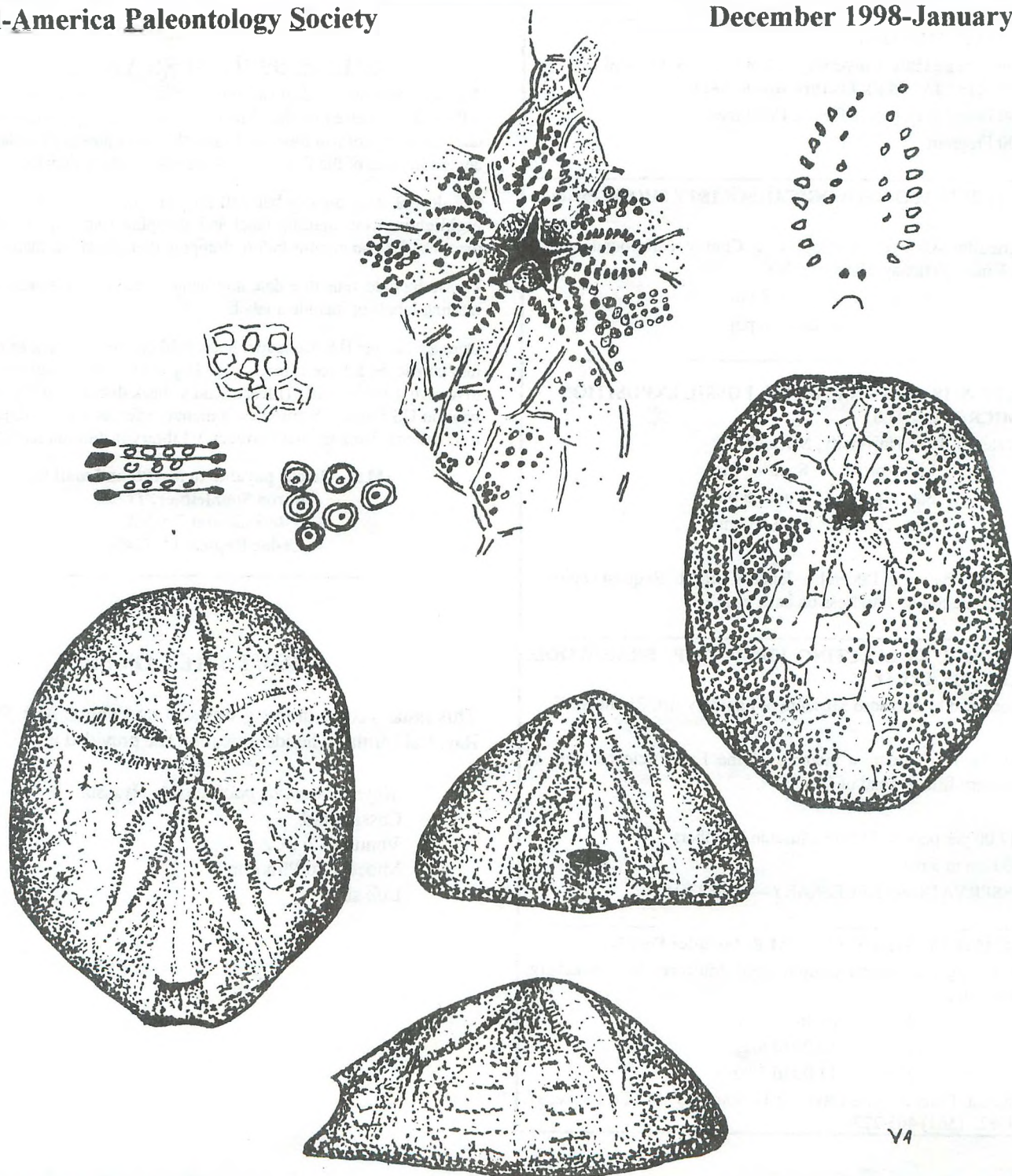


M.A.P.S. *Digest*

Official Publication of
Mid-America Paleontology Society

Volume 21, No. 9; Volume 22, No. 1
December 1998-January 1999



V4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan 9 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 Richard Baker, University of Iowa will present a program on Paleoenvironments

Mar 13 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

Mar 20-21 BUFFALO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY SHOW, Includes Fossils

Agriculture-Grange Building, Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY

Sat 10 am to 8 pm

Sun 10 am to 6 pm

Apr 16, 17, & 18 MAPS NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION XXI—MICROFOSSILS

Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

Fri., Apr. 18 8 am - 5 pm

Sat., Apr. 19 8 am - 5 pm

Sun., Apr. 20 8 am - 3 pm

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

Apr 4 FOSSIL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP: BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS, PIT 11

Sponsored by Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, Elmhurst, IL

Led by Don Auler, a member of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (and of MAPS)

\$17.00 per person; \$15 for Museum Members

9:00 am to 3 pm

RESERVATIONS NECESSARY—630-833-1616

May 14, 15 & 16 SHOW AND SALE, Includes Fossils

Vicksburg Convention Center, 1600 Mulberry St., Vicksburg, Mississippi

Fri. Noon til 6:30

Sat. 10:00 til 6:30

Sun. 11:00 til 5:00

Contact: Dean & Jacie Davis, 2611 South 16th St., Ft. Pierce, FL 34982. (561) 465-2230.

Jan 16-Apr 11 RUSSIAN DINOSAUR EXHIBIT

Crown Center, Kansas City, MO

Contact Steve Poitras 816-781-4095

98/12 & 99/01 DUES ARE DUE

Are your dues due? You can tell by checking your mailing label. It reflects dues received by the 1st of Jan. The top line gives the expiration date in the form of year followed by month—99/01 means 1999/Jan. 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 and stamping 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 Sonleitner, Treas.

4800 Sunset Dr. SW

Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

ABOUT THE COVER

This issue's cover drawing was sent by Yvonne Albi, Playa del Ray, California. The identification she provided is:

Rhyncholampas pacificus A. Hyassiz

Cassiduloid

Ventura Co., CA

Miocene to Pliocene

Life size

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

The MAPS Board met November 14 at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

EXPO plans discussed included:

-Gil Norris will handle the Union rooms and Doug DeRosear the tables.

-Jere H. Lipps, past president of the Paleo Society will present the keynote address on Generalities.

-Jim Konecny has volunteered to help with the auction, and Wanda Aldred, Carlos Bazan, and Randy Faerber will be asked to run the silent auction again.

-Change the time for the Keynote Speaker to 7:30 on Friday night. Keep the Business Meeting/Auction start time at 7:00.

-A question about raffling some of the auction items was decided against in part because a license is needed.

-Allyn Adams will chair EXPO in 2000, with Karl Stuekerjuergen as co-chair.

-Allyn will check into having loud speakers in the hallway so the dealers who are in the hall can hear announcements.

The Board voted to donate \$100 to the Paleo Society for the Strimple fund.

The following officers were elected for 1999:

President	Gil Norris
1 st V.P.	Dale Stout
2 nd V.P.	Allyn Adams
Secretary	Alberta Cray
Treasurer	Sharon Sonleitner
Director (2001)	Doug DeRosear

Continuing Directors are: Tom Walsh (99) and Blane Phillips (2000)

DUE DATE FOR 2000+

Some members have already paid dues for the year 2000 or later, and the method I am using to code due dates on the labels may not be apparent to all. Therefore, please note this explanation

So that the computer will pick out and print address labels for members with expiration dates past 1999 as well as those in 98 or 99, I am using the form "99 / ___" for due dates starting in 2000. If your due date is in 2000, your label will start with 990/ ___. Similarly 992/ __ indicates a due date in 2002, etc. With the system I have the database on now, I probably could revise the method, but I have not yet had time to experiment with it. And since I know this method works, I will probably be using it for quite a while.

EXPO XXI—MICROFOSSILS

All the information for EXPO registration and lodging is included in this issue.

Maggie Kahrs, the EXPO Digest Editor, is still looking for articles on Microfossils for the special EXPO Digest. If you can help, be sure to contact her soon; her deadline is approaching quickly. 812-522-6093.

MEMBER GEORGE RAE DIES

Mrs. Rae writes: *It is with intense sadness that I inform you that my husband, GEORGE RAY died on 10th Nov. 1998.*

From Scotland, George was a MAPS member for many years. Our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

BOOK SOURCE

by Robert Schacht

The March 1998 issue (of the Digest) has a notice about a book by W. Tidwell (*Common Fossil Plants of Western North America*)...but no notice where to purchase it. Now I know after a series of phone calls.

The book can be purchased from:
Smithsonian Institution Press
P.O. Box 960
Herndon, VA 20172-0960
Phone: 1-800-782-4612

Note: Cost is less than \$29.95 for paperback and includes postage—not sure of exact cost.

DIGEST DOUBLE ISSUE

This issue of the Digest is once again a double issue. Although I had planned to do separate issues, I have been sidetracked by my youngest daughter's extracurricular activities. I got involved in many extra projects that I had not anticipated, and they all had deadlines that pushed aside work on the Digest. Since Theresa is a junior and will soon be gone from home, I feel it's important to meet her needs while she's still at home. Hopefully, I will be able to get the Digest back on the expected schedule soon. In the meantime, I hope you have not been unduly worried about not getting your issue when you expected it.

FROM THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY

November 20, 1998

Dear Ms. Sonnleitner:

I am the chair of the Scholarship and Grants Committee for The Paleontological Society. Recently, at our annual meeting and awards program that was held in Toronto, recipients of the society's research grants for 1998 were announced. Research grants are awarded to our student members who are conducting any aspect of paleontological research as part of their degree program. We had an excellent group of applicants this year and made 18 awards. Our ability to make this number of awards was possible, thanks to the support of the Mid-America Paleontology Society. Two students whose research included a strong field component were awarded MAPS-supported grants. These students are Heather Moffatt, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Rochester, and Mark Webster, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California at Riverside. I would like to thank MAPS for their support of student grants in aid of research. Our committee's job is not an easy one because we receive many high quality proposals. Funding by MPAS means that the Paleontological Society can support several additional students in their research.

Thanks Again.

Sincerely,

Laurie C. Anderson

Associate Professor, Louisiana State University

Visiting Scholar, University of Iowa

November 25, 1998

Dear Sharon:

At the annual meeting of the Paleontological Society, a little over four weeks ago, I took over as President of the Paleontological Society. Over the last year, as President-Elect, I have come to realize the importance an strength of the relationship between the Paleontological Society and the Mid-America Paleontology Society. We are delighted by your participation in our annual Strimple Award, which is one of our Society's three premier awards. We also deeply appreciate the extraordinary generosity of the Mid-America Paleontology Society in supporting the "MAPS Student Scholarships." This year, as you know, we were able to support two exceptional young scholars — Mark Webster of the University of California, Riverside, and Heather A. Moffat of the University of Rochester — at a scholarship level of \$1,000 each. Through the generosity of the Mid-America Paleontology Society we are delighted that we will be able to support three "MAPS Student Scholarships" in 1999.

Please pass on to the Council and members of MAPS our sincere gratitude for your support of Paleontological Society activities. In particular, we deeply appreciate your generous support of student research, which we see as a key investment in the future of paleontology. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Peter R. Crane, F.F.S.

President

A BELLYFUL OF JAWSsource: *Discover*, Nov 98

Scientists have long known that plesiosaurs with their long, sharp teeth were predators, but they didn't know what their prey was until recently. A 93-million-year-old fossil specimen of the reptile was found in a riverside cliff in northern Hokkaido, Japan, with the jaws of about 30 ammonites lying on top of what would have been its stomach. Tamaki Sato, a graduate student in geology at the University of Calgary, thinks

they were its last meal because such a high concentration of the tiny jaws (only a fraction of an inch long) with no evidence of the ammonites' hard outer shells, tends to rule out an accumulation by chance. The plesiosaur's long slender teeth were unsuited to crunching ammonite shells, so Sato thinks the animal gulped them down whole.

THE RUSSIAN DINOSAUR EXHIBIT

by Steve Poitras

Jurassic Journeys, 322 So. Ridge, Liberty, MO 64068

There are dinosaurs in Kansas City and they're Real!

THE MOST AMAZING DINOSAUR AND PREHISTORIC REPTILE EXHIBIT EVER TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN MOSCOW, IS REACHING OUT IN COOPERATION WITH JURASSIC JOURNEYS AND THE RUDINEX FOUNDATION TO SHARE THEIR RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCES WITH KANSAS CITY.

This exhibit will enable Americans to view an extraordinary collection of real, not casts of, prehistoric reptiles and dinosaur remains, which have been collected over the past 100 years from sites across Russian and Mongolia. The collection is of enormous scientific and educational importance and a source of wonder and fascination for people of all ages.

The world's largest traveling exhibit of real dinosaur artifacts is being brought to Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri, from the Russian Paleontological Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow by Jurassic Journeys in conjunction with the RuDinEx Foundation of St. Louis. It will be open from January 16 through April 11.

This exhibit consists of 63 genuine specimens, which represent just a small sampling from the Institute's collection. The exhibit spans 180 million years of the prehistoric record, displaying terrestrial vertebrates from the late Permian Period, with its earliest reptiles and mammal-like reptiles, to the late Cretaceous dinosaurs.

Included with the exhibit are many full mounts, including a large Tyrannosaurus (*Tarbosaurus bataar*) skeleton and skull, a 19 foot tall skeleton of a duck-billed dinosaur, called saurolophus, with skin impressions, dinosaur eggs and nests along with baby dinosaurs. The exhibit magnificently displays Mesozoic faunal diversity and provides a unique opportunity to study the rise of dinosaurs and mammals from stem reptiles.

Real fossils make up approximate 85% of the exhibit. Many specimens are type fossils never seen outside of Russia. Traveling with the exhibit are Russian paleontologists from the Institute. They will be helping prepare fossil specimens, giving lectures, conducting scientific research and aiding in educational outreach with local school groups.

In addition to the Russian scientists there will be local lecturers as well as other guest speakers. They will talk about their work in paleontology, especially dinosaurs, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions. The exhibit is magnificent, but the talks provide the opportunity to learn about the subject of dinosaurs and paleontology first hand. There will also be fossils from various area universities and private collections on display along with resource information on the paleontology of Kansas and Missouri.

The exhibit is free to the public for viewing the Russian dinosaurs collection. The lectures are \$4.00 per person at the door. The lectures give you the opportunity to talk directly to scientists and other people in the field of paleontology and learn about the organizations and activities going on in Kansas and Missouri.

Some weekly events will be scheduled throughout the exhibit's stay.

For more information contact me at 816-781-4095

AN OZARK DAY

by Nicholas Angeli, 1715 Stemwood, Fenton, MO 63016, Member of Eastern Missouri Society of Paleontology

Around Mondya of the workweek, my mind starts a casual overlook of the approaching weekend. Dancing between commitments (that dreaded word) and playful events, I try to reach a happy medium that will appease those around me. Fabricate a plan and work the plan, so I do...does it work? Well with the "dreaded word" and Murphy's Law in effect, I don't really suspect I have a chance! I execute some quick sidesteps, make a right instead of a left, and erase anything on the calendar between Saturday and Sunday. Somehow, probably through the mercy of God, I find I can finagle a free day into the weekend. Then, as if I were not aging quickly enough, I start to wish my life away. Monday's battle cry is "Come on Friday!" The anxiety begins.

Loading my backpack with an apple, granola bar, rock hammer, and no commitments, I naturally head south into the mature Ozark mountains. This rugged, serene country has always been home. Playing in the creeks, climbing the knobs, and listening to my mother read Leonard Hall's exploits have deeply rooted me. The excitement of new territory and exploration could lure me away from St. Louis, but never permanently from the Ozarks. Traveling south, I will probably circumnavigate the St. Francis Uplift, searching for Upper Cambrian fauna. Though I have no destination, I'll know when I am there. Thinking geologically facilitates putting the fossil record in order for me, so I religiously observe the rock outcrops, relatively combining the two. Descending into time at approximately 13 million years per mile (great gas mileage), I find Cambrian exposures at or near Washington State Park. I keep heading further south, further back, deeper into time.

Sunrise and several cups of coffee have awakened me sufficiently to ponder where exactly I want to go. Recalling all that I want to see and do, and pressured by limited time, I settle on an area west of Potosi, Missouri. Though I have collected fossils there before, it is a vast area with many a chert chocked hollows and a few logging roads that stir my curiosity. Off the state highway and onto the gravel road I travel. First fording a small creek, I climb to the top of the ridge and

wander several miles until I spot my exit, barely wide enough for my automobile. I press on regardless, scrub branches brushing the car and imitating the sound of fingernails on a blackboard that chill me. I turn, and after a few hundred yards this ridge running road commences a rapid decline and wanes. Chert is galling to hands and rock hammers, and I surmise that it is equally destructive to oil pans and quickly bring the car to a standstill. Parking places are few in the National Forest, so I leave my transportation where it lies. No trail is apparent, so a bushwhacking strategy is in order. Remembering a recent three day outing on the Current River Trail, I do not relish the thought of being tormented by ticks and mosquitoes again. Just one of the many fun time by-products of summertime fossil hunting, I suppose.

With backpack in hand I close the trunk, making sure my one and only set of keys is well into my pocket. I dutifully take a compass bearing to assure a safe and prompt return. Proficient fossil hunters are lazy fossil hunters and generally check areas of renowned productivity first, such as scree, weathered surfaces, and bedding planes. And since I am not an exception to the rule, I start with an abandoned fire ring. Discolored by heat, they are nevertheless easily accessible, and occasionally yield some of the highly prized specimens of the trip! Glancing down, I immediately notice a slabby piece of chert containing numerous *Dirhachopea* gastropods. Highly crystallized, they are invariably pretty and into the pack they go. Rolling over the remaining boulders with the pick end of my hammer, in hopes of avoiding a copperhead, I see nothing else that strikes my fancy and decide to move on.

Heading down into this hollow, there is a mature forest bordering a clear-cut area, easily marking my trail for several hundred yards. As the verdant forest once again thickens, the overhead canopy becomes very dense, filtering out much of the sunlight. I leave the lighted area for the last time as I finally arrive at the lowest elevation, the creek itself. Instantly I recognize the sound of running water, and cooler temperatures attract wildlife in abundance, mesmerizing me with a

contentedness. Just one more directional decision to make, upstream or down? Some of the desirable Cambrian fossils come out of the Eminence Formation, which I suspect is upstream. At this point the creek has almost reached its base level with the river, and downstream can only lead to the Courtois River, which is not my objective. As I peer at the stream bed, I must admit in all honesty that I do not recognize the strata that lies below my feet. Though it is a mixture of different boulders probably transported by water or gravity, it does not look the same as others that I have examined several ridges away.

Switch backing my way up the creek banks to avoid the deeper pools and poison ivy, I keep an eye open for fossiliferous chert. How does one identify such chert, you ask? It is an elusive quest, but a gifted fossil hunting friend keeps reiterating that "it's gotta have that look." I suppose he's trying to teach me the value of time-tested experience and the many hundreds of hours of field work needed to spot these hidden treasures. So I clash with the chert, beating open the boulders and learning along the way. Sparks fly, hammers wear, and pieces of spalling chert fly through the air like raining glass. If this alone does not testify to the presence of chert, the siliceous aroma that powders the air does! So far no luck, and I continue up the creek, dodging pendulous vegetation just low enough to carry those eye level spider webs. Inevitable, no matter how carefully you stip, one of these obstinate webs wraps your face in that seems like a smothering grip. Briskly I remove it in hopes that the spider wasn't at home. The fossils seem ambiguous, and I turn my attention to Mother Nature.

The beauty of this journey is overwhelming if one just takes the time to look at things in their natural settings. Every pool of water that I have traversed teems with aquatic life. Schools of Southern redbelly dace minnows prowl the depths in search of algae and micro crustaceans, while others pursue the drama of reproduction. These micro-environments have their own food chain, often ending with a six inch Creek Chub resembling a lone battlewagon amongst the smaller habitants and dominating its territory. All scatter to any cover as one approaches their home and eventually, if you are still enough, slip back out into their regular routines.

Grabbing a twisted iron tree to balance my missed step, I ponder a small tributary, flowing into the creek from the east. Chest level I can easily flip rocks over with my pick, but nothing seems to have that look, and I am wearily reluctant to break any more open. But much to my surprise almost every boulder I turn over has several salamanders under it. The soil here is extra moist with good drainage, conditions, I suppose, ideal for these amphibians. Woodland salamanders are of the lungless variety and one may occasionally see them in cave entrances.

Looking more closely I see a multitude of these mini-caves surrounded by decaying logs and boulders all along the stream embankment, ideal egg-laying receptacles. Of the twenty varieties found in Missouri, I recognize two species by their brilliant colors. The slender and fragile Southern Redback salamanders are the most plentiful, seemingly under almost every rock. I dare not put the rocks back in fear of crushing them, so I gently brush a handful of humus and leaves over the hole to protect them from the deadly ultraviolet rays. Sharing the same hillside is the Slimy salamander, almost four times the size of the Redback. Highly prized catches, we mistakenly called these mudpuppies as children. In apprehension of disturbing any more "slimy friends," I move off the hillside and back into the creek bed, but still have not found any really desirable fossils. Oh well!

Miniature limestone bluffs skirt the creek banks in several areas where lateral erosion has been checked. This downcutting has provided some weathered vertical exposures and like most Cambrian carbonate rocks of Missouri yields few fossils, but I look anyway. These moist cliffs are blanketed with sheets of thalloid liverworts. Green, flat and leaflike, they anchor themselves to the surface with hairlike structures, hiding the rocks and further hindering my fossil hunting. I am no detective and many obvious things sometimes evade me, but I have paid careful attention to the creek bed and have noticed a favorite amongst the many rocks, the stromatolites. These structures continue to intrigue me, their great diversity in the Proterozoic has by this time (Cambrian) greatly diminished. Disguising themselves as sedimentary structures, they will be overlooked in the quest for and a closer look is in order. Long since replaced by

superior fossils. They have now captured my attention, silica, they nevertheless reveal their original structures, some laminated and others domal or cabbage shaped. I tend to think of stromatolites as large barrel shaped objects, such as the modern Australian types found at Sharks Bay. In reality, they were probably small flat microbial mats such as the ones here in Potosi, Missouri, and matted massive areas of the ancient oceans. Though still around today, they are very inconspicuous compared to their early cousins. Probably responsible for jump-starting life as we know it, I can at least thank them for the air that I breathe.

Further upstream the creek has now leveled into a small flat valley and lost much of its energy. Tributaries now turn into rills and seep springs abound in the open meadow. As I stand with mud oozing over my boots, I know that there are more boulders on the other side. That will be another natural community though, probably dry and much steeper, ending at the mountain top. My backpack, for all practical purposes is "fossilless" at this point, and I must decide whether to forge ahead. Optimistic that I am at least close to the "good stuff," I am tempted to return down the creek if I journey further on. Reluctantly I must return and repair my way back.

Whippoorwills repeat their rhythmic call, as if it were a marching cadence drumming me homeward. About halfway back I stop and pick up two stromatolitic friends that will find a new home in my garden. Returning is usually uneventful, and this trip is no exception, though I am pleasantly greeted by two brilliantly blue colored indigo bunting birds that constantly stay abreast of me on fallen logs. Stepping out of the creek bed, I start the arduous uphill climb to my automobile. If not hard enough in itself, I am constantly harassed by a mammoth horsefly that believes it must have some type of symbiotic relationship with me!

The trip in itself has been great exercise, but I push myself by route stepping the last climb in hopes of working off last night's pizza. I am exhausted, gulping down my reserve canteen of water left in the trunk. All is well as I catch my breath and watch the last of the sunset disappear. Prowling through my backpack, I find a slab of gastropods and two ornamental stromatolites, not to mention smashed surplus snacks.

Not a great collecting day. As darkness falls, all seems in place, and I recall a friend's comment last winter on the Audubon Trail that to spend the night there would be such contentment. I must admit I now feel the same. For this day the elusive Cambrian life forms evaded me. I had no great finds and nothing really to comment on. Could I consider this a successful day? I sigh complacently as I answer....Oh yes!

What Is a Friend and Collecting Partner?

by Marc Behrendt,

421 S. Columbus St., Somerset, OH 43783

Friends and collecting partners are unique and special people, primarily because they find enjoyment from sharing similar experiences. Such people are rare and when a friend is found, they are a treasure to maintain for the rest of our lives. Since each person is an individual, specific definitions of a friend are always unique to that person. While one set of friends may enjoy the beautiful scenery of a collecting trip, another set may revel at the rare yellow-eyed blackfooted ground beetle crossing their path. Interests differ; however, certain aspects of friendship cross all definitional boundaries. Here are a few I observe from my own experiences:

- Shares the joy of a good find.
- Shares the dreams of future journeys and hunts.
- Shares the anticipation of a hunt.
- Can be counted on to give a hard time about dumb things I've done.
- Accepts all the hard times I give about their dumb things.
- Can count on a kind word when needed.
- Strong supporter when not around.
- Knows my tender spots and never touches them.
- Knows when and how to give advice.
- Gives more than their share of work, etc., with no expectation of payment or balance.
- Share secret spots and keep my secret spots secret.
- Knows when my words do not indicate my heart.
- Laughs at all my jokes, or at least offer a mild chortle or muffled guffaw.
- Dreams my dreams - incorporates my dreams into theirs.
- Doesn't keep track of who is ahead or who owes whom.

ALAA REPORT ON THE 105TH CONGRESS

by Jon Spanaule

from Paleo Newsletter, Nov. 1998, Jean Wallace, Ed.

The ALAA monitors the activities of the federal Government, including the President, the public land managers, and the U.S. Congress. Our interests for initiatives and actions that affect, or could affect, hobby activities on public lands. A summary of the public land bills passed in the 105th Congress (which is just ending) along with a comparison of the previous two Congresses shows that this Congress was less interested in public land matters. We would observe that perhaps "less" is better, depending on the subject and on your perspective.

Our observations are that the 105th Congress was a "good" Congress in terms of avoiding further restriction of access to public lands for hobby pursuits. In the 105th Congress the major Bill passed that affected public lands was the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness in the Arapaho National Forest and White river National Forest in the State of Colorado, which added 160 acres to wilderness. The other Bills passed were predominately minor land transfer and exchange Bills between the Federal Government and the States and Counties.

HR 716

One of the Bills the ALAA did follow was HR-716 entitled "Freedom From Government Competition Act of 1997." This was said to be a U.S. House of Representatives resolution addressing unfair government competition with the private sector. It said "No agency may begin or carry out any activity to provide any products or services that can be provided by the private sector." Our concern with this proposed law was that it was far too broad a statement. It would have likely closed campgrounds in our National Forests, and other public lands, in favor of privately operated campgrounds. It would have likely meant that the IRS could not give you any help on your tax forms sending you, instead, to private tax preparation organizations. I could have prevented you from purchasing government publications from the Government Printing Office in favor of a private book store, and affected many other government services. Luckily this bill and its language did not pass.

SENATE BILL 314 PASSES

Unfortunately, the similar Bill introduced in the U. S. Senate, S-314 did pass and was signed into law on October 19, 1998. This new law is entitled "Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998." This new law is effective October 1, 1998. It requires the head of each federal executive agency to prepare a list of activities performed by that agency that is not "inherently a government function." This list is to be forwarded to Congress and published in the Federal Register. The head of the agency is also required to review the list and consider contacting with a private source for activities that may be provided by the private sector. A competitive process is to be used to determine if the private sector can provide the same service. This process must consider cost, quality assurance, monitoring, liability insurance, employee retirement and disability benefits, and other overhead costs. Only then would the activity be contracted out to the private sector. Any decisions to contract out, or not to contract out, to private providers is subject to challenge and appeal.

The ALAA is not particularly pleased with this legislation, but we find it to be much less of a problem than the language used in the U.S. House proposed Bill.

ELECTIONS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Who will Remain and who will be gone? No one knows just who all will survive the 1998 elections. Many of our legislators are already holding their breath and others are ending their tenure voluntarily. Some early and some long overdue.

With all that in mind, our Legislative Coordinator continues to write an e-mail and Fax Newsletter to every Congressional office about every two-three weeks, keeping them informed of the issues that concern you, the rock and mineral collector.

BOOK REVIEW

by Lee J. Cary
from *Bone Valley Fossil News*,
Dec. 98, Ed, Karen & Ben Metrin, Eds.

Cretaceous and Paleogene Fossils of North Carolina,
by Richard Chandler, Illustrate by John Timmerman.
The North Carolina Fossil Club. 70 pp. 1995.

Richard Chandler and John Timmerman wrote and illustrated a 42-page booklet in 1994 on fossils of North Carolina covering the Miocene and Pliocene epochs. It has been well received and is a valuable guide for use in Florida. As Robert Sinibaldi said in his review of this guide, "You don't have to go to North Carolina to need this book." Now comes their field guide for the Oligocene, Eocene, and Paleocene epochs and the Cretaceous period. From 23 million years to 85 million years ago.

Fifty of the seventy pages are completely devoted to line drawings of fossils giving the scientific name and a size range. Where very rare fossils have been found, the size listed is of that particular specimen. Shark teeth and echinoids take up half of the pages of line drawings, but there are pages on bony fish, whale material, marine reptiles, crabs, bryozoa, mollusks, and even two pages on dinosaurs!

The first 20 pages discuss shark teeth and echinoids. Two charts list the name and scientific name of fourteen Cretaceous shark and twenty-six Paleogene shark with teeth size and frequency of find for each one. Information on the evolution of the white sharks is also included. A brief discussion of echinoids includes a chart giving the scientific name, size, and frequency of find for thirty-one echinoids.

The key to the rating of the frequency of find might be of interest. The frequency is listed as "singular" if fewer than 10 have ever been found; "very rare," 1 or 2 per year; "rare," a half-dozen per year; "scarce," 15- 20 per year; "occasional," can be found with persistence; "common," everyone finds some; and plentiful," you finally quit picking them up. Of the thirty-one echinoids described, five are listed as "common" and two as "plentiful."

This rather small book not only gives the fossil collector much information fossil identification, but valuable information particularly on matters relating to sharks and echinoids. For example, areas and structures of an echinoid test (both sides) are illustrated and three forms of echinoid pathology, encountered by North Carolina Fossil Club Members, are shown in line drawings.

Even the back cover is used, with a line drawing of a shark tooth and illustrating four common measurements of the tooth: vertical height, slant height, enamel height, and root width. This is an inexpensive and useful field guide for all fossil collectors in the southeastern United States.

CAMBRIAN FOSSIL WEB SITES

by Bruce L. Stinchcomb
bstinchcomb@fv.stlcc.ccmo.us

Surfing the web for fossil sites can be interesting! Using common and well-known fossils such as trilobites, crinoids or dinosaurs as search words pulls up a large amount of information. Some of it, however, is redundant, and others is of little or no interest (Creationists stuff!). A "back door" method to get some interesting material is to use as search words little or lesser known fossil groups. I have tried this with a number of Cambrian fossils with some interesting results. You will also get "the Ozark fossil web page," a show of interesting Cambrian fossils, many which are not often heard of.

Of the various servers, HOTBOT seems to have the greatest selection of fossil-related sites. Try Stromatolites first. A number of interesting sites will appear, many relating to the earliest known fossils and the earliest life on the Earth (and Mars). Particularly interesting is the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution) Virtual Tour. This can also be accessed at [<.org/virtual Tour/First/Early/index.html/>](http://<.org/virtual%20Tour/First/Early/index.html/>). Also under stromatolites is an interesting NASA site dealing with the puntative Martian fossils? found in meteorites. The stromatolite list is large with 200+ entries, but many of these are interesting.

The strange Cambrian horseshoe crab-like animal called an aglaspid can get, besides the Ozark fossil web page, an interesting site on the trilobite papers.

The puzzling "motorcycle" tracks found on the surfaces of Cambrian sandstones and given the trace fossil name Climactichnites will, when used as a search word, pull up a number of interesting sites. The trace fossil database is one of these. Another is the National Museum of Natural History home page with its trace fossils.

Last, try my Ozark Fossil web page. Use the name for the puzzling plated mollusc (mathevia) as a search word.

INDONESIAN COELACANTH

by Virginia Friedman

On July 30th, 1998, an Indonesian population of coelacanths was discovered. It is apparently the same species as the well known coelacanth from the Comoro islands in the Indian Ocean — *Latimeria chalumnae* Smith. The first coelacanth was caught in 1938 off the mouth of the Chalumna River, South Africa. This is the only surviving species of a lineage of fishes — the coelacanths — that originated in the Devonian, about 360 mya, but was thought to have become extinct in the Upper Cretaceous some 80 mya.

It was believed, in the late 1930s, that the coelacanth was a direct descendant of the tetrapods (land-living vertebrates, including ourselves). Through more modern evolutionary analysis, it appears now that the coelacanths are more distantly related to tetrapods than first thought and that they are their modern cousins rather than their sisters. Lungfishes are now thought to be the closets living relatives to tetrapods.

Latimeria nevertheless still holds the answers to many interesting questions. It is the only living animal to have a functional intracranial joint. The function and biological significance of this structure remains unknown. *Latimeria* also possesses fins that move in a fashion not common in fishes, but is very similar to the way we move our arms and legs. There are many points of scientific interest around this "living fossil."

The estimated population of the Comoran individuals is around 500. With a low fecundity rate, they live at about 180 meters, below the 18 C isotherm, and they are known to inhabit submarine caves of recent volcanic formation. The possible existence of an Indonesian population will not doubt bring as many questions as answers to this remarkable fish.

It was early morning on that July 30th that a living coelacanth was retrieved from the deep waters of the volcanic island of Manado Tua, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. The importance of this catch lays in the fact that it is almost 10,000 km from the, until now, only known population of coelacanths *L. chalumnae* in the Comoros. A preliminary examination of the specimen's external morphology suggests that it is conspecific with *L. chalumnae*, although this must be confirmed by further investigation. The only immediate observable

difference is the color. The specimens from the Comoro Islands appear to be "steel blue," although dead specimens appear rather brown. The specimen caught alive in Indonesia was distinctly brown. Of the three specimens previous specimens caught outside the Comoros, two were captured in South Africa and Mozambique and a specimen was caught in Madagascar.

The new specimen is actually the second caught in Indonesia. On September 18, 1997, the wife of scientist M.V. Erdmann spotted a strange looking fish being wheeled in a cart across the fish market in Manado. The fish was immediately recognized as a coelacanth, but just some pictures were taken before it was sold in the market.

Ever since then, Erdmann interviewed the fishermen in the villages near the finding, and with the help of US National Science Foundation, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, surveyed the area, which eventually led to the capture of a live specimen on that July 30, 1998.

The discovery of an Indonesian coelacanth population has strong biogeographical and conservation implications. The vast distance from the Comoro archipelago, strongly supports the idea that the Indonesian coelacanths are part of an established North Sulawesi population, and not simply "strays" as has been suggested for the other specimens captured outside of the Comoros. Further studies in DNA sequences from the tissues from the Indonesian specimen, when compared the Comoro specimens will reveal the depth of divergence between these two populations. Also further expeditions in the vast area where coelacanths have been caught between the Comoros and Indonesia could lead to additional new populations. This would be excellent news for coelacanth conservation, as the fish is considered at the present a highly endangered species.

SOURCE

Nature, September, 1998

For those with a further interest in coelacanths, I strongly recommend the book The Biology of Latimeria chalumnae and Evolution of the Coelacanths, edited by John A Musick, et al., published by Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1991.

He called his fossil "Homo diluvii testis," "Man, witness of the flood."

(It might sound a little funny, but it is translated from the original old German text.)

At the very bottom of the flyer Scheuchzer marked the year of his publication, "after the big Flood": 4032 (in Roman numerals), because he believed the Flood had taken place in 2306 BC.

Homo diluvii testis

Bony skeleton of a man that drowned in the big Flood.

We have / besides the infallible word of God / so many other witnesses of that universal and terrible water-flood; as there are many countries / towns / villages / mountains / valleys / stone-quarries / mud-pits. Plants / fish / four footed animals / vermin / mussels / snails / without number; of humans / so have been killed at that time / only very few remains have been found. They floated dead on the upper surface of the water and decayed / and of the bones found once in a while one cannot always figure / that they are from humans.

This picture / which I in clear wood-cut present to the educated and eager people to think about / is one of surest if not infallible remains of the Flood; one does not just find some lines, from which the rich and fertile imagination / can form something that looks like human / but a thorough identity with those parts of a human skeleton / a perfect symmetry / even the bones that sunk into the stone (which is from the quarry at Oningen); even weaker parts are naturally preserved / and can easily be differentiated from the other stone. This man / whose tomb excels all other Roman and Greek / also Egyptian / or other Oriental monuments at age and certainty presents itself from the front.

ABC. is the circumference of the forehead (everything in natural size.)

B. the middle of the forehead. A. the right cheek-bone. C. the left.

DEGH the eye-ledges. KL. the thickness of the forehead / with both its plates / the outer and inner. M. the hole of the lower eye-ledge / which lets through the vein of the fifth nerve. N. are remnants of the brain / or the hard brain-skin. O. the bones that form the eye-ledges. P. the screenlike and spongelike

bones. PQ. The ploughshare / so goes through the middle of the nose down. U. a good piece of the fourth cheek-bone. W. seems to be a piece of the forehead-muscle. X. remnants of the nose. Y. a piece of the chewing muscle.

BC. a profile of the lower jaw / like the one with the bigger projection going to the lower corner or angle. D. pieces of the lower jaws against the chin.

1.2.3.&c. to 16. are 16. backbone-vertebrae/namely 6. from the neck / and 10. from the back / because the projections are visible. EF. a piece of the raven-formed projection of the scapula. GH. a piece of first rib / which still is covered with stone. I. remnants of the liver.

From the whole size one can suggest / comparing the other parts / that the height of this man raises to 58 2/7 inches of Paris / that equal 5 shoes of Zurich 9 7/17 decimal-inch.

Ex museo

Joh. Jacobi Scheuchzeri. Med. D.

Math. P.

Zurich, to be found

David Reding / Formcutter

In the year after the big flood

MMMMXXXII

It took over 100 years, until the real identity of the fossil came to light. Scheuchzer had actually found a rare giant salamander from the Miocene!

He mistook it for a human fossil, but it is one of the earliest attempts to scientifically describe a fossil. The salamander is named *Andrias scheuchzeri* in honor of the man that first described it. The original survived the destruction of WW II and is now, restored with modern techniques, one of the most interesting witnesses of the history of paleontology.

Even though the early scientists made lots of mistakes, where would paleontology stand today without them?

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF PALEONTOLOGY—PART III

by Andreas Kerner

from Tampa Bay Fossil Chronicles, Dec. 98, Frank Kocsis, Jr., Ed.

Bartholomäus Adam Behringer, a rich and famous man in Würzburg, Germany, became a tragic figure in the history of fossil collecting.

In 1724, he was shown magnificent fossils that were better than anything he had seen so far. Plants and animals, beautifully preserved on slabs of limestone, had been found (so he was told) on some hills nearby. Behringer was a serious collector, so he tried to get as much material as possible from this great site. He spent a lot of money to buy specimens and even hired people to dig for him. Within 18 months, he had a collection of close to 2,000 of the “figure-stones,” leaves, flowers, toads, fish, insects and other animals.

He showed them to friends and scientists asking for their opinion.

Some people told him that his specimens were man-made (sometimes the slabs showed even stars or written symbols!), but Behringer believed in the authenticity of his stones.

In 1726, he published his book *Lithographia wirceburgensis*, in which he showed the best pieces of his collection.

Unfortunately, his “fossils” were indeed carved rocks, produced by some children.

Some of Behringer’s colleagues had paid them to fool him!

He allegedly spent a fortune to buy back all the books, but the damage was done.

Bartholomäus Adam Behringer became sick over the incident and died soon thereafter.

His “figure-stones,” whatsoever, are prized items in some German museums.

A scam that happened 274 years ago, but it almost seems modern to me!



Some of the original “figure-stones.” (1724)

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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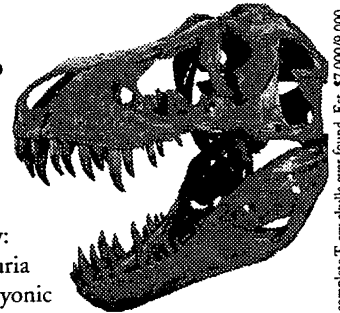
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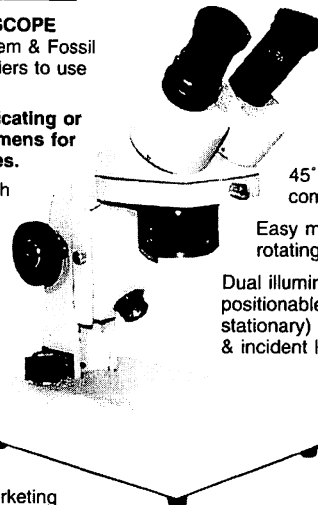
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Don Miller
16 Marsh Woods Lane
Wilmington DE 19810
302-475-8819
302-475-5973

Interested in buying, selling or trading. Co-author of *Discovering Fossils* (1998) and publisher of *Trilobites: Common Trilobites of North America* by Jasper Burns (1999).

Michael L. Orock
891 Berwin Street
Akron OH 44310-2145

Clerk/Retired Clown. Has not amassed enough of a stockpile to trade, but is receptive to correspondence to share interests and information. Major interests coproliths and paleobotany. General interests all fossils and the thrill of the hunt.

Gary Rudolph
9415 Chesapeake Dr.
North Royalton OH 44133
440-225-1618

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NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION XXI—1999

LOCATION AND TIME EXPO will be held at the Student Union, in the Grand Ballroom, on the campus of Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois. The simplest way to the site is to turn off IL 67 west on University Drive, then go south to the Union. (Follow the signs.) Set-up is permitted on Friday, April 16, at 8:00 a.m.

EXPO HOURS: Friday, April 16—8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday, April 17—8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday, April 18—8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 (Many people leave early Sunday)

TRANSPORTATION There are 2 highways leading into Macomb—IL 136, an E-W route, and IL 67, a N-S route.

There is no plane service to Macomb at this time, but we will help to arrange transportation from Moline, IL, airport if you will make ADVANCE arrangements with Mrs. Gerry Norris (309-786-6505), 2623 34th Ave. Ct., Rock Island, IL 61201. Or you can fly into St. Louis, MO, or Peoria, IL, and rent a car and drive to Macomb.

LODGING

Macomb area code—309; Macomb zip code—61455

★**MOTELS** We have been informed that most Macomb motels have different prices for weekends than for weekdays, so check prices if you are concerned about costs.

Motels are listed according to what has generally been the highest-priced one to the lowest-priced one except those marked*. It has been reported that some of the hotels raise the price for EXPO weekend, so you might want to check prices.

Ameri Host	1646 N. Lafayette	837-2220
Holiday Inn Express	1655 Jackson St.	816-6700
Macomb Inn (Days Inn)	1400 N. Lafayette	833-5511
Super 8	313 University Drive	836-8888
Pineapple Inn	204 Jefferson Street	837-1914
Travel Inn	Hwy 136 West	833-4521
Time Out Motel	Hwy 67 North	837-4838
Star Motel	Hwys 67 S and 136 E	837-4817
	1507 E. Jackson Rd.	
Brockway House (Bed & Bkfst)	331 E. Carrol	837-2175*

If you plan to stay in a motel, we urge you to make your reservations early.
 Local motels are generally filled during the weekends.

★**CAMPERS** Persons traveling in self-contained camping units may park on the parking lot. See Public Safety located in the Union. **IDENTIFY WITH MAPS**

★**MOBILE HOME PARKING** is offered at **TILL JORDAN MEADOW MOBILE PARK** by calling 309-837-2883, for those who wish utility hook-up.

★**UNION**—Contact Gilbert Norris (309-786-6505), 2623 34th Ave. Ct., Rock Island, IL 61201 to see if rooms are available. (There are a limited number.) Rooms are to be paid directly to the University Union when you check in or out. These rooms must be rented for both Friday & Saturday. You must request rooms early. You may wish to be on standby.

★**OLSON HALL**—Dormitory-style housing is available at the University in Olson Hall—Dorm rooms with community bath on floor. **CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY** directly at 309-298-3500 for reservations.

IN ALL CASES, IDENTIFY WITH MAPS

PARKING For those living in the Union, parking will be east of the Union with room permits. For others, get visitor permits from Public Safety. Park in specified lots. After 4:00 p.m. Friday, ample parking is available. Before 5:00 p.m., patience is needed.

MEALS Meals are available in the Union: fast food in the lower level and a deli in the basement. Ice cream is also available! There are many restaurants in town and a deli bar in a nearby grocery store.

EXPO REGULATIONS Everyone is requested to make advance registration by March 30, 1999. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget! Registration forms are found on page 18 in the Digest for your requests for tables, display space, etc. Send these forms and your check made payable to MAPS to: Doug DeRosear, Box 125, Donnellson, IA 52625. Please send dues to Treasurer before EXPO—It is a lot of extra work for us to accept them at EXPO.

ALL TABLES WILL BE ASSIGNED Cost of the tables is \$15.00 each for a 6' table in the Ballroom for the weekend; \$15/table in the Lobby. (Lobby tables will be used only for overflow. **MAXIMUM of 2 tables per person/membership initially.** Over 2 tables wanted? You may request extra tables, and if they are available, you will be notified after March 15th (pay for these at EXPO). Requests for extra tables will be filled in rotation—one table per person per round until all space is gone. Also, those with special needs for more than 2 tables may apply to the Board by March 1 for an exception. All decisions will be made as soon as possible, with all decisions made by March 15. MAPS memberships will have first chance at all tables requested before March 1. (No more than 4 tables will be allotted to a person, family or group, whichever is the larger unit.)

The Committee insists that all materials be fossil or fossil-related. Mountings, gemstones, minerals, Indian artifacts, etc., are not permitted! AISLES MUST BE KEPT CLEAR AT ALL TIMES.

DISPLAYS EXPO is special because of displays. They are a gift. They give us all a look at the ancient epochs of the world. Display tables are provided at no cost—8 ft. limit. Bring your own lights, if you need lighting.

ALL RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED

OTHER ACTIVITIES MICROFOSSILS will be this year's theme. Friday's Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Jere H. Lipps, Department of Integrative biology, Berkely, California. His program will be on Microfossils. A live auction will follow a short business meeting and awards presentation on Saturday evening. Silent auctions will be held Friday afternoon and Saturday. Proceeds from the auctions go to a paleontology scholarship. Each dealer is encouraged to contribute a specimen/specimens equal to or greater than the cost of the tables he/she has rented in order to assure consideration for table space at the next EXPO. Include full data and the name of the fossil donor. Specimens can be left at the information desk until 3:00 p.m. Saturday. If you wish to mail a specimen, send it with pertinent information to Paul Rechten, 7405 Shields, Harvard, IL 60035. Paul will send a postal acknowledgment on receipt of the specimen.

Show Chairman-----	Allyn Adams, 612 W. 51 st Street, Davenport, IA 52806-----	(319) 391-5443
Co-Chairman-----	Karl Stuekerjuergen, 1503 265 th Ave., West Point, IA 52656-----	(319) 837-6690
Table Reservations-----	Doug DeRosear, Box 125, Donnellson, IA 52625-----	(319) 835-5521
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Publicity-----	Tom Witherspoon, Sr., 6611 Miller Road, Dearborn, MI 48126-----	(313) 582-3139
EXPO DIGEST editor-----	Maggie Kahrs, 9145 U.S. Hwy 50 East, Seymour, IN 47274-----	(812) 522-6093

The many generous donations in preceding years have allowed us to contribute \$3,000 to the Paleo Society last year, \$2,000 in 1997, and \$1,000 for each of the last several years. We hope to continue the trend.

-18-

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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