

Revised GEODE FEST

3 Day Bus Trip – Keokuk, IA / Hamilton, IL

Transportation is via a 56 passenger Cardinal Motor Coach provided by the club September 26 through September 28, 2014. We will be going back and forth over the Mississippi River in pursuit of the famous beautiful Keokuk geodes (and some fossils) found in the area. We are very pleased to hear 2 more collecting sites have been opened up as of this past September on private land. This is the 10th year for the Geode fest and in talking to the coordinator, he said they are planning a lot of activities for 2014. He does remember us from the last time we were there. How can you miss a 56 passenger bus! People come from all over the USA for this event. We will be collecting at 2 places on Saturday the 27th and 1 place the morning of the 28th before starting home. As of this writing I have 21 seats left. **Do not sign up to go if there is any doubt of another commitment that weekend!** It is not fair to other members for block room rate or seating. I do not keep a standby list!

The following is a brief itinerary for those going on this weekend field trip. It is rain or shine, lots of fun and good collecting.

Friday, September 26th we meet at the Meijer's Store located at S.R. 331 S. (Union St.), Mishawaka, IN 46544. We board at 3:45 p.m. and leave promptly at 4:00 p.m. There will be one quick stop on the way to Keokuk where our motel is located, arrival time between 9 and 10:00 p.m

Saturday we board the bus at 6:45 a.m. (Remember the time change), to report to the Chaney Creek Access area across the River to register in at 7:00 a.m. At 8:00 a.m. we are on our way for a full day of collecting. Late afternoon we return to our motel to rest up or go swimming in the motel's heated pool, then clean up for dinner.

Reservations have been made for a private dining room at the Hawkeye Restaurant (where we have been before) for 7:00 p.m. It is only 2 block from our motel, so some of you may even wish to walk it if you still have energy and it's a nice night.

Sunday we board the bus at 8:00 a.m. and we're off to collecting at 9:00 a.m. After a good morning of collecting we head back home. Arrival time is approximately 6:00 p.m.

YOUR COST:

We are staying at the Hampton Inn. I have reserved 20 rooms at block room rate. The cost for your 2 nights is \$199.36 (this includes tax). You must tell them to put your room under **MICHIANA GROUP** for the block and rate. Their phone number is 1-319-524-6700. When you get your reservation, let me know your confirmation number. Please try to do this by the end of February. The motel is only 7 years old, serve a hot and cold breakfast with a variety of food and an indoor swimming pool. The block of rooms has 2 queen beds to a room.

The Hawkeye Restaurant – with private dining offers us a buffet dinner consisting of 2 entrees; cat fish and fired chicken, comes with a full salad bar, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, green beans, dinner rolls, dessert, coffee, water, tea. The price is \$12.95 adult, 12 and under \$6.75 and 3 under, free. Each person or family is responsible for paying their own meal. The food is great, our club has enjoyed their food before.

The Geode Fest registration fee is \$20 (single person) or \$30 (family fee) for hunting. Some of the sites are on private property not normally open to general public for geode hunting.

An additional fee of \$20 / 5 gallon bucket will be collected at each site. YOU have to provide the buckets. BE PICKY, YOUR LOOKING FOR LIGHT WEIGHT GEODES THAT ARE HOLLOW INSIDE! Also since we are so close to the Mississippi River, there are fossils in the area.

I will have printed up copies of the Registration forms for member going to fill out. I would like to send them in early with the fees to save time and confusion on arrival. Those who have gone before have never been disappointed and have come home with “gooooood stuff”!

WHAT TO BRING:

Food Brown bag dinner for Friday night unless you grab a quick fast food when we make our pit stop along the way. A brown bag lunch for Saturday, we will eat at the sites. Snacks for on the bus or in your motel room. A small cooler for on the bus to fit under the seat for pop, water. regular shoes....You must have shoes for the bus that are not your collecting shoes or boots. We are responsible for not trashing the bus with muddy shoes or boots.

Collecting shoes/boots and clothes that are comfortable to collect in. Be aware of the weather.

Buckets for your geodes

Rock collecting tools, gloves, eyeglasses

SPACE IS LIMITED BECAUSE OF WEIGHT AND STORAGE. Don't get carried away with a whole bunch of extra stuff, for example, huge coolers, chairs, etc.

When we went on our last 3 day field trip, there was so much extra “stuff” there was hardly any space for our specimens.

Kathy