

The Paleo Times

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Rick Poropat, Editor

Fossil Prep Party

What is a fossil prep party? A time to get together with the “experts” for hands-on training in how to trim, clean and prepare fossils you bring from your own collection. There will be an assortment of tools available for use, plus a tile saw, an 8-inch rock saw for trimming smaller pieces and a gas-powered concrete saw for the really big stuff. **Sorry, Fossils only- no geodes or minerals because the hard material can damage water-cooled saw blades.**

When: Saturday, June 3rd. (yes, that’s next weekend)

Where: Ryan & Abby’s house

Time: 1:00 pm

What to bring: Fossils to be trimmed or prepared.

Fossil-prep tools

Safety glasses

Snacks & drinks

DID YOU KNOW?

It has always been believed that the mighty T. rex used its massive jaws to tear off huge chunks of flesh, swallowing it whole, without chewing. In a new study at Florida State University, researchers report that the carnivore crushed its prey with a jaw-dropping 7,800 pounds of force, more than double what any species living today can produce. That’s equivalent to having three small cars sitting on your face! The finding provides more evidence that T. rex shattered bones and swallowed them along with the meat. This behavior is called *Extreme Osteophagy* and is seen

today in carnivores such as gray wolves and spotted hyenas.

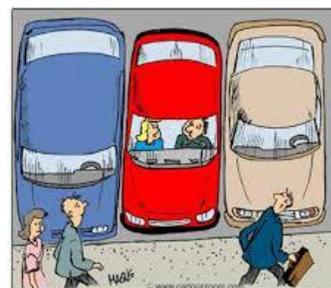
T. rex Coprolites found in Montana often contain bone fragments, but rarely do they contain whole or nearly whole bones. This new evidence helps explain why the vast majority of bone fragments appear to be shredded. The extreme pressure of T. rex jaws caused the bones to explode!

June Meeting

Our next meeting is **Friday, June 9, 2017*** at 7:30 pm in Room 203 on the second floor of the Earth and Planetary Sciences building on the Washington University campus. Our program for the evening was not confirmed at the time of writing this newsletter, however, it is planned to be a tour of the Washington University collection, led by Bob Osburn, Laboratory Administrator at the school. We will meet at the normal time in our regular meeting room (203) and leave for the tour as a group. Late-comers **should not** wander the building looking for the group because most areas are restricted to students and employees. After the tour, we will return to room 203 for our business meeting.

This is a great opportunity to view a world-class collection not available to the public. Please join us for a great evening.

*** Please see *Rick’s Ramblings* for information about a possible parking situation.**



YES, THAT WAS A MASTERFULL PARK JOB! ...BUT, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS WHY NOBODY ELSE PARKED THERE?

Calendar

June 9-11	Park Hills Swap Missouri Mines State Park
June 23-25	Bedford Rock Swap Lawrence Co. Fairgrounds S. of Bedford, Indiana
June 24-25	EMSP Mississippi Trip New Albany, Mississippi
Aug. 13-14	Falls of the Ohio Fossil Symposium Clarksville, Indiana
Aug. 18-20	Treasures of the Earth Show Machinist's Hall, Bridgeton, MO.
Sept. 6-17	Denver Mineral & Fossil Showcase Various Venues in Denver, Colorado
Nov. 17-19	Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show & Sale Affton Community Center

Treasurer's Report

A detailed report is available by request from the treasurer.

Rick's Ramblings

The weather sure hasn't been very cooperative this spring with respect to collecting. We had to cancel one field trip, but hope remains for the June 24 trip to Mississippi. We will have more info about this trip at the next meeting. On the bright side, all this rain will have washed out some good stuff. All we have to do is find it!

I want to call your attention to some opportunities coming up this month. Happening soonest is our annual fossil prep party on Saturday, June 3rd. See the separate notice about this event. Also, June 9-11 is the annual Park Hills Swap where I always manage to find a few treasures of the fossil and mineral variety. It's worth the drive!

A longer drive will bring you to the annual Bedford Rock Swap (June 23-25) at the fairgrounds south of Bedford, Indiana. It's always a good show filling several fairground buildings, plus many the people set up in the parking area. Plenty of fossils and dark side stuff to choose from!

Carl Campbell is still waiting to hear from you if you are planning to join the team in Montana this July. Please let him know of your plans so he can develop the field-work itinerary for this summer. Lots of work to do this year and so far it looks like the crew will be smaller!

Our participation in the August GSLAESC show at Machinist's Hall is still up in the air because the conflict over insurance has not yet been worked

out. It is supposedly all a "big misunderstanding" but the association is not breaking any records to clarify things. Their president has pledged to clear things up by the end of this week. We will see.

In the near future, perhaps before our June meeting, parking will become a problem for people using the Earth and Planetary Science Building. Washington University plans to close the parking lot we currently use (for two years) in order to build a new parking garage on the site. Hoyt Drive will also be closed. Bob Osburn recommends using the parking garage off of Forest Park Parkway (north side of campus), using only the yellow non-24 hour spots which are available after 5 or 6 pm on Fridays. Do not use the 24/7 spots! Other parking is available on campus, but it is sporadic at best. We don't currently have a timeline for construction, but will provide updates as we receive them. In the meantime, please be prepared to find alternative parking if necessary.

Fossil Parks You Can Visit

Listed here are a few fossil parks open to the public. At many, you can keep the fossils you find. More to follow in our next issue.

Caesar Creek State Park

The Waynesville area, in the heart of the Cincinnati Arch, yields abundant Ordovician fossils including brachiopods, bryozoans, crinoids, corals and the occasional trilobite. The US Army Corps of Engineers allows fossil collecting in the Emergency Spillway near the Caesar Creek Dam. You need a free permit from the visitor center, you may not use any tools, and anything larger than the palm of your hand goes to the Visitor Center's collection.

Canadian Fossil Discovery Center, Morden, Manitoba, Canada

You can dig in the great Cretaceous vertebrate faunas of the Western Interior Seaway on private lands in Manitoba about an hour away from Winnipeg.

Dinosaur Park, Laurel, Maryland

Noteworthy plant and animal fossils from Early Cretaceous times have come from the quarry here since the mid-1800s, including specimens of Maryland's state dinosaur, *Astrodon johnstoni*. Every first and third Saturday of the month from noon to 4 p.m., the public can help the pros as they explore this precious scientific site.

East Fork State Park, Bethel, Ohio

The rocks exposed in the emergency spillway of the dam at William H. Harsha Lake are 438 million years old (Ordovician). Fossils are predominantly brachiopods and bryozoans. The US Army Corps of Engineers permits fossil collecting there as long as you use no tools and leave behind any specimen larger than the palm of your hand. USACE Harsha Lake website: find fossils under Recreation > Wildlife to Watch.

Fossil Butte National Monument, Kemmerer, Wyoming

Fossil Butte preserves a small portion of the enormous Green River Formation, an ancient freshwater lakebed some 50 million years old (Eocene). On Fridays and Saturdays during summer, visitors can help park scientists dig for fossils on a strictly catch-and-release basis. The program is called "Aquarium in Stone."

Fossil Park, Sylvania, Ohio

Soft Middle Devonian shale of the Silica Formation is brought here from the Hanson Aggregate quarries for the public to pick over using only their hands. Trilobites, horn corals, brachiopods, crinoids, early colonial corals and more are found there. It's a popular school outing, complete with lesson plans and a geologist-authored field guide. There's no charge. The pit is open from late April to early November.

Hueston Woods State Park, College Corner, Ohio

The Ordovician fossils of this area may be collected at two "fossil collection areas" shown on the park map. Inquire at the Park Office before digging. During summer months, the park naturalist leads fossil hunts.

Ladonia Fossil Park, Ladonia, Texas

Sediments in the bluffs of the North Sulphur River near Dallas yield all kinds of Cretaceous fossils from mosasaur bones to ammonites, bivalves and shark teeth. The Pleistocene sediments above have mammoth bones and teeth. This is a rugged, at-your-own-risk kind of place where you need to watch for snakes, slides, feral pigs and sudden floods from controlled water releases.

LaFarge Fossil Park, Alpena, Michigan

The Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan, near Thunder Bay in Lake Huron, hosts this site where the great Lafarge Alpena quarry contributes raw Devonian-age limestone for the public to explore. The museum's website has no information on the fossils, but it shows a nice coral specimen. Open from dawn to dusk year-round. This one is new!

Fossil of the Month



The fossil of the month is the Mississippian crinoid, *Camptocrinus multicirrus* collected from the Paint Creek formation at an obscure site west of Columbia, Illinois. The site is no longer accessible. An interesting preservation characteristic of this site is that nearly all of the fossils found there are pink calcite against a grey limestone matrix. The bright coloration does not appear to be a stain.

This rare and unusual crinoid is almost always found in a coiled position with the crown nested within the cirri on the stem. Preserved in several geologic formations, including the Paint Creek, the Bangor (Alabama) and the Edwardsville (Indiana), some species have as many as ten arms. At most locations, a fully-developed crown is rarely an inch long. In the Bangor Formation, the length is rarely greater than one third of an inch.

The Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology (EMSP) is a registered Missouri 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 ancient life on earth. The club membership includes professional paleontologists as well as amateur hobbyists. 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 Room 203, on the second floor of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Building on the campus of Washington University. The building is located at the SW corner of the intersection of Forest Park Parkway and Hoyt Drive. Each meeting includes an informal exchange of information and speakers on a variety of fossil-related topics. Note: the building doors automatically lock at 7:30pm.

Club activities include field trips lead by experienced collectors and are a fun way to augment discussions at the monthly meetings. The club also participates in joint field trips with other paleo clubs, visiting fossil sites throughout the United States. EMSP is also proud to be involved in partnerships with the St. Louis Science Center and the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc; as well as STEM outreach to classrooms, community events and science fair special awards.

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