



ALBERTA

**PALAEOLOGICAL**

SOCIETY

**BULLETIN**

**VOLUME 3, No. 2**

**JUNE 1988**

**ALBERTA PALAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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	Director at Large	Dr. David Mundy	281-3668
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	Programs & Education	Darren Tanke	823-6420

The Society was incorporated in 1986, a non-profit organization formed to:

- A. Promote the science of palaeontology through study and education.
- B. Make contributions to the science by:
  - 1) Discovery
  - 2) Collection
  - 3) Description, curation, and display
  - 4) Education of the general public
  - 5) Preserve material for study and the future
- C. Provide information and expertise to other collectors
- D. Work with professionals at museums and universities to add to the palaeontological collections of the Province (preserve Alberta's heritage).

**MEMBERSHIP:** Any person with a sincere interest in palaeontology is eligible to present their application for membership in the Society.

Single Membership	\$10.00 annually
Family or Institution	\$15.00 annually

OUR BULLETIN WILL BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY: March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1 annually

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Wayne Braunberger**

Well, here it is, summer already! Once again our thoughts will turn to outdoor activities. This year the Society will once again offer a series of field trips. These field trips are an integral part of the Society's overall program. The field trips complement the programs that are held during winter. By attending the field trips you have an opportunity to expand your knowledge of palaeontology. Some of the trips are to locations that are not normally accessible. Each trip has a leader who is quite knowledgeable about the area. Also, a small guide book is published for each trip. These guide books are a valuable source of information and a good reference. Attending field trips is an excellent way to meet other members and share experiences.

I would once again like to remind everyone to use caution when out collecting this summer. Many locations are hazardous and care should be taken. Also, take the time to note some basic data about the material you collect. This will come in handy later in the year when you try to remember where you've been and what you picked up.

In the fall I hope to introduce some changes to our bylaws. These changes will, hopefully, streamline the operation of the Society. I will be proposing that our elections be held in November with the term of office being from January to December. I am also going to propose that our annual meeting be held in March. This is to allow time to prepare the financial statement as it is very difficult to have it ready by the January meeting. Although these are not major changes they will help to smooth out the operation of the Society. I will have more details in the fall.

I would also like to announce that I have been appointed to the Alberta Palaeontological Advisory Committee as the representative of amateur collectors. I have taken over from Harvey Negrich who has been on the committee for several years. Harvey is to be commended for his efforts on our part. Anyone with concerns, questions, or comments about fossil collecting in Alberta is invited to contact me.

Have a good summer.

**PROGRAMS**

Darren Tanke is our new director of programs and education. Darren will take office on September 1, 1988. He can be reached at 823-6420 (Drumheller) and is open to suggestions for programs.

Over the last two months the following programs were presented:

**APRIL** Darren Tanke presented a program on the marine fossils from Morden, Manitoba. This area is famous for fine specimens of mosasaurs, plesiosaurs, turtles and marine birds. Darren's talk was well illustrated and very enjoyable.

**MAY** Eric Gosselin gave a presentation on trace fossils, specifically sponge borings in stromatoporoids. This talk related well to a previous talk on stromatoporoids presented by Dave Mundy. Eric is doing original research work on the sponge borings and has made some interesting discoveries.

1988 Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club Show

Les Adler

As in previous years the show was held on the first weekend in May at the West Hillhurst Arena in North-West Calgary. APS president Wayne Braunberger entered the same display as last year and the judges were consistent as they awarded Wayne trophies for highest mark in competition, highest mark in the show and first prize in fossils for his topic on the preparation of fossil corals using acid.

Herein follows short descriptions of the many fossil cases. Each case is of standard size 4 feet by 2 feet, with a glass front view. The Rock Club owns 100 of these cases and allows free use of them to those who agree to display by filling in a formal entry form, either competitive entries or non-competitive. The Club also awards prizes to non-competitive entries for outstanding displays.

Boris Markhasin displayed 75 specimens, "Fossils of Alberta", including ammonites, corals, brachiopods, fish, shark plates and a variety of dinosaur parts, all specimens being collected, cleaned and personally prepared by Boris.

Geoff and June Barrett also displayed Alberta fossils including a large batch of rare Mississippian fossils from the Canyon Creek area, with a complete Griffithides trilobite and complete Macrocrinus crinoid heads. Other specimens included corals, ammonites and pelecypods

APS members Emmette Wallace and his wife, Jean Whitely Wallace, flew in from Texas and each set up a display of their own. Emmette's display was of New Zealand fossils comprising wood, pelecypods, gastropods, a crab, brachiopods and belemnites. Jean entered a case of 40 ammonites in competition. Most of these were from Texas and represented most ammonite sub-orders and many families.

Don Sabo's display presented a series of growth stages, juvenile to adult, arranged in pairs, of dinosaur groups personally collected in Southern Alberta, covering jaw bones, unguals, phalanxes and teeth.

Harvey and Steffie Negrich presented two cases of invertebrate fossils collected in the United States. The 108 specimens included most phyla and ranged from Cambrian to Oligocene

Peter Meyer displayed trace fossils and invertebrate fossils from Southern Alberta.

Les Adler displayed a replica of a baby hadrosaur emerging from an egg and a replica of a large Tyrannosaurus rex tooth. He also presented a set of present day Ginkgo biloba leaves in brown winter condition next to a set of brown fossil Ginkgoites adiantoides, Palaeocene Epoch, collected by A.P.S. member Betty Speirs, of Red Deer. The display included fossilized dinosaur skin and a variety of ammonites.

The Drumheller Rock and Fossil Club displayed two cases of highly polished Albertosaurus teeth and Placenticerus meeki with a large selection of ammolite. The Club was awarded the President's trophy for this display.

The Resource Center, including identification facilities with books, samples and giveaways was manned by a contingent from A.P.S. including Harvey Negrich, Geoff and June Barrett, Lyle Hartwig, Don Sabo, Wayne Braunberger, Boris Markhasin and Las Adler. Besides the 200 fossils on display there were also two high-powered stereoscopic microscopes and stacks of folders advertising the A.P.S., the Provincial Museum at Edmonton and the Geological Survey of Canada.

The Friends of the Tyrrell Museum had a long table on which a Kodak Ektographic Model 460 presented colour slides on dinosaurs. The staff also handed out to the general public cut-out models and advertising literature. The Tyrrell Museum itself presented a display case of perfect ammonites, a pelecypod, a crayfish and a cuttlefish.

Several dealers had large spectacular polished specimens of Devonian ammonoids and nautiloids for sale from Erfoud, Morocco. Shark's teeth, trilobites and fossil fish were also available for purchase.

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Probably the most controversial and contentious issue ever to darken the doorway of the serious fossil collector is the infamous Bill 11, the very mention of which is guaranteed to induce a fit of apoplexy.

Already, horror stories are surfacing of collections being consigned to the river bed rather than face the possibility of fines and harassment in the future. Indeed, our own Society membership has suffered, many former members being reluctant to re-subscribe, feeling intimidated by an attitude that is positively Orwellian in its context. **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU.**

Whilst disposing of ones collection is a rather extreme method of side-stepping the problem, albeit effective it still does not resolve the issue. Before any drastic action is taken it is necessary to be acquainted with all the relevant facts and, to this end, I spoke with Anna Curtis of the Tyrrell Museum, who has kindly offered to answer any questions regarding the new legislation covering the collection of palaeontological resources within Alberta.

I invite the Society members (or any interested parties) to send me any questions you may have regarding Bill 11, which I will then forward to Anna. All questions and answers will be published in future editions of the 'Bulletin', the sender being guaranteed anonymity.

Editor.

I received the following list of fossil specimens from Mr. James P. McKinnon, a mineral dealer operating under the business name 'The Philosopher's Stone'. As James is now restricting his business activities exclusively to minerals he is disposing of the remainder of his fossil specimens. He is willing to trade the whole collection for an equal value of assorted crystallized mineral species or, alternatively, will sell the entire collection for one half of the total price.

78 Ammonite (\$1.00)	Ashcroft B.C.
134 Ammonite (\$1.00)	Ashcroft B.C.
476 Ammonite ((\$20.00) -Ammonite 5.5cm with some remaining calcareous shell resting in large shale matrix, removable.	Pleasant Valley Shale Pit, Nanaimo,
698 Ammonite (\$7.00)	Nanaimo B.C.
445 Baculite (\$2.00)	Saskatchewan
447 Baculite (0.50)	Saskatchewan
1455 Baculite (\$5.00)	Consort, Alberta
171 Belemnite (\$4.00)	Ashcroft B.C.
222 Brachiopods (\$2.00)	Sustat Area, NE B.C.
135 Clam ((\$1.00)	Nanaimo. B.C.
456 Clam (\$1.00)	Nanaimo B.C.
1116 Clam (\$1.00)	Nanaimo B.C.
752 Clam ((\$1.00)	B.C.
1095 Clam (\$3.00)	Pender Harbour, B.C.
1149 Crinoid basal plate (\$2.00) -Nicely detailed white Limestone basal plate Crinoidea <u>Platycrinus</u> , no matrix.	St. Genevieve Limestone, Huntsville
925 Crinoid calyx (\$2.00)	Ohio, Alabama?
718 Crinoid (\$10.00)	Galore Creek, N. BC
867 Fish fossil (\$10.00) -Skeletal impression of a fish on light brown Shale.	Wyoming, U.S.A.
962 Fossil coral (slabbed (\$1.00)	North Island, New Zealand
191 Fossil fish plates (\$1.50)	Colorado
705 Gastropod (\$2.00)	Nanaimo, B.C.
268 Leaf fossil (\$1.50)	Nanaimo, B.C.
344 Leaf fossil (\$1.00)	Nanaimo, B.C.
748 Leaf fossil (\$1.00)	Nanaimo, B.C.
958 Leaf fossil (\$1.50)	Nanaimo, B.C.
726 Leaf fossil (\$3.00)	Nanaimo, B.C.
391 Pelecypod (\$1.00)	Nanaimo, B.C.
800 Pelecypod (\$1.50)	Galore Creek, .N. BC
115 Petrified dinosaur bone (\$4.00)	
714 Plant fossils (\$3.00)	Nanaimo, B.C.
720 Plant fossils (\$3.00)	Nanaimo, B.C.
1218 Shell fossils (\$1.00) - slabbed	Kaitieke, New Zealand
509 Tullimonster (\$6.00)	Coal City, Illinois

Enquiries should be addressed to:

James P. McKinnon  
333 Bird Crescent  
Fort McMurray  
Alberta T9H 4T4

Tel: 791-1566

**BOOK REVIEWS**

**Les Adler**

**Parrsboro's Fabulous Fossils - by Mark Walters**

Pages 116-120 Reader's Digest

February, 1988

This article appears to have been written especially for the Reader's Digest and probably has not appeared elsewhere. There are only two illustrations provided. I also had difficulty in locating illustrations for the fossils described herein. So that members of the Alberta Palaeontological Society do not miss out I am providing this summary:

Mark Walters provides a fanciful scenario of what may have happened at the end of the Triassic Period, about 200 million years ago, in the vicinity of where Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, exists today.

Monsoon rains fed waters into a river delta through a broad valley into a shallow lake. Phytosaurs pursued small fish. Sphenodontids caught dragonflies. A warm humid breeze swept through ginkgo trees and conifers. Aetosaurs, resembling armadillos sought crayfish. Other reptilian creatures, some winged, moved through the trees. Possibly a huge meteor had vaporized upon colliding with our planet in this area causing the extinction of about half the types of plants and animals of that time.

In 1986, Paul Olsen, an assistant geology professor at Columbia University, who is an authority on the Later Triassic and the Early Jurassic of North America came with his assistant, Neil Shubin, a graduate palaeontology student at Harvard University, to study this area. Along the Bay of Fundy the coastline consists of red shale and sandstone cliffs about 30 metres high, dotted with dark-green basalt.

In a small cove they found some 100,000 densely packed slivers the size of a pencil lead belonging to a variety of fossilized dinosaur-like creatures, lizards, sharks, fish and ancestral crocodiles. Their finds included pieces of 13 skulls of a half-mammal, half-reptile known as a trithelodont, the first to be found in North America and more than any found elsewhere before. They also found two ammosauruses, a dinosaur 2 metres tall with a long swooping neck and serrated teeth for munching vegetation. Robert Grantham, curator of geology of the Nova Scotia museum at Halifax later found ammosaurus gastroliths there.

It requires hundreds of hours of scraping with dental tools under a 20 power microscope to free the fragments from the sandstone. At this location precise dating is possible to within 10,000 to 20,000 years of the Triassic-Jurassic boundary. Mark Anders of Berkely, California, has suggested that the apparent patterns of extinction at Parrsboro could be similar to a possible mass extinction of dinosaurs 65 million years ago. If a giant asteroid or comet was responsible then a molecule-thick layer of iridium would exist. A search for iridium can take years. Three tonnes of fossil-embedded sandstone lie in storage awaiting palaeontologists. The site is protected by Nova Scotia's Special Places Protection Act, legislated in 1980, which requires fossil collectors to have permits.

**FIELD TRIPS FOR 1988**

**HARVEY NEGRICH**

Our field trip season is now well under way and, as in previous years, we plan for the third weekend of the month.

It seems my policy on rained-out days may really not be practical as there are many things to consider. If we go again the following weekend it may be necessary to change policy. In the event of rain we will try to re-schedule for a later date.

Bring along a lunch and drinks as some of our ventures do not allow us to break away at noon. Staying together helps us keep a better contact with our group. Dress accordingly as we can, at times, find some cool spots to be in.

TRIP 88-1, June 19, 1988                      RED DEER AREA, ALBERTA  
Report in next Bulletin

TRIP 88-2, July 9, 1988                      JURA CREEK, ALBERTA  
Report in next Bulletin

TRIP 88-3, July 23/24, 1988                  CROWSNEST PASS AREA  
Cancelled

TRIP 88-4, August 20/21, 1988              DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL PARK, ALBERTA

This trip will again be similar to last year's trip. It is my understanding that another large group will be at the Park this same weekend, therefore I feel we should stay at the Tillebrook campground, 5 miles east of Brooks and 1/4 mile off Highway #1, for Friday night at least. This campground will not be as convenient as the Park campground, but may be a wiser choice.

An 'off the path' type of collecting experience is still in the planning stages. We have asked for special collecting privileges and will turn over all material collected to Alberta Culture. The idea here is to allow us to get a first hand collecting experience in this area, as well as benefitting the collections of Alberta Culture.

We will also visit Tyrrell Field Centre and will try to arrange a collecting trip outside the Park boundary if time allows.

The bus tour and safari trips should again be offered for those interested, the cost for these is nominal. Both of these trips originate at the John Ware Cabin, near the Park entrance.

If you are interested in this final trip and wish to sign in, you may do so by contacting Harvey Negrich, (403) 249-4497 or anyone on our Executive Committee to pass along your desire to join the trip. We will attempt to contact all signed in persons a few days before the field trip to confirm attendance and pass along any last minute changes. This last minute contact will be.. important to all, as changes are made to any plans, do not attend a field trip without first checking for any such changes.

Again, our motto is KEEP IN TOUCH.

ALBERTA PALAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP LIST AS OF JUNE 1, 1988

**Names and contact information removed  
to protect members' privacy.**

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