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THE
NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTH
CAROLINA
FOSSIL
CLUB

NUMBER 5

July 31, 1981

FALL ITINERARY

Mark your calendars, folks, it's going to be an exciting fall! The season opens with a trip to the Ideal Cement quarry in Castle Hayne, N.C. Last year several club members picked up some really good specimens at this locality, including a Carcharodon auriculatus tooth, an Archeoceti (early whale) earbone, a unique crab, and a nautiloid. This locality is also good for collecting echinoderms (sea urchins and sand dollars). We expect this site to be productive again this year.

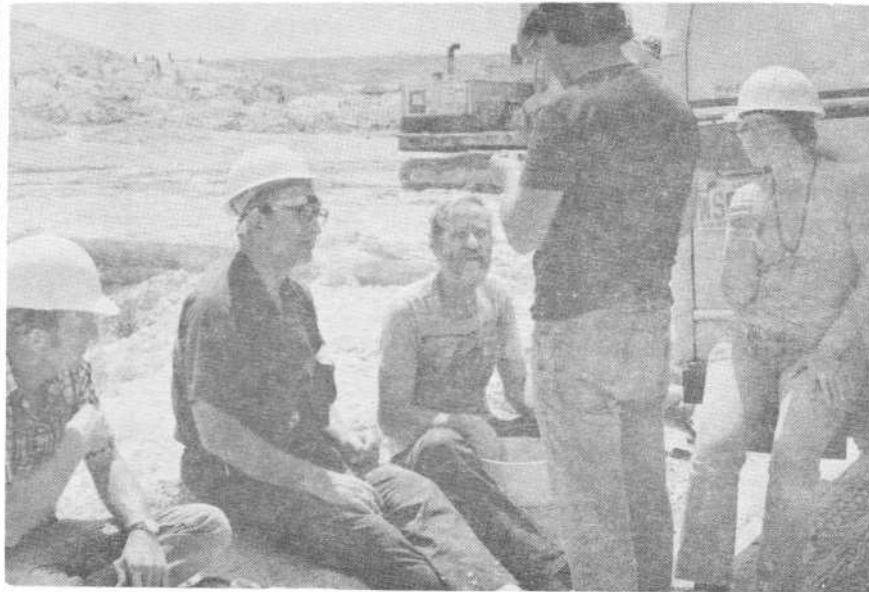
Fossil Club president Vince Schneider has also confirmed three dates for trips to Texasgulf this fall. The first TG trip is scheduled just two weeks after the Ideal Cement trip. The purpose for both these trips so close together, Vince says, is to give everyone a chance to collect some good specimens for the Fossil Fair, which takes place two weeks later.

The schedule for fall is as follows:

- September 26 ... Ideal Cement,
Castle Hayne
- October 10 Texasgulf, Aurora
- October 24 FOSSIL FAIR,
Aurora
- December 5 Texasgulf, Aurora

The annual meeting, traditionally held in October, will take place at the Fossil Fair. The main order of business will be election of club officers for 1982.

The Fossil Club's field trip policy remains the same -- meet at quarry gates at 9:00; hardhats required; sorry, no guests at TG, but bring friends to other sites.



Donnie Bailey, Pete Harmatuk, Frank Hyne, and Denise Whitman watch Vince Schneider examine a specimen at Texasgulf's quarry in Aurora.

FOSSIL FAIR

Once again the Fossil Club and Texasgulf are sponsoring a Fossil Fair and Pig Pickin'. The date to remember is Saturday, October 24, and the place will be the same as last year, at Texasgulf's recreation facility, about 2 miles past the entrance to the quarry.

The Fossil Fair will last all day, with the pig pickin' and Fossil Club meeting in the afternoon. You're encouraged to bring your families; there's plenty of room outside for fun and games. And Fossil Club members that are interested can meet at Texasgulf's quarry gates at the regular time, 9:00am, for a half-day fossil-hunting excursion. (Texasgulf and Fossil Club policies still apply.)

AMATEURS ARE LOVERS

The importance of dedicated amateur fossil-hunters was a theme of a talk given to Fossil Club members and guests by Dr. Clayton E. Ray of the Smithsonian Institution on Friday, July 10, at the State Museum in Raleigh.

Dr. Ray spoke of amateurs as lovers (why else would we swelter in the heat of Texasgulf in June?) who bring the stuff of science to the sometimes far-removed professionals. Dr. Ray then continued on a subject of interest to North Carolina lovers: the pinnipeds (from the latin for "flipper-foot"), the order which contains seals and walruses. Fossil pinniped material from Texasgulf (or anywhere, really) is important for current research at the Smithsonian. Dr. Ray went on to discuss the differences between the various members of the order, both modern and fossil forms.

A question was raised as to why so little walrus material is found at Texasgulf. A reply was given to the effect that walrus material is often simply not recognized, or mistaken for whale material. This was the case, Dr. Ray revealed, when he found a remarkable walrus scapula at Vince Schneider's house, which Vince had set aside as whale material. Judy Raynor took the opportunity to plug the Fossil Fair, and the importance of having fossils identified.

The talk and slide presentation was well attended, and Club president Vince Schneider said he hopes to have more speakers and educational meetings and seminars in the future.

Included with the newsletter in this mailing is a copy of Fossil Vertebrates by M.C. (Peg) Thomas. The NCFC has ordered enough initially to send to every member or family, and will send a copy to new members as a benefit covered by the \$10.00 new membership fee. For those members who may already have a copy of this book, you may want to keep one copy at home and use the other for a "field copy". This manual should be a useful guide when you fossil-hunt anywhere in the southeastern states.

HELP!

We're drowning in a sea of a million things that need to be done; caught in the undertow of organization and deadlines! A lot of work goes into putting on a successful Fossil Fair. We need your help.

It's almost impossible for one or two people in Raleigh to take care of publicity for the whole state. We would like every member (particularly those who live outside Raleigh) to take care of publicizing the Fossil Fair in your community.

Posters in shopping centers are nice, but don't be afraid to use newspapers and radio (T.V. if you're brave). A good way to get free advertising is to get the newspaper or radio people interested in doing an article or feature on fossils in North Carolina. Ask them to promote it as a public service; mention that the Fossil Club is sponsoring the Fossil Fair in association with Texasgulf and the Smithsonian Institution (it gives us credibility). Remember that the purpose of the Fossil Fair is two-fold; to give people (fossil-hunters, farmers, children, construction workers, everyone) a chance to have their finds identified, and to give paleontologists a chance to see what kind of material we're finding in North Carolina.

Also, notify area libraries where people might go to look up information on fossils. Don't publicize the pig pickin'; that's for Fossil Club members; but we do hope to have displays or something for people to look at, maybe give away some shark's teeth.

Publicity can be fun! And remember, the most important thing is for you to

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**           COME TO THE FOSSIL FAIR           **
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NOMINATIONS

Please give some thought as to whom you may wish to nominate for an office or position on the Board of Directors of the N.C. Fossil Club. Nominations will be accepted and an election will be held at the Club meeting on Oct. 24 (during the Fossil Fair).

DONATIONS

This list of contributors may be incomplete (let us know if we left you out). We are always happy to recognize those who unselfishly donate their significant finds, so please notify us when you make a contribution.

Ed Womble - an extensive fossil collection to the N.C. State Museum.

the Hynes - an assortment of Florida fossils to the N.C. State Museum.

Randy Scott - 2 seal jaw fragments and a bird bone to the Smithsonian.

Donnie Bailey - 1 seal lower jaw, 1 partial seal skull bone, 7 assorted seal bones, and 1 lower jaw of a turtle; to the Smithsonian.

Pete Harmatuk - among his many recent contributions to the Smithsonian was a new addition to the vertebrate fauna of Texasgulf -- a sloth toe bone.

Vince Schneider - a partial sirenian skull cap, a Delphinid skull, partial walrus scapula; to the Smithsonian.

Judy Raynor - a walrus toe bone to the Smithsonian.

Ed Womble wishes to thank the Fossil Club and all the individuals who've expressed concern during his illness over the last year, and also the Club for the plaque and lifetime membership (presented in recognition of his contributions to the club).

NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB
Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____ Phone: _____

Type of membership:		Number of memberships:
Individual (new)	\$10.00	_____
Individual (renewal)	5.00	_____
Spouse	2.50	_____
Junior	1.50	_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Return with check to: North Carolina Fossil Club
P.O. Box 17402
Raleigh, N.C. 27619