

**ALABAMA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FIELD TRIP**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Stratigraphy and Depositional Systems in the Mississippian Strata of the  
Appalachian Plateau, Northwest Alabama**

**Field trip co-leaders:**

**T. Markham Puckett, University of North Alabama, and  
Andrew K. Rindsberg, University of West Alabama**

**LOCATION:** The accommodations and meeting facility will be at the Holiday Inn Express, 180 Etta Gray St., Florence, Alabama. An introduction and pre-trip mixer will take place on Thursday December 11, at 7:00 pm, followed by two full days of field tripping Friday and Saturday. The bus will depart from the Holiday Inn Express on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Saturday return time will be around 5:00 p.m. In the event of wet weather, please bring appropriate footwear.

**COST:** \$150 members; \$175 non-members, \$75 student members. Field trip participants will need to make their own hotel accommodations. A block of rooms has been reserved for \$92 + tax (includes a continental breakfast) for single or double occupancy. Participants should make their reservations (256-246-2200) by December 1st in order to get the “Alabama Geological Society” group rate. The cost includes the pre-trip mixer (light refreshments), lunches during the trip, field trip transportation, a field trip guidebook, and a great time.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Mississippian strata of northwest Alabama (Colbert, Franklin and Lawrence Counties) were deposited in a wide range of geologic settings, ranging from open marine, carbonate environments to those deposited in lagoons, offshore barrier islands and shelf bars. The region is complex paleogeographically, with these environments being laterally adjacent and often spilling into one another during storm events. Pervasive in each of these environments are rhythmic beds controlled by orbital cycles. Many of these deposits are highly fossiliferous and the guidebook will include an atlas of Mississippian fossils. Hydrogeology, landscape ecology, and ichnology will be addressed at particular stops, and we will also be visiting sites with asphaltic rocks.

Day One will include stops and discussion of the Fort Payne Chert, Tuscumbia Limestone and Pride Mountain Formation in the morning. Over lunch at the Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, the landscape ecology developed on the Hartselle Sandstone and upper Pride Mountain Formation will be observed. The day will wrap up with a visit to the abandoned Alabama Rock Asphalt Quarry in western Colbert County. Day Two will continue our investigation of the Hartselle Sandstone, as well as the overlying Bangor Limestone, including the opportunity to collect well-preserved Chesterian fossils. Other stops will include the Rockwood Quarry (Alabama's world-class limestone) and an abandoned sand quarry showing Pennsylvanian fluvial sandstone. Our last stop will be to exposures of the Pride Mountain Formation and Hartselle Sandstone that are near to where interest in surface mining of oil sands is concentrated.

As part of this field trip, a Google Earth file (kmz) will be provided, which offers exact localities, images of the outcrops, a guided tour of the field trip stops, and an image of the geologic map of Alabama superimposed on the GE surface of the field area. A quick guide to how to open the file and navigate in GE is also provided. These files are available for download at <http://goo.gl/ief4Go>

**2014 AGS Annual Field Trip Registration Form**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Daytime Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alternate Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check payable to **Alabama Geological Society, P. O. Box 866184, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486**  
For more information contact Richard Carroll at 205-247-3551 ([rcarroll@gsa.state.al.us](mailto:rcarroll@gsa.state.al.us)).

***Field Trip Release and Indemnity Agreement***  
***Alabama Geological Society***

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in consideration of the receipt by me of permission from the Alabama Geological Society ("AGS") to participate in a Field Trip entitled Stratigraphy and **Stratigraphy and Depositional Systems in the Mississippian Strata of the Appalachian Plateau, Northwest Alabama, 51st Annual Field Trip of the Alabama Geological Society** to be conducted from **December 11-13, 2014**, and sponsored by the Alabama Geological Society, the receipt of such permission being hereby acknowledged, and being fully aware that the Field Trip may involve hazardous and/or dangerous activities, and/or be in a location in and/or around other hazardous and dangerous conditions, and recognizing and accepting the risks, known and unknown, involved in a Field Trip, hereby release and will indemnify, defend and hold harmless AGS, the agents, officers, servants, and employees of AGS, and the leader or leaders of the Field Trip (collectively referred to as "indemnitees") of and from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or relating to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, as may be sustained by me, and to any loss, damage, or injury to any property of mine, while involved in any way with the Field Trip, including without limitation traveling to and from the site or sites of the Field Trip (whether by air, water, or land transportation) and at and during all stops and layovers during the Field Trip.

This release and indemnity includes without limitation liabilities, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action to or by third parties as well as to or by me. This release and indemnity includes without limitation liabilities, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action arising out of or relating to any loss, damage, or injury caused in any way by the concurrent or contributory negligence of any indemnitee. This release and indemnity includes without limitation liabilities, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action arising out of or relating to any loss, damage, or injury caused in any way by the sole negligence of any indemnitee. Having made all inquiries deemed by me to be appropriate, I hereby voluntarily assume all risks of loss, damage, or injury, including death, as may be sustained by me or any property of mine while involved in any way with the Field Trip.

In the event the release by me of any indemnitee of any liability, claim, demand, action, or cause of action described herein is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, I agree that my total recovery of damages from the indemnitees, or any of them, both actual and punitive, shall be limited to \$100.00 or the cost of admission to the Field Trip, whichever is less.

In the event any provision of this Release and Indemnity Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, all other provisions hereof shall continue to be enforceable and shall be interpreted as though said invalid provision had never been contained herein.

This release shall be binding upon my distributees, heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, and personal representatives.

IN SIGNING THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, UNDERSTAND IT, AND I HAVE SIGNED IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT I WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIELD TRIP IF THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT WERE NOT SIGNED AND AGREED TO BY ME, AND THAT THE AGREEMENT BY ME TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CONSIDERATION FROM ME FOR ME TO BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIELD TRIP.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

