

Michigan Mineralogical Society's
Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

SCHOOLS DAY

John Peters, School Chair
13536 Woodbine Redford, MI 48239-2618 313-255-7774
joopett13@hotmail.com

August 27, 2009

Dear Elementary and Secondary Teachers:

I'd like to invite you and your students on a field trip to the annual **MMS Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show** on Friday, October 9, 2009. This year, our show has moved to a **NEW LOCATION!**: **Gibraltar Trade Center -North** in **Mt. Clemens, MI** right off I-94 at the North River Road exit (Exit 237). It's a large 50,000 sq. ft. facility, parking for buses and cars, with a \$2 fee per car (buses are free!)

Admission for students and chaperones (including you) is only \$2 per person (a substantial discount)! Most groups stay for 2-3 hours, but you're welcome to stay as long as you like during the hours posted below:

Friday, October 9, 2009
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The show features, as usual, the largest array of gem, mineral, and fossils from all across the USA and the world, more than you may ever see under one roof! See **marvelous exhibits from 10 top science museums and universities** including the Smithsonian, Cranbrook, and Wayne State. There will be more than **50 amazing displays by individual collectors**, plus a row of **8 educational displays on Rocks and Minerals designed especially for students!** Special exhibits include a giant skeleton of a Stegodon, largest of the extinct elephant-like species and a relative of the mastodon. Get your picture taken standing *inside the jaws* of a *Megalodon*, the largest fish to swim Earth's oceans. Kids and adults can stick their head inside the *skull of a T-Rex* and get a photo, too! Photos are \$4. New this year is the 'Fossil Dig', where kids can dig in a huge sandbox to find real ice-age fossil bones! This activity costs \$5. There will be FREE hands-on activities too, including:

- 1) **Panning for Gold** - use gold hunter's tools to retrieve pieces of *pure gold* from a pool of water.
- 2) **Green River Fossils** -cut away an exposed *fish* fossil from its host rock and keep it for just \$2!
- 3) **Geode Cracking** -crack open a limestone nodule and see what's inside! It's yours to keep.. FREE!

In addition, you and your kids can hear a **lecture by fossil and dino expert "Paleo Joe" at 9:30 and 11:30 AM**. There will be a **fluorescence 'cave' with glowing rocks** and volunteers will be demonstrating lapidary arts (cutting & polishing), too. Kids can **buy inexpensive rock and mineral specimens from our Sales Booth** and **take them to an expert for identification!** All in all, your students of Earth Science should be pretty seriously "wowed"! **Pre-registration is required for the group discount. Registration form and check is due by Friday, October 2.**

If you can't bring your students on Friday, please encourage them to come to the show on Saturday or Sunday with a parent (perhaps to earn extra credit?).

John

(PLEASE READ ON for "HOW TO REGISTER" and IMPORTANT REMINDERS)

PLANNING & REGISTRATION:

- **\$2 FOR EACH STUDENT AND ADULT** that attend the show with your group. Enclose a **check payable to Michigan Mineralogical Society** with your **registration form** (see SUMMARY below for obtaining a form, or open and print the 2009 Registration Form you were e-mailed).
- **PLEASE PLAN ON BRINGING 1 ADULT CHAPERONE FOR EVERY 6 STUDENTS!** in your group. The teacher counts as a chaperone. I CAN'T STRESS THIS REQUIREMENT ENOUGH!
- **A 2-3 HOUR STAY IS NORMAL** for most groups, but *suit yourself!* The show is generally most crowded between 10 - 11:30 AM. If you must get the bus back to school by noon, we suggest you ask for a 9 AM arrival time. If you are not rushed and can arrive after lunch and leave by mid-afternoon, you will avoid the crowds!
- **LUNCHES CANNOT BE EATEN ANYWHERE INSIDE THE BUILDING** due to lack of proper facilities (*even during rainy weather*). So I strongly suggest that you **plan on attending either in the morning and leave before lunch, or arrive just after eating lunch and stay the afternoon!** There is no problem eating *in the bus* and then returning to the show, either!
- **PURCHASING SPECIMENS.** Let your students know that many of our **DEALERS** will include some very affordable minerals and fossils they will like. Sales to students are a portion of the show income! *Please support our dealers;* they're the ones that make the show possible financially! **The MMS Booth** will have many inexpensive specimens --every student should leave with *something!*
- Though we will be glad to have you and your class attend the show, **YOUR CLASS MUST BE PREREGISTERED** for Schools Day participation. Otherwise (normal ticket prices apply) you may attend the show any day you wish! Registration forms **must reach me** by Friday, October 3.

IMPORTANT STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

- During the Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, the Trade Center becomes a huge museum with fantastic and valuable exhibits of gems, minerals and fossils. All displays are on FOLDING TABLES.

Please tell your students that running, rough play and stealing will NOT be tolerated.

Any damage to minerals, gems, fossils, or displays will be paid for by the student responsible. **Theft** is cause for expulsion!

We ask, if possible, that **STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES WEAR NAME TAGS** showing the NAME and SCHOOL of the wearer, and the student's GRADE LEVEL. Please wear the name tags at all times during your visit to the show.

- **Students must stay with chaperones while visiting the exhibit areas and dealers' tables!**
- We would appreciate you discouraging your students from eating candy while at the show. Sticky fingers tend to mess up valuable specimens! [Candy sales at the show have been eliminated.]

SUMMARY:

- **FOR A REGISTRATION FORM (if not e-mailed one)**, go to our website: < www.michmin.org > and click on information about bringing your students to the show. If this doesn't work, contact joopett13@hotmail.com and ask for a hard copy. Please include your school mailing address.
- The completed registration form and check payable to **Michigan Mineralogical Society** should be mailed together. \$2/person, including teacher and chaperones!
- **The registration form and check must reach me by Friday, October 2 2009.** If this deadline isn't possible, contact me by e-mail (preferred) or phone and I'll try to accommodate your needs.
- ***You will receive confirmation of your registration*** once I receive your registration form and check.