



janus

THE
NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA
FOSSIL
CLUB

NUMBER 28

AUGUST 1987

FALL SCHEDULE

The N.C.F.C. Board of Directors have arranged the following schedule for Fall of 1987:

August 15

Greenville, N. C.

A Cretaceous site overlaid by a Miocene layer. The squid-like creature called a belemnite can be found in the Cretaceous layer, and large great white shark teeth can be found in the Miocene.

Contact John Garris

919-736-1883

August 29

Fayetteville, N. C.

Becker Sand and Gravel. A Cretaceous site where you can find petrified wood.

Contact Tom and Aline Biggs

919-692-4823

September 12

Texasgulf, Aurora

The people who did not get to go on the Spring trip have first choice in reserving a place on this trip. Only 50 people will be allowed to attend. Those who did not get to go last spring should contact Tom and Pam Burns on the 30th of August. You will have a week to make reservations. On September 5th anyone else in the club, including those who went on the Spring trip, may call Tom and Pam to see if there are spaces open for the trip. Tom has a list of the people who went in the Spring. Those who are on the list may not call before September 5th. If you do, you will be taken off the reservation list. We need to be fair to everyone. The hours to call are:

Monday thru Friday
Saturday & Sunday

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

The phone number is 919-776-8080.

September 19

Onslow Beach

Miocene Site

Contact George and Irma Potter
Monday thru Thursday

919-346-3109
5:30 pm - 10:00 pm

October 3

Calvert Cliffs,
Washington, D. C.

Contact Vince Schneider by September 19

919-779-9338

October 17

Sanford, N. C.

Triassic Site

Contact Tom Burns

919-776-8080

October 24

Annual Meeting
Texasgulf, Aurora

The purpose of this trip is our annual meeting and elections. The trip is an extra giving to our club because it is our club's tenth anniversary and we are holding our meeting there. We will meet at 9:00 am and hunt until 1:00 pm. Everyone must be out of the mine by 1:00 pm - NO EXCEPTIONS. Everyone must bring their own hard hats for this trip. We will be having a dinner after the meeting.

Because of the annual meeting, the President and Board of Directors will be on this trip. The limit of 50 people in the mine still applies. Those who do not get to go into the mine are still welcome to come to the meeting and dinner.

Contact Tom and Pam Burns on October 10
for reservations
Monday thru Friday
Saturday & Sunday

919-776-8080
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
8:00 am - 9:00 pm

November 7

Castle Hayne, N. C.

Eocene Site

Contact Vince Schneider

919-779-9338

November 21

Elizabethtown, N. C.

Cretaceous Site

Contact Tom Burns

919-776-8080

NCFC ELECTIONS

According to the bylaws of the North Carolina Fossil Club, Inc., officers are elected annually at a regularly scheduled open meeting of the N.C.F.C. This year, the following members have been nominated for positions on the Board of Directors:

Bill Anderson
Pam Burns
Elizabeth Gervais

Becky Hyne
Norman Melton
Georgenne Webster

There are four vacancies to be filled on the eight-member Board of Directors. Jim Green, who was elected to complete Tom Burns one year remaining term, has decided not to run this year. We will also be taking nominations at the meeting for anyone else who would like to run.

Elections will also be open for the President of the N.C.F.C. Tom Burns has agreed to run again. Anyone else interested in running should contact a member of the Board of Directors or be nominated at our next meeting.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the new president of the North Carolina Fossil Club, I am trying my best to lead and organize the club which I find to be a very big job. So far I have tried to get more membership participation, enlarge the Janus, and find more sites for the club members. While talking to several members, I was pleased to see that many people were willing to help. I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few members who were so helpful.

Georgenne Webster said she would help in any way she could. She made the food for our club's tenth anniversary celebration and it was great!

Thank you to Richard Chandler who takes care of our mailing labels and membership list. My wife Pam and I hand labeled the last newsletter and it just about drove us crazy with the size of the mailing list we have. The mailing labels are a big help.

Thank you to Elizabeth Gervais for being the club's secretary.

Thanks to Tom Biggs, John Garris, and George and Irma Potter. You have provided the club with three more sites for the Fall.

I can't thank Al Robb enough for his shark tooth identification paper in the last newsletter.

Let me say thanks to all of you and also to the Board of Directors for all your help.

As you know, we have a new address for the club. We have had some problems with mailing and correspondence. It caused some problems and hard feelings with two members. They felt they were being treated unfairly and quit the club. To anyone who may have the same feelings, I apologize and want you to know I am trying my best to be fair to everyone. As I have said before, if you have any complaints, questions, or ideas, please call me at (919) 776-8080.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you again for your help and would like to wish everyone happy hunting in the fall season.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Burns
President

SMITHSONIAN/CALVERT CLIFFS TRIP

On October 2, 1987, the N. C. Fossil Club is sponsoring a trip to the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington D.C. We scheduled this on a Friday so that the staff at the Smithsonian will be there to show us around.

Washington is about a 5-hour drive from Raleigh. We ask that everyone who may be interested in this trip contact Vince Schneider so that he may inform the Smithsonian on how many people will be there.

We will meet at 9:00 am, October 2, at the museum's mall entrance. This should be an excellent educational trip for kids and adults. On October 3, we plan to hunt at the Calvert Cliffs Maryland site. The geology and paleontology at this site are something we don't see in North Carolina. It should be an interesting trip for everyone. All members interested please contact Vince Schneider by September 19, 1987.

SOME INTERESTING FOSSIL FINDS AT A GARBAGE DUMP

On Saturday, May 16, about 14 N.C.F.C. members went to the Elizabethtown county landfill to hunt Cretaceous fossils. Tom Burns has hunted this site about 8 or 9 times. In all that time he has found two hadrosaur teeth and one real small carnivore dinosaur tooth. Jesse Pence, a ten year old fossil hunting buddy of Tom's, found a hadrosaur tooth and Becky Hyne found a dinosaur vertebra. In all those trips that was all that had been found. On the 16th, quite a bit more was found. A one-and-a-half inch carnivore dinosaur tooth was found by Ken Moore, a real beauty in great shape. One of the luckiest hunters of the day was Sarah Milkovits. Her husband said if she found a dinosaur tooth he would take her to the beach. Sarah found three hadrosaur teeth. Looks like Joe and Sarah will be spending more time on the beach this summer. Also, Ron Washborn found a nice mosasaur tooth. But the strangest find was made by John Garris. He found a two inch great white shark tooth. Just think, going hunting for dinosaur and finding a Miocene shark tooth. Everyone found some nice Cretaceous shark teeth, croc teeth, and scutes. It turned out to be a great day of fossil hunting.

FOSSIL HUNTING BY FRANK HYNE

Plan a trip after learning of a fossil site from a person or a publication. Keep in mind the site may no longer exist, be on private property where permission to hunt is denied, or is impossible to find, so it is a very good idea to have alternate sites nearby to hunt. Try to find out where to hunt on the site; on the bottom, in the walls, or in the spoil piles of overburden. To know the color of the fossils that have been found there is a big advantage, and the types of fossils to be found such as; invertebrate, vertebrate, marine or terrestrial, and the age (epoch).

Proper clothing and footwear are a must. Wear old clothes that are comfortable and layered so you can remove clothing to stay comfortable as the day warms or you warm from exertion. Rainclothes are the warmest garments made if they do not touch your skin anyplace and are a must in the rain. You should plan on getting dirty and perhaps having to walk through weeds or briars. Sturdy leather shoes or boots (over the ankle and with safety toes) are a big help and are a real protection from falling rocks. Rubber boots with safety toes are good for wet hunting spots, but no rubber boot is comfortable to walk great distances. The right socks are very important and must not be tight fitting in cold weather. Wear a well fitting cap or hat; a wide brim hat is a real comfort in hot sunny weather, but is a real nuisance in a wind. Some sites require a hard hat. Safety goggles must be worn if it is necessary to hammer on rocks, or if sand is blowing. A pair of good leather work gloves are a must if pounding or moving rough rock or stone.

In snake country, keep your eyes open and carry a stick to rattle the ground to warn any snake that you are around. Look before stepping over rocks or downed logs. If you are unfortunate enough to get bit by a snake, remember many are not poisonous. Kill the snake and keep it for identification, move slowly, and get to medical help as quickly as possible.

Carry drinking water in canteens, or better yet freeze water in a 2-liter soft drink plastic bottle that can be drunk when it melts, giving you nice cold water for the day, if rationed.

Equipment varies as to the site, but a geologist's hammer, or even a welder's hammer, is handy. Carry a pry bar for moving heavy rocks and a sledge hammer (10 pound head and a 20 or 24 inch handle) if breaking up heavy rocks. A shovel and razor blades are also a big help. Cold chisels for going into soft rock, stone, or hardened clay is good with widths from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 or 3 inches. Sharpened screw drivers, needles, and flattened sharpened nails are handy in cleaning off fossils. Use paint brushes for clearing away sand or dirt (the cheap ones are better for they have stiffer bristles). Use one fine bristle brush for finish cleaning. Carry or wear something to bring fossils out and something to wrap them in to protect them from being damaged in transit. Use soft cloth, plastic bags, plastic boxes, and compartment plastic trays like fishermen use for lures and flies.

Plaster jacketing material is important when you find fragile fossils and is always carried by a knowledgeable collector. It is easy to carry in a plastic bag in your backpack or bucket.

Marking pens and fast drying white paint, like typewriter correction fluid, are handy to mark field material along with paper and pen to give more detailed information on your find. Adhesive tape for marking on is sometimes used, but be sure the tape will hold.

Use a tape measure to measure the depth of a find if in an undisturbed condition, and to measure a landmark for location. A camera is a fine tool for recording information with any fossil. A tape measure, or a thing of definite size, should be included in the picture.

There is nothing as worthless to the scientific mind as a find fossil that has no supporting information with it.

Screens for washing out fossils containing dirt or sand can be made with hardware cloth with 4 inch wooden sides. I use a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh screen nested into a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch screen and that in turn nested in a window screen. When washed clean, the top $\frac{1}{2}$ inch screen is lifted out. Then the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch screen is lifted with the window screen remaining. Each is searched well before being dumped. Do not overload your screens for the sake of your back.

When you find a nice fossil, stop, mark the location with something, work around the spot, note carefully the strata, pay attention to the color, type material, and any other identifying character of the background material, and then concentrate on that material. Bring out any strange formation to have it checked by a knowledgeable person; everyone of us has left something of value not recognizing it.

Fossil hunting equipment can be left in your vehicle until you learn what is needed at the site. It would be impossible to carry all this stuff at one time. A child's saucer sled, drilled for rope handles, is handy for pulling out a large plaster jacketed fossil or a large piece of material.

If a particularly fine specimen is found that is too big for you, too important, or too fragile, report it to the Smithsonian, a local museum, or a geological survey office. If the site is being worked, it is a good idea to carefully bury it until you can show the fossil to a paleontologist or a geologist. Mark the location somehow so you can find it again.

GOOD HUNTING TO EACH OF YOU

CELEBRATING OUR TENTH

On April 26, about 25 North Carolina Fossil Club members attended our club's tenth anniversary celebration. Dr. Allen Feduccia was the guest speaker. He gave a slide presentation on the evolution of birds in Reptilian times. The slides dealt mainly with the fossils from lithographic limestone of Late Jurassic age at Solenhofen, Bavaria, Germany; particularly the Archeopteryx, the earliest known bird. It was a very informative two hour presentation, followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments were served afterwards.



SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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SCHIELE MUSEUM CONDUCTS PHASE 2 OF PALEO./GEO. FIELD SURVEY

by Jim Green, Schiele Museum educator and member of Carolina Fossil Club.

Schiele Museum staff members Ann Poulos, Michael Eldredge, and Jim Green with the consultation of Robert M. Schoch, Ph.D, Boston University, conducted Phase 2 of the museum's regional paleontological/geological field survey. The team was in the field for five days during the first week of January, 1987. This was a continuation of field survey work begun in June, 1985.

Many are the purposes of this field survey. A few of them include the museum's efforts to acquire well documented and representative collections of fossils from the Carolinas to augment the existing collections at the museum. If all goes well, the survey will be done throughout the southeast.

Collecting fossils just to have them is not a goal. Collecting them for scientific and educational purposes are goals for their acquisition. Their value will be enhanced for the museum's purposes by the parallel collection of accompanying data that is associated with the specimens. Samples of matrix, photographs, exact locality information, and other resource information are examples of the necessary data to make the fossils fulfill their scientific and educational purposes. No specimen is acquired for trade or reselling.

Since no other institution in the Carolinas is conducting a field survey of this type or for these purposes, Schiele Museum also has as one of its objectives to make it a repository in western North Carolina for these specimens so that people in that area can have access to them and learn more about the paleontological and geological history of their state and region.

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SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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continued.... FIELD SURVEY....

Phase 2 activities were conducted in the southeastern part of North Carolina. Several known fossiliferous sites were investigated with samples taken, photographs made, and the recording of pertinent data done. Some sites will be returned to for further study in Phase 3. Other sites were sufficiently investigated the first time and won't be returned to. A few new sites were discovered and probably will be looked at during Phase 3.

Phase 3 is scheduled for June, 1987. If the southeastern section is investigated satisfactorily then the field survey team plans to direct its efforts toward the northeastern part of North Carolina. Eventually the entire state will be surveyed. Attention is then planned for direction into other states. Several years are expected to complete the project. It is an ambitious undertaking that requires aid from lots of people and in the end will provide a valuable resource for many more people wanting to know more about the fossil and rock history of this area of the continent.

To date, the survey could not have gone as well as it has without receiving help from others. Several North Carolinians receive the survey team's gratitude and appreciation for their help. Members of the Carolina Fossil Club who have helped are: Tom Burns for food, shelter, field guidance, information, and moral support; Frank & Becky Hyne for information and advice; Walt Wheeler for information and advice; Vince Schneider for information, advice, and for taking time to meet with the team in his lab at the State Museum.

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SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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continued....FIELD SURVEY....

Pat Gallagher and Bill Hoffman, state geologists with the N.C. Geological Survey Section, receive "thanks" for their information, direction, time spent briefing the team on the geological history of the coastal plain, and support.

Other people we met along the way earned a special "thanks" because they were helpful in many ways, too, as many of the state's roads were traversed. Dr. Presley Rankin of Ellerbe, N.C., gets special credit for his years long interest in the natural science and cultural history of North Carolina. He guided us to some sites of special interest to himself and personally guided the team through his museum in Ellerbe.

Field work always needs help from people other than the team members. Private collectors and others interested in the survey could contribute their information about sites, specific collection data, allow their collections to be documented, casts made of specific unusual finds, or photographs taken of them. Donations of specimens or entire collections would be nice and would be accepted but help can be given in ways already mentioned.

All help is appreciated. If you can and will "lend a hand" in some way, please address a letter or phone call to: Schiele Museum, Paleo./Geo. Survey Team, POB 953, Gastonia, NC 28053, or phone 704-865-6131. Thank you in advance for your support and information to help make this a high quality project.

-----End of article-----

Jim Rankin

SPECIAL NOTICES

NEW ADDRESS

N. C. FOSSIL CLUB
P.O. Box 2777
DURHAM, N. C. 27705

At our last board meeting, the President and Board of Directors voted to send a two hundred dollar donation to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Enclosed in the Janus is a letter to all members from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Jerry Britt, a former N.C.F.C. member, died while doing research in Florida. He will be missed very much.

Anyone interested in having information printed in the Janus such as trading, correspondence or literature, write Tom Burns at 1306 Goldsboro Ave., Sanford, N. C. 27330.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 1988

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Type of Membership(s):	Individual (new)	\$20.00	_____
	Individual (renewal)	10.00	_____
	Spouse (new or renewal)	5.00	_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: N. C. Fossil Club, P. O. Box 2777, Durham, N. C. 27705

All applications due by January 31, 1988