



JANUS

The Newsletter
of the
North Carolina
Fossil Club
www.ncfossilclub.org

2009 Number 3

2009 Fall Calendar

September

- 12 **Mini Fossil Fair** – Rankin Museum, 131 W. Church St., Ellerbe, NC 10:00 - 4:00. Contact: Ruffin Tucker (704) 784-1672 or paleotck@netscape.net
- 13 **Stratford Hall/Westmoreland** – Virginia Museum of Natural History. Contact: Janet Roetken (276) 634-4171 or janet.roetken@vmnh.virginia.gov for details, including cost.
- 19 **Petrified Wood Hunt**. Approximately 20 miles from Apex, NC. This will be limited to 30 members. Call-in to Jeff Cohn (919) 325-3405 on Sunday, **September 13, no earlier than 8:00 pm**. You must **talk** with Jeff (no voice mail).
- 20 **NCFC Meeting** – NCMNS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh. 1:30 pm, Level A conference room.
- 24 **Rocky Point** - Contact Dave Sanderson at 919-469-2812 (DSanderson@precisiontune-nc.net). Meet 10:00; Hardhat!
- 27 **Green's Mill Run** - Contact John Steffensen 252-756-0386 (jjlld@suddenlink.net). Meet 9:00 in the Elm Street Park.

October

- 1,2 **Belgrade** - Contact Robert Story at 919-469-2812 (rstorys@mindspring.com). Meet 8:00; Hardhat and steel-toed boots!!!
- 10 **Lower James Boat Trip** – Virginia Museum of Natural History. Contact: Janet Roetken (276) 634-4171 or janet.roetken@vmnh.virginia.gov for details, including cost.
- 11 **Lieutenant Run** – Virginia Museum of Natural History. Contact: Janet Roetken (276) 634-4171 or janet.roetken@vmnh.virginia.gov for details, including cost.
- 15 **Castle Hayne** - Contact Dave Sanderson at 919-469-2812 (DSanderson@precisiontune-nc.net). Meet 10:00; Hardhat!

November

- 7 **NCFC Fossil Fair and Board Meeting** - Children's Museum and Science Center, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount. Brief meeting of NCFC (Elections) to follow.

January

- 17 **NCFC Meeting** - NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Jones Street, Raleigh, Level A Classroom. Program TBA

General Rules

It is absolutely imperative you communicate with the contact person in advance of going on a trip. Maintain close contact with the leader for special instructions/last minute changes. Be certain the leader has accurate phone and/or email addresses. Some trips may be limited in size at the option of the leader. **Note the starting times** (most are different this season from previous years) and do not arrive late.

This is the first time in many years we have had a trip to the Belgrade quarry. Note the early start and that hard hats **and** steel-toed boots are required. Note also the two back-to-back trips.

Castle Hayne and Rocky Point begin at 10:00 AM and hard hats are required and not furnished by the company. The terrain is rugged and can be somewhat dangerous and demanding for persons not used to climbing or physical exertion.

Hunting at Green's Mill Run consists of screening material from the bottom of an urban creek. The water is polluted and the bottom has broken glass, rusty metal, and who knows what else (but also fossils). Waders are desirable. A screen and a long-handled shovel are essential.

Always arrive early. Be sure to fully understand rules and instructions. Safety is our main concern – Never do anything which might endanger you or any other collector. 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.

Museum of Life and Science's Dino Days

The NC Fossil Club helped the Museum of Life and Science in Durham to open its new Dino Trail on July 25-26 with a mini fossil fair. About a dozen members manned exhibits for thousands of visitors over the two days. As might be expected, Trish Kohler captured the affair with dozens (almost 15 dozen, to be more precise) of photographs, some of which are included here.







Our brick at the Museum of Life and Science.

Back Issues of Janus Available On-line

Back issues of Janus (from 2001#4 to the present) are available to download on the NC Fossil Club's website: www.ncfossilclub.org From the main page click on the Publications link and then on the [Past copies of Janus for club members only](#) link. This requires a logon: User Name: janus2009 Password: meg (note lower case).

Some of these files are quite large so downloading may take considerable time on a slow Internet connection. The main advantage (to you) of the .pdf file is you can see all the color photos in color. You can also print them in color if you have a color printer. The files are large so as to maximize the picture quality.

Richard Chandler

Fossil Book Reviews Needed

I've come across advertising for 4 books on fossils by Bruce L. Stinchcomb: *World's Oldest Fossils* (Paperback - Jul 15, 2007), *Paleozoic Fossils* (Paperback - Feb 2008), *Mesozoic Fossils I: Triassic & Jurassic Periods* (Paperback - Dec 28, 2008), and *Mesozoic Fossils II: The Cretaceous Period* (Paperback - May 28, 2009). Amazon has all four for about \$23.00 each. Is anyone familiar with the books? The author? Would you volunteer to write a review??? If so, please contact me:

chandler@math.ncsu.edu

Richard Chandler

New Fossil Publications

E.S. Gaffney; G.E. Hooks, III; and **Vince P. Schneider** (2009), *New Material of North American Side-Necked Turtles (Pleurodira: Bothremydidae)*, American Museum Novitates 3655, 26 pp., 17 figs., 4 tables. This is available online at: <http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/handle/2246/5974>

Dale A. Russell, Fredrick J. Rich, **Vincent Schneider**, and Jean Lynch-Stieglitz (2009): A warm thermal enclave in the Late Pleistocene of the South-eastern United States, *Biological Reviews*, 84, pp. 173–202.

Book Reviews

I recently read two paleontological “autobiographies”, both very entertaining. Rather than conventional bios, both consist of a collection of anecdotes in the lives of the authors. Both are self-published and so copies may be a little difficult to find. Try Interlibrary Loan at your library.

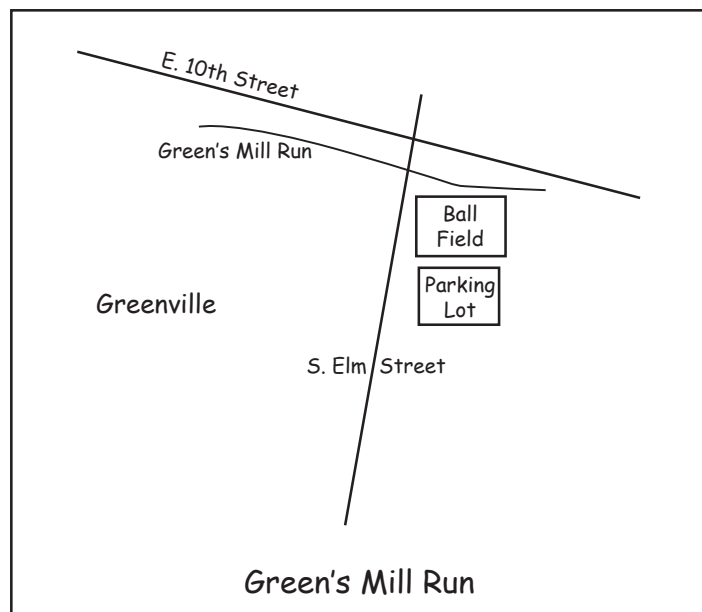
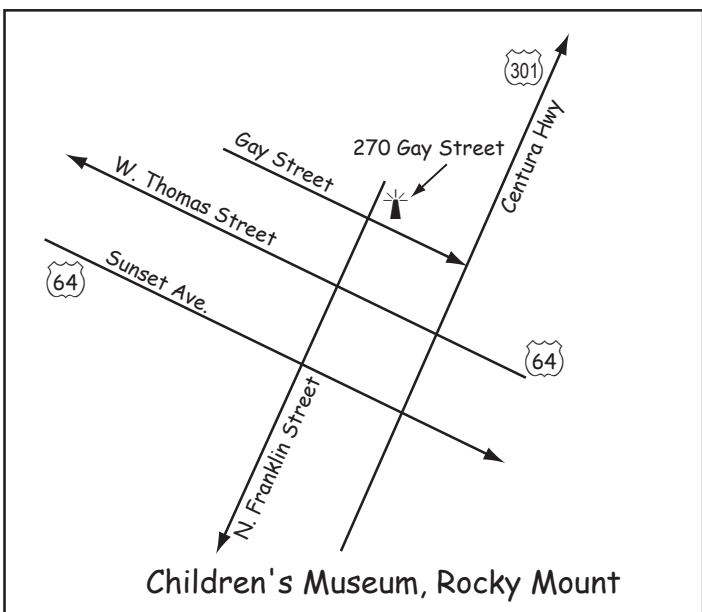
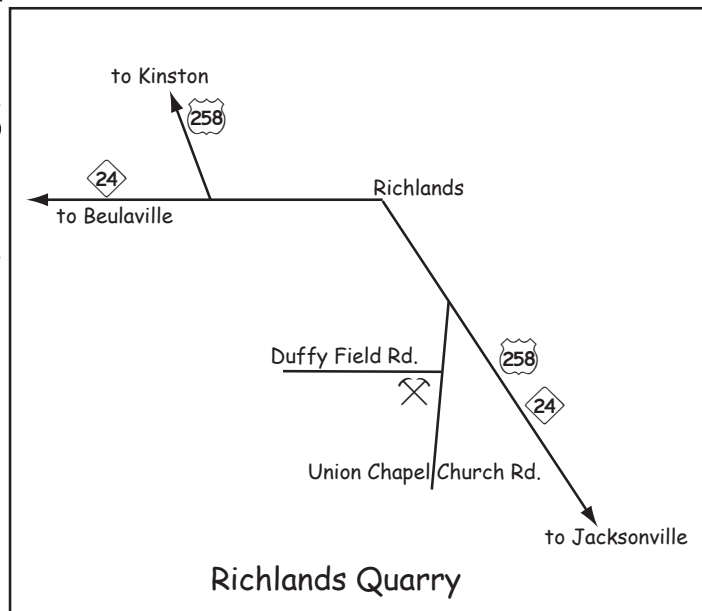
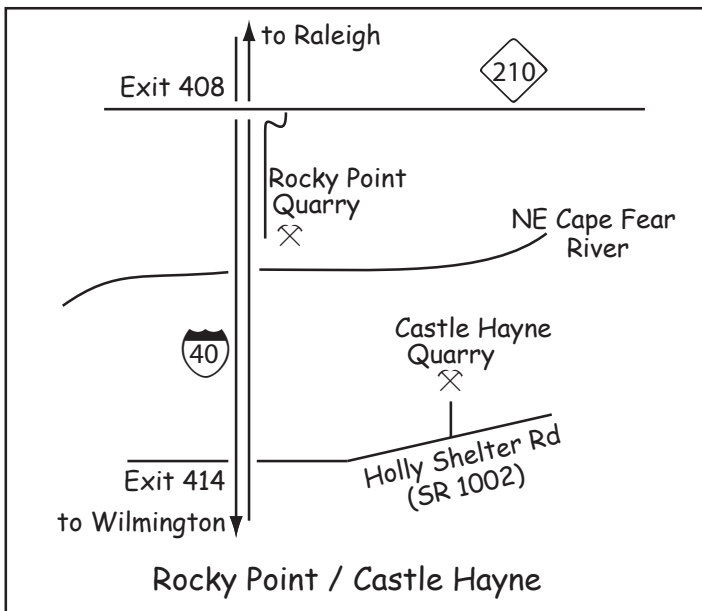
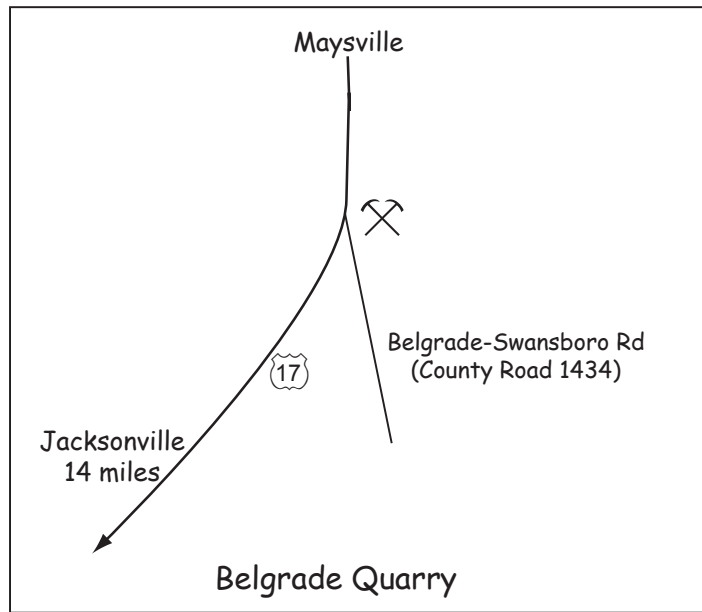
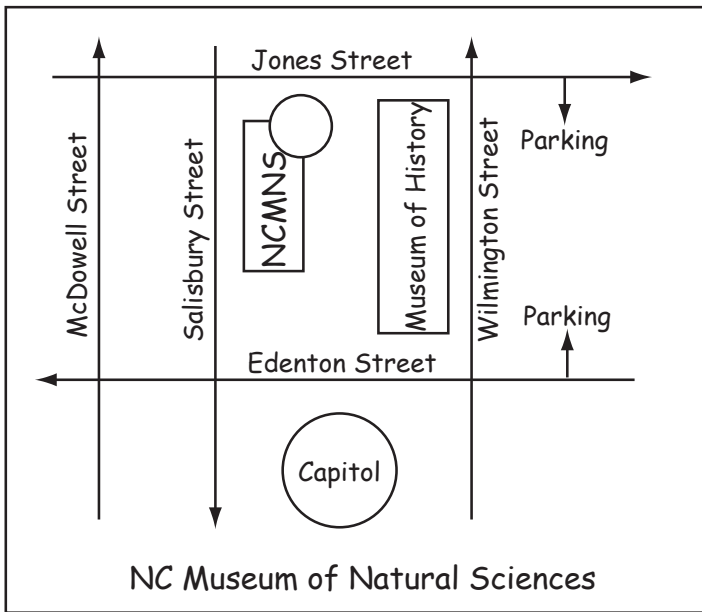
Geology is Fun, Reginald C. Sprigg, Arkaroola Wildlife Sanctuary [South Australia], 1989. In spite of its incredibly pedestrian title this is a lively collection of events in the author's life. To us in North Carolina Sprigg's main claim to fame is his discovery of Precambrian fossils in the Ediacara Hills of the Flinders Ranges of south-central Australia in 1946. At the time most paleontologists believed the earliest multicellular life was Cambrian in age so this discovery is historically important. In recognition, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) ratified a new Period (in March 2004), the Ediacaran, the most recent of the Neoproterozoic Era (approximately 635 to 542 million years before the present). The book describes this discovery but most of it is concerned with Sprigg's life as a government geologist and of his increasing frustration with the politics of oil and uranium exploration following World War II. He eventually resigned his post in the government and set up his own company, Geophysical Surveys, He died in 1994, age 75.

Never Piss into the Wind, Jules R. DuBar, PublishAmerica (2004). This incredibly non-pedestrian title is available from Amazon.com. DuBar's Ph.D. thesis at the University of Kansas was on the Caloosahatchee Formation of southern Florida. He became convinced that it dated from the Pleistocene rather than the Pliocene (which was the accepted dogma of the time). He was also convinced that the Waccamaw Formation in North and South Carolina should be the same age as the Caloosahatchee, In the late 1950's and early 1960's he (with graduate student Jim Solliday) made an extensive study of the Waccamaw in the vicinity of Old Dock, NC, and in 1962 published a list of its macrofauna, primarily mollusks.

DuBar chose a primarily academic career, serving on the faculties of Southern Illinois University, University of Kansas, University of Houston, Duke University (1962-67), and Morehead State University. *Never Piss into the Wind* is a large collection of mostly short, many hilarious (and sometimes profane), anecdotes, most involving his life following World War II through the mid 1960's. His search for the Waccamaw shell pits earlier described by Gardner (1943, 1948) and Richards (1950) is the focus of several anecdotes. His search for the night life of Myrtle Beach is also described (in some detail). One chapter chronicles his acquaintance with Mickey (*I, the Jury*) Spillane. He died in March, 2009, age 86.

Each book is an easy read, consisting of many short chapters. Both authors are excellent writers and do not dwell on the boring, technical details of their profession. Perhaps DuBar is the more consistently funny but Sprigg is also humorous in spots and certainly evokes the wonders of Australia to those of us who have had a life-long, long-distance love affair with that mysterious sub-continent.

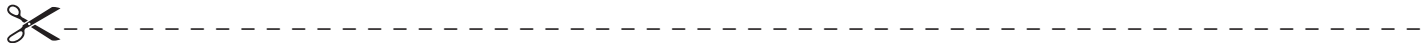
Richard Chandler



NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB, INC.

(Founded 1977)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Mary Boulton | (704) 541-9397 | Charlotte, NC |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Jeff Cohn | (919) 325-3405 | Apex, NC |
| IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT | James Bain | (919) 479-2320 | Bahama, NC |
| TREASURER | Trish Kohler | (919) 383-6328 | Durham, NC |
| SECRETARY | Joanne Panek-Dubrock | (919) 362-6392 | Cary, NC |
| MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSONS | Roxada/Robert Story | (919) 544-2017 | Durham, NC |
| EDITOR, JANUS | Richard Chandler | (919) 851-2153 | Raleigh, NC |
| BOARD | Rick Bennett (2009) | (919) 839-1802 | Raleigh, NC |
| | Sharron Edwards (2010) | (910) 324-1539 | Richlands, NC |
| | Jonathan Fain (2010) | (919) 518-1591 | Raleigh, NC |
| | Joy Pierce Herrington (2009) | (919) 929-2661 | Chapel Hill, NC |
| | Jim Mahoney (2009) | (336) 643-0798 | Summerfield, NC |
| | Jodie McDaniel (2010) | (910) 455-5179 | Jacksonville, NC |
| | Eric Sadorf (2010) | (919) 466-8484 | Cary, NC |
| | Diane Willis (2009) | (919) 967-1008 | Chapel Hill, NC |



2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE(S) (INCLUDE AREA CODE) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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

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.

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

A Pair of Troodon stalk through a simulated savannah at the Museum of Life and Science's Dino Trail.

