

Deposits

International rock and fossil magazine

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magazine

Volcanoes in Garrotxa

Peter Perkins

Mollusc: diversity for palaeontologists

Dr Neale Monks

**Ever since then:
shining light on a
clear evolutionary trail**

Also in this issue:
Coping with coprolites
Permian mass extinction
Tiny bubble theory of Lake
Superior agate formation

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**Front cover**

The Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona, USA, features one of the world's largest and most colourful concentrations of petrified wood, mostly of the species *Araucarioxylon arizonicum*. The terrain includes multicoloured badlands of the Upper Triassic Chinle Formation, called the Painted Desert, with several areas of high concentrations of petrified wood.

Dear readers...

The seemingly ever increasing search for fossils around our coast, quarries and pits is now pursued by both professional collectors and amateurs alike. For many of us, it is an incredible passion and is of growing interest to others, possibly due to the publicity created by climate and environmental changes.

However, we often hear of damage and, at times, destruction caused by individuals while trying to unearth such fossils. This sadly has a negative effect on those more responsible collectors, as an increasing number of localities are banning hammers or, indeed, collecting fossils altogether. Of course, UK Fossils is not, and cannot be, responsible for what people actually do, but we always feel a duty to encourage safe and sensible collecting at all times. Indeed, amateur palaeontology is extremely important - it is worth remembering that most new discoveries and scientifically important finds are being made by amateur collectors rather than the inevitably quite small number of academic palaeontologists. But, at the same time, a small number of people are causing damage to important geological locations, jeopardising the chance for future generations to study these sites or putting their lives in danger by irresponsible collecting.

Therefore, we would like to remind all readers that this is a growing problem and, although the vast majority of fossil hunters care deeply about all they do, that everyone should try to limit their activities to collecting a few fossils and leaving some for others. In addition, we suggest that it is worth reading and digesting the 'Fossil Collecting Code' that can be found on our website: www.ukfossils.co.uk and do make sure that you understand the local tide times and dangers before you even get down to the seashore. There have been numerous occasions this year where people have been cut off by the tide - don't let that be you!

For beginners, of course, there are always local expert collectors and geology clubs, who will normally assist you, or fossil walks advertised, for example, in this magazine. It is a wonderful passion, but one that has to be protected and done properly.

*We are also happy to report that we have increased the print run of *Deposits* magazine due to an ever-increasing readership. For this, we are grateful and, as always, thank every one of you for your support.*

Have a wonderful festive period and a most healthy 2011!

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An introduction to Aetosaurs
Dinosaur mines of the Kem Kem
3D-photographs of gastropods



How did this pliosaur limb end up in a dried-up pond in Norfolk?

With no Oxford or Kimmeridge Clay deposits in Norfolk, how did this bone get here? Could it be an erratic? Maybe, but the bone is in superb condition, unlikely to have been dumped by glaciation (see page 27).