



The Rostrum

The Newsletter of the Maryland Geological Society
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is around the corner and a collector's thoughts often turn to Lee Creek. Collecting this spring at Lee Creek will be limited to only 15 MGS members. The mine, PCS, has reduced the number of the trips this season and given the first 160 slots to those people who knew about the "Special" trips planned for the "Friends" of the museum (See details in this issues). I have had a lot of email and phone calls about the fairness of this policy currently in effect by the people in charge of the trips into the mine. The bottom line is this; PCS is under no obligation to let collectors into the mine at all! Whatever criteria they want to use for entrance into the mine is up to them.

The best we can do is to go by the current rules and hope they will adjust their policy later. I am told that a club version of the "Friends" program is being formulated right now. In response, we will go ahead with our plans to present PCS with a list of things we believe we can do to support the Museum. Our committee needs to be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting. Our presence at the Fossil Festival is a good start.

As a last note about Lee Creek, Yd like any members who have never been into Lee Creek to have first shot at the 15 seats we have been given. We will work out the details at the next meeting.

Safe and Happy Hunting!

Mel

MGS meetings are held bimonthly, beginning in January of each year. Meeting dates are to be announced in The Rostrum, since the meeting hall can only be contracted two months in advance. Meetings begin promptly at 11:00 P.M. on the date specified. Meetings take place at the Bowie Community Center, located adjacent to the shopping mall at the intersection of Rt. 450 & Stony Brook Drive, Bowie, MD.

Meeting: The next MGS meeting will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2003 beginning at 11:00 a.m. (doors open at 10:00 a.m.) at the Bowie Community Center.

Program: Barbara Ermler will speak on the Fossils of Iowa

Editor's note: Members are reminded that our club meetings will always go on so long as the Bowie Center is open. If in doubt, call 301-464-1737 after 10:00 AM to find out if the Center is open. The staff of the Center has requested that we be out of the meeting room in time for them to walk out by 3:00 PM.

The Editor and the Maryland Geological Society, Inc. are not responsible for the accuracy or the authenticity of information in articles accepted for publication, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the Society or Editor.



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Maryland Geological Society Officers

President	MelHurd	301-630-7054
Vice President	Eric Seiner	410-203-1064
Secretary	Barbara Ermler	540-253-5556
Treasurer	Vacant	
Asst. Treasurer	Debbie Burdette	301-725-4278
Editor	BobAsreen	302-838-0339
Asst. Editor	Steve Cunningham	410-426-4680
Contrib. Editors	Phil Schmitz	410-426-1559
Membership	Dick Grier, Sr.	410-285-5554
Program Chair	Eric Seifter	410-531-2419
Liaison Officer	MelHurd	301-630-7054
Ways & Means	Dick Grier, Sr.	410-285-5554
Field Trip Chair	Dave Andersen	301-869-2662
Web Site Asst.	MelHurd	301-630-7054
Directors	Gary White	410-551-7826
	MarkBennett	410-247-3792
	George Powell	703-893-7856
	Chuck Ball	410-987-1492
	Gary Grimsley	703-642-2824

Meeting Dates & Programs for 2003

All dates tentative. Themes are concurrent with programs.

January 19 - To Be Announced.

March 16 - Barbara Ermler will speak on the Fossils of Iowa.

May 18 - Tentatively scheduled is a program by Dr. Ray Rye on the Burgess Shale.

July 20 - To Be Announced.

September 21 - To Be Announced.

November 16 - To Be Announced.

From the Editor

This issue of The Rostrum features entertaining articles submitted by Don Miller and Glenn D. Roche as well as another poem from Rick Smith. There is also an article from Dr. Stephen Godfrey of the Calvert Marine Museum and Paul Murdoch about the theft of a fossil from an excavation along Calvert Cliffs that you may find of interest.

Please send any articles, poems, cartoons, drawings, news items and information related to club activities that you would like to see in The Rostrum by E-mail to rcasreenjr@msn.com or by surface mail to: Robert C. Asreen, Jr., 7206 Wyeth Place, Newark, DE 19702. The next deadline for submissions to The Rostrum will be May 23, 2003. Thanks!

Thank You

Dick Grier, Sr.

The MGS would like to thank the following people for their donations to MGS:

Max Bovis for his donation of an Ostrea shell from Florida;

Phil Greenberg for his donations of specimens of realgar, cassiterite, chalcopyrite, and spessartite garnets;

Ron Ison for his donation of a tent and poles that can be used at our club picnic;

Don Miller for his donation of the booklet "The Handbook of Paleontological Terms" by Robert W. Sinibaldi, as well as his monetary donation and a bag of pyritized Cretaceous microfossils;

John Redick for his cash donation;

Charlie Shyab for his donation of 3 Archaic Period (5000-3000 yrs. BP) scrapers and some Kerrville knives;

Flo Streaun for her donation of teeth for the picnic tooth jar and bog iron from Calvert County, MD;

Eric Woody for the following donations: a copy of the book "New Theories on the Dinosaurs" by Christopher Lampton; a box of miscellaneous fossils from the Randle Cliff locality; some Devonian fossil material from the Red Hill locality in Hyner.-Pennsylvania; Carboniferous-age fossil ferns from the St. Clair site in Pennsylvania and miscellaneous fossil materials to be identified.

On a Personal Note

Dick Grier, Sr.

Dave Blondin and his wife, **Emily**, are proud to announce the birth of twins on August 20, 2002. A daughter, **Olivia**, and a son, **Parker**, are taking up a lot of the parent's time.

David says that he has not been fossil hunting for some time past and also in the future. He is living his "fossil life" through The Rostrum. Congratulations to you both!

The Shark Tooth Jar Needs Teeth!

I am in the process of collecting fossil shark teeth for the Shark Tooth Jar at the MGS picnic. The next time you are on the beach, think about taking an extra small bag to toss in some of teeth that you might otherwise leave for the tide to carry away. As you sort through your sifted material, set aside all those teeth that you don't know what to do with. Bring those teeth to an MGS meeting. Teeth of any age or from any locality can be used. Thanks in advance for your help! Dick Grier, Sr.

AFMS Rockhound of the Year

I am looking for nominations for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Every club in the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies deserves to have someone from the club recognized by both the Eastern and the American Federations each and every year. Anyone in the club can nominate anyone else. All I need is the name of the nominee, the name of the nominator, the club name and a brief (50 word) blurb about why the nominee is worthy of being honored. E-mail me today with your nomination at bg@his.com. Thanks! Cathy Gaber.

Fossils for Sale

Mark Bennett has returned from the Tucson Fossil Show with many new fossils and some mineral specimens. He has opal, large pieces of very buggy Baltic amber and Columbian copal; Chilean Megs, Great Whites and big Makos; fossils from Florida including Bone Valley material, horse teeth and fossil agatized coral; elephant teeth from China; and lots of Moroccan teeth to sell at the next meeting at bargain prices! Look for him there!

Coming Events

14th Annual Goucher Mineralogical Show & Swap/Sell

The Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society will hold its **14th Annual Goucher Mineralogical Show & Swap/Sell** at Goucher College's Krauschaar Auditorium in **Towson, Maryland** on **Sunday, May 18, 2003 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM.**

Goucher College is located just north of Towson Maryland. Take the 1-695 Beltway to Exit 27A. Go south on Dulaney Valley Road to the Goucher College entrance. Follow the entrance road around to the large parking lot adjacent to Krauschaar Auditorium. The Show takes place in the auditorium lobby and covered pavilion. **Note: This is the same day as our May meeting.**

Aurora Fossil Festival Memorial Day Weekend 2003

The Aurora Fossil Museum will hold its annual Aurora Fossil Festival over Labor Day Weekend 2003. The Museum needs about 40 volunteers to work on **Friday, May 23rd and Saturday, May 24th.**

Volunteers are needed who are willing to help set up on Friday and to work 2-3 hour shifts throughout the day on Saturday identifying fossils at the reject pile, leading tours of the museum, and helping to run the concession/vending booth. Volunteers are also needed to help out on some of the weekends prior to the festival. The Museum would appreciate any assistance that you can offer.

If interested, call the Aurora Fossil Museum at 252-322-2895 or contact them by e-mail at **aurfosmus@yahoo.com** to sign up! Let the museum know that MGS members care enough to help out.

12th Annual Maryland Geological Society Picnic/Swap - Sell

The MGS will hold its **12th Annual Picnic/Swap - Sell on Saturday, June 7, 2003.** See the flyer in this issue of The Rostrum for more information about the picnic.

Minutes of the January MGS Meeting

Secretary, Barbara Ermler

The regular bimonthly meeting of the Maryland Geological Society was held on January 19, 2003, at the Bowie Community Center in Bowie, Maryland. President Mel Hurd called the meeting to order. In attendance were 46 adult and 7 junior members. There was also 1 guest in attendance. The minutes of the November meeting were not read, as they had already been published in the Rostrum. The secretary pointed out, and apologized for the fact, that the results of the November elections were inadvertently left out. November's elections brought no changes in the roster of officers or board members.

Mike Folmer read the treasurer's report. As of January 1, 2002, we have \$5,035.28 in savings and \$918.88 in checking, for a total of \$5,954.16 in the club treasury.

Dick Grier, Sr. reported presently MGS has a total of 131 paid members including 91 adults and 40

juniors, as well as 7 honorary and 4 life members. About half the former members have not paid their dues for this year.

Field trip chairman Dave Anderson stated he is trying to push out into the surrounding states for new collecting sites. Those with ideas or who are willing to lead trips should contact him.

Daryl Serafin was not present, but our web site is being constantly updated, and he is beginning to post pictures. Trip and meeting schedules will soon be available.

Bob Asreen said he has submitted several articles from our Rostrum to EFMLS for judging. Several club awards were announced. Paul Murdock received an award for best feature article and Rick Smith for best poem. No lifetime achievement award was given this year.

The Board met today and issued the following suggestions: We need speakers at our meetings, and competition is heavy for places to Lee Creek, so members who give a presentation at a club meeting will get their choice of a fall or spring guaranteed seat into the mine. To encourage dealers to be present at our meetings and to feel better able to afford donating specimens for club events, the mandatory 10-of-sales contribution to the club treasury will be dropped. Finally, everyone is asked to watch E-Bay, show sales tables and all other sources for a long-nosed porpoise skull recently stolen from Calvert Cliffs. Details of this specimen will be published in the newsletter.

Support for fossil museums was again discussed: MGS is still concerned that our club receives recognition for all contributions, past and future, to the Aurora Museum. We also need to be sure we have a display set up this year at the Fossil Fair, and that our name is prominently displayed. Mel will look into getting a club banner printed and Jim Bovis will look into badges for MGS members at the fair. Jim also mentioned a volunteer opportunity - guiding groups of children through the museum at the fair. Barb Ermler put in her name as willing to do so, if possible. Red Hill's museum would really like a microscope, and MGS would like to find and donate one. The Science Center in Baltimore is starting a Dinosaur Hall. Anyone having good specimens to donate would be assured of having them displayed, if accepted, with the donor's name and club affiliation. The Center's Marine Exhibit on the Chesapeake will also need specimens. It was suggested that the club buy a big tooth and donate it with the club name.

A special all-day program on Antarctica will be offered at the Maryland Science Center on Wednesday, February 26, 2003. Exhibits are open 9:00 - 5:00. At 10:30am there is a live webcast "Dinos on Ice." From 6:30 - 8:00 pm are the panel discussions on Antarctica today and Antarctic clues to global climate change. At 8:15, in the IMAX theater, there will be a special screening of Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure. The day's activities are free to the public, but an RSVP is required for the panel discussion. Call (410) 545 5982 for info.

Our annual club picnic at Matoaka will, hopefully, be held on Saturday, June 7. We may have to pay the Smiths something this year for use of the clubhouse. Mark Bennett will again be in charge of all arrangements. Those who can help in any way should get in touch with him.

President Mel Hurd then adjourned the meeting.

MGS Picnic Coming Up... See page 10

January Program

Phil Schmitz, Contributing Editor

Eric Seifter, our club's vice-president, gave another interesting program. This program was about the Spanish archaeological sites in the Hills of Atapuerca near Burgos and world famous cave at Altamira. The Gran Dolina site in the Hills of Atapuerca, which dates between 350,000 to 1,000,000 years ago, contains the oldest hominid fossil remains that have been found to date in Western Europe. The fossil remains of a new species of hominid, *Homo antecessor*, have been found in Layer 6 of the Gran Dolina site, which dates to 800,000 years ago. Primitive stone tools as well as the remains of numerous fossil animals have also been found there. Of note is that there is evidence of cannibalism. At the Sima de los Huesos (The Bone Pit) site also located in the Hills of Atapuerca, the remains of 36 hominids were found, dating back to 350,000 to 300,000 years, along with the fossil remains of lions, panthers, mammoth, hyena, bear, buck and rhino. The hominid remains are all of *Homo heidelbergensis*, the ancestor of *Homo neanderthalensis*. Eric had many slides to illustrate his talk.

According to Eric, the museum in Altamira, Spain has no equal in the world. There are cave paintings of animals from 16,000 years ago. The cave itself is now closed to visitors. However, the original drawings from the walls and ceiling of the cave have been accurately reconstructed in the museum through the use of computers and lasers. If you missed this meeting, you missed a very informative talk.

Editors Note: Fossils and artifacts from the First Europeans: The Treasures from the Hills of Atapuerca will be on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York until April 13, 2003.

For more information regarding Neanderthals and the Spanish archaeological sites in the Hills of Atapuerca near Burgos, check out the article in the December 2002 - January 2003 issue of Natural History magazine entitled "Requiem/or a Heavyweight".

Finds by MGS Members

and other items on display at the January 19th MGS Meeting

Phil Schmitz, Contributing Editor

This section is open to all MGS members. If you would like the fossils that you have found listed in The Rostrum, please e-mail Paschmitz@hotmail.com or send a postcard (briefly identifying the specimens) to: Phil Schmitz, 2708 Gibbons Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214-2128.

Mildred Allison displayed a "huge" piece of coral that she found at Lee Creek back in the 1980's.

Max Bovis displayed some trilobites from Morocco along with various vertebrae, a puffer fish spine, a portion of a crab leg, a nice *Ecphora* shell and some puffer fish mouth plates from Lee Creek.

Herb and Barb Ermler displayed several dozen *Phacops rana* trilobites that they found at Capon Bridge between 1995 and 2002. The largest trilobite, a 2" specimen, was found in 1998 and the smallest one, less than 1 cm, was found in 2001. They also displayed a coprolite from a Pelycosaur from the Permian red beds of North Texas that Barb recently acquired.

Jeff Fisher displayed a 3" *Carcharocles angustidens*, and 2-1 ¼ *Carcharocles angustidens* that he found at Randle's Beach in November and December 2002.

Phil Greenberg displayed 17 partial and whole trilobites (*Phacops* rand) that he found at Capon Bridge between 1998 and 2002 along with a *Carcharocles auriculatus* that he found at Belgrade Quarry, N.C. in 1999.

Dick Grier, Jr. displayed a 21/4" *Otodus obliquus* from Liverpool Point along with a *Hexanchus* cow shark tooth.

Brady Hamilton displayed a mammal molar, possibly from a carnivore, and a *Squalus* tooth that he found at Muddy Creek. He also had a *Pristis* sawfish *rostral* tooth and 3 *Alopias* sp. teeth from Randle's Beach that he found in January 2003 on display.

Chris Hurd displayed several dozen *Notorynchus* cow shark teeth that he found at Randle Cliffs over the past 7 years. Represented in the display were upper, lower and *symphyseal* teeth as well as a parasymphyseal tooth that he found in January 2003.

Mel Hurd displayed about 90 crocodile teeth and scutes that he found at Liverpool Point over the past few years.

Tim Price displayed a sloth toe bone, a mouse jaw from *Peromyscus* sp., and the back portion of a bison skull.

Eric Seifter displayed a variety of fossils including a Pleistocene-aged *Mammuthus primigenius* tooth (woolly mammoth) from the North Sea, a *Harpactocarcinus* sp. (crab) from the Eocene near Huesca, Spain and a 4-foot cast *ofa. Alhsaurus skull*.

Charlie Shyab displayed the following fossils that he found at Brownie's Beach between 1994 and 2002: a seal molar, a *symphyseal* cow shark tooth, a *Squatina* tooth, and 2 - 3"+ *Carcharocles megalodon* teeth. He also displayed a Cretaceous-age *Ptychodus whipplei* tooth that he was given in 2002. Also in his display were the following fossils that were self collected fossils and/or acquired by trade: several peccary teeth that he found at the Willows in 1995, 2 stingray tail barbs from Randle's Beach in 1998, 5 *mako* teeth from Green Mills Run in 2002, 3 *Paratodus benedeni* teeth from Lee Creek in 2000, 5" *C megalodon* tooth, various fish and shark vertebrae from Lee Creek and several *Late Archaic (5,000 - 3,000 B.P.) Kerrville* points from Texas.

Flo Strean displayed a fish tailbone, a crocodile tooth, a whale vertebrae cap, a large fish vertebra, 2 - 8-inch rib bones, and 2 porpoise vertebrae that she found at Western Shores between December 2002 and January 2003.

Eric Woody displayed an *Isistius trituratorus* (Cookiecutter shark) tooth that he found while screening Muddy Creek material at home.

Thank You For Paying Your MGS Dues

Upcoming MGS Field Trips in 2003

Dave Andersen, Field Trip Coordinator

Any suggestions that MGS members might have for possible field trips are welcome. Please e-mail your field trip suggestions to davander@erols.com. **The call-in number for field trips is 301-869-2662. Please watch the web site for any changes to the field trip schedule.**

March 29, Saturday - MGS trip to Liverpool Point, MD. Space is limited, so sign up early for this one. Please let me know in advance so I can send meeting times and places to you.

April 12, Saturday - MGS trip to Lee Creek, NC. See below for details.

May 24, Saturday - MGS trip to Lost River and Capon Bridge, West Virginia. No limit on space for this trip. Please let me know in advance so I can send meeting times and places to you.

June 21 - 22, Saturday and Sunday - MGS trip to Red Hill and Swopes Pit, PA This is a joint trip with at least one other club.

To Be Announced - MGS trip to Medford Quarry.

MGS Field Trip to PCS Mine, Aurora, NC on April 12

The good news is that Lee Creek will be open this to collecting this Spring! Trips will start the first weekend of March 1st and run till May 24th. Members of the new "Friends of the Museum" will fill the March collecting trips into the mine with clubs slated to get into the mine beginning in April. Collecting will be on Saturday's this season and will again be limited to the NCPC and Block 26 areas of the mine that were collected last year. **Steel toe shoes or boots and safety glasses must be worn in order to enter the mine!**

MGS has been awarded 15 seats on the bus into the mine on Saturday, April 12.

The call in date for this trip is Wednesday, April 2, 2003 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM to Mr. Dick Grier, Sr. at 410-285-5554.

The email that follows explains some of the changes in mine policies and requirements for collecting at the mine.

From: CURTIS ORMOND [<mailto:cormond@coastalnet.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2003 7:13 PM

To: Hurdmn@osd.pentagon.mil

Subject: Fossil Season

PCS Phosphate is happy to announce that there will be a 2003 Spring Fossil Season. Hunts will start the first weekend of March 2003 and run till the end of May 2003.

Our Safety Department has asked us to announce that MSHA has required that **anyone in the Mine Area will be required to wear steel toe shoes or boots and safety glasses.** In the past this rule has

not been enforced but with the start of the Spring Season it will be required before hunters are allowed to board the bus. We will continue to furnish hard hats and safety glasses, but the **individuals will have to supply their own steel-toed boots**. Full compliance is expected and required.

The season will again be on limited space, and we are sorry we can't give all clubs and individuals the slots they requested. But again, in the interest of safety we are forced to hold the group size down to 35 per day.

We also are working with the Aurora Fossil Museum's "Special Friends" program and have granted them the first 160 slots of the season. As the program grows PCS Phosphate will continue to work with the museum to assure continued growth through this program.

Please meet at the Contractors Parking Lot at 8:00 AM on the date you or your club is scheduled. There will be paperwork to complete and the leader will go over the safety rules with you at that time. **The bus will depart for the Mine at approximately 9:00 and return around 3:30 - 4:00.** The bus will not return to the parking lot except in the case of hundershowers. Rain without thunder or lightning will not stop the hunt.

Please observe all our safety rules. They are in place for your protection. The continuation of the hunts in future seasons could depend on our safety record during the hunts. Always use the Buddy System; never hunt out of sight of the guides.

We hope you have a very pleasant and good hunt. Please feel free to contact Curtis Ormond, PCS Phosphate, 252-322-8296, mail to: cormond@pcsphosphate.com around the end of August 2003 to find out about and get scheduled for the Fall Season.

Your or your clubs date to hunt and number of slots awarded is as follows:

15 slots/April 12,2003

Editors Note: *If you are interested in becoming a "Special Friend" of the Aurora Fossil Museum, contact the Museum at 352-322-2895 or aurfosmus@yahoo.com.*

Virginia Museum of Natural History 2003 Field Trips

Join VMNH staff on their paleontological field trips and learn about the fascinating geological history of the Middle Atlantic States. These trips were designed by Dr. Lauck Ward, Curator of Invertebrate paleontology at VMNH, and cover a wide variety of ages and environments representative of the last 550 million years. More detailed information is available by request at butchd@vmnh.org, or at 276-666-8644. Schedules and itineraries are tentative. **There are fees associated with these trips that are considered donations to VMNH.** This years trips are as follows:

March 29, September 20 - Chuckatuck Quarry/Mobjack Pit, VA

June 21 - Martin Marietta-Carmel Church Quarry, VA

July 26, June 22 - Westmoreland State Park, VA

October 17 - Martin Marietta-Castle Hayne/Martin Marietta-Belgrade/Old Dock, NC

March 15, April 12-13 - Morehead, KY

THE MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Cordially invites MGS and AFF members to attend

The 12th Annual Picnic/Swap-Sell

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003

9:00 AM until Dusk

At Matoaka Cottages, St. Leonard, Calvert Co., Maryland

The lodge will be used for our activities, and in case of inclement weather.
Bring the family. Also bring a picnic lunch and soft drinks, and join the fun!
Picnic tables and grills are available.

The MGS will provide hotdogs, soft drinks, salads, etc.

Admission: (Matoaka Cottages) There will be no cost for MGS and AFF members, family, and guests. The MGS will pick up the tab!!!

To volunteer your support for our picnic, please contact Mark Bennett at (410) 247-3792.

Call-in for reservations: to Dick Grier, Sr. (410-285-5554) on Wednesday, May 30, 2001 from 6-9pm. Please call so that we can make an estimate of the number of people that will attend.

GENERAL AUCTION

SILENT AUCTION

RAFFLES

ACTIVITIES

PRIZES

SWAPS

DEALERS

SALES CHARGE OF 10 TO DEALERS

Swim and hunt fossils in the Chesapeake Bay!

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILY AND SUPPORT THE MGS!

Whale Skull Stolen from Calvert Marine Museum Dig Site

Dr. Stephen Godfrey & Paul Murdoch

The following was written by Dr. Stephen Godfrey, curator of Paleontology at the CMM for the CMMFC's winter edition of its newsletter The Echora. Dr. Godfrey can be contacted at 410-326-2042 extension.28.

"And now for a little paleontological intrigue..." In early October, Paul Murdoch had reported on a baleen whale skull in the cliffs south of Plum Point. In early November, I received a call from him informing me that someone had quarried around the skull with the intent to jacket and remove it. Only two days before his warning call, I had sent a letter to the landowner requesting permission to quarry this skull. The Saturday evening of Paul's phone call; I was able to reach a representative of the landowner. They had not given permission to this third party to quarry on their land, so permission was granted to the museum to remove the skull before it was stolen. The next day, Sunday, I quarried and jacketed the skull but could not remove it for want of logistical support. The following morning when my assistant and I returned, the skull was gone...taken out on the back of an all-terrain vehicle. I filed a police report and expect that sooner or later, the skull will come to light. If anyone has information that would lead us to the individual or individuals who stole this specimen, I would love to know.

What's not mentioned in Stephen's original request was that not only was the specimen stolen but what could best be described as mocking "graffiti" was scrawled into the cliff face from the thieves after the skull was stolen. The CMM's excavation sign was taken as well.

Also, many sets of initials were originally carved into the cliff "marking" this illegal dig, as well as other sets of initials at other spots where finds were taken out along these cliffs. It's the author's guess that this was to let other passerby's/collectors know that these spots were marked and were not to be disturbed. Therefore, it is the author's belief that these people who marked these spots:

- 1) somehow came to an expectation that others would leave the site alone if others somehow realized that it theirs; and
- 2) that the "regular" collectors to this spot would know who made these marks and would respect them and leave things alone;

If my two points are correct then a conspiracy seems to be occurring at this site. My only hope is that the several people who know who these individuals are willing to do the right thing and resolve this situation. I urge them to come forth and do so.

If as a group fossil hunters do not police themselves sooner or later a law or group will be entrusted to do so. Please remember that the "finds" we seek are all little treasures and those on private property are off limits no matter how tempting. If you want to see a "find" excavated, contact a museum and odds are greatly in your favor that you will have an opportunity to be included in its recovery.

In short - GET INVOLVED AND DON'T STAND IDLY BY!!

What's in a Name?

Don Miller

One of the more interesting aspects of paleontology, as well as all of the natural sciences, is the naming of species. Scientists utilize a singular two-part name, including the genus and species, to identify a unique type of animal, insect, or plant. Virtually all names are of Latin or Greek origin, although latinized words are frequently used. But what do all of these names mean? Of course, everyone knows that *Tyrannosaurus rex* means "tyrant lizard king," but beyond that, things get rather inscrutable.

Let's start with some basics of genera and species names:

"deino" or "dino" means terrible	"omis" means bird
"saur" or "saurus" means lizard	"ichthys" means fish
"therium" means beast	"eo" means dawn or first
"don" or "dont" means tooth	"hespero" means western
"suchus" means crocodile	"mimus" means mimic

These phrases or words give you a good start on understanding the names of many of your favorite extinct and extant animals. In this installment, I'll focus on the names of some well-known non-dinosaurian Cretaceous creatures.

Mosasaurus means "Meuse river lizard"

Tyiosaurus (one of the biggest mosasaurs) means "knob lizard" for its rounded snout.

Platecarpus (the most abundant of North American mosasaurs) means "flat wristed" for the bone structure of its paddles.

Clidastes (the smallest of North American mosasaurs) means "one who locks" for its locking vertebrae that could restrict vertical bending.

Globidens (shell-crushing mosasaur) means "globe tooth" for the rounded enamel portion of its teeth.

Xiphactinus (huge bulldog tarpon) means "sword ray" for its large pectoral fins.

Archelon (huge sea turtle) means "large turtle" pretty obvious, huh?

Elasmosaurus (marine reptile) means "plate boned lizard" for its large plate-like shoulder and pelvic bones.

Hesperornis (flightless diving bird) means "western bird" as it was first found in the western part of North America.

Pachyrhizodus (large predatory fish) means "thick enameled tooth" for its specialized teeth

Pteranodon (large flying reptile) means "winged and toothless"

Pteradactylus (another flying reptile) means "winged finger" for its elongated finger bones comprising the wing's supporting structure.

I can't guarantee that everything above and going forward is correct, but I've gathered the information from sources that I believe to be reliable. Now for this installment's "A Name Only a Discoverer Would Love" award:

Fubarichthys copiosus refers to the name of a common Mississippian-age fish that is usually found with the skull disarticulated (i.e. fubar or *messed* up beyond all recognition).

More Than Science

Glenn D. Roche

Now entrenched firmly in middle age, I'm ready to admit that I will most likely never be a master of my favorite scientific genre. Don't get me wrong. It's not that I have suddenly given up on seeking out additional knowledge on the subject of collecting fossil shark teeth, or am unwilling to expand my insight into my hobby. I simply wish to relieve the anxiety of any truly qualified expert who may be worried about losing his or her spot discussing the nuances of the particular species of ancient sharks on any upcoming Discovery channel programs. Your competition isn't coming from my corner!

Well, for me, it's time to focus on a bigger picture anyway. Can you remember how you first became interested in fossil hunting? Hands down, the nine-year-old version of myself enjoyed the thrill of the hunt rather than any paleontological significance of the finds. It was a chance for dad and son to embark on an adventure, each of no less than epoch proportions in my young mind. A couple of years ago, after my parents had passed away, I set about the task of cleaning out the home in which I grew up, preparing it for sale. Judging from the mako and snaggletooth specimens I rediscovered stowed away carefully wrapped in layers of tissue paper, it was clear that the treasures I found on those trips with my father were cherished by that boy as much as any specimens maintained by the curators at the Smithsonian.

That experience not only rekindled my interest for hunting shark teeth, but has since contributed to a whole new bunch of epoch family adventures. I guess you could call it passing the torch, most likely the most important contribution any of us can ever make. This time, I get to play the role of the dad, and I watch a little kid, my young daughter, excited to proudly show off each tooth she finds. And, as in any bonding experience, be it fishing, baseball, or hunting shark teeth, I would fail in my paternal responsibility if I didn't manage to sneak in at least a few virtuous points just as my dad did years ago.

For example, we both dream of finding a trophy Meg while hunting along the ruggedly beautiful western shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay. But if it means contributing to the premature erosion of someone's property by scratching and digging in the elms, a practice we have often witnessed, then we have no problem leaving them where they lay. My dad was of the mentality that finding a trophy specimen in that manner is akin to hitting a home run with a corked bat, and all of these years later, I suppose I can say that he succeeded in grooming me to feel exactly the same way. The lessons imprinted on a little kid? Well, they include the development of respect for others and their property, a regard for the environment, and an appreciation for the rules of fair play for starters. In addition, rather than being restricted by our code of ethics, we have managed to assemble a very nice collection sporting a fascinating variety of mako, tiger, sand tiger, snag, angel, and other teeth from sharks, porpoises, and rays. So, in the end, my daughter also gets to enjoy the success that can be achieved through diligence, planning, and adherence to acceptable behavior. Not at all bad, and fun too!

I have to face reality; not even struggling through those years of Latin in high school isn't going to allow me to contribute much to the already known body of science. I still don't know my *Striatolamia* from my *Serratolamna* and probably never will, although I do brag that I can recite "kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species", often without looking. But just as my father did for me, my contribution to my piece of the next generation will be significant in terms of building my daughter's values, developing her love for outdoor adventures, enhancing her respect for nature, and of course, creating an appreciation for fossil hunting. Drawing from the memories of that nine-year-old boy

Continued next page

and his dad years ago, I can rest assured that my most significant contributions will be considerable, and long lasting. What a wonderful alternative goal exists for those of us who may never make our mark among the elite of paleontology! We possess the ability to parlay the fossil hunting experience into something much, much more than science.

The Projectile Point

Rick Smith

Something about it had captured his eye.
From the many stones on the ground.
He lifted it up from its resting place.
To show me the rock he had found.

Three inches long and a triangle shape.
With a stem attached to its base.
An object given shape by someone's hand.
But lost until now in this place.

Excitement for both a father and son.
The shared thrill of discovery.
The rock now a key to open a door.
To a time back in history.

Perhaps a young boy the age of my son,
Had sat here a long time ago,
And fashioned the point from out of a rock,
By this creek where the cattails grow.

Searching the woods with his father and friends,
He hunted for rabbit and deer.
Then lost in time, maybe a thousand years,
Was this point from his hunting spear?

Resting in a case on top of a shelf,
It serves as my link to his past,
My mind recreates the time that was his,
Our two worlds in total contrast.

The Piscataway tribe is now scattered,
His descendants live here no more,
Only ghosts and artifacts left behind,
Here beside this Potomac shore.

In the News

November 8,2002. *Limestone Quarry Is Gold Mine for Archaeologists.* Archaeologists are excavating the Giant Cement Company's, limestone quarry in Harleyville, SC that they believe could be the state's largest deposit of ice age fossils ever. The fossils were discovered last spring and include the bones of camel, horse, dire wolf as well as saber-tooth cat skulls. They are approximately 19,000 years old. See http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/breaking_news/4470778.htm for the mil article.

December 31,2002, *Huge, Ancient Ocean Predator Found.* Scientists have found the first complete skeleton of what's thought to be the largest predator of all time, *Liopleurodon ferox*, a Jurassic aged (165 to 150 million years ago) pliosaur. According to a report in the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, the creature has been named the "Monster of Arambem" after the Mexican area where it was found.

See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/2614477.stm> for the story.

Editors Note: In Chapter 12 of Mark Renz's book, *MEGALODON - Hunting the Hunter*, he awarded *Liopleurodon* a 10 on the Terror Index of 10 while *Megalodon* was awarded a 9 making *Liopleurodon* the biggest and baddest predator in his opinion!

January 22, 2003, *Four-winged dinosaur fossil found.* Scientists in China have discovered two specimens of the 128-million year old four-winged dinosaur, *Microraptor gui*, which apparently was able to glide from tree to tree.

See <http://www.sciencenews.org/20030125/fobl.asp> for the story.

January 2003. *Strangest Volcano on Earth*. Scientists have discovered an astonishing mountain in Tanzania called "01 Doinya Lengaf where lava fountains harden in mid air and then shatter like glass. See the article in the January 2003 National Geographic.

Upcoming Area Shows in 2003

March 1-2: *40th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show* sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society, Brandywine Terrace, 3416 Philadelphia Pike; Claymont, DE. Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM.

March 1-2: *2003 New York City Gem & Mineral Show* sponsored by Excalibur Minerals & hosted by the New York Mineralogical Club, Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57th St. & 9th Ave., NY, NY.

March 7-9: *15th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show*, sponsored by the Aiken & Augusta Gem & Mineral Societies, Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St., Augusta, GA.

March 14 -16: *Clifton Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show* sponsored by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society, Pope John Paul Elementary School, 775 Valley Rd., Clifton, NJ.

March 15 - 16: *39th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show*, sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc., Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD.

March 22-23: *35th Annual Gem Mineral Fossil Show* sponsored by the Buffalo Geological Society, Erie County Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

April 5 - 6: *Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair 2003 Annual Show & Sale*, presented by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society & the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society, LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA. Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM.

April 11 - 13: *26th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference* sponsored by the Micro-mineralogists of the National Capitol Area. Contact Steve Weinberger (cweinber@bcpl.net) for info and registration.

April 12-13: *34th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show* sponsored by the New York Southern Tier Geology Club, Senior Citizen Center, Johnson City, NY.

April 26 - 27: *31st Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show & Outdoor Swap* sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, the New Jersey Earth Science Association & the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Franklin, NJ.

May 17 - 18: *35th Annual Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show*, sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society, Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Route 61, Leesport, PA

May 17: *14th Annual Swap/Sell* at Goucher College sponsored by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Goucher College, Krauschaar Auditorium Pavilion, Dulaney Valley Rd just off 1-695; Towson, MD.

THE MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

8052 Kavanagh Road, Baltimore, MD 21222

(410) 285-5554

<http://ecphora.net/mgs>

CLUB PURPOSE

The Maryland Geological Society is a society comprised of both amateur and professional mineral and fossil collectors. It is the intent of the MGS to emphasize collecting, identification, study and display aspects of the geological sciences. The society is a nonprofit organization.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence should be mailed to Barbara Ermler, Secretary, 5460 James Madison Highway, The Plains, VA 20198, (540) 253-5556.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION

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DUES

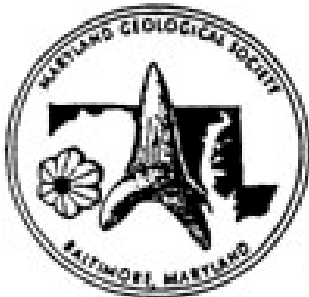
Annual dues are \$15.00 per individual adult member and free to children under 18 years of age when accompanying a paying adult member. Applications for membership may be obtained by contacting Dick Grier, Sr., Membership Chairman, 8052 Kavanagh Road, Baltimore, MD 21222. (410) 285-5554. Renewal dues are payable by January 1st of each year.

AFFILIATIONS

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.

EFMLS Web site: <http://www.amfed.rog/efinls/>

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



"Knowledge is our destiny ..." Jacob Bronowski