

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL  
INVOLVEMENT IN AVOCATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS – CASE HISTORY, THE  
DRY DREDGERS OF CINCINNATI, OHIO

*The Dry*

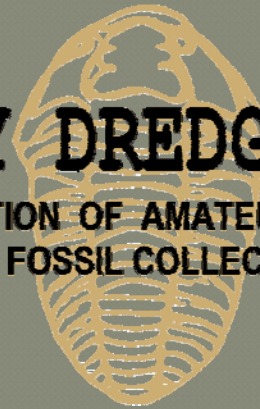


*Dredgers*

Jack W Kallmeyer  
President  
Dry Dredgers  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**DRY DREDGERS**

AN ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR GEOLOGISTS  
AND FOSSIL COLLECTORS



75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



“Did you see the new starfish on display in the Museum? One superb specimen which shows certain details of the pore arrangement new to science, was found in Flat Fork Creek, Warren County, Ohio. Mrs. Erwin G. Heitbrink, discoverer, donated it to the Museum. This is a perfect example of unselfish cooperation; one which we hope we may all be fortunate enough to follow” – *The Dredger*, November, 1943

A. C. No.	No.
	PLEURODICTYUM <i>Stylopsorum</i>
	(CORAL)
Formation	HAMILTON SH.
	PORTLAND PP. DEV.
Locality	CAYUGA LAKE
	N.Y.
<b>Dry Dredger Collection</b> University of Cincinnati Museum	
Gift of	Date
FORM 1066—GEOL.—1M—11-44	

The Early Days - 1943

# Rousseau Flower – Member and Early Proponent of the Dry Dredgers

“There has recently come into existence an organization of amateur geologists in Cincinnati known as the Dry Dredgers. So many of my friends have contributed material, that I can mention only a few...” 1946

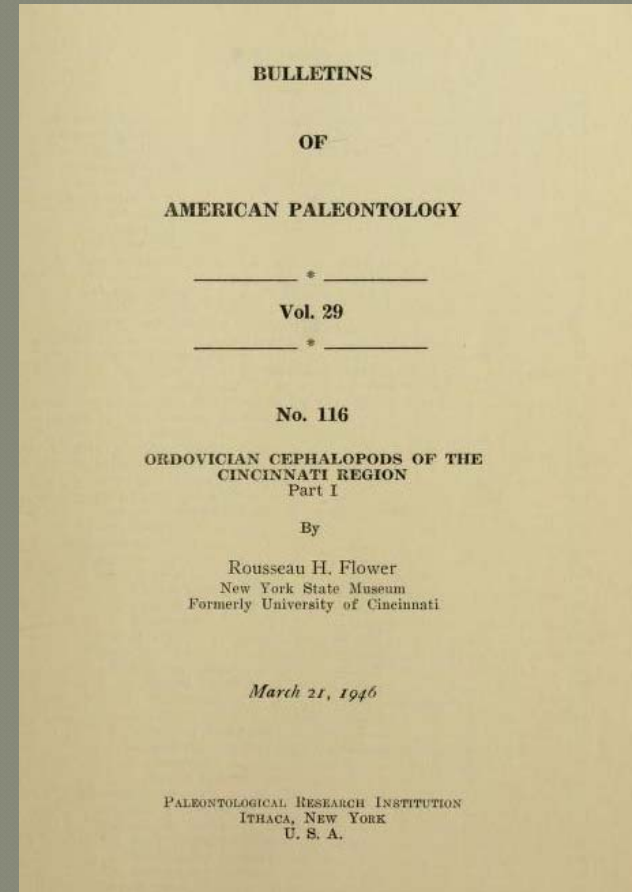


E. Dalvé

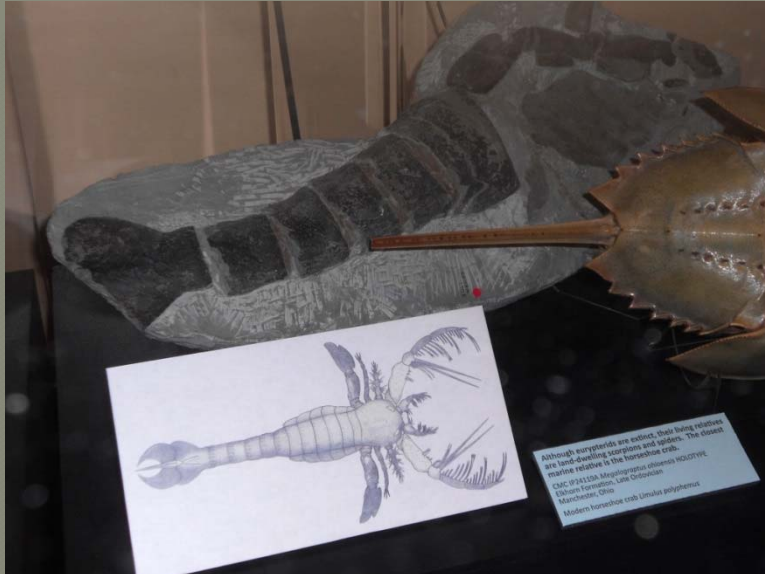
J. A. Dalvé

R. Flower

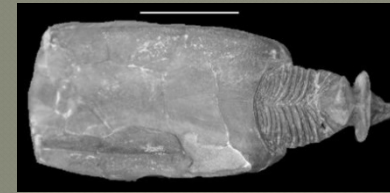
1938



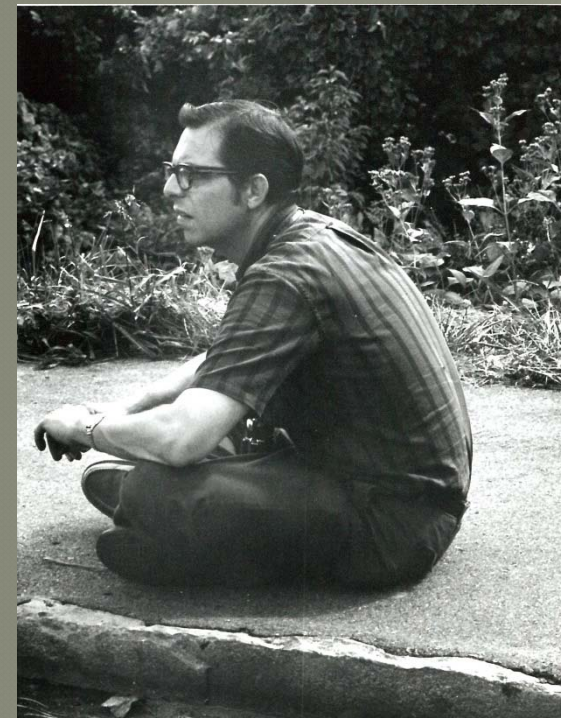
Dry Dredger Charles Cox discovers a nearly complete Eurypterid in the Cincinnati around 1950. *Megalograptus* was the first Eurypterid to be documented from this area. The specimen was published in 1964 by Caster and Waering in *Paleontographica Americana*, Vol 4.



Although scorpions are extinct, their living relatives are land-dwelling arachnids and spiders. The closest marine relative is the horseshoe crab.  
CIP 194110A *Megalograptus villosus* H22796  
Eshscholtz, 1829  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Modern horseshoe crab *Limulus polyphemus*



CMCIP 25993 *Enoploura popei*



Dry Dredger and future professional paleontologist John Pope discovers a new Stylophoran from the Cincinnati around 1950 - 1951. Caster describes it in 1952 and names it *Enoploura popei*

# Professor Caster with the Dry Dredgers in 1977

Always Teaching





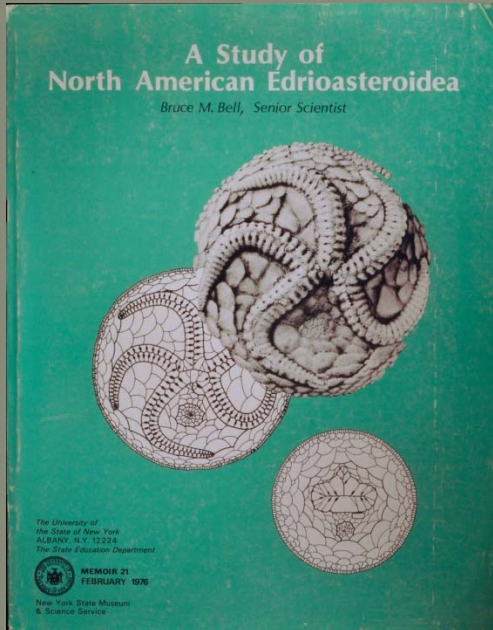
1985 – “There has not been a paper written by myself or my students at U.C. and related to local fossils in the last 45 years in which Dry Dredgers contributions of materials have not had a significant role, sometimes a dominant one.” Ken Caster

1985 – “I feel that one of Ken’s most important public services was the organization in his early days of the Cincinnati Dry Dredgers. This organization not only provides a center for the exchange of information, professional advice, and instruction for amateurs, but also has greatly enhanced the collections of the U.C. Geology Museum and the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History through members’ generous donations. Many of the important discoveries in this region have been made by members of the Dry Dredgers.” John Pope



# Bill White – 2<sup>nd</sup> Strimple Award Winner 1985

Bill White discovers an exceptional edrioasteroid pavement and turns it over to then doctoral student Bruce Bell. Bill assisted in the excavations as well. This and other Dry Dredgers discovered pavements proved invaluable to Bell's work.



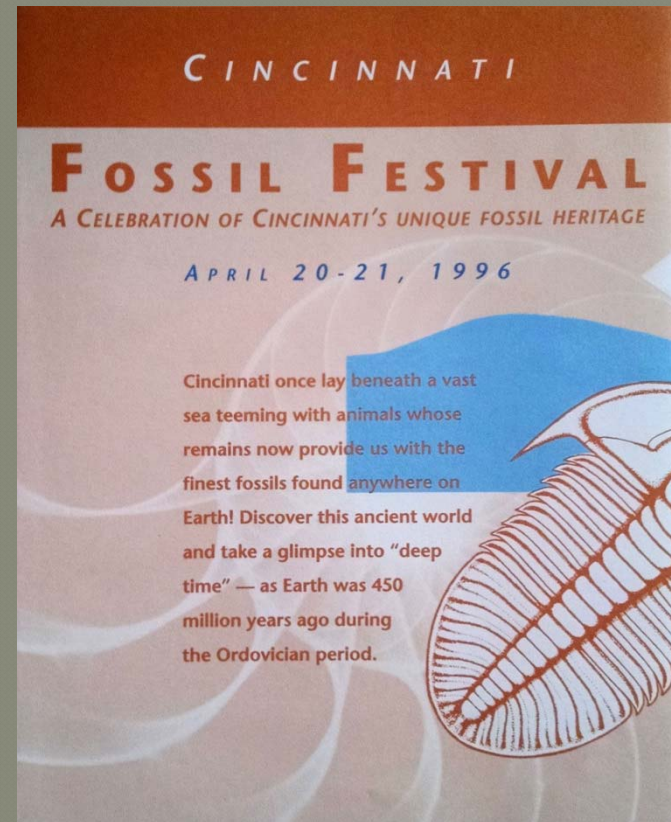
Bruce Bell

Bill White



1996 – Dr. Nigel Hughes commented on the Dry Dredgers: “To call some of its members ‘amateurs’ is misleading – I use the term ‘nonprofessional professionals’ for those who diligently record the data on their collections, publish their investigations in leading journals, and deposit their specimens in the public trust.”  
– GSA Today, Vol 6, No. 11.

## First Fossil Fest - 1996





# Amateur Research Ramps up in the 1990's

Dry Dredgers continue donations of specimens and assisting in field work but something changed. Dredgers become more involved in the research and begin appearing as authors and co-authors.

- 55 Peer Reviewed Papers
- 15 Theses
- 9 Books
- 22 Abstracts & Posters
- 17 Other Publications

# Steve Felton – Strimple Award Winner in 2001 and Winner of the PRI Katherine Palmer Award in 1996



**“The Amateur Scientists Who Might Cure Cancer—From Their Basements**  
No Ph.D.? No university lab? No federal funding? No problem.” – *Discover Magazine*  
December, 2008

Long known as our local expert on Cincinnati Formations and *Cyclonema* gastropods, Cornulitids and trace fossils among other fauna



Don Bissett provides access to his property for a graduate student studying trilobites



Brenda Hunda



The famous Mt Orab trilobite farm



Bill Heimbrock assisted Michael Vendrasco in study of the earliest evidence of nacre in the fossil record



Bill also worked with Ben Dattilo and Rebecca Freeman to solve the riddle of tiny phosphatic steinkerns in the Cincinnati





Tom Bantel and Don Bissett have collaborated with James Thomka, Carl Brett, Stig Bergstrom and other Professionals for Ordovician/Silurian research at an Indiana quarry.



James Thomka

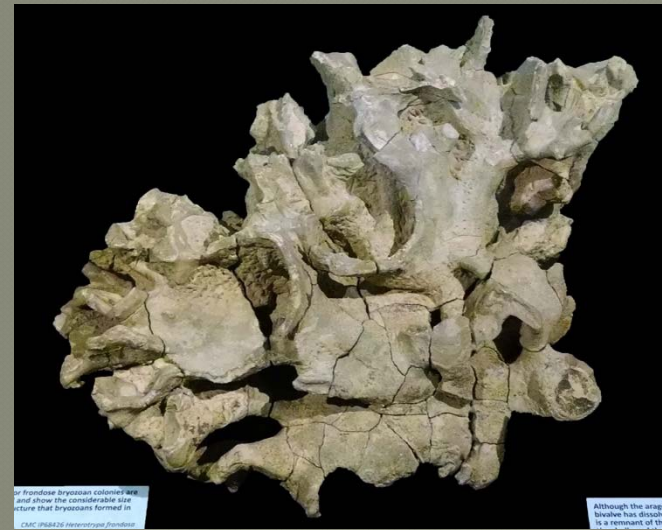
# Godzillus!



Dave Meyer

Ron Fine

Carlton Brett



of Fremont bryozoan colonies? They and show the considerable size structure that bryozoans formed in CMC IPM&Z Heterostegia Florida

Although the aragonite bryozoan has dissolved is a remnant of the

# Dan Cooper Donates Crinoid Assemblage



# Personal Experiences



Dave Meyer

*Geology  
Today* 1997

*GSA  
Abstracts*  
2008



Stephen Donovan

*Northeastern  
Geology* 1998

*Lethaia* 1995



Bill Ausich

*Journal of  
Paleontology*  
2015

Ben Dattilo



*Palaios* 2016



Alycia Stigall

Digital Atlas  
of  
Ordovician  
Life



# Dry Dredgers Philanthropy



Marschand Ordovician Diorama

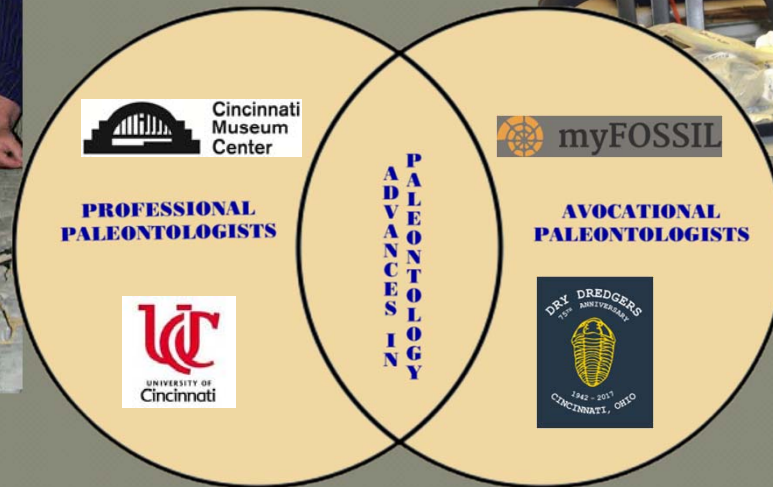
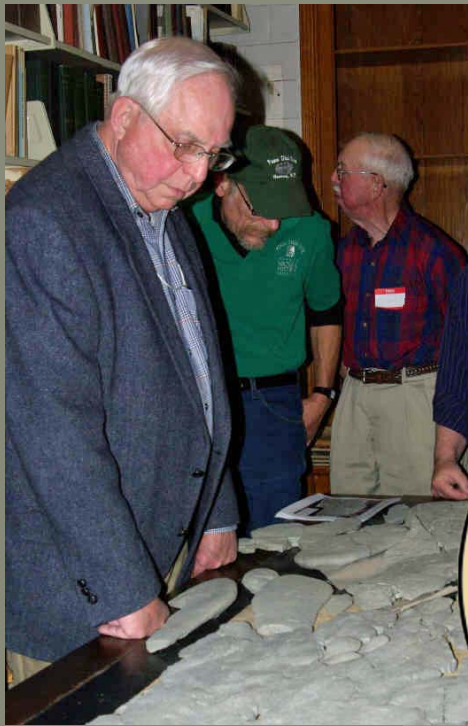
- Annual \$500 donations to U.C. Caster Fund for graduate field work
- 1998 Established the Dry Dredgers Paleontological Research Award – Endowed Fund since 2015
- Funding of various CMC projects

# Amateur Groups Cultivate Future Paleontologists



Robin Greene from pre-teen Dry Dredger to PhD Paleontologist





# Amateur/Professional Collaboration Advances Paleontological Research



Original cover art for *Sea Without Fish* by John Agnew

Thanks to Kyle Hartshorn For Help with Graphics