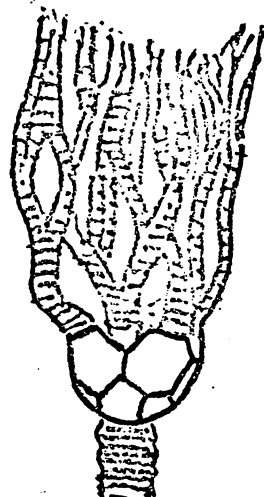


# M. A. P. S.

# DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 2 December 1978

Official publication of the  
Mid-America Paleontology Society



CYATHOCRINITES

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S NOTES

Our October 2nd meeting was a bit unusual, due to the absence of several officers: President Dick Johannesen in California; Vice President Gil Norris in Cleveland, and Secretary Alberta Cray in Colorado. So Board Member Don Good chaired the meeting.

Treasurer JoAnn Good reported a balance of \$264.46, with a membership of 92 adults and 5 junior members.

A proposed jacket patch for MAPS members was discussed, using the Cyathocrinites in our logo. This will be in silver/white on a pale blue background, about 2" by 4" in size. The cost will be \$1.00 each.

Plans for our up-coming National Fossil Exchange were explained by Wallis Harris, swap chairman. See details elsewhere in the bulletin.

The election of officers for 1978-1979 was held with the following results:

President - Gil Norris  
Vice President - Doug DeRosear  
Secretary - Alberta Cray  
Treasurer - JoAnn Good  
Director - 3 years Lloyd Rose  
Director - 2 years to be named  
Director - 1 year Mary Boland

Due to the lack of an official quorum cards will be sent to all members to affirm the above election results.

## Program/Meeting Notes

Jim Frink, a MAPS member from Rock Island, will present the program for our December 2nd meeting. This will be on the cleaning and preparation of fossils.

The date for our first 1979 meeting will be changed from January 6th to January 13th as the college buildings at Augustana will be closed on our regular meeting date.

Please mark your new 1979 calendars now: MAPS meeting on January 13th.

## 1978-1979 Membership Roster

This, our first official roster, is being included with this issue of the DIGEST. It includes the names, addresses, and a thumbnail sketch of each paid-up member that has been reported to your editor.

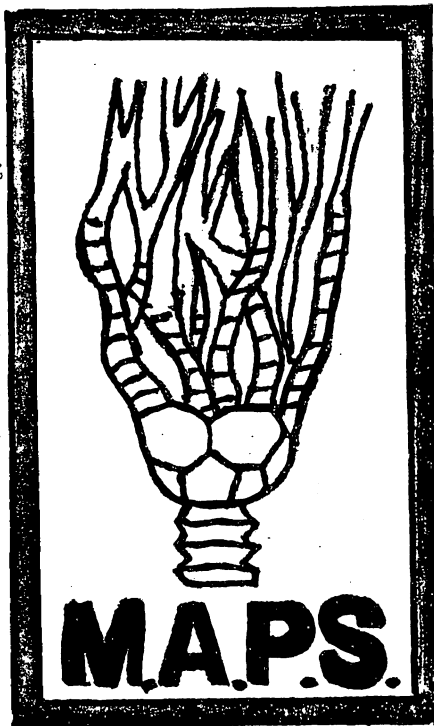
As new members join us in the future the same information about them will be published in future issues of the DIGEST. Future issues of the roster will probably only contain names and addresses.

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All members who joined MAPS prior to 1 June 1978....your dues are due! Send them to JoAnn Good, 410 NW 3rd St, Aledo, Illinois 61231 by mid-December to receive future issues of the MAPS DIGEST

"A LOVE OF FOSSILS BRINGS US TOGETHER"

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

As noted in the Secretarys minutes for October, a white on blue patch has been selected for use on shirts and jackets, as shown in this full-size sketch. Cost is \$1.00 each. You will be notified via the DIGEST when they become available, early in 1979.



## H E L P !

Let me take this opportunity to remind you that any and all types of articles on fossil subjects are most welcome: original if you are able to write them, or good items from magazines, news-papers, other clubs bulletins, or professional journals.

With your help ( a hundred and eleven pairs of eyes on the lookout for good fossil articles is better than one) we can have a bulletin to be proud of and one that will benefit us all.

But I need your help, and this you agreed to give when you applied for society membership.

BEFORE 30 December 1978 my address is  
1508 West 38th Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52806

AFTER 1 January 1979 my address will be:

2708 - 34th Street, Apt 1  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

DJ

A suggestion has been given to me concerning the make-up/pattern/content of the MAPS DIGEST.

As many of you know, especially if you have been officers in a rock club or perhaps the bulletin editor, the club's bulletin is the life-line binding the members as a group. This fact is very true with a society like MAPS, whose members are spread over the entire US and in five foreign countries as well. It is no small task to try to satisfy a group with such varied locations and interests.

The suggestion proposes that full and complete secretaries minutes shall be printed: (I feel a condensed version will suffice); information on area shows given: (impossible due to our wide geographical spread); a review of the past meetings program: (if you could not be there it is of no value to rehearse in this way); same goes for "brag sessions"; member news such as what they are doing, where they went, illnesses, birthdays, anniversaries and so on.

My thought as to what our MAPS DIGEST should do is quite different, as we are not a "run-of-the-mill" rock club. I envision MAPS as a semi-professional society with members much more interested in learning about new finds, new theories, reports of new fossil books, explanations of "how to" and "why" on all fossil subjects. News about up-coming programs and society projects are a "must" of course, and member letters sharing their collecting experiences are always welcome.

I invite you to share your thoughts with me on this subject, your desires as to what path our MAPS DIGEST should follow: the more common and usual rock-club format, or the semi-professional approach I have spelled out above.

*Dick Johnson*

The Presidents Message

As your newly-elected president I have appointed the following as our committee heads for 1978-1979:

Publicity	Ray Fairbank
Scholarship	Helen Asher
Bulletin editor	Dick Johannesen
Field trips	John Boland
Hospitality	Gerry Norris
Swap chairman	Don Good

These committee heads will meet with the Executive Board at our regular monthly meetings and help to form club policy.

As president I pledge that the membership will be given the opportunity to ratify all decisions reached by the Board, at the regular monthly meetings. Board meetings, which are open to all MAPS members, are held at 1:00PM, just before the monthly society meetings.

It is better to do and to try (and fail thru trying if need be) than to do nothing. During my year as president any mistakes I make will be because we "try".

Our out-of-town members will be doing the society a great favor if they will write and tell us what the club can do to promote the study, the collecting, the preparation, and the display of fossils; and if they will tell us what they want from the society. Please refer to our Editors Comments on this last subject.

I envision our membership roster as being used by localities.....when an out-of-town member wants to hunt in a new area they can call up the nearest MAPS member and be taken to the better spots in the area, or are given directions how to find the collecting area. I have personally already taken advantage of our MAPS contacts to do just this. Another area where the society can give assistance is in getting all MAPS members (and others too) to bring more fossils to the various club swaps. I feel that this has started as last summer there were more fossils at the swaps than any year since I started swapping specimens.

Gil Norris

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The Mid-America Paleontology Society was formed to promote popular interest in the subject of paleontology, to encourage the proper collecting, studying, preparation, and displaying of fossil materials, and to assist other individuals, groups, and institutions interested in the various aspects of paleontology.

MAPS is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, and of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Membership in the Society is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils.

Family membership \$6.00; individual membership \$5.00; junior membership \$3.00 (between ages 8 and 16). Membership applications are available upon request. MAPS meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of each month, 2PM in the Science Building, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

## NATIONAL FOSSIL EXCHANGE

As noted in the November MAPS DIGEST, this activity of the society will be repeated in 1979. The dates are March 31st and April 1st. The location is Macomb, Illinois on the campus of Western Illinois State Univ.

The facilities available to us include a large dormitory which has a large circular area suitable for a show. Dormitory rooms are available for lodging. Toilets and showers are in one room, typical dormitory facilities. Meals will be available at a nominal cost. Room rates at Tanner Hall, the university residence hall where the show will be held are: single, \$9.45, double, \$7.35 per person. Typical meal prices are: Friday supper, \$2.35; Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, \$1.15; Saturday lunch, \$1.40; Saturday night (steak) \$2.80; and Sunday noon, \$2.25.

There are a number of motels in the area:

Holiday Inn - 1400 North Lafayette  
Land Mark - East Jackson Road  
Travelodge - 1414 West Jackson  
Time-Out - 311 University Drive

Parking for cars, mobile homes and trailers is in a lot near Tanner Hall. There are no hook-ups available.

Each swapper is expected to also be an exhibitor if at all possible. Each exhibitor will furnish his own case(s), table cover, lights, and necessary extension cords. Tables will be furnished by the University.

Show hours will be Saturday 9 to 9, Sunday 10 to 4. Exhibitors may set up between 7 and 9PM on Friday March 20th. The show area will be open at 7AM on Saturday for late-comers but all exhibits must be in place when the show opens at 9AM. No exhibits are to be taken down, covered, or removed before a specified time on Sunday.

The show area will be locked at 9PM on both Friday and Saturday nights. The university will provide security guards.

All specimens in exhibits are to be identified.

Arrangements should be made for an attendant to remain with your exhibit during the hours of the show.

MAPS will not be responsible for loss or damage to property of exhibitors, nor for personal injury.

The show committee reserves the right to accept or reject reservations for show space, and also to assign space.

MAPS reserves the right to hold a silent auction if it votes so to do.

How to get there: Macomb is at the intersection of US67 and US136 in west-central Illinois, about 70 miles south of Rock Island, Illinois, and approximately 35 miles east of Keokuk, Iowa. By air Brower Airways have flights daily to and from O'Hare Field in Chicago, and on Sunday thru Friday to and from Lambert Field in St Louis, Missouri.

This is an EXCHANGE and EXHIBIT activity only, NO dealers.



**DRY DREDGERS**  
AN ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR GEOLOGISTS

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45221

November 1, 1978

Dear Mr. Johannesen

Our membership wishes you and your new organization (Mid-America Paleontology Society) much success. We have received the Maps Digest and distributed application blanks to our members. As a similar gesture we are including your name on our monthly bulletin mailing list starting in November. As you will see, it is not as prolific as yours but we have only ninety members.


We are anxious to hear how your national fossil swap fairs. Our past experience as individual members has been less than favorable.

As a gift to you, we are including a fossil kit put together by our members for the local museum of natural history. These kits include twelve index fossils individually packaged and labeled. If any of your membership would be interested in purchasing these kits, they are three dollars each and will include twelve fossils each, not always the same. They should contact me directly and not the museum.

We cordially invite your members to any of our monthly meetings held the fourth Friday of each month (unless otherwise announced) at the University of Cincinnati, Old Tech Bldg. rm106. 8:00 P.M. Our program includes a speaker, field trip discussions, show and tell, and refreshments!

Again we wish you continued success and good fossil hunting.

Cordially, yours



Donn M. Cooper, President  
4480 Hunt Rd.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Editors Note: the sample kit contained excellent specimens from the Ordovician of the Cincinnati area, an excellent addition to any collection lacking this material.

DJ

## SHOE TRACKS 250 MILLION YEARS OLD ?

Fossil footprints.....  
or are they?

Back in 1972 members of the Blackhawk Gem and Mineral Club of Rock Island, Illinois, took a field trip to the Troy Grove, Illinois quarry. While they were climbing around the piles of boulders blasted loose from the walls, they found impressed on the face of one boulder what seemed to be....a complete shoe or boot print!

Other members were called over to see; all agreed it seemed to be the print of a boot or a shoe imbedded in solid rock. But how could this be? It is known that the Troy Grove strata is Silurian in age, and this would make the prints some 250 million years old or older!

Yet we do not believe that any humans or humanoids had evolved on our earth that early, certainly none capable of making shoes with soles and heels. Yet.....how did the print get there?

Club members were unable to break out the print and bring it back with them. And apparently, and incredibly this is no isolated incident.

Columnist Brad Steiger has recounted other incidents of "impossible" footprints:

In July 1968 fossilized sandal prints were found at Antelope Springs near Delta, Utah, in Cambrian limestone, this area being the source we know for so many fine trilobites. After the anthropologists and the geologists has thoroughly examined the fossils, the imprints were extensively analyzed and appraised by a prominent shoe designer and also a footwear maker. Their concensus: fossilized sandal prints.

The notion that there were two-legged creatures with feet like ours walking about on the earth some 300-million years ago is astonishing enough, but to consider that these humanoids wore sandals and shoes with carefully de-

signed heels is enough to blow the conventional scientific mind inside out" wrote Steiger.

In the Dallas Morning News for September 7, 1968, there was a report of a find that unearthed man-like foot prints in the same stratum with dinosaur tracks.

Prints of human feet were found in secondary deposits of limestone along the Mississippi River between New Harmony and St Louis. The particular strata in which the prints were found was identified as being between 350-million and 240-million years old.

In 1948 an imprint, apparently of a shoe, was found near Lake Windermere, England, in what was believed to be Ordovician limestone. Dr. Wilbur Burroughs, former professor of geology, told of finding human-like fossil tracks in 1969 in a nearly horizontal bedding plane of massive gray limestone in Rockcastle County, Kentucky, Steiger added.

The truly mind-boggling fact is that none of these imprints were discovered on the tops of sedimentary strata or on non-sedimentary boulders. These human-like tracks were found inside stratified deposits..... in some cases, dozens of feet below the surface and hundreds of yards back into the quarries.

Impossible ?

Then who left fossilized shoe-tracks on earth long before the known time of man ?

(From the Davenport Times-Democrat, 20 January 1974)

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## TECHNIQUES FOR CLEANING FOSSILS

(In line with our program for this month, this article may be of help.)

Cleaning of fossil specimens is generally dependant upon three things: practice, patience, and caution. Don't start with your best specimen, experiment on a poor one from the same locality first, as even the experienced collector will ruin a specimen now and then.

**TOOLS.** Dental tools with a single pick or chisel-ends are fine. Heavy duty sewing-machine needles or 78 RPM straight photo needles in any pin vise (X-Acto makes a fine one) are also good for hard work. A variety of toothbrushes, soft to stiff, and cotton Q-tips are useful extras. As for mechanically operated tools, a vibro-tool is useful in trimming down very hard matrix, but cannot be used for delicate cleaning. (The Burgess Model V-88-01 is an excellent heavy-duty tool).

**PRACTICE.** Start with an extra piece of matrix, preferably with a poor quality "practice specimen". Test for hardness of both matrix and the fossil replacement material as the hardnesses often differ. For example, in some specimens from the Silica shale, the matrix is much softer than the fossil.....therefore in the case of solid, complete specimens like brachiopods with both valves, a soft brush under running water may completely clean the specimen. On imprints, or delicate crinoids or trilobites (flat) no water should be used as this makes the shale turn to mud and leave no support for the delicate fossil. In such cases very fine tools such as the needles are necessary and water applied with a Q-tip to the specific spot. On the other extreme, fossils like the crinoid dorsal cups from Waldron, Indiana are replaced by a very chipable calcium carbonate, while the matrix is very hard. A scraping rather than a picking technique sometimes works, with the final shale coating removed with a stiff brush. In all cases know the general character of what your specimen should look like (book pictures and other's collections are very helpful.) For example, a crinoid calyx may have spreading arms not showing on the surface....don't trim the matrix before lifting off a layer around the cup to see if the arms begin to show. Also, if you know something like the Paraspirifer has a deep fold, then matrix often caught in the fold will have to be picked out.

**WATER AND ACID.** Tests of the matrix will tell you if you can use water on the specimen. Generally soft shales cannot be dipped or washed, they disintegrate; whereas hard limestones can be scrubbed under running water (unless of course a delicate nacre or shell material coats the fossil, this always sheds easily so use oil). When water is unsafe, alcohol or cleaning fluid (Renusit, carbon-tet, etc) will take away the "dusty" look after a cleaning with tools. As for acid, NEVER INDISCRIMINATELY DUMP OR SOAK ANY FOSSIL IN ACID, not even the completely pyritized ones. If a specimen has a large lump of matrix, such as in a brachiopod fold, use Sn&Bowl or other dilute solution with some HCL in it, on a Q-tip but apply it just to the matrix spot, never onto the fossil surface. While still wet by the acid, the matrix lump is softened and a dental tool will then do a fast job of loosening the lump. Acid IS occasionally used by professionals even, but these are cases where the fossil is a silicate replacement and not affected by the acid, as all limestone and calcium carbonates are. Its only other use is when, for internal identification purposes, one deliberately wants one valve of a complete brachiopod dissolved.



## TECHNIQUES FOR CLEANING FOSSILS (continued)

**METHOD USE OF HAND TOOLS.** When using a pick or a needle-point to expose more of a fossil than shows, areas still covered by matrix, do not pick on the fossil surface toward the matrix, but start a short distance from the exposed area, beyond where you think the fossil's edge is (another reason for learning first what the animal should look like). If using a heavy needle or dental tool, poke in and give a sharp flick upwards, and don't keep gouging or you will only make a hole). Most fossils have a natural amount of cleavage where the matrix meets the specimen surface, and this method will often make the fossil edge appear without scratching it directly. When working into detail between fossil parts, such as between trilobite ribs and around the eyes, etc., it is best to utilize your soft brush, sometimes with a circular motion the brush will loosen a thin coating of matrix. When matrix in cracks is too heavy for brushing use the careful flicking motion, never dig or scratch back and forth..... this will only scratch the fossil surface.

**FINAL PREPARATION FOR DISPLAY.** To get rid of the "dusty" look after cleaning is completed, several methods are usable, choose the one that suits you or your fossil: (1) vegetable shortening (not mineral-type oils) on a soft cloth, rubbed over the fossil surface. This is great for trilobites and clams, etc., with a nacre of their own. The oiliness soaks in in a few hours but leaves no dusty film; (2) cleaning fluid (odorless Renuzit is good) on cloth, dabbed over the fossil with cotton, using Q-tips to get into the crevices. This is best for dull fossils, internal molds, and so on, to avoid an artificial look; (3) non-shiny plastic spray (the best is Grumbachers Myston) this is best for pyritized fossils which may later dull and/or disintegrate, also for fossils with such a delicate surface that handling will make it rub off, or for fossils where the matrix is so soft it flakes away easily, in this latter case spray both sides of the matrix. There is another handy trick, if you are good with a small paint brush: for very light imprint fossils which are almost the same color as the matrix, Peabody Pit #11 fauna in nodules, such as shrimp are a good example, spray some non-shiny Myston into a small throw-away container, then take a small clean brush, dip it into the Myston and coat just the fossil imprint, not the matrix. Don't worry if you're not perfect the plastic usually soaks into the matrix faster than onto the fossil. This makes the fossil stand out a bit more clearly.

**REMEMBER:** don't rush.....cleaning fossils is a slow, flick-at-a-time procedure. Do a little, then when you are tired or discouraged, put it aside for another day. A well-cleaned specimen is of much more value than a scratched-up one, no matter how rare it is.  
Good luck !

(From Rock Riva and The Rockpile).

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