

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



March 2016 Volume 56 Number 3

Next Meeting 03/20

# THE ROCKFINDER

**We're on the Web! See us at: [www.MichianaGMS.org](http://www.MichianaGMS.org)**

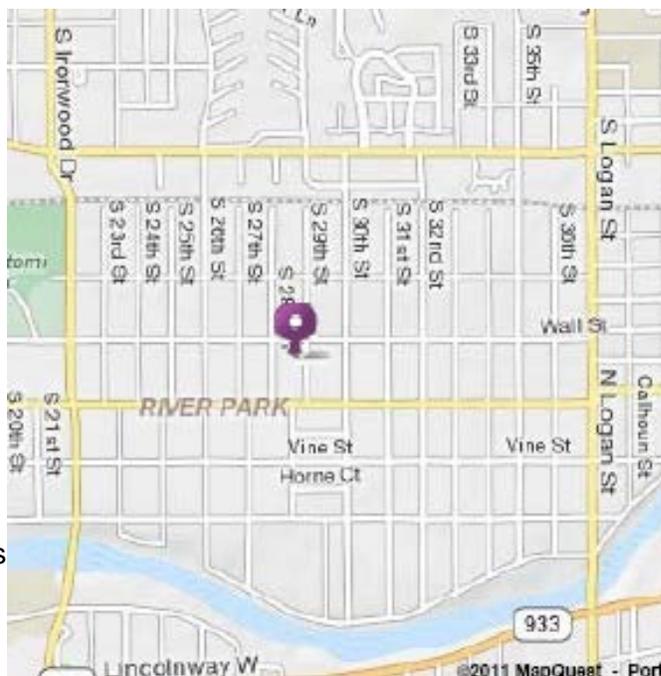
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
805 S. 29th St.,  
South Bend, IN.  
Please see the map to the right.

Doors usually open at 1:30 for meet & greet time.

Regular meeting exceptions include May (third Sunday), July (Club Picnic), August (Club Show) and the November/December meeting and Christmas party.

Board meetings are held before the monthly meetings. The annual club show is in late August.



**DUES**

Yearly Membership Dues are payable by December 15th of each year. Please choose type of membership below.

- Individual \$15.00       Family \$20.00
- Junior \$1.00           Subscriber \$7.50

Please indicate areas of special interest.

- General Geology       Gems & Minerals
- Fossils                       Micro mounts
- Crystals                     Field Trips
- Cabochons                 Faceting
- Carving                     Beads
- Jewelry Making

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, ST, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please send your dues and the bottom half of this form to:



Please read and sign this section

With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., and its individual members and the owners of any premises upon which I enter under permit granted to the society, absolutely free of any liability whatsoever, to my person or property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
c/o Diane Gram  
16301 Wild Cherry Dr  
Granger, IN 46530

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Volume 56 Number 3  
March 2016

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Michiana Gem and Mineral Society  
[www.MichianaGMS.org](http://www.MichianaGMS.org), is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/> and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

The *Rockfinder* is published monthly except July and August.

Please note that all items for a given issue of the *Rockfinder* are due to the **Editor** no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the March Issue will be February 5<sup>th</sup>. Advance items are appreciated. Material may be e-mailed to [hefner\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto:hefner_family@hotmail.com) or submitted via the U.S. Mail.

Editor:  
Jason Hefner  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524

Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles as long as recognition is given along with the reprint.

REMEMBER – Items in The Rockfinder that are **BLUE & UNDERLINED** are links to the internet or email addresses. Just click on them for more information.



## President's Message - President Bill Foreman

Hello everyone!

I am pleased to see such a big turnout for our MSHA class on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. We had a full house, and welcomed members from other clubs who wanted their certification. My thanks to our presenter Jason Hefner for his concise and entertaining program, and thanks too to John Davis for taking care of all the arrangements for this annual must-attend session. It is fast becoming a requirement to have an MSHA certificate for all quarries in the US, but the information in this class pertains to all types of collecting. Safety and first-aid knowledge is invaluable for all field work, even fee-digs.

One new member at the class was asking about where to purchase collecting tools. I may have covered this in other letters, but it bears repeating. When buying tools, you get what you pay for. I am not a big fan of Chinese made steel tools, or tools purchased at Harbor Freight (no offense, Harbor Freight!). Good tools may be found locally at stores like Lowes and Menards, and other hardware and tool suppliers. Continued on Page 2

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: March 20, 2016** Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30. Meeting starts at 2:00.

**Place:**  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
(29<sup>th</sup> & Wall)  
South Bend, IN. (This is in River Park)

**Program:** John Jaworski

Host & Hostess(s) : Bill/Nancy Foreman, Dennis/Holly Krafter, Mel/Sherrill Glick

## Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman  
574-233-9178

Vice-President: Randy Hill  
269-465-5814

Secretary: Jan Pellus  
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Diane Gram  
574-588-2665

Liaison: Bob Bell  
574-233-7352

## Committee Chairs

Displays: Mike Skoczylas  
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner  
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Facebook: Danielle Wilborn  
574-344-3385

Field Trips: John Davis  
574-232-8823

Historian: open

Hospitality:  
Linda Miller 574-291-5027  
Marsha Miller 574-498-6513

Juniors: Trista McIntosh  
574-780-1162

Librarian: Bill Foreman  
574-233-9178

Membership: Nancy Foreman  
574-233-9178

Programs: Kathy Miller (Interim)  
574-291-0332

Publicity: Nick Pellus  
574-264-4772

Safety: Julie Wieger 574-291-2597  
Jennifer Hefner 574-858-9837

Show Chair: John Davis 574-232-8823

Sunshine: Annette Freel 574-293-8193,  
Sherrie Kobie 574-522-0189

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

## President's Message Continued from page 1

Look for well-known names...I have had luck with Kobalt tools, but try to find American-made items to guarantee quality steel. I also recommend suppliers like Kingsley North who offer Estwing tools and other proven makers. Crack hammers, cross peen hammers, chisels and pry bars take a lot of abuse, and must be checked and maintained throughout the season. Small pieces of steel can fly off of badly maintained tools and seriously injure you or another rockhound nearby. That is why you must have the basic safety equipment such as hardhats, safety glasses, steel-toed shoes, and sturdy long pants. Leather gloves and ear protection are also recommended.

Another club member was wondering where else other than quarries they can hunt. There are hundreds of places nationwide that offer the opportunity to find gemstones, agates, geodes, etc. Some are fee-dig spots where a private business provides you with a maintained location and tools and amenities on site. Spots like Richardsons Rock ranch in Oregon for thundereggs, Spokane Bar in Montana for sapphire, and Mt. Ida in Arkansas for quartz are examples of fee-digs. More adventurous folks want more self-directed spots where they may have to trek off road and locate less traveled spots. Our club library offers guide books and pamphlets which give info on where to search, and tools like Google Earth and a good field GPS can help you find spots recommended by other rockhounds. Internet sites like mindat.org are good places to check for locations others have hunted. Make sure you are not violating private property or private claims by doing a little research. And don't forget to ask other MGMS members for tips on where to look. Most of our members are more than willing to share info. If you are traveling to another state, check online for a rock and gem club in the area you will be visiting...they know the best spots, some of which may not be published in books. They will also know private parties who have allowed limited collecting by trusted club members and their friends.

As our collecting season comes around, I would like to speak to the issue of bus trips. Our club usually offers a bus trip every two years to places like Keokuk IA (Geode Festival) or Irvine KY (agate) enjoying the great outdoors and the companionship of other rockhounds. These trips are usually by Cardinal bus, who take care of the driving and give us a cushy, safe round trip. The club foots the bill for the transportation, so we ask that those who want to take advantage of the bus be ACTIVE MEMBERS. Our Club Bylaws define an active member as a member in good standing (paid-up dues) who has participated in at least three activities or events of the Society, with exceptions to be determined by the Board.

Continued on Page 3

## President's Message Continued from page 2

Attendance of meetings, working the annual show, volunteering for Science Alive or Arbor Fest, or lecturing a class or Scout group...these are the types of activities we expect active members to participate in. You may drive your own vehicle to accompany our bus trips, but the benefits of seating on the bus and guaranteed motel rooms are things to be earned. We do this to encourage participation in the Club's maintenance and growth. We have been blessed with good membership growth and a devoted core of Committee persons and a hard-working board, and our future as a successful club depends on its members.

That's enough preaching by me. I am just hoping that all of you stay safe when collecting, follow the established Ethics of Rockhounding, and bring a little of your individual talents and skills to the Club. There is room for everybody's interests and a place for everybody's skills in this Club. Just be willing to share yourselves...the returns might just surprise you!

Bill Foreman (President, Michiana Gem and Mineral Society)

## February 2016 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

**Members in attendance** / Adults\_50\_\_\_ Children\_\_10\_\_\_ Guest\_\_12\_\_\_

**Call to Order:** President Bill Foreman

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Welcome**

**Secretary report:** Jan Pellus / Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as printed in the Rockfinder

**Treasurer's report:** Marty Perry / Motion made and seconded to accept report

**Liaison report:** Bob Bell / There are several shows coming up, see Bob for more information.

**Parliamentarian:** Bob Miller / No report

Midwest Federation/ Working on the Midwest Federation show preparations.

American Federation/ No report

**American Lands Access:** Tom Noe / the Utah Doug Way geode site is still open. The sage grouse protection bill is huge and has placed many collecting areas in jeopardy. It is important that we contact ALA and our government representatives to protect our rights to access of these lands.

### **Committee Reports**

**Displays:** Mike Skoczylas / Pictures of Science Alive are on the table. Dennis and Holly Kraftor brought information from the Tucson show, and some quartzite specimens from the area. Lynn and Jess Zeiger brought a sample of collection boxes they will be using to go diamond hunting. There is also information on Mason Creek.

**Editor:** Jason Hefner /No report. MSHA training is on March 6.

**Educational:** Jesse Zeiger / We just got an RV, and we will be making a trip to Crater Diamond mines. Bring back a big one!

**Face Book:** Danielle Wilborn / Our face book account is continuing to grow. We need information from members to post.

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## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### **AFMS Springs into Action** excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter](#)

[Volume 69, Number 4 – March, 2016](#)

For those of us who live with a distinct change of seasons, spring is the time when we spring into action. If you are fortunate to live in the southeast and southwest, your hobby is in full swing with field trips and outdoor gatherings. Up north, all those hobby-related activities that we could not do in winter are now possible, even the dreaded spring cleaning.

More than I care to admit, I get asked the same question repeatedly – what does the AFMS do? I would like to think everybody reads every page of the AFMS Newsletter and is up to speed on what we do. The following highlights are for those people who might have missed an issue or two.

\*Lauren Williams and members of the Scholarship Foundation are working to keep scholarship levels the same and our investments on track for 2016. Individuals and clubs may donate to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation throughout the year.

\*The Northwest Federation particularly the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society is working hard as the host club of the next AFMS Convention in Albany, OR from July 27-August 1, 2016! In addition, Doug True is planning an inter-regional field trip around the Convention. [Read the rest here](#)

### **Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News President's Message** by David

Rich, MWF President, excerpted from [MWF News February 2016 - Issue No. 549](#)

Last month, good old Buckeye Chuck said six more weeks of winter and Punxsutawney Phil said an early spring. I am for the early spring.

This time of year I travel to Tucson for the 44 gem shows that go on in early February. On this year's long drive of 2,200 miles, the truck would not shift out of first gear in the middle of New Mexico. So a quick call to the car rental company and, "We are sorry, the office is closed now." Great! So I turned to Google for answers and, boom! there was all the information we needed to coax the truck into Tucson.

Likewise, when you need information about our federation, turn to the directory we publish annually. This publication is a great source of federation information from who's your state director to a complete list of CDs and DVDs in our fantastic program library. It's our federation's "Google." Each club gets a copy, and you should keep a copy in your club library.

The Tucson extravaganza is over and the 44 gem shows are history. If you ever get the chance to visit, be prepared; it is truly a rockhound experience that cannot be compared with anything else on earth.

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#### Purpose of the AFMS

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



#### Purpose of the MWF

To promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of groups interested in these fields.

[www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

## Upcoming Events

**18-20 March 2016:** Jackson, Michigan  
Michigan Gem & Mineral Society 54th  
Annual Show Organized by: Michigan  
Gem & Mineral Society Theme: May  
the Quartz Be With You.  
Jackson County Fairgrounds -  
American One Event Center (200  
West Ganson Street)

**29 April - 1 May 2016:** Kalamazoo,  
Michigan 57th Annual Rock, Gem,  
Fossil, Jewelry & Mineral Show  
Organized by: Kalamazoo Geological  
& Mineral Society Theme: Dinosaurs  
Will Rule. Kalamazoo County Expo  
Center (2900 Lake Street)

### April

**2-3 April 2016: Columbus, Ohio**  
42nd Annual Central Ohio Mineral,  
Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale  
Organized by: [Columbus Rock &  
Mineral Society](#) and the Licking  
County Rock & Mineral Society  
Northland Performing Arts Center  
(4411 Tamarack Boulevard)

**9-10 April 2016: Monroe, Wisconsin**  
46th Annual, Rock, Gem, Mineral &  
Fossil Show Organized by: [Badger  
Lapidary & Geological Society](#)  
Monroe Senior High School (1600 26th  
Street, Monroe)

**9-10 April 2016: Marion, Illinois**  
2016 Gem & Mineral Show  
Organized by: [Southern Illinois Earth  
Science Club](#) Pavilion of the City of  
Marion (1602 Sioux Drive)

**23-24 April 2016: Cuyahoga Falls,  
Ohio (Akron area)** Semi Annual  
Gemboree - Gem, Mineral & Jewelry  
Show Organized by: Akron Mineral  
Society and [Summit Lapidary Club](#)  
Emidio & Sons Expo Center (48 East  
Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls)

**29 April - 1 May 2016: Kalamazoo,  
Michigan** 57th Annual Rock, Gem,  
Fossil, Jewelry & Mineral Show  
Organized by: [Kalamazoo Geological  
& Mineral Society](#) Theme: *Dinosaurs  
Will Rule* Kalamazoo County Expo  
Center (2900 Lake Street)

## February Minutes continued from page 3

**Field Trips:** John Davis / Although we have lost many of our collecting sites, we are looking for new ones. MSHA training will be March 6 at 10:00am. Cost is \$20.00.

The board has approved a one day bus trip to Mason Creek September 10, 2016. Great fossil collecting. See Kathy Miller.

**Historian:** / No Report

**Hospitality:** Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you for the refreshments to Trista McIntosh, Ashley and Andy Pillow, Norma Cherry and Al Alstott, Stan and Marcia Jacobs, Nick and Jan Pellus, and Carol Gargis.

**Juniors:** Trista McIntosh / Our juniors are making Christmas decorations. Please help Trista with her programs.

**Librarian:** Bill Foreman / No report. The books are available to be checked out.

**Membership:** Nancy Foreman/ New directories are available. Guests include Jennifer Bugbee, Alyssa and Jessica Alstott, Mason Jorgenson, Fred and Linda Shmuds(sp), John Redy, Donna Brown, Barb and Claude Gibbs, and Dale and Bernadette Elentary. Welcome guests!

**Programs:** /

**Publicity:** Nick Pellus / No report

**Safety:** Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No report

**Show Chair:** John Davis & Joe Perry / We would like to have many displays for the show this year. There are a few display cases available for those who need them. Joe reports the contracts have been mailed to the dealers. There are show fliers available at the front table.

**Sunshine:** - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / No Report

**Webmaster:** Joe Perry / Please check your information in the new directory.

### Old Business

Club tees still available. See Nancy Forman.

Thank you to all who helped at the Science Alive event! It was great.

### New Business

2016 Directories are available. See Nancy Forman.

Patty Enos has old rock magazines and publications available.

### **Adjournment – Motion made and seconded**

**Program: Minerals and Mineralogy of the Midwest presented by Rick Strapple**

**Next Meeting: March 20, 2016**

## **We Spoke Up and They Listened** By Ruth Hidalgo, ALAA Membership Chair excerpted from the Oct.-Dec., 2015, *ALAA Newsletter*

Living in Southern California and having collected at most of the areas still accessible in the old *Gem Trails of Southern California Guide*, I was aghast when I took a look at the maps posted for a massive plan (DRECP) to designate where to focus solar and wind in Southern California. They wanted to put a solar or wind farm directly on top of two longtime favorite and beloved collecting areas, Gem Hill and Brown Butte. I immediately went to work telling everyone we had to do something. Fortunately ALAA invited me to attend a workshop on the DRECP, where I learned how to make a comment on the DRECP. It wasn't nearly as hard as I had anticipated. I showed my friends and fellow rockhounds it wasn't so hard and they too sent in comments. I am so very excited to find the focus areas on Brown Butte, aka Lonely Butte, and around Gem Hill have been removed, as we requested, in the final draft of the DRECP!

Now these were just two of the many collecting areas affected in many different ways under the DRECP. Again, ALAA was to the rescue with a complete analysis of the 12,000 page DRECP plan as it pertained to rockhounding, done by Randy Banis. Many rockhounds also made comments based on that analysis. As of this writing, I have not yet been able to check each of the other points made in those comments, but I am optimistic.

A very big "Thank You" to ALAA for recognizing the significant impact the DRECP has on recreational access in the Southern California deserts and for providing the resources and tools for rockhounds to have made an impact on the final draft.

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

## **MWF Presidents Message** continued from page 4

You still have time to prepare a trip to Summit Lapidary and Akron Mineral Society 40th Gemboree. The show is April 23-24 in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. This year the president of Summit Lapidary, Andy, will lead the early birds on Friday, April 22 to the famous Ohio flint collecting site known as Nethers Farm. So I hope Punxsutawney Phil is right and we will have good weather for the field trip. Make sure you read the article in this newsletter.

Keep in mind that the AFMS Show and Convention will be held in conjunction with the Northwest Federation's Show and Convention, hosted by the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, on July 29, 30, and 31 in Albany, Oregon. They are planning some fun field trips that you won't want to miss. Then the MWF Show and Convention will be held August 19, 20, and 21 in South Bend, Indiana, and hosted by the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society. Mark your calendars and plan to attend both events!

I look forward to seeing you all at the "Ridge" in April!

## Moh's Scale 6 - 6.5 by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Hardness is a very useful attribute to help with mineral identification and is often the first test normally done on an unknown. Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we really want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral (and doing some homework on its physical properties). We are currently reviewing minerals by hardness. At our last meeting we looked at minerals with a hardness of 6 to 6.5 on the Moh's scale.

We try to do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral (class or group) of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We really do learn from each other, but you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated.

This month we had one or more specimens of Pyrite, Epidote, Rutile, Prehnite, Marcasite, Vesuvianite, Aerigrine, Orthoclase, Pseudobrookite, Columbite, Benitoite, Bixbyite, Tantalite, Anorthite, Labrodorite, Petalite, Jadeite, and Turquoise. Some of the specimens were really outstanding.

It is one thing to look at the pretty pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the density, shine a bright light on it, look at it under black light, etc.). And then examine another specimen of the same mineral (and maybe another). And then look at something else that is close but different.

Some homework was done, and we learned a bit about the specimens we studied during our sharing people came with specimens they were unsure about and we tried to identify them while we waited for everyone to arrive.

The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to continue working thru the Moh's hardness scale, looking at minerals having a hardness of 7 to 7 1/2 excluding quartz (which we will study in April in all of its forms).

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about soft minerals, and bring some representative specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other, but you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens.

We usually have some time to look at some unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are getting better at identifying minerals). Hope you can join us for the next meeting and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated.



[Epidote](#)



[Pyrite](#)



[Rutile](#)

## On the road again by Kathy Miller, Past President

Hooray! We have a club bus trip scheduled on Saturday, September 10, 2016 to the Mazonia Braidwood Fish and Wildlife Area. Members will be collecting unique fossils many known only to that area. A popular collecting site. This can be a rainy or sunny day, be prepared for any weather, dress accordingly.

Details to know:

We have a 56 passenger Cardinal Bus with restroom

Load Time 7:45 a.m. Leave Time 8:00 a.m.

Pick up at Meijers, 3610 S. Bremen Hwy, Mishawaka, IN

Return Time 7:00 p.m.

One **short** bathroom stop on Toll Way going and coming home

Cost to you:

\$5.00 a seat. This is to insure your place. If you cancel, no refunds. The \$5.00 will go to the driver at the end of the day for his/her tip. **PLEASE only sign up if you know for sure your able to go!**

This trip is open to our Junior members also.

What to bring:

Each person is allowed one 5 gallon bucket, be picky, fossil concretions are NOT big rocks they tend to be small. BRING a hand garden rake, gloves, wear LONG pants and bring Tick repellent. This area is home to ticks.

Food:

Brown bag lunch, snacks for the bus and beverage.

I will have copies of fossils that can be collected in the area. The most famous is the Tully Monster. Other types are Jellyfish, Shrimp, Fern, Insects, and Horseshoe Crab, etc.

If you do sign up please make a point between now and the trip to be actively involved in some way with our/your club, example; participation at our annual August show. It's YOU that make our hobby a successful hobby.

Sign up begins at the March 20, 2016 meeting – Pray for a sunny September!

Kathy Miller

Editor's Note - Per Bill's President Message you need to be considered an active member to be on the bus.



[https://i.ytimg.com/vi/NseEaC\\_qsYA/mqdefault.jpg](https://i.ytimg.com/vi/NseEaC_qsYA/mqdefault.jpg)