



PENN DIXIE MAY 2013 PROGRAMS

PENN DIXIE PALEONTOLOGICAL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

PENN DIXIE PUBLIC HOURS

The Penn Dixie Site is **open to the public** for fossil collecting every **Saturday**, from May through October, 9 AM to 4 PM; **Sundays**, May-October, 11 AM to 4 PM and **7-days a week** June 15–Sept. 3, Mon.-Fri., 9 AM-4 PM, rain or shine. Closed Memorial Day, July 4 & Labor Day September 2. Open Columbus Day, October 14, 9 AM-4 PM. **Visits may be scheduled at other times by calling (716) 627-4560.** Non-member adults \$7 and children 12 and under \$6, and children 2 and under and Penn Dixie members are free. Penn Dixie members may visit the site anytime, but are asked to leave a message on the Society Phone when you are on-site, how many are with you, and park your car so as not to block the gate. Please bring your membership card with you at all times.

Schools and groups wishing to schedule a field trip to the Penn Dixie Site should email jbpendix@gmail.com or call (716) 627-4560.

All other **groups, families, scouts, birthday parties, & individuals**, wishing to schedule a visit at other times, should call (716) 627- 4560 or email jbpendix@gmail.com. Please call or visit our web site at www.penn Dixie.org for programs, upcoming events, membership & directions.

Get outdoors and enjoy the wonderful Spring weather!

TRILOBITE TREASURES: ARTHROPODS OF NEW YORK'S ANCIENT SEAS

Penn Dixie is pleased to have Joe 'PaleoJoe' Kchodl, of Midland, MI, speak on **"Trilobite Treasures: Arthropods of New York's Ancient Seas"** on **Friday, May 17, 2013, at 7 PM** in the auditorium of the Gateway Executive Office, 3556 Lake Shore Road, Blasdell.

PaleoJoe returns to his old stomping grounds, western New York to attend the annual 'Dig with the Experts' on Saturday May 18 at Penn Dixie. As a former Lewiston resident he became enamored with fossils at a young age. Western New York, being so fossil rich proved

all that was needed to inspire him to make paleontology his life long avocation.

Trilobites - one of the most popular, prolific and enduring Paleozoic creatures to ever inhabit the earth. These creatures once swam in the ancient tropical seas that covered western New York some 380 Million Years ago. Hear Paleojoe tell stories of life and death for these creatures once so plentiful that the Cambrian Period was called the Age of Trilobites. Along with his illustrated presentation, he will bring actual trilobite specimens found in Rochester, Utica as well as right here at Penn Dixie. He will describe how they lived and died Millions of years before the age of Dinosaurs.

Some donated door prizes will be drawn for children at the conclusion of PaleoJoe's presentation. The Public is welcome and no pre-registrations are required. \$4/person, Penn Dixie members are FREE.

9TH ANNUAL DIG WITH THE EXPERTS & SPECIAL EVENT DAY MAY 18TH

The Penn Dixie Site will be having two events beginning at 9 AM on Saturday, May 18, 2013, a Special Event Day and the annual "Dig with the Experts".

A Special Event Day program begins at 9 AM with fossil collecting and the viewing of sunspots and solar flares through filtered telescopes that will be available at the regular admission rates of \$7/adult and \$6/child 12 and under, children 2 and under and Penn Dixie members are free. Staff and volunteers will help visitors find the fossils and they can keep all the fossils they find.

The "**Dig With The Experts**" program, being led by HNHS members Dan Cooper, Don Bissett, Matt Phillips, and team members from Cincinnati, OH, will be teaching members and non-members how to collect complete trilobites and other fossils. This program will begin at 9 AM on Saturday, May 18, 2013. Dan and his team will instruct participants on how to carefully split the layers of rock that will have been pre-excavated for everyone. This is a great opportunity to collect trilobites, brachiopods, corals, and possibly cephalopods, plant remains, fish plates, etc. albeit some of these may be more difficult to discover than others. Registration for this event is \$25/HNHS member and \$30/non-members. Anyone interested in participating with the "Dig With the Experts" should call (716) 627-4560. Registration will be limited. Make your reservations now.

GEOLOGY MERIT BADGE DAY AT PENN DIXIE MAY 4TH

A Penn Dixie Geology Merit Badge Day will be held at the site on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at 10 AM. Pre-registration is required through the Greater Niagara Frontier Council. Information is available on the Penn Dixie website at www.penndixie.org.

SPRING BIRD WALK AT PENN DIXIE MAY 5

The Penn Dixie Paleontological and Outdoor Education Center in Hamburg will be conducting a **“Spring Bird Walk”** at the site led by Marilyn O’Connell, of Wild Birds Unlimited and Penn Dixie member, on **Sunday, May 5, 2013 at 9 AM to 11AM**. The Penn Dixie Site Bird List, compiled by Mike Turisk and Mike Morgante, is available on the website. The list includes 143 nesting and migratory birds that have been identified at the site.

This will be an excellent opportunity to walk the nature trails, view the new wetlands installed early in 2008 and observe the Penn Dixie birds. Dress for the weather, wear boots, and bring your binoculars and camera. Mark your calendar and plan on attending. This free bird walk will be held rain or shine, is open to the public, and children are encouraged to attend. Call (716) 627-4560 for additional information.

TELESCOPES VIEW PENN DIXIE SKIES ON MAY 11

Telescopes will focus on the planets and constellations at the Penn Dixie Paleontological and Outdoor Education Center in Hamburg, NY, on Saturday, May 11, 2013 beginning at 7:30 PM. Telescopes, with filters, will be available to view sunspots and solar flares prior to sunset. After dark, telescopes will view the Penn Dixie Skies for Venus low in the west, with a thin crescent moon and Jupiter setting in the west, the Bee Hive Cluster M44 high in the southwest, Saturn rising in the southeast, the star cluster M13 in the constellation Hercules, and a variety of other constellations.

Two 16-inch, one 14-inch, and two 8-inch telescopes will be available for viewing. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes, if they like. Penn Dixie volunteers will also help visitors learn how to operate their own telescopes. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the variety of telescopes available before making a purchase.

Dress for the weather. The public is invited and children are encouraged to attend. \$3/person, HNHS members are free. No pre-registrations are required. Call (716) 627-4560 for additional information and/or visit the web site at www.penndixie.org for directions, program, and membership information.

WEBELOS GEOLOGY BADGE DAY AT PENN DIXIE MAY 18th

Penn Dixie Webelos Geology Badge Day will be held at the site on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at 10 AM. Registration for this program may be made through the Greater Niagara Frontier Council. Information is available on the Penn Dixie website www.penndixie.org.

TEACHERS & GROUP LEADERS - BOOK YOUR FIELD TRIP TO PENN DIXIE NOW

Schools, day cares, pre-schools, scouts, recreation departments, and other group field trips to visit Penn Dixie for the spring and summer of 2013 are now being booked. Please call 627-4560 or email jbpendix@gmail.com, if you are interested in scheduling your class or group to visit to collect fossils, learn about what the area was like 380 million years ago, and the local geology.

PENN DIXIE SITE RANKED 1ST IN FOSSIL PARK RANKINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Geological Society of America Special Paper 474, June 2011, "Geobiological opportunities to learn at U.S. Fossil Parks" by Renee Clary, of Mississippi State University, and James Wandersee, of Louisiana State University, evaluated seven fossil parks and the Penn Dixie Paleontological and Outdoor Education Center in Hamburg, NY was ranked No. 1. Page 130 lists the rankings on Table 2 and the seven criteria that were evaluated. The paper provides additional details and information on the importance of these facilities to the public geobiological learning and tourism.

**VISIT WWW.PENNDIXIE.ORG
FOR PROGRAM, MEMBERSHIP,
AND EVENT INFORMATION**

**HELP SUPPORT THE PENN DIXIE SITE!
TAKE OUT A MEMBERSHIP IN THE HAMBURG
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND RECRUIT A NEW
MEMBER TODAY!**