

Kentucky/Illinois Fluorite Field Trip Invitation

Saturday thru Tuesday, October 6th To 9th, 2007

Led by Nathan Martin of the Boston Mineral Club

This trip will provide field collecting opportunities in both Kentucky and Illinois over the Columbus Day weekend in early October. It also will include a visit to the Ben Clement Mineral Museum in Marion, KY to see some of the best fluorite specimens in the world. This basically is a repeat of our very successful trip last October with an additional day added to give more time for collecting in Illinois. The trip agenda is as follows:

Saturday, 6 October. Meet at 7:30 AM in the parking lot of the Clement Mineral Museum in Marion, KY. Travel in caravan to a nearby mine area to collect fluorite, “ruby-jack” sphalerite, galena, smithsonite and other minerals from the dumps of several WWII vintage mines located nearby. We will concentrate our efforts on the Eureka and Columbia Mines. After dinner we will have special access to the Clement Mineral Museum starting at 7 PM. See their website to get an idea of the quality of the minerals on display. <http://www.marionkentucky.us/clementmineralmuseum/index.htm>

Sunday, 7 October. We will again meet at 7:30 AM in the parking lot of the Clement Mineral Museum. This time, however, we will drive to the Ohio River, take a small ferry to Cave-in Rock, IL and proceed to collect at the former site of the heavy media mill near Cave-in-Rock. This site features yellow and purple fluorite plus large plates of calcite crystals. We will quit around 5 PM and head back to Marion, KY for a dinner together featuring food from a local pit BBQ. If there is enough interest, Sunday evening could also include a nighttime collecting opportunity in KY for multi-colored fluorescent minerals.

Monday, 8 October (Columbus Day). For some this may be a travel day back to Massachusetts but for those who are staying we will do some additional collecting in KY. We will again meet at 8 AM in the parking lot of the Clement Mineral Museum in Marion, KY and will leave from there to collect either back at the Eureka Mine or at another locality yet to be determined.

Tuesday, 9 October. For the diehard fluorite collector we will spend another day in the Cave-in-Rock, IL area. We will either go back to the heavy media mill site or to another locality that I hope to scout out on the Friday before the official trip begins. Time and meeting place are TBD.

Rules & Guidelines:

Come prepared with sturdy dump digging tools plus a crack hammer & chisels for splitting rocks and/or trimming specimens. Bring an UV light if you want to do fluorescent collecting at night. If you plan to fly you will not want to bring too many tools due to baggage weight restrictions but some may want a heavier sledge hammer and pry bar for boulder busting. Collecting buckets (5 gal paint buckets) can be purchased at minimal cost when you get to Nashville. Gloves, eye protection, and sturdy boots are needed. Bug spray and specimen wrapping materials are always a good idea. Bring extra luggage empty on the trip out to take specimens back with you but pay attention to your airline's luggage limits. I will bring a scale that can be used to check the weight of your luggage. Note that some members plan to drive and we may be able to arrange to send a few heavier tools with them.

Travel Issues

If you are planning to fly, I recommend flying into Nashville, TN. Airline options include American, USAirways, Delta or Southwest. Southwest allows three checked bags at 50 lbs per bag but their inexpensive flights fill up quickly. You will also need to rent a car for the 126 mile drive up to

Marion, KY (SUV not needed). I have usually been able to do that for around \$100 as a 3 day weekend rental.

It is a ~1200 mile drive to Marion, KY. Nevertheless, several of us plan to make that trip. If you are looking for someone to carpool with let me know when you register and I will try to help put carpool groups together.

For local lodging information, go to the Marion, KY website at <http://www.marionkentucky.us/>. Based on our experience last year, reasonable options include the Myers Bed and Breakfast in Marion, the Marion Inn (another B&B just South of town), and the Royal Guest Inn & Suites (a small motel).

Registration:

Lodging options in Marion, KY are limited and if you plan to fly you should make your reservations now to get the best price. In addition, there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend. Thirty people will be allowed to attend this trip and you do not need to be a Boston Mineral Club member to attend as long as the club that you belong to carries EFMLS insurance. Please register with trip-leader Nathan Martin as soon as possible by email at rocknate@gmail.com or by telephone at (781)674-0017. In addition to the travel costs there will be collecting fees for the KY side. These have not yet been finalized but they should be somewhere in the \$30 to \$40 range for the entire weekend. To reserve your spot on this trip you must confirm your intent to go AND send a \$20/person deposit check made out to the Boston Mineral Club. Mail the check to Boston Mineral Club, c/o Nathan Martin, 8 Elena Road, Lexington, MA 02421-7437. Detailed travel directions from Nashville and updates on the trip agenda will be provided to those who register. This is a great chance to see another part of the country, collect some good fluorite specimens, see a fantastic display of fluorite at the Clement Mineral Museum and generally have a great time. This will be my 4th excursion to Kentucky and will probably be the last official BMC fieldtrip there. Don't miss it!