

M.A.P.S. *Digest*

Official Publication of
Mid-America Paleontology Society

Volume 19 Number 6
July-September, 1996



Encope emarginata (Leske)

Canepatch Formation, Pleistocene
Horry County, South Carolina

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<p>12 OCT MAPS MEETING. Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, 123 N. Capital St., Iowa City, IA. Main Lecture Room, #125.</p> <p>1:00 Board & General Meeting combined.</p> <p>2:00 Program:</p>	<p>18 APR 1997 MAPS NATIONAL FOSSIL 19 EXPOSITION XIX--EXTINCTIONS 20</p> <p>Fri., Apr. 18: 8am - 5:30pm Sat., Apr. 19: 8am - 5pm Sun., Apr. 20: 8am - 3pm</p>
<p>28 SEP FALLS FOSSIL FESTIVAL, FALLS OF THE 29 OHIO STATE PARE, CLARKSVILLE, IN.</p> <p>Sat.: "Rare Fossils-I" by C. Oldham. "Rare Fossils-II" by L. Osterberger "Rebuilding Ancient Ecosystems" by Dr. David Meyer "Trilobites: Curious Creatures of the Ancient Sea" by Tom Johnson</p> <p>Sun.: Fossil Collecting Workshop "Those Fabulous Crawfordsville Crinoids!" by Bob Howell</p> <p>Contact: Alan Goldstein, P.O. Box 1327, Jeffersonville, IN 47131-1317 Fx: 812-280-7110; E-mail: Deepskyspy@aol.com</p>	<p>*** 96/09 DUES ARE DUE ***</p> <p>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--96/09 means 1996/Sept. Dues cover the issue of the Digest for the month in which they expire.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please include your due date and name exactly as it appears on your mailing label--or include a label.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Make checks payable to MAPS and mail to: Sharon Sonnleitner, Treas. 4800 Sunset Dr. SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404</p>
<p>5 OCT 13th ANNUAL BVFS FLORIDA FOSSIL 6 FAIR, Lake Mirror Center, Lake Mirror Dr., 800 East Main St., Lakeland, FL</p> <p>Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4</p> <p>Contact: Ed Holman, 2704 Dixie Rd., Lakeland, FL 33801 (941) 665-3426</p>	<p>ABOUT THE COVER</p> <p>This month's cover was sent by Don Clements, Rocky Point, North Carolina. This specimen of <i>Encope emarginata</i> (Leske) is an echinoid from the Canepatch Formation, Pleistocene, in Horry County, South Carolina. See his article on collecting in the Eastern Coastal Plains on pages 3-4.</p>
<p>25 OCT FOSSILMANIA XIV, Somervell County 26 Expo Center, Highway 67 in Glen 27 Rose, TX</p> <p>Fri. & Sat. 9-6 Sun. 9-2</p> <p>Contact: Ken Smith (214) 327-9281</p>	
<p>16 NOV CENTRAL FLORIDA FOSSIL FAIR 26 Florida National Guard Armory 27 2890 S. Ferncreek Ave, Orlando</p> <p>Sat. 9-6 Sun. 9-4</p> <p>Contact: Terry Angell 407-277-8978</p>	

EXPO XIX--EXTINCTIONS

The theme for MAPS 1997 EXPO has been decided upon and a keynote speaker secured as we get back into the swing of things after the summer break. Our 19th EXPO will focus on unusual or significant extinctions. Warren Allmon, Director of the Paleontological Research Institute, Ithaca, New York, will be Friday night's keynote speaker, in addition to presenting the PRI's Catherine Palmer Award to a deserving amateur.

Maggie Kahrs is once again the EXPO editor. She will be happy to hear from anyone who can provide her with an article relating to the theme.

All information regarding reservations for EXPO comes out in the January issue of the Digest.

DINOFEST 1997

David Jones, Worthington, MN, writes:

Sorry I missed MAPS EXPO, but DINOFEST in Arizona (going on at the same time) blew my mind. For those who like to plan ahead: Society of Vertebrate Paleo. convention will be in Chicago in late October or early November, 1997. Write to Robert Hunt, W-436 Nebraska Hall, (vertebrate paleo. collections), University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0541 for details.

CORRECTION

The trilobite drawing accompanying the "Fossil Stamp Update" article on page 5 of the May-June issue is artwork by **Dr. Richard Batt** and appeared in a brochure published by the Hamburg Natural History Society, Inc., Hamburg, New York. I regret that I was unaware of the artwork's origin.

For future authors: Please indicate artists/photographers when you submit drawings/photos that are not your own. (Otherwise, I assume they are yours, sometimes incorrectly.)

MURPHY'S LAWS OF TRILOBITE COLLECTING

by Marc Behrendt, Somerset, Ohio
(Previously printed in Trilobite Times, 7/95)

Invariably, while collecting, I have observed and experienced occurrences which defy the imagination and odds to be repeated again. Yet they do occur, over and over. In general terms, they are considered Murphy's Law. However, the laws for trilobite collecting can be stated in their own specific vernacular. The following is a compilation of a year's observations. I decided to let you, the reader, develop your own favorite name for each law, corollary, or axiom.

Murphy's Law: Anything that can go wrong, will.

- The fossil bed will lie just below the waterline.
- The adversity of weather is directly proportional to the intensity of anticipation.
- The pick will hit a fossil.
- When a fabulous trilobite is found exposed, one piece will be missing.
- Corollary: The chance of finding that piece is inversely proportional to the importance of the missing piece.
- When thoughts are entertained to abandon a fruitless site, one good specimen will be found.
- Corollary: No further specimens will be found until one thinks of leaving again.
- While searching unsuccessfully for quality fossils all day, a newcomer will join you and find something immediately.
- A beginner on his first field collecting trip will find something fantastic. (And not know it.)
- If the goal of a collecting trip is to enjoy the peace and quiet, a major field trip will be at the same site.
- The rare trilobite being sought today will be found by somebody tomorrow at the same site.
- The best trilobite of the day will be found in the flakiest shale.
- If a tiny piece of shale is removed from a trilobite to examine it closer, the small piece of shale will take with it a large piece of the specimen.

A 'MAPS' VIDEO by B.L. STINCHCOMB

A GEOLOGIC TOUR OF ROUTE 66-1950. Black and white and color.

A 2,000 mile trip on famous U. S. Route 66 as it was in 1950. Emphasis is on geology, paleontology and scenery on a 1950 trip with human interest from St. Louis to California. Famous paleontological areas like the Braidwood and Essex ironstone concretion fossils, Springfield Missouri crinoids, Permian and Triassic redbeds and strata of the Grand Canyon on the Colorado Plateau, Pleistocene extrusives and fossils, Barstow Calif. silicified "bugs" and Kettleman Hills Miocene fossils are featured.

On the tape also are "shorts" on geologic "time scale", Coosa River Cambrian, Dominican Republic amber fossils, Labrador archeocyathids, St. Croix River Precambrian and Cambrian plus addendum to "MAPS" study videos by Gil Norris.

Allow at least two weeks for delivery.

Make check for \$12.00 TO MAPS. Send check and request to

Dr. Bruce L. Stinchcomb
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Ferguson, Missouri 63135

Send to

name

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town and zip code

COASTAL CAROLINA FOSSIL COLLECTING TECHNIQUES

by Don Clements, Rocky Point, North Carolina

Quarries

There are very few natural exposures for fossil collecting in the coastal plain and piedmont of the Carolinas. Most of the prolific collecting sites are in privately owned mines, quarries, marl pits, and borrow pits. There are a few procedures to be followed in fossil prospecting and collecting in quarries that will enhance the effectiveness of your efforts.

Before going into the field, it would be to your advantage to have an understanding of the various lithologies found in the quarry as well as which fossils are found in a particular stratum. The particular type of fossil you are interested in may be confined to a specific age or paleoenvironment. This information will become apparent once you have an understanding of the lithology and the geological processes that produced the fossil-bearing rocks. A good place to start in your quest for information would be a local college or your state's geological survey. Museums are another source for information pertaining to geology and fossil collecting.

Once you have an idea of the geology and fossils found in your area, it is time to prospect a local quarry or other pit. While obtaining permission from the owner or operators, you should query them concerning the type of fossils found there and what areas are frequented by other collectors. Many workers are willing to provide such information and are glad to take a break from work for a little conversation. Be sure to follow any instructions regarding off-limits or dangerous areas and try not to be a nuisance to the business that has been gracious enough to allow you to collect.

Now that you are educated and in the field ready to hunt, you should be aware of the 2 basic types of surface collecting. Surface collecting is searching for fossils that are at least partially exposed at the surface. It is usually not productive to look for fossils by randomly digging or breaking rocks, although these methods are used in other parts of the country. When

looking for large or distinctive fossils that can be seen from some distance, it is customary to walk briskly along ridges in order to cover as much territory as quickly as possible. This method of surface collecting is known as ridge running. If you are looking for large shark teeth or bones, this is the usual method. Walking parallel to the ridges, starting at the bottom, is a proven method. By starting at the bottom, your dislodged earth and rocks will not distort the picture of the exposure. If there is a lot of competition for collecting space, you should start ridge running at the top, as this surface is more erosional and less depositional. Before selecting a ridge, it is important to consider the position of the sun so that it is not directly in your face. In general, the sunny side of a ridge is preferred for early morning collecting and the shadier sides for hot afternoons. Your personal preference for sun angle should become apparent after a few trips afield.

The second type of surface collecting is to prospect several areas and then settle on a productive hill to collect with concentrated effort. This type of collecting will be better for the collector interested in geology and paleontology, as the details are not apparent to the ridge running collector. The keen observer will look for shapes, textures, and colors, as most fossils are not found completely exposed. Many smaller and rare fossils can only be found by this method. Don't take more than a few steps without pausing to peruse the ground surface. Stooping to pick up a common fossil may provide you the opportunity of discovering something you may not have noticed while standing. While slowly searching and picking up bits for inspection, it can often be productive to look back over the area you have just traversed. The sun will be at a different angle, and fossils you have overlooked will occasionally come to light. You should always be aware of the formation and age of the sediments in which you are searching. Spoil piles are notoriously mixed up, and the fossils you are interested in may not be found in certain formations or sediment

types. Keep in mind that many of the fossils the ridge runner is searching for may be minimally exposed and only found by the intensive searcher.

Occasionally, a concentration of desirable fossils is found while surface collecting. Framed screens from window screen to 1/4 inch size should be available to concentrate this abundantly fossiliferous sediment. If only one screen is to be had, 1/8 inch or smaller is the preferred size. Larger screen wastes many wonderful fossils and should only be used for sediment reduction into smaller screens or out of necessity, due to lack of smaller screen availability. In the absence of screens sediment may be taken home in buckets or heavy duty bags to be sorted at a later date. Be aware that surface abundance is the result of erosion and does not necessarily reflect overall fossil abundance. This should be kept in mind when samples are taken for home screening. The following articles should be part of the collectors tool bag while collecting the quarries and pits of the Carolinas coastal plain:

1. Backpack or sturdy book bag with notebook
2. Rock or mason's hammer, preferably worn on the belt
3. Assorted chisels
4. Small sledge if collecting the more indurated formations
5. Safety glasses, pocket magnifier, & hard hat (if required)
6. Small vials, such as pill or film containers
7. Ziplock or other plastic bags of assorted sizes
8. Whisk broom and trowel for very loose sediments
9. Wrappings such as old newspapers or cloth and toilet paper
10. Drinking water, sweet and salty snacks.

It is hoped that beginning collectors and vacationers unfamiliar with coastal plain collecting will find this information useful. A future article will deal with the specific procedures and characteristics of collecting vertebrate fossils from stream and other bank exposures using screens.

WEIRD CAMBRIAN FOSSILS SHED LIGHT ON ANCIENT BURST OF LIFE

by Kim A. McDonald

Chronicle of Higher Education

via *Dry Dredgers*, May 96, Greg Hand, ed.

Toronto--The evolution of life as produced some unusual-looking creatures, but none stranger than the taxonomic wonders that Desmond H. Collins has chiseled out of Canadian shale over the past two decades.

Down the narrow hallway from his office at the Royal Ontario Museum here, tucked away in hundreds of wooden drawers, are the fruits of his labors: 25,000 flat, black and gray rocks containing the 515-million-year-old impressions of evolution's most bizarre creations. So bizarre, in fact, one finds oneself wondering at times if the outlines are real.

As for why no new body plans have emerged, many scientists now believe that the early development of animals fixed all later forms into the basic embryonic plans that emerged during the Cambrian. This is why Mr. Collins's collection of esoteric Cambrian fauna is important to biologists.

"So," says Mr. Collins, "we can now add something to the life of the Onychophora, which we're beginning to realize was a varied and very numerous group of animals in the Cambrian, far more so than in the present."

The same applies to other phyla. "One of the results of the work being done now on Cambrian fauna," he says, "will be a modification of the classification system of today."

MAMMAL BONES IN AMBER

source: *Quad City Times*, Apr 11, 96. p.4A
sent by Allyn Adams

Amber from the Dominican Republic has provided scientists with the first well-identified mammal bones to be found in the fossilized tree resin. Ross MacPhee and David Grimaldi of the American Museum of Natural History in New York reported finding, encased in amber, six vertebrae and portions of several ribs from a small shrew-like, insect-eating creature. The bones, between 18 and 29 million years old, are thought to be the remains of a bird's meal.

LOUD & CLEAR

by George Loud

Conservation & Legislation Chairsource: *EFMLS News* July, 96: 5via *Bone Valley Fossil News*

Ed, Karen & Ben Metrin, eds.

On May 16, 1996, Fred Schaefermyer (President, ALAA) and I participated in a meeting held on Capitol Hill in an attempt to resolve various issues surrounding "The Fossil Preservation Act of 1996" (HR 2943). The meeting was attended by representatives from the offices of Congressmen Joe Skeen and Tim Johnson and Senator Tom Daschle. Lawyers and management representatives from the USGS, the BLM and the Smithsonian were also present. Elaine Hoagland from the Association of Systematic Collections (an organization of museum managers) was also in attendance, as were representatives of the American Geological Institute and the Paleontological Society. The format for the meeting was an item-by-item listing of changes to HR2943 incorporated into a "redraft" prepared by one representative each from The Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists (SVP), The Paleontological Society and The Dinosaur Society. In fairness to the individuals who prepared the "redraft," I must note that it was intended as a working draft and was not intended for general circulation. The Council of the Paleontological Society has refused to support the "redraft." To the best of my knowledge, neither the SVP nor The Dinosaur Society has yet taken any position of the "redraft."

Notwithstanding the foregoing disclaimers, I feel that I should comment on the "redraft" because it does give some insight into the nature of the problems we face as collectors.

Basically, we are confronted by a number of people, perhaps few in number, who would allow us to collect on public lands only by their authority and under their supervision. The "redraft" would provide three options for collection on federal lands: (1) apply for a permit, (2) restrict collecting only to approved fossils and approved areas and (3) forget the whole thing, stay home and watch TV. The second option is a real lulu. To collect pursuant

to the second option would require that the collector go into the field with a map identifying areas approved for collecting without a permit, with a list of collectable fossil species and with the knowledge necessary to make a sure identification of the "permitted fossils." Should the collector stray either from the permitted areas or from the permitted list, that collector would be subject to criminal penalties.

I suspect that if such a bill were to become law, those of us with any intelligence would opt for the third option, i.e. the TV. Incidentally, the list of approved areas would start at 0 and would expand only as various land areas were surveyed for fossils (who would conduct these surveys and who would bear the expense?). In view of the fact that the "redraft" would provide for regulation of collecting of invertebrate fossils, as well as vertebrate fossils and, further, impose criminal penalties for any violation, we hobbyists would be much better off with no legislation at all. I regard the "redraft" as the most onerous proposal I have seen in my approximately 3 years of service as chair of this committee. Thankfully, it appears to be DOA.

Returning now to the subject of the May 14th meeting, the SVP declined to send a representative, a boycott apparently based on the belief that the official position of their group was not being accorded due respect in the progress of HR2943. This was an unfortunate development in that some amount of time was wasted in attempting to define the principal concerns of the SVP and how those concerns might be addressed.

One of the first topics addressed in the meeting was whether or not a distinction should be made between fossil vertebrates and fossil invertebrates. The issue first arose in the context of a proposal by the SVP to establish a "Subcouncil on Fossil Vertebrates." The consensus seemed to be that the bill should not provide for special treatment of fossil vertebrates. I pointed out, by reading from the NAS Report of 1987, that most fossils encountered in the field, even vertebrate fossils, represent common species, e.g. fossil fish,

sharks teeth, etc., and even in the case of dinosaur bones, they are most likely to be encountered in the form of scattered fragments. One participant suggested that the major concern of the SVP with regard to amateurs might "muckup" a valuable fossil site. I argued that whatever loss might occur at such sites due to amateur collecting was more than offset by the value to science of location of such sites by amateurs, citing several relatively recent examples. Further, under the bill, once such a site is identified, the land manager could act to protect the site by restricting access.

I did hear several comments from representatives of federal agencies which I found somewhat unsettling in that they might be interpreted as indicating a predisposition to regulate. For example, a comment was made to the effect that permitting would have the advantage of affording the land manager an opportunity to warn a fossil collector of dangers associated with various activities on federal lands such as mining and timbering. I pointed out that such activities would pose equal danger to hikers, bird watchers, etc. I doubt if the American public is ready to accept a law which would require a permit to enter onto public lands for any and all recreational purposes.

By far the major portion of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the apparent impasse between the SVP and commercial collectors. In its present form, HR2943 would allow commercial collecting, beyond surface collecting, only under a permitting procedure and with requirement that "scientifically unique" finds be deposited in a public institution. The "redraft" would prohibit the granting of a commercial permit for the quarrying of a "scientifically important" fossil. During the course of the discussion of this topic (in which neither Fred nor I participated) someone volunteered that the real "rub" derives from the sale of fossils at rock shows at prices perhaps beyond the reach of the average professional paleontologist.

Here I will risk several observations. Firstly, with regard to the high prices of such material, as a mineral collector, I

can empathize with the professional paleontologist to the extent that I have often found myself coveting specimens well beyond my financial capabilities. However, collectors such as myself can be consoled in the knowledge that the high prices provide an incentive for mine owners to save such materials from the crushers and to collect specimens with a minimum of damage. If a specimen is beyond my financial means, I would be no better off for that specimen going through the crusher.

While the analogy is far from perfect, I suspect that something similar occurs in the fossil market. Is the professional paleontologist who finds a fossil beyond his financial means better off if that fossil is left in the field to disintegrate? While I do not purchase fossils at the shows I attend, I do look at them and I am awed by the magnificent manner in which they have been prepared and displayed. Often times I find myself looking at the same fossils I saw when I started out as a youngster in the hobby, but I find that these fossils now look much different. The new technology which has been developed, at least in part, by commercial collectors for the recovery and preparation of fossils, e.g. microabrasion, is truly impressive. Oftentimes the value of such materials is in large measure, not the intrinsic value of the fossil in the ground but, rather, the value of the skill which went into recovery of the fossil intact and in its preparation for display.

One final comment on commercial collecting-- I find a contradiction in the complaint that the prices are too high and on the other hand I find that same complainer advocating denial of access to the major portion of the land area of our Western states. In other words, the complainer would restrict the supply of fossils entering the commercial market and at the same time complain of the price. If one wished to lower the price and concurrently restrict the supply, these goals can both be achieved only if a way is devised to defeat the economic law of supply and demand.

Hopefully, committee hearings are not too far off. They should be interesting. I will sign off by once again urging you to write your elected federal representatives.

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.

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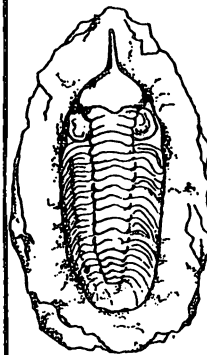
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FOSSIL PREPARATION TIP
from *The Fossil Record*, vol.6, no. 4
Apr 90, Rocky & Gail Manning, eds.

Follow these steps for a good cheap way to break down shales and extract fossils.

1. Dry shale--heat in oven to around 100°F
2. Pour kerosene onto shale; leave one hour
3. Pour off kerosene
4. Pour on boiling water

The fossils are then easily screened from the resulting mud.

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Edward K. Drown
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517-347-5097
drownedw@egr.msu.edu

Small Business Owner. Will not trade. Major interest vertebrate fossils.

Semiconductor Mfg. Engineer. Will trade. Major interest Penn.-Cretaceous Marine invertebrates (esp. trilobites, ammonites, echinoids). Member of Central Texas Paleo Soc., Austin, TX.

Editor for college textbook company. May trade. Major interest all invert. (macro-, micro-; plant & animal), fish and shark teeth. Also conducts education outreach to local schools & writes articles on fossil collecting for Rock & Gem mag. Prefers self-collecting. Can trade info & maps on specific sites in CA & almost all other states. Member Fossils for Fun, Sacramento, CA.

Library worker, Indiana U. Will not trade. Has had a lifelong interest in fossils and prehistoric life.

Factory worker. Will trade. Major interest trilobites/cleaning and restoration of trilobites and vertebrate material. Nothing for trade (96). Looking for good used portable air dent machine (96). Wants to get in touch with other collectors that he can buy from.

Consulting engineer. Will not trade. Major interest Mazon Creek formation in IL. Member of Earth Science Club of Northern IL.

Graduate Student. Will trade. Major interest Paleozoic Invertebrates. Just starting (96). Wants to learn by meeting others with similar interests.

Les & Marilyn George
405 Mill St. Box 91
Sheridan MT 59749
406-842-5576

Twn. Mgr.--M.P.C. Will trade. Has general material for trade. Wants to increase his knowledge and friendships.

Carl Locker
3910 Ardley Ave
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510-531-0513

Fossil Preparator. Will trade. Major interest Cambrian only. Has for trade Cambrian fossils. Wants to meet collectors and learn.

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Will trade. Wants to meet others with the same interest.

Barb & Skip Schweitzer
3730 Winchell Rd.
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216-562-9801

Teacher/Taxidermist. Members of Fossil Society, Cleveland Mus. of Nat. Hist.

Christopher P. Sheridan
1030 Mowere Rd
Phoenixville PA 19460
610-922-3911

Chemical worker. Will trade. Major interest all fossils. Has for trade various fossils at times Pleistocene mammal remains from NJ.

Martin Stetz
2153 Green Ridge Drive
Wickliffe OH 44092-2010
216-944-2565
wk. 216-943-9006
mst@lubritol.com

Customer Service Supervisor. Will not trade. Major interest brachiopods, trilobites, plants. Member of Fossil Society, Cleveland Mus. of Nat. Hist. Wants to make more contacts and possibly trade later on.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF ADDRESS OR CORRECTIONS:

Richard Aylor
2022 W. Main
Jefferson City MO 65109
573-636-2745

AREA CODE

Rick Batt
9992 Middle Road
East Concord NY 14055

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 \$20.00 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 Trowbridge 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.

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