GSLAESC News by Brad Weatherbie
Please see "Field Trips" for information on our club's participation in a field trip that was suggested by the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs. GSLAESC is also planning to suggest a field trip for this fall, probably in late September.

A new, up-to-date version of our website is scheduled to go online on Saturday, April 2. Please check it out at StLEarthSci.org, & give us your feedback!

Stromatolites by Charles Calkins

On April 27th, 2009 I visited Lester Park (N43.09197 W73.84808), near Saratoga Springs, NY. Lester Park, managed by the New York State Museum, is approximately a hundred square meters of an exposed Cambrian-era seabed (Figure 1). Stromatolites ("layered stones"), fossils of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) mats, are visible in the Hoyt Limestone, varying in size with the largest over a foot across (Figures 2 through 4 with a U.S. quarter for scale). Lester Park is especially notable as this was the first area in North America where stromatolites were identified.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3-- Coin in the photo is a quarter.

Figure 4

Editors' Note:
If you want to learn more about stromatolites, here are a few web sites we found with just a quick Google search:
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080704122847.htm

http://nai.arc.nasa.gov/students/this_month/page2.cfm

http://nai.arc.nasa.gov/students/this_month/g3_matgallery.swf

http://rashidfaridi.wordpress.com/2009/12/18/stromatolite-the-oldest-fossils-encoding-the-mysteries-of-deep-time/

If you type the latitude and longitude into Google Earth you will see an aerial view of this site.

We would like to publish more photos and descriptions of your rock adventures! Send them to rocklore@weatherbie.com and you may see them in future issues.