JANUS

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

2017 Number 1

2017 Spring Calendar

March

- 18 Calvert Cliffs Collecting invitation from Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club: Meetup: 9:45-10:00 AM at the park & ride across from the Wawa at 690 Middletown Odessa Road, Middletown, DE 19709. Fossil wood, <u>no tools</u> <u>needed</u>. Contact: Bob Ertman, robertertman@msn.com
- **18 Greens Mill Run** Contact Rick Trone richard.trone@gmail.com
- 19 NCFC Meeting NCMNS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh. 1:30 pm, Level A conference room. Speaker: Dr. Andy Heckert, Appalachian State University. Topic: the Triassic of the American West.
- **31 Castle Hayne Quarry -** Contact David Sanderson dsanderson@ptautocare.com.

<u>April</u>

- 7 **Belgrade Quarry** 8:00 & 9:00 4:00. This is an open quarry date at Belgrade, no sign-up needed, just show up.
- 8 Old Dock 10:00-5:00. Contact Linda McCall (Indmccall02@yahoo.com). Limit 15, juniors welcome.
- **14-16 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
- 21 Onslow Quarry Contact Linda McCall (Indmccall02@yahoo.com).Limit 12, no juniors.
- 22 March for Science Various cities in North Carolina More information: https://www.marchforscience.com/satellite-marches/?state=North%20Carolina
- 29 Tar River Contact Rick Trone richard.trone@gmail.com
- 29 Norwood Arbor Day and Fossil Fair 10:00 4:00 Contact: Ruffin Tucker at 704-784-1672 or fossiler77@msn.com.

May

- 5 **Belgrade Quarry** 9:00 4:00. Contact Don Rideout: donride60@yahoo.com; sign up necessary.
- 19 Castle Hayne Quarry Contact David Sanderson dsanderson@ptautocare.com.
- 21 NCFC Meeting NCMNS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh. 1:30 pm, Level A conference room. Speaker: Dr. Alexander Glass, Duke University, "What fossil brittlestars teach us about how evolution works".
- **27 Aurora Fossil Festival** Contact: Eric Sadorf to volunteer to exhibit or assist: (919) 466-8484 or emsadorf@usgs.gov

June

- 10 Aurora Picnic Contact Linda McCall (Indmccall02@yahoo.com).
- **17-25** Arizona Trip Contact James Bain: james.bain@duke.edu

Note: The Martin Marietta quarries (Belgrade, Castle Hayne, Onslow) all require collectors to be 18 years old or older, to wear hard hats, hard toed boots, safety glasses, and orange (no other color is acceptable) safety vests. You must provide for yourself: the quarry has none to loan.

President's Note

What a busy spring this is shaping up to be. Our negotiations with Martin Marietta have been successful and several trips are planned. We were lucky to get these, and we will be under scrutiny to affirm we can follow the rules, etc. As a result we will be holding field trip attendance to smaller groups and being more active in monitoring folks who attend. We don't want to lose this privilege. If you break the rules or get in trouble on a field trip, you will be asked to leave and will probably not be allowed in again. We will also be having field trips to non-quarries, with Rick Trone kindly offering to host a trip to GMR and a trip on the Tar River. A trip to Old Dock will also be offered in the spring.

There will be numerous opportunities for outreach and I encourage everyone to get out there and try to do at least a little outreach this year. The Dino Egg Hunt at the Museum of Life and Science as well as the Norwood Arbor Day and Fossil Fair are both in April and the Aurora Fossil Festival will be Memorial Day weekend as always – and is super fun to attend or display at. You don't have to be an expert, in fact, you have to know anything at all – just have a passion for fossils and off you go.

There are a couple of professional conferences coming up. The Paleontological Society has created a new category of membership – just for amateurs. It's only \$35.00 to join. It will get you a discount at some GSA conferences and they are working on a webpage just for amateurs.

Thanks to everyone who made comments on the BLM proposed rules regulating fossil collecting on Bureau of Land Management land. They ended up with over 400 comments! Hopefully this will encourage them to take notice of us and craft better language going forward.

Hope to see you at a meeting, in the field or at an event!

Happy Hunting,

Linda

Request for Help

I received the following from Jeff Warner. If you bring fossil donations to the March meeting, I'll see that he gets them.

Ríchard Chandler

We are putting together a educational Marine Fossil Exhibit here in Denver. We will be working with students, grade one through eleven. We will also be working with the Boy and Girl Scouts as well as the Boys and Girls Clubs. On the weekend we will be working with senior citizens. I know that you said that you could donate a copy of the two field guides that you have published on the North Carolina Fossils as well as help us out with some marine fossils as well. I have built a couple of display cabinets to house the fossils that we get. I am the donations and volunteer coordinator for our group. I know that North Carolina is a great state for the fossils that we are looking to get and put on display. We have a couple of fossils form Florida and California but that is about all at this time. So I am reaching out to you and anyone else that you know that might be able to help with this. It is most definitely for a good cause. The fossils will be enjoyed and appreciated by many. What we are hoping to get are marine fossils, anything to do with the ocean would be great. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. As soon as I can I want to register and use the name Ocean World Marine Museum for our organization.





Dear Paleontological Society Members,

In a time of rapidly changing climate and declining biodiversity, scientific investigation of the record of past life, the purview of paleontology, has never been of greater societal significance. In our current national political circumstances, however, our science, indeed all of science, is threatened. The Paleontological Society stands in solidarity with all scientists in seeking to counteract these threats. With this in mind, the Society is planning an active presence at the March for Science on Saturday, April 22nd (Earth Day), in Washington DC and in other cities nationwide. We invite you to participate with us in the march and, if you so choose, to march as a representative of the Society.

At present, we are interested in learning if you intend to participate and, if so, whether you would like to do so as a

representative of the Paleontological Society, perhaps carrying banners or wearing t-shirts that carry The Paleontological Society logo, along with other "paleontologically appropriate" garb and messaging. The Society intends to have a presence in DC, but will also look to assess interest in marching in other cities. If you plan to participate, please convey your interest, and the city where you intend to march, by March 10th to Mary Droser (mary.droser@ucr.edu), who is serving as the Society's organizer for the march.

Many thanks. We hope to see you out on the pavement!

All the best, Arnie Miller, President The Paleontological Society P.O. Box 9044, Boulder, CO 80301

Email: service@paleosoc.org

Lost and Gone Forever Richard Chandler

My father died when I was 15, leaving my mother with no life insurance and 4 kids to raise. She had a degree in Education and looked around for a teaching job. We ended up in Key West because Monroe County was one of the highest paying counties in Florida for teachers. We were there for my final two years of high school; it was a miraculous place for me. Former President Harry Truman visited, they made a movie starring Burt Lancaster and me (*The Rose Tattoo*), and I was able to indulge my passion for the outdoors in a way that was completely different from what I had been accustomed to in south-central Florida.

When I discovered the Caribbean monk seal while working with Joy Herrington on the seal section of the Marine Mammals chapter of *Volume IV*, I felt an almost indescribable longing for those magical days in Key West. The last verified sighting of this animal was in 1952, the year before we moved there. I could have almost seen it! Imagine: a seal in the Caribbean! Actually, that last sighting was at Serranilla Bank, a small atoll near the Yucatan Peninsula, over 600 miles south of Key West. Following an exhaustive 5 year search, the United States declared the animal extinct in 2008. It's difficult to comprehend; this animal (which I almost could have seen) had gone extinct during my lifetime! The drawing below, by Earl L. Poole, was taken from the book, *Extinct and Vanishing Mammals of the Western Hemisphere* by G. M. Allen (1942). Colorized by me.

The Caribbean monk seal got me thinking about other animals that previously inhabited parts of North America and are now extinct:

- Mexican grizzly bear. Range: northern Mexico, parts of New Mexico and Arizona. Extinct: 1976?
- Carolina parakeet. Range: southern New England to Wisconsin south to the Gulf of Mexico. Extinct: 1939
- Passenger pigeon. Range: most of North America east of the Rocky Mountains. Extinct: 1914?
- Great auk. Range: northern Atlantic Ocean and coasts in Europe, Canada and northeastern US. Extinct: 1850?
- Ivory-billed woodpecker. Range: southeastern US and Cuba. Extinct: 1986? (last confirmed sighting, Cuba)

So what do these extinctions have to do with fossils? Not a thing. I simply found them (the monk seal especially) compelling. The monk seal and passenger pigeon were killed to unsustainable levels by humans for food and oil. The flightless great auk because we needed down for our pillows. The Mexican grizzly because ranchers thought it posed a danger to stock. The Carolina parakeet and ivory-billed woodpecker because of loss of habitat (the vast deciduous forests of the eastern US). In each case we humans were to blame. When will we learn? If not by now, when??

Painting of ivory-billed woodpecker below by Joshua Caez.







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Dr. Jim Mickle, Professor of Paleobotany and Plant Morphology, NCSU, holds an example for his talk on "The Fossils of the Hanson Quarry" at our January meeting.

Yours truly presenting Trish Kohler with her consummately well-deserved Chandler Award.

NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL CLUB, INC.

	(Founded 1977))	
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nd en otherwise noted. Some sites (out of liability concerns) require collectors to be 18 years of age or older.

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. You will automatically receive a paper copy. You may also download it from the website (and opt out of the paper copy if interested) by creating a member login on the website. If interested, please send an email to ncfossilclub@gmail.com with "newsletter" in the subject line.

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 (NČFC), 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.

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Name	Signature	Date
Name	Signature	Date

North Carolina Fossil Club P.O. Box 25276 Raleigh, NC 27611-5276



Ahh, the good old days! Consider the huge variety of Cretaceous fossils from this no-longer-open locale.