

SVGMS Field Trip News

Field Trips - 2017

JMU Mineral Museum and Geology Lab Review – Another great Field Trip to JMU, Everyone has a great time! This has been a real treasure for SVGMS members over the years, sadly this was the LAST trip of its kind. Dr. Lance Kearns (host and Dean of Geology) will be retiring this year. He will still stay on at the museum's curator.

Kentucky Field Trip – this will be an **Extended Field Trip** sponsored by SVGMS.

So far, there are 16 SVGMS members who are going on this trip. There is still a few rooms available at the block rate, but I need to hear from you asap.

I cannot guarantee the block rate to the hotel after the quota is filled.

Please contact me at: livingearthtreasures@gmail.com and put **KY field trip** in the memo.

KY Field Trippers; Scott Steele, Debbie and David Grimm, Leonard Lantz, Pat Rhodenizer, Jack Glenn, Jilly Weigel, Charles Rhoads, Jay Peterson, Nick Hundley, Brandon and Jenifer Hudson, Mike and Karen Pabst, and Wayne and Brenda Peterson

Note: I will be collectively emailing KY Field Trippers on more specific details as those details become available.

If you notified me that you are going and your name is not on this list, please contact me.

Special Note: **Ed Odell**, friend and Field Trip Co-coordinator for the Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club (BGGMC) of Lexington, KY has been a key person in helping to plan this trip. He will also be taking personal time and accompanying us to the various collecting sites during the trip. Many Thanks to Ed for his time, knowledge, and expertise in minerals and field trips.

Trip Dates: April 20-23, 2017* This is a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

What will we be collecting? **Geodes; of every size and shape. Calcite crystals, quartz crystals, Amethyst, Celestite, Pyrite, Fossils, Millerite, Micros and Kentucky Agate.** I have tried to include a large cross section of collectable material for all interests. **YES, there are crystals, cutting material, and three of the five collecting areas have micros.** We are visiting five collecting areas in three days. There are NO collecting or entry fees associated with any site on the trip.

Costs: I have tried to keep costs to a minimum. **Total Costs include; Gas, Food* and Lodging** (breakfast is included in Lodging), and **spending money** you want to bring to wholesale purchase Kentucky Agate from Roland McIntosh's' private collection. (You will not find a better value on acquiring KY agate anywhere).

***Lunch:** It is highly recommended you pack a lunch, snacks, and water. All the sites are remote and do not have a convenience store and no restroom facilities. There are some

sandwich shops near the hotel to pick up a sandwich in the morning or BYO. Most of the hotel rooms have refrigerators. There is a microwave available in the breakfast dining area.

***Dinner:** At your dietary discretion, cost and palate.

**** NOTE:** I will be making a listing of nearby restaurants, sandwich shops, and resources that are close to the Comfort Suites for your convenience.

Lodging information: NOW IS THE TIME TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM

Dates: April 20-23, 2017 (3 nights)

Reservation Cut-Off Date: April 1, 2017

Call the number below and reserve your room, Ask for: **Megan Followell**

The block rate is under the name **Bluegrass Gem and Mineral Club**. Please use this when reserving your room.

Comfort Suites – **GPS;**

864 Ben Ali Dr., Danville, KY 40422

Phone: **859-936-9300**

Cost: \$79. Per night, plus tax. This includes a hot breakfast.

24-hour cancellation required or your card will be charged

Cutoff date is April 1st. After this date, the rate will go up.

8 rooms with queen beds

5 kings

13 total rooms

\$79 plus tax = 88.18 with tax per night per room

Mini suites with pull out couch

Hot breakfast

Current Trip Schedule;

- **Thursday April 20** – drive (at your own pace, no caravan) to motel in Danville, KY. It takes approx. 6-7 hours to drive to the Danville, KY area from Waynesboro. Danville is central to the areas we will be collecting. The motels were more reasonable than staying in Lexington and we minimized the travel to collecting sites and maximized collecting time.
- **Friday, April 21st**
 - 7:00 – 7:45 am – Breakfast and Trip Orientation
 - 8:00 am leave hotel and caravan to Kings Mountain* RR cuts in the morning. We will be hunting for Geodes, Micros, Celestite, Gypsum Crystals and Millerite. (collect for appx 4 hrs.) Then drive (caravan) to Green River to hunt for Geodes and Fossils in the afternoon until everyone gets tired. (4+ hrs.)
 - *Safety equipment is required at the Kings Mountain RR Cut. Not a commercial mine, but overburden hazards employ the need for basic; hard hat, protective clothing, and good foot wear.*
- **Saturday, April 22nd**

8:00 am leave hotel and caravan to the Caldwell Stone Quarry*, (Danville, KY) in the morning. (collect for approx. 4+ hrs.) We will be hunting for Calcite Crystals, Micro pockets, plus many other minerals. Then caravan to the Walker Farm in the afternoon to hunt for various geodes and fossils in the creek on the Walker Farm. Note: this is private land, by invitation only, rock hound etiquette is expected.

**At Caldwell Stone Quarry, full mining safety gear is required to enter the quarry. This is an active commercial mine. We will be collecting with permission.*

- **Sunday, April 23rd**

8:30 am we depart from Danville and caravan to Roland* McIntosh's house (Stanton, KY) on your way back to Virginia, this is a short detour off I-64, south on the Mountain Parkway. This collecting stop should take a few hours, depending on how long you want to stay. Once you are done at Roland's you can start the drive back to Virginia at your own pace, no caravan.

* Roland has been a private collector of Kentucky Agate for over 70 years and has a large reserve of KY agate he is willing sell at a discount to club members. *Where time efficiency is a concern, on this trip, this is the best way to acquire some KY agate without having to spend hours searching in the mountains of KY for this elusive mineral.* He is willing to open his private stock pile to our club. This is a great opportunity! bring cash.

KY Trip Tips: To make the trip enjoyable, and to maximize your collection of minerals, here are a few tips that might help to improve your experience.

- Come prepared; Having the right tools can make a difference. The quarry and RR cut requires Hard Hat, Safety Boots, Safety goggles, and protective clothing.
- You will want a Crack Hammer (3-4 lb.), point chisel and cold chisel, pry bar, and any other helpful tools to remove pockets of specimens.
- Plenty of collecting buckets. Good suspension on your vehicle for the trip home. 😊
- The rivers and streams may be elevated because of Spring runoff, but should not be too deep, (6-24"). Having a pair of waterproof boots is a must, and even better is a pair of hip boots. This will enable you to go where few can go in the water, to better geode hunting grounds. A long reach rake, hoe, or rock scoop for reaching into the water this also helps with balance while walking in the water. The water temperature in late April is still cold, sneakers and wading shorts are for the brave at heart, falling in is not a good option. Bring a change of clothes as a precaution.
- Rain gear, just in case. I am hoping we have good weather. In case we get a shower, having rain gear will still allow you to collect and stay dry.
- Terrain; much of the terrain is moderately level. A wheeled rock cart would make carrying buckets of heavy material easier. Optional.
- Have plenty of food, snacks, lunch, and water available during the day.
- As with any group event, consideration of others helps to make a good time for ALL. Logistics, caravanning, time schedules, safety, all are factors in the consideration.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT TIME!

Other SVGMS Field Trips for 2017:

Rose River, Syria VA –

Virginia Department of Minerals, Mining and Energy, Charlottesville, VA

U.S. Silica Mine, Montpelier, VA

Backyard Field Trip - George Washington National Forest Area June or July

Wayne Peterson

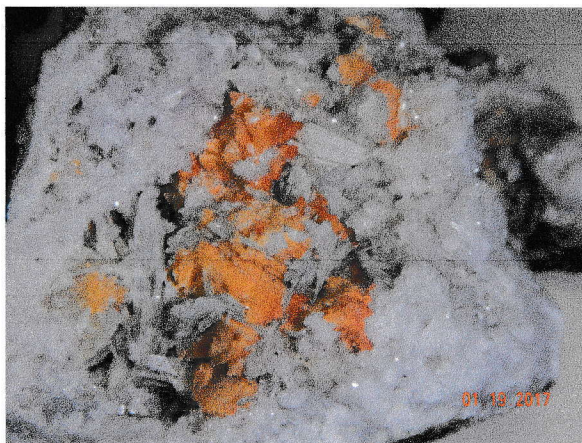
Field Trip Coordinator

WEATHER: *Weather plays an important factor in all field trips. If the weather creates an increase in hazardous conditions of any field trip, the trip will be canceled due to safety concerns.*

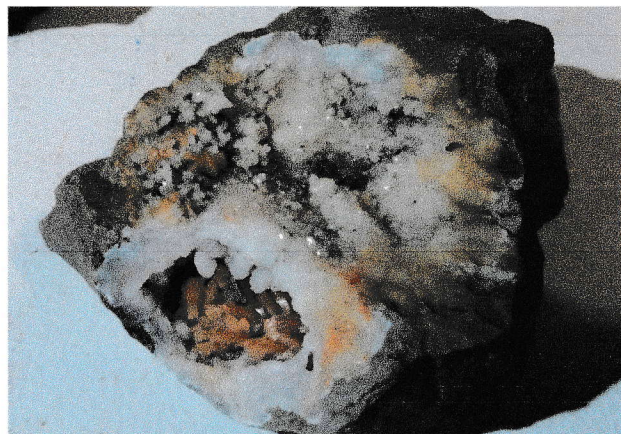
Some recent finds at Kings Mountain. Courtesy Ed O'Dell



Pink Dolomite and Calcite on Lavender Quartz



Pink Dolomite & Celestite/Barite on Quartz



Snaggle-Tooth; Dolomite, Calcite & Milky Quartz