

Crystal Lines

GEOLOGY SECTION Peoria Academy of Science

www.pasgeology.com

April 2009 Newsletter

Officers for 2008:

President - Ted Mlotek
Vice Pres. - Georgia Hoggat
Secretary - Pam Cramer
Treasurer - Dave Fitch
Webmaster - Jim Travis
Newsletter - Wayne Kahila

Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month except September and December.

They are held starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Ameren CILCO Building at 8420N. University, Peoria, IL.

Annual dues are \$10 for a single or \$16 for a family. They are payable to Dave Fitch, Treasurer.

The membership committee is Mary Bodel (647-9523), Pam Cramer (360-2785), and Beth Sullivan (692-6431). Please contact any one of them with any concerns, ideas, or questions.

Field Trip for Mazon Creek Fossils near Braidwood, IL

This field trip will be on Saturday, April 25. It is a day trip being a couple of hours from Peoria north on I-55 and is the first PAS Geology field trip for the season. This one is to the Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish and Wildlife Area just northeast of Gardner, IL off of I-55. We will be looking for Pennsylvanian age fossils found in concretions. This has been a good collecting spot for years and is the only known location for the state fossil known as the "Tully Monster". More information will be sent out later this week, or call Dave Hoggat for more info.



Two examples of what is found in this area. Left is a jelly fish that did not show up too well in the photo. On the right is a fern leaf fossil.



The next Geology Section meeting is on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ameren CILCO building.

Hi everyone,

We have some busy times coming up.

The Illinois State Geological Survey field trip here in Central Illinois. Titled "Geology of the Mackinaw River Watershed" , it will take place both April 18 and May 2. Registration is still open for both days and is only \$10 for adults and free for children. The price includes a guide book which is usually worth the price of admission. There will be opportunities to collect rocks, minerals, and fossils. Areas of McLean, Woodford, and Tazewell counties are included. This is chance to find out about the area we live in. I am scheduled for the May 2nd field trip. For information go to <<http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/education/field-trips/intro.shtml>> .

And then there is the Curry auction. Also scheduled for Saturday, May 18, starting at 9:00 AM at the Boone County fairgrounds on the north side of Belvidere, IL. Do a Mapquest search for 8791 Route 76 (or Fairgrounds Road) or call me for directions. There is usually a lot of lapidary and jewelry equipment, flats of slabs and rough rock, fossils, jewelry supplies, and more. You probably won't be disappointed - plan on being there until mid afternoon or later.

The next PAS Geology Meeting on Tuesday, April 28. The program will include some show-and-tell (I hope) from the Hoggatts (welcome back!) describing some of their collecting adventures in south Texas and New Mexico. Also, a report on the Mazon Creek field trip the previous weekend. And some information about the Missouri field trip to collect druzy quartz and missouri lace agate - what to bring, what to look for, and why it is there for us to collect. As usual the meeting will be at the Ameren-Cilco building on north University St in Peoria starting at 7PM. After about 7:15PM go to the front entrance (west side) to be let in. See you there!

Submitted by Dave Fitch, Treasurer, PAS Geology Section

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PAS Geology Minutes for March 24, 2009

23 members present

Ina Eckhoff presented the program: Identifying Minerals

Ina explained the basic information of identification for the beginner since there are many new members to the club.

There are 6 ways to identify minerals. 1) Crystals 2) Color –Minerals can look similar by color, but the crystals will be different. 3) Hardness- there are 10 grades of hardness: The first is the softest-TALC, GYPSUM, CALCITE, FLOURITE, APATITE, FELDSPAR, QUARTZ, TOPAZ, CORUNDUM, and the hardest number ten-DIAMOND.

A way to test harness is to scratch the BOTTOM face of a crystal. Ina had samples for members to test scratch minerals at the conclusion of the presentation. 4) Cleavage- Example: Mica can split. 5) Luster- A crystal can be milky to metallic glossy. 6) Streak.

Ina then passed around 4 boxes of minerals for the members to take a "test." After pondering the samples and much discussion, the answers and the area of origin were given. 1-wavelite: Arkansas. 2-Rhodochrosite: CO. 3-Geode with quartz. 4-Pyrite- Spain. 5- Selenite- OK. 6- Galena-Missouri. 7- Copper-Upper Mich. 8-Calcite on Sphalerite-IL. 9- Druzy-Missouri. 10- Apatite-Ontario, Canada. 11- Azurite-Arizona. 12-Malachite- Africa. 13- Amethyst 14- Fluorite- IL. 15- Garnet- Quebec, Canada. 16- Celestite-OH. 17- Quartz-ARK. 18- Calcite-Iowa. 19- Barite-GA. 20-Sand Calcite-SD. 21- Barite-Missouri. 22- Staurolite-GA. 23- Orange Selenite- Morocco. 24- The most expensive rock! Ina's gallstone!

Ina gave time for members to scratch test samples for hardness and ask questions.

Dave Fitch proceeded with the meeting. All present were asked to please check sheets on the table to correct addresses and e-mails as well as check dues status. Many members have not paid for this year. Please update this information ASAP.

Jim Travis reported on the August Show. All contracts are out, and he is waiting for returns. If anyone has ideas for the show please contact Jim. Jim is looking into a possibility of getting a saw to generate money.

Dave reported that he went with the Decatur Club to Mazon Creek. We are planning a trip to this area April 25. Terrain is a little different. He explored areas thought to be "good" but found footprints that people had already been to the area.

Dave's friend Tim Clark (and club member) is at the Crater of Diamonds. He is hoping to get information for future trips for our club.

Dave's April program will center on the Mazon trip: Items to look for, Where to look, and Why it's there. (note)(Dave emailed me that the trip is before the next meeting so he will adjust his presentation according to trips.)

Sharon Trussler will provide refreshments for the April meeting.

The newsletter is always looking for articles. Please contact Wayne Kahila at ionize@mtco.com.

Motion to close: Kathy Travis and second by Sue Dobyns. All in favor. Meeting Closed. Refreshments and door prizes followed.

Submitted by Pam Cramer, Secretary