

Bio for Dr. Bob Frey:

I grew up as a resident of the Dayton, Ohio area and began collecting fossils locally when I was 10-11 in the early 60's. This began when I started picking up loose fossils (mostly brachiopods) from Late Ordovician limestone & shale bedrock used as fill in a local church's parking lot. Prior to that, I had always been fascinated by Dinosaurs and other prehistoric life and had read nearly book on these forms in Dayton's public library system by the time I was 12.

These interests led to a B.S. in Geology from Wright State University in 1974 and my pursuit of a M.S. degree in Geology under John Pope at Miami University 1974-76. I graduated in 1976, after completing a field-based thesis on the "Biostratigraphy of the Richmond Group (Late Ordovician) in Franklin County, Indiana" which took full advantage of the new series of road cuts in these strata in the vicinity of Brookville, Indiana at that time. This was followed by a stint as an Instructor of Geology, teaching Historical Geology, Paleontology, Field Geology, and Paleoecology courses at Wright State University in Dayton from 1976 to 1978. I determined that I liked teaching and wanted to pursue a career doing research in paleontology and paleoecology and went back to Miami to get my Ph.D. in 1978. There I worked on my dissertation "The Paleontology and Paleoecology of the *Treptoceras duseri* Shale (Upper Ordovician) in Southwest Ohio" which combined my interests in fossil mollusks and reconstructing ancient marine environments. Although Dr. Pope was a specialist in fossil brachiopods, through his University of Cincinnati connections, I was able to study fossil nautiloids under the tutelage of the late Rousseau Flower at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines in Socorro and fossil pelecypods with John Pojeta at the USGS in Washington D.C. I published my first papers in the Journal of Paleontology while a grad student at Miami in 1980 and 1981. These included papers on a new species of the pelecypod *Vanuxemia* from the Waynesville Formation (Late Ordovician) in SW Ohio and the first documented occurrence of the aberrant "arctic" nautiloid *Nartheoceras* from Richmondian strata in the Oxford, Ohio area.

Following completion of my Ph.D. course work at Miami in 1981, I took a position as Assistant Professor of Geology at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. I finished up my Ph.D. in 1983 and set about publishing various parts of my dissertation – the paleoecology of the *T. duseri* Shale (JP, 1987), the paleoecology of its abundant, well-preserved nautiloid fauna (Flower *festchrift* 1988; JP, 1989), and a broader paper on the occurrence of pelecypods in Cincinnati Series strata in the tri-state area (PALAIOS, 1987). While at Centenary, I avoided Louisiana's sultry summers by staying at my sister-in-laws in the Finger Lakes region of western New York. There, I cultivated a friendship with the other great nautiloid worker of the 20th century, the late Curt Teichert – then at the University of Rochester. During my time in Louisiana, I was able to study the classic Ordovician sections in the Criner Hills/Ardmore, Oklahoma area, as well as expand my interests in fossil mollusks to well-preserved faunas in Late Cretaceous marine deposits in Arkansas and Texas. Numerous vacations to my mother-in-law's home in Sarasota, Florida led to my studying the well-preserved Plio-Pleistocene marine molluscan faunas in south Florida during the same time period.

The drastic demise of the local oil and gas industry in the Ark-La-Tex in the late 80's led to the loss of my position at Centenary and necessitated moving my family back to Ohio in 1988. I had to retool myself as an environmental geologist to make a living and went to work as a geologist for the Ohio Department of Health in 1990, evaluating the public health threats posed by hazardous waste sites in Ohio. I am now the Chief of the Health Assessment Section at ODH. During this same time period, courtesy of the kindness of Bill Ausich, Stig Bergstrom, and Walt Sweet at The Ohio State University, I became a research associate at OSU with a small office and access to their library and lab facilities. Through the efforts of John Pojeta, I inherited the nautiloid piece of the USGS Professional Paper 1066 project on the paleontology of the Middle and Upper Ordovician of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. This resulted in the publication of Professional Paper 1066-P, my monograph on the Ordovician nautiloids of the Cincinnati area in 1995.

My friendship with Curt Teichert, in turn, led to making the acquaintance of his colleague at Rochester -- Carl Brett. At Carl's invitation, I co-authored a paper with Carl and Gordon Baird on nautiloid epizoans as a contribution to the *festchrift* volume for Dr. Teichert in 1989. This led to a number of interesting field trips with Carl and Gordon in the Cincinnati area and Carl's interest in pursuing his event-bed/ micro-stratigraphic studies in the Ordovician section exposed in the tri-state area. I wrote my one and only brachiopod paper (in deference to my mentor John Pope) on the *Onniella meeki* Beds in the Waynesville Formation for the event-bed volume edited by Carl and Gordon for Columbia University Press in 1997.

I have attempted to continue my paleontological research interests in my free time throughout the last decade or so. This included publications on: Ordovician nautiloids from British Columbia with Brian Norford of the Canadian Survey (1995); Silurian nautiloid faunas from Canada with Charles Holland (1997); Ordovician pelecypods from carbonate facies in the Cincinnati region (*festchrift* volume for Norman Newell, 1998); and a piece on the evolution and extinction of nautiloid faunas in the Ordovician with a multi-national cast of colleagues for the *Great Ordovician Biodiversity Event* volume published by Columbia University Press in 2004.

In the late 1990's, I met and began to correspond with John Catalani, a high-school earth science teacher who had amassed a significant, stratigraphically-keyed collection of comparatively well-preserved nautiloids from the Late Ordovician (Turinian) Platteville Group in north-central Illinois and adjacent portions of Wisconsin. Currently, I am working with John on a systematic monograph on this diverse Platteville nautiloid fauna and we gave a presentation on this fauna at the recent North American Paleontological Convention held in Cincinnati this past summer. Recently I was also approached by a researcher at the University of Georgia with regard to working with him on another systematic paper on species of *Narthecoceras* from Cincinnati strata in Ontario and Wyoming. So, I guess I now come full circle in terms of my paleontological research.