

# M.A.P.S *Digest*

Official Publication of  
Mid-America Paleontology Society  
<http://www.midamericapaleo.org>

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**“A LOVE OF FOSSILS BRINGS US TOGETHER”**

# Calendar

## 2014

### June 7 & 8

9th Annual Ben E Clement Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show with Digs. At Fohs Hall, 205 North Walker Street, Marion KY 42064. Call (270) 625-4263 for more information.

### August 23

The Falls of the Ohio State Park will host the second Falls Fossil Symposium at the park Interpretive Center in Clarksville, Indiana. This year's theme is Mississippian fossils. Program details, cost, and registration info at: [http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/Fossil\\_Symposium.html](http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/Fossil_Symposium.html)

## 2015

### April 10-12

#### MAPS EXPO XXXVII

**Location:** Sharpless Auctions  
Exit 249 I-80  
Iowa City, Iowa

**Theme:** The Cenozoic Era

**Keynote Speaker:** Lance Grande

**Topic:** TBD

## Contributions to Digest Needed

The Digest editors encourage the members to submit articles for publication in the Digest issues. The Digest is for the members and should reflect their interests. If you have specimens that you collected and would like to share with other members or would like to describe a favorite collecting site, please write an article in Word, Times New Roman size 12 font, single spaced with one inch margins, and send to the editors. Photos and diagrams can be e-mailed separately or incorporated in the article.

**John:** [Fossilnautiloid@aol.com](mailto:Fossilnautiloid@aol.com)

**Chris:** [CDCozart@aol.com](mailto:CDCozart@aol.com)

## Call for Papers

The theme for the 2015 EXPO is the Cenozoic Era. Any paper dealing with Cenozoic geology, localities, or fossils would be appreciated. The papers should be in Word, Times New Roman, size 12 Font, single spaced with one inch margins, and e-mailed to one of the Digest Editors by the first week of February 2015. Diagrams/Photos can be sent separately or imbedded in text.

**John:** [Fossilnautiloid@aol.com](mailto:Fossilnautiloid@aol.com)

**Chris:** [CDCozart@aol.com](mailto:CDCozart@aol.com)

## About the Cover

*Cupulocrinus gracilis*, stem attached to the substrate as in life, from the Mifflin Member of the Platteville Formation (Upper Ordovician), Lee County, Illinois. Collected and photographed by John Catalani.

### Caleb Scheer, 2/12/1981 – 2/4/2014

It is with difficulty that I address the fellow members of MAPS with the news that member Caleb Scheer died in early February of this year. Caleb was eight days away from his 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He loved fossils & collectors and therefore all of you. Many of you knew him and respected his knowledge of trilobites in general and Ordovician trilobites in particular. Caleb enjoyed setting up a booth at the annual MAPS EXPO.



Caleb did not have a chance not to appreciate fossils; from the time he was a baby he had been exposed to them and the stratigraphic record. Caleb found his first complete trilobite when he was three years old. I was explaining to him what to look for and while doing so he bent over and picked one up and said “like this daddy?” He was always ready to explore an area and to keep him focused on collecting was often a difficult process but he continued to find remarkable specimens. I remember once when he was sitting on an outcrop that had been drilled and blasted tossing pebbles into the remains of a blast hole when he called out that he had just picked up a rolled *Calyptraulax* trilobite. He became a serious trilobite collector when he was 15. I had just explained to him the process of examining unique bedding planes while moving up the stratigraphic section. He was putting it into practice when he found a specimen of *Cybeloides iowensis* that would later grace the pages of the Denman Institute for Research on Trilobites – The Trilobite Papers 15, p. 29. Since that day in 1996 Caleb began a serious pursuit of trilobites. He learned the importance of collecting parts and the ability to identify individual skelites to the species level. Caleb has collected, since that year, close to 30 undescribed Ordovician trilobites and had 1 named for him and another for his wife. As part of his legacy more of these trilobites will be added to the information pool as research continues.

It has been over 17 years since that turning point in Caleb’s life and though he did not pursue a degree in Geology (his love of computers was too great) he was able to converse with geologists from around the world. Caleb’s abilities and name recognition has eclipsed that of his teacher and over the last few years I was proud to introduce myself as Caleb’s dad.

Caleb met and fell in love with a gal that enjoyed his hobby and research and began collecting adventures with him. Caleb and Jennifer were married December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 their son Elliott David Scheer was born. Hopefully, little Elliott will become familiar with trilobites too.

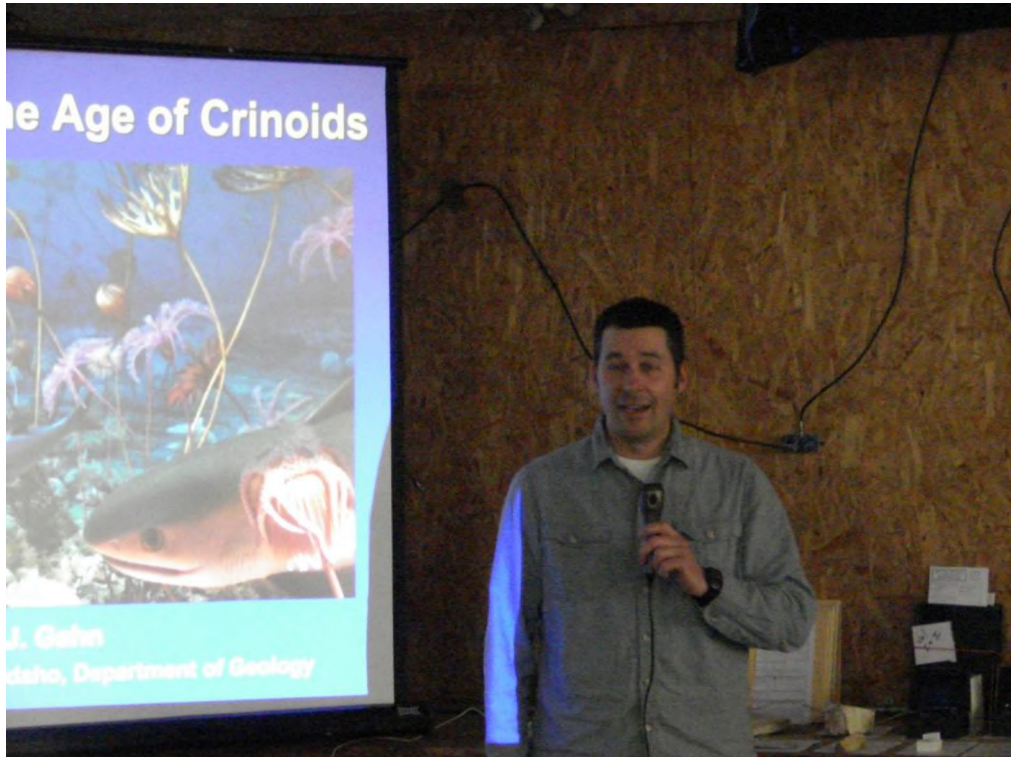
Al Scheer

### Michael Sincak

SINCAK – Michael, of Hollsopple, loving son, brother, husband and friend to all, passed away peacefully April 10, 2014, with his beloved wife by his side at UPMC Shadyside Hospital, after fighting a valiant battle with cancer. Although Michael suffered with this terrible disease, he never complained and often said how beautiful each day was. He was less like a friend and more like a brother to all those who knew him well. He always put everyone else and their happiness far beyond that of his own. Michael had a brilliant mind and will always be remembered for his lifelong quest for learning. He had the opportunity to travel the world and used that opportunity to find new friends everywhere he went. His travels made him one of the greatest storytellers that you could ever meet. Michael will long be remembered for his kindness and compassion to all. He was always willing to give anyone a chance and taught us all many times the importance of being kind and loving to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Michael, a professional geologist, and his wife, Barbara, are the owners of Treasures of the Earth Ltd. and have made a lasting impact in the fossil and mineral world. They built their company from the ground up and always worked together side-by-side in everything that they did. Michael is survived by his loving wife, Barbara; his faithful dog, Rio; sister, Nancy Lang, wife of Frank; and nieces, Gretchen and Sarah, Virginia Beach, Va. Preceded in death by father and mother, Michael and Kathryn (Stasko). Barbara would like to express her sincere appreciation to all of the doctors and nurses at UPMC Shadyside Hospital for their compassion and care. Likewise, she also expresses her love for the kindness and concern shown by so many of their closest friends during this difficult time. Michael's ashes will be scattered in the beautiful deserts of Utah, where he loved spending time with Barbara. No formal service will be held. Since Michael had such a passion for learning, Barbara has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations for a scholarship be made to Mercyhurst University Geology Department in Michael's name. Mercyhurst University is the home of the Sincak Museum of Natural History.

Ray & Mary Ellen Garton

**EXPO XXXVI KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOREST GAHN**



**AWARDS PRESENTED AT 2014 MAPS EXPO**



Karen Nordquist receiving the Sharon Sonnleitner Award presented by MAPS president Marv Houg.

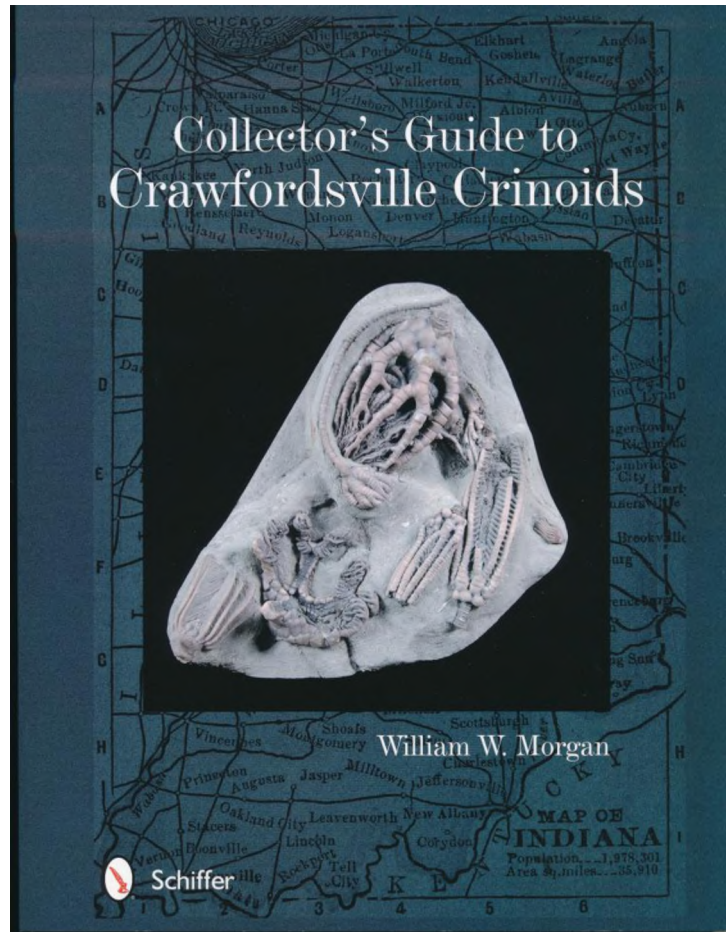


Paula Mikkelsen receiving the Don Good Award presented by MAPS president Marv Houg.



John Jenks receiving the PRI Katherine Palmer Award presented by Paula Mikkelsen.

A new book “Collector’s Guide to Crawfordsville Crinoids”, written by William W. Morgan, and published by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. (list price \$19.99), provides an up to date description of Mississippian Age crinoids from localities near Crawfordsville, Indiana. The book is available from several on line book sellers, including Amazon, or from the publisher. The completeness, abundance, and especially the exceptional aesthetic appeal of these fossils make them widely sought after by both professional and amateur paleontologists from all over the world. The quality is such that it is generally believed that this is the only location in North America at which invertebrate fossils have been extensively quarried commercially for several periods during the past 150 years. The initial section of the



book describes the geology of the region and discusses the factors most likely responsible for the extraordinary preservation of the crinoids. Emphasis is placed on the exceptional value of the site from both a scientific and a lay perspective. The book next surveys the recent literature to offer a detailed description of the morphology, geologic history and classification of Paleozoic crinoids. New terms are bolded and defined when they first appear in the text and in a separate glossary. Relatively simple diagrams and photographs are used to facilitate understanding. The last and most extensive part of the book uses descriptive text in combination with high quality photographs of actual specimens to enable the reader to differentiate and identify the common as well as many of the more rare species of crinoids found at the Crawfordsville localities.

The **M**id-**A**merica **P**aleontology **S**ociety (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: \$20.00 per household covers one year's issues of DIGESTS. All Canadian and Overseas members receive the DIGEST by air letter post. For new members and those who renew more than 3 issues past their due date, the year begins with the first available issue. Institution or Library fee is \$25.00.

MAPS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of October, November, January, and February and at EXPO in March or April. A picnic is held during the summer. October through February meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. in Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. One annual International Fossil Exposition is held in late March/early April.

The MAPS official publication, MAPS DIGEST, is published 5 times per year – Jan-Mar, EXPO EDITION, May-August, Sept-Nov, Dec. (EXPO Materials). View MAPS web page at: <http://www.midamericapaleo.org>

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