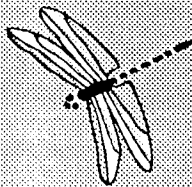


Inside this Issue

- 1 Welcome
1998 Plan Buried
1998 Collecting Season
- 2 Open House draws people
From across the state and
Beyond!



Mark your Calendar

1999 Open House

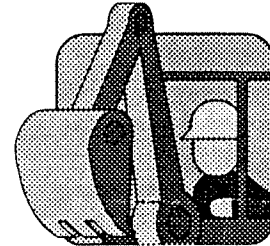
Saturday October 23

Mazon Creek Project Newsletter



Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625
C/O Mazon Creek Project

Mazon Creek Board Welcomes Gina Wysocki 1999 Newsletter Editor

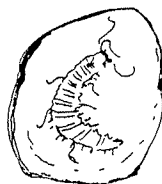


By Gina Wysocki

Many of you have anticipated this update and we, the writers apologize for taking so long to get this out. This past year has been busy for us all. We have reorganized, set up a Board of Directors, and attempted to make changes for the better of the Mazon Creek Project.

Although not all efforts were made to our advantage. Recently, Commonwealth Edison auctioned off approx. 6,000 acres of land for purchase. This land had produced numerous fossils over the years and although it is now uncollectable, the value of the specimens previously found in them may be considered priceless.

Moreover, in the coming months, we could lose even more land. We are in the process of documenting the land which collectors are able to collect in. We will issue new maps just as soon as the property settlements are final. So please be patient with us.



1998 Plan Buried

We have been trying to have Commonwealth Edison approve the disking of some areas due to the overgrowth of vegetation at collecting sites within the Mazonia-Braidwood/ComEd Cooling Lake complex. This operation would loosen the first few inches to expose the buried concretions. No material would erode into the cooling lake itself, a major concern of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

However, numerous phone conversations with the Public Affairs Department, Commonwealth Edison, stated that their rejection was advised by the DNR. Unfortunately, the DNR restricted the removal of vegetation this year. This does not mean we will not try for it next year. I will keep you updated on this issue in future newsletters.

1998 Collecting Season

We had roughly 500 visitors to the sites this year; however, no new specimens were noted as I write this newsletter. In fact, this year collection will make

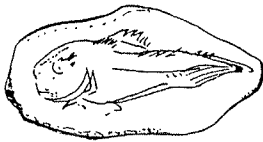


TULLY MONSTER

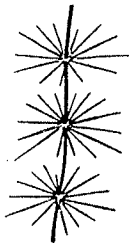
many collectors use the Freeze-thaw method this winter. Since last winter's freeze was less than a normal winter, the majority of concretions found were solid pieces. This of course, made many collectors search elsewhere for specimens. For many avid collectors, one more five-gallon bucket in the yard is one angrier neighbor calling to complain of the pile up. "Believe me, I have seen some of those back yards!"

Fossil trips arise elsewhere

If you were lucky enough this past fall, you were invited on a rare opportunity to fossil collect in a live quarry. Under the direction of Bealis Giddings, a long time member and volunteer with Mazon Creek Project, invited a small group of avid collectors to a quarry for a day of fossil collecting. The area has been known to expose shark teeth, brachiopods, crinoids, bivalves, trilobites, and all walks of marine life. Some lucky collectors walked away with really beautiful specimens and some unusual ones too! It was a great experience for all and perhaps a trip could be opened to more participants in 1999. Watch for opportunities in the upcoming Newsletter.



COELACANTH

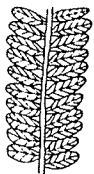


ANNULARIA

Open House draws people from all across the state

This years' Open House was a great success! Numerous members and first timers came from all over Illinois and some traveling from out of state just to see what the Mazon Creek Project is all about.

Jackie Kozisek gave an excellent presentation about gastropods living on Crinoids and Ralph Jewell walked us down memory lane with a fine Mazon Creek slide show.



PECOPTERIS

A good time was had by all. Many members were on hand to assist in identification of fossils for fossil collectors. Tom Testa, Jack Witry, Bealis Giddings, Andrew Hay, and many others were more than happy to ID your fossil. Under the magnificent Testa Microscope, fossil enthusiasts were given an accurate label to the specimen not easily seen by the naked eye. Thanks to the members, many enthusiasts left knowing a little more about their fossils.

Burpee Museum set to open soon

Lonny Stark, the Exhibit Director for the Burpee Museum was on hand to answer questions of the upcoming opening of the museum set in Rockford, IL. At the slide show held at the Open House at Northeastern Illinois University in October, Mike Henderson gave onlookers a preview of the exhibits being erected at the museum. Viewers were able to see a typical Pennsylvanian Period scene based on the Mazon Creek area, including types of plants and animals which flourished in our area 280 million years ago.

For information of admission and membership you may call

815-965-3433.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Rebecca Norman, for her outstanding work in editing the Mazon Creek Newsletter for the last 2 years. Rebecca continues to serve as a Board Member. We appreciate her continued good advice and suggestions.

Got an interesting story, picture, or idea for an upcoming issue? Send your ideas to: Gina Wysocki

1228 N. Raynor Ave.

Joliet, IL 60435

Other Items

Richardson's Guide to The Fossil Fauna of Mazon Creek is available to members at a \$10 discount.

To Order Call 1-773-794-6001
Or FAX Your Order 1-773-794-6239

Or complete the order form below and return to:
Printing / Publishing, Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Avenue., Chicago, IL 60625-4699
e-mail: mazon-creek@neiu.edu

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please enter my order for the following:

YES! PLEASE SEND ME _____ COPY(IES) OF
RICHARDSON'S GUIDE TO THE FOSSIL
FAUNA OF MAZON CREEK @ \$95.00 EACH

Check Enclosed (Include applicable sales tax) Credit Card (Complete information below)
 Visa MasterCard

Account no. _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Telephone () _____

Total copies \$ _____

Postage & handling

\$7.50 per copy - Continental U.S.

\$15.00 per copy - Canada and Mexico

\$45.00 per copy - Overseas

IL residents only, add 8.75% sales tax

(\$8.32 per copy)

TOTAL (U.S. Currency Only) \$ _____

Return policy:

If for any reason you find the book unsatisfactory, you may return it, if in good condition, within 30 days, for credit or refund.

Burpee Museum of Natural History - February 25, 26, 27, 28
OUT OF THE ROCK PALEO FESTIVAL call 815-965-3433



737 North Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Celebrating the Grand Opening of our new ROBERT H. SOLEM WING, and all new Paleontology exhibits

A speaker series with 9 renowned paleontologists, talks and dinner talks, teeshirt and book signings

Prehistoric Life art displays, fossil collectors' rock displays, and on the weekend: family activities, a fossil dig pit, music, food vendors, and Storefront Cinema offers the movie "LAND BEFORE TIME"

NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION XXI—1999

LOCATION AND TIME

EXPO will be held at the Student Union, in the Grand Ballroom, on the campus of Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois. The simplest way to the site is to turn off IL 67 west on University Drive, then go south to the Union. (Follow the signs.) Set-up is permitted on Friday, April 16, at 8:00 a.m.

EXPO HOURS: Friday, April 16—8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 17—8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 18—8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(Many people leave early Sunday)

N Northeastern
Illinois
University

5500 NORTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625-4699

Mazon Creek Project

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS



ESCONI
P.O. Box 321
Downers Grove, IL 60515

60515X0321



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS