



JANUS

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

2014 Number 1

2014 Spring Calendar

March

- 16 NCFC Meeting** - NCMNS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh. 1:30 pm, Level A conference room. Volume I roll-out, see below.
- 28 Castle Hayne Trip** - Contact David Sanderson dsanderson@ptautocare.com (preferred) or (919) 469-2812. Rain date April 4.
- 29 Science Olympiad** - We really need volunteers to help with proctoring and grading. Contact: Joanne Panek-Dubrock: fossiljunkie@hotmail.com or 919-362-6392.

April

- 11-13 & 18-20 Dino Egg Hunt**/Museum of Life and Science needs volunteers to help man the dig pile. Contact: Trish Kohler at: trishk@nc.rr.com or 919-383-6328
- 18 or 22 Smithsonian Fossil Hall** and behind the scenes tour including the Wankel *T. rex* - date still being settled, more info to come.
- 25 Onslow Quarry make-up** for last fall's cancellation (full).
- 26 Norwood Arbor Day and Fossil Fair** 10:00 - 4:00 (tentative) Contact: Ruffin Tucker at 704-784-1672 or fossiler77@msn.com.
- 27 Greens Mill Run** - Contact Gustavo Pierangelini hildoceras@gmail.com or (919) 886-1259.

May

- 2 Castle Hayne Trip** - Contact David Sanderson dsanderson@ptautocare.com (preferred) or (919) 469-2812. Rain date May 9.
- 18 NCFC Meeting** - NCMNS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh. 1:30 pm, Level A conference room. Presentation of "The Fossil Project": what it means for us and for the future of Paleontology. Possible speaker, Chuck Ferrara from the Southwest Florida Fossil Society
- 24 Aurora Fossil Festival** Contact: Eric Sadorf to volunteer to exhibit or assist (919) 466-8484 or emsadorf@usgs.gov
- 27 - June 1 Collecting trip / Paleozoic of west-central Utah** Contact: James Bain at (919) 479-2320 or james.bain@duke.edu.com.

June

- 8 Aurora Picnic** - Contact Linda McCall (512) 422-2322 or lindmccall02@yahoo.com.
- 14 Greens Mill Run** - Contact Gustavo Pierangelini hildoceras@gmail.com or (919) 886-1259.

North Carolina Fossil Club's spring 2014 collecting trip to the Paleozoic of west-central Utah. Join us for our return trip to Millard County, UT. In addition to the classic Cambrian trilobite beds near Antelope Spring/Wheeler Amphitheater, we will be poking around in the Ordovician Pogonip Group, the Mississippian Chainman Shale, and more. We will be camping directly on the fossil beds. If you are willing to rise early and get to bed late, it will be possible to stay in motels in Delta, UT, or just over the state line in Baker, NV. Itinerary: Tuesday, May 27th: Arrive at the Salt Lake City (SLC) airport and drive to the first camp. Sunday, June 1st: Morning departure from SLC. This trip will be kid-friendly. Contact info above (at May 27).

President's Message

Spring is looking good for the NCFC – and won't we be glad to finally see an end to all this cold weather! We have some great opportunities for outreach coming up – including the Science Olympiad March 29th, the Norwood Arbor Day and Fossil Fair on April 26th, and the Aurora Fossil Festival May 24th. We also have a fair amount of collecting opportunities and other field trips already planned with several more in the works. Keep checking the website.

The highlight of the March meeting will be the long awaited launch of Volume 1 of our CD-ROM/Book series! I have seen it and it is AWESOME! Come One, Come All and bring your checkbooks – 'cause supplies are limited and you will want one of these!

I'm just back from the North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) in Gainesville, Florida (photo below) where the FOSSIL Project Symposium heralded the official launch of the FOSSIL Project – an initiative "to enhance communication and strengthen the working relationship between fossil club members and professional paleontologists." They have created a website: www.MyFossil.org to act as a virtual bridge between the two communities and to serve as a resource for Fossil Clubs nationwide. The goal of the workshop held the day after the conference was for members of fossil clubs from around the country to come together and brainstorm ways to help make that happen. Please visit the website often, watch as it grows and offer up ideas for its enhancement. I talked with several folks I knew from other clubs as well as got to meet lots of members of clubs I didn't know, so now we have lots of new contacts nationwide. NCFC members will get a full report on this very worthy project at the May meeting.

Hope to see all of you soon at an outreach event or in the field,

Linda



Mrs. Onslow Beach Gone but not Forgotten

Kevin McCabe

On January 10, 2013 a historic icon of Onslow Beach for over 60 years strolled onto a beach in heaven. Rita K. McCabe spent more time on Onslow Beach than anyone who has lived. You will find no takers in that argument. She was the original beach lady. In the early years, collecting shells was her main passion. She would walk for miles dragging her two sons Kevin and Keith down the beach with her. She always said "the fresh salt air makes you strong". Her late husband CWO 3 Thomas J. McCabe was never far away, usually with a fishing pole in hand.

A few years later her keen eye spied a large jet-black fossilized shark tooth on a falling tide that would change her life forever. Within years she would harvest every bit of information about the tens of thousands of fossils she would find on Onslow Beach. Experts in the field envied her collection and she donated many items to various colleges and museums for research. At about the same time she became a member of the newly formed Beaufort Mariners Museum, which ventured inland to hunt fossils at the Texas Gulf Phosphate mine in Aurora. Along with some of the most beautiful shark teeth in the world, she found life long friends of the same caliber.

Many times she would feel a little guilty about holding Sunday services at Onslow Beach instead of church. On one of those days she found her first old coin on the beach and eventually about twenty thousand more would follow. This too became a passion and hobby. She still picked up shells and shark teeth but there was something magical about finding old coins on a wind swept beach. Knowing the next one might be gold or maybe a piece-of-eight kept her looking until the age of 84.

Shortly before her passing one of her sons did some detailed calculations. It was estimated that Rita bent down nearly one million times at Onslow Beach to secure her lifetime collection of beach treasures. Shells, shark teeth, coins, beach glass, sea beans, and friends...the lists go on and on.

Although she loved the beach, she loved her family, friends, pets, and homesick marines even more. With a quick wit and a sunny smile, she lifted the lives of all that knew her and demonstrated the "Semper Fi" spirit to those in need; from the young PFC on his first assignment to Camp Lejeune, to the WW II widow, to the disabled vet, and to an old stray cat. Rita McCabe always opened her heart and her home to make the sun shine a little brighter for those lost in the darkness of life.

On January 15, 2014 Mrs. Onslow Beach was laid to rest at the veterans cemetery at Monfort Point with her husband. She was buried with a big sharktooth in one hand and a beautiful Scotch Bonnet shell in the other...and why not? God bless her.



NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB

TREASURER'S REPORT- DECEMBER 31, 2013

Balance Brought Forward, December 31, 2012		\$6,482.01
INCOME		
Dues		3170.00
Neogene Fossil Books	127	675.00
Cretaceous Fossil Books	80	448.00
Seal/Dolphin Books	12	126.00
Publication Fund		2300.00
Total Income		6,719.00
TOTAL		\$13,201.01
EXPENSES		
Club Meetings, Picnics		572.61
Miscellaneous, PO Box, Plaque, etc.		116.12
Domain Name Renewal		27.51
CPA Fees re: Sales Tax		135.00
Printing Janus Newsletter		554.25
Printing 500 Neogene Books		736.90
Stamps and Postage		454.31
Royalties on Cretaceous Books		492.45
SE Federation of Mineral. Society - Dues		417.50
SE Federation of Mineral. Society - Insurance		534.40
Friends of the Museum - Fossil Fair		300.00
Total Expenses		4,341.05
Balance on Hand: December 31, 2013		\$8,859.96

Trish Kohler
Treasurer

O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!

Richard Chandler

The long-awaited day is nearly upon us. In *Janus* 2000#1 it was announced that at the January, 2000, meeting of the NC Fossil Club, the Board had accepted a proposal "to produce a CD ROM tentatively entitled *The Fossils of North Carolina*". A very ambitious (tentative) Table of Contents was announced and we began. Fourteen years (now) we are almost finished and Volume I is at the printer as I write. "Printer", you say, "But I thought it was going to be a CD ROM." In 2000, when I proposed the Project, offset color printing of a small run of a book would have been prohibitively expensive. With current state-of-the-art digital printing the per-copy cost of printing one book is not a lot different from that of printing 1000 books. It won't be exactly cheap but we can afford it! Especially now that we have several donations to our recently announced Publication Fund. We owe a major debt of gratitude to those Club members who so generously contributed.

My vision for the project has always been to realize it as a large "coffee table" book and that is what it will be. Actually, four large (9"x12", landscape format) "coffee table" books. Volume I contains 300 pages, with more than 800 (mostly) color photos & illustrations, and is comprised of six chapters on Geology, Plants, and Invertebrate Animals (except Mollusks, which will constitute Volume II). We plan to release simultaneously a CD ROM version so as to not disappoint those of you who would prefer that format. There are some distinct advantages to the electronic version: cost, instant searching, and hyperlinks (click-to-go Tables of Content) being the three most obvious. Also, color is more luminous on a good monitor than on a printed page.

To celebrate the beginning of the end of this long project, the Club is hosting a roll-out party for Volume I at our regular March 16 meeting beginning at 1:30 in the A-level classroom at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. The program will consist of my discussion of the Project and recognition of the 13 authors of Volume I.

More importantly, there will be copies of the book and the CD for sale. The Publication Fund was just able to bear the cost of printing (the book) and duplication (the CD). Our idea is that proceeds from the sale of Volume I will fund the printing/duplication cost for Volume II, sales of Volume II will fund Volume III, etc., until we are finally finished. Since Volumes III & IV will be the largest, they will cost more to print. So we must realize a small profit on the sales of Volumes I and II. The cost to you of the 300 page Volume I will be \$60. This includes sales tax and a copy of the CD containing the digital version. The CD by itself will be \$15, including tax.

"Ouch!", you say. That's precisely what I said. However, when I got the proof from the printer the other day, my "Ouch!" was totally erased by the shock and awe of holding the 9"x12", 300 page, 2½ pound book. When I brought it to the meeting last Saturday of our Project's Editorial Board, the reaction was universal: startled gasps of amazement. This will be your reaction, as well. So come to the meeting/party on March 16 and don't forget your checkbook.



The Jabberwock, by John Tenniel, an illustration for Lewis Carroll's wonderful nonsense poem in *Through the Looking-Glass*. Our title (O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!) is one line from the poem, celebrating the slaying of the Jabberwock. I use it here to celebrate the slaying of our 15 year-old "Jabberwock".

Fossil



Invertebrates Plants



Volume I of IV
North Carolina Fossil Club

Petrified *Tempskya* Wood in North Carolina

Victor Krynicki

In the 1960s, fossil and mineral collector William (Bill) West came across significant amounts of petrified wood in a Harnett County, N.C. quarry near the Cape Fear River. Much of this wood was well-preserved, agatized, and colorful. In 1968, Bill authored an article describing a few unusual pieces, after which he was contacted by several paleobotanists. They identified these unknown wood specimens as genus *Tempskya*, an extinct Late Cretaceous tree fern.

This tree fern was known from collecting sites in several western states. In the eastern states, only one poorly preserved specimen had previously been found in Maryland. Unlike Maryland, *Tempskya* was fairly abundant in the Harnett County quarry and beautifully preserved. In the 1970s, Bill wrote two articles for the Lapidary Journal that described *Tempskya* and other fossil woods from this quarry. While the quarry wasn't continually available to collectors, these articles prompted many to visit the site.

Tempskya is unusual in that it is a tree fern that likely grew to a height of 15 to 20 feet. The upper trunk was covered with a thick mass of leaves. While the leaves have not been found attached to a trunk, the internal structure of the trunk contains many leaf stems (petioles), confirming the presence of dense foliage. This is different from modern tree ferns, which only have leaf fronds at their apex or crown.

Another unusual feature is that *Tempskya* had a "false" or "compound" trunk. Typically, a tree's trunk is stem structure only, while its roots are a separate structure. However, this isn't true of *Tempskya*. Instead, its trunk is composed of both numerous small branching stems (some with petioles emerging) and also roots that eventually entered the ground. These roots (located in the trunk of *Tempskya*) are described as "adventitious," meaning that they developed in an unusual, atypical area of the plant.

This plant's "false" trunk apparently was spongy and weak, which caused the trunk to break apart during preservation. So, *Tempskya* is typically found as relatively small trunk fragments. Because of the interesting internal structure, trunk fragments are usually cut with a lapidary saw and polished on a flat lap. Transverse trunk cuts yield a distinctive, easily identified pattern: stems appear as egg-shaped darker regions in the range of 0.25 to 0.4 inches across; roots are much smaller and look like tiny dots between the stems. The first photo accompanying the article shows several examples of trunk slices with this distinctive pattern.

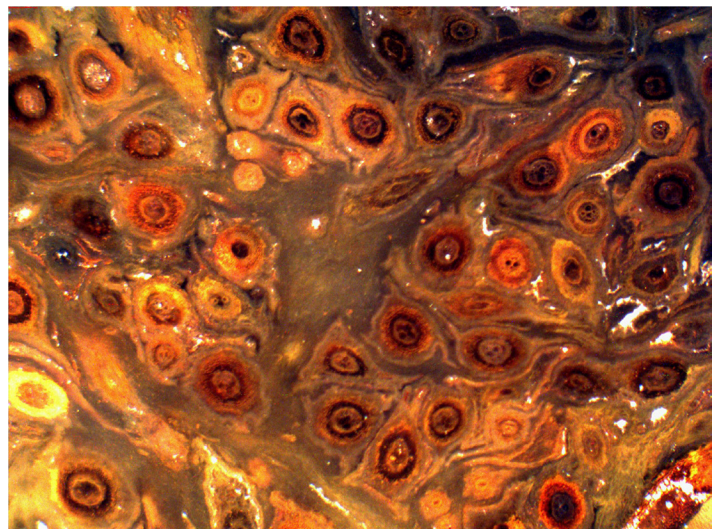
Photos taken with a microscope show the details of stems and roots. The first microscope photo is a close up of two stems, each having petioles branching off to the left. When the plant was living, these petioles would eventually emerge from the trunk as leaf fronds. There are also a few tiny roots (small dark spots) surrounding the stems. The second microscope photo shows a mass of roots in a trunk; stems are nearby but outside the area shown in the photo.

Tempskya leaves were likely a common food for herbivorous dinosaurs, but there is no way of proving this. However, it's easy to imagine the close connection between dinosaurs and this plant food source. An artist colleague of Bill West created a fine watercolor painting that shows a Late Cretaceous North Carolina landscape with dinosaurs dining on this tree fern. Bill was kind enough to give this picture to me in 2013, and the photo on the back cover here shows this landscape.

During the Late Cretaceous, the North Carolina *Tempskya* site was apparently a bay or river delta area close to the ocean. Over extended time periods, the land-ocean boundary moved back and forth, resulting in both wood and shell fossils. Besides

petrified woods, the Harnett quarry also had jasper and agate slabs of broken ocean shell conglomerate. Selected pieces of this conglomerate can be polished in a rock tumbler, and the surface shows many fragments and an occasional complete shell.

In the past, at times when collecting was allowed by the quarry owner, this was an exceptionally productive site for agatized wood. Unfortunately, the quarry has been abandoned and closed, and its entrance is now gated and locked. With no new excavation, weeds are slowly overgrowing the property, and nature is reclaiming the land.



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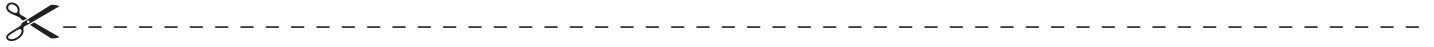
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NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB, INC.

(Founded 1977)

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	Ruffin Tucker (2015)	(704) 784-1672	Concord, NC
	Diane Willis (2015)	(919) 967-1008	Chapel Hill, NC



2014 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.

The Fossil Club's newsletter, *JANUS*, is mailed out four times a year and is available online for members. Please let us know how you'd like to continue receiving *JANUS*. If you choose to download it from the website, you will receive an email when a new one is published.

☐ I will download *Janus* from website (www.NCFossilClub.org) ☐ please continue to send a paper copy via US Mail

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 25276, RALEIGH, NC 27611-5276

North Carolina Fossil Club
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Cretaceous Scene: watercolor by Sandra Shoemaker. A pair of herbivorous dinosaurs snack on *Tempskya* foliage. For more on *Tempskya*, look on page 4 inside.