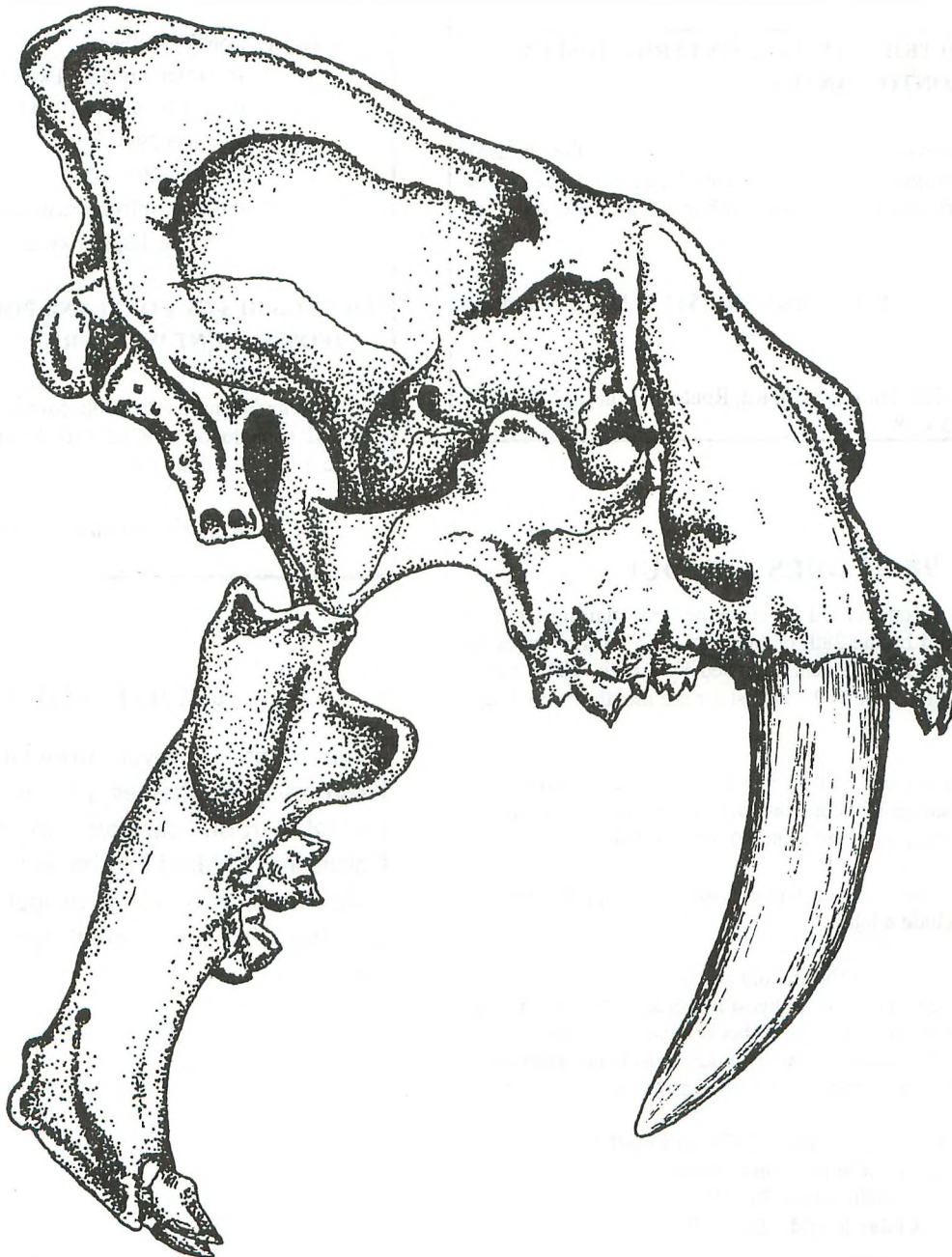


M.A.P.S. *Digest*

Official Publication of
Mid-America Paleontology Society

Volume 21, Number 1
January 1998



KASTORHAYS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mar 14 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

Feb 19 PRESENTATION BY DINOSAUR PALEONTOLOGIST JACK HOERNER, King Chapel, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa

11 a.m. - 12

7:30 p.m. (More General Presentation)

Feb 21 PRI FIELD TRIP TO ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM (ROM), TORONTO, CANADA

PRI paleontologists will conduct tour of Dinosaur Gallery with 40 foot long *Tyrannosaurus* skeleton and teach about the *Maiaasaura* project. Depart from PRI by chartered bus at 5 a.m. and return at 11 p.m.

Cost: Members \$60, Non-members \$65/(\$43 children). Deadline Feb. 19.

Contact: PRI, 1259 Trumansburg Rd, Route 96, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 273-6623 x 18

Apr 17, 18, & 19 MAPS NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION XX-CORALS

Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

Fri., Apr. 17: 8 am - 5 pm

Sat., Apr. 18: 8 am - 5 pm

Sun., Apr. 19 8 am - 3 pm

Full information in December Digest. Request copies from Dale Stout (Address on back page).

Apr 17-19 DINOFEET, Philadelphia

Contact: Donald Wolberg

1900 Ben Franklin Pkwy.

Philadelphia, PA 19103-1195

Ph. 215-299-1009

Fx. 215-299-1028

Email: <wolberg@say.acnatsci.org>

Web Site: <http://www.acnatsci.org>

May 9 FOSSILS OF PORTLAND POINT, LANSING, NY (FOSSIL HUNT WITH PRI)

Hunt for 380 million-year-old fossils, including trilobites, brachs, and cephalopods. Call PRI (above) for information and to register. Deadline May 7.

Cost: Members \$2 Non-members \$3/(\$2 children)

98/01 DUES ARE DUE

Are your dues due? You can tell by checking your mailing label. It reflects dues received by the 28th of January. The top line gives the expiration date in the form of year followed by month—98/01 means 1998/Jan. Dues cover the issue of the Digest for the month in which they expire.

We do not sent 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:
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4800 Sunset Dr. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

ABOUT THE COVER

This month's cover drawing was sent by Jim Kostohrys, Des Plaines, Illinois. The basic outline for the sabre tooth cat came from the Fossil Book by Carole and Mildred Fenton, but Jim went to Chicago's Field Museum to get the proper details. He made the drawing for an exhibit specimen for a private collection.

EXPO XX—CORALS

It is just a little over two months to MAPS's twentieth EXPO. Over the past twenty years the show has grown far beyond the expectations of the small group who started MAPS, and each year it gets better. There is always a great variety of specimens. We hope lots of you will be able to take advantage of items for show, swap and sale and the programs this year's EXPO has to offer.

As far as we've heard, people have been able to find hotel rooms. We still have no additional information about the possible opening of the Holiday Inn in Macomb, but may have something by next month. If you are not presently able to find a hotel room in Macomb, you can always make a reservation in a nearby town and switch if something opens up in Macomb later.

Tables are going fast, so don't wait until the last minute to reserve yours. As always, there is no admission charge to view the show. A word of caution on planning your visit for Sunday, though: Many people leave by noon on Sunday—earlier if the weather is bad.

As you are preparing your specimens for the show, remember to include some for the auction, too. We were able to send \$2000 to the Paleo Society for their scholarship fund from the money raised at the auction in 1997.

PALEO SOCIETY NAMES MAPS SCHOLAR

from the Paleontological Society

Over the last several years, PalSoc has awarded scholarships to students ranging in academic position from undergraduate through Ph.D. level and, rare, to post-doctoral candidates whose field research seemed particularly worthy. As Past-President Jere H. Lipps informed you in early October, Council decided this year to award an *additional stipend of \$1000* to one of the outstanding successful applicants for the 1997 round of awards. Council voted to name this stipend the **Mid-America Paleontology Society Scholarship** in recognition of MAPS long-standing and vigorous support of this worthy program.

The individual that was recommended by the Scholarship and Awards committee and selected by Council for the 1997 Mid-America Paleontology Society Scholarship is the second post-doctoral student to receive one of the PalSoc's scholarships. Her name is **Maria Gabriela Managano**, who is studying the trace-fossil assemblages and paleoecology of the Waverly Limestone (Upper Pennsylvanian) in eastern Kansas. She is currently studying at The University of Kansas at Lawrence.

Again, we appreciate very much your support and look forward to continuing working with your members and your Society.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

The MAPS Board met January 17 at Cornell College with President Gil Norris presiding.

Gil had received a letter from Peter Crane verifying that Bob Guenther's name is on file for consideration for the Paleo Society's Strimple Award. Dale Stout will contact Glenn Crossman for copies of letters, articles and other documentation to support his nomination for the Strimple Award.

Gil was also notified by the Paleo Society that a scholarship stipend has been designated from MAPS, and the 1997 scholarship winner is Maria Gabriela Managano.

Alberta Cray will notify Joseph Emielty that he is the winner of the Eugene Richardson Award for a professional who has had an outstanding influence on amateurs. A plaque will be presented to him or his representative at EXPO.

Bruce Stinchcomb had contacted three board members suggesting that the articles submitted for the *Digest* be refereed so they could officially be used as references in scientific publications. Bruce says he has already seen articles cited in scientific journals, and having them refereed would verify their accuracy. The matter was tabled to EXPO.

Karl Stuekerjuergen reported that insurance, security and food for EXPO have been arranged. He has asked that the elevators be manned by 7:45 a.m. Friday.

Ben Greenstein, a Professor at Cornell, presented a program on coral reefs. His area of expertise is taphonomy, the science of preservation. He studies modern coral reefs and their fossil counterparts to see if the problems with today's reefs have analogs in the fossil record or are new and require intervention to protect the reefs from destruction.

ILLINOIS RIVER BRIDGE CLOSED

information sent by Nancy Grieve

The bridge over the Illinois River on Route 136 at Havana, Illinois, will be closed from March 2 until late June or July. So, those of you who travel that route from the east to EXPO may want to go a different way.

According to a newspaper article, vehicles will be ferried across the river while the bridge is under repair. "One ferry will operate 24 hours a day, and both ferries will run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The second ferry would be called back into service if wait times were going to be 20 minutes or more. According to ferry company officials, the load, unload and ride across the river should take about five minutes.

"Each ferry can carry 12 cars or two semis or one loaded semi."

THE FUTURE OF AMATEUR PALEONTOLOGY: COMMENTS FROM A FOSSIL PARK NATURALIST

by Alan Goldstein, Louisville, Kentucky

Chris Cozart's article in the July-September 1997 issue of the *Digest* is reflective of the views of many amateur paleontologists. This writer has been a collector of geological specimens since age six. Currently, I am employed as a park naturalist at the Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville, Indiana. The Falls of the Ohio is one of the first well-known fossil sites in North America. This property preserves a Middle Devonian coral—stromatoporoid patch reef and related fossiliferous limestone deposits located in and along the Ohio River.

The following comments are based on my years of collecting to expand personal knowledge and as one who has to politely tell folks they cannot take souvenirs from the exposures at one of the best fossil beds in the world! It follows the outline of Chris Cozart's paper: Access to Localities, Rights to Specimens, Curatorship, Access to and Advancement of Knowledge.

Access to Localities

Access may be more difficult in some areas of the country than in my area. I have observed that access privileges come and go. Sites might include road cuts on public right-of-way, creek beds, glades, quarries and other outcrops on private property or public lands.

Quarry accessibility is more unpredictable than one would suspect. As quarry ownership changes, so does access. (Family-owned quarries are the best.) Although many quarries have been closed to collectors over the years, a number remain open, and new ones do become available. Quarries are closed to collectors, more often than not, from other trespassers (i.e., kids driving off-road vehicles off a high wall) than from us. That is not to say that we are exempt. There have been plenty of times when collectors have pulled foolish and very dangerous "stunts" to get a rare fossil. I hope that among those reading this, their numbers are few!

Road cuts and stream banks are often accessible,

although heavy digging is usually restricted or has dangers.

Case in point: A friend and I visited the Essroc Quarry at Speed, Indiana, several years ago and secured permission (for the first time in years) to have our local geology club visit. Other clubs learned of access and started visiting. People started using diamond saws and other heavier tools. Today, less than five years later, the quarry is closed to collectors. The lesson—do not take advantage of site owners. Work with them closely. Share your knowledge with them. Work with local geology clubs so you can develop reciprocal field trip programs.

Case in point: A brick plant will only allow visits to people they know. I gave directions to some friends to collect there and now with increased visitation, it is becoming harder for *anyone* to visit. Some sites are best kept under wraps. It might be better to trade specimens with others than lose a locality for all time for *everyone*. There has to be a balance between accessibility and being too selfish. Every site accessible to an amateur *must* be accessible to the professional paleontologist.

Case in point: A friend did the research and found evidence of a good Cretaceous fossil locality. He and a partner contacted the landowner, who granted them permission to use heavy equipment to collect. As a courtesy they deepened some farm ponds and graded the road. They also back-filled and reseeded their site. The site may be gone, but it was not really there when they started. Having maintained good relations with the landowner, they can return to excavate in the future.

In regards to Chris Cozart's comments about the decreasing number of accessible sites in the past 20 years: certainly there are more exposures today than in the days of James Hall and Othniel C. Marsh. We don't have to go riding on horseback or train to reach exposures. Some of us are lucky enough to be able to collect in our neighborhood—hours or days of travel

are not necessary. Many localities, like construction sites, are temporary. Seek permission to collect at the proper time.

Don't just have a "top ten list" that you return to time and again only to complain when they are no longer accessible. Certain areas are destined to be reclaimed; others are closed when a landowner has a bad experience or there is a change of ownership. This is a fact of life that is beyond our control. Ultimately, cultivating good relationships with landowners is essential to reduce the closure of private property. Do the research, travel different roads or new creeks. (I find new, interesting sites every year.) Learn how to obtain, read and understand geological maps. As a park naturalist, I find that most landowners are aware of exposures of rocks (and even the existence of fossils) on their property!

Rights to Specimens

Who should be permitted to own fossils? The main concern of professional paleontologists relates to vertebrate fossils. Vertebrate fossils are much less common and have a strong collector's market. Should a private collector have exclusive rights to a type specimen (one-of-a-kind) or extremely rare fossil? In a word: *no*. However, most fossils do not fall into that category! Often a new species of fossil is named to honor the person who discovered and donated it to the paleontologist to do the research.

On the other hand (and this is important!), professional paleontologists should not have to worry about leaving a site between collecting seasons only to return to find it stripped clean. Like mine claims, professional research on public lands needs to be marked, monitored (unlikely when one person is security for 100,000 acres or 100,000 square miles) and *above all*, respected by everyone. It is incumbent upon all to act in a professional manner. If the guideline stipulates collect only enough for your own collection, then don't take everything in sight! If you take more than you need, give your extra specimens to your local school science teacher(s). Don't forget to share your collection information with them—what it is, where it came from, how old it is, etc.

Most invertebrate paleontologists are not as concerned about the effects of amateurs and do not support blanket withdrawal of public lands. It is up to collectors of fossils—both amateur and professional—to explain to politicians (and

landowners) the transient nature of exposed fossils. More museum specimens can trace their roots to an amateur paleontologist than to a curator or university scientist!

A minority of professionals might be naive enough to consider all amateurs to be their nemesis. But let's face it, there are less than 500 professional paleontologists employed by universities and museums in the United States. (These are the scientists doing "pure" paleontological research.) There are thousands of amateurs. These are the people most likely to discover new sites or species. However, many do not know who to turn with their discovery! This issue is discussed in the next two sections.

Curatorship of Collections

Chris Cozart is quite correct in stating that scientific institutions are having difficulty maintaining collections. The number of university collections dwindle at an alarming rate. Most are incorporated into larger institutions.

Case in point: the University of Cincinnati's first-rate collection is being transferred to the Cincinnati Museum Center, where full-time curators and collections managers can properly care for them. There are no losers in this situation. The collections remain in the same city and there will be full-time collections managers to organize and document specimens and monitor those on loan for research or display.

What is the situation in your area? Do you know where the closest paleontology repository is? If you don't, contact the nearest university or college with a geology department or the state geological survey.

Some museums must prevent ethical dilemmas, which makes it difficult for fossil collectors to volunteer in museum collections. If you are in this situation, consider spending time in the education department and seek guidance from the curators. Do not get upset if your collector status makes it impossible to work in the collections store rooms!

Do you have a plan for your personal fossil collection? If you want to donate it to a museum (either in your will or before), make the necessary arrangements. Notify the museum—are they the proper institution? Can they use the material to benefit the public?

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC or "Spinach") was formed by museum professionals concerned about the deterioration of importance of systematic natural history collections in museums world-wide. If you share their concern, investigate and support this group. For more information, contact: SPNHC, Strecker Museum Complex, Baylor University, P.O. Box 97154, Waco, TX 76798-7154.

Access to and Advancement of Knowledge

Organizations. Most people that I know collect fossils to learn about earth's history. This is not in the same category as trophy hunters or interior decorators. Organizations like MAPS exist because people have a hunger for information. The Paleontological Society, the foremost organization of/for North American paleontologists, has only recently embraced the importance of having non-professionals join their ranks. (Membership is currently \$60 per year, which includes a subscription to the *Journal of Paleontology* and the newsletter *Priscum*. It is worth joining if you want to keep up-to-date on the world of paleontological research. They also publish *Paleobiology* and notes from short courses.) Contact them at P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044-8897.

Ask questions. One of the best ways to learn is to ask questions. As in any field, some paleontologists are not good communicators. Most are friendly enough. (I haven't been bitten by any yet, although a few have been really unfriendly.) Do not be intimidated; like you, they put their pants on one leg at a time. Write letters, e-mail, or phone them. Most are busy (who isn't?), but can be reached and are usually able to answer questions or will refer your questions to someone who can answer them.

Know who to ask. Paleontologists usually specialize in specific types of fossils. Vertebrate paleontologists have a fundamental grasp of invertebrates but cannot identify a species of brachiopod. The same can be said about invertebrate paleontologists and vertebrate material. There are very (and I mean **VERY**) few paleontologists who can specifically identify a broad range of fossils. Research is, by its very nature, focused. Only those doing general paleo-ecological reconstruction can really understand the diversity within a given rock formation. Even those folks must consult other specialists. Complicating matters, there

are groups of fossils without a specialist studying them today! Company and government paleontologists are either losing their jobs or are forced to work in areas where the result has economic benefits.

Go on-line. The internet brings a large part of paleontology research to your home computer. This is the answer for those unable to visit other museums. It is still in its infancy, and while perusing the web, I have not had the opportunity to use it effectively. In the future, it might be possible to download information or photographs of a great variety of fossils. But today, that is not the case. Most of the information is very general. The Paleontological Society, Field Museum, Museum of Paleontology in Berkeley, Royal Museum and many individuals have good web sites.

Museum today. Systematic displays of fossils (and everything else) is on the way out. Most people are not interested in them! I have been in the museum education field for 17 years and have read plenty of studies and interviewed visitors. Chris's assertion that people are not looking at the new styles of exhibits is incorrect. Exhibits are designed so that more people can learn from them. However, most texts must be readable at an eighth grade level. You are not likely to find college-level information in museum exhibits. Museums are like a smorgasbord. There is too much information for a person to soak up. There must be diversity to handle the wide range of interests people have. Museums need to generate more revenue from admissions. Static exhibits do not draw in the visitors. Consequently, fewer systematic exhibits will be seen in the future.

Case in point—The Field Museum of Natural History: I had the opportunity to visit this museum in early September, 1997. The new exhibit "Life Through Time" was very well done. It contained a lot of information—more than I could ever hope to soak up in a day—much less the few hours I had to spend looking at the entire institution! I enjoyed looking at the great number of specimens (including a number from the Falls of the Ohio) distributed throughout this interactive exhibit gallery. I noticed that the rock and mineral gallery was still in the old style—row after row of display cases interspersed with models made decades ago. In ten minutes of looking at specimens I observed *only two* other visitors in the room. The minerals were pretty, but there was no one there to look at them.

Summary

Paleontology today is not what it was 20-30 years ago. We know more about fossils than we did then. However, with the "bottom-line mentality" of today's society, pure research (knowledge for its own sake) is becoming a threatened commodity. This is true in paleontology, mineralogy, physics and other fields. Society (well, management) wants practical applications.

In our litigious society, landowners and managers are concerned, with good reason, about letting people onto their property. This is especially true where natural cliffs, mine highwalls or heavy machinery are involved. Good channels of communication are

essential to maintain access and to open new areas for exploration and collecting. It is often said that common sense is not common, and to some extent this is true. Collectors who could be considered amateur paleontologists (essentially non-professional scientists) tend to have (and use) common sense. It is up to us to share this professionalism with newcomers.

There are many ways to keep up-to-date on paleontology. Museums and university libraries can be great places to learn. Work with your public library if necessary. Perhaps your local geology club has a library and would be willing to order some books. Make connections with professionals. Use the MAPS membership directory!!!

NEW BOOK ON WALCOTT TO BE PUBLISHED

submitted by John A. Catalani, Downers Grove, Illinois

For anyone interested in the history of paleontology a newly completed biography of Charles Doolittle Walcott is a must. In fact, for anyone interested in paleontology, this is a fascinating story of a self-made paleontologist/geologist who began collecting before he was ten, and never had a college education. Walcott began as a professional collector selling Ordovician fossils from Trenton Falls.

Walcott, born in 1850 in central New York, was both an outstanding paleobiologist, who broke new ground in the study of trilobites, and an equally outstanding biostratigrapher, best known for detailed investigations of the Cambrian. His first paid position was as a "special assistant" to James Hall, a difficult taskmaster. From Albany, he moved on to become member 20 of the United States Geological Survey, starting at \$50.00 per month. He worked hard, published extensively and gradually rose through the ranks. In 1894, John Wesley Powell resigned, and Walcott became director. He headed the agency through its glory years until 1904. The story in thirteen chapters stops at this point, for Walcott did many things besides being an administrator, and there is a practical limit to the size of a book.

Throughout his life, Walcott wrote prolifically on all groups of fossils. Anyone who has seen a copy of USGS *Monograph 8* (Paleontology of the Eureka

[Nevada] District) or *Monograph 51* (Cambrian Brachiopoda) does not need to be told more about the man.

Charles Doolittle Walcott Paleontologist was written by Ellis L. Yochelson, who for more than 30 years specialized in the study of Paleozoic molluscs as a member of the U. S. Geological Survey. Since retirement, for the last dozen years he has been a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Yochelson is a past-president of the Paleontological Society and was the founder of the North American Paleontological Convention.

The book will be published in June, as a hardcover of over 500 pages, at \$49.00 plus \$4.00 for postage and handling. However, arrangements have been made with the publisher for a prepublication price of \$40.00, inclusive. This offer will be good until July 31, 1998.

Those interested in a good story should send a check for \$40.00 to Kent State University Press, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, Ohio, 44242 (Ohio residents add 6.25% sales tax). Please indicate book title when purchasing. This price covers delivery in June to residents of the United States and Canada. For overseas sales, contact Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LL, (telephone 171-240-0856).

ADVERTISING SECTION

Ads are \$5.00 per inch. 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 can be printed in different sizes of type to fit a 1" space.

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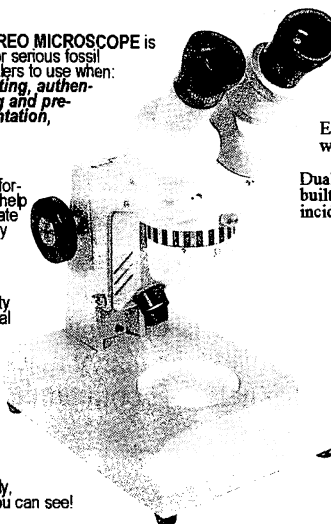
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TEXAS PALEONTOLOGY SERIES

Paleontology Section
Houston Gem and Mineral Society

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society recently released its sixth publication in its paleontology series. *Texas Cretaceous Gastropods* was written by Rosemary E. Akers and Thomas J. Akers. It includes illustrations and descriptions of 173 genera and 573 species of Texas Cretaceous Gastropods, illustrated morphological terms and glossary, genus comparison charts, genera and species list, classification, reference list, annotated list of species, synonymies, collecting localities, and steps to identification. It has 293 figures and 340 pages. The book sells for \$15.00 and can be ordered from: Paleontology Section, HGMS, 10805 Brooklet, Houston TX 77099.

The series of books is written for professional paleontologists and amateur collectors. Professionals will find them a useful reference and compilation of Texas gastropods. Amateur collectors can identify their specimens.

Others books in the series include: *Fossils & Localities of the Claiborne Group (Eocene) of Texas* (\$7.40), *Texas Cretaceous Echinoids* (\$9.25), *Texas Pennsylvanian Brachiopods* (\$12.50), and *Texas Cretaceous Ammonites and Nautiloids* (\$18.50). *Texas Cretaceous Bivalves and Localities* is out of print.

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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