

# DEVONIAN FOSSIL LOCALITIES IN WESTERN NEW YORK

STEPHEN PAVELSKY AND JAMES NARDI

NOTE: The accompanying text for this field trip has been incorporated into the articles for field trip B-6, following.

- 0.0 University of Rochester River Campus, Parking Lot B, outside Hutchison Hall; depart campus via Wilson Blvd.; turn right on Elmwood Avenue. At second light on Elmwood Avenue, turn left on Scottsville Road (Route 383)
- 1.0 Turn right on 390 South (just after overpass)
- 3.5 Stay right on 390 South and head toward Corning
- 25.0 Exit 8 at Geneseo; turn right and head west on Route 20A
- 30.1 Intersection of Routes 39 East and 20A; turn right on Route 39 East and proceed through the Village of Geneseo
- 33.0 **STOP #1. JAYCOX RUN**

Turn right into driveway of "White Devon Farm" (watch for sign). Park along left side of driveway. Be careful to leave ample room for horse trailers and traffic.

Entrance to the Wadsworth property and Jaycox Run is through a farm gate immediately across the road. Walk across the field to Jaycox Run (NW corner). Last person through gate MUST secure and fasten!

Locality: Exposures along the south (main) fork of Jaycox Creek, on the property of William P. Wadsworth (White Devon Farm), 0.4 km (0.25 mi) west of N.Y. Route 39, about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) north of Nations Road, Geneseo, Livingston County, New York.

References: Cooper (1930), Grasso (1973), Baird (1979). The following description is from Brett and Baird (1981a).

Description of Units: Jaycox Creek exposes a nearly continuous section of the Ludlowville (Centerfield, Ledyard, Wanakah, and Jaycox members) and lower Moscow (Tichenor, Deep Run, Menteth, and basal Kashong members) formations. Exposures to be examined during the field trip are those in the upper portion of the Jaycox ravine associated with a series of three low waterfalls held up by thin limestone bands. A low upper falls is formed by the Menteth Limestone, a middle falls by the Tichenor Limestone, and a highest, lower falls by a calcareous band in the Jaycox Member.

The Jaycox through Menteth interval will be examined in detail. Faunal lists for these units are given by Grasso (1973). For further detail of unit descriptions see Brett and Baird in Miller, M.A. (ed.), 1986.

- 35.9 Head back through Village of Geneseo on Route 38 West to junction of Routes 39 and 20A West. Turn right onto 20A West and stay to the left
- 36.9 Turn right on Route 20A and Route 39 West

37.1 Roadcut through the Penn Yan shale as you descend the hill

37.3 **STOP #2. FALL BROOK.**

Turn around in driveway of the "Christiano Alfalfa Milling Co." (mustard colored sign on left) and park along guardrail facing uphill. Entrance to Fall Brook is at the uphill end of the guardrail

Locality: Exposures along the bed and banks of Fall Brook 0.2-0.6 km (0.1-0.37 mi) east of U.S. Route 20A-N.Y. Route 39 and below. Fall Brook Falls, Geneseo, Livingston County, New York (Geneseo 7.5' Quadrangle, 1950)

References: Cooper (1930), Baird (1978), Baird and Brett (1983). The following description is from Baird and Brett (1981b).

Description of Units: This stretch of Fall Brook exposes the upper portion of the Middle Devonian (Givetian) Moscow Formation (Windom and Kashong Shale members) as well as the overlying Upper Devonian (Frasnian) Genesee Group.

37.4 Head back uphill to 20A; turn left towards Geneseo

38.3 Turn left on Route 63 North

39.5 Cross bridge over Genesee River

41.9 Continue on Route 63 North through Village of Piffard and pass Akzo Salt Mine on left

44.0 Junction of Route 63 North and Route 36 South; turn left on Route 36 South

46.4 **STOP #3. TAUNTON GULLY**

Pull off road just past small white house on right; park along roadside next to small field adjacent to house, before guardrail.

Walk back along edge of field, cross railroad tracks immediately behind the house and continue to far left-hand corner of field. Access to Gully is on small path through woods.

Locality: Gully exposures approximately 0.1 miles west of Route 36, 2.4 miles south of intersection of N. Y. Routes 36 and 63

References: Kirchgasser (1973; "Stop 6"), Patchen and Dugolinsky (1979; "Stop 35")

Description: About 25 feet of uppermost Windom Shale is exposed upstream from the railroad. There are a number of concretionary horizons occurring with layers of pyrite nodules. The shales below the first waterfall are blue-grey, shaly mudstones becoming darker and more compact further up in the section.

Faunal diversity is greater in the lower shales, consisting of bryozoan beds, stereolasmatid corals, trilobites, crinoids, and a rich brachiopod fauna. Above the first falls the fauna consist of most *Phacops* fragments and stereolasmatid coral horizons.

The Leicester Pyrite overlies the Windom. It is 4-6 inches thick and poorly exposed. Heavy collecting is discouraged to preserve the extent of the exposure.

The Genesee and Penn Yan shales are exposed above the Leicester Pyrite (60-70 feet) and capped by one foot of Genundewa Limestone at the upper falls.

48.8 Return to Junction of Routes 36 and 63 and head north on Route 36

51.6 Continue north on Route 36 to Town of York. Turn right onto York Road East (center of village)

52.0 **STOP #4. BROWN'S CREEK**

Proceed 0.4 miles to large, grey, metal pole barn on left just after bend in road (split-rail fence; parking on left side of road on either side of fence). Take wooden stairwell down to house and creek exposure.

Locality: Stream excavation 0.1 mile north of York Road East, about 0.4 mi east of Town of York on property of Jim Nardi

References: None for Ledyard Shale at this locality as it is a relatively new exposure

Description of Units: Until recent excavations, the Ledyard Shale was only poorly exposed upstream from the classic Centerfield/Levanna locality. The horizon studied on this trip is an excavation (widening) of the creek bed approximately 15 feet above the Ledyard/Centerfield contact. Of special interest are concretionary horizons and a horizon containing large *Phacops* trilobites. These are generally dark grey shales with many *Ambocoelia* brachiopods.

52.4 Return to Village of York. Turn right on Route 36 to Route 20. Turn right on Route 20 (east). Route 20 intersects with Route 390 North just east of the Village of Avon

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