



Fossils of the Black Belt – A Hands-On Field Workshop

Where: University of West Alabama in Livingston and vicinity.

Cost: \$25, preregister early

When: Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Who Should Attend: In-service and pre-service science teachers who will be teaching earth science or other science courses with earth-science components, life science, biology, and environmental science.

Contact: Dr. David C. Kopaska-Merkel, Phone: 205/247-3695 (office) or 205/246-9346 (cell).

Email: dkm@gsa.state.al.us

Registration Form

Name _____ Position _____ School _____

Address _____
Street/P.O. Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ School Phone _____ Email _____

Return to David Kopaska-Merkel, Geological Survey of Alabama, P.O. Box 869999, Tuscaloosa AL 35486-6999.

Make checks payable to *Alabama Geological Society*.

Workshop Summary

A one-day workshop in paleontology (the study of fossils) for K–12 science teachers (in-service and pre-service). The workshop will help integrate real earth science into curricula. Participants will be better able to recommend meaningful science fair projects in earth science and to assist students with them. Objectives:

- Participants will learn about fossils and geology, so they will be more comfortable teaching these subjects.
- Teachers will trace the boundaries between rock units in the field the way it is done by professional geologists.
- Teachers will get *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks*, a major resource for teaching about the geology of Alabama, and three *Discovering Alabama* DVDs.

This course supports Alabama Course of Study/Science Processes and Applications in all grades, high school Geology and Earth & Space Science electives, and life-science concepts at all grade levels.

Alabama is one of the best places in the world to collect fossils. Paleontologists come from all over to collect here.

Workshop participants visit a large outcrop near Livingston. They solve a geological puzzle using clues from the rocks and fossils found there. They collect fossils, which can include snails, bivalves, shark teeth, or even sea turtles or a mosasaur (a giant sea lizard). Back at UWA, participants will identify and label fossils that they collected that morning, making kits they will take back to their schools.

Workshop Leaders

Dr. David C. Kopaska-Merkel has studied trilobites and other fossils and has led workshops and field trips for teachers, children, and others.

Dr. Andrew K. Rindsberg teaches courses on geology and environmental science at The University of West Alabama and has written numerous reports on Alabama geology and paleontology.

James Lamb is the leading authority on Alabama vertebrate paleontology. He has worked for four different museums, led many field trips, and authored 30 scientific publications.

