



## 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 17, 2017, 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 registration with payment 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 learn about how information is preserved or lost as organisms become fossils.
- Teachers will receive *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 will visit a large outcrop near Livingston, solve a geological puzzle (“how fossils are preserved”) using clues from the rocks and fossils found there, and collect fossils, which can include snails, bivalves, shark teeth, or even sea turtles or pterosaurs (flying reptiles). In the afternoon, 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.

