

Message from Missouri Department of Natural Resources



On behalf of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and our geosciences division, the Missouri Geological Survey, I welcome you to the city of Springfield, Missouri. Missouri is a wonderful place to live, work, and recreate, and Springfield has much to offer in the way of arts, entertainment, food, and scenery. Springfield is the home of Route 66, Bass Pro Shops, and Wilson's Creek National Civil War Battlefield; it is a city rich in history that ties back to the local geography and geology. Springfield is known for high calcium limestone deposits rich with caves, freshwater springs, and sinkholes. This unique geology is the source of economic prosperity in the form of show caves, aggregate, agricultural lime, and dimension stone, some of which was used on the face of the State's capitol building in Jefferson City and many other prominent structures in the state and nation. Springfield is located in the heart of the gently rolling Springfield Plateau physiographic region and is rimmed to the south by deeply incised Ozark hills and mountains that stretch into Arkansas. These two geographic regions are examples of the geographic and geologic diversity in our state that our citizens and the scientific community appreciate.

As an agency that works to protect our air, land, water, and mineral resources, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, along with academia, industry, and other government entities, see the need to build scientific expertise in the STEM areas to produce the geoscience workforce of the future. We give our full support to the Geological Society of America to challenge Midwest students in the geosciences. The organizing committee has planned a meeting program that looks to be an exciting assemblage of scientific and career-building activities that we hope you'll take full advantage of.

I want to personally thank the GSA planning committee for asking my team to be a part of this exciting opportunity and the future it represents for students and growing the geosciences in the Midwest. I wish you a fruitful and successful meeting in Springfield.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dru Buntin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dru Buntin, Director

Missouri Department of Natural Resources