

# The Paleo Times

Volume 13 Number 8

August 2014

The Official Publication of the Eastern Missouri Society For Paleontology

## EMSP SOAPBOX

By Ryan Fairbanks & Faye Whobrey

If you have any articles, comments, or need to communicate with me I can be reached through the following: [emsp.sec@mofossils.com](mailto:emsp.sec@mofossils.com).

### Next meeting

Next meeting is **Friday, September 12, 2014** at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below).

## Vice-President's Corner

Remember that the EMSP picnic this Sunday August 3rd. More details below. Also the Machinist Hall rock show is August 15-17. A sign-up sheet will be at the picnic if you would like to volunteer.

### Paleo-shorts

This one is a bit sparse this time. Amber is the favored article this time around. Still looking for more stories though. So if you have something you would like to share, then send it my way.

### Shrinking dinosaurs evolved into flying birds

Scientists have revealed how massive, meat-eating, ground-dwelling dinosaurs evolved into agile flying birds: they just kept shrinking and shrinking, for over 50 million years.

University of Southampton. "Shrinking dinosaurs evolved into flying birds." ScienceDaily.

ScienceDaily, 31 July 2014.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140731145559.htm>.

### Decades-old amber collection offers new views of a lost world: Tiny grasshopper encased in amber

Scientists are searching through a massive collection of 20-million-year-old amber found in the Dominican Republic more than 50 years ago, and the effort is yielding fresh insights into ancient tropical insects and the world they inhabited. Perhaps the most striking discovery thus far is that of a pygmy locust, a tiny grasshopper the size of a rose thorn that lived 18- to 20-million years ago and fed on moss, algae and fungi.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"Decades-old amber collection offers new views of a lost world: Tiny grasshopper encased in amber."

ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 30 July 2014.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140730104138.htm>.

### Chinese mosquitoes on the Baltic Sea: Ancient insect inclusions in East-Asian amber

The analysis of the roughly 3,000 pieces is still in its infant stage. But it is already evident that the results will be of major significance. The Baltic amber comes from the Baltic Sea region, which is almost 10,000 kilometers from Fushun. Sites rich in finds are, e.g., the coastal regions of Mecklenburg, Poland and Belarus. The pieces from the Baltic region are slightly younger than the ones from Fushun—according to estimates, about 40 to 50 million years.

Universität Bonn. "Chinese mosquitoes on the Baltic Sea: Ancient insect inclusions in East-Asian amber." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 30 July 2014. <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140730093827.htm>>.

### **New species from the past: Baltic amber deposits reveal a new species of flat bug from the genus *Aradus***

A piece of Eocene Baltic Amber of about 45 million years age contains a well preserved extinct flat bug, which turned out to be a new species to science. This exciting discovery is one of the many secrets that deposits of Baltic amber have revealed in the last years and are yet to come in the future.

Pensoft Publishers. "New species from the past: Baltic amber deposits reveal a new species of flat bug from the genus *Aradus*." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 2 June 2014. <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/14062101710.htm>>.

### **Oldest rove beetle in the Omaliini tribe found in French amber**

Scientists from Spain, France, and the U.S. has discovered and described a rove beetle from Amber. Detailed images of the insect in opaque amber were made possible by use of the propagation phase-contrast X-ray synchrotron imaging technique. The amber is estimated to be 100 million years old.

Entomological Society of America. "Oldest rove beetle in the Omaliini tribe found in French amber." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 31 July 2014. <[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140731145929.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140731145929.htm)>.

### **Fossils found in Siberia suggest all dinosaurs could have been feathered**

*An ornithischian dinosaur named Kulindadromeus* has been found by the Olov River in Siberia. The small 1 meter long dino has epidermal scales on its tail and bristles on its head and back. Compound feathers were on its arms and legs. *Kulindadromeus* was a plant eater unlike most dinosaur fossils to date found with feathers. The

study published in *Science* concluded that feather-like structures were common among dinosaur families. Feathers are thought to appeared 220MYA in the Triassic for insulation, signaling and eventually flight. Later species of larger dinosaurs may have lost the feathers through the eons.

Bristol University. "Fossils found in Siberia suggest all dinosaurs could have been feathered." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 30 July 2014. <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140730050516.htm>>.

### **TV program of note:**

Nova's: Australia first 4 Billion years is a 4 part series covering the interesting geologic and fossil history of Australia. Learn about stromatolites, opalized plesiosaur vertebrae, and giant ice age kangaroos. The last installment airs August 6<sup>th</sup> on PBS. Look for replay times on the digital channels or rent at your local library. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/australia-first-years.html>

### **Upcoming Events**

The Falls of the Ohio State Park announces the second Falls Fossil Symposium on August 23 & 24. Details about the Mississippian-themed weekend event are at: [http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/Fossil\\_Symposium.html](http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/Fossil_Symposium.html).

Space is limited to 35 participants, on a first-registered basis. We have a good line-up of speakers. The keynoter, Dr. William I. Ausich, is one of the best known paleontologists in the world on the evolution of crinoids and Mississippian crinoids in general.

### **EMSP Picnic**

The picnic date is Sunday, August 3rd. The location is the Sugar Creek Ridge pavilion just south of the tennis courts in Kirkwood Park. Members should park in the lot near the tennis courts. Entrance to the lot is on Adams St. just west of the Geyer Rd. & Adams St. intersection. Overflow parking is located at the community center down the hill from the pavilion.

We will start setting up around 10 am. Members should start arriving around 11:30 with the food served at noon. The picnic is a potluck affair for EMSP members only. The club will furnish, burgers, brats, hot dogs, buns, condiments, soft drinks, ice, plates, cups, napkins and plasticware. Members should bring a side dish to share with others. Members may bring fossils to sell or trade. Kirkwood park has a great playground for kids and Walker lake has a walking path and fishing. (Need to have a fishing license if you are 16 years old or older.)

### EMSP Meetings

Meetings are held the 2nd Friday of every month (except July, August, and December) in room 203 of the new Earth & Planetary Sciences Building on the campus of Washington University. The building is on the southwest corner of Hoyt Dr. and Forest Park Pkwy. There is a large parking lot just across the street.

### CONTACTS

Do you need to find out something about the next meeting or have questions on the next field trip? If so, please talk to or contact one of the EMSP officers.

President: Fay Whobrey

([emsp.pres@mofossils.com](mailto:emsp.pres@mofossils.com))

Vice Pres: Abigail Fairbanks

([emsp.vp@mofossils.com](mailto:emsp.vp@mofossils.com))

Treasurer: Rick Poropat ([emsp.tr@mofossils.com](mailto:emsp.tr@mofossils.com))

Secretary: Ryan Fairbanks

([emsp.sec@mofossils.com](mailto:emsp.sec@mofossils.com))

## DUES

Our treasurer, Rick will accept dues payment for a full year. **Dues are \$20.00 per household per year-payable in January if receiving the newsletter by e-mail. The dues are \$25 for those receiving the newsletter by regular mail.** See Rick at the next meeting or mail a check (payable to Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology) to:

### EMSP

P.O. Box 220273  
St. Louis, MO. 63122

### Distribution of the Newsletter by email

Can't find your newsletter, just when you need it for a trip? Then sign up for the e-mail version. This also saves the club money so we can bring in speakers. E-mail requests to: Ryan Fairbanks  
[emsp.sec@mofossils.com](mailto:emsp.sec@mofossils.com) .



# What is EMSP?

The Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology (EMSP) is a not-for-profit organization Dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of fossil collecting. It is open to all individuals interested in learning about the history of life on earth. The club membership includes professional paleontologists as well as amateur hobbyists. The EMSP provides an open forum for the exchange of information and access to expertise on collecting, identifying, preparing and displaying fossils.

EMSP meetings are held on the second Friday of every month (except July, August and December) at 7:30pm in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Building on the campus of Washington University. Each meeting includes an informal exchange of information and speakers on a variety of fossil-related topics.

Weather permitting, field trips to fossil collection localities around the St. Louis area are held each month. Led by experienced collectors, these trips are a fun way to augment discussions at the monthly meetings. The club participates in joint field trips with other paleo clubs, visiting fossil sites throughout the United States. EMSP is also a proud to be involved in partnerships with the St. Louis Science Center and the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc.

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(EMSP)  
P.O. Box 220273  
St. Louis, MO. 63122

FIRST CLASS MAIL

