

M.A.P.S. *Digest*

Official Publication of
Mid-America Paleontology Society

Volume 22, No. 2
February 1999



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 13 DALLAS PALEO SOCIETY'S NORTH SULPHUR RIVER FOSSIL SYMPOSIUM

Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, Dallas, TX
 10 am - 3 pm: Purpose is to catalog fossil material collected along the North Sulphur River with goal of publishing a field guide
 Contact: Mark McKinzie 817-329-6679 after 6 pm weekdays

Mar 6 MAPS MEETING (CHANGE FROM 2ND SATURDAY)

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 WESTERN INTERIOR PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOUNDERS SYMPOSIUM 1999 "The K-T Boundary: Extinction & Emergence"

Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO
 Sat 8 am - 5 pm (Speakers, poster sessions & fossil exhibits)
 Sun 8:30 am - 4 pm Field trip w/ lecture and guides—South Table Mountain K-T Boundary site and Dinosaur Ridge trackway site
 Phone: 303-948-1184; Fx. 303-690-5583; www.wipsppc.com

Mar 20-21 BUFFALO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY SHOW, Includes fossils

Agriculture-Grange Bldg., Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY

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 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

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).

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

99/02 DUES ARE DUE

Are your dues due? You can tell by checking your mailing label. It reflects dues received by the 1st of Feb. The top line gives the expiration date in the form of year followed by month—99/02 means 1999/Feb. 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 Sonnleitner, Treas.

4800 Sunset Dr. SW

Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

ABOUT THE COVER

by F.W. Lewis, Carmel, Indiana

This month's cover photo depicts fossil impressions found at Mistaken Point in Newfoundland, Canada. This view shows three or four fossil impressions on the cracked mudstone surface of this sloping sock. These impressions, I believe, are *Ptendinium* (see sketch on p. 6) measuring several inches long.

See Article beginning on page 3

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

MAPS Board met January 9 at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. EXPO details were the main item of discussion. A full membership directory, rather than just updates, may be published because the change to a different database over the past year may make it harder to do just the updates.

Discussion about "Teeth" as the theme for 2000 centered around concern about getting articles. If you can provide an article or know of someone who can, please let Maggie Kahrs know: 812-522-6093. If we can't get enough writers on the topic, we will change the theme.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY?

If you have any changes for the Directory, please send them to the editor immediately. The Directory will go to the printer in mid-March. Any changes or updates that have been sent previously will be reflected in the Directory and do not need to be sent again.

POSTAL CANCEL AT EXPO

Tony Verdi has designed and arranged for a postal cancel at EXPO again this year. This year's cancel and cover envelope depict microfossils. The Post Office will set up at the show Friday afternoon and part of Saturday. All *Digests* mailed from the show will carry the EXPO cancel.

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

MAPS is looking for someone to operate the freight elevator during EXPO. The Student Union is having a hard time finding students to hire for the job. We will pay \$7.00 per hour. Hours are as follows.

4/16	7:45 am - 12:00 noon
	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
4/17	8:00 am - 10:00 am
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
4/18	8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Anyone interested in the job, please call Allyn Adams 390-391-5443.

ARTICLES & COVERS WANTED

Articles and covers are needed for the monthly *Digests*. Since we have a wide range of members, from beginners to professionals, I am looking for articles on all aspects of paleontology and at all levels. If you'd like to share your fossil interest, please contribute an article or photo or drawing for the cover. Thanks!

MAIL LABEL—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 '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 now have the database on, 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 probably will be using it for quite a while.

THE FOSSIL BOOK

by Patricia Vickers Rich, Thomas Hewitt Rich, Mildred Adams Fenton, and Carroll Lane Fenton, Dover Publications, 766 pp, 1996.

Review by Lee J. Cary

Bone Valley Fossil News, 1/99, Ed, Karen and Ben Metrin, Eds.

This is one big fossil book that has been around for a while but has recently come out in a "corrected" edition. It was first published in 1958 by Doubleday with Mildred and Carroll Fenton as authors and editors. In 1989 a revised and expanded edition was published, and Patricia and Thomas Rich served as coauthors and editors along with Mildred Fenton. Now Dover Publications has made this book available to fossil collectors and others interested in the earth's fossil record with another edition.

If you could own only one book on fossils, this is a good candidate to consider. This book is the size and weight of some telephone directories. It has 766 pages, over 1,500 line drawings and photographs, 24 color illustrations, and four appendices. This is a lot of book! There are pages and pages of general information on fossils, how to care for fossils, historical geology and much, much more. This book also serves as a fossil identification guide.

With 37 chapters it covers so much! It has something to say about almost everything. Of course, it does not have the depth of information found in books devoted to a single family or order or a particular era or period. But what it may not have in depth, it has in the broad sweep of fossil life. An example or two may help. The chapter on "Stars, Urchins, and Cucumbers of the Sea" has three pages of line drawings of echinoids and five pages about echinoids, including a page on the "Homes and Habitats of Urchins."

Continued on P. 7

FOSSIL IMPRESSIONS AT MISTAKEN POINT

by F. W. Lewis, Carmel, Indiana

Six hundred twenty million-year-old fossils!!! Does that get your attention?? It did mine. These fossils are older than the Burgess Shale, fossils found in British Columbia, Canada, which have received much publicity over the past few years.

In a recent visit to Newfoundland, Canada, I was introduced to these 620-million-year-old fossil imprints.

At breakfast, overhearing my conversation on fossils, the manager of the Trepassey Motel and Restaurant, in Trepassey, asked, "Are you aware of the Mistaken Point fossils nearby?"

She showed me a short thesis written by M. M. Anderson, Department of Biology and Geology, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Then, as our time was rather tight and the site difficult to find, she offered to obtain a guide for us.

Shortly we were introduced to Ted Winter, a recently retired high school teacher. Apparently, one look at our tourist attire did not impress him for the trip ahead. He decided to borrow a friend's 4 wheel drive truck. We followed a paved road, a gravel road, then into 4 wheel drive on what was an excuse for road, hiked for another mile, and finally waded through a narrow stream of very cold water, for a total of 17 miles.

The fossil bed covers a three mile area of the Mistaken Point coastline, 20 yards from the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. The old sea bed is now on a slant of some 20 degrees and slippery when wet from the ocean spray and moss close to the edge.

This tip of the Avalon Peninsula south of St. Johns is Precambrian rock where, 620 million years ago, early life was emerging. The multicelled fossil impressions discovered in 1967 are from the bodies of jelly-fish, sea anemones, sea-fans, and sea-pens, which are preserved in extremely hard silicified reddish-brown mudstone with many large and small fractures.

The impressions vary in size from 2" to 12" in length, consisting of some 20 different kinds of animals that lived in the deep waters. All of these creatures were

soft-bodied with no skeleton framework. The closest animals today are the jellyfish and sea anemones. Some resemble fern fronds.

All of these creatures died on the sea floor when an earth slump buried them. They were later covered by a fine volcanic ash, preserving their bodies for millions of years.

As this area is under the protection of the Canadian Government, the only collecting permitted is by making latex impressions, which can then be cast and painted to provide realistic samples.

Presently, Dr. M. Narbonne, with a team of Geoscientists from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, are doing just that. These impressions will determine the wear and tear of erosion over the past 4-5 years. Studies such as this could determine plans for protecting this section of Canadian history for the future.

Fossil impressions similar to these are found in other parts of the world, notably in Russia and Australia. They are studied as Ediacaran organisms, named for the Ediacara Hills of Australia where they were first discovered in the 50s.

These fossils are so important in Canadian history, Mistaken Point is being considered a World Heritage Site. It is presently proclaimed as an Ecological Reserve.

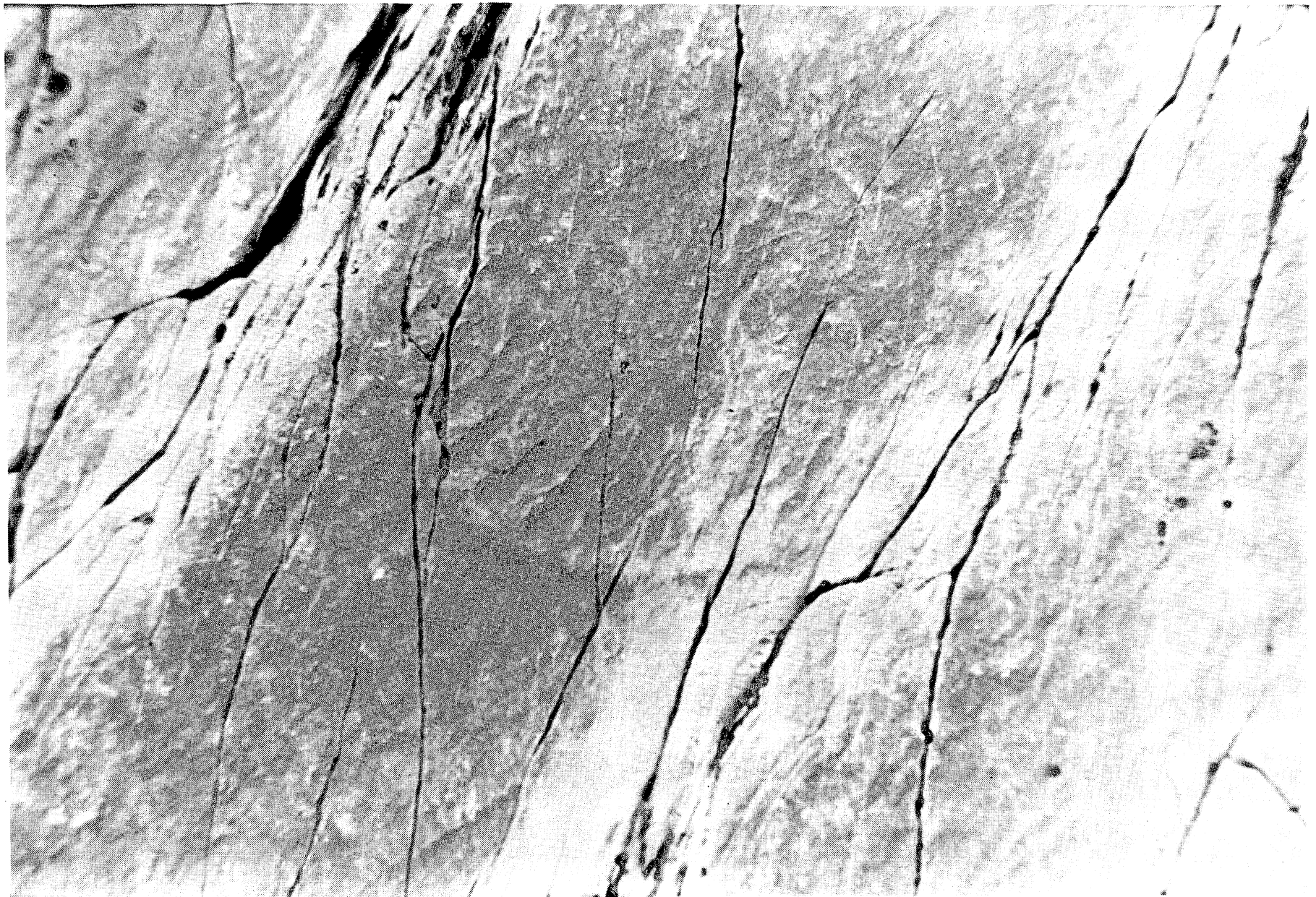
The following sketches and photographs illustrate a portion of the fossils available. To date I am having difficulty determining who discovered the site and named the fossils. If anyone has information of this subject, I would appreciate hearing from them.

To the dedicated fossil enthusiast, Newfoundland and Mistaken Point are well worth a visit.

Note: Data from the government of Newfoundland, a publication of Geological Society of America, contributed to this article.



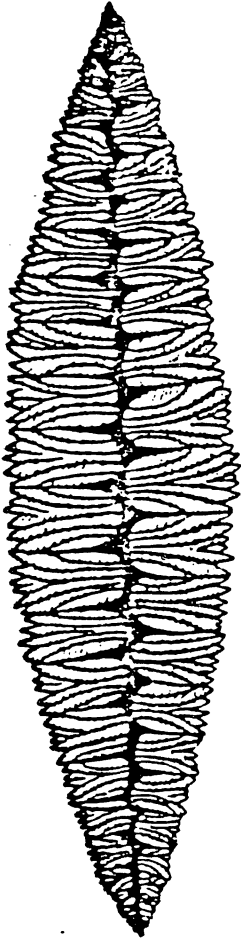
*Home of the Mistaken Point fossil impressions on the rugged Atlantic coastline, only yards from the sea.
The fossils are found on the mudstone surface among the cracks and crevices.*



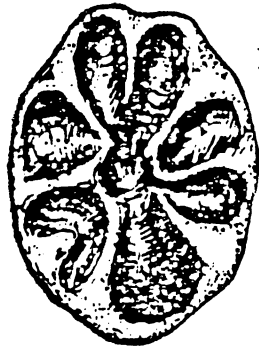
*Here is one of the fossils which does not appear to have been named.
See the lower right hand corner of the sketch sheet for similar illustration.*

SKETCHES OF MISTAKEN POINT FOSSILS

Dichonsonia



1 cm



Mawsorites

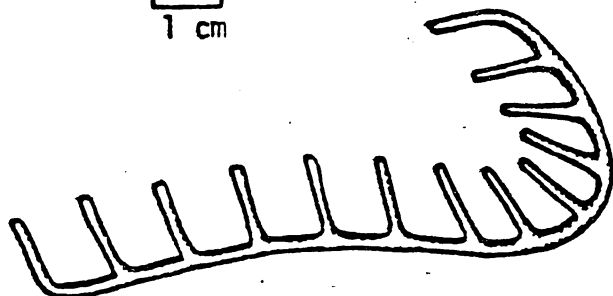
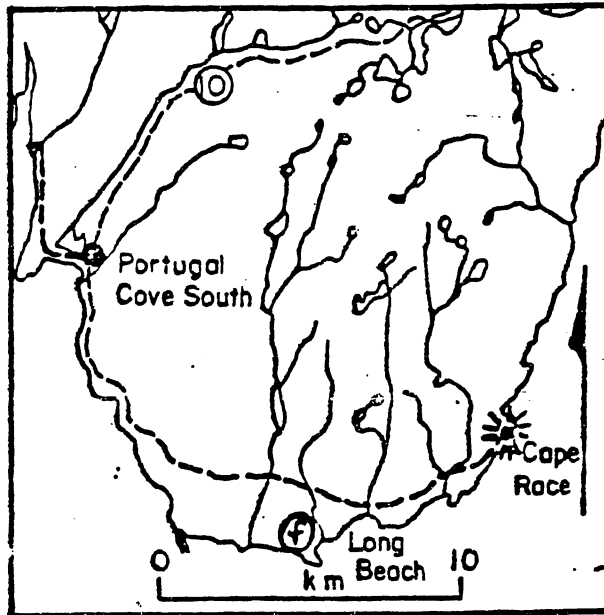
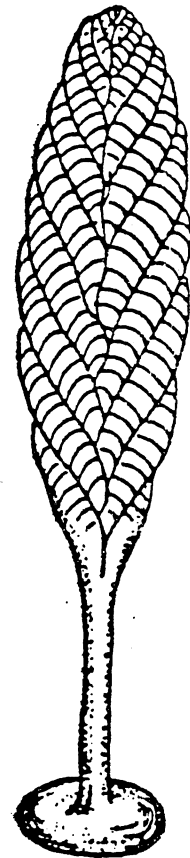
1 cm



Cyclomeduson

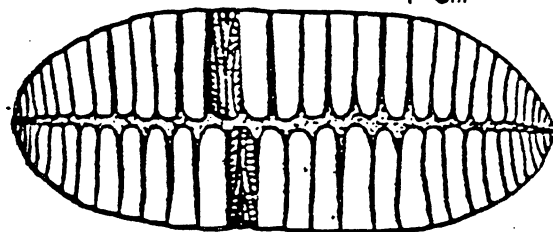
1 cm

Charniodisims



Unnamed

Ptendinium



1 cm

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.

31st Annual Gem Mineral Fossil Show
March 20th & 21st, 1999
Erie County Fairgrounds
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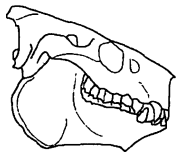
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Continued from Page 2

The material on brachiopods is quite extensive with ten pages of line drawings and five pages of comment about brachiopods, with a review of the two classes and the 12 orders of brachiopods. The chapter on trilobites covers 21 pages with numerous photographs and line drawings. The chapter on mammals that bear their young at a relatively advanced state is titled "The Great Placental Radiation" and is 52 pages in length. The point is that this book is very broad and quite general but still includes a wealth of information.

There are 14 pages of references for further reading listed under the separate chapter titles. While these references can be useful to the reader, none of the newer books (late 1980s and 1990s) are included and that means that many good references are missing. Other appendices include a complete fossil classification listing, a very handy identification "key" for fossil identification, and a glossary.

The bottom line is that *The Fossil Book* is big, broad in coverage, and well worth the \$29.95 price. While there are many books with more detail about some fossils, no book seems to offer so much about all fossils.

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Interested in all fossils.

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Antiques/Collectibles/Art dealer. Will trade. Major interest amber fossils and exceptional specimens in general. Mexican (Chiapos) amber—rough to 500 gram specimens, beautiful fossils w/photos. Has for trade rough amber—Mexican, also fossil inclusions. Also self-collected Iowa cephalopods/graptolites/corals and sponges, Mazon Creek. Wants contact with like-minded people.

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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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