

Looking for Petrified Wood

by Cheryl Reese

Six Members from the Rock club joined the CMM, DVPS, MGS, DMS and WVFC on a field trip to Odessa Delaware to look for fossilized Cypress wood from the Pleistocene and Miocene eras. It was a beautiful sunny day as we met up at the park and ride, given instructions to the site and off we went. I believe there may have been at least 25 people. Once there, we had 4 acres of corn field to look thru which was very difficult as the corn stalks and the fossil wood are basically the same color. There was also a lot of green "weeds" throughout which someone said the farmer probably planted to enrich the soil for next years planting.

I walked the entire length and back of a row of corn using my garden scratcher to push away the corn stalks resulting in very little material. I only found a few pieces which were very small. We had heard that larger pieces had been found a week earlier across the road in a field that was being excavated for a new building. Several people went over and I was told they were finding small pieces of wood. I drove over and had much more success finding larger pieces that were just lying on the furrows left by the excavators. I ended up with several pieces of 4+ inches and numerous smaller pieces. I had a hard time leaving the area thinking, "just one more piece", which is what I do when sharks tooth hunting. Always believing the next one found will be the biggest. There were only 2 people left when I finally decided to call it a day.

