Door Prizes

Sharon Dooley
smandodooley@gmail.com

Grab Bags

Anita Colin, 720-556-9889
anitacolin@hotmail.com
Charlotte Bourg, 970-278-0975
rckhnd4252@gmail.com

Club Show Committee Members

Show Chair

Brian Walko, 303-931-4283
bwalko@earthextractions.com

Show Volunteer Chair

Charlotte Bourg, 970-278-0975
rckhnd4252@gmail.com

Show Dealer Chair

Andrew MacGregor, 720-988-3259
andrew.d.macgregor@gmail.com

Show Advertising and Admissions

Gerry Naugle, 303-591-2830
gnaugle@earthlink.net

Show Kid's Corner Chair

Charlotte Bourg, 970-278-0975
rckhnd4252@gmail.com

Denver Show Club Table

Anita Colin, 720-556-9889
anitacolin@hotmail.com

A friendly reminder to pay your 2025 annual dues

Dues are still only \$18 for individual and family membership. 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 to report the problem. You will be contacted after we resolve the problem.)

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.



Your 2025 dues must be received by January 20th, 2025, in order to stay current with the member benefits, which include electronic club newsletters containing information about club activities, club field trips, annual show opportunities, silent auction opportunities, the annual club summer picnic, and access to the club website. Your receipt is your new annual 2025 FMC membership card.

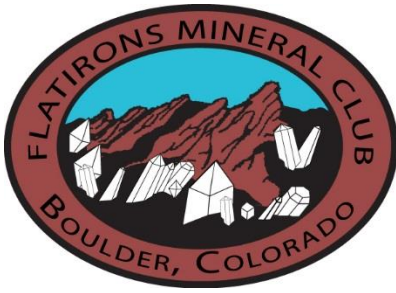


Flatirons Facets
P.O. Box 3331
Boulder, CO 80307-3331

First Class Mail

Upcoming Events

Date	Activity	Location
Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm	Club meeting featuring our 2025 field trips, page 2	Mountain View United Methodist Church in Boulder
Saturday, May 27	Wood's Quarry Loop geology hike, page 3	West of Boulder
Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 pm	Jr. Geologists Meeting, working on the Stone Age Tools and Art Badge, page 5	Mountain View United Methodist Church in Boulder
Sunday, June 8	Sugarloaf Mountain field trip to collect fluorite, druzy quartz, ferri-ferite and others, page 3	Sugarloaf Mountain west of Boulder
Tuesday, June 10	Club meeting to stuff specimens for grab bags, page 2	Mountain View United Methodist Church in Boulder
Friday-Sunday, June 27-29	Field trip to Kemmerer to collect fossil fish and Wamsutter to collect Turritella agate and stromatolites, page 3	Kemmerer and Wamsutter in western Wyoming



Flatirons Mineral Club

P.O. Box 3331

Boulder, CO 80307

fmc.boulder@gmail.com

2025 Ballot for FMC / RMFMS / AFMS 'Rockhound of the Year'

The club membership each year honors an active member, or a husband and wife team who have made substantial accomplishment during the past year in promoting and furthering the FMC goals, as per the club's "Mission Statement" which is outlined in the Club By-laws.

Since the inception of new version of this program in 2002, the annual FMC recipients have been: Charlotte Morrison (2002), Paul & Martha Ralston (2003), Ray & Dorothy Horton (2004), John & Jeanne Hurst (2005), Ray & Joyce Gilbert (2006), Chuck & Jan Buda (2007), Cory Olin co-tie with Hallie & Dot Cook (2008), Shaula Lee (2009), Anita Colin co-tie with Gabi Accatino (2010), Mel & Charlotte Bourg (2011), Deborah Knox (2012), Ed Raines & Silvia Pettem (2013), Mike Smith (2014), Tally O'Donnell (2015), Dennis Gertenbach (2016), Trick Runions (2017), Jean Orr (2018), Craig Hazelton (2019), Brian Walko 2020, Suzanne Peach 2021, Will Rehm 2022, Tony Bubb 2023 and Howard Gordon in 2024.

Please list your 2025 nominee below. You can also vote by several electronic means. All voting information is confidential and will be tallied and is then erased /or/ paper is shredded by Gerry Naugle. The FMC annual winners' names are sent to the RMFMS and AFMS offices for publication in their res-pective newsletters. Note: The annual FMC winner(s) are also inducted into, and their names are engraved onto the FMC Hall of Fame (*HOF*) Plaque.

Your 2025 nomination is: _____

The person (or) persons should be honored because of (brief summary):

Submitted by, please print _____

Please return this paper ballot to Gerry Naugle (use the above letterhead address) by July 15th or by (the easiest means possible) by sending an e-mail to: gnaugle@earthlink.net

Voting results will be announced and the HOF Plaque will be at the **2025 annual club picnic** at the **Harlow Platts Park - Pavillion**, 1496 Gillespie Drive in 80305, on **Sat, Aug 23rd**
More info on the picnic in subsequent club newsletter, and the picnic starts at 11:00am of that day.

Thanks for participating !