

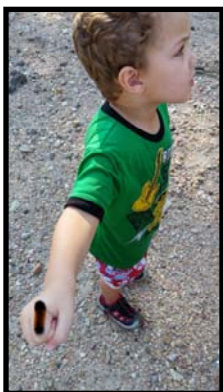
POST ROCK PARTY FIELD TRIP

by Jayne Beer, 1st Vice President

After sitting around at the Marburgers' at the grinding party on Saturday night, talking and laughing with great rock friends, we decided to head out on another rock collecting trip on Sunday, September 27. There were a few others that considered going with us, but most decided that they weren't spur-of-the-moment kind of people. It ended up with Jim and Sharon Marburger; Carolyn Ashmore; Brian, Jayne, and Corey Beer, and Ja-zeil going.

We decided to meet at McDonald's in Fairbury at 8:00 a.m. Well, of course, our van was a little late, but we grabbed some breakfast to go and headed out.

First we went to our favorite river spot. We climbed down to the river and looked around the first sand bar a little, then the Beers took off through the water to head down the river. We had some good finds here. Nothing amazing, but quite a bit of petrified wood and a small handful of translucent gold to red agates. I found a nice big fuzzy wooly caterpillar that Ja-zeil thought was just amazing.



We got a little way down the river and looked back and realized that the rest of our party was not interested in crossing the water. So we headed back to that first sand bar and looked around a bit more, then decided to head out to see what other places we could find out there. We spent some time driving around looking for locations that we could get down to. In my humble opinion, this was not wasted time. I thoroughly enjoyed driving around in the country and seeing the area and Ja-zeil got a nap while holding his caterpillar.

We did find a great gravel bar with an easy walk down to it. This was a very good stop! We found nice petrified wood and agates. There was a lot of adventure to be had at this stop. Ja-zeil lost his caterpillar so we spent quite a bit of time looking for that. Then we were all sitting in the shade of the bridge and Corey



and Brian started digging a hole. It went a little more than a foot deep and maybe 2 feet under ground and connected. Jazz thought this was very cool.

After this stop, Jim and Sharon decided they needed to go to visit Sharon's mom, so they headed out.

The remaining group talked a bit and decided to go to a hillside that we have found selenite crystals at. We climbed up the hill, but Carolyn decided that the Indian paint pots were cool, so she picked up several of those. She's always picking up things in large quantities so that she can share them with the Mineral Monkeys.



The first couple times I had been there, we were able to find the selenite crystals laying right on top of the hillside. I didn't find anything right away, but there was an area where there were several small pieces shimmering on top. I had a rock hammer with me, so I swung it at the dirt a few times and some very nice crystals popped out. Corey and Brian then came over to help dig. We did that quite a while and ended up with several beautiful crystals. Carolyn came up the hill and she and Corey found a big plate of selenite. Those two dug on that for a long time, then Brian got involved in that dig. After much work they had chipped off a large slab of selenite.



Photos by Jayne Beer & Jim Marburger

