

# M.A.P.S *Digest*

Official Publication of  
Mid-America Paleontology Society  
<http://www.midamericapaleo.org>

Volume 44, Number 3  
June-Sept. 2021



**“A LOVE OF FOSSILS BRINGS US TOGETHER”**

# Calendar

**NOTE 1: Both the MAPS EXPO and CVRMS Show dates are tentative and dependant on the status of COVID-19.**

**NOTE 2: Until further notice, all MAPS monthly meetings will be held virtually via ZOOM, NOT in-person in Trowbridge Hall. Check the website and watch for e-mails for further information.**

## 2021

**October 16 (REVISED DATE)**

**ESCONI "Fall Sale" (ONE DAY ONLY)**

**Location:** Building 2, DuPage County Fairgrounds  
Silent and Live Auctions, Book Sales, Juniors Table,  
Geode Splitting & Demonstrations/Displays  
[www.esconi.org](http://www.esconi.org) or [fossil54@att.net](mailto:fossil54@att.net) for more info

**October 22-24 (REVISED DATE)**

**MAPS EXPO XLII**

**Location:** Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds  
Springfield, Illinois

**Theme:** Ordovician II

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Dennis R. Kolata

**Topic:** The Platteville Formation Fauna of the Upper  
Midwest U.S. - A Snapshot of the Great Ordovician  
Biodiversification Event  
[www.midamericapaleo.org](http://www.midamericapaleo.org)

**November 6-7 (REVISED DATE)**

**CVRMS Show**

**Location:** Hawkeye Downs, Cedar Rapids

**Theme:** Meteorites

[www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org](http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org)

## Contributions to Digest Needed

The Digest editors encourage the members to submit articles for publication in the Digest issues. The Digest is for the members and should reflect their interests. If you have specimens that you collected and would like to share with other members or would like to describe a favorite collecting site, please write an article in Word, Times New Roman size 12 font, single spaced with one inch margins, and send to the editors. Photos and diagrams can be e-mailed separately or incorporated in the article.

**John:** [Fossilnautiloid@aol.com](mailto:Fossilnautiloid@aol.com)

**Chris:** [CDCozart@aol.com](mailto:CDCozart@aol.com)

## \*\*Call for Papers\*\*

The theme for the **2021 EXPO** is the **Ordovician II**. Any paper dealing with fossils, stratigraphy, or site-specific paleontology of the Ordovician Period would be appreciated. The papers should be in Word, Times New Roman, size 12 Font, single spaced with one inch margins, and e-mailed to one of the Digest Editors by the **last week of June 2021**. Diagrams/Photos can be sent separately or imbedded in text. **We now have a complete volume.**

**John:** [Fossilnautiloid@aol.com](mailto:Fossilnautiloid@aol.com)

**Chris:** [CDCozart@aol.com](mailto:CDCozart@aol.com)

## DUES INFO

Please send your \$20 2021 MAPS dues to:

**Dale Stout**

**2237 Meadowbrook Drive S.E.**

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403**

## About the Cover

The cover photograph is the upper and lower jaws of a scolecodont (polychaete annelid worm) from Middle Devonian rocks of eastern Iowa. This specimen, approximately 1/8 inch long, was collected and photographed by MAPS president Marvin Houg.

## Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 10th, 2021, via Zoom

Board Members present: Marv Houg, Tom Williams, Bob Rondinelli, Dale Stout, John Catalani, Jim Preslicka, Karl Stuekerjuergen

Meeting was preceded with a presentation by Dr. Stephanie Drumheller-Horton, University of Tennessee, "How to Make a Dinosaur Mummy: Applying Forensic Principles to a Paleontological Quandary."

Marv called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes of the January meeting were circulated by email. Tom motioned to approve, Bob seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: current checking \$11,658.75; savings \$2,176.90. Expenditures: deposit for Orr Building: 1,037.50, Allegra printing: \$730.30.

Expo:

- Sales tax: Sangamon County rate is 6.25%. Springfield city tax rate is 9.75%. Is it necessary to have certificates for both? Single-event tax forms are available for people with no tax number. Forms will be made available. If you have a tax number you will need to change the address. Do we have to send a list of dealers at Expo to the state of Illinois?
- Set-up: Ed sent Marv the CAD drawing. Rows and booths need a gap near entrances. Similar to Macomb setup. Depends on dealer needs and how many tables they have. Gaps and room between tables to better use space. Visitors will view booths from outside for best viewing. The first year will be a test and we will adapt next year. Expect on-the-spot changes and flexibility. Tom will arrange Saturday leavers for minimum disruption and empty areas. Marv will have CAD layout for next meeting. Tom will talk to USGS contacts about running a display.
- Digest: John working on EXPO registration to send in May. Tom to set up a P.O. Box.
- Table prices: tables at Orr building are smaller, but note that the venue is costing more. Karl motioned to price the first three tables at \$30 each and additional tables at \$40 each with a maximum of eight in total. Price negotiable for more than eight tables dependent on availability and at discretion of organizers. John seconded, motion carried. There is no extra cost for Thursday set-up. Thursday tables must be covered right away - no dealing on Thursday. Clean up has to be paid for on Monday. Dealers may be charged for additional clean up if their tables are not cleared. MAPS board should check areas are clear when dealers leave. Dealers must remove all packaging and table covers.
- Programs: Dale - two so far (Tom and John). Ordovician theme.
- Motel show: Dan reported that the Friday speaker room is ok. Saturday auction space more problematic. Ramada Hotel is available for MAPS members if Northfield is full. Marv will talk to Dan about confirming room reservations.
- Tom will ask Ed about insurance companies for Expo insurance.

MAPS tax reports: Bob reported he has not yet received a refund from the first 501c(3) application and will inquire about it. Karl filed Iowa tax report for 2020. Jim will file Federal tax report. Bob will check with attorneys about what needs to be filed and compile a schedule with instructions.

Meetings: Everyone should have received an email about tonight's meeting. Contact Jim Preslicka if not. Remember to renew your membership for 2021.

Marv motioned to adjourn meeting, Jim seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday March 10th, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Dr. Colin Sumrall will present "A new look at Mississippian brittle star diversity from disarticulated remains."

## **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 10, 2021, via Zoom**

Board members present: Dale Stout, John Catalani, Doug DeRosear, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Marv Houg, Tom Williams, Bob Rondinelli, Jim Preslicka, Tiffany Adrain (scribe)

Meeting followed a presentation by Dr. Colin Sumrall, University of Tennessee, "A new look at Mississippian brittle star diversity from disarticulated remains."

Marv called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m.

- Minutes of last meeting: John corrected a few typos and moved to accept the Minutes, Tom seconded, Minutes accepted.
- Treasurer's report: Jim distributed the report by email. Dale motioned to accept it, Karl seconded, report accepted.
- Tax filing: Karl is doing the biannual Iowa filing, the fee for this is about \$45. Compliance for 501c(3) status also requires the EZ form for federal filing. Bob suggested Bradshaw Attorneys file Iowa State taxes, check our submission of federal taxes (or file it for us) and maintain records for federal filing. **Bob will get a summary of what Bradshaw will do and how much it will cost.**
- Digest: John will assume that Covid-19 restrictions will still be in place in October and write up show info accordingly. He has 9 papers for the Expo Digest and could take one more on the Ordovician. **John will send a list of authors to the Board.**
- Expo program speakers: Dale is working on organizing program speakers including Paul Mayer on digitizing, Jim Preslicka, Rich Fuchs on Upper Ordovician graptolites, John on intro to the Ordovician, Tom on Upper Ordovician crinoids. Will also ask Charles Newsom and John Moffitt. Expo floor plan: Marv explained the MAPS Expo layout plan compared to the Loess Club Show layout. Mary Boesdorfer (Loess Club) said the Loess Club uses clothes dividers to muffle the noise of the general show from the area with programs. Cases are available for display. Tom and Marv will refine the floor plan when the table orders are in. Marv sent the plan to everyone.
- Expo advertising: Illinois Times a week before the show plus Fall Guide. Local newspaper is expensive and not worth it. Use Facebook and online calendars. TV news has midday news section you can sign up for. Loess Club does it three to four days before their show. Remember MAPS is new for the area. **Mary will provide contact for newspaper.** Use local virtual School Backpack - flyers can be in multiple languages? Hard copies may be required - organizers will tell us how many and where to drop off. Cover a 50-75-mile radius. WCI8 and Decatur TV, maybe as far as Champaign. Look for educational organizations and museums in the area.
- Expo Flyer: Note - no room for auction at the Northfield.
- Concessions: Contract with Loess Club for concessions. Karl motioned to approve contract, Jim seconded. Motion approved. There's a limit on the number of hours for concessions.

- Expo news release: Dale handling it.
- Security: Building is more secure than Sharpless. Loess Club has local County Sheriff provide security for a fee. Tom suggested MAPS members provide security as Fairgrounds security patrols outside and Fairgrounds gate is locked.
- Motel: Need motel room for Dennis Kolata? Check with Dan or check space in Ramada (or dealer cancellations). Tom suggested we get rooms locked in for 2022.
- Sales tax: required. A list of vendors must be sent to the state.

Badges: contact Dale if you want a MAPS name badge.

Next meeting is April 7, at 7pm on Zoom. The 2022 Expo theme will be discussed.

Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dale seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

### **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 7, 2021, via Zoom**

Board members present: Dale Stout, Marv Houg, Tom Williams, Doug DeRosear, Karl Stuekerjuergen, John Catalani, Bob Rondinelli, Chris Cozart, Jim Preslicka, Tiffany Adrain (scribe).

Also present, Mary Boesdorfer, Ed Wagner, Dan Cooper.

Marv called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Reports: Tiffany shared Minutes from the previous meeting by advance email. Bob moved to accept Minutes, Karl seconded. Minutes accepted. Jim shared the Treasurer's Report. John moved to accept, Bob seconded. Report approved.

Membership Dues: Many members have not renewed their membership as most renew at Expo. John will add a renewal reminder to the Digest and add information about donations now being tax deductible.

Tax Report: Bob is working with Jim, and Christine from Bradshaw's Attorneys, Des Moines, on submission of the 990-EZ form and will send us a completed copy for comment. Bob asked Bradshaw's for a quote for checking the 990-EZ form and filing the Iowa bi-annual tax reports.

Digest: John shared Expo issue Digest newsletter for proofreading and editing suggestions. Ed confirmed that Orr Building is available all day Thursday (included in contract and price), to allow time to set up before dealers start coming in at 2pm. There will be LOESS Club helpers familiar with set-up. Set-up time will end at 7pm on Thursday and begin at 7.30am on Friday.

Expo Concessions: LOESS Club will run concessions from 10.30am to 1.30pm, Friday and Saturday, 10.30am - 1pm Sunday. No earlier concessions available. Bring your own coffee and rolls!

Pet Policy: No pets allowed. Inform everyone who books tables. John will send relevant pdf to Tom to distribute with confirmation. Floor plan layout will be sent September 1; acknowledgement of booking on September 15.

Expo Digest: John has enough articles if all those promised are submitted.

Expo Advertising:

- Expo flyer available as pdf. Request a copy from Marv and distribute widely. Marv will contact Bob Kurdelmeyer about posting information on the Facebook page. John will send out a copy of the flyer with the next Digest.
- School advertising: Flyer can be sent to local school network for approval 2 months prior to event and date for final submission. News media: Mary and Tom will set up midday spotlight with TV station. Ads can be sent to local newspapers.
- News release: Dale is developing the news release.

Expo Floor plan: Marv shared Expo floor plan and table summation. Additional tables over the included 200 are \$3/table plus cost of staff time to bring tables from another building. Ed noted that area 23 on Marv's floor plan, along the glass wall, can get very hot. Tables need to be moved inwards away from it. Also a good place to store chairs.

Displays and Activities:

- Evaluate kids' activities. Encourage vendors to bring displays. Tiffany will investigate more local educational participants.
- Mary suggested providing an ATM. Ed offered to set it up, usually by east door.
- Live auction: No venue yet.
- Expo Programs: Dale confirmed one additional speaker (Ray Webber).

Motel and accommodation: Book your rooms as soon as possible! Dale will book a room for Dennis Kolata in the Ramada, for Friday and Saturday nights. John will confirm with Dennis. Dale will also enquire about a room for the auction to accommodate about 60 people. Dan has a block of rooms in the Northfield for dealers - some of these may be available for non-dealers nearer the time if there are dealer cancellations.

Security: LOESS Club hires overnight security for their show through the Sangamon Co. sheriff's Office for \$30/hour and has paid security during the day. We can also police the event ourselves and stay overnight, if necessary. There is 24/7 fairground security who can be called.

Show sponsors: LOESS Club show has sponsors, putting up sponsor posters, adding logos to advertising, etc. Pepsi is an "in-kind" sponsor.

Insurance: Marv has form to complete.

Expo 2022: Theme: Precambrian/Cambrian. Tom and John will start looking for a keynote speaker. Suggestion for someone from Wisconsin Geological Survey.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 7pm, via Zoom.

## Decades of Field Work in One Amazing Quarry

**John A. Catalani**

As most of you know, my field work and research involves Upper Ordovician nautiloids contained in rocks of the Platteville Formation. The benefits of continued field work, particularly at localities collected for decades, include a more complete assessment of the fossils present, additional rock units exposed with ongoing quarry operations, and unexpected geological wonders. Let me explain and give examples of each.

There was a relatively small quarry (larger now) located a bit less than a mile west of the small town of Lightsville, Illinois. I was told about an old roadcut exposure at this locality that exposed fossiliferous Mifflin rocks. By the time I got around to visiting the site (first visit March 24, 1978), it had turned into a very small quarry (about the size of a high school auditorium). The quarry was apparently started by excavating the roadcut and working back (north) into the hill behind the owner's house. The floor of the quarry was just slightly below road level at a gradual slope no actual "pit". This type of quarry that excavates into a hill slope is known as a drift quarry. Exposed in this original excavation were the Pecatonica Member (new rankings as of 2013) and the overlying, very fossiliferous Mifflin Member (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Original west wall of the Lightsville Quarry exposing the Pecatonica Member and the overlying Mifflin Member.

At this original site I found several nautiloids of note: my first *Cyrtoceria* (last of the original nautiloid Order, the Ellesmerocerida) and the first specimen of a new genus of the Order Ascocerida, nautiloids that truncate (drop off) their juvenile shell at maturity to lessen the weight. These were significant finds that were part of a fairly substantial suite of fossils mostly molluscs (it's the Ordovician way). I continued to collect the quarry for several years until the elderly gentleman that owned the quarry said that he was out of the quarry business but that I could visit anytime I wanted. That was very nice of him but, as I thanked him, thought about the diminishing returns of an idle quarry.

I did collect the quarry sporadically for several years but stopped after pickings got slim. Some 10+ years later in 2003, I was alerted to recent activity at the Lightsville Quarry. From what I was able to glean from some locals (the gentleman that was so accommodating to me and his wife had passed away), a group of investors had leased the quarry with the intent of transporting crushed material by rail to Chicago over 100 miles away. Long story short, this venture failed (didn't see that coming) and the quarry was abandoned. However, several significant results of this renewed quarrying provided me with new fossil material more diverse and abundant than the original Mifflin exposure. First, and most importantly, they continued to quarry back (north) into the hill making the quarry some three or four times larger. Additionally, in anticipation of future quarrying, the surface of the hill was cleared off some distance north of the actual pit exposing additional rock (they also dug a pit below the original quarry floor to the north most probably into the remaining Pecatonica but of little interest to this story and now filled with water). Now, most significantly, as you excavate into a rising hill, you are essentially excavating up section possibly exposing new rock units. Fortunately, this is exactly what happened. I could clearly see the new rock units from the road at the quarry entrance that contrasted with the rocks of the original pit (Figure 6). I was, of course, not allowed into the quarry proper.

However, for some reason, the operators dumped some of the new rock they were quarrying across the road into a field forming a long ridge (that is now completely overgrown). So, again, since I was not allowed in the quarry proper, I investigated this large rock pile and determined that the rock was from the Cowen Bed of the Grand Detour Member situated above the Mifflin stratigraphically. Cowen exposures are rarer than those of the Mifflin or the other fossiliferous Grand Detour Bed--the overlying Forreston.

I collected this pile for about a year and then, in early 2004, another collector and I decided to ask the person who now lived in the house if we could enter the quarry to collect. He said sure and we proceeded up the hill to where they had cleared the surface exposing what did turn out to be Cowen rocks. (Another long story is that the person we spoke to owned only the house and not the quarry itself which we later learned but, fortunately, the actual owner still allowed us to collect in the quarry.) One of the deciding factors in determining that we were collecting in Cowen rocks was the discovery of a large number of nautiloids of the genus *Oncoceras* that are more diverse and abundant than those found in the other rock units. After collecting from the surface rocks, each of us took a section of the eastern slope and began excavating where the most fossiliferous layer was exposed. At first, this layer was exposed essentially at the surface of the area stripped for future quarrying. Clearly, the further east we excavated into the rising hill slope, the more overburden we encountered that needed to be removed to expose the fossiliferous layer (Figure 2). When the overburden increased in depth to the point where further excavation was considered too much work, our hand-quarrying operations came to an end. In 2014, I took several colleagues into the quarry to show the different rock units exposed and, no surprise, our excavation site had been completely overgrown--all collecting sites are ephemeral. (It was during this visit that a county deputy sheriff entered the quarry and questioned us as to our business. We told him that we were paleontologists and that I had permission from the owner to collect in the quarry. It was then that he informed us that that owner defaulted and the Leaf River Bank now owned the quarry. He was very accommodating and asked us how long we had planned to stay to which we answered no more than another hour. He said fine but we would need permission from the bank to re-enter the quarry. Since then a new owner took possession of the quarry with no intention of allowing any sort of activity on his property.)



Figure 2. Hand-quarrying operation on the east slope of the Lightsville Quarry. The section of rock where the hand-sledge is resting on the fossiliferous layer. (The Jacob's staff markings are in decimeters.)

The abundant fossils we collected provided us with a representative sample of the fauna contained in Cowen rocks. In addition to the diverse and abundant nautiloids both published and unpublished, we collected other molluscs such as clams and snails, three-dimensional conulariids, and corals thus living up to our maxim: "Collect the site". Since my main objective was to survey the nautiloids present, I will describe several interesting and important specimens I collected at our excavations.

The first of these specimens is more spectacle than scientifically significant. The specimen in question is the type all collectors enjoy finding--one that tells a story. I was not impressed when I originally picked up the specimen; it was a small fragment (only 13 cm long) of the nautiloid *Endoceras annulatum* and was caked with dried lime mud--almost not worth carting back to the car. When I brushed off the mud and examined the entire specimen, however, I discovered what made it exceptional. Wedged into the living chamber of the nautiloid was a large (5 cm high) specimen of *Macroscenella superba*, a monoplacophoran (mono, for short) mollusc (Figure 3). When I examined the specimen more closely, after a good washing at home, I thought about the aperture-first orientation of the mono in the living chamber and came to some conclusions. I speculated that the mono entered the living chamber by intent either to make an easy meal of the recently deceased nautiloid or to utilize the empty shell for protection. I favor the free-meal scenario, however, since the nautiloid is a juvenile and the living chamber seems too small to have afforded much protection. Could the mono have simply been washed into the shell? I thought about this but reasoned that, had the mono simply been forced into the nautiloid, it would have probably been jammed in apex first rather than aperture first (although I doubt if this scenario is even feasible given the small size of the living chamber). A closer inspection reveals a section of the aperture of the mono in direct contact with the inside of the living chamber--evidence that, as the mono progressed further and further, it became so tightly wedged into the living chamber that it could not extricate itself and perished at the site of its last meal.



Figure 3. *Macroscenella superba*, a large (5 cm) monoplacophoran mollusc, jammed into the living chamber of a juvenile *Endoceras annulatum*.

The second specimen is a one-of-a-kind find that advances our knowledge of one of the most important Platteville nautiloids. The specimen is a simply gorgeous example of a very rare nautiloid named *Ulrichoceras beloitense* (Figure 4). Preserved on this specimen is a virtually complete body chamber that shows an inflated section in the middle of the chamber and a constriction near the aperture--no other specimen preserves these features. In addition, the specimen is mature (again, the first mature conch ever found of this species) as is shown by the septal crowding near the body chamber. What makes this genus so important is that it is generally interpreted as a primitive, possibly oldest, member of the Cyrtogomphoceratidae and may have given rise to *Cyrtogomphoceras*. Additionally, the Cyrtogomphoceratidae appears to have given rise to the Ordovician Westonoceratidae (an example would be *Westonoceras*, a common genus found in Galena rocks) as well as the Silurian Phragmoceratidae and the common genus *Phragmoceras*.

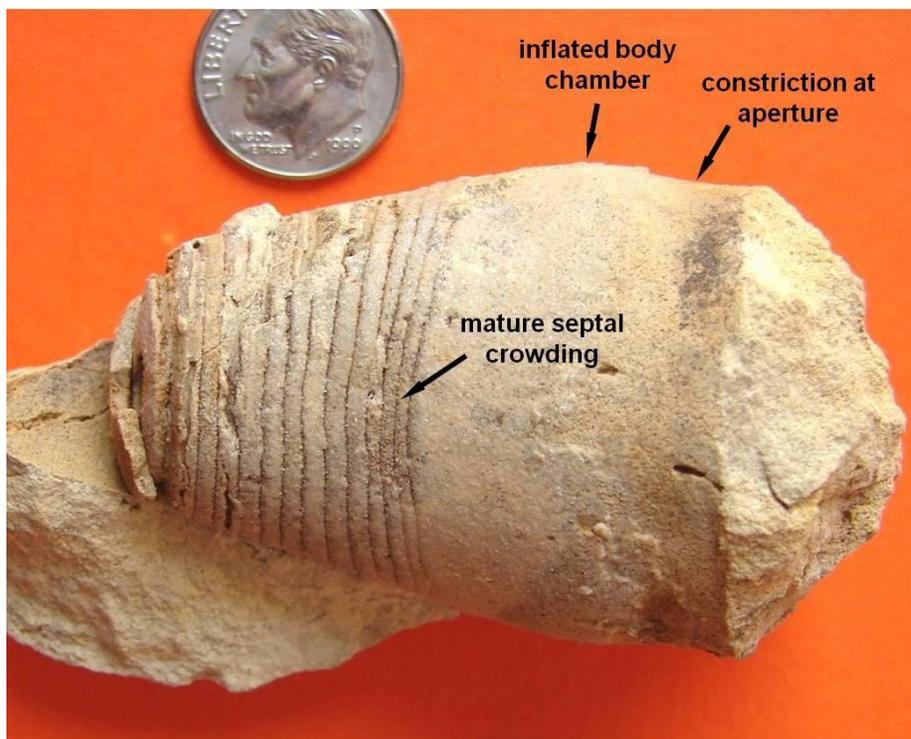


Figure 4. Specimen of *Ulrichoceras beloitense* displaying the features unique to this specimen.

The third example includes several specimens each of two species of an unpublished genus. This genus is unique in that it has a siphuncle that consists of inflated, heart- or teardrop-shaped segments. Additionally, the segments of one of the species have a unique mid-ventral groove (Figure 5). Previous to the field work at the Lightsville Quarry, one of the species could be found in Mifflin and Cowen rocks but not in Forreton rocks; the other species was found in Forreton rocks but not the rocks of the other two units. That changed when I found multiple specimens of both species in the rocks of the Lightsville Quarry.



Figure 5. Close-up of the unique siphuncle that characterizes one of the species of an unpublished genus confined to Platteville rocks.

Finally, there was exposed during the quarry expansion an unusual geological feature, at least unusual to be exposed in Illinois. The western wall of the quarry north of the original exposure revealed the north limb of the Leaf River Anticline (Figure 6). When only the original quarry face was exposed (Figure 1), there was no hint of the anticline structure because this original face exposed the crest of the anticline where the layers are horizontal. Because the below-floor pit was allowed to fill with water, the gentle northward dip of the rock layers is clearly evident in the west wall.

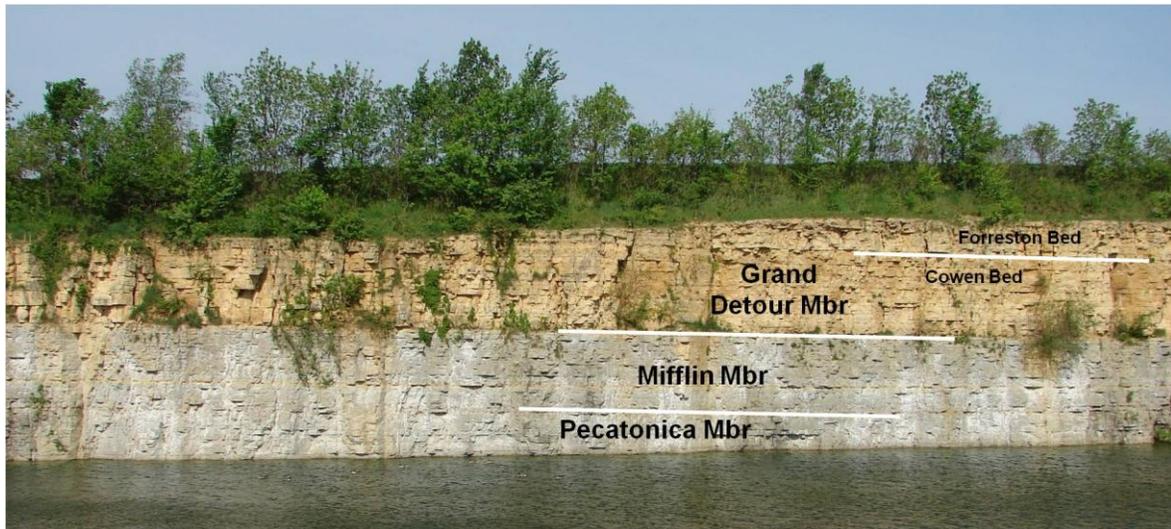


Figure 6. West wall of the Lightsville Quarry exposing the northward dipping rock layers of the north limb of the Leaf River Anticline.

So, to sum up, fossil collecting is a dedicated in-the-field activity. Successful, systematic collecting involves multiple sites exposing the same rock units and multiple visits to evaluate current rock availability and amass a comprehensive collection that cannot be acquired in just a single collecting trip. Multiple visits also assure that, should continuing quarry activity expose new rock units not available previously, you will be present to evaluate these newly exposed rocks. And, of course, since every site is ephemeral, the availability clock is ticking. Active quarries are the most reliable source for fossils since they provide the collector with a more-or-less continuous supply of new material (depending on numerous factors, of course). Idle/abandoned quarries can also supply fossil specimens, particularly if the position of fossiliferous rock layers presents an opportunity for active hand-quarrying. Dedicated collecting insures that the science of paleontology will be provided with a continuous supply of fossil specimens, the data that our insightful paleobiological analysis depends.

The **M**id-**A**merica **P**aleontology **S**ociety (MAPS) was formed to promote popular interest in the subject of paleontology; to encourage the proper collecting, study, preparation, and display of fossil material; and to assist other individuals, groups, and institutions interested in the various aspects of paleontology. It is a non-profit society incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa.

Membership in MAPS is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils and the aims of the Society.

Membership fee: \$20.00 per household covers one year's issues of DIGESTS. All Canadian and Overseas members receive the DIGEST by air letter post. For new members and those who renew more than 3 issues past their due date, the year begins with the first available issue. Institution or Library fee is \$25.00.

MAPS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of October, November, January, and February and at EXPO in March or April. A picnic is held during the summer. October through February meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. in Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. One annual International Fossil Exposition is held in late March/early April.

The MAPS official publication, MAPS DIGEST, is published 5 times per year – Jan-Mar, EXPO EDITION, May-August, Sept-Nov, Dec. (EXPO Materials). View MAPS web page at: <http://www.midamericapaleo.org>

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CYATHOCRINITES



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