



JANUS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA
FOSSIL CLUB
WWW.NCFOSSILCLUB.ORG

2001 NUMBER 4

Time to Renew Your Membership **(Form on next-to-last page)**

President's Column

As I begin my second (and final!) term as president, I must offer my sincere thanks to the board, officers and other volunteer members who have helped NCFC accomplish so many of our goals this year. We will soon finalize our corporate status and taxation efforts, we have a record membership of over 425 including a fine group of active and helpful new members, and we are well along on our most ambitious educational project ever, the Fossil CD ROM. As goals for all members for the next year lets adopt the following:

1. Fill the Janus with good articles—write them or find them and obtain permission to reproduce them. Include “fossil news” from public sources.
2. Recruit some speakers. Some of you have leads—please follow them up
3. Find new trip sites. Charlie Noye will lead another Pennsylvania trip this year and Joy Pierce is looking into a Tennessee trip. Lets explore the local area for other leads. It's more fun to collect with a group despite the tendency to hoard “secret spots.” Be generous with you knowledge!

I will break the remainder of this column into subsections to make sure that I miss as little of importance as possible.

Fossil Fair Thanks to all who helped make the fair in Beaufort a success especially considering the less than ideal lighting conditions lighting and time constraints. The NCMM staff has been a victim of budget constraints in getting the lighting problem addressed. Jane Wolff and the museum staff did all they could to ameliorate the problems and did much to publicize the event. Due to their efforts we had quarter to half page write-ups in several local papers and received coverage on local radio and TV. Of note was a great piece which appeared on ABC-TV local affiliate WCTI Channel 12 at 7pm on the day of the fair.

The exhibits were great—especially Vince's NCMNS marine reptile exhibit. Our volunteers were exemplary! George, Jim, Dave and Colon really helped with the set up and take down. Richard Aultman did a great job obtaining the spoils from Aurora and “Pile Supervisors” Fred Mount

and Dave Brown could not have done a better job. Theresa Wuebbells set a new standard for awarding door prizes. Special thanks to my “crew”, Liz and Will, for handling the food duties.

Next year's fair will be Nov.9 at the Onslow County Museum in Richlands. All aspects of this event will be in the capable hands of Richard Tellekamp.

Fall Trip Results Fall trips were very well attended and productive despite the drought. Among the major finds were a pristine mammoth tooth and tusk section found at Belgrade by Ron and Sharron Edwards. These were not permineralized and were estimated by Bob Purdy to be less than 10,000 years old. They were in the surface deposits, not the gravel layer. The club picnic at Belgrade was a huge (65+ attendees) success with many good typical finds from the gravel layer. At Castle Hayne, mosasaur and various rare small Cretaceous and Eocene shark teeth, including *Hexanchus agassizi*, were found. Several *Carcharocles auriculatus* turned up, including a mint juvenile by Dave Brown. Echinoids were well-represented that day at Castle Hayne, with *Hardouinia mortonis* (J. Everette) and *Linthia wilmingttonensis* specimens (yours truly) among those found. Rocky Point was in bad need of rain, but managed to provide some nice examples of *Linthia wilmingttonensis* and *Linthia harmatuki*. Also found were a few *C. auriculatus*, including a perfect juvenile by John Everette. My finds of the day were a perfect horse molar found in the parking lot and a *Xiphactinus audax* fish tooth. Green's Mill Run continued to yield a lot of perfect and large *Carcharodon carcharias* teeth (Bobby Tant and others) along with whale teeth, sloth claw cores (Bobby Tant and Cindy Muston) and a variety of interesting Cretaceous finds. Cindy Muston found a huge *Enchodus ferox* tooth worthy of special note. Good luck on the Onslow and Triassic trips. I will be gone for both so please volunteer to send a report

2002 NCFC Calendar The 2002 meeting dates are 1/20, 3/17, 5/19, 7/21, 9/15 at the NCMNS in Raleigh at 1:30 pm ,with the Annual meeting and fair on 11/9 the Onslow Museum in Richlands. We will also participate in the Aurora Fossil Fair (5/25,26) with exact times and dates of our exhibit to be discussed and established later. Dates for spring trips will be in the next issue of *Janus*.

Happy Holidays to All!!!! – *Rich Olsen*

Minutes, Annual Meeting, November 3, 2001:

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Fossil Club was held to elect new officers and replacement board members on November 3, 2001 at the N.C. Maritime Museum at 9:00 AM before the Fossil Fair.

The following were nominated:

Richard Olsen	President
John Paschal	Vice President
Joy Pierce	Board
Sam Schmidt	Board
Kim Greene	Board
Bobby Tant	Board

The nominees were voted on by the members present and unanimously elected.

The presentation by Mr. Potter gave us more information about corporate nonprofit rights. We will be discussing By-law revisions at the January meeting. Trish Kohler reported that there is a balance of \$5936.07. It was decided that non-NCFC publications would be purchased in bulk and sold at cost to members only. Robert Story reported that the club had 435 memberships. The 2002 meeting dates are as follows: 1/20, 3/17, 5/19, 7/21, and 9/15. The annual meeting and Fossil Fair will be held on 11/9/2002. It was announced that Richard Chandler had been elected to honorary membership in accordance with NCFC Rules of Procedure. Business meeting was adjourned and the Fossil Fair began.

Joanne Panek-Dubrock, NCFC Secretary

Honorary Membership

It was announced at the business meeting preceding the Fossil Fair that the Board had voted to grant honorary membership to me. I want to express my gratitude for this recognition, given to me for what has been (on my part) a complete labor of love. It is very rewarding to have such a vote of confidence.

Rich Olsen, in making the announcement, remarked that he had assumed I was already an honorary member. So there will not be future omissions for this reason, here is a list of all the honorary members:

Dr. Joe Carter, Richard Chandler, John Everette, Pete Harmatuk, Carolynne Hertenstein, Becky Hyne, Frank Hyne, Dr. Clayton Ray, Dr. Elwyn Simons, Richard Tellekamp.

Our Bylaws state that Honorary Membership may be conferred "for long and distinguished service to the Club". The Rules of Procedure set out the mechanism for electing honorary members: "A recommendation for Honorary Membership may be made in writing by any Member to the Board of Directors. An Honorary Member is elected for life by a unanimous secret vote of the Board of Directors. An Honorary Member will exercise the rights and privileges of an Individual member without payment of dues."

If you believe a member qualifies, make a nomination in writing to any member of the Board (listed on the next to last page).

Richard Chandler

Boren Clay Trip

Twenty-eight people showed up on a beautiful day to dig for Triassic plant fossils in the Boren Clay strip mine near Gulf, NC. The temperature was 68 degrees plus and the sun shining. This was the most productive day that I have ever seen in the mine. There was an abundance of good quality plant fossils found by everyone.

Thanks to everyone for the cooperation of getting their signed releases in on time.

Ashley Davis

U Dig Fossils

Last summer Kim Greene, Ellie Rouse, Judy Stiles and I traveled out West. Kim and Ellie drove out to collect in a broad area starting in the Nebraska Badlands. Judy and I flew out to join them to collect fish, plants, and insects from the Green River limestone in Wyoming, northern Utah, and western Colorado. It was getting pretty close to the end of the journey for Judy and me. We had plane tickets leaving from Salt Lake City in a couple of days and we still hadn't made it to the collecting site in southern Utah where we heard trilobites could be found. So, following major highways we headed south from the red-rock, post-card famous canyons. Designated areas of green on the Utah map marked the National Forests. There were so many it seemed that they almost overlapped. I can't begin to capture for you the building sense of adventure that I felt as we moved across increasingly desolate countryside toward Delta, our collecting location. Utah described it as "extravagant landscape". Utah was right.

We arrived in Delta very late. It was good that Judy had seen to it that we had advance reservations. The smiling motel attendant answered the late bell wearing a robe and sleepy eyes. But her dog's low, curdling growls made us well aware of our intrusion. Come daylight, we realized there was another motel or two in town (Best Western, Budget, and a locally owned one plus a couple RV and camping facilities). In a town of slightly over 3000, which by the way sported the widest street in Utah, it was easy to find good restaurants.

How easy would it be to find the collecting site? We had no trouble finding the phone number (435.864.3638) and called for driving directions to the privately owned quarry. We had heard it was about 30 miles away from town. Well, that's not far. Wrong! It was that far to the turn-off.

We had extra water for the car as advised by Betsy Hallman who made the trip the year before. We had plenty of drinking water, some snacks, hats and heavy gloves, safety glasses, and newspapers and boxes for our finds. We stopped to take a last opportunity to fill the gas tank. We were all set.

We continued on paved Highway 6 through rural stretches of open range that required us to stop a few times in deference to what the cows wanted. We spotted the small sign directing us to turn right toward U Dig Fossils.

The route was well marked all the way to the collecting site for the traveler who watches carefully. Signs are small, not distinctive in color but accurate. Other locations noted on this sign included the Long Ridge Res (I didn't see if it was Reservoir or Reservation.) and Death Canyon. Now, that got my attention. At the next sign, we were directed toward Antelope Spring. That was our route. We could see hazy mountains in the distance on all sides. Distance in flat country is deceptive. We stayed on the gravel road for 20 MORE miles without seeing any signs of human life.

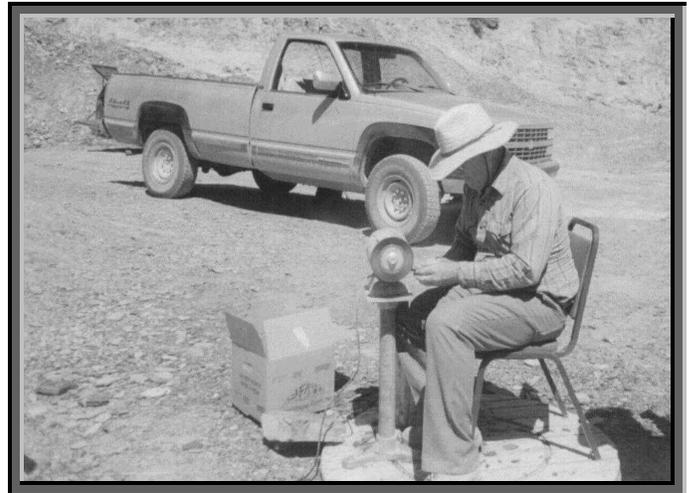
Even the wildlife seemed less plentiful in these flat fields of white sandy soil where someone was trying to grow grain. Delta is in Millard County where they boast of having the state's best yields of alfalfa. I hate to say it but it looked pretty pitiful compared to what we see in North Carolina. As we continued, we saw pronghorn and cattle. Later, we were told that the nearest watering hole for cattle was a 15-mile walk away. Ditches across the road surprised the driver often enough to make us choose to drive slowly but in general, the road was in excellent condition. A 4-wheel drive was not necessary. Everything was dry.

As we got closer to the hilly areas, the mountains had the appearance of a man's 2-day beard. A low-growing brush covered the slopes. We were in the House Range. Swasey Peak, elevation 9,669, was in a near-by ridge. We were in rock and mineral collectors' paradise. Topaz Mountain was nearby. Other locations produced huge chunks of obsidian and geodes, among other things. But, we were after trilobites today. Kim and Ellie would search out other locations later.

At U-Dig Fossils, signs direct you to the parking area where porta-potties are sentinels for the small hut that serves as an office. We climbed the little hill to the hut but found no one. We could hear a radio out among the rocks so followed the sound to find the attendant. At the office we were given instructions, buckets, and tools. There was a generator near the office where the attendant polished specimens gratis, if asked. A sheet showed the 4 common fossils, the 2 less common, and the 3 rare finds from the location.

This is not the only trilobite site in southern Utah but it is the only trilobite location we collected. If I go back, I would like to look for the location our attendant collected after he got off duty. That man loved his work! He seemed to enjoy having our company and having our interest. We enjoyed his helpfulness. A few other customers came and among them, a family of young children. It was a relatively safe location for even the young children who had no trouble finding trilobites unassisted.

Collecting was easy. The Middle Cambrian ocean mud appeared before us about 500 million years after it had cushioned the teeming arthropods. Sometimes in collecting trilobites, it's mostly heads or tails but not the whole animal. That's because trilobites, like other arthropods, have to molt to grow. That was not the case here. Most specimens that I found had both a head (cephalon) and a tail (pygidium). Without the fixed cheeks (border around the head shield), they still are molts but they looked more like the actual animal. I understand that many trilobite fossils are internal molds. Distinguishing an internal mold from the actual animal is difficult especially since these species are so thin. None of the trilobites we saw were rolled up in a ball like trilobites from later periods. Except for agnostoids, trilobites from this time couldn't roll up. Using the hammer and chisel to split the layers of shale, we worked separately and moved about in the site to find our favorite spots. We were allowed to keep anything we found.



Polishing Trilobites

If you know trilobites, you know there are several thousand different species. I doubt anyone knows how many for sure. Most writers don't try to give a number; others report totals over 15,000. Trilobites are in the fossil record of every continent. Trilobites are NOT the first multi-cellular creatures on earth as some people have thought but they are one of the earliest. There is variety in size and appearance among the species but all trilobites have some characteristics in common. All have three lobes running head to tail. The middle lobe is raised while the two lobes on either side are flatter. Above I mentioned that trilobites have transverse sections. Counting the thorax, there are three sections as well. According to the Audubon Society *Field Guide to North American Fossils*, the soft underside of trilobites rarely fossilizes but those found had antennae and a series of legs, a pair on each segment.

If cut down the middle, each side of a trilobite would be a mirror image of the other. That is also true of most other arthropods like spiders, crabs, shrimp, and insects.

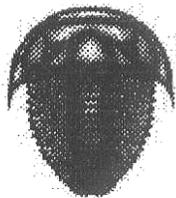
All arthropods have an external skeleton, a segmented body, and jointed appendages.

One of the most common trilobites worldwide—*Elrathia*—was most common here too. The *Elrathia kingi* that I saw ranged from speck size to almost 2 inches. You could find them popped out of the rocks or in matrix. According to our guide, they are more valuable in matrix. They were so plentiful that if you messed up one, you just kept knocking rocks to find the next one. Finding the perfect specimen, however, takes time and maybe a couple trips.

Asaphiscus wheeleri was also common there. Check out a picture of this creature. It's slightly larger and does have its charm but the one that I personally cherish most of the common trio is the agnostus, *Peronopsis interstricta*. You just have to love a creature that looks like it doesn't know whether it's coming or going. The cephalon and pygidium are both rounded so the animal looks like a tiny dumbbell. The largest ones were less than ½ inch—smaller than my pinky fingernail. Richard Chandler will surely tease me now about collecting “a spot on a rock”. According to the literature, there have been disputes about the agnostus. I guess some have felt it must be plankton. Although trilobites were dominant, occasionally we would find a brachiopod, or bit of sponge fossil in the rock. Many of the rocks tolerated the metal brush polishing wheel just fine but I found on return that these rocks are very fragile and require more packing than you might think to prevent breakage for the trip back to the East coast.



Asaphiscus wheeleri *Elrathia kingi* *Peronopsis interstricta*



Bolaspidella housensis
(not to scale)

We wrapped up the specimens in newspaper and paid for our collecting time. Collecting hours at U-Dig Fossils are 9:00 - 6:00 but if everyone has left by mid afternoon, it closes down. Most people like an early start because weather at that location tends to be extreme. On hot days, it gets very hot on the heat-absorbing rocks and when the wind blows, as it did the day John Powell went, the wind can drive you back to the car. You are charged according to the length of your collecting time. Adults are charged

\$6.00 an hour, \$20 for half a day, or \$30 for the entire day. Children are charged less and under age eight, can come in free. At least that was the June, 2001 story.

One important thing that we learned on this trip is that nothing stays the same. You cannot believe what you find on the Internet! Web sites are not kept current. Sites close. Area codes and telephone numbers change. Directions change because of new highway construction. Operating hours change. You can depend on increases in charges. We even found that a famous fish quarry in Wyoming had moved the whole operation to a new dig site. You wouldn't expect a whole quarry to move, but it had. Another quarry was closed because an eagle was nesting.

No matter who tells you what, call for yourself before you head out!

How did I feel about the experience? I wouldn't call any of us on this trip ‘trilobite collectors’ but we all had a great time. Kim might be there still if we hadn't pulled her away. Personally, I feel that getting to a collecting site on verbal or scribbled directions and actually finding something to collect is half the adventure and is a sure measure of success. And, to dig these small sea creatures out of the ancient Wheeler shale is completely mind-boggling.

I was beginning to wonder just how mind-boggling it had been as we made our way back across the flat desert toward Delta. I kept seeing a very large lake to my right and no matter how far we drove; it didn't seem to disappear. Was it a mirage? I was too embarrassed to say much but was mesmerized by the white, white powdery glitter of the lake's surface under the setting sun. It covered many miles. I've already mentioned how your eyes play tricks on you in the desert. It was not until we hit areas of dry streambeds that the full picture took form for me. My eyes had been scanning the grand Lake Sevier—completely dry and glistening with salt! Maybe that sight qualifies as one of Utah's sublime splendors that they boast about.

What a day! What a hobby!

Joy Pierce

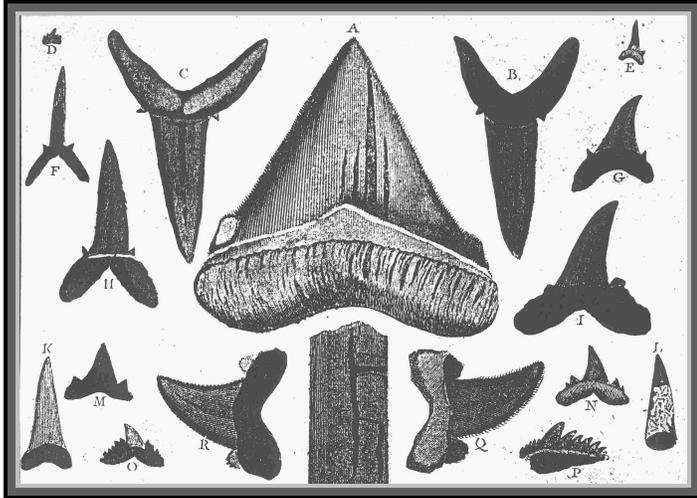
Back Cover

Isn't this a wonderful title page! They really knew how to design books back in the “good old days”. We have Bob Purdy to thank for providing me with a photocopy. I was able to find a real copy available from a rare book dealer on the Internet: \$4000!! (It's still available.) The copy on the back cover doesn't come close doing justice to the original, being only about half its size.

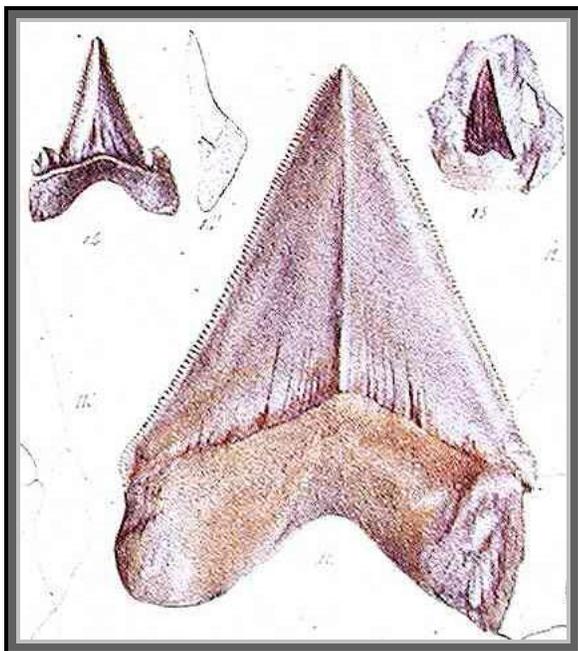
The title translates as *The Paleontology of Brussels or a Description of the Natural or Accidental Fossils Discovered in the Vicinity of this City up to the Present Day*. François-Xavier Burtin (1743-1818) identifies himself as “Medical consultant to the late His Royal Highness Duke Charles of Lorraine and also member of the Royal Society of Medicine of Paris and of Nancy, of the Dutch Academy of Sciences of Harlem, of the provincial Society of Sciences of Utrecht, and of the

Society of Physics, Natural Sciences and Chemistry of Lausanne”.

Burtin illustrated the fossils in *Oryctographie* with very careful drawings. A portion of “Planche I”:



The tooth labeled Q he identifies as “Fish tooth little different from a lateral tooth of carcharias”. R is identified as “Tooth of a species approaching Q”. These are the illustrations which de Blainville used as the type specimens for *C. auriculatus*. O and P are identified as “Fish tooth which Scilla names as *Piscis vacca*”. In fact, while P is a cow shark, O is clearly *Abdouinia recticona*. To me, the most interesting one is A, labeled “Tooth of Carcharias, which is also named *Lamie* and **Jonah’s Fish**”(!). Clearly it is *C. subauriculatus (chubutensis)* and a much more distinctive specimen than the one Agassiz used for the type specimen:



The only informative thing I could discover on the Internet regarding Burtin was in the Yahoo French *Encyclopedie*:

The first trace of a significant ancientness of man is provided by François-Xavier Burtin of Maastricht, who announced in 1784 the discovery, around Brussels, of a trimmed flint tool; which was found in a level surmounted by three layers containing fossils. One could consequently affirm that the works of man were very old.

Richard Chandler

New Shark Species

I recently found a new species (for me) of fossil shark tooth. *Anomotodon* belongs to the Family Mitsukurinidae, the goblin sharks. Modern members of this family are bizarre, deep-water dwellers with a strange, shovel-like snout and jaws which can be extended a great distance in front of their mouth. The only published report of *Anomotodon* in North Carolina is in a paper by Gerard Case on the Trent Formation (Lower Miocene) in Craven County. Cappetta indicated some doubt regarding the early Miocene designation, saying that the material had both Miocene and Paleocene elements. Mine was found in Middle Eocene material (Castle Hayne Formation).

Anomotodon teeth are described as being like those of *Scapanorhynchus*, except lacking lateral cusplets. They also sometimes lack the lingual striations. The most telling characteristic is the continuation of the cutting edges of the main crown all the way into the root.

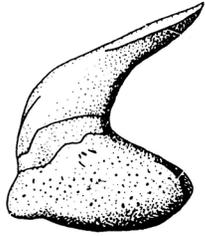


Richard Chandler

EMAIL reception of Janus

I will try to send *Janus* by email (as a .pdf file) to those who wish to receive it this way. You get the advantage of color illustrations. If you want to receive it this way, send me an email (chandler@math.ncsu.edu). **It will be incumbent on you to keep your email address current.**

Megachasma - Megamouth Shark



(Maximum height 10 mm)

Redrawn from Taylor, Compagno,
and Struhsaker,
Courtesy of the
California Academy of Sciences

In 1976 a new species of shark was discovered. Not only a new species, but a new genus and family. This was not a 15-inch peculiarity dwelling in some remote backwater of the planet. This was a 14 foot, 1,500 pound monster dwelling in the obscure deep water of the planet. For the fossil community this was a fortuitous discovery. A strange kind of fossil shark tooth had been found in the Lee Creek Mine and on Shark Tooth Hill near Bakersfield, CA which no one had been able to identify. After the megamouth scientific paper was published in *The Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* in 1983 ("Megamouth – A new species, genus, and family of Lamnoid shark (*Megachasma pelagios*, Family Megachasmidae) from the Hawaiian Islands", by L. R. Taylor, L. J. V. Compagno, and P. J. Struhsaker), it became clear that the fossil teeth were similar to those of *Megachasma pelagios*.

Teeth occur in both the Pungo River and Yorktown Formations, with those from the Pungo River deposits generally being smaller (less than ½") than those from the Yorktown (up to ¾"). They are different from both the California and the modern species, but so few examples have been found that it is difficult to give any kind of definitive description. One note of caution: the far more common *Notorhynchus primigenius* parasymphyseal teeth have occasionally been confused with *Megachasma* teeth.



Megachasma: Labial side to left



Megachasma: Lingual view



Notorhynchus primigenius parasymphyseal

This is a tentative "page" from the CD ROM; the final version may possibly be somewhat different. This *Megachasma* tooth was found by Pat Gotsis during the Spring, 2001 collecting season at PCS-Lee Creek. He subsequently donated it to the Aurora Fossil Museum, a supremely generous act.

NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB, INC.
(FOUNDED 1977)

PRESIDENT	Richard Olsen	(252) 247-4762	Atlantic Beach, NC
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2002 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - N. C. FOSSIL CLUB

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE(S) (INCLUDE AREA CODE) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SELECT <u>ONE</u> TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	INDIVIDUAL (NEW)	\$20.00	_____
(ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER	INDIVIDUAL (RENEWAL)	\$10.00	_____
FOR THE INDICATED AMOUNT.)	HOUSEHOLD (NEW)	\$25.00	_____
	HOUSEHOLD (RENEWAL)	\$15.00	_____

Children of NCFC members who are dependent minors and living at home may accompany parents on any trip *EXCEPT* PCS–Lee Creek or where otherwise noted. Only 15 positions on the PCS–Lee Creek trip are available to members who reside outside of North Carolina.

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 August will need to renew their membership 5 months later in January.

NCFC Liability Statement

The Undersigned hereby acknowledges his/her understanding that fossil collecting is an inherently dangerous activity which can result in serious bodily injury or death, and/or property damage and hereby confirms his/her voluntary assumption of the risk of such injury, death or damage.

The Undersigned, in return for the privilege of attending field trips Related to the collection of and/or study of fossils, or any other event or activity conducted or hosted by the North Carolina Fossil Club (NCFC), hereinafter collectively and individually referred to as "NCFC Events", hereby releases the NCFC, NCFC Board members and officers, NCFC Event leaders or organizers and hosts, landowners and mine or quarry operators from any and all liability claims resulting from injury to or death of the undersigned or his/her minor children or damage to his/her property resulting from any cause whatsoever related to participation in NCFC Events.

The Undersigned agrees to comply with any and all rules and restrictions which may be communicated to the undersigned by the NCFC Event leader and/or landowner and mine or quarry operator and acknowledges that failure to comply will result in immediate expulsion from the premises.

The Undersigned acknowledges that this release covers all NCFC Events and will remain in effect at all times unless or until it is revoked by written notice to the current President of the NCFC and receipt of such revocation is acknowledged.

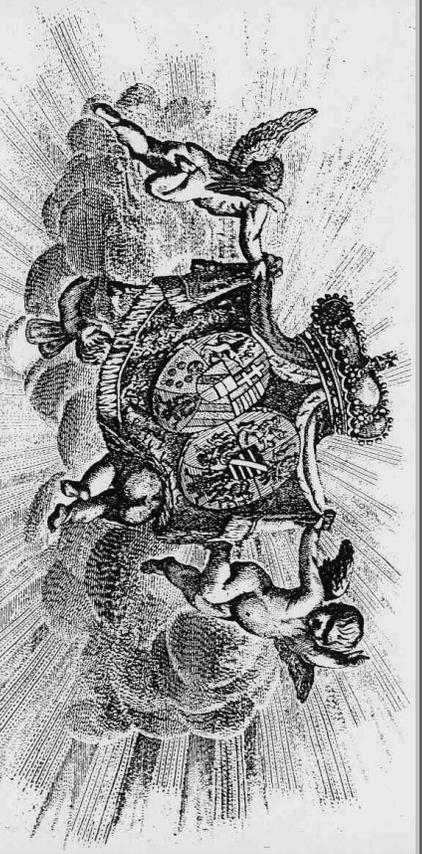
The Undersigned further attests to his/her intent to be legally bound by affixing his /her signature to this release.

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL TO: NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB, P.O. BOX 13075, RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NORTH CAROLINA 27709

NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB
P.O. Box 13075
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709



ORCYOGRAPHIE DE BRUXELLES

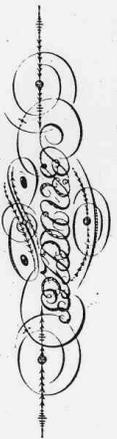
ou

DESCRIPTION DES FOSSILES

Tant Naturels qu'artificiels de couverts
Jusqu'à ce Jour dans les environs de cette Ville

PAR
M. FRANÇOIS-XAVIER BURTON

Médecin Consul, de Paris, AR. Rue Charlot de Sorbonne, &c. &c. Membre des Sociétés Royales de Médecine de Paris et de Nancy, de l'Académie Gollandoise des Sciences de Harlem, de la Société provinciale des Sciences d'Amsterdam et de la Société de Physique, d'Histoire Naturelle et de Chimie de Louvaine.



De l'imprimerie de Le Maire 1784.
avec Approbation et Permission



M. le Propriétaire, Paris.

Se vend Chez L'auteur, prix broché 60^{cs} de France.

1784