

Announcing the dates of the

2020 NMGS FALL FIELD CONFERENCE - MT. TAYLOR REGION

Sept. 23-26, 2020; Paper submission – March 1, 2020

Trip leaders: Bonnie Frey, Shari Kelley, Kate Zeigler, Fraser Goff, Virginia McLemore

The Mt. Taylor Region is home to substantial Plio-Pleistocene-aged volcanic deposits and to the mid-20th century uranium rush. Come join us as we explore the Mesozoic stratigraphy of the area, the volcanic history of Mt. Taylor, and the legacy of a highly competitive race to mine one of the most lucrative uranium deposits in the world. The trip was conceived with the completion of the Mt. Taylor geologic map, by a team led by Fraser Goff, and with the completion of a 5-year EPSCoR study program of uranium mobility and sources, one of the largest uranium research efforts since the 1980s. We are working on a Sept. 23 pre-trip.

Day 1 will focus on the San Mateo Basin area, west of Mt. Taylor, where we will introduce the photogenic Mesozoic stratigraphy and mining in Grants Mining District. The morning will be spent on the slopes near Poison Canyon, exploring Jurassic stratigraphy. We will have lunch near the Ambrosia Lake mill site where local uranium ore was processed, followed by an afternoon within Cretaceous stratigraphy and Mt. Taylor volcanics.

Day 2 will focus on Water Canyon, on the southeast side of Mt. Taylor. Near the mouth of Water Canyon, we will view nicely exposed Cretaceous Crevasse Canyon Formation and Mt. Taylor volcanic units. Farther north in the amphitheater, a young gabbroic intrusion has warped Cretaceous rocks upward, exposing Gibson Coal, Point Lookout Sandstone (Hosta) and Mancos Shale (Satan). Participants will be challenged to find Cretaceous fossils to test the interpretation. The day will be accented by beautiful green forests and meadows.

Day 3 will focus on mine closure and reclamation east of Mt. Taylor, at the St. Anthony and Jackpile mines, one mine beginning closure operations and the other a reclaimed mine that is now a Superfund Site. Featured will be the infrequent opportunity to stand on the Jackpile Member of the Morrison Formation and view its upper contact.

