

MAY ROCK PARTY AND ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

by Jim and Sharon Marburger

Saturday, May 31 started out as a beautiful, sunny day in Hickman. As the day progressed, big, puffy clouds started moving in. Oh dear, was it going to rain on us while doing the roadside clean-up?

Ed and Pat Dvorak arrived at the house with food for the potluck. Once the vittles were safe and secure from the cats, we drove to the Hickman Rest Area to meet up with the rest of the roadside clean-up crew.

At approximately 1:00, Jim Marburger handed out safety equipment and road section assignments. There was a "hold your breath" couple of minutes while the clouds chose to sprinkle on us, then the nice breeze chased them off to reveal warm sunshine. Thankfully, the clouds intermittently covered the sun, so we stayed quite comfortable.

Fourteen adults and four children went forth to collect trash from the shoulders and ditches of our assigned portion of Highway 77. Those present were Carolyn Ashmore and grandchildren Jayden and Mia; Ed and Pat Dvorak; Linda Guenter; Sharon Schleiger and her kids Matt and Brooklyn; Bruce Collamore; Steve May; Ed Ridge; Brian and Jayne Beer with son, Corey; Sharon Marburger; and future members Rikki Goldsby and Ruby Nesta. Jim Marburger drove up and down the highway, providing drinking water and more trash bags to those in need. Paul Ashmore received special dispensation to stay with the cars, due to recent back surgery.

The clean-up took about 2½ hours, due to one team getting a very late start. (Ed R. and Sharon M. were helping to set up the safety signs, so they didn't get started on their section of road until about 20 minutes after everyone else.) As the teams completed their sections, they headed to the Marburgers' house to wait for the potluck to begin. Everyone, that is, except for the Beers. They went agate hunting for a while, but soon their tummies won out over the potential finding of agates.

Thanks to Pat Dvorak for preparing roast turkey, dressing, and pineapple upside down cake. I heard the cake was out of this world! I believe it because there was not a crumb left at the end of the evening! Thanks, also, to everyone else who contributed to the meal. There was cheese and crackers, chips, smoked meats, berry muffins, pasta salad, cole slaw, summer salad, assorted melons, and chili.

After eating, Ed Ridge cut a couple of cabochons while Sharon M. and Corey cut open some of the Jesup, Iowa geodes. Of those cut open, all but one of Sharon's geodes were solid. Hopefully, the ones that were too big to cut with the Genie saw will be hollow and filled with crystals.

After all the fresh air and exercise, followed with eating turkey, everyone was pretty tired. Most of the evening was spent sharing hobby stories and tales of field trips past.

All told, it was a very successful and fun day. Let's do it again in the fall!!!



Tired and hungry volunteers enjoy the scrumptious meal.



Jesup Geodes

