

M.A.P.S. Digest



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Mid-America Paleontology Society

ANOTHER SEASON OF GRACE

He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he might pass himself;
for every man has a need to be forgiven.

--Thomas Fuller

A LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Sheryl and I were collecting crinoids and trilobites at some of our favorite Missouri and Iowa locations in early November last year. As is our habit, we try to drop in on our MAPS friends whenever we are in the neighborhood. The victims last Fall were the DeRosears and the Johnsons in fair Donnellson. During our stay, Doug D. informed me that he was on the 1981 Nominating Committee and asked if I would like to serve. Sure! I said. Then he told me in what position. I certainly was astounded. I knew how difficult it would be to fill the shoes first worn by Dick Johannesen, then Gil Norris and most recently by Don Good.

I had always been impressed by the positive changes in the hobby brought about by MAPS, by the sincere friendships fostered by the group, and by the openness and attitude of sharing which most MAPS members express to their fellows in fossils. I first learned of MAPS at Expo I, participated in Expo II and hope to continue through Expo 45

in the next century. Since Expo I Sheryl and I have made many new contacts with fossil hunters all over the United States, joined several MAPS field trips, and have truly benefited from the network of swappers within the group.

In the coming year we will have some important issues to face as an organization and as individuals. Our level
(Continued page 2)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 3 Jan MAPS Meeting--Augustana College
1:00 p.m. Board Meeting
2:00 p.m. Program--Dr. Larry D. Mott, Paleontologist, Knox College, to lecture on his favorite subject.(?)
- 24 Apr NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPO III
25 Western Hall Gym, Western Illinois University, Macomb IL.
26 Save your money!!! You'll be glad!!!

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Due to the absence of the secretary there are no minutes. However, a slate of officers was presented and unanimously accepted. They are as follows: President, Paul Caponera; 1st Vice President, Cheryl DeRosear; 2nd Vice President, Tom Walsh; Secretary, Dennis Sievers; Treasurer, Alberta Cray. Board of Directors include: Allyn Adams, Gil Norris, and Ray Fairbank.

ETHICS AND MAPS MEMBERSHIP

The Executive Committee of MAPS has received a few requests to take action or bar from membership certain individuals who others consider undesirable for some reason: False advertising, indiscriminate collecting, and unfair trading seem to be the most frequently lodged complaints.

Earlier we issued a strong warning about using MAPS as an endorsement. Unless there was specific mention in the Digest you may be assured the material, publication, or what have you is not endorsed by our organization. The Executive Committee at its December meeting agreed to the following 2 points:

- 1) We cannot act as a tribunal and judge whether the infraction was of such magnitude that group disciplinary action is to be taken.

- a. None of us were willing to open ourselves to the liability of slander, plus,
- b. We were unwilling to take the time or accept the responsibility as a 3rd person, to decide the degree of severity that would not be tolerated.

- 2) A committee to establish a format of conduct and ethics was established and this will be presented to all members to agree to and sign. If a person cannot, in good faith, subscribe to this code, he should not solicit membership in MAPS.

From reading the above, one might think our group is heavily infested with
(continued page 9)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Cont'd.

of programming in the past should continue with the same quality at our monthly meetings, at Expo, during field trips, and as we participate with other clubs or federations. We will need to look hard at the affiliations we now maintain in order to understand MAPS's future as a leader in paleontological amateur study. Each member should subscribe to the "code of ethics" espoused by AFMS and many fine member organizations as we explore the fossil treasures around the world. Finally, we need to examine our special needs in trying to serve, as a multinational club, the needs of a far-flung membership through decentralized study sections.

Over the past 19 years I have been fortunate to be a part of several amateur and professional networks studying and collecting fossils. During this time I have developed a kind of philosophy regarding the discipline which, I feel, elevates each and every one of us who get together to study and collect. Celebrating the science and human understanding is a basic awareness that the fossil, no matter how minute, is a physical expression of the glory of life recorded in the stillness of death, a tangible handshake with the distant past, and a moment in time caught in a whisper.

I hope that I will be able to serve you, as president, as well as my predecessors whose unique foresight and energies launched MAPS and upon whose help I will rely.

Paul F. Caponera, President

SEDIMENTARY NOTES

Lloyd Gunther, Brigham City, UT writes the Monograph on Trilobites is nearly finished so should go to press (BYU) about the first of the year and should be published by June or July. (Good!)

Bari Sines, Rock Springs, WY is busy making jewelry for Christmas. Bari has her own private rock pile--endless treasures from the sea. Everyone ought to have a friend like Bari!

Kelly, Mack, CO had to come down out of those Rockies where he is searching for a fossil primate. (Place your bets!)

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT --

Paul F. Caponera wife - Sheryl (married 1974)



Born in Chicago, 1950

Began fossil hunting in 1961 as part of the requirements for the Scouting Geology Merit Badge, at Dresden Lakes in the Mazon Creek area.

Formally joined the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois in 1965. Became the Paleontology Study Group Leader in 1967-68. Became the Editor with Sheryl in 1979 and 1980.

College: 2 years at Loyola of Chicago
2 years at University of Illinois in Urbana (BA 1971)
Minor = Geology, major = Archaeology
2 seasons with the Illinois Archaeology Survey at Cahokia
2 years in Macomb - Western Illinois University (MA 1973)
2½ years in DeKalb - Northern Illinois University (MSEd 1978)

Currently: Regional Program Director, University of Illinois (since 1976)
based in Oak Brook, Illinois
Responsible for the off-campus continuing education and public service programs of all 3 U of I campuses throughout the 9 northeastern counties of Illinois

Joined MAPS at Expo I (During 1973-1976, taught at
Participated in Expo II Harper College part-time:
Literature)

Became Midwest Federation Paleontology Chairman after Don Good last November

Currently on ESCONI Board of Directors, Publicity; Co-chairman 1981 Show

Currently on the Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association Committee for the 11 club 1981 show.

Major fossil interests: Pit 11 invertebrates
Mazon Creek area flora
Mississippian Period Crinoids
Pleistocene vertebrates
Fossil fish
all Trilobites
etc. etc. etc.

Also, collect (Sheryl & I): Antiques from 1890 - 1935
Books from 1640 - 1850
Civil War Period items
Autographs

And so begins another year with a new president at the helm of this mighty ship MAPS. Paul and Sheryl will drive from Chicago to the Quad Cities once a month to lead us into uncharted exciting seas to discover who knows what treasures. At the first meeting Paul is friendly, but he always has been, positive and decisive. It can only be another great year for all of us. Welcome, Mr. President.

MEET OUR OTHER MAPS OFFICERS --



1st VICE PRESIDENT -- Cheryl DeRosear -- Cheryl is in charge of programs as 1st Vice President and will move to become President next year. Cheryl is a southerner out of Alabama. She has been at home in Iowa for 7 years. That's how long she has been collecting fossils, also. She travels with Doug and can spew out those Latin names as fast as he can. Cheryl is a charter member of MAPS. She has been the one every president has called upon from the the first Expo to make arrangements for all those tables for all those gorgeous fossils. She and Doug have a son Danny, 18 months, who already has his own fossil collection. Cheryl says he got his first fossil the day he was born from Dennis Kingery. When you talk with Cheryl it's hard for her to talk about herself, she talks about Doug and Danny. She's peppy and excited and enthusiastic about MAPS. Many of you know her, meet her at Expo III and through the Digest through our programs. We're in good hands here, too.

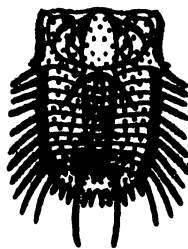
2nd VICE PRESIDENT -- Tom Walsh -- Two years from now Tom will become our president. Tom is a computer specialist with the Rock Island Arsenal. He is a quiet, generous man. Last summer he took his son, Tim, on a month of collecting in the South and West. Tom says he likes the club because we go out and look for fossils together, we're not going to parties, we're tramping up and down ditches and in quarries looking for what the club is about. He also says he's not real informed about fossils, but he loves them, and it doesn't seem to matter that he doesn't know, people tell you what they know and take you for what you are. We're still in good hands.

SECRETARY -- Dennis Sievers -- Dennis is a special education teacher who cultivates an interest in many exotic topics, paleontology included. His interests are broad enough that he's "jack of all trades and master of none" (Ed. note, that's his quote, not mine). Although he has no specific interest in paleontology it makes a wholesome hobby for his whole family, Celeste (wife), John, and Faith. Dennis has been on some field trips, also. That's how you get to know people best, Tom's right. Dennis is relatively new to MAPS. In the beginning he said he joined because they called you to do things, to go get fossils. You'll like him when you get to know him, too.

TREASURER -- Alberta Cray -- Alberta has accepted the job of treasurer yet another year. Alberta is efficient and organized. One has to be to handle this very important task. She and husband Bud never miss a meeting or a field trip. They are charter members, also. They are always ready to go and good to have along. Alberta serenades as she collects. She has a special melody she sings which causes Trilobites to pop right out for her to pick up. Alberta works in a print shop and has been able to get the Digest printed a little more reasonably for us. She lost a spoon at the summer field trip, anybody with an extra spoon contact Alberta. Working with her is pleasant and secure because of the kind of job she does.

These are our officers. In a future issue you will be introduced to our Board members. Two of the officers, Paul and Alberta must drive long distances to get to meetings which is a gift all by itself. All signs point to GO and another good year of field trips, swapping, Expo III, and even better than fossils, if that's possible, are the friends one makes. The people in MAPS are absolutely the best. (The DeRosears, Johnsons, and Goods travel long distances, too.)

Soon to make a debut--Slincki Lincki



AMERICAN FEDERATION -- CODE OF ETHICS

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind--fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material -- matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting materials and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of our future generations for public, educational and scientific purposes.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and "Public Image" of Rockhounds everywhere.

COMPETITION AND THE RULES OF COMPETITION

submitted by: Philip Marcus
2020 Henderson Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

In the privacy of your home you have a number of specimens, rarely observed other than by you and your family. Some visitors may embarrass you by asking, "What do you do with them?" Your club officials exhort members to exhibit in its annual show. You learn that there are federation shows, a national show, and shows of nearby clubs. Award ribbons are pretty; a winner may get something impressive, and even a participant may get a worthwhile keepsake.

A show may have competitive and non-competitive exhibits, as well as some outstanding special exhibits. So, the first question is whether to exhibit or not to exhibit! And the next question is whether or not to exhibit competitively! It is to the latter choice that we turn our attention.

In general, competition is governed by a set of rules issued by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies--apparently no fossil enthusiast was involved in the adoption of that name. The formal title of the rules is: Regional Uniform Rules and National Trophy Rules. They cover mineral and fossil exhibition, and, to some extent archeological exhibits. Some local clubs have made additions to or modifications to these Uniform Rules to govern competition at their shows. Local shows need not abide by the uniform rules, but, generally do so. Federation and national shows are supposed to abide by the rules, but some federations have a few rules of their own.

~~The AFMS Rules Committee considers changes in the Rules every other year although mechanical errors in the Rules may be corrected at any time, and, occasionally, the distinction between a mechanical and a substantive change is not obvious.~~

Where there are competitive exhibits judges are chosen by the show officials to apply the Rules to such exhibits and to give each such exhibit a numerical score. While, particularly as to lapidary exhibits, the judging criteria are not the same for all the classes, for the most part the criteria applied are: quality, variety, labeling, showmanship and rarity.

There are a number of pluses to competitive exhibition:

It entails an informative, disciplining learning process which enhances your knowledge of your hobby and of your specimens. Much can be learned from reading the Rules and a Guidelines Manual for Exhibitors put out by AFMS. Comments by judges on your score sheets often are helpful and informative. Looking at other competitive exhibits takes on a new meaning and is part of the learning process. Competitive exhibition is a challenge and may give you the urge to upgrade your specimens. A good deal of pride goes with a winning exhibit or with one that gets a good score. Exhibitors are divided into Masters, Advanced, Novice and Juniors, and lower scores in the classes under Masters can get one a blue ribbon or other award. Generally, Master requires a 90 score. Doing well in the lower categories leads to putting one in the next higher class. In the case of minerals, a special class exists, Minerals Collected in the Field. That class does not have as many points allocated to quality as in other mineral classes. Societies may compete against other societies.

There also are drawbacks to competition:

Some of the Rules are complex. Some are of dubious reasonability or after having been put into effect have been thought to be unreasonable even by the Rulemakers.

The Fifth Edition of the Rules, issued in 1980, runs to 56 pages and there are a number of cross references. The Guidelines For Exhibitors comprises 26 pages. Neither work is designed for quick reading.

There has been a sort of schizophrenia in the Revision process. On the one hand, some changes are made in certain rules that never should have been adopted in the first place, and new classes are adopted to give exhibitors more choices of entry. On the other hand, more conditions and obligations are added to make it more difficult to compete. In the writer's opinion the rule making process is undemocratic, providing scant opportunity for review or input with respect to proposed rules by the ordinary hobbyist or exhibitor. It is believed that the rule making process is dominated by those in the Master Class.

Although most shows do not charge exhibitors for the use of show cases, there have been instances in the Eastern Federation where as much as \$10.00 a case has been charged. Since it is not unusual for exhibitors to desire to enter more than one case in different classes, such charge is a substantial deterrent to entry. The exhibitor is burdened with travel, room and board charges in most instances of federation or national shows.

Another problem is the judging. Some judging is first class. But all too often judging has ranged from bad to awful. Competence and common sense are sometimes not combined in one individual. With respect to fossils, one or a few judges may have little knowledge as to some of the fossils in your case. There are few exhibitors, who have exhibited competitively at more than one show, who have not come across horror judging stories. This writer has a list of some length. To mention a few. At a national show at Lincoln, NE some years ago, there was so much dissatisfaction with the judging that a special gripe session was held after the judging and a show official acknowledged justification of a number of the complaints. At an Eastern Federation show where the writer and his wife had a thumbnail fossil exhibit of 35 specimens, the judges deducted points for lack of variety saying that we should have had at least 40 specimens. But the then current edition of the Rules had been changed from a previous "up to 50 specimens" to a specific requirement of 35 specimens.

Competitive exhibition has been on the downhill for a number of years. Not only are competitive exhibits likely to be fewer but most clubs do not have competitive exhibition at all. In Metropolitan Washington, which includes four counties and two cities, there are a number of mineral and fossil clubs. Most of them had competitive exhibition at one time. For several years, however, the only club with competition has been the one to which the writer belongs. Seven years ago one club's show had 11 competitive fossil exhibits. Last year it had none.

Despite the foregoing and some forthcoming criticism of particular rules, the writer would urge collectors to try competitive exhibition. You may shed some tears, want to bellow with outrage, but as like as not increased knowledge and pride may be your reward.

1. Observations as to some general rules

Since this is a fossil club I shall omit discussion of the rules affecting mineral exhibition. Mention will be made here of a few of the general rules.

Rule 2.0 provides that once the exhibitor group chosen by the exhibitor has been accepted by show officials it cannot be changed. Our club has modified the inflexibility of this rule by providing that within the discretion of the show chairman it can be changed. (Continued next month)

THE BOOK SHELF

Recommendation by Harrell Strimple, University of Iowa, Dept. of Geology

The first issue of JOURNAL OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY will appear in the spring of 1981.

For the first time a journal in English is being devoted entirely to this interdisciplinary subject-matter. Published quarterly in 8½ x 11 inch (216 x 280 mm) format, the Journal will average 160 pages an issue and will cover all the theoretical as well as applied aspects of paleontology of the chordates. The publication is aimed at contributions of high quality and significance, with no bias toward the synthetic or the descriptive type of work, nor toward any particular taxonomic group or methodology. International participation will be encouraged and worldwide coverage of material sought after. The broad spectrum of topics anticipated should make the JOURNAL OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY an important source of information to anyone interested in chordate origins, evolution, anatomy, taxonomy, biostratigraphy, paleoecology, paleogeography, paleoanthropology and prehistoric archaeology.

Send check/bank draft/International Money Order in U.S. dollars to:
 JOURNAL OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY, Institutional rate U.S. \$50/year
 The University of Oklahoma Reduced rate for individuals U.S. \$25/yr.
 School of Geology and Geophysics
 Norman, OK 73019, USA



From Bob Cooper, Peoria, IL

INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY Third Edition (if you can find it, otherwise) Fourth Edition
 Robert D. Barnes -- W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia.

A NEW STING FOUND IN ILLINOIS

Discovery of a new fossil scorpion in rocks of Late Mississippian or Early Pennsylvanian age in a quarry between Rock Island and Milan, IL is of more than passing interest. This area represents the hard core membership of MAPS. The specimen is described in the November issue of the Journal of Paleontology, v. 54, no. 6, p. 1255-57, as Labriscorpio alliedensis Leary. It was collected (and described) by R. L. Leary, Curator, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois, in 1977 from a channel fill in the Devonian Cedar Valley Formation. The age determination was made on the basis of the associated upland flora which has been under study by Leary since 1970. The famous Mazon Creek flora and coexisting "Essex" fauna from Illinois are low land or swamp deposits and are definitely of Pennsylvanian age.

Post-Cedar Valley erosion and subsequent infilling of channels by Upper Devonian (e.g. Independence Shale) and/or Pennsylvanian deposits created some strange biostratigraphic problems back at the turn of the century before such conditions were recognized.

Continuous study and persistent collecting from any given fossil locality more often than not will pay off with an occasional bonus of considerable importance.

Harrell L. Strimple
 University of Iowa
 Geology Department
 Iowa City, IA 52242

The hills are not as high
 The sea so deep, as a Dream. Kit Williams
 Thanks MAPS Family for your patience
 with me this year and for helping me to
 learn. Hope your holidays are gorgeous!
 Love you

Harrell L. Strimple



Please add the following to your membership list:

John Badura
4218 California St.
Omaha, NE 68131
402-558-0499

Collecting 15 years. Artist. Will trade. Interested in dinosaur remains, mammal remains and ammonites. Has corals and Miss. and Penn. brachiopods. Fascinated by the study and collection of fossils, would like to share love of fossils.

Richard Keyes
8003 Benaroya Lane
Apt. F-6
Huntsville, AL 35802
205-883-5128

Collecting 10 years. Student. Major interest Echinoderms of the Mississippian. Wants to learn. Will trade.

Mr. & Mrs. Basil Robbins
R. R. #1, Box 137
Brownsville, IN 47325
317-825-0776

Controller. Will trade. Major interest in fossils of Indiana. Has horn corals, Brachiopods for trade. Wants to share and gain information. Involved in 4-H Geology program (concentrating on fossils).

Douglas B. Tilley
22 School Drive
Port Jefferson Station
New York 11776
516-473-1293

Collecting 11 years. Well-site Geologist. Will trade. Major interest Green River vertebrates. Wants to become more acquainted with paleontology and meet others of a similar interest.

Address Changes: C. Andrew Arnold, Rt #3, Box 85, Kirbyville, MO 65679
Loyd F. Crawley, 1267 Herschel Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208

ETHICS AND MAPS MEMBERSHIP, Cont'd.

questionable characters but such is not the case. In fact it is admirable that only 3 names have come before our group (and one of these is not a member of MAPS). So with a membership of about 400, over 99% of our membership have not been criticised. To me, this proves that for the most part, fossil lovers are the greatest people in the world.

Don Good

(Ed. note. This article had to be written. Well done, Don.)

CAN YOU HELP?

Can you recommend a source book for identification of Cretaceous fossils from Coon Creek, TN? Or, can you give information who to contact for the above identification? Send any information to:

Diane Dare, 747 Blackford Ave.
Evansville, IN 47713

THE EXCHANGE -- SWAP COLUMN

Located -- a Ginkgo leaf. This column works but requests will have to be published more than one time. If you have a fossil and are willing to exchange, just write. Guess we tend to think, oh, some one will answer that. So, here we go---

Jim Jenks, 3296 Valley Heights Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84118 808-968-5537. Wanted--starfish. For swap--rare Triassic ammonites. (This is a repeat.)

Don Good, 410 N.W. 3rd St., Aledo, IL 61231 -- 309-582-5232. Wanted--brachiopods (except Devonian). Will trade--Mississippian crinoids.

These exchange requests will appear for 2 months. If the fossil is located, the request will be withdrawn, so let your editor hear from you. This column ought to work. Think it just takes a little patience to get it going. Good luck!!

EXPO III where you count fossils instead of sheep! See you there, yeah!

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.

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

Family membership \$7.00; individual membership \$7.00; junior membership \$5.00 (between ages 8 and 16); dealer membership (non voting \$20.00).

MAPS meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of each month (2nd Saturday if inclement weather) October thru May at 2 PM in the Science Building, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

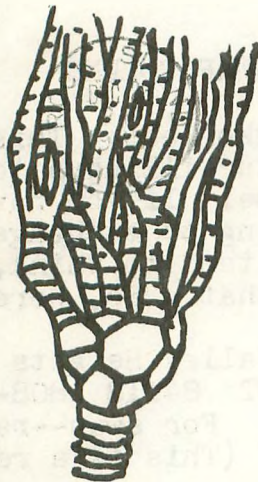
President: Paul Caponera, 2330 Collins St., Blue Island, IL 60406

1st Vice President: Cheryl DeRosear, Box 125, Donnellson, IA 52625

2nd Vice President: Tom Walsh, 501 E. 19th Ave., Coal Valley, IL 61240

Secretary: Dennis Sievers, 414 E. 9th, Davenport, IA 52803

Treasurer: Alberta Cray, 1125 J Avenue, NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405



FIRST CLASS MAIL

CYATHOCRINITES

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 Davenport, IA 52806

Dated Material - Meeting Notice