

## September & October, 2003 Collecting Cretaceous Gastropods

We have visited this site three times over the past couple months so instead of doing individual trip reports I decided to lump them all together. Arvid Aase and I stumbled upon this site in early September, and we have visited it a couple times since then. We have never stayed for long because we can get our fill in a hurry, but it is fun and enjoyable for kids since the fossils are everywhere. The best thing about this spot is that the fossils are so easy to find. You just have to look down. The first time we went we just wandered around and picked them up off the surface. Then we decided to go back with shovels and screens to see if it was easier to separate the fossils from the rock. Unfortunately there were so many clams, complete and broken, in with the gastropods that it was almost as easy to just pick them up off the surface as it was to dig for them.

A view of the hill that we find the gastropods and clams on. It doesn't look like much from a distance, but once you get up close...



Closer view of the same hill.



All of the white things in this picture are fossil clams.





Using a screen in a box to get the dirt out and leave the fossils behind. Almost every rock in the box is a fossil. Most are pieces of broken clams, but as you can see, there are a lot of gastropods.



My daughter McKinley helping Grandpa, Val, pick out the gastropods.



Grandpa, Lloyd, using an old shopping basket to sort out the fossils.



McKinley and me.



Not a fossil, but an interesting find. This was one of many garter snakes that we saw.



McKinley enjoying the sight of the small snake. This was as close as she wanted to get.

