

# Crystal Lines

## GEOLOGY SECTION Peoria Academy of Science

[www.pasgeology.com](http://www.pasgeology.com)

### March 2009 Newsletter

Officers for 2008-9:

President - Ted Mlotek  
Vice Pres. - Georgia Hoggat  
Secretary - Kathy Travis  
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.

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### Next Meeting Is Tuesday, March 24 at the Ameren CILCO Building

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### Geology Section February 24, 2009, Meeting Minutes

We are still in need of volunteers to sign up for refreshments and door prizes for future meetings. Ted passed around the sheet to sign up as well as the attendance sign in sheet. Door prize tickets were passed out.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Ted Mlotek.

The program "Introduction to Minerals and Fossils of Illinois" will be presented by Dave Fitch. Future programs will be geared to future field trips planned by the club. This may take 3-4 more months. Any volunteers to contribute specimens for these programs would be appreciated.

August Show: Jim Travis reported contracts to dealers will be out before the end of the month. "Sue Grant" has been received from the Academy of Arts and Science. Acceptance of PAS Grant (four grants were awarded) will be April 3. The Committee asked for presenters of the grant recipients to give a talk. At the annual banquet the Executive Director of Forest Park will be giving a talk on "How the Bluffs Have Changed." Ted will be going to accept the award.

No Treasurer's Report. Members' checks will be deposited and the membership will be updated this week. The Midwest Federation check will be sent out this week.

Old Business: None.

New Business: A Question presented by Mary Bodell, "What is the status of our Geology Grant?" There are no applicants at this time.

First planned field trip for the club will be to the Mazon Creek in Braidwood, which is planned for April 25, 2009. We will see if we can find a different spot since this one seems to be "Picked over". More information at the next meeting.

Program:

Dave Fitch: For Rock and Fossil collecting in Illinois one needs to know equipment. Dave said this will be a program by itself at a future date.

Resources: Ill State Geological Survey website:

[www.isgs.uiqs.edu/education/fieldtrips/intro.shtml](http://www.isgs.uiqs.edu/education/fieldtrips/intro.shtml)

They offer Spring and Fall field trips. The next trip is McClean/Woodford/Tazewell River Basin on April 18 and May 2. There is a \$10 fee to register on the website.

Dave passed out maps of Illinois Surface Topography and Quaternary Deposits of Illinois. A brief explanation followed. ISGS Field Trip Guidebooks map was also introduced.

Books of interests for the collector:

- 1) ILLINOIS Atlas and Gazetteer- Detailed topographic maps. Dave suggested to get one for each state you travel.
- 2) Midwest Gem Trails-1964, 1980, 1999 by June Culp Zeitner. Sometimes sites show in earlier versions and they maybe left out of later editions. Look up mineral and where you can find it.
- 3) 1987 The Northeastern Quadrant by Allan W Eckert. How to get to digs.
- 4) Field Collecting Gemstones and Minerals by John Sinkankas.
- 5) Rocks and Minerals by Frederick H Pough
- 6) A Field Guild to Rocks and Minerals By Pough
- 7) Illinois- Geology Underfoot in Illinois (an excellent book for \$15)
- 8) Any of the field guides from Geological Society

Dave continued to explain Illinois during the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian periods where parts of the state were underwater. During the glazier periods about 1.6 million years ago the ice came down and dug out the earth. Dave had a map showing moraines-areas where the masses stopped. He explained about Drift-everything moved by glaziers. This is why one might see boulders in the middle of fields. Illinois River Valley is a great place for finding specimens due to the moraines. Many examples were brought in by Dave and Leon Gass.

When Lake Bloomington was low many fossils were found. A possible field trip would be to Clear Creek on private property. For fossils go to LaSalle near Ogelsby also dolomite crystals. A possible field trip would be to Lone Star in Ogelsby. It all depends on what one is looking for and what one likes to collect from minerals to fossils Illinois has abundance.

The presentation was followed by questions time to examine specimens brought in by many other members.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Cramer

# Mrs. Sullivan's Science Class Makes Good Use of Grant

Minerals, Rocks, and Fossils are awesome! Hi ! I'm Kaylee and I'm Jack. We are 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Mrs. Sullivan's Science Class at Chillicothe Elementary Center. Last April, Mrs. Sullivan was awarded a grant through Peoria Academy of Science-Geology Section. She purchased Mineral and Ores kits, Fossils from different periods, video on fossils, and charts. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders made information poster on rocks, gemstones, and minerals.



Here are Kaylee's thoughts: We identified the minerals and ores by performing different test on these samples. First we tested its hardness, we scratch a penny and glass, also we looked at its texture, luster, color, and streak test which we used unglazed tiles. I was surprised that hematite feels strange. Its color rubs off. I found it awesome on the uses of rocks, minerals, and ores, like slate for blackboard.

Jack's turn: I already know a lot about fossils. We



learned about the different kinds of fossils. We compared the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic fossils using our kits. Fossils structures as well as species changed over time. Our class made geological timelines showing when animals evolved and the era in which this

happened. We discussed dinosaurs, how they got their names, and theories of their extinction.

All of us would like to thank you for the grant money. We enjoyed learning about minerals, rocks, and fossils.



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Reminder: Articles, photos, or anything is needed for the newsletter!! Write about something you did related to rock, fossils, or trips. Write about a favorite type of rock or mineral, etc. Send anything you may have to Wayne Kahila at [ionize@mtco.com](mailto:ionize@mtco.com). Electronic submissions are preferred but hard copies are very acceptable. I can scan them. Submissions will be returned to sender. Thanks!!!

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