

## **Programs At The Orr Building:**

### **Friday, October 20:**

**10:30 a.m. Eugene Koprowski: “A new study demonstrates the isolation and sequencing of ancient RNA molecules preserved at room temperature can be used to reconstruct skin and tissue samples from an extinct species”.**

#### **11:45 a.m. “Stump the Experts- Bring your fossils to ID”**

Someone will be available at a table near the registration desk at 11:45 Friday and Saturday for fossil ID

#### **1:00 p.m. John Catalani: “Devonian Cephalopods”**

The program begins with background information such as specific Devonian events located on a geologic time scale, cephalopod classification, and cephalopod diversity and ecological structure during the Devonian. Since ammonoids appeared during the Devonian Period, their evolution and Order distribution is given special treatment. Paleocology and evolution of both nautiloids and ammonoids acts as a lead-in to the description of the three specific Devonian cephalopod faunas highlighted in the presentation. The first fauna described is the classic Middle Devonian (Eifelian/Givetian) Chery Valley fauna of New York. The second fauna, Givetian in age, is the fairly recently excavated Solon Member (Cedar Valley Group) fauna of Iowa. The third fauna is also from Iowa but is contained in the Upper Devonian (lower Frasnian) Lithograph City Formation (also Cedar Valley Group). The program concludes with descriptions of the two Late Devonian Extinctions (the Frasnian-Famennian boundary Kellwasser Event; and the End-Devonian Hangenberg Event) and their effect on cephalopod faunas.

#### **2:30 p.m. Don Bissett: “ Silurian Massie Shale Lagerstätte at New Point Stone ”**

The Silurian Massie Shale is exposed during mining in the commercial rock quarry New Point Stone in Napoleon, Indiana. The stratum contains a wide diversity of well-preserved invertebrate fossils. Because of this, it has been described as a Lagerstätte. While the fossil diversity of the Massie Shale has been known since the early 1900s, the formation has been extensively collected and studied only in the past few decades. Among the many fauna is a rich array of echinoderms and rare trilobites. Through the generosity of the quarry owners, the Wanstrath Family, amateurs have been permitted to collect there. This presentation is based on my numerous experiences collecting the quarry over the past 43 years. It will focus on echinoderms and trilobites, in particular collecting them, their preparation, and descriptions of many of the genera found in this surface mine.

## **At The Northfield Inn:**

### **Friday, October 20, Keynote Address by Dr. Jed Day, Illinois State University**

#### **5:45 p.m. “North American Records of Devonian Extinction Events”**

This will outline key features of the Frasnian, Kellwasser and Hangenberg events.

### **INFO ON EUGENE KOPROWSKI**

Eugene J. Koprowski, LL.M., M.A., B.A., Licentiate in TCM. Mr. Koprowski has been a science writer for 35 years for major media as well as learned journals.

### **INFO ON DON BISSETT**

Don's first hands-on geology experience was in 1962, during an 8<sup>th</sup>-grade science class field trip to collect quartz crystals near his hometown in central Massachusetts. From that moment onward, he was hooked on collecting. Yet, the hobby went dormant while he pursued a Bachelor's degree in chemistry at U. Conn and a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Michigan State University. After graduation in 1975, he moved to Cincinnati for a career in the research department at Procter & Gamble. And the collecting hobby was reborn in the rich fossil beds of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Since retiring in 2008, he is a part-time technical consultant in industry, and devotes more time to the hobby. A long-time member of Dry Dredgers, MAPS, Penn Dixie, and other clubs, Don works with professional paleontologists on new fossil discoveries, authors numerous articles in club bulletins, and serves as Dealer Chair for the Cincinnati Show (GeoFair). While now residing in West Michigan, he frequently returns to Indiana to his favorite formation, the Silurian Massie Shale.

### **INFO ON JED DAY**

Jed is a professor at Illinois State University in the Department of Geography, Geology and the Environment. He received a BS in Geology from Oregon State, A MS in Geology from Northern Arizona University and a PHD in Paleontology, Stratigraphy & Biostratigraphy from the University of Iowa. Among his many awards is the Illinois State University College of Arts & Sciences – Outstanding College Researcher Award. His current teaching areas are Principles of Geology, Evolution of the Earth, Ocean Science, Sedimentology, Stratigraphy and Invertebrate Paleontology. His research interests include paleoecology, paleobiography and systemic paleontology of Ordovician-Devonian brachiopods, conodonts and molluscs (gastropods).