

Re: Good place to ask historical geology questions?

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- *From:* Paul <***@comcat.net>
 - *Date:* Tue, 22 Jan 2008 00:06:04 -0600
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Robert Scott wrote:

"Jo Schaper" <jonot34schaperat@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:13pafu24lu3po93@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Robert Scott wrote:

It would appear that I was in an area of a thrust fault and in the Snake Hill shale and siltstone. I live in that little part of NY that sticks up into VT on the east side of the southern end of Lake Champlain.

Here is my grouse hunting buddy picking at the debris under the overhang where the layer is exposed:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~desmobob/images/fossilized%20plants.b.jpg>

Here's a view of it:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~desmobob/images/fossilized%20plants.c.jpg>

Here's a close-up of the layer:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~desmobob/images/fossilized%20plants.a.jpg>

We were interested by it, but frustrated by our lack of knowing exactly what we were looking at....

Could you give us some idea how thick the fibers are on this rock? How long? There are a number of people here who will take a look at such photos. The convention for geo photos is to put a known object into the picture for scale: a penny, a ruler, a pencil, a hammer-- something so

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those of us who weren't there could estimate size.

I didn't think to include anything for scale as I was just taking some photos on the hunting outing, as I usually try to do. You might be able to get a general ideal of scale by looking at my buddy's hat and head showing in the left side of the second photo.

It superficially looks like the strands are in limestone. Are they muddier looking than the surrounding rock?

Yes. They are in what appears to be a softer layer between other layers of smoother, harder rock and were exposed when a soft and crumbly layer below them eroded and fell away. (Again, refer to the second photo.) They have a rough, "sandy" appearance and feel.

If so, and they may have contained more mud than the surrounding limestone, they might not be plants at all, but fossilized worm tracks.

Another very helpful reader sent me some links to photos of fossilized worm burrows; some from my local NY State Museum. They look like they might be a match.

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/treasures/treasureFull.cfm?object=291501&imageFormat=2>

Thanks for you help,
Bob

That looks like it!
Cool!

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