January - Fall 1990

September
9 Greens Mill Run - Greenville, NC
   Reservations: Frank and Becky Hyne (919) 752-3284
15 Museum Work Day
22 Martin Marietta Quarry - Belgrade, NC
   Reservations: Richard Tellekamp (919) 347-6361
29 Lumber River - Lumberton, NC
   Reservations: Robert J. Britt (919) 483-7851

October
13 Old Egypt Coal Mine - Sanford, NC
   Reservations: Tom and Pam Burns (919) 776-8080
13 Museum Work Day
13 Luray, VA
   Reservations: Rick and Karen Evans (703) 743-5590
20 Texas-Gulf Quarry - Aurora, NC
   Reservations: Vince Schneider (919) 779-9338

November
3 Martin-Marietta Quarry - Castle Hayne, NC
   Reservations: Vince Schneider (919) 779-9338
10 Fossil Fair - NC Maritime Museum - Beaufort, NC
   Display Space: Mike Hogan (919) 942-2877
17 Museum Work Day
17 Onslow Beach - Camp LeJeune, NC
   Reservations: George and Irma Potter (919) 346-3109

December
8 Museum Work Day
15 Martin-Marietta Quarry - New Bern, NC
   Reservations: Frank and Becky Hyne (919) 752-3284

January
5 Museum Work Day
26 Neuse River - Arapahoe, NC
   Reservations: Thelma Bennett (919) 249-1574

February
2 Museum Work Day

Greens Mill Run is a small urban creek which cuts through the PeeDee and the Yorktown Formations. The most common Cretaceous fossil is the cephalopod Belemnitella americana Morton. Some of the same Yorktown fossils that are found at Texas-Gulf are here. Shark teeth of several species are common.

The easiest way to search is to screen material from the creek bottom. A screen (1/4" mesh), a long-handled shovel, and waders or sturdy shoes that can get wet are necessary.

The Martin Marietta Quarry at Belgrade, NC is the type locality for the Miocene Belgrade Formation, approximately 12-25 million years old. It is underlain by the Oligocene River Bend Formation. The fossil material includes turtle shell fragments, shark teeth, crocodile teeth, and sawfish teeth.

The Lumber River trip will be new for many club members. Fossils include sea cow and crocodile material and shark teeth.

The Old Egypt Mine was an active coal mine during the 18th and 19th centuries. Phytosaur teeth, copralites, and fish scales are the most common (Jurassic) fossils. You search by splitting the soft, layered material so some tools will prove useful: bring a hammer and chisel and a utility knife blade. It may be possible to visit a near-by clay pit with nice plant material as well.

The Luray, VA trip will combine a fossil hunt with a chance to see the fall colors of the Virginia mountains at their height. There will be trilobites and brachiopods and other Paleozoic fossils. If you wish to spend the night three types of accommodations are possible: motel, campground, and for those hardy souls wishing to rough it, camping on your hosts’ 5 acres. It would be advisable to get your reservations in early if you plan an over-nighter.

The Texas-Gulf trip is limited to 60 club members only (no guests). Call for reservations between 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM no earlier than October 6.

The Martin-Marietta Quarry at Castle Hayne is the type locality for the Castle Hayne Formation, the remains of a shallow Eocene ocean floor 35-40 million years old - a lot older than the exposure at Texas Gulf. You can expect to find a good variety of echinoids, terebratulid brachiopods, and nautiloids. Vertebrate material and shark teeth, though rarer, can also be found.
The Onslow Beach trip will provide a visit to the ocean and a fossil search along the waterfront. Horse, camel, and mastodon teeth have been found here. The Potters will meet members at the Visitor Center for Camp LeJeune off NC 24. Those arriving from the south (Wilmington or I 40) can meet the group at Riseley Pier on Onslow Beach (see map). At the entrance to Camp LeJeune ask for a pass to Onslow Beach or Riseley Pier. You should have your driver's license and auto registration.

The Martin-Marietta Quarry at New Bern has exposures of 4 different formations spanning 50 million years. Shark and whale materials are common. On our trip here last spring a large Carcharodon auriculatus tooth was found almost as soon as we got into the quarry.

The lower Neuse River cuts through some of the same formations that are exposed at Texas Gulf. Shark teeth, including an occasional large Carcharodon megalodon are found. Mammalian fossils are here as well: on our last trip several horse teeth, a bison tooth, and a piece of antler were found. You will need to wade along the edge of the river and in January it could be quite chilly. Waders are almost essential.

Museum Work Days

Museum work days this fall will be held at the museum annex on the 3rd floor of the Old Health Building at the corner of Dawson Street and Jones Street in downtown Raleigh (see map). Volunteers will work with the collections, sorting, gluing, and cataloguing fossils and members may bring their own specimens for identification. Call Vince Schneider (919) 779-9338 for details.

Fossil Fair and Annual Meeting

The Fossil Fair and Annual Meeting will be held at the NC Maritime Museum on the Historic Waterfront in Beaufort, NC. Persons wishing display space should contact Mike Hogan (919) 942-2877 no later than October 1. One of the major purposes of the annual meeting is the election of new officers. Board members Tom Burns, John Everett, Jim Knowles, and Judy Schneider, whose terms expire this year, are willing to stand for re-election. Additional nominations will be solicited at the meeting.

To insure more continuity in the office of President, one of the board members will propose two alternative methods of filling this position: 1) A president and a president-elect would be selected, the president-elect to succeed the president at the end of his/her term or 2) The Board would select one of its members to be President. This will be discussed and voted on at the meeting. The outcome of this vote will be reflected in the election of the position of President.

Arm bone’s connected to the . . .

Vince Schneider recently returned from a Wyoming trip with an arm bone in his suitcase.

But even more interesting were the bones he left behind.

Mr. Schneider, a Raleigh biologist, was one of four volunteers from the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences who traveled to the Wyoming Badlands this month in search of dinosaur bones for the museum collection.

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In addition to the cetiosaurus, the group found the humerus of a plesiosaurs and the partial skeleton of a carnivorous dinosaur, probably an allosaurus. The last paragraph seems to say that the NC Museum of Natural Sciences is seeking volunteers to help with future digs. In fact, volunteers are sought to be part of the preparation of these fossils for public exhibition. The museum is opening a new exhibit this fall entitled “A Living Laboratory”. In this exhibit fossil dinosaur bones from Wyoming will be removed from plaster jackets or chiseled out of limestone and glued together for new displays in the museum. Volunteers are needed to staff this exhibit which will run during museum hours weekdays and week-ends. Interested persons should contact Vince Schneider (919) 779-9338 or Roberta Mazer (919) 733-7480 for more details. Training sessions will be available.
Fossil Literature

- *Wonderful Life - The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History*
  
  Stephen Jay Gould
  Numerous line drawings, 347 pp, $19.95
  W. W. Norton & Company

  The Burgess Shale is a small limestone quarry in the Canadian Rockies containing a large collection of early Cambrian (530 million years ago) fossils. Discovered in the early 20th Century by Charles D. Walcott, head of the Smithsonian Institution, these remains of an ancient sea bed contain an astonishing collection of very strange creatures which Walcott gave a collection of exotic names: Opabinia, Marella, Waptia, Anomalocaris, Tontoia, and the earliest known chordate, Pikaia, to list a few. Walcott attempted to shoehorn all of these into the categories of worms and arthropods. Forty years later his work (and the fossils) were reexamined by H. B. Whittington and his students. The result was an entirely new way of considering evolution and the development of species. Instead of the accepted “tree of increasing diversity”, Whittington proposed a huge explosion of Cambrian multicellular life forms followed by the eventual decimation of most of them with proliferation within a few stereotyped designs.

  Gould, a well-known popularizer of evolutionary development (*The Panda’s Thumb, The Mismeasure of Man, Hen’s Teeth and Horse’s Toes*, etc.), provides an entrancing account of the discovery of the Burgess Shale, Walcott’s life and times (to explain why he forced all of these remarkable animals into the classes of worms and arthropods), and the eventual revision by Whittington and his students. The book is lavishly illustrated with excellent line and half-tone drawings of the weird and wonderful creatures. How can anyone interested in fossils ignore a description of Hallucigenia, or Yohoia, or Aysheaia?

Classified Ads

Anyone wishing to inform the membership of fossil materials for trade or other related items for trade or sale should contact me before the deadline for the next newsletter.

Richard Chandler
1225 Lorimer Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 851-2153

Deadline for materials to be included in the next issue of Janus: November 20, 1990
North Carolina Fossil Club Inc.  
(Founded 1977)

NCFC President:  Vince Schneider  (919) 779-9338  (Garner, NC)
NCFC Treasurer &  
Membership Chairman:  Trish Kohler  (919) 383-6328  (Durham, NC)
NCFC Secretary:  Allison Chambers  (919) 489-8156  (Durham, NC)
NCFC Board:  
Tom Burns  (919) 776-8080  (Sanford, NC)
John Everette  (919) 847-4485  (Raleigh, NC)
Becky Hyne  (919) 752-3284  (Greenville, NC)
Jim Knowles  (919) 851-0393  (Raleigh, NC)
Judy Schneider  (919) 779-9338  (Garner, NC)
Michael Allen  (919) 879-3173  (Ramseur, NC)
Michael Hogan  (919) 942-2877  (Chapel Hill, NC)
Richard Chandler  (919) 851-2153  (Raleigh, NC)

Membership Application  
1990

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP ____________________________
PHONE _________________________________

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP(S):  
INDIVIDUAL (NEW)  $20.00__________
INDIVIDUAL (RENEWAL)  $10.00__________
SPOUSE (NEW/RENEWAL)  $ 5.00__________

SIGNATURE __________________________ DATE________

(Children of NCFC members who are dependent minors and living at home may accompany their parent on any trip 
EXCEPT Texas-Gulf, or where otherwise noted; one child per adult at a time, please.)
Memberships are effective from January through December of the year (or portion of the year) of the date of application. 
For example, persons joining in October will need to renew their memberships 3 months later in January.

MAIL TO: NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB, P.O. BOX 2777, DURHAM, NC 27705