



# JANUS

The Newsletter  
of the  
North Carolina  
Fossil Club  
[www.ncfossilclub.org](http://www.ncfossilclub.org)

2008 Number 1

## 2008 Spring Calendar

### March

- 15 PCS Call-in** – Call-in for remaining slots for the PCS spring trip (Mar 29). Contact Jeff Cohn 919-274-4351 no earlier than 8 PM. You must speak with Jeff to confirm your slot. No emails or telephone messages will be accepted.
- 16 NCFC Meeting** - Richard Madden, Duke University, "Fossil Mammals in Patagonia: From Green-House to Ice-House", NCMNS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh. 1:30 pm, Level A conference room.
- 20 Castle Hayne** - Contact David Sanderson at: 919-469-2812 or [DSanderson@precisiontune-nc.net](mailto:DSanderson@precisiontune-nc.net).
- 29 PCS** For those who successfully reserve a slot at the call-in on March 15. Meet: PCS parking lot on NC 306 at 7:30 AM.

### April

- 5 Richlands Quarry** - Contact: Jim Mahoney 336-643-0798, 336-772-3600 (cell) or [jmahoney@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmahoney@bellsouth.net).
- 20 Green's Mill Run** - Contact John Steffensen 252-756-0386 or [jjlld@suddenlink.net](mailto:jjlld@suddenlink.net). We will meet at Elm Street Park but also work other areas downstream.
- 24 Rocky Point** - Contact David Sanderson 919-469-2812 or [DSanderson@precisiontune-nc.net](mailto:DSanderson@precisiontune-nc.net).

### May

- 18 NCFC Meeting** - Speaker TBA, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh. 1:30 pm, Level A.
- 24 Aurora Fossil Festival**

### General Rules:

Always contact the leader in advance of attending any trip. In advance of any new or out of state trips, always maintain close contact with the leader for special instructions and last minute changes. Be certain that accurate phone and /or email addresses are given to the leader and updated as needed. Some trips may be limited in size at the option of the leader. Always arrive early. Be sure to fully understand the rules and instructions. Safety is our main concern. **NEVER do anything which might endanger you or other collectors. Children, where permitted, must always be under your direct control and supervision.**

Safety rule violations are a sure way to lose all fossil-collecting privileges at any site.

### Trip Information

**PCS:** The following is required this Spring: Photo ID, Steel-toed footwear (will be checked!), Hard hats must be worn at all times while in the mine, No sleeveless shirts or tank tops. Due to the limited number of slots available to the club for this trip, members are allowed only one trip to PCS per season (exception: trip with "Friends of the AFM"). If you are a member of another club with PCS privileges you will have to choose which club to go in with. If it is found that a NCFC member made multiple trips into the mine with other organizations and also entered with the NCFC group, then this individual will not be able to go to PCS with NCFC in the fall.

Jeff will take calls until all the slots are filled, plus a number of

back-ups. Please remember that your dues must be paid in full in order to be added to the list, and that you must be at least 18 years old to participate.

Our aim is to have 50 bodies in the parking lot raring to go at **7:30 am on the 29th**. Please don't call unless you are sure you can go. If something comes up at the last minute that prevents you from coming, you must call Jeff ASAP so that he can contact the next available person on the waiting list.

### Castle Hayne & Rocky Point:

**When to be there:** Both trips begin at 11:15 am on their scheduled dates. It is to your advantage to try to arrive 15-20 minutes early. This will allow you the chance to mingle and quiz some of the more seasoned collectors about the trip, (where to go, what to look for, special pointers, etc.).

### Richlands:

Go to the **second** quarry entrance from Duffy Field Road (see map, p 8) and to the main office to meet Jim at 8:00 am. Everyone must check in at the main office and complete a sign-in before going into the quarry.

**What to Bring (CH, RP, and R):** Hardhat (required and **NOT** supplied by the quarry), Sturdy boots/hiking boots - the terrain at these sites is rugged and can be somewhat dangerous and challenging for persons not used to climbing or physical exertion, Walking stick/potato rake, Water, light snack and, of course, your fossil collecting materials.

**Precautions:** As you are aware, fossil collecting is a privilege bestowed upon us by the very kind and thoughtful Martin Marietta management at the Castle Hayne, Rocky Point, and Richlands quarries. Please show your gratitude by following all rules and guidelines your guide (David and Jim) will explain to you. It only takes one incident to end our opportunity, so have fun, but **think and be safe.**

### Green's Mill Run (GMR):

**When to be there:** This trip normally begins promptly at 9:00 am. Collectors should try to be at the Elm Street Park parking lot between 8:30 and 8:45AM to allow the leader to advise collectors of the GMR guidelines and address any questions. For directions, see map.

**What to bring:** Chest waders/hip waders/rubber boots (suggested, but not required), Floatable screen, Long handled shovel, Insect repellent, Drinking water, light snack.

**Precautions:** Green's Mill Run involves wading in and digging gravel from the creek bottom. There is the possibility of pollution. Due to various debris that is found (*i.e.*, broken glass, metal fragments, sharp objects, etc.), this site is probably not appropriate for young children.

### Collecting trip to Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado,

focusing on the Eocene Green River Formation, June 8th to 15th, 2008 (scouts in the field, May 30th to June 7th). NCFC diggers will arrive in Salt Lake City (SLC) on the Sunday the 8th and drive to Kemmerer, WY. On the nights of June 8th and 9th, we will be staying at the Fossil Butte Motel, 1424 Central Avenue, Kemmerer, phone (307) 877-3996. Monday and Tuesday: Visit pay-to-dig quarries in the Kemmerer area, which charge \$65 or more for a half day of digging fossils, notably fish. On Tuesday

evening, we will drive to Vernal, UT, where we will stay at Motel 6, 1092 West Highway 40, phone (435) 789-0666, for the remainder of the trip, during which time we will be collecting on public lands in Uintah County, UT, and Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties, CO. Sunday, June 15: depart from SLC airport. Interested parties should contact James Bain (james.bain@duke.edu).

### President's Column

Let me write in praise of the "reject" gravel from the Pungo River Formation produced by the PCS Phosphate mine at Aurora, Beaufort County, NC, which the company so generously shares with those of us in the fossil-collecting community. Every day of the year, a salt-and-pepper pile of this gravel graces the grounds of the Aurora Fossil Museum, where it delights children of all ages, including me. I find that few pleasures are so relaxing and absorbing as sitting in the dirt, picking through this Miocene material, and finding small shark teeth, ray plates, mollusks, and many more treasures. Often, the Museum has gravel to spare and will encourage you to take some loot home (but please ask). While others hunt the Pliocene Yorktown Formation for big teeth in the mine, I often gravitate to the "Pungo Crawl," wearing a small Tupperware tub around my neck, and finding joy in small discoveries. I marvel that the little Pungo teeth can be so sharp and perfect after ~14-20 million years. So many of our Club's popular outreach efforts start with a five-gallon bucket of the raw "reject," which, when moist and complete with its gray clay component, weighs 69 pounds. I will not confess how many of these buckets I have packed into my poor 2003 Subaru Forester at one time, but I will report that steering and braking can take on a whole new feel when driving the Pungo Express. It takes quite an informal conveyor belt to keep interested teachers, Scout leaders, and such supplied. At our meetings in Raleigh, I regularly pass several hundred pounds of gravel to one loyal NC Fossil Club member, who loads it into her own Forester, and takes it on down the line to kids who live far from the Coastal Plain. When time permits, I screen-wash the "reject" on quarter-inch hardware cloth, discard the large cobbles, and dry the washed gravel. [Our former President, Dr. Ramona Krailler, has chided me for letting so many tiny teeth pass through the mesh and into my driveway.] This effects a fivefold reduction in mass and enables efficient (and dry) indoor teaching exercises. But the rowdy fun really gets started when we work outdoors with screen boxes and hoses. Last September 21st, Jim Mahoney, Becky Spencer, and I from the NC Fossil Club, together with a well-organized team of parental volunteers, directed 121 of Mrs. Cassi Lowder's eighth graders at Northern Guilford Middle School as they wet-screened their way through 725 pounds of raw "reject." We confess to having salted the matrix with the odd large tooth. The kids had a grand time. One beaming young woman exclaimed, "I am such a NERD for this stuff!"

*James Bain*

### Cretaceous Fossils Needed

Mary-Russell Roberson is seeking Cretaceous fossils to be exhibited at a new visitor center at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park. The fossils will be displayed behind glass and should be large enough and complete enough to be interesting to visitors. If you would like to donate one or more fossils, please email her:

writesmart@mindspring.com.

<i>Isognomon</i>	<i>Ostrea</i>
<i>Gryphaea</i>	<i>Pecten</i>
<i>Trachycardium</i> (cockle)	<i>Etea</i>
Arc shell, if they are large	<i>Ataphrus</i> (top shell)
<i>Trichotropis</i> (relative of hairy shells of Arctic Ocean)	
tubes of <i>Vermetus</i>	<i>Cucullace</i> , a type of clam
<i>Exogyra</i> (oyster)	<i>Trigonia</i>
<i>Lima</i>	<i>Turritella</i> , a long snail

Cephalopods: *Eutrephoceras*, *Aturia*, *Placentoceras*, *Belemnitella*  
dinosaur bones or swimming reptile tooth/bone like a  
*Pleisosauros* or *Mosaurus*

**Note:** Mary-Russell Roberson is co-author of the very nice book *Exploring the Geology of the Carolinas*, which the Club recently ordered for members at a discount.

### Can't Get to Meetings? This is for you...

A few copies of *Geology and Paleontology of the Lee Creek Mine, North Carolina, IV* (published in 2008 by the Virginia Museum of Natural History in association with the Smithsonian Institution) are being held for members of the North Carolina Fossil Club who have not been able to attend meetings in Raleigh and therefore missed the special introductory purchase price of \$50.00.

Let us know that you would like to purchase a copy by sending your name and address, and a way to reach you by email or telephone right away to PO Box 13075, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. Do not send money until you are notified that a book is available.

If on the deadline of April 15, the number of our distant members who want books exceeds the supply of books, we will draw names and will notify the winners.

Winners still have to buy the book and on top of that will have to pay \$5.00 for mailing (or actual cost if you are outside the country). So what have you won? After the introductory offer, you can expect a purchase price of \$75.00 plus postage for this much-awaited volume about mammal fossils found in the PCS Mine at Aurora. The book has 527 pages, 271 figures, 17 plates, and 49 tables. It weighs almost 4 pounds. *Joy Herrington*

### NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB

#### TREASURER'S REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 2007

Balance Brought Forward: December 31, 2006 \$5693.49

#### INCOME:

Dues	4045.00	
Neogene Fossils books (286)	1458.00	
Cretaceous Fossils books (188)	958.00	
Seal/Dolphin books (30)	309.00	
Lee Creek IV (5)	250.00	
Geology of Carolinas (32)	480.00	
Total Income		7500.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$13,193.49</b>

#### EXPENSES:

Club Meetings, Speakers, etc.	386.42	
Fossil Fair	529.86	
Miscellaneous (Supplies, PO Box, etc.)	132.51	
Website Hosting	335.40	
Printing (Janus, Membership List)	731.73	
Stamps, Postage	640.43	
Geology of Carolinas (32)	400.50	
Tarheel Trophy and Plaque	53.38	
SE Federation Mineral. Soc. dues	308.00	
SE Federation Mineral. Soc. insurance	354.20	
NC Museum of Natural Sciences	400.00	
Museum of Life and Science	300.00	
N. Adam Smith (travel to SVP)	500.00	
Friends of the State Museum	400.00	
Department of Paleobiology	400.00	
Reimbursements for dues overpayment	55.00	
Bank Charges	25.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>5952.43</b>

**Balance on Hand: December 31, 2007** \$7241.06

*Trish Kohler* Treasurer

### Fossil Collecting in Iraq

I would like to start by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to share my experience with your readers. It is an honor. My name is William Lawrence, Jr. and I collect fossils and precious gemstones. I have been doing so for over 5 years now. My career travels as a truck driver have taken me to every state in the union but I have made some of my best finds in the state of Mississippi. As a truck driver I have been able to travel overseas to Iraq. Since my career choice has been one that is quite stressful, I find that doing something that brings me so much joy and excitement alleviates quite a bit of work-related tension.

The fossils that I have collected in Iraq are unique to any I have been able to collect in the US. My goal is to be able to identify these fossils in order to share the knowledge with the next generation in my family. Collecting these fossils and learning about them is like having a museum in the palm of your hands. What better way to learn history, than to dig it up and dust it off! So you know the old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words", just imagine what a fossil itself is worth, in my opinion, an encyclopedia. The fossils that I have to share with the club were found at base camp, Koran Village, a Marine and Army camp located north west about 350 miles from Baghdad, and about 250 miles west from camp Al-ASAD, which is the name of the camp where I'm stationed.

The *Stars and Stripes* did a report on the fossils found at camp Koran Village in the summer of 2006. At that time they brought in some paleontologists from Baghdad. It was believed that the fossils found there were from the remains of a shark. Along with what maybe shark fossils, I have found two fossil crinoids, (sea lilies), tube worms from Kuwait, and one cephalopod which was found at camp AL-ASAD.

I have many others that I have yet to match a name to. But I do have pictures.

Thanks for letting me share a little of your time with some of the things I find to be most interesting.

William H. Lawrence, Jr.

lookup4u@yahoo.com or Wlawrence3@aol.com



Clam Chowder - Iraq



Coral - Iraq



Petrified Wood - Iraq



Sepulorbis (a Gastropod) - Kuwait

### Ruck's Pit for Clams and Calcite

During our 2007 Christmas holiday visit with family, Linda and I had the opportunity to visit Ruck's Pit in Okeechobee County, Florida. This was a one day excursion to find the much acclaimed calcite infused fossil clams found in that quarry. The gemmy honey-amber calcite crystals filling and replacing fossil (*mercenaria permagna* clams) are of the late Pliocene to early Pleistocene (1 – 1½ MYA) era.

We camped at the Highlands Hammock Florida State Park with a friend and cohort, Diane Gaines. The Florida state parks are very nice as well as a reasonable alternative to a motel.

Ruck's Pit is located in the Fort Drum area. It is claimed that this is the only location in the world where calcified marine clam shells can be found. Sadly, the quarry itself is now closed to the public for collecting. Eddie Rucks brings up piles of tailings material for private collectors to dig through. There are some excellent specimens to be found with a little effort. While there, Eddie turned quite a bit of the tailings over for the 20 or so visitors to the site that day. Also provided were hoses connected to faucets every so many feet to use in washing down the piles of material. This made finding the crystals easier with less chance of damaging the better specimens. (We recommend bringing an extra 50 ft hose and a nozzle to more easily reach some of the farthest piles.) Ruck's pit is open 7 days a week from 8 AM to 5 PM with a fee of \$30 per person per day. There is a limit of one 5-gal bucket of material and one matrix piece per person (although this was not strictly adhered to by the management, reasonable folks that they are). Of course the size of the matrix piece was not specified although cranes and hoists were prohibited (I told Linda not to bring the dragline!). A contact number for those interested is 863-634-4579. We left very happy with our finds and of course hot, dirty, tired, sore and a big shiny smile on our faces. We will return. (And folks, bring lots of water and snacks, its warm.... Even in December.) Enjoy.... Ernie & Linda Wooten



Diane: 'Focus Grasshopper!'



Some of the spoil piles



Linda with her game face on



*Mercenaria permagna* filled with calcite

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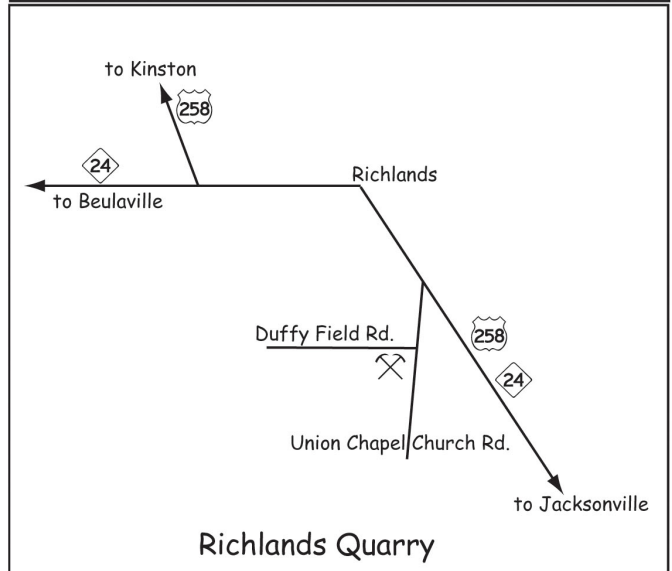
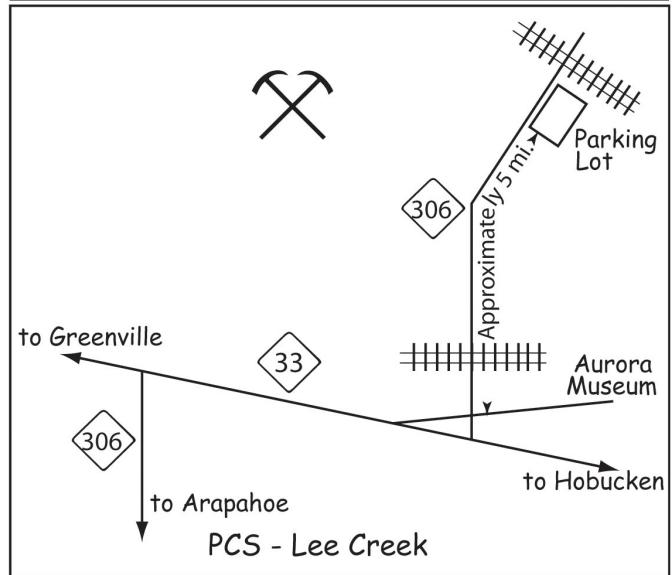
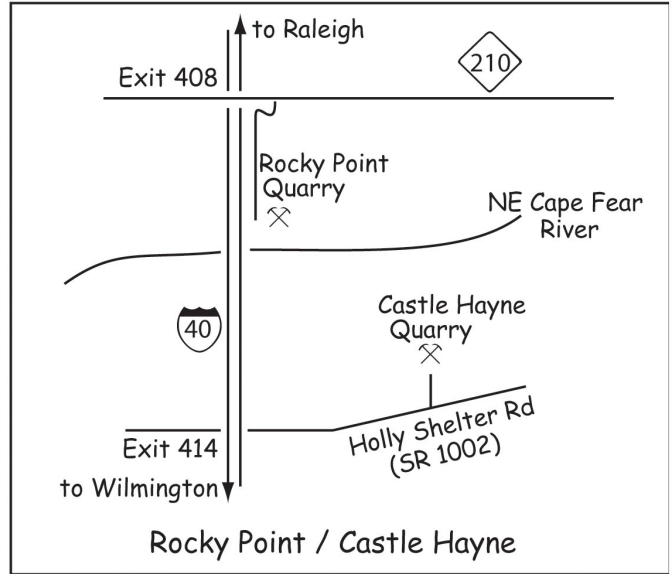
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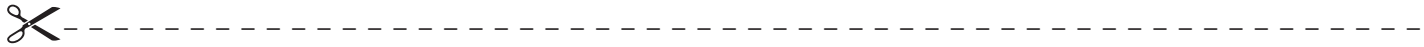
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**NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB, INC.**  
**(Founded 1977)**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	James Bain	(919) 451-4108	Bahama, NC
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Jeff Cohn	(919) 325-3405	Apex, NC
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b>	Cynthia Muston	(252) 830-8897	Greenville, NC
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	Joy Pierce Herrington (2009)	(919) 929-2661	Chapel Hill, NC
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	Eric Sadorf (2008)	(919) 466-8484	Cary, NC
	Diane Willis (2009)	(919) 967-1008	Chapel Hill, NC



**2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB**

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(s) (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

<b>SELECT ONE TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL (NEW)	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>(ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL (RENEWAL)	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>FOR THE INDICATED AMOUNT.)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> HOUSEHOLD (NEW)	<b>\$25.00</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> HOUSEHOLD (RENEWAL)	<b>\$20.00</b>

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.

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, NC 27709

North Carolina Fossil Club  
P.O. Box 13075  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709



**Deposition layers at the PCS Mine**

- Legend**
1. Flanner Beach Formation
  2. Flanner Beach - James City Contact
  3. James City Formation (boulder bed at bottom)
  4. James City - Yorktown Contact
  5. Yorktown Formation