

Bells & Whistles Motorcoach Tour 2024

Plans are underway for our 2024 Motorcoach Tour, "Bells & Whistles" on Saturday, June 8, 2024. The tour will begin at 8:00 am in Hays and travel to sites in Ellis, Russell, and Ellsworth counties. Included will be visits to St. Fidelis Basilica in Victoria, George Grant Villa near Hays, and stops along the Union Pacific Railroad route in Walker, Dorrance, and downtown Wilson.

Participants will enjoy an authentic German Buffet lunch in Wilson, followed by a trip through the Post Rock Scenic Byway to Lucas to visit the Grassroots Art Center, Garden of Eden, and Bowl Plaza. There will also be several points of interest along the way and our guides will provide interesting historical narratives.

A limited number of tickets will be available beginning in February. Watch our website for more details and date registration opens.



"Bells & Whistles" Tour Information:
kansaspostrocklimestone.org/events

(registration opens in February 2024)

Next Meeting:

Meetings of the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition are held every two months in locations across the Post Rock region and everyone is welcome. Our next meeting will be January 31, 2024 starting at 10:00 am in Great Bend. We will be making plans for upcoming events and festivals in 2024. Check our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for meeting venue and details.



Happy Holidays!



The holiday season in downtown Jetmore, Kansas - Photo by Leann Seiler

As we approach the end of 2023, the Coalition would like to thank all of our members and supporters. We have come a long way since our beginnings in 2019 and we celebrate some amazing recent accomplishments:

- Hosted "Skyscrapers & Steeples" motorcoach tour
- Served a sell-out German meal at Lucas April Fools-A-Palooza
- Sponsored the Tour de Kapellen in Hays
- Were a resource for a survey of historic Post Rock sites
- Approved for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Set up our booth at various community festivals
- Presented at the State Media Event in Abilene
- Represented at the State Fair with the South-Central KS Tourism Booth
- Distributed our Post Rock Field Guide Map
- Awarded the first Post Rock Limestone Preservation Award
- Maintained membership in Kansas Tourism Coalitions: North Central, South Central, Northwest and Southwest.

It has been a great year. We may have experienced a few bumps in the road, but our journey has been successful and fun. We couldn't have done it without our awesome team - our officers and board members. We look forward to the coming year to see what exciting adventures await. Thank you!
Bradley Penka, KPRLC Chairman

Sites We've Seen...



The Post Rock Museum in La Crosse sits quietly following an evening snow. The native stone building was originally the homestead of Dan Haley, constructed in 1883 southwest of Nekoma in Rush County. In 1963, the Rush County Historical Society moved the house stone by stone to its present location "to preserve the ingenuity and perseverance of the Kansas pioneers."



One of the 8 Wonders of Kansas and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, St. Fidelis Basilica in Victoria is a magnificent example of Post Rock architecture. A private meditation area is surrounded by the native stone friary and church building.



"Monarch of the Plains" - Hays, Kansas
Limestone Sculpture by Pete Felten

Fossils in Post Rock Limestone

From rushcounty.org/PostRockMuseum/prgeology.html by Bradley Penka & Patricia Duffey

Fossils are not as prevalent in the Post Rock (Fencepost) limestone as in other layers. However, a few are frequently found including *Inoceramus labiatus*, *Collignoceras woolgari*, driftwood, and sharks teeth and scales.



Inoceramus labiatus, commonly called fossil clams, are easily recognized since they closely resemble modern sea shells. Their sizes and shapes can vary greatly. These clams are also referred to as bivalved mollusks (bivalves) since their shells are composed of two parts called valves. Bivalves can be traced back to the Cambrian Period, about 510 million years ago. Some ancient bivalves lived on the seafloor and attached themselves to rocks or sediment in the same manner as modern oysters.

The ammonite, *Collignoceras woolgari*, is a relative to the modern squid and octopus, a member of a class of animals known as cephalopods. Ammonoids are common in the fossil record and can be traced from as far back as 415 million years ago to the end of the Cretaceous Period about 65 million years ago. Fossils found in the Post Rock region are the youngest of the lineage.



Silicified driftwood is also common in the Post Rock limestone and can vary considerably in size and shape. Generally, they are considered mini-lignite deposits since the wood has not been completely replaced as in typical fossilization. Many are scarred with round calcite filled holes originally bored by ancient molluscs. These molluscs are comparable to the modern ship-worm. Some specimens also exhibit areas of sparkling quartz crystals.

KPRLC Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership in the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition. Your support helps us continue our mission of "promoting, preserving, and protecting the history, art, and architecture of the Kansas Post Rock Limestone region through education and tourism."

By being a member, you will help us to fulfill our mission, plus you and/or your business will have the opportunity to be featured in promotional materials and special events.

To join or renew, visit our website www.kansaspostrocklimestone.org/ and select membership. To pay by check, download and print an application, then mail to: Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition, PO Box 44, Lucas, KS 67648.

Other benefits of membership include:

- Opportunity to network and learn about our area's limestone attractions and history by attending our bi-monthly meetings.
- Partnership opportunities (logo's, brochures, etc.) by planning, promoting, and expanding tourism when hosting limestone workshops, tours, and other programs.
- Ensure that Kansas Post Rock limestone's heritage is preserved for future generations (your children and grandchildren!).
- A referral resource for masons and stoneworkers as requested by individuals, architects, engineering firms and other industry experts.
- Projects contribute to economic growth through community investment.
- 100% of your donations go to KPRLC's programs and facilities.
- Voting rights at general meetings.