



Prospecting in Indiana/Kentucky  
**with Guide Steve Garza**

by *Bruce Hecker*

Anne and I met Steve at the Gilsum Rock Swap. He was one of the featured speakers at the event. Steve gave a great presentation on Geodes. We learned that he offered guided field trips to those interested in geodes and other minerals and fossils. Since we were planning to take a trip to Indiana this summer, it was perfect for us to contact Steve. We sent him an email and arranged to meet him when we got to Corydon Indiana.

When we arrived, we called him and got together to plan our field trip. The next day we proceeded across the Ohio river into Kentucky. We visited four sites this day. The first site was on a road cut near Fort Knox. Steve is truly a professional. He always considered the individuals that he was “guiding” with respect to their abilities to contend with the challenges in the field. And he always insisted on safety as a major factor in the day's activities.. There we were in our glory. There were GEODES everywhere we looked. Steve is very knowledgeable and his expertise made the experience most rewarding.

Not only did he show us where the geodes were, but also how to get them out of the rocks how to open them, how to wrap them, and he always talked about how they were formed. After spending a day with him, it was like taking an entire college course on geology, minerals and much more.

Next we went to an area where we found red pyrite crystals. It was interesting to learn how Steve discovered the site. He was able to identify it by what he saw and smelled when he was driving by.

He explained what elements existed in this area and what conditions were needed to form the crystals. He also talked about the history of the area and why it developed the way it did.

The third site was a construction site which was being developed. There we spent just a little time, but we picked up some flint specimens with beautiful coloring. Also there was fossilized coral just lying around to be enjoyed by collectors.

The fourth site was the one pictured at the Gilsum Rock Swap (<http://gilsum.org/rockswap.aspx> ). The rock face seemed impenetrable; but with Steve's expertise, he taught us how to extract blocks from the wall that were three ft. cubes. When we broke them open we discovered fossils and crystals that would otherwise be hidden for another 300 million years. One specimen was particularly spectacular. (See the Picture below)



**front-trilobite head plate**



**other side-2 calcite crystal filled vugs**

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