A LOVE OF FOSSILS BRINGS US TOGETHER
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan 17 MAPS MEETING
Cornell College Norton Geology Building, Mount Vernon, IA.
(Snowstorm date: January 24)
1:00 Board & General Meeting Combined
2:00 Program by Cornell Professor Ben Greenstein

Feb 11-13, 1998 VI NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
MEXICAN PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Sciences School, National Autonomous University of Mexico

For more information, contact:
Marisol Montellano
Departamento de Paleontologia
Instituto de Geologia, UNAM
Ciudad Universitaria, Coyoacan
Mexico, D. F. 04510
Ph: (52-5) 622-4280 or 622-4281
Fax: (52-5) 550-8432
e-mail: marmont@servidor.unam.mx

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ABOUT THE COVER

This month’s cover photograph was sent by Ken Olson,
Lewistown, Montana. The photo shows Ken posing with the
partially excavated skull of a Torosaurus dinosaur found in
eastern Montana. Torosaurus had the largest skull of any
dinosaur or land animal that ever lived. Olson, an amateur
paleontologist and MAPS member, excavated the skull and
donated it to the Museum of the Rockies at Montana State
University, Bozeman.

See drawing on page 2 and story on page 3-4 for details.

HERDS OF DINOSAURS PASSED THIS WAY
source: “Real Jurassic Park found near Denver”
by Ania Savage in Prescott Courier, 12/7/97
sent by Jim & Sylvia Konecny

Just 15 miles west of Denver’s downtown lies an exposed scene
from 100-150 million years. There, on the east ridge of the
Dakota Hogback, are more than 300 tracks left by two herds of
dinosaurs that trekked across the then soft shoreline.

The Dakota Hogback was once the shoreline for the Western
Interior Seaway, which occupied what is now the Great Plains
and extended from the Mississippi delta to the Arctic. Din,...
EXPO INFO IN THIS ISSUE

This issue carries all the information on housing and registration for EXPO XX. As noted last month, housing may be tight this year because of a national forensics meeting at the University which is using most of the hotel rooms.

We've secured information about the Holiday Inn being built in Macomb and researched nearby towns to find alternate hotels. Allyn Adams was told the Holiday Inn had the roof on in December and should be done by April. It is privately owned and the owner has an unlisted number, but the Illinois Tourism Council expects to have more information on it in February. As soon as we get information on it, we plan to block it for MAPS, if we can. We hope it will meet the needs of those attending EXPO who want to stay in Macomb rather than in a nearby community.

If you are doing an article on corals for the EXPO Digest, please send it to Maggie Kahrs as soon as possible.

SEND INFO FOR DIRECTORY

The entire Directory will be published in 1998, with a supplement in 1999. So if you have changes in name, address, or nodule that you have not yet sent, be sure to get them to the Editor. Changes that have been sent previously will be included in the new Directory. Deadline is March 1st.

DINO HERD (CONTINUED)

Saurs used the seaway's shoreline as a migratory route, a path that parallels present-day Interstate 25.

Large wide tracks are attributed to an Iguanodon-like, duck-billed, plant-eating dinosaur, while the smaller 9-inch-long, arrowhead-like tracks belonged to a lighter-weight, ostrich-sized, meat-eating dinosaur.

Scientists believe that shortly after the dinosaurs passed, the tracks left in the soft shoreline were filled with mud, perhaps from a flash flood from a nearby stream.

Signs along both sides of Colorado 26 and a Visitor's Center provide interpretive information about the site.

TOROSAURUS
FIELD SKETCH
(SEE NEXT PAGE FOR STORY)
What’s nine feet long, has four-foot horns, weighs 1600 pounds and needed a place to call home? Why, the world’s largest dinosaur skull, of course.

The skull, excavated by Lewistown resident Ken Olson, was recently delivered to the Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University, Bozeman. Maneuvering the nine-foot specimen through the eight-foot door proved a delicate operation for museum workers.

At nine feet in length, this skull of the rare horned dinosaur, Torosaurus is the largest skull of any dinosaur, in face of any land animal, ever! Only whales have larger skulls according to John R. “Jack” Horner, curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies.

Olson excavated the remarkable fossil in eastern Montana last summer. Dr. Peter Dodson of the University of Pennsylvania, perhaps the world’s foremost expert on horned dinosaurs, has called the skull a stunning find.”

“This is a fantastic discovery,” said Horner, “and a wonderful example of how people like Ken can contribute to scientific research and education in a museum setting.”

Olson has been a Research Associate of the museum and MSU since his appointment in 1988. It’s one of only two such paleontology positions in the state. The position affords him access to study museum collections, including thousands of items not on display. He also is issued permits to do field work on public land on behalf of the museum, locates new sites, and consults and works with paleontologist Jack Horner on dinosaur research.

When asked how much time he spends on paleontology, Olson quickly responds with a grin, “not enough.” He usually devotes his summer vacation to fossil hunting.

By profession, Olson in a Lutheran pastor, serving Zion Lutheran Church in Lewistown, but he began his education in the sciences. For more than 25 years he has maintained paleontology as a serious avocation.

The Torosaurus skull which has been donated to the Museum of the Rockies, will be prepared during the winter and eventually be part of a planned new exhibit dealing with a variety of horned dinosaurs.

Torosaurus was an elephant-sized animal of the ceratopsian or horned-face family of dinosaurs, which includes the smaller but more familiar Triceratops.

It had a large bony shield or frill which extended from the back of the skull over the neck area and acted as a defensive device. Over the eye sockets were horn cores more than 40 inches long. In life, these would have been covered with a sharp, horn-like sheath which would have made them even considerably longer.

The skull had originally been found and partially exposed some 23 years ago by R. W. Hiatt of Glendive, but it was covered up and left in place. Olson followed up leads, relocated the site and performed the necessary excavation.

It is only the fourth relatively complete skull ever found. The first two were discovered more than 100 years ago in Wyoming by an expedition from Yale University. The third, a juvenile, is now in Philadelphia. It was excavated more than 50 years ago in South Dakota by a team from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. After all those years, this is the next skull to come to light.

Tools of the Trade

Olson had his first fossil find close to 30 years ago in South Dakota. The first fossil he remembers as an especially exciting find was the horn of a Triceratops, the smaller and more commonly known cousin of Torosaurus.

He said the key to successful fossil hunting is the experience which comes with covering a lot of ground.

“Knowing where not to look is just as important as knowing where to look,” Olson told the News-Argus.

The type of rock that contains fossils is banded and layered sedimentary rock.

“Once some pieces of bone are found, you follow the contours of land at that level,” said Olson. “A lot of it is also experience, like knowing where to find good hunting or fishing habitat.

When he’s out fossil hunting, Olson carries with him the tools of the trade: a backpack full of water, a pick and a hunting knife. A paint brush and toothbrush are taken along for more detailed work. A chemical preservative helps harden bone, and plaster jackets are applied to remove cracked and fragile bone.
Topographic maps are carried to precisely document where a specimen is found in space and time.

"Otherwise you just have a really neat object," said Olson. "By documenting a fossil's precise location, more information can be gleaned about the conditions that prevailed when the fossil was deposited."

Olson said most fossils are found in remote locations. Dinosaurs are not easy to find, and once they are found they are not easy to deal with," said Olson. "Or everyone would have a dinosaur fossil."

Digging Out

To excavate the Torosaurus skull, Olson worked alone from dawn to dusk during a two-week period last July.

Olson thought about removing the skull in three pieces, but realizing the uniqueness of the specimen, and that it would be the largest dinosaur skull ever found, he enclosed it in a single cast to preserve its integrity.

To excavate the skull in one piece, Olson dug down and around the fossil an additional 2 1/2 feet until it sat on a pedestal of dirt.

Three hundred pounds of plaster were applied with three layers of burlap. The last layer contained a number of wooden braces.

Then Olson tunneled through the pedestal in five places and fashioned a ladder-like device by running 2x4's through the holes in the pedestal attached to 4x4's along the sides.

Lifting straps secured the fossil, and the 1600 pound burlap-wrapped skull was lifted out of its resting place by a front end loader and loaded on a flatbed trailer for transport.

The Torosaurus Olson excavated way lying flopped on its right side. The left side of the shield had drifted off to the side. Part of it was found and cast separately, as was the right horn. By using the magic of bilateral symmetry, the whole skull can still be reconstructed.

This skull will modify artist renditions of Torosaurus because prior to Olson's discovery, key pieces were missing.

"This is the first one that will enable us to know what the skull will look like from back," said Olson.

"Ken Olson is technically very competent," commented Homer. "Besides being a great guy and a pleasure to work with, he has been a real asset to our program. He has contributed a lot of stuff!"

Other contributions

Among Olson's other finds is a Triceratops pelvis that has 58 bite-marks believed to be made by a Tyrannosaurus rex. It was featured in the December 1996 issue of the science magazine "Discover." The pelvis is now in the exhibit "T. Rex on Trial: Examining the Evidence of Meat-eating Dinosaurs" which is currently on exhibit at the museum.

The Triceratops pelvis contributes to the debate surrounding T. rex's status as a carnivorous scavenger or a fierce predator. Biomechanical engineers at Stanford University have calculated, from this specimen, a bite-force of 3,000 pounds per square inch. The calculated bite-force has been argued as evidence that T. rex had the capacity to be a very effective predator. Olson co-authored a paper on the subject of the bite marks in the "Journal of Paleontology."

Olson has also discovered several thousand fossil shark teeth in Montana representing 25 species, 19 of which were new to science.
ADVERTISING SECTION

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A live auction will be held Saturday evening of EXPO following a brief business meeting and awards presentation. Also during show hours, a silent auction will be held to shorten the live auction. As part of your table fees, you are encouraged to donate a correctly labeled, quality fossil(s) or fossil-related item(s) to the Auction. Information to include with the specimen is as follows: Brief description and common name, species information, location, and time period. A minimum guide to the value of your donation would be something equal to your table fee. In other words, if you have one table, the donation should have a minimum value of $15; two tables, $30, and so on.

Preference on future table assignments will be given to those who make a donation to the auction as suggested above.

Most proceeds from the auction go to the Paleontology Society Scholarship Fund. As an interesting note, a number of Auction donations are made by individuals who do not have tables, or who are unable to attend EXPO or the Auction.

The many generous donations in preceding years have allowed us to contribute $2,000 to the Paleo Society last year and $1,000 for each of the last several years. We hope to continue the trend.
# NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION XX—1998

## 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 17, at 8:00 a.m.

**EXPO HOURS:**
- Friday, April 17—8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 18—8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 19—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 motels in Macomb are already booked for a national forensics convention being held at the University. A new Holiday Inn may be ready in time for EXPO. We will publish information on it as soon as we can get it. Also, we understand 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motel Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ameri Host</td>
<td>1646 N. Lafayette</td>
<td>837-2220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macomb Inn (Days Inn)</td>
<td>1400 N. Lafayette</td>
<td>833-5511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super 8</td>
<td>313 University Drive</td>
<td>836-8888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pineapple Inn</td>
<td>204 Jefferson Street</td>
<td>837-1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Inn</td>
<td>Hwy 136 West</td>
<td>833-4521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Out Motel</td>
<td>Hwy 67 North</td>
<td>837-4838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Motel</td>
<td>Hwy 67 S and 136 E</td>
<td>837-4817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockway House (Bed &amp; Bkfst)</td>
<td>331 E. Carrol</td>
<td>837-2175*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you plan to stay in a motel, we urge you to make your reservations early.

### 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.

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**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, 1998. Mark your calendars now so you don’t forget! Registration forms are found on page 8 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  CORALS will be this year’s theme. Friday’s Keynote Speaker will be James E. Soroul, Department of Geology, Bingington University, Bingington, New York. By January of 1998, the Paleo Research Institute will have published his book on Iowa corals. His program on corals will be preceded by the presentation of the Kathryn Palmer Award by the Paleo Research Institute. 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 geology 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-----------------Karl Stuekerjuergen, 1503 265th Ave., West Point, IA 52656----------------- (319) 837-6690
Co-Chairman-----------------Allyn Adams, 612 W. 51st Street, Davenport, IA 52806------------------- (319) 391-5443
Table Reservations-----------Doug DeRosear, Box 125, Donnellson, IA 52625---------------------- (319) 835-5521
Auction----------------------H. Paul Rechten, 7405 Shields, Harvard, IL 60035----------------------
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
Please ADD the Following NEW OR REJOINING MEMBERS to Your Directory:

Dan & Julia Alldredge
3401 Mesker Park Dr.
Evansville IN 47720
812-428-2164
Bristlecone@webtv.net
Zookeeper/A.V. Dept @ Library. Major interest prehistory in general. Dan also an artist & illustrates natural history—just illustrated dino text for local university Prof. Want to have more fossils and keep up on current events in the field.

Jim Chaney
PO Box 114
Wylie TX 75098
972-442-7303
OTODUS@AOL.com

Chris & Guy Di Torrice
PO Box 256
Newport OR 97365
541-961-2489
chrisandguy@newportnet.com
Destination Marketing. Will trade. Major interest expanding collection beyond Miocene marine... bringing fossil education/collection into schools/linked to earth science(s). Have for trade wide variety of Astoria Formation Miocene invertebrates, some mammalian bone, earlier leaf impressions from Goshen/John Day formations. All from OR. Looking to contact with like-minded people.

Andy Nethery
302 Willow Way
Wylie TX 75098
972-429-0357
OTODUS@AOL.com
Restaurant Serv. Will trade. Major interest Cretaceous micro shark teeth; also macro teeth. Member of Dallas Paleo Soc. Wants to broaden his contacts & association.

Please NOTE The Following CHANGES OF ADDRESS or CORRECTIONS:

Samuel J. Ciurca Jr.
Paleo Research Assoc
44 Stonington Drive
Pittsford NY 14534
Geologist-Stratigrapher.
EURYPITERIDS, scorpions, Silurian plants.

John D'Orazio
95 Hill Street
Bloomfield NJ 07003
973-743-1930
John Fagan
w/o Essex Catholic HS
135 Glenwood Av.
East Orange NJ 07017-2099
973-636-3334
wk: 973-674-420032
fx: 973-674-9121
oneham4u@aol.com
Don Miller
16 Marsh Woods Lane
Wilmington DE 19810
302-475-8819
302-475-5973
Dealer interested in buying, selling, or trading. Co-author of DISCOVERING FOSSILS.

S. Kathleen Steere
1307 Stuart St. NW
Massillon OH 44646
Lila Stevens
291 Dausman Park
Clarksville MI 48815
Dwayne D. Stone
103 Halstead Road, Devola
Marietta OH 45750
740-373-1798
Retired geology professor.

Fred H. Wessman
3427 Lost Oak Drive
Spring TX 77388
713-353-3412
Bill & Cheryl Wildfong
639 Woodley Rd.
Maitland FL 32751
407-339-1136
Planning Engineer/Graphic Artist. Will trade. Major interest invertebrates. Want to gain & share information, trade, collect, and display fossils. Meet friends with same interests. Have for trade echinoids, fossil gastropods, and bivalves (many extinct) from the Caloosahatchee beds.
NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPO XX—REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the form below, enclose a check payable to MAPS, and mail to Doug DeRosear, Box 125, Donnellson, IA 52625, before March 30, 1998.

NAME:________________________________________________________________________ PHONE NO.: (_____) ________-

ADDRESS:________________________________________________________________________ CITY STATE ZIP

____ Yes, I will provide a display for EXPO. It will require ______ linear feet of table space—8 ft. Maximum display.

____ I request ______ (number) of 6 ft. Tables for selling and swapping. Cost is $15.00 per table. 2 tables/person/membership maximum initially; maximum limit of 4/family or group in all (assigned only in special need cases or if extras are available.) Check enclosed: $_____. (Only send payment for up to two tables per person.) Any extras assigned through request will be paid for at time of notification or at EXPO.

____ Number of chairs I will need.

____ Yes, I will help run EXPO:

   Front desk—Fri. _____ a.m. _____ p.m.;   Sat. _____ a.m. _____ p.m.;   Sun. _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

NO ONE EXCEPT THE GUARD IS ALLOWED ON THE FLOOR FOR ANY REASON AFTER HOURS!

-8-
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.

President: Marvin Houg, 3330 44th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
1st Vice President: Dale Stout, 2237 Meadowbrook Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
2nd Vice President: Karl Stuekerjuergen, 1503 265th Avenue, West Point, IA 52656-9029
Secretary: Alberta Cray, 1125 J Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
Treasurer: Sharon Sonnleitner, 4800 Sunset Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
Membership: Dale Stout, 2237 Meadowbrook Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403