Excursion to Caesar Creek State Park in Warren County, Ohio: A Classic Upper Ordovician Fossil-collecting Locality

This is a self-driving excursion: We would like to provide carpooling opportunities for those without vehicles, so please note your interest in the trip when you check in for the meeting, and indicate whether you will be able to drive or need a ride.

Field trip leaders: Douglas L. Shrake, ODNR Division of Geological Survey doug.shrake@dnr.state.oh.us; and Gregory A. Schumacher, ODNR Division of Geological Survey

Date: June 24

Looking for an opportunity to relax and get out of Cincinnati? Interested in an opportunity to collect fossils without having to keep track of which stop they came from? Do you want a trip that is safe for children and those who are physically challenged? Then this one-stop field trip is for you. At approximately 1.2-million square feet in size, the relatively flat Caesar Creek emergency spillway offers an accessible fossil collecting opportunity. The field trip leaders will provide an overview of the spillway’s geology and will be available to assist with fossil identification.

Special Itinerary Notes: Time: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (depart Cincinnati at 9:00 a.m.) Trip will occur rain or shine. Transportation to Caesar Creek State Park is not provided. The trip will begin at the Caesar Creek Emergency Spillway. You are welcome to arrive earlier (please see fossil collecting rules below) or stay later.

Cost: No fee for the trip. Restaurants, gas stations, and other attractions are located in Waynesville, Ohio.

Number of Participants: There is no maximum or minimum. However, the first 50 individuals or families to arrive will receive a copy of the ODNR Division of Geological Survey’s Guidebook 12: Excursion to Caesar Creek State Park in Warren County, Ohio: A Classic Upper Ordovician Fossil-collecting Locality

Additional Trip Information

Fossil Collecting Rules:

1. You must obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visitor Center every time you wish to collect on the emergency spillway.
2. NO TOOLS may be used while you are collecting; hand collecting only is permitted.
3. Fossils may not be collected for commercial use.
4. You may keep fossils or specimens that fit in the palm of your hand. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asks that you donate any larger specimens to the Visitor Center for others to enjoy.
5. Park in designated areas on the spillway. Make sure your vehicle is completely off the road.
6. Climbing on the emergency spillway walls and talus material is very dangerous. For this reason, we ask that you collect only on the spillway floor.

Directions to Caesar Creek State Park: Caesar Creek State Park is about a 45-minute drive north from Cincinnati

Directions from the University of Cincinnati (2600 Clifton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0001)

1. Depart from the University of Cincinnati campus heading south on Clifton Ave.
2. Turn left onto West McMillan St.
3. Keep straight onto East McMillan St.
4. Take ramp on left and follow signs for I-71 North.
5. Stay on I-71 North.
6. Exit I-71 at exit 36, take ramp right and follow signs for Wilmington Road.
7. Turn right onto County Road 7 (Wilmington Road).
8. Turn left onto County Road-217 (Olive Branch Road).
9. Keep straight onto County Road 12 (Oregonia Road).
10. Turn left onto Clarksville Road. 
11. Clarksville Road passes through the Caesar Creek Emergency Spillway. There are designated parking pull offs on both sides of Clarksville Road. Additional parking is available in the Flat Fork Picnic Area. A path links the picnic area with the spillway. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visitor Center (4020 North Clarksville Road, Waynesville, OH 45068) is located about 0.4 miles past the emergency spillway off of Clarksville Road.

Alternate Route
1. An alternate route is to follow steps 1-5.
2. Exit I-71 at exit 45 (State Route 73)
3. Turn left onto SR-73.
4. Keep straight on State Route 73, cross Caesar Creek Lake, and continue to junction of Clarksville Road.
5. Turn left (south) onto Clarksville Road.
6. Keep straight on Clarksville Road; you will pass the Visitor Center on the left (east), cross the dam, and enter the emergency spillway.