

AWARDS SEASON IS COMING SOON!

by Richard Peterson

The Awards Committee wants to remind everyone that our LGMC award presentation program is in December as part of our Christmas potluck. Now is the time to consider nominating persons who have contributed to the club.

There are two primary award categories: Rockhound of the Year and the Service Award given for 10, 20, 30, 40 or more years of contributions to the club. The nomination process is open to every member. We have a number of worthy candidates who should be considered. The deadline for submission of nominees is September 30, which is the date of our October Board meeting.

The forms can be found on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter. They may be submitted at any time, up to and including September 30, to me, Wooly, or Jim Marburger. Also, the plan is to make the forms available on the website.

**Grinding Party at the
Pioneers Park Nature Center
Prairie Building
July 12, 1-4 p.m.
Setup at noon
Picnic in the park to follow.**

SURPRISE MEETING ON A ROCK HUNTING TRIP

by Corey Beer

Brian and Corey woke up at around 5:30 a.m. to start getting ready for the rock hunting trip they had planned for the day. They started by looking at Roger Pabian's maps to decide where they were going to go and, after looking for a little while, decided on Fairbury as their choice location for the day. By the time they got to Fairbury, they both were hungry for breakfast and stopped at the McDonald's for food. As they walked in the door, they heard an unexpected greeting from Wooly who was there waiting for his friend, Donovan. Coincidentally, both Wooly and the Beers thought about calling each other the night before to invite the other along, but decided it was too late. They all sat down to talk about what the other was doing for the day and decided it would be best if they all went together. They finished their food and hopped into their cars to head off to the first location, which was a rock quarry not too far from Fairbury.

Corey mentioned that one of the most notable things about this stop was how large the oversized pile was. They found a fair amount of material there, including a lot of petrified wood and some possible Fairburns. The most interesting find at this location, though, was a piece of petrified wood that had ridges all the way down the length of the stone. After a couple of hours of looking, they decided to hit the road and go to the next location.



Photo by Jayne Beer

The next stop of the day was on the Big Sandy River which is often hunted for artifacts, but does

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SURPRISE MEETING - CONTINUED

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Photos by Jayne Beer

contain other materials. Donovan opted to not climb down the hillside, however, the other three headed down to the river to start looking. Brian said that this was an easy location to walk because of the large, flat sandbars and the shallow crossings to get from one sandbar to another. Wooly found part of a projectile point that was most likely used for hunting birds or very small animals. On that same sandbar, Corey found a rather nice red botryoidal agate that was hollow all the way through the center of the stone.



Corey said it was obvious how high the water had been because of the corn stalks and debris on top of the bridge, and the fields being washed out. Donovan also mentioned this when he said that he could tell the river's landscape had changed dramatically. He said this because where there used to be a sandbar underneath the bridge, it now had been replaced by a catfish pool.

After this stop, they headed to Alexandria State Park to get lunch at a small diner located near the edge of the park. There, they pulled out Roger's maps to have Donovan take a look at them and see if he knew anything about them. After eating lunch, they headed off to the next quarry. Unfortunately, the owner of the quarry happened to be working that day, so no access was allowed. Luckily, Donovan knew of another quarry nearby that he had access to, so we headed there to finish off the day.

The oversize piles here were a little larger than at the last quarry, but had obviously been much larger not too long before. The best guess to where the rock had been going was that it was being used for repairing the roads where they had been washed out.

This quarry was very good for finding horse teeth and petrified wood. On rare occasions, there is a possibility to find Cretaceous redwood that used to line the shores of the inland Appalachian Sea.



Cretaceous redwood

At about 5:30, the group decided to call it a day. They sat in front of that quarry for about fifteen minutes, talking about what they found and how much of a coincidence it was that they ran into each

other like they did. Once they were done talking, they all headed back to the McDonald's in Fairbury to drop Donovan back off at his car. Brian and Corey were very appreciative that Wooly and Donovan allowed them to accompany them on this trip. It was about this time when Corey realized, at the end of the day, that he forgot to put sunscreen on AGAIN! Brian and Corey both said they would enjoy going to these places again because it was such an enjoyable and productive day.

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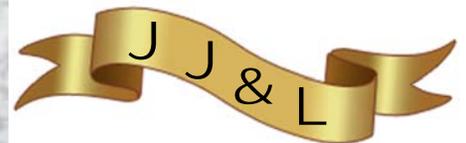
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