

M.A.P.S. Digest

Official Publication of
Mid-America Paleontology Society

Volume 18 Number 6
July-September, 1995



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

23 SEP 24 FALLS FOSSIL FESTIVAL. Falls of the Ohio State Park, 201 W. Riverside Drive, Clarksville, IN 47129. Phone 812-280-9970.

Includes vendors, programs, displays, guided hikes.

See below for more information.

14 OCT MAPS MEETING. Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, 123 N. Capital St., Iowa City, IA. Main Lecture Room, #125.

1:00 Board & General Meeting combined.
2:00 Program:

27 OCT 28 29 FOSSILMANIA XIII, SOMERVELL COUNTY EXPO CENTER, Highway 67 in Glen Rose, TX

Fri & Sat: 9-6
Sun: 9-2

Saturday Night Fossil Auction

For further information, contact:
Bill Morgan: 210-492-9163

1 NOV 2 3 4 55TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY. Sheraton Station Square on the South Side of Pittsburgh.

For information, contact the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau at Four Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1259. Phone: 800-366-0093

12 APR 13 14 1996 MAPS NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION XVIII

Fri., Apr. 12: 8am - 6pm
Sat., Apr. 13: 8am - 5pm
Sun., Apr. 14: 8am - 3pm

*** 95/09 DUES ARE DUE ***

Are your dues due? You can tell by checking your mailing label. The top line gives the expiration date in the form of year followed by month--95/09 means 1995/Sept. Dues cover the issue of the Digest for the month in which they expire.

We do not send notices but will let you know if you are overdue by highlighting your mailing label on your Digest. We carry overdues for two months before dropping them from our mailing list.

Please include your due date and name exactly as it appears on your mailing label--or include a label.

Dues are \$20 per U.S./Canadian household per year. Overseas members may choose the \$20 fee to receive the Digest by surface mail or a \$30 fee to receive it by air mail. (Please send a check drawn on a United States bank in US funds; US currency; a money order; or a check drawn on an International bank in your currency.) Library/Institution fee is \$25.

Make checks payable to MAPS and mail to:
Sharon Sonneleitner, Treas.
4800 Sunset Dr. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

ABOUT THE COVER

This month's cover photo is the head of a large ant in amber x 15.2, sent by John Bernard, Crossville, Tennessee.

FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK FALL FOSSIL FESTIVAL

The Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville, Indiana, will hold its first Falls Fossil Festival September 23-24.

Presenters at the festival will include:

Saturday

Frank Ettensohn--*A Walk Through Time in Central Kentucky: 460-360 Million Years Ago*
Henry Barwood--*Minerals of Arkansas*
Warren Anderson--*Minerals of Kentucky*
Nelson Shaffer--*Minerals of Indiana*
Steve Greb--*Dinosaurs!*

Sunday

David Taylor--*Fossil Flowers of Kentucky and Tennessee*
Mike Savarese--*Coral Reefs, Past and Present!*
Ron Richards--*Ice Age Animals of Indiana*

Anyone wishing to participate as a vendor should contact Alan Goldstein, Naturalist, at the address listed in MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

MAPS PICNIC WELL ATTENDED

The July MAPS combined field trip and picnic brought out a good number of area MAPS members. Although July can be unbearably hot around here, we enjoyed a reasonably comfortable morning collecting crinoids in the Burlington formation near West Point, Iowa, followed by a bountiful potluck at Karl Stuekejuergen's. I think everyone on the trip collected some nice specimens of crinoids. Thanks to Karl and Lee for opening their home for the potluck and a view of Karl's magnificent collection.

Beginning this fall MAPS meetings will be held at Trowbridge Hall at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, four times per year, in addition to the meeting at EXPO in April. See the back page for the schedule. Perhaps those of you who live in the area can attend and get involved in the organization of MAPS.

BURGLARY IN SCENIC, SOUTH DAKOTA
 by Ron Ruschman

Twila Merrill, Proprietor of Scenic, South Dakota, and the C.H. Merrill Museum of Natural History has informed me that there was a break-in and burglary of their museum and rock shop in Scenic. Several items were taken, most notably several modern skulls: **alligator, hippopotamus, lion, and bear skulls**, as well as some casts, including: a **smilodon** and some **dinosaur reproductions**. Also several prepared specimens of typical Badlands fossil **turtles** and **oreodon specimens**. She would appreciate any information concerning the recovery of these items if it should arise.
 Contact: Twila Merrill
 P.O. Box 32
 Scenic, SD 57780

WILLIAM R. MYERS, SR. PASSES AWAY

Betty Myers sent word that her husband, Bill, passed away August 4. Both were MAPS members. Bill received an 18 Gun Salute Military Funeral. Our sincere condolences to Betty and their family.

UK DEALER IN SECONDHAND BOOKS

If you are interested in secondhand books on paleontology or geology, you might want to get on the mailing list of Stuart A. Baldwin, a major United Kingdom dealer in secondhand books on paleontology. He has approximately 100,000 items in stock on paleontology and geology and has several catalogues in preparation. Contact:

Stuart A. Baldwin, FGS, FLS
 Baldwin's Scientific Books (P.B.F.A.)
 Fossil Hall, Boars Tye Road, Silver
 End, Witham, Essex
 ENGLAND, CM8 3QA
 fx: (01376) 584480
 Email: s.baldwin!bbcnc.org.uk

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
ALERT--A Second Chance

You have a second chance to vote in the affirmative for the Fossil Protection Act of 1995. The subcommittee reviewed the proposed bill and wanted to make several changes from the bill as originally proposed by American Land Access Association. These changes are being considered. In the meantime, Congress has gone on summer recess and will take up the bill on their return. The bill is expected to be introduced for a vote in late September or October before the close of the 104th Congress First Session.

You have a right to vote by sending a letter to your legislators or call (202/224-3121). Mail cards or letters to:

Senator _____
 Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Representative _____
 Representatives Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

The National Academy of Science recommended this action in 1987 and now is the time to add your voice vote to say--DO SOMETHING. We need action by the thousands.

John Boland

GETTING CONNECTED

by Joe Small, Dash Point, Washington

If you cannot get enough of fossils an paleontology... if trips to museums, hours in "collections" and weeks in the field don't take the edge off your fossil hunger... if you just can't bear the thought of stuff happening without you, maybe you are a candidate for "The Net."

Internet, that is.

Why would you want to do this?

- Read or participate in discussions about current trends in paleo research.
- Find out what's going on in paleontology this week!
- Grind your teeth over endless philosophical debates.
- "Surf the Net" for all sorts of fun

How can you get "connected?"

A. If you work for an organization which is already connected to internet:

Ask your Systems Administrator or Network Support folks for help. If they can't (or won't), go to "B."

B. If you have a personal computer at your home or office AND a phone line AND a few extra dollars per month:

Even if you already have all this stuff, you will probably need some help. The first thing to do is locate a commercial Internet Services Provider in your neighborhood. All of these businesses are new, so you won't find them in the Yellow Pages. Ask around. Newspapers are constantly doing features on Internet; it might be a good idea to phone your newspaper and ask them for the name and number of a local services provider.

C. Otherwise:

Find someone who is already doing it. Go to their place of business or home. Ask them to show you all about it.

Remember, there are Internet Services Providers all over the place. Most of them are in densely populated areas. The important thing, however, is to find one

with a phone number that is not a toll charge for you. You will want to be connected for long periods of time, so long-distance charges are to be avoided.

You will need a modem, too.

Recommendations: If you do not already have a fairly powerful Mac or PC, don't get one just for the sake of getting onto Internet. You may, as I did, purchase a high-speed modem just for this purpose (\$69), but even that is questionable for the casual user. Once you are fairly sure you want to get connected, buy one of the many books on the subject--the kind with software included are helpful.

So now you've done it. What's next?

After you've figured out how to use the software you'll probably wish to start receiving mail from one or more of these groups:

FOSSIL-NUTS--This is the newest one, and the one recommended for the enthusiastic amateur paleo buff. Good exchange between amateurs: sites, preparation, advice. Send e-mail to *oyvind.hammer@notam.uio.no*, asking him to register you as a subscriber.

DINOSAUR--This one has been around for a while and enjoys the participation of very many professional paleontologists. Send e-mail to *listproc@lepomis.psy.c.upenn.edu* with the phrase 'subscribe dinosaur (your name)' in the body of the message.

ROCKS-AND-FOSSILS--A better choice for most fossil and mineral collectors. A good place to ask for locations info. *Majordomo@world.std.com*, 'subscribe rocks-and-fossils (your name)'.

PALEONET--All kinds of paleontological subjects. Send e-mail to *Listserver@nhm.ac.uk* 'subscribe paleonet'.

So if your life has been going too smoothly lately and you need a measure of aggravation, if you can't stay away from an endless debate between professionals and amateurs, get on The Net. When you do... first thing... send a nice note to bonebug@halcyon.com. You might not feel as friendly after a few weeks on THE NET.

Joe Small is a rabid amateur paleontologist, computer systems guy and recent MAPS member. His publication, "Fossil News--Journal of Amateur Paleontology" is available by subscription from:
Fossil News
6803 Whitman Street Northeast
Dash Point, WA 98422

FOSSIL CLEANING TIPS

from *PALEO Notes*, Guy Darrough, ed.

In most cases, when a fossil is cleaned, the surface is usually left with a dull or chalky look, even if you're very careful. This is caused by the abrasion of the tool against the fossil's surface.

In an effort to make the fossil look better, some collectors use the quick method, and cover their specimens with clear plastic sprays to bring out the details and lessen the scratchy appearance. These collections are easy to recognize because every specimen looks as if it is wet or dipped in plastic. The trouble with this method is, that it puts an unnatural, glossy appearance on the fossil, as well as the matrix, giving your specimen poor contrast.

In their natural state, fossils are not usually glossy, and professional museum preparators will tell you that making a fossil something is never was, is poor practice. Clear sprays have a tendency to become cloudy over time, and the temptation to spruce up the collection by re-spraying specimens becomes a habit, which only puts more cloudy layers on the specimen. These coatings make photographing fossils difficult; they are very hard to remove and will sometimes render specimens useless for scientific study.

A simple and common sense way to get around these problems is to use an alcohol soluble, clear shellac. Just mix two parts shellac to eight parts alcohol, the ratio can vary slightly to suit personal tastes. This mixture will leave a pleasing, natural matt finish.

When using this method, make sure the fossil is clean of dust. With a small artist brush, carefully coat *only* the fossil with the dilute shellac. This will reveal the specimen's actual color and allow the fossil to stand out against the natural matrix, giving excellent contrast. The more attention you give to coating delicate structures, the more beautiful the specimen will be. If you accidentally use too much--or if it runs on the matrix--just dip the brush in alcohol, and whisk the coating away. It dries in second.

Make no doubt about it, fossil collecting has become very sophisticated in recent years, and collections quickly prepared by obsolete or improper methods are now readily noticed by other collectors. For a good book on fossil preparation, I recommend *The Practical Paleontologist* by Steve Parker and Raymond L. Bernor, printed by Simon and Schuster.



Barbara Fite sent this photo of Bill and Lelia Brayfield with the plaque they were awarded by the Paleontological Research Institute at EXPO. The award was to honor their contributions as amateurs to the field of paleontology. Terry Sellari accepted the award in their place and Barbara delivered it to them. She reports that they were most grateful.

RARE DINOSAUR SKIN FIND
excerpts from "Rare Skin Find Is Closest
Thing to Petting a Dinosaur"
by Charlene R. Winters
pub. in Brigham Young Magazine, May 1995
sent by David Jones, Worthington, MN

Even at first glance, the slab of golden stone resting on a pallet in BYU's Earth Science Museum looks remarkable. Rare impressions of dinosaur skin are evident from the bumpy nodes that protrude from the surface.

Even more rare, however, is a latticework of tendons seen just below the surface. In a few places stone creases show how the animal's skin folded as it decayed. A cluster of burrows in one corner suggests the presence of small marine animals, and a cross section reveals bony skeletal remains.

Looking at the find, one gets a sense of a creature emerging from a petrified prison and that rubbing the neck would be the closest thing possible to petting a dinosaur.

The remains are a hadrosaur, a 75- to 80-million-year-old duckbilled dinosaur from the Cretaceous era found in the remote Book Cliffs area of Southern Utah and lifted out by helicopter (last) summer. This specimen has been determined to be an adult not yet full grown, probably about 19-feet long.

These fossils are housed in BYU's Earth Science Museum under the supervision of Kenneth Stadtman...

One of the paleontologists involved in the current research is Brian Anderson, who, as a University of California at Riverside graduate student, made the initial discovery with his field assistant Roger Wagerle while studying the local rock units.

While working, they found several minute bone chips along a trail. Much like Hansel and Gretel following a trail of bread crumbs, they eventually stumbled onto something unexpected: portions of rocks where they could see bones and nicely preserved impressions of skins...

At the time of the initial discovery, Paul Sereno, a paleontologist at the University of Chicago, said dinosaur skin fossils were exceptionally rare and estimated that only

a couple dozen had ever been found worldwide. He also indicated that the value of the discovery hinged on whether fossils yet to be excavated showed impressions of skin from parts of the body not yet seen, such as facial or tail skin.

Fortunately, says Stadtman, the recent excavation produced a substantial part of the animal, including vertebrae from the lower back, from the pelvic area, from the upper portion of the tail, as well as some skull elements.

"Most of the previously described skin impressions are bits and pieces," says (Mary) Droser (a paleontologist at the University of California at Riverside). "Ours are completely different; our skin impressions are continuous sheets several meters long. As we worked, I saw a visual image of a real animal--one that had not been subject to significant scavenging."...

"Also significant," says Anderson..., "is the unique assemblage of different types of fossils occurring together. Besides skin impressions, you have got plant material and trace fossils. We are analyzing why these are preserved together."

Because skin usually deteriorates too rapidly to form a fossil, this kind of treasure would only be possible if the hadrosaur died in a spot where very fine grained sediment could surround the carcass quickly and preserve the skin.

According to (Reese) Barrick (a paleontologist at NC State), "The animal needed to be covered rapidly and bacterial kept to a minimum with the carcass resting on a partially stable substrate. Grains of sand needed to cement quickly before the sheer weight of the hadrosaur smeared the whole image."...

The team is using Barrick's specialty in geochemistry to help analyze the environment specific to the Book Cliffs area at the time the dinosaur died. Droser, whose specialty is taphonomy--or preservation--will analyze how the animal and the trace fossils got into the fossil record. Anderson will use his skills as a sedimentologist to help interpret the depositional environment, and Stadtman will study the anatomy and determine what type of hadrosaur this was....

REPTILE FOSSIL FOUND IN NEW ENGLAND
from an article and letter sent by
Carlton S. Nash

Fossilized bones of reptiles are somewhat rare in the South Hadley area of Massachusetts, but MAPS member Carlton S. Nash found one in the dinosaur quarry he owns there. The four-inch-long reptile is from the late Triassic or possibly the early Jurassic, according to authorities. Mark McMenam, a professor of geology at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, says that through a magnifying glass, a skin impression and part of a leg bone can be distinguished.

Nash has been digging dinosaur tracks from his shale outcropping for 55 years. He said, "All these years I've been looking for fossils (of bones) and when I saw it, I knew I found one." Although tracks are common in the Connecticut Valley (Nash's property has produced about 5000 so far), fossilized bones are not, because the bones usually deteriorated before they could be preserved. McMenam said the only other skeleton from the area was discovered in the early 20th century in a boulder near the Mt. Holyoke campus.

Nash first showed the new fossil to McMenam in 1991 and again more recently. "But I'm certain it's not a dinosaur. It's too small even for a baby dinosaur," said McMenam. He also believes it's a new genus, according to Nash.

The reason there are thousands of dinosaur tracks in his shale, according to Nash, is because the area was once a shore of a lake that stretched from Northampton to Belchertown and was pushed up to the surface by volcanic action. McMenam believes there is a high likelihood another specimen will be found in the tennis-court sized outcropping of shale that the 80-year-old Nash still cuts with the help of his son.

ARTICLES AND COVERS WANTED

This is a request for covers and articles for the *Digest*. Remember anything that is of interest to you is of interest to others, too. Send to the editor.



© Carlton S. Nash, 1991

20-MILLION-YEAR-OLD MAGNOLIA TREE
from *Fossilletter* 5/90
via *PaleoDiscovery* 12/94
Earle H. Campbell, ed.

Fossil magnolia leaves have been discovered in northern Idaho. Unlike any other fossil plants, these well-preserved specimens have yielded DNA. The unique preservation was the result of having been deposited in a cold lake and rapidly buried. Researchers, including Michael Clegg of UC Riverside, extracted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) from a specimen and were able to determine its chemical make-up. With this analysis they could ascertain the relationship between present day and descendants and their fossil counterparts.

ADVERTISING SECTION

Ads are \$5.00 per inch (6 lines x 1 column--43 spaces). Send information and checks payable to MAPS to: Mrs. Gerry Norris, 2623 34th Avenue Ct., Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6505.

This space is a \$5.00 size.

To extend currently running ads, please send request and remittance to Editor by the 15th of the month. We do not bill. Ads do not run in the EXPO issue (April). Ads up to 8 lines by 54 spaces can be printed in smaller type to fit a 1" space.

Will buy fine, large Wyoming belemnite *Pachyteuthys* sp. or trade Austrian marine fossils.
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(817) 897-4843

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Please ADD the Following NEW OR REJOINING MEMBERS to Your Directory:

James L. Arenz
1509 130th Ave.
Farmington IA 52626
319-836-2102

Environmental Tech. Will trade. Major interest trilobites, Cambrian-Ordovician faunas. Has for trade trilobites, blastoids. Member of Eastern MO. Soc. for Paleo., St. Louis. Wants to meet others who have similar interests.

Donald Baumgartner
120 South Walnut Street
Palatine IL 60067
708-359-5767
fax: 312-353-4342
Baumgartner.Donald@EPAMail.
EPA.Gov

Medical Entomologist/Life Scientist. Will trade. Major interest invertebrates, esp. insects in amber, on shales, or in other media. Interest in expanding general collection as well. Has for trade Overstocks of Pit 11 (Mazon Creek) material. Wants to develop friendships with others for purpose of cooperative field collecting of all kinds of fossils.

Jane & Bob Bergman
3361 Charing Cross
Ann Arbor MI 48108
313-973-0095
reb@iti.org

Medical Records Analyst/Consultant. Memb. of Friends of the Mus. of Paleo., U. of MI. Want to learn more about Paleo.

Steven G. Black
P.O. Box 2236
4424 S. 7th St.
Terre Haute IN 47802
812-299-3937

Optometrist. New to field (95). Wants to learn more to teach his kids (ages 7 & 9 in 95).

Richard J. DellaCroce
973 Walnut St.
Freeland PA 18224
717-636-0332
fax: 717-636-0332

Dental Technician/Owner. Will trade. Major interest sealife--trilobites & plant/tree types NE, USA. Also interested in dinosaurs & fossil types in Midwest and West. Has for trade PA plant types & sea life; Penn.-Perm., esp. ferns & trees; Ord.-Sil.-Dev.

Bill Dymacek
946 E. 2100 RD
Eudora KS 66025
913-542-2390

Science Teacher. Will trade. Major interest vertebrates. Has for trade lots of KS Penn. brachiopods, small sponges, Ohio trilobites. Wants to increase knowledge of fossils & increase contacts for trading fossils to enhance private and school collections.

Howard & Darlene Emry
4892 S. Genoa St.
Aurora CO 80015

Rejoining

Barbara Fite
P.O. Box 1766
Lutz FL 33549

Rejoining.

David K. Hackett
6500 Trousdale Road
Knoxville TN 37921
615-691-7835

Rejoining

Dr. Philip Haseley
Niagara County Comm. College
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.
Sanborn NY 14132
716-835-7709
wk: 716-731-3271

College Professor. Will trade. Major interest vertebrate paleontology, esp. dinosaurs, perissodactyls, fish. Not much to trade (95). Wants to share interest in fossil collecting with others of like mind.

Jerald A. Mitchell
140 Edison Avenue
Detroit MI 48202
313-867-8960
fx: 313-577-3125

Professor of Anatomy.

Matt Perry
1619 Carleton St.
Berkeley CA 94703

Bob Schacht
8546 Brae Ct.
Mooresville IN 46158
317-834-3370

Life/Earth Science Teacher. Will trade. Major interest Miss. & Penn. age trilobites. Has for trade crinoids and trilobites.

Dr. Wolfgang Vogel
50 Stephanie St. #2510
Toronto, On. CANADA
M5T 1B3
416-340 2514
vogel@shri.on.ca

Postdoctoral fellow. Will trade. Major interest invert. from middle and lower Jur., esp. ammonites & snails; Paleozoic fossils, esp. trilobites. Has for trade Jur. ammonites from Germany; Holzmaden, Solnhofen fossils; Tertiary molluscs from Ger., France, Italy; sea urchins, silicified corals. Member of Ont. Paleo. Assoc., Sudbury; Augsburg Fossilfreunde Ger. Wants to connect with US memb. for col. & swap.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF ADDRESS OR CORRECTIONS:

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243 March St.
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214-390-1830
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Newport PA 17074
717-567-7433

Husband Bill dec. 8/95.

Bertie M. O'Connor
Images In Stone
79 W. Palm Dr.
Arcadia CA 91007

Sharon Shea
9 South Street #1
Brighton MA 02135

The Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) was formed to promote popular interest in the subject of paleontology; to encourage the proper collecting, study, preparation, and display of fossil material; and to assist other individuals, groups, and institutions interested in the various aspects of paleontology. It is a non-profit society incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa.

Membership in MAPS is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils and the aims of the Society.

Membership fee: One year from month of payment is \$20 per household. Institution or Library fee is \$25.00. Overseas fee is \$20.00 with Surface Mailing of DIGESTS OR \$30.00 with Air Mailing of DIGESTS. (Payments other than those stated will be pro-rated.)

MAPS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of October, November, January, and March and at EXPO in April. A picnic is held during the summer. October through March meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. in Trowbridbe Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. One annual International Fossil Exposition is held in April.

MAPS official publication, MAPS DIGEST, is published 9 months of the year--October through April, May/June, July/August/September.

- President: Gilbert Norris, 2623 34th Avenue Ct., Rock Island, IL 61201
- 1st Vice President: Lyle Kugler, 612 8 E. 3rd St., Aledo, IL 61231
- 2nd Vice President: Allyn Adams, 612 W. 51st Street, Davenport, IA 52806
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- Membership: Dale Stout, 2237 Meadowbrook Dr. S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



CYATHOCRINITES

MID-AMERICA PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY

Mrs. Sharon Sonnleitner
MAPS DIGEST Editor
4800 Sunset Dr. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Dated Material - Meeting Notice



FIRST CLASS MAIL

MAPS EXP. DATE..... 95/12
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