

JUNE FIELD TRIP

By Jim Marburger

We are having a field trip weekend on June 24 and 25, 2017! We are heading to Sycamore Springs Recreation Area. The address is 3126 Bittersweet Road, Sabetha, Kansas. The location of the recreation area is 6 minutes north of Sabetha on Hwy 75. From Nebraska, go 1 mile south of the Nebraska State Line on Hwy 75, turn east for 2 miles, then turn south on Bittersweet Road.

There will be field trips on both days, one to the South Fork of the Big Nemaha River and one to fossil collecting locations for sponges and other items.

Camping is available at Sycamore Springs, as well as cabins and rooms in the on-site hotel. Picnics will be held at the campsites. Motels are also available in Sabetha for those who prefer to spend the night in town. All arrangements for lodging should be made ahead of time.

The day trips should leave the campground at 8:00 a.m. to beat some of the heat and humidity. Of course, this is dependent on weather conditions. Pack your own lunch, snacks, water needs, sunscreen, hats, and tick spray.

The level of difficulty of the river trip is moderate to high, depending on the ability of the person. The banks of the river are a 20 to 30-foot climb and, depending on area trails, can be made down. Once down on the river bottom, the sandbars are easy. Most fossil sites will be road cuts so the level of difficulty is easy to medium. The tall grasses and minor tripping hazards are the most concern. Carpooling is suggested to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum since parking might be a problem.

Specimens to be found will be agate, petrified wood, jasper, fossils, and many other items that a good rockhound can't live without.

Sycamore Springs has a roller rink, campground, recreation center, miniature golf, snack bar for food, hotel/with breakfast, park homes, and primitive cabins. Tent camping is \$15.00 per night, RV rate is \$30.00 with 30 and 50 amp hookups. Hotel with breakfast per person is \$50.00 or \$65.00 for 2 people.

Please plan to attend. All trips are dependent on weather and river levels, and liability will be your own responsibility. So we have an idea of how many plan to attend, please call or e-mail James Marburger at 402.430.6703, or james.marburger@outlook.com using "LGMC Field Trip" as subject line. Thank You.



The "good" section of the Yippeekaii Yay road! Photo by Jayne Beer.

by Jayne Beer

I sit here writing this message with visions of the club's fantastic camping trip and field trips running through my head. We had a great group of rock friends join us down at the campground near Sabetha, Kansas. I have to say that it was great to spend some time away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Day #1: Woolly had the day planned out and we started down on the Nemaha River. It was a fabulous day on the river! We split up and went both directions. We were able to safely cross the river. The familiar call "LAKER" was heard many times! Brian found the prize winner (in my opinion). It was the size of the palm of my hand.

At lunch time, we headed to the vehicles for a bite to eat. Soon, talk turned to the fossil sponges that Roger Pabian used to take us to find. Jim Marburger said he knew where that location was. We excitedly hopped into our vehicles, following Jim and Sharon. It was not long and we came upon that lovely sign that our friend Roger always fondly said was his favorite sign, "Minimum Maintenance Road". We hadn't gone very far down this road when we discovered we were headed up a road of rocks that NO minivan should be driving on. As a side note, it should be mentioned here that this is not the first time that we have taken a vehicle certainly not meant for off-roading over less-than-smooth roads. When we got to the top of the hill, we came upon a familiar glacial till area. We had been there with Roger Pabian years before. We tried to find the sponges, but those little guys eluded us this trip but, hopefully, one day, we will find them again.

Day #2: A few members of our group had to go home and not join us. We went to a different location on the Nemaha. The highlight of this day for me was when Logan (Linda Guenter's grandson) calls out, "I found a Laker." We all headed over to find that he had indeed found a nice Lake Superior Agate! He was so proud! I love it!

Even though we had a great group on this trip, I have to mention that I was surprised, and a little disappointed, that those members who always say they want to go out on field trips did not join us. Have no fear ... there will be other opportunities to get out!



They didn't quite get down and kiss the ground when we reached the top of the hill. (photo by Jayne Beer)