

38th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Barnett Arena in Rapid City, SD

Field Trips for the 2018 Show - Here are four planned trips. There should be more forthcoming as we move closer to the show date.

Wednesday July 18, 2018 – Antelope Ridge

This is an easy walking area and is very accessible from the road. You will find sponge coral on this field trip. Departure time to be determined.

Thursday July 19, 2018 – Black Hills National Forest / Hill City area

This field trip is centered around the Hill City region. It consists of two parts where each part explores distinct geological activity all within several mile radius. The region is in close proximity to Mount Rushmore National Park; the trip locations, however, are located with the Black Hills National Forest.

The first stop will be Blackberry Trail. This is a contact metamorphic region where most of the Cambrian rock has been upthrust and metamorphosed through heat and pressure. One should expect to find pyrite, feldspar, mica schist, mica and biotite as well as some other metamorphic materials along a stream bed. The trails are somewhat rugged. Hiking boots and jeans suggested.

The second stop will be sand caves. Aptly, no formal name for the spot, but a favorite where trilobites of Cambrian origin can be found. This was a site intended to mine fracking sand, however, the sand particles did not meet the specifications and tunneling was discontinued. Several short, interconnected caves are present and some rough terrain hiking can be had. Hiking boots and jeans suggested; bring a high intensity flashlight for photography.

The rally point will be the Civic Center parking lot 0800. Expect to depart by 0830. Maps will be handed out prior to departing.

Monday July 23, 2018– Railroad Butte/Farmingdale

Farmingdale is about 25 minutes east of Rapid City and is part of the National Grasslands recreation areas. You will be able to find agates (prairie agates and possibly one of those illusive Fairburn agates), coral, petrified wood, chalcedony and other treasures. The area is accessible by car, but if the weather has been on the wet side, you will want to make sure that you keep your vehicle on the trails or in the gravel parking areas. Since this area is prairie and our summers can be quite warm, remember to bring water for drinking and a spray bottle with sufficient water to bring out the 'color' in your finds. Sturdy shoes and jeans are also recommended because there can be knee high grass and the slithery creatures that reside in the grasslands. We will meet at the Civic Center at 8am and depart at 8:30am. Maps will be provided at the Civic Center on the day of the field trip.

If you have a smart phone and would like to download a map of the National Grasslands area, download the "Avenza" app and download the Buffalo Gap NG – Fall River Ranger District MVUM map.

Tuesday July 24, 2018 – Conata

Some of the things you will be able to find on the field trip to Conata Basin are prairie agates, petrified wood, Fairburn agates, coral and a lot of other beautiful rocks. Meeting time has not been determined. More information forthcoming.

Be safe and Be kind to the land

Bring water to drink, food to eat, chairs to rest, sunscreen to not burn, tools, buckets and anything else you might need.