

# M.A.P.S *Digest*

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

Volume 49, Number 3  
Summer 2026



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

# Calendar

## 2026

September 19-20

**CVRMS Auction**

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

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

## 2027

March 20 & 21

**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)

April 3-4

**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 23-25

**MAPS EXPO XLVIII**

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

**Theme:** Echinoderms

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

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

**Live auction on site Saturday!**

**(EXPO 2027 Info & Registration will appear in  
the next 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. Send in Word, Times New Roman size 12 font, single spaced with one-inch margins, and send to the editors. Photos and diagrams should be sent separately.

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

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

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

Theme for **2027 EXPO** is **Echinoderms**. Papers dealing with the various types of echinoderms or echinoderm-rich sites 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 2027**. Diagrams/Photos should be sent separately.

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

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

## DUES INFO

Please send your \$20 2026 or 2027 MAPS dues to:

**Dale Stout**

**2237 Meadowbrook Drive S.E.**

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403**

## About the Cover

Pictured is a pair of Lower Carboniferous *Zeacrinites wortheni* specimens. The left specimen is from the Pennington Formation, Sloans Valley, KY, and is 4.5 cm tall. The right specimen is from the Bangor Formation, Franklin Co., AL, and is 5.5 cm tall. All fossil specimens pictured in this issue photographed by John Catalani.

**Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting**  
**7.00 pm – May 2, 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.

## **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm – December 4, 2025; By ZOOM**

Board Members present: John Catalani, Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Sharon Sonnleitner, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Tom Williams, Jim Preslicka, Tiffany Adrain (scribe). Also present: Dan Cooper.

Marv called the meeting to order at 7.03pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated the Minutes from the last meeting, May 2, 2025. Dale motioned to approve the Minutes, Karl seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the report: checking \$14,562.09, savings \$2,174.79, total \$16,736.88. Similar to recent previous years. John motioned to approve the report, Dale seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

2026 Show Discussion – Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois, April 24-26. 2026

- Contract – Jim confirmed contract submitted in September
- Cleaning by Elston Cleaning - \$690.00, last year?? Marv will contact.
- Security – Tom discussed the cost of security – increased by \$20 to \$70/hr. Four hours is minimum hire. State Fairground has its own security, 24/7. MAPS is not allowed to post anyone inside Orr Building out of hours. Advise dealers to take valuables to room. MAPS will do own policing at end of day (check bathrooms, lock up building, inform security). Karl motioned to forgo hiring additional security and use MAPS people to secure the building at night. Dale seconded. Motion approved.
- Displays: Tiffany will provide Beane crinoid specimens. Displays needed of “before and after” specimen preparation and tools used. Tom will talk to Don about displays.
- Door prizes – Dan will organize, encouraged everyone to donate prizes.

- Advertising – Dan will develop contact list from door prize entries. Dan placed an ad in the Tucson Show news and Rock and Minerals. Karl motioned to give Dan \$800 for Facebook ads. John seconded. Motion carried. Jim will reimburse Dan costs for Facebook advertising. Jim and Amy will put signs around Springfield area. Tom has signs.
- Sharon circulated Expo flyer. Will correct typo and add information about door prizes and fossil kits. Tom will add info to community calendars. Tiffany will contact paleo societies and Springfield museums. Dan suggested that TikTok is better than Facebook for advertising – would require making a new account.
- Auctions – Amy will run auctions. Live auction and silent auctions items needed.
- MAPS Day Speakers – Dale has lined up Tom, John, Jim and Tiffany for talks. Maybe Mike Eklund. Dan agreed to give a talk.
- Keynote - Due to the low attendance at the Friday Keynote talk only day programs will be presented. Keynote will be invited to give talk on Friday or Saturday daytime.
- EXPO Digest – John reported two articles so far. Tiffany offered to do an article on curation. Dan offered to provide a paper.
- News Release – Dale organizing.
- Insurance – Marv will secure.

EXPO 2027 – Orr Building dates don't work with Northfield Inn or Ramada. Dan will look for other motels. Thirty rooms are needed for dealers. Need to know location before making EXPO cards. Tom suggested checking out Route 66 Motel and conference center. Dan will check it out. Marv asked Dan for a list of motel dealers to pass out. Dealers will be listed on a sign in the motel lobby.

#### Old Business:

- Crinoid Project – no update.
- Status of additional signatures on checking account – still needs to be done.
- MAPS Name Badges – Dale has new source, let him know if you need a badge. Will order for Tom and Amy.
- Audit Committee – no update.

#### New Business:

- Other locations – Investigate large XPO center in East Moline, Illinois? Ben has not pursued further as little interest from dealers.
- Allocation of money to different organizations – will wait and see what happens at EXPO. John reported that PRI received enough donations to carry them forward. Tom and Marv will check with Andrielle about coming to EXPO.
- Digest – registration issue will go out tomorrow. Jim can put it up on the MAPS website.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2026, 7pm.

Dale motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7.58pm.

## Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm – January 15, 2026 by ZOOM

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

Apologies: Karl Stuekerjuergen, Dan Cooper.

Marv called the meeting to order at 7.06pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated the Minutes from the last meeting, December 4, 2025. Dale motioned to approve the Minutes, Bob seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the report: checking \$14,229.26, savings \$2,174.88, total \$16,404.14. Paid Allegra invoice for December newsletter (\$325.94). Send membership dues! John motioned to approve the report, Dale seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

2026 Show Discussion – Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois, April 24-26. 2026

- Contract – Jim confirmed contract submitted in September
- Cleaning by Elston Cleaning - Marv has contacted.
- Security – dropped.
- Displays: Tom will talk to Don about displays. Tiffany will provide Beane and Crossman crinoid specimens, prepped and unprepped. Jim will bring cephalopods, has case. Displays needed of “before and after” specimen preparation and tools used. Board members to bring tools. Demo of prepping with hand tools? Maybe offer to cover the cost of a room if someone will demo? Tom will ask possible volunteers.
- Door prizes – Dan will organize, everyone is encouraged to donate prizes.
- Advertising – Sharon circulated Expo flyer. Please circulate widely. Jim has posted it on MAPS website for download. Funds have been allocated for Facebook advertising. Advertised on rockandmineralsows.com. Tom has 10 signs for posting around town (no dates so reusable). Tiffany will contact paleo societies and Springfield museums.
- Auctions – promote live auction. Marv asked John to include note with name slips on tables asking for donations for live and silent auctions.
- Day Speakers – Dale has lined up Tom, John, Jim and Tiffany for talks on Friday/Saturday. Maybe Mike Eklund. Dan agreed to give a talk. Please send talk title and brief description for public interest to Dale. Marv suggested recording talks but John thought the room and general Expo noise not practical and speaker would have to be wired to a microphone.
- EXPO Digest – John reported three authors providing 5 articles. Tom and Tiffany will submit papers. March deadline. Tom suggested asking Forest Gahn. Tiffany will ask Forest about a paper of before and after pics. Dan offered to provide a paper.
- News Release – Dale organizing - needs all program info.
- Insurance – Marv reported that Relion will do it.

## EXPO 2027 –

- Dates: Marv confirmed dates are penciled in with Orr Building, but don't work with Northfield Inn or Ramada. Dan will look for other motels.
- Theme: Tom suggested “Ice Ages” – all, not just most recent. Explore further.

## Old Business:

- Crinoid Project – Bob reported that the Iowa State Historical Museum has no plans to display Beane's crinoids and there's a moratorium on new exhibits until 2027. Bob sent them a proposal for a traveling exhibit run by MAPS last June but received a response on July 23<sup>rd</sup> informing him that the Museum's loan policies would not accommodate this project. Marv thanked Bob for his efforts on this project.
- Status of additional signatures on checking account – still needs to be done.
- MAPS Name Badges – Dale has new source, let him know if you need a badge. Will order for Tom and Amy.
- Audit Committee – no update.
- Other Expo locations: concentrate on finding motel for 2027.

## New Business:

- John asked about restoring regular MAPS talks with a Zoom meeting open to all members, recorded and posted online. Separate from Board Meeting. Also a few in-person meetings. Tiffany suggested in-person meeting at public event/talk, e.g., partnering with a museum for National Fossil Day.

Next Meeting: February 19, 2026, 7.00pm.

Dale motioned to adjourn the meeting, John seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8.07pm.

## **Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting by ZOOM Minutes 7:00 pm – February 19, 2026**

Board Members present: John Catalani, Marv Houg, Karl Stuekerjuergen, Ben Worrell, Sharon Sonnleitner, Tom Williams, Jim Preslicka, Tiffany Adrain (scribe).

Apologies: Dale Stout.

Marv called the meeting to order at 7.05pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated the Minutes from the last meeting, January 15, 2026. John motioned to approve the Minutes, Karl seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the report: checking \$17,994.75, savings \$2,174.97, total \$20,169.72. Paid for Newsletter mailing, Expo yard signs, website domain and website fees. Deposited membership checks. Send membership dues! Karl motioned to approve the report, John seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

2026 Show Discussion – Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois, April 24-26, 2026:

- Marv asked Jim to send \$3,255 to Tammy at Illinois State Fairground for Orr Building and \$690 to Elston Cleaning by April 3.
- Security – dropped.
- Displays: Don will bring own cases. Tiffany will provide Beane and Crossman crinoid specimens, prepped and unprepped – can reside on a table if no case available. Tom will ask Dale about bringing 2 cases.
- Door prizes – Dan needs prizes.
- Advertising – not in Rock and Minerals magazine. Tom will put on community calendar, needs flyer. Jim reminded everyone flyer can be downloaded from MAPS website. Tiffany emailed paleo societies and will contact museums. Keep reposting Facebook post!
- Auctions – need items. Can be rocks, minerals, prep tools, not just fossils.
- Day Speakers – no update.
- EXPO Digest – please proofread submissions.
- News Release – Dale organizing - needs all program info.
- Insurance – Relion.
- Tables – 114 right now, expecting more. Tom will send updated list to Marv.
- Kids' activities: Tiffany will contact Jed Day.

EXPO 2027:

- Dates: Marv confirmed dates are penciled in with Orr Building, but don't work with Northfield Inn or Ramada. Dan will have to make the decision about the motel. Marv will contact him. Rooms are small and dark at Motel 66 on 6<sup>th</sup> Street (elevators?). Don't want to be too far away from Fairgrounds. Other motels are available. Tom will send list of motels to Marv.
- Expo 2027 cards – need motel info which goes on back of card. Print without, or Marv and Tom decide on motel.

Old Business

- In-person meetings – Discussion about starting in-person meetings (Saturday pm) and adding Zoom talks (Saturday am?) separate from Board Meetings. Avoid 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month – ESCONI meeting). Tiffany will talk to the UI Museum of Natural History Director about hosting in person meetings. John offered to give a Zoom talk after Expo.
- Status of additional signatures on checking account – still needs to be done.
- MAPS Name Badges – no update.
- Audit Committee – no update.

New Business—no new business.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2026, 7.00pm.

Karl motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8.08pm.

## Mid-America Paleontology Society Board Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm – March 19, 2026 By ZOOM

Board Members present: John Catalani, Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Ben Worrell, Sharon Sonnleitner, Tom Williams, Jim Preslicka, Tiffany Adrain (scribe).

Apologies: Karl Stuekerjuergen, Bob Rondinelli.

Marv called the meeting to order at 7.03pm.

Secretary's Report – Tiffany circulated the Minutes from the last meeting, February 19, 2026. John motioned to approve the Minutes, Tom seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the report: checking \$13,605.86, savings \$2,175.05, total \$15,780.91. Paid for Elston Cleaning and Orr Building hire. Tom will be adding a deposit for tables. Tom motioned to approve the report, Dale seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

2026 Show Discussion – Orr Building, Springfield, Illinois, April 24-26, 2026

- Contract and payments have been sent.
- Security – dropped.
- Displays: Don will bring two cases, needs three tables. Everyone must bring their own cases. Dale can bring two folding ones. Tiffany will provide Beane and Crossman crinoid specimens, prepped and unprepped – can reside on a table.
- Door prizes – Dan needs prizes.
- Advertising – Posted in Facebook. Tom posted to community sites. Tiffany emailed paleo societies and museums. To will post signs in Fairground, around motel. Marv suggests Sangamon intersections.
- Auctions – need items. Can be rocks, minerals, prep tools, not just fossils. Amy Preslicka organizing.
- Day Speakers – no update.
- EXPO Digest - 6/7 papers, 68 pages. John asked how many copies to print. Jim suggested reducing to 250.
- News Release – No update.
- Insurance – Relion, \$437, certificate submitted to Tammy.
- Tables – 138 right now.
- Kids' activities: Jed Day and students from Illinois State University will provide.

EXPO 2027 – April 23-25

- Dates: Marv confirmed dates with Orr Building
- Northfield Inn is available, Dan should have paperwork locked in, and handle motel reservations.
- Theme/speaker: John looked through previous themes and suggested “Echinoderms.” The Northfield Ballroom is not available for a keynote talk. Hold after auction at Orr Building. Dale motioned to have Echinoderms as the 2027 Expo theme. John seconded. Motion accepted. Put sign at Registration desk with theme asking for papers.
- Expo 2027 cards – print 10,000.

## Old Business

- In-person meetings –Tiffany reported that Liz Crooks (Director, UI Museum of Natural History) will collaborate on advertising. Tiffany can reserve a room in Macbride Hall – first Saturday avoiding home football game weekends - and inquire about Pappajohn Building parking. October 10 looks ok. John offered to give a Zoom talk after Expo.
- Status of additional signatures on checking account – still needs to be done.
- MAPS Name Badges – magnetic badges requested by John, Amy, Tom.
- Audit Committee – no update.
- Allocation of donations – no update.

## New Business

- No new business.

Next Meeting: at Expo.

John motioned to adjourn the meeting, Tom seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7.46pm.



Silurian crinoid *Eucalyptocrinites crassus* from the famous Waldron Shale beds at St. Paul, IN. The specimen is 3.4 cm tall.



Lower Carboniferous crinoid *Eupachyrcrinus asperatus* from the Bangor Formation, Franklin Co., AL. The specimen is 4.5 cm tall.

## MID-AMERICA PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY

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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