

Crystal Lines

Official newsletter of the Peoria Academy of Science Geology Section for February 2008

Regular Meetings: 4th Tues. of the month 7 p.m. Next regular meeting - Mar. 22, 2008

Location: Ameren Cilco Bldg. 8420 N. University, Peoria, IL

Officers - President Ted Mlotek - V.P. and program chairman - Georgia Hoggatt

Webmaster - Jim Travis, website - www.pasgeology.com (Newsletters may be downloaded from this site.)

Secretary - Kathy Travis - Treas. and Membership Dave Fitch - Librarian - Les Bodell

Newsletter editor - Ron Bluemer - Send all stories and photos of general news and field trips to rbluemer@hotmail.com

Newsletters are mailed USPS to all members who do not have internet access or request a mailing.

Dues (\$10 single - \$16 family) are due for 2008 membership

Send to Dave Fitch - 204 William Dr., Normal, IL 61761 (note new address from last month's newsletter)

Nebraska Field Trip - Plan to join the field trip to Nebraska with members of Illinois mineral and lapidary groups. Initial plans call for fossil collecting near Chadron; visiting some of the agate fields in the northwest corner of the state, and some collecting in streams that feed into the Niobrara and Elkhorn rivers near O'Neill. Tentative dates so far are to be in the Chadron area somewhere around May 22-25, 2008.

Belize Field Trip - The Academy is looking for representatives from each section to journey to Belize for an unforgettable jungle adventure at Ian Anderson's **CAVES BRANCH The ADVENTURE Co. & JUNGLE LODGE**. The **Caves Branch Estate** is a privately owned 58,000 acre estate of virtually pristine pine ridge mountains, shimmering waterfalls, major river ways, babbling creeks, magnificent limestone cliffs, underground rivers, crystal caves, Maya ruins .. burial mounds and ceremonial sites, deep, luscious sub-tropical jungle and rainforest, filled with over 160 varieties of orchids, bromeliads, and air ferns, various species of palm, ceiba and guanacaste trees and 6 different Blue Holes. Tropical hardwoods flourish and the majestic mahogany can still be seen towering throughout Caves Branch. Wildlife at Caves Branch is just as vitally rich as the main character on stage is still the magnificent jaguar. Other local inhabitants are howler and spider monkeys, tapir, gibnut, warrie, peccary, white tailed deer, armadillo, ocelot, tarantula, dozens of different frogs and toads and iguana. All expeditions have been designed not only to create the utmost in adventure but also to give each traveler a once in a lifetime experience of the natural, historical and cultural wonders within the world of the ancient Maya; the tropical jungle, the caves and caverns, the rivers, the lost Maya ruins, burial sites and ceremonial centers, the indigenous wildlife and the mysticism that surrounds it all. Ian Anderson, Belize's premier explorer into Xibalba (the Maya Underworld), has hand picked and trained each of the local guides that lead you into the world of a civilization lost. Each guide has received intensive training in cave and wilderness evacuation / wilderness first aid and is a founding member of the "Belize Cave and Wilderness Rescue Team". For more information on accommodations and costs go to their website-<http://ambergriscaye.com/pages/town/cavesbranch.html>. You may also contact Frank Hitchell hitchl@yahoo.com 243-5888

Geology Grant - This year's grant was awarded to Elizabeth Sullivan, who teaches 7th and 8th grade science at Chillicothe Elementary Center. Her request was for metal-bearing minerals, a fossil video and fossil collections, and geological and dinosaur charts. Mrs. Sullivan and her entire class sent the club a thank you card and expressed their desire to get the new materials as soon as possible.