

# M.A.P.S. *Digest*

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

Volume 48, Number 3  
Summer 2025



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

# Calendar

## 2025

**August 23**

**ESCONI Rock, Mineral, & Fossil Swap**

**Location:** North Parking Area (north & east of grandstand), DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL; 8:00 am-2:00 pm

**Set-up & Details:** [www.esconi.org](http://www.esconi.org)

**September 20-21**

**CVRMS Auction**

**Location:** Amana RV Park; Amana, IA

**Info:** See Advertisement p. 3 this issue

## 2026

**March 21 & 22**

**ESCONI Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show**

**Location:** DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL  
Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Sun. 10:00 am-4:00 pm

**Info:** [www.esconi.org](http://www.esconi.org)

**March 28 & 29**

**CVRMS Show**

**Location:** Hawkeye Downs, Cedar Rapids  
Sat. 8:30 am-6:00 pm; Sun. 9:30 am-4:00 pm

**Theme:** TBA

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

**April 24-26**

**MAPS EXPO XLVII**

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

**Theme:** Paleotechniques

**Keynote Speaker:** TBA; **Topic:** TBA

**Info:** [www.midamericapaleo.org](http://www.midamericapaleo.org)

**2026 Live auction on site Saturday!**

**(EXPO 2026 Info & Registration will appear in the January Issue of the MAPS Digest)**

## 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\*\*

Theme for **2026 EXPO** is **Paleotechniques**. Any paper dealing with collection, preparation, photography, reconstruction, or restoration of fossil specimens 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 **first week of March 2026**. Diagrams/Photos can be sent separately or imbedded in text.

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

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

## DUES INFO

**Please send your \$20 2025 or 2026 MAPS dues to:**

**Dale Stout**

**2237 Meadowbrook Drive S.E.**

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403**

## About the Cover

Pictured are two large echinoderm holdfasts (circled) on a slab collected from an exposure of the Kope Formation on Orphanage Road, Fort Mitchell, KY. Collected and photographed by MAPS member John Catalani.



**PAID AD**

**Up for Auction**  
**Sept 20**  
**8-9' Alligator**  
**& SD Oreodont**



*Complete Body, Some  
Restoration on Head*



*Complete Specimen*

**Amana RV Park, Amana IA • Both items have reserve prices.**  
**Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society**  
<https://cedarvalleyrockclub.org/auction.html>

**Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting**  
**7:00 pm – November 4, 2024, by Zoom.**

Present: (Board) Marv Houg, John Catalani, Dale Stout, Tom Williams, Bob Rondinelli, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Sharon Sonnleitner, Ben Worrell, Tiffany Adrain (scribe). Apologies: Jim Preslicka

Meeting - Call to Order - Marv called the meeting to order at 7.19pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated Minutes from September 2024. Bob motioned to accept Minutes; John seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jim sent the report by email. Checking: \$15,334.36; savings: \$2,178.68; total: \$17,513.36. All EXPO 2024 bills have been paid except for the rental fees to LOESS for the display cases (Tom will write the check); plus a few EXPO digest packets that need address confirmation. Otherwise, the Expo packets have been mailed out (postage per piece was \$4.68). The latest expected delivery dates were Nov 5 to 6. John motioned to approve Treasurer's Report. Tom seconded. Report approved.

2024 Show Recap – Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois.

- Theme for this year: Carboniferous.
- Dates: October 18-20, 2024.
- Comments from dealers: Tom reported that dealers want to stay in Springfield and that the Spring dates are more favorable than the Fall dates (Fall is in competition with other kid's activities).
- Attendance and door prizes: Dan (via Marv) reported 112 registrations for door prizes, mostly Illinois. 75 fossil kits were given out. Marv gave a BIG thank you to Dan for handling prizes and registration and for contributing prizes. Also, thanks to Dan's family for running the prizes activities. Dale noted that attendance dwindled over lunch hour (no food at Orr Building). Opening times on Sunday should be 8am to 12pm because dealers are leaving early and visitors are disappointed.
- Silent and Live Auctions: Silent auction ok, live auction takings were down, Marv noted, likely due to poorer quality of items. Suggested holding live auction nearer to tables so dealers can bid.
- Advertising: Spent \$595 on Facebook advertising by Dan. Ben confirmed he had received ads on Facebook.
- MAPS Day Programs: Dale reported a couple of speaker cancellations. Attendance was low (around a dozen). Ben cited problems with low volume of announcements until speakers were added. Dale will bring speakers again next year.

- Friday night Keynote Speaker: Marv and Tom reported good reviews/response for keynote speaker. Marv gave out EXPO 2025 cards.
- Donation box: need better signage and information on what donations support.
- Displays: Bob congratulated Marv, Tom and Karl on the quality of the displays.

#### EXPO 2025

- Dates: May 9-11, 2025
- Theme: Extinctions.
- Motel Show and room reservations: there should be a list of open rooms for vendors and a map of rooms at the front desk. Bob asked about special accommodation rate at Northfield. Marv explained that Dan organizes that for dealers. Ben reported 37 dealer rooms ranging from \$92 - \$99 plus tax. Eleven rooms were registered to show guests. Register early for the best deal.
- Website: Jim has updated the MAPS website with the new dates for EXPO 2025. The front and back of the new promo 2025 cards are available on the website and can be downloaded as a jpeg. Will add new flier when Sharon has it prepared and will be adding newer EXPO photos to various pages soon.

#### Old Business

- Crinoid Project: Bob will continue with the project soon and discuss with Tiffany.
- Bank signatories: Still need to get Dale added.
- Badges: still needs to be done. Tom has another source for badges if necessary.

#### New Business

- Increased Orr Building costs for 2025: building rent per day \$1,100 to \$1,550. MAPS Board members offered to make donations, but table rates will have to go up. New flat fee of \$50/table would cover cost of building rental and cleaning. Tom asked Marv to check with Tammy that building was cleaned satisfactorily.
- Relocation of EXPO:
  - Johnson Co Fairgrounds: Sharon provided information. 60 x 140 ft open plan (not sure of shape). \$2,500 for 3-day weekend. \$250 set up time. Includes tables and chairs but not cleaning. Determined to be too small.
  - Northfield Motel: also too small.
  - Big Bend Expo Center, East Moline: 100k sq ft. Marv trying to get in touch. Tom stressed dealers' response to East Moline NOT positive.
  - Chicago area: Tom and John assured everyone it would be too expensive.

Next Meeting: Monday December 16, 2024, at 7pm by Zoom.

Adjourn: Dale motioned to adjourn the meeting; Bob seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8.14pm.

### **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – December 16, 2024, by Zoom.**

Present: (Board) Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Tom Williams, Bob Rondinelli, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Sharon Sonnleitner, Ben Worrell, Tiffany Adrain (scribe). Also present: Dan Cooper.

Apologies: Jim Preslicka, John Catalani.

Meeting - Call to Order - Marv called the meeting to order at 7.12pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated Minutes from November 2024. Bob motioned to accept Minutes; Karl seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Tiffany read the Treasurer's Report received from Jim. Checking: \$15,112.90; savings: \$2,178.68; total: \$17,291.66. Rental fees (\$200) to LOESS for the display cases have been paid. Bob motioned to approve Treasurer's Report. Karl seconded. Report approved.

EXPO 2025– Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois.

- Dates: May 9-11, 2025
- Theme: Extinctions.
- Dealers: Tom anticipating at least 100 tables. Dan concerned about dwindling dealers. Tom responded that it's a balance with expected visitors/buyers, some dealers have many tables, and it will take a few years for dealers to adapt to change in dates. Dealers like Springfield, moving to Spring will be beneficial. Tom has a master list of dealers for emailing information. Marv suggested dealers could bring non-fossil material.
- Advertising: Door prize form provided 114 contacts for advertising, mostly in Illinois, some in Ohio. Can see from list which advertising methods were effective. Dan will organize a mass email two weeks before Expo. Facebook boost cost \$595, but Dan suggested that \$300-\$400 will be more cost effective. **Karl motioned to budget \$400 for Facebook ads for 2025. Tom seconded. Motion carried.** Dan paid for an ad in Rocks and Minerals. Marv thanked Dan. Tiffany will email fossil clubs and local museums. Tom will handle calendars.
- Signage around town: Dan will organize simple signs, "Fossil Show. Orr Building."
- Facebook: Flyer needs to be posted to our site plus many other sites – Jim/Sharon
- MAPS Day Speakers: Dale will ask around.
- Keynote Speaker for Extinctions: send suggestions to Tom. Dan will talk to people at Tucson show. Possibly split and flight costs with CVRMS for a talk?
- Motel Show and room reservations: 80% already paid and signed up. Dan hoping to get Moroccan dealers. Dan will provide a list of dealers for a sign at the motel show, and also put dealers on Facebook page.

EXPO 2026

- Dates: April 24-26, 2025
- Theme: Ice Age. Ben will ask Matt Hill (Iowa State University) for an article.

Old Business

- Crinoid Project: Bob gave an update on discussion with the Iowa State Historical Museum. An exhibit would cost c. \$200k and the museum has neither funds nor priority for the project. Bob hopeful that funds could be raised privately. Tiffany suggested a display at the State Capitol if Bob can work with contacts.
- Bank signatories: Still need to get Dale added.
- Badges: still needs to be done.

New Business

- Distribution of funds raised by Expo 2024: Marv will ask Jim to pull up numbers from last year for next meeting.

- New officers: Marv appointed Dale, Tiffany and Sharon as elections committee. Proposed Director updates: Bob Rondinelli (2025), Dale Stout (2026) Ben Worrel (2027), otherwise same slate. Bob motioned to accept the updated slate of officers, Karl seconded, motion carried.
- Tiffany gave an update on the new UI School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability and the position of the Paleontology Repository.

Next Meeting: Monday January 27, 2025, at 7pm by Zoom.

Adjourn: Karl motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dale seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8.15pm.

### **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm – January 27, 2025, by Zoom.**

Present: (Board) Marv Houg, John Catalani, Dale Stout, Tom Williams, Bob Rondinelli, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Sharon Sonleitner, Ben Worrell, Jim Preslicka, Chris Cozart, Tiffany Adrain (scribe).

Meeting - Call to Order - Marv called the meeting to order at 7.03pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated Minutes from December 2024. Tom said he has master list of dealers for emailing. Dale motioned to approve the Minutes. John seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – John circulated the Treasurer's Report. Checking: beginning \$15,112.90 plus \$160 deposited on Jan 6; minus payment to Dan Cooper (\$600); savings: \$2,178.68; total: \$16865.39. Tom reported one of the display cases was damaged (glass had to be replaced) – will send Jim invoice. Karl motioned to approve Treasurer's Report. Tom seconded. Report approved.

EXPO 2025– Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois.

- Dates: May 9-11, 2025
- Theme: Extinctions.
- Orr Building rental: check for February, remainder due, plus cleaning.
- Dealers: Tom anticipating a flurry after Tucson.
- Expo Digest newsletter: Jim reported available on website.
- Door prizes: Marv to ask Dan if he's interested in doing door prizes again.
- Advertising: Dan placed ad in Rocks and Minerals (not sure which month). Tom sent info to Rock & Gem Magazine community calendar. Tom will send flyer to local Facebook clubs on Board's agreement. Cards will be sent to schools. Local museum may be under renovation.
- MAPS Day Speakers: discussion of possible speakers.
- Keynote Speaker for Extinctions: discussion of possible speakers with suggestions from Bob and Tiffany. Dan and John talking to potential speaker(s).
- Expo Digest: John has offers of papers but has received only one or two so far.
- News Release: Dale will do.
- Insurance – not before 60 days prior to show.
- Food locations – provide map and phone numbers
- Expansion from "fossil-only:" John reported that some dealers wanted to remain "fossil only" while Tom reported that others had expressed interest in selling non-fossil items (which might increase crowds). Tom and Karl suggested allowing a percentage of non-fossil items per dealer, e.g. 30% of material or 1 out of 3 tables rented could be non-fossil, as long as earth science related. Bob recalled waiting in line to enter shows years ago. Karl stated fossil material getting harder to acquire. Marv compared the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society show in Cedar Rapids, IA, which brings in

5,000 people in 2 days. This would not happen if it was just fossils. Karl suggested a one-year trial, but Tom advised that it would take longer. Chris moved to include mineral and other natural history material in MAPS Expo sale content. Karl seconded. Motion approved. Sharon will modify flyer. Marv will develop a brief statement for Jim to email to MAPS members. Ratio will be 1/3 non-fossil to 2/3 fossils. Let Dan's dealers know in case they would like to buy tables.

#### EXPO 2026

- Dates: April 24-26, 2026
- Theme: Ice Age – or fossil preparation

#### Old Business

- Crinoid Project: Bob and Tiffany discussed options for creating a temporary display. Will form subcommittee to visit Beane Collection at State Historical Museum, Des Moines. Tiffany will research exhibit design and installation costs.
- Bank signatories: Still need to get Dale added.
- Audit: needs to be done.
- Badges: still needs to be done.

#### New Business

- Dale received a donation for MAPS and needs template for letter for acknowledgement and thanks.
- Donations to other entities (Paleo Society, Strimple Award, PRI, UI Rhodes Fund): Jim will talk with Andrielle about status of PRI and check on previous donations.
- Taxes: Bob filed biannual report and sent a copy to Karl – will send invoice for reference (Bob paid it and needs letter of receipt).

Next Meeting: Monday February 24, 2025, at 6.30pm by Zoom.

Adjourn: Dale motioned to adjourn the meeting; Karl seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8.15pm.

### **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting 6.30 pm – February 24, 2025, by Zoom.**

Present: (Board) Marv Houg, John Catalani, Dale Stout, Tom Williams, Bob Rondinelli, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Sharon Sonleitner, Ben Worrell, Jim Preslicka, Tiffany Adrain (scribe).

Meeting - Call to Order - Marv called the meeting to order at 6.44pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated Minutes from January 2025. Bob motioned to approve the Minutes. Karl seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jim circulated the Treasurer's Report. Paid \$623.54 for the second issue of the Digest and \$6.89 in bank fees; deposited \$240 in dues and \$2,360 for Expo. Checking: beginning \$16,656.11; savings: \$2,178.94; total: \$18,835.05.

EXPO 2025– Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois.

- Dates: May 9-11, 2025
- Theme: Extinctions.
- Orr Building rental: Marv estimates c.\$8k-9k Expo costs to be paid. Has a contract that needs to be paid by April 18. Jim will send check for \$3,255 to Illinois Department of Agriculture. Cost does not include cleaning (\$690) as Marv is waiting for confirmation from Elston Cleaning.

- Dealers: Tom reported c.75 tables sold so far. Anticipates 100 tables (need that to be financially viable). Five dealers (at least 30 tables) from last year not coming back due to conflicts, etc. Some hotel rooms may be available. Announced new policy for expanding sale item type. John sent Marv's letter about this to over 100 contacts. Marv is receiving positive feedback about expanding sales items. Needs list of motel dealers from Dan Cooper. Contact anyone you think might be interested.
- Door prizes: Can be minerals too.
- Displays: Tom asked Karl for leaf fossil of extinction survivors. Tom will display crinoids and Ice Age material, needs trilobites. John will create a nautiloid lineage.
- Advertising: Jim will put updated flyer on website. Dan is considering TikTok ad – will need to set up an account. Marv will discuss with Dan. Dan placed ad in Rocks and Minerals. Tom sent info to Rock & Gem Magazine community calendar. Tom will send flyer to local groups. Marv will talk to Kim about Facebook pushes. Sharon as emailed latest version of flyer to everyone. There are fewer shows to advertise at. Tiffany will email fossil clubs and museums.
- MAPS Day Speakers: John, Jim and Tom offered to give talks. No other takers yet.
- Keynote Speaker for Extinctions: Due to difficulty identifying an affordable speaker in the shorter time frame of the date change, John moved to not have a speaker for 2025 but concentrate on a speaker for 2026. Marv agreed it was wise not to encumber additional expenses right now. Karl seconded. Motion carried.
- Expo Digest: John has four papers in hand. Submission deadline is April 1.
- News Release: Dale will do.
- Insurance (Relion) – not before 60 days prior to show.
- Food locations – provide map and phone numbers.

### EXPO 2026

- Dates: April 24-26, 2026
- Theme: Fossil preparation and archiving
- Motel and reservation: Dan Cooper at Northfield Inn.

### Old Business

- Crinoid Project: Bob, Karl and Tiffany intending to visit Beane Collection at State Historical Museum, Des Moines. Tiffany will ask borrowing specimens. John suggested a crinoid display at the 2026 Expo. Tom thought that would encourage media coverage. Marv suggested Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society Show in Cedar Rapids as the crinoids are from Iowa: "The Finest Crinoids in the World." Dale suggested requesting a loan from Beloit. Tom noted that the display would need greater security for museum specimens and suggested asking Tammy if it would be ok to have someone in the building overnight. Bob suggested raising money through the MAPS Educational Fund. Tiffany will research exhibit design and installation costs.
- Bank signatories: Still need to get Dale added.
- Audit: needs to be done.
- Badges: Dale put in an order – needs a photo of a badge.

### New Business

- Other Expo location. Ben noted that dealers seem to want to stay in Springfield. Marv said to see how this year pans out.



- Donations to other entities (Paleo Society, Strimple Award, PRI, UI Rhodes Fund): Jim has not heard back from Andrielle about status of PRI. Usual donations are PRI (\$600), Paleontological Society (\$750, last donation in 2023), and UI Rhodes Memorial Fund (\$500, last donation in 2019). Tom motioned to hold off on donations, except for PRI if attending, until after Expo when finances are confirmed as fewer dealers means fewer auction items and fewer bidders. John seconded. Motion carried.
- Dale was contacted by another group about trading vendor contact details. Will explain that MAPS does not have authorization from dealers for that right now.

Adjourn: Bob motioned to adjourn the meeting; Tom seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8.01pm.

### **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting 6.30 pm – March 31, 2025, by Zoom.**

Present: (Board) Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Tom Williams, Chris Cozart, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Sharon Sonnleitner, Ben Worrell, Jim Preslicka, Tiffany Adrain (scribe).

Apologies: John Catalani, Bob Rondinelli

Meeting - Call to Order - Marv called the meeting to order at 6.34pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated Minutes from February 2025. Karl motioned to approve the Minutes. Dale seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jim circulated the Treasurer's Report. Paid \$431 for insurance, \$3,255 for Orr Building, and \$690 for Elston Cleaning; deposited \$1,500 for Expo tables and \$182.50 in Digest sales. Checking: \$13955.72; savings: \$2,179.02; total: \$16,134.74. Orr Building is now paid in full (due April 18), check will be delivered today. Jim has not heard from Andrielle at PRI. Marv will try to call. Tom will send Marv Andrielle's contact details. Dale motioned to approve the Treasurer's Reports for February (approval omitted at February meeting) and March. Karl seconded. Reports approved.

EXPO 2025– Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois.

- Dates: May 9-11, 2025
- Theme: Extinctions.
- Orr Building insurance: submitted.
- Security: Tom will set up security. Minimum is four hours, previously 5pm – 9pm, Friday and Saturday. Cost per overnight is \$200. Need to make sure all doors are locked but cleaners come in later so someone would have to stay until cleaners have gone and then check all doors are locked. Marv will ask Tammy who will check building after cleaners have left. Tom said that he calls someone in the mornings to unlock the building. The Fairgrounds have 24/7 security.
- Dealers: Tom reported c.96 tables sold so far. One dealer needs to be reimbursed. Tom will send details to Jim so he can send check. New dealers are coming. There are a few more table fees to collect.
- Door prizes: Marv asked for prizes.
- Advertising: Tiffany emailed fossil clubs and museums. Marv asked Jim to bring cards to the Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society Show. Tiffany has a box of cards. Tom will think of other ways to distribute cards.
- Auction: Amy Preslicka will handle.
- MAPS Day Speakers: Dale still waiting for some replies.

- Expo Digest: John has six articles, 86 pages in total.
- News Release: Dale waiting for speakers.
- Insurance (Relion) – Marv has it in hand.
- Food locations – easy to find opportunities in near vicinity.

#### EXPO 2026

- Dates: April 24-26, 2026
- Theme: Fossil preparation and archiving
- Digest: ask to reprint articles from previous “Paleo Techniques” Digest. Could include multiple, short, heavily illustrated papers as well as “top tips” for display, mounting, photography, etc. Tiffany will contact potential keynote speaker.
- Motel and reservation: Dan Cooper at Northfield Inn.

#### Old Business

- Crinoid Project: Bob, Karl and Tiffany intending to visit Beane Collection at State Historical Museum, Des Moines, with a goal of displaying material at Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society show and MAPS Expo. Would require overnight security. Bob might do a presentation on the Beane Collection.
- Bank signatories: Still need to get Dale added.
- Audit: needs to be done.
- Badges: should be ready by Expo.

#### New Business

- Chris received an email from James Hagadorn requesting MAPS support of Palaeontologica Electronica (<https://palaeo-electronica.org/>). Chris will forward email to Tiffany for Board circulation and send Hagadorn Marv’s contact details.
- Other Expo location. Tom noted that dealers prefer Springfield but will survey them about geographic preferences. General agreement that Springfield is not establishing growth. Ben will investigate other potential venues for April 2027 (avoiding Easter) and establish contact.
- Cards for next year. Sharon suggested cutting back to original amount.

Next Meeting: Thursday May 1, 2025, at 7.00pm by Zoom.

Adjourn: Dale motioned to adjourn the meeting; Jim seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7.47pm.

### **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting 7.00 pm – May 1, 2025, by Zoom.**

Present: (Board) Marv Houg, John Catalani, Dale Stout, Tom Williams, Chris Cozart, Sharon Sonnleitner, Ben Worrell, Tiffany Adrain (scribe).

Apologies: Karl Stuekerjuergen, Bob Rondinelli, Jim Preslicka

Meeting - Call to Order - Marv called the meeting to order at 7.10pm.

Secretary’s Report – Tiffany circulated Minutes from March 2025. John motioned to approve the Minutes. Dale seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Jim circulated the Treasurer’s Report prior to the meeting. Dale motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report. John seconded. Reports approved.

EXPO 2025– Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois.

- Dates: May 9-11, 2025
- Theme: Extinctions.
- Orr Building insurance: submitted.
- Displays: Tom bringing a display; Karl? Missouri Fossil Hunters don't need a case. There are six Loess cases to fill.
- Security: Tom confirmed security 5pm – 9pm, Friday and Saturday. ATM available.
- Dealers: Tom reported c.126 vendors.
- Table layout: Marv asked for display confirmation.
- Door prizes: Marv asked for approx. 10 prizes with a value of \$20-\$30 at least.
- Advertising: Marv confirmed Facebook ads – please share! Tom placed an ad in Rock and Gem, but community calendars are now through social media. Ben offered website help if needed and will create Instagram and TikTok accounts. Marv will get photos and video clips for next year. Tiffany suggested asking vendors to make social media posts tagging MAPS during Expo. Some training is needed in social media.
- MAPS Day Speakers: Dale reminded everyone to send titles and abstracts.
- Expo Digest: ready to pick up on Monday.
- News Release: not done yet.
- Insurance (Relion) – Marv has it in hand.
- Food locations – easy to find opportunities in near vicinity.
- Motel show: may have two open rooms.

EXPO 2026

- Dates: April 24-26, 2026
- Theme: Paleotechniques and Archiving: fossil preparation, field extraction, collecting techniques, specimen identification resources, documentation and archiving. Tiffany suggested opening advertising to vendors in these fields for sponsorship, but this is against MAPS policy.
- Keynote speaker: Tiffany contacted Mike Eklund and will send his contact info to John and Marv.

Old Business

- Crinoid Project: Bob, Karl and Tiffany intending to visit Beane Collection at State Historical Museum, Des Moines.
- Bank signatories: Still need to get Dale added.
- Audit: needs to be done.
- Badges: Dale has them.
- Other Expo location. Ben shared details of the many venues he contacted and the possible funding and STEM education partners. Would need more outreach activities. Marv will explore Mississippi area venue. John suggested level of success this year and next, following change to Spring, will indicate need to change venue. Online sales and current preference of crystals over fossils is problematic.

New Business

- Cards for next year. Ordering 10k instead of 14k.

Next Meeting: TBD after Expo.

Adjourn: not recorded.

Mr. John Catalani  
MAPS DIGEST Editor  
3405 High Trail  
Woodridge, IL 60517



**CYATHOCRINITES**

The Mid-America Paleontology Society (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 January, February, September, and November and at FOSSIL EXPO in October. Meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. in Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. One annual International Fossil Exposition is held in October.

The MAPS official publication, MAPS DIGEST, is published 4 times per year – Jan-April, May EXPO Registration, Summer, and October EXPO Edition. View MAPS web page at: <http://www.midamericapaleo.org>

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Directors: Robert Rondinelli ('25), Dale Stout ('26), Ben Worrell ('27)