

My Trip to Townsend, Delaware to Hunt for Petrified Wood Text and pictures by Renee Newquist



First, I got there early after a very lovely drive over long bridges and beautiful country. I found the field to be large and daunting since it was covered with corn fodder and ground cover with a few spots of open earth.

I had a slow start as I was just looking up and down the rows of short stalks that remained after the harvest.



Finally, I started bending over and clearing the corn fodder with my hands and found some pretty cool rocks. I continued down the row and my fingers got so cold! But I pushed on. After about an hour of finding nothing notable I was disappointed.



Finally, I was still clearing as I went and there right on top of the ground was a piece that I knew in a second that it was petrified wood! So exciting! Then about fifteen minutes later I found another very interesting piece that was square, but I could see the wood grain --- so cool. I then found a very small piece and was thrilled to have found it all. I called it a day soon after. Glad I went and so thankful to the SMRMC for making this possible!

Renee' Newquist

Note from SMRMC Field Trip Chairman: As you can see in Renee's pictures, the ground in this field was almost totally covered by post-harvest debris and weeds. Renee did a great job persevering. We will visit this site again in late winter/early next spring when the vegetation should be substantially reduced by overwintering wild geese and possible tillage of the corn stubble remains. I will also try to take our members to additional nearby locations to have an opportunity to find more petrified wood. Best, Dave Lines