

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

### Next meeting

Next meeting is **Friday, September 11, 2015** at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below).

## President's Corner September 2015

**Did you find something this summer that you need help identifying? Be sure to bring to the September meeting and let our "experts" assist you.**

**We all meet people and talk about our experiences with fossils. Invite them as a guest so they can see firsthand the opportunities, education/learning experiences, resources, field trips, etc., that await them. Someone told you about the club, now do others the same favor. 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](http://www.mofossils.com)) for more information

regarding the scholarship program. **Click on the link that has "forms" in it to get the application.**

### Election of Officers:

- What office would you like to volunteer for?
- Think about the strengths of your fellow club member – maybe they just haven't thought about supporting the Club in a particular office or committee – nominate them.
- It takes the time, energy and talents of many people to make our Club work for everyone and continue to provide the learning/sharing/information atmosphere that helps each of us.
- Responsibilities of the offices:
  - **President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors; appoint all committees and oversee all activities of the Society; shall be an ex-officio member of all committees; may authorize the payment of obligations of the Society for ordinary operating expenses, not to exceed \$100.00 in any one month and may sign authorized checks against the Society's account when the Treasurer is not present.
  - **Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall preside at meeting in the absence of the President. In the event that the president is unable to perform the duties of his/her office, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President until such time as the President is able to resume the duties of the office.

- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record minutes of all meeting of the Society and of the Board of Directors and provide the President with a copy prior to the following regular meeting. The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the Society, except that which is conducted by other officers or committees as part of their normal duties and shall maintain a central file containing copies of all Society correspondence and documents. Upon direction from the President, the Secretary shall prepare notices of meetings and other activities of the Society and mail copies to all regular members.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall collect all dues and other monies of the Society and shall maintain a checking account in the name of the Society and pay all debts incurred by the society. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all financial transactions of the Society and report on them in each monthly newsletter, at all monthly Society and Board of Directors meetings; shall have membership applications available at all regular Society meetings. The Treasurer shall submit his/her records for audit by a committee appointed by the President at the close of the year or at any other time by direction of the President.

**Meeting Schedule. Remember our new format where program will be first and business meeting after break.**

- **September 11, 2015:** What we did on our summer vacation (Show and Tell). Be sure to bring pictures on a USB drive, bring specimens. Great time to share information.
- **October 09, 2015:** Dr. Bruce on St. Louis Pleistocene. Slate of Officers will be proposed and nominations from the floor will be accepted.
- **November 13, 2015:** Potential speaker is Andrew McDonald on the Igenodon family (a genus of ornithopod dinosaur that existed

roughly halfway between the first of the swift bipedal hypsilophodontids of the mid-Jurassic and the duck-billed dinosaurs of the late Cretaceous). We will have election of officers in the second half of the meeting.

- **December 2015:** Annual Christmas Party. Carl will host the annual Christmas party. Date & time to be announced.

**We want to have “MINI” Presentations at most of our meetings. Have you read a good book? Have you researched a specific fossil? What is your favorite formation for collecting – Why – Examples? Let me know so we can add you to the agenda. We have openings for these for each of our meetings starting with September.**

**Field Trips:** If you have suggestions for field trips or would like to lead a trip, please contact Bruce, Chris or Faye.

- June and July: We had several field trips to Ardeola – great specimens, lots of fun and heat! Will schedule more this fall when it is cooler.
- Fall trips to Mark Twain Lake (Keokuk and Burlington formations), HWY MM (Decorah formation), Barite Pit (Potosi formation), Mark Twain Nation Forest south of Cherokee Pass (Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian) and possibly to Fulton area (Keokuk formation and others) to be planned.
- Steve would appreciate volunteers with our out-reach program for scouts and schools. Contact him for details.

**Shows:**

- a. **Greater St.Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs.** Thanks to everyone who helped setup, tear down, worked ticket booth, worked at our club booth, helped with displays, and did demonstrations. This was a great show and it took a lot of volunteers from our club and all the other clubs in the Association for it to be a success. Also thanks to those who donated items for the “boutique” and the wheel. Proceeds from these two activities go directly to the Scholarship Fund.

- b. **St. Louis Mineral and Gem Club.** November 20-22, 2015. White Rogers Community Center, Afton, MO. We need volunteers for setup/teardown and for working our booth. If you didn't work at the August show, please consider volunteering for this event.

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**

#### **Discovering Fossil Pigments**

A study provides multiple lines of new evidence that pigments and the microbodies that produce them can remain evident in a dinosaur fossil. In the journal *Scientific Reports*, an international team of paleontologists correlates the distinct chemical signature of animal pigment with physical evidence of melanosome organelles in the fossilized feathers of *Anchiornis huxleyi*, a bird-like dinosaur that died about 150 million years ago in China.

Brown University. "Pigments, organelles persist in fossil feathers: Shed light on original coloration of long-lost animals." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 27 August 2015.

<<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/08/150827083411.htm>>.

#### **Expanding Dino Diversity**

Researchers have examined one of the smallest parts of the fossil record--theropod teeth--to shed light on the evolution of dinosaurs at the end of the

Cretaceous. Findings published in the journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* have effectively quadrupled the dinosaur diversity in the area of study, eight localities from Treviño County, Huesca and Lerida--including the exceptional site of Laño. There were previously only two known species in the area.

University of Alberta. "Big dinosaur discoveries in tiny toothy packages: Teeth used to identify 6 non-avian dinosaurs of the Upper Cretaceous in the South Pyrenees Basin in Spain." ScienceDaily.

ScienceDaily, 7 August 2015.

<<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/08/150807092333.htm>>.

#### **A Mammoth Distribution**

Ice Age paleontologist Prof. Dr. Ralf-Dietrich Kahlke of the Senckenberg Research Station for Quaternary Paleontology in Weimar recorded the maximum geographic distribution of the woolly mammoth during the last Ice Age and published the most accurate global map in this regard. The ice-age pachyderms populated a total area of 33,301,000 square kilometers and may thus be called the most successful large mammals of this era. The study, recently published online in the scientific journal *Quaternary International*, determined that the distribution was limited by a number of climate-driven as well as climate-independent factors.

Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum. "Mammoth remains, as far as the eye can see: Widest distribution of mammoths during the last Ice Age." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 25 August 2015.

<<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/08/150825083839.htm>>.

#### **Earliest baboon found at Malapa**

A team of international researchers has discovered a fossil monkey specimen representing the earliest baboon ever found. Dating back more than two million years ago, the partial skull was found in South Africa's Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, the same site where the partial skeletons of the

new early hominin species, *Australopithecus sediba*, were discovered in 2010.

University of the Witwatersrand. "Earliest baboon found at Malapa: Skull confirms earlier suggestions that fossil baboon is quite possibly the earliest known member of the modern baboon species *Papio hamadryas*." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 19 August 2015.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/08/150819143639.htm>.

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))

Educational Outreach: Steve

Bynum([emsp.outreach@mofossils.com](mailto:emsp.outreach@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

[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  
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