

"God Bless
America"



THE STREAKPLATE

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE MINERAL CLUB
North Adams, Massachusetts

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 1
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The next meeting of the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club will be:

DATE: *Sunday, January 17, 2010* **TIME :** *2:00PM*

LOCATION: The Community Room at the Spring Park Apartments, 45 Spring St., North Adams

PROGRAM: Larry Michon will present “**Rockhounding the Desert Southwest**”

What to look for, where to go and what to see and do when you're not collecting. This will include a slide show and specimens collected at the sites.

REFRESHMENTS: Refreshment will be provided by Robert Michaels and Lisa St. Cyr of North Adams

New Elected Officers

At the Holiday Party on December 13th the Club elected new officers for 2010. **Dan Washburn** of Sand Lake, NY was elected to the position of President and **Larry Michon** of North Adams was voted to Vice-President. The open position of Secretary was filled by **Amy Feld** of Lenox and **Sherry Melendy** of Chester, VT. The 2 will serve as Co-Secretaries. Congratulations to our new officers! We thank you all for leading the Club in 2010!

A special thanks to Jim Groves for serving as our long time President, Barb Rowe for serving as Vice-President, and Cindy Hancock for her time as Secretary. We appreciate all the work that has gone into the Club with Jim as our leader and hope that our new officers will continue to support the Club.



UPDATE

Our longtime President, Jim Groves has recently had 3 hospitalizations, and is currently at home receiving Hospice Care. It would be nice if members would send cards and good wishes. Jim would really enjoy if anyone would like to visit him. He asks that you please call first to make sure he is available. His address and phone are:

*Jim Groves
94 River Road
Savoy, MA 01256 743-4542*

"The Club" was founded in 1959. The purpose of the club is to develop and educate students, the community, and our members in the field of mineralogy, including the formation of rocks and minerals, the collection of minerals, their identification and display, and in the lapidary art of cutting, polishing and faceting; and to serve the educational needs of the communities in which club members live.

...from the Constitution of The Northern Berkshire Mineral Club

Giant Trilobites in Portugal Could Be Biggest

Michael Reilly, Discovery.com

CLUB OFFICERS:

President:

Dan Washburn
P.O. Box 144
Sand Lake, NY 12153 518-495-2070

Vice-President:

Larry Michon
P.O. Box 287

Treasurer:

Cindy Hancock
45 Spring St., Apt. 103
North Adams, MA 01247
413-664-4115

Co-Secretaries:

Sherry Melendy
1306 Potash Brook Road
Chester, VT 05143 802-875-4868

Amy Feld
6 Morgan Manor, #4
Lenox, MA 01240 143-637-8237

COMMITTEES:

Programs:

Larry Michon
Vice President, 413-663-8430

Annual Show Committee:

Amy Feld, Cheryl Gasperetti, Jim Groves, Cheryl LeClaire, Bob Michaels, and Larry Michon

Field Trips:

Bob Michaels,
Chairman 413-664-0750

Streakplate Editor:

Lisa A. St. Cyr, 413-664-0750
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If you like computers, clip art, and having a little fun...

Maybe being the Streakplate Editor is for you....

Please contact: Lisa A. St. Cyr @ 413-664-0750 or percibul@aol.com

May 7, 2009 -- Giant trilobites have been discovered in a rock quarry in northern Portugal.

The finding, published in the journal *Geology*, adds a new chapter to the story of some of the most successful creatures that ever lived, and may even challenge current specimens for the largest the planet has ever seen. The current record holder for the largest trilobite still officially stands at the 72 centimeter (28.3 inch)-long *Isotelus rex*, a fossil recovered in Manitoba, Canada in the year 2000.

Last year, Artur Sa of the University of Tras-os-Montes and Alto Douro and a team of colleagues unearthed a slew of similar giants between 50 and 70 centimeters (19.7 and 27.6 inches) long in a slate quarry in Arouca, Portugal. They also found two fossilized tail sections which they believe belonged to 90 centimeter (35.4 inch)-long animals, the biggest in the world. "Normally trilobites in the Iberian Peninsula and throughout Spain don't get bigger than 10 centimeters (3.9 inches) long," Sa said. "In the quarry, they are normally above 30 centimeters in length.



← Trilobite Cluster:

A block of slate with a group of trilobites found on the rocks of Arouca in northern Portugal. The cluster shows how the trilobites clustered together in the thousands. Researchers believe they congregated as a protection during molting when their shells were soft and vulnerable to predators. They also appear to have gathered as an efficient way to mate with one another

Dues...Have you Paid Them?

Club dues for 2010 are now due. Payment should be made to Cindy Hancock, Treasurer, 45 Spring St., Apt. 103, North Adams, MA 01247 or paid at the meeting. Single membership is \$10.00 and Family membership is \$12.00. Please make checks payable to *the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club*.

Trilobite taken From Wikipedia

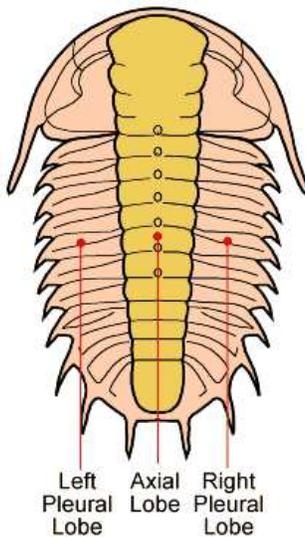


Fig 1. "Trilobite" (meaning "three-lobed") named for the three longitudinal lobes



Asaphus kowalewskii

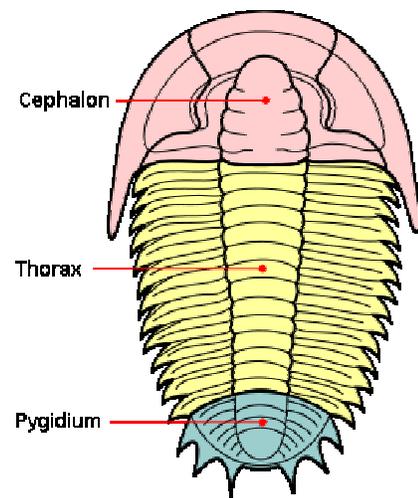


Fig. 2 The trilobite body is divided into three major sections ([tegmata](#))

Trilobites (pronounced tra-lə-ba-t, meaning "three lobes") are a well-known fossil group of extinct marine arthropods that form the class **Trilobita**. Trilobites first appear in the fossil record during the Early Cambrian period (540 million years ago) and flourished throughout the lower Paleozoic era before beginning a drawn-out decline to extinction when, during the Devonian, all trilobite orders, with the sole exception of Proetida, died out. Trilobites finally disappeared in the mass extinction at the end of the Permian about 250 million years ago.

When trilobites first appear in the fossil record they were already highly diverse and geographically dispersed. Because trilobites had wide diversity and an easily fossilized exoskeleton an extensive fossil record was left, with some 17,000 known species spanning Paleozoic time. Trilobites have provided important contributions to biostratigraphy, paleontology, evolutionary biology and plate tectonics. Trilobites are often placed within the arthropod subphylum Schizoramia within the superclass Arachnomorpha (equivalent to the Arachnata), although several alternative taxonomies are found in the literature.

Trilobites had many life styles; some moved over the sea-bed as predators, scavengers or filter feeders and some swam, feeding on plankton. Most life styles expected of modern marine arthropods are seen in trilobites, except for parasitism.^[3] Some trilobites (particularly the family Olenida) are even thought to have evolved a symbiotic relationship with sulfur-eating bacteria from which they derived food.

-TRILOBITE GALLERY-



Asaphiscus wheeleri,
Cambrian age, Wheeler shale, Utah, USA.



Olenoides erratus from the Mt. Stephen Trilobite Beds (Middle Cambrian) near Field, British Columbia, Canada.



Pyritised *Lloydolithus lloydi*, lower Ordovician age, England.



Cheirurus sp., middle Ordovician age, Volchow River, Russia.



Hypostome of *Isotelus sp.*, Ordovician age, southern Ohio, USA.



Balizoma variolaris (Brongniart, 1822), Silurian age, Dudley, England.



Phacopid trilobite, Devonian age, Ohio, USA. Scale bar is 5.0 mm.



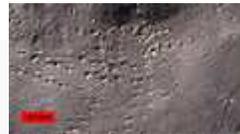
Cyphaspis tafilalet - Proetid trilobites, Devonian age, Morocco.



Kolihapeltis sp., Devonian age, Morocco.



Crotalocephalus sp., Devonian age, Morocco.



Diplichnites sp. a trilobite trackway, Devonian age, northeastern Ohio, USA.