

The Paleo Times

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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@mofossil.com .

Next meeting

Next meeting is **Friday, March 13, 2015** at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below).

President's Corner

March 2015

Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs – Scholarship Program:

REPEAT – WE NEED APPLICANTS: The Association has funds available for up to three (3) scholarships up to \$500 each for this year. There is a link under “Fossil Links” on our website (www.mofossils.com) for more information regarding the scholarship program.

Proceeds from the “boutique” and the “wheel” go directly to the scholarship fund. Bob Morse, Rockwood Gem & Mineral Club, requested the clubs donate petrified wood that can be tumbled (he will tumble them) and any other items that would be appropriate (larger pieces of petrified wood, **marine fossils**, etc.). When you are out collecting and you see something “nice” but not what you would want in your collection, pick it up and bring to the next meeting. I will make sure it gets to Bob for the next show.

Meeting Schedule:

March 13, 2015 (YES, Friday the 13th): There will be three mini-presentations

- Missouri’s Decorah formation, Faye Whobrey
- Plant Fossils, Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb
- Overview of Geologic Timescales, Abigail Lee

April 10, 2015. Meeting changed back to regular date of second Friday. Professor Mike Fix will give a presentation on “Missouri Dinosaur.” There is a carnival scheduled the weekend of April 17th and parking would be unavailable.

Field Trips:

March 07 field trip to be led by Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb to the area west of Potosi looking for fossils in the Lower Ordovician period.

Education:

Still need volunteers for mini-presentations. Please contact me if you would like to share some information.

OutReach:

Friday, April 03, 2015: St. Louis Science Center’s First Friday’s theme is “JURASSIC PARK” – All About Things Dinosaur. We will need to provide volunteers to help support this event. Reserve this date on your calendar and we will do a sign-up sheet at the March meeting.

Shows:

- Artifact and Fossil show at Collinsville Convention Center, March 06-08.
- MAPS, Iowa City, IA, April 09-12.
- Rock Hobby Club Show, March 27-29. Machinist Hall, Bridgeton, MO

New members- we have a photo database for members to help us remember faces. Please consider posing for a portrait at January's meeting.

For your awareness- EMSP has an Earth Science club scholarship to help with college costs for any earth science related courses or books. Any member or child of a member can apply.

Volunteer outreach help needed-

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Please sign up to help staff the Rockwood school district requests and any other for fossil presentations/demonstrations/science night tables. Last year we reached at least 3 science nights at elementary schools, a number of day time presentations, and a library summer reading club. We have the outreach kit- just take and open the lid for an instant interactive table. An accompanying book has more details on each fossil. A PowerPoint presentation is also in the works

Paleo-shorts

Ancient rocks show life could have flourished on Earth 3.2 billion years ago

A spark from a lightning bolt, interstellar dust, or a subsea volcano could have triggered the very first life on Earth. But what happened next? Life can exist without oxygen, but without plentiful nitrogen to build genes -- essential to viruses, bacteria and all other organisms -- life on the early Earth would have been scarce. The ability to use atmospheric nitrogen to support more widespread life was thought to have appeared roughly 2 billion years ago. Now research looking at some of the planet's oldest rocks finds evidence that 3.2 billion years ago, life was already pulling nitrogen out of the air and converting it into a form that could support larger communities.

University of Washington. "Ancient rocks show life could have flourished on Earth 3.2 billion years ago." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 16 February 2015. <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/02/150216131121.htm>>.

Amber fossil links earliest grasses, dinosaurs and fungus used to produce LSD

A perfectly preserved amber fossil from Myanmar has been found that provides evidence of the earliest grass specimen ever discovered -- about 100 million years old -- and even then it was topped by a fungus similar to ergot, a hallucinogen which for eons has been intertwined with animals and humans. Among other things, it gave us the psychedelic drug LSD.

Oregon State University. "Amber fossil links earliest grasses, dinosaurs and fungus used to produce LSD." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 9 February 2015. <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/02/150209130730.htm>>.

Kenyan fossils show evolution of hippos

A French-Kenyan research team has just described a new fossil ancestor of today's hippo family. This discovery bridges a gap in the fossil record separating these animals from their closest modern-day cousins, the cetaceans. It also shows that some 35 million years ago, the ancestors of hippos were among the first large mammals to colonize the African continent, long before those of any of the large carnivores, giraffes or bovines.

Le Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS). "Kenyan fossils show evolution of hippos." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 24 February 2015. <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/02/150224113446.htm>>.

DUES ARE DUE

Our treasurer, Rick Poropat 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 emsp.sec@mofossils.com

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)

Vice Pres: Abigail Fairbanks

(emsp.vp@mofossils.com)

Treasurer: Rick Poropat

(emsp.tr@mofossils.com)

Secretary: Ryan Fairbanks

(emsp.sec@mofossils.com)

Educational Outreach: Steve

Bynum(emsp.outreach@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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