Spend Your Sunday at the Quarry

Science isn’t just for the scientists; it’s for you too! The UNI Earth Science Department, in conjunction with BMC Aggregates, is holding the 15th annual Sunday at the Quarry event at the Raymond Quarry (6900 Dubuque Road) in Waterloo, Iowa on October 4, 2015. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the quarry will be open for the public to get an up-close look at what the inside of a quarry looks like and to learn more about the Earth.

“The public will be able to collect mineral, rock and fossil samples from the site and the Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club will be on hand to help identify what has been found.” Chad Heinzel, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Science at UNI.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the working face of the quarry, take home the rocks they collect and be led on geology tours of the quarry. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in activities with exhibitors from area organizations such as; the Iowa Geological Survey Programs and Publications, the Iowa Flood Center Programs, the Black Hawk Soil and Water District Programs for the Rural and Urban Sectors and the U.S. Geological Survey Programs.

Sunday at the Quarry is held in conjunction with Earth Science Week every year. According to Heinzel, this is to draw attention to the importance of Earth Science in our daily lives because the intent of Earth Science Week, on a global scale, is to help communities learn more about the Earth, its natural resources and the importance of Earth Science research.

“By bringing the public to the quarry, they have the opportunity to interact with the many aspects of the Earth Sciences first hand.” Said Sherman Lundy, a Geologist for BMC Aggregates.

Each year, Sunday at the Quarry takes place at a different quarry in the area and every year organizers have seen the event grow in size with over 100 families and college students participating in last year’s event.

“We have seen a number of agencies and organizations begin participating in the event over the years, said Lundy. “Because of this, our outreach now includes contacts with area schools and youth organizations along with the general public. Everyone is encouraged to attend the event; from K-12 and college students to adults in the Cedar Valley, this event is for everybody.”

“It is fun to see whole families, from grandparents to little kids, digging in the rocks together,” said Marcey Seavey, who attended the event in 2014. “It’s cool to see the kids learning about how we use our natural resources.”

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sherman Lundy at sherml@bmcaggregates.com.

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