

The Paleo Times

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EMSP SOAPBOX

By David Lukens & Don Howell

If you have any articles, comments, or need to communicate with me I can be reached through the following: dmslukens@yahoo.com (personal) or contact me at 636-751-8746 (cell).

Next meeting

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi folks, once again we had a full room at the October meeting. Thanks to all who came out. Thank you to Rick and Carl for giving programs. Please remember to come to the November meeting because we have our elections and you need to cast your vote for the new officers. And, we still need volunteers to cover the sales booth at the Affton-White Rodgers Show later this month. Another great reason to come is to get a map to the Christmas Party at Bruce's "Fossil House"! Thanks Bruce for having us. Also it will be my last regular meeting as President, as I will be handing over the reins to the new President at the Christmas Party, so I would love to see ya there. I will have a farewell President's Corner in the December newsletter, but I must say I have a hearty thank you to all those that have helped me these past four years. Your P, Don Howell III

President Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology

Thanks / Congratulations

Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments to the last meeting. Welcome to our visitors : Steve, Marilyn, Wayne and Linda. I also want to give a

sincere thanks to Don Howell for his work the last 4 years as President of the club. Membership has increased significantly during his tenure and the balance sheets have improved a lot. We deeply appreciate the work that you did as President.

David

NEXT MEETING (November)

Items to be discussed during the November meeting

- Plans for fall field trips
- Plans for the Affton White Show
- Need to start signups for volunteers for the show.
- Looking for volunteers to run for the club offices in the November elections
- More details about the Christmas party including date
- Elections for officers.
- Have grab bags been made up for the Nov, show

Upcoming Events/ Field Trips

Fossil collecting at Lee Creek Mine, Aurora, NC has been suspended until Fall. PCS Phosphate is working in the collecting trip staging.

November 18-20: Fall Fossil show (Formerly at the Viking Holiday Inn). **Affton White-Rodgers Community Center at 9801 Mackenzie Road**. The show runs Friday, 4 PM-8 PM, Saturday, 10AM-7 PM and Sunday, 10 AM-5 PM. Volunteer clean-up begins at show's end.

- The opening week-end of "Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age" will be November 25-26 at the Missouri History

Museum. A schedule of events can be found on the Museum's website: www.mohistory.org.
- On Tuesday, December 13, our club's Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb will be a featured lecturer at the Mammoths/Mastodons show. His lecture is entitled St. Louis Area Big Bones: Missouri's Ice Age Mega fauna. Bruce will be speaking in the Lee Auditorium.

Notes from the Meeting

- Afton show- Club is responsible for setting up and taking down its own tables volunteers are needed to help with end-of-show take down and clean-up and will save club money. Pat has provided a link to the Afton show.
- The upcoming label/identification party for fossils will be held in November. If any member can assist, he/she should contact Faye. The event will be held at Tom and Keri's home.

-Carl spent \$62 at the Denver show and was not able to find many fossils that fit the clubs needs

The C.L. Drake Geological Societies' Annual Rock and Mineral Auction. The auction will be held Saturday, November 5 in McNutt Hall at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla. Live, silent and children's auctions will be held. They are open to both dealers and the public.

-Bill offered to donate equipment, books and various supplies he used in his classroom. The ideal recipient of this generous offer would be a young "starting" teacher in need of materials. Bill will bring the collection to the November show.

- If your are going to the Tucson show and were not at the October show, please contact Carl Campbell.
- The annual Christmas party will be held at Bruce's Arnold Geology House. The date will be determined in November.
- Rick showed examples, and explained the need for, proper fossil collecting equipment

and supplies, especially for the Mark Twain trip.

- A donated "harts horn" skull was auctioned and netted the club \$6.00.
- Carl Campbell gave a presentation on the annual meeting of the Geological Societies of America. This years' meeting was held in Minneapolis and featured over 10,000 geologists from all corners of the world. Dealers, venders, equipment, displays, posters, and many, many talks made up the show. Carl's display featured digital posters.

Carl also shared with the club a new photographic system he used this past summer while in Montana at the Hell Creek formation. The "GigaPan" is a robotic camera mount that captures gigapixel panoramas. It enabled his summer group to map outcrops from a distance while maintaining high levels of resolution.

- Faye is chairing a nominating committee for club officers. Officers are elected in November and she is seeking volunteers to run. The November newsletter will outline the positions and their various responsibilities. Constitution requires two-year term limits for each office. New members, especially, are encouraged to participate.

We are looking for volunteers to expand our list of people who can do explain our box at science fairs. We need people to sign up, even if you can only cover one show.

We are always looking for more donations of small fossils (quarter size or smaller) for the fossil boards. We are especially in need of small trilobites (the Utah ones are best) were also looking for horn corals, other corals, gastropods, bryozoans, and other donations. Please bring to the next meeting so we can meet later and work on putting more fossil boards together for the upcoming show.

Paleo-shorts

-Original and summary articles provided by members of EMSP. Where possible, I have tried to add in website where you can read more.

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/10/21/paleo-csi-early-hunters-left-mastodon-murder-weapon-behind/>

Analysis of a mastodon skeleton found in Washington state in the 1970's had determined that it contains the first indications of human hunting in North America. A sharpened piece of bone was found imbedded in one of the ribs has been dated at 13,800 years ago. The mastodon was very old when it was killed as its teeth were completely worn down. When the skeleton was originally found, it could not be proved that the bone fragment embedded in the rib was human made. But a CT scan of the rib that revealed details as small as 0.002 inches shows that the shaft in the rib had been whittled down and sharpened proving it was made by humans. Analysis of the point showed it had been made from bones of another mastodon. This is the first definitive evidence of hunting of mastodons with weapons by a pre-Clovis culture. It is the 3rd pre-Clovis archaeological site found, the other two are in Oregon and in Chile.

<http://www.livescience.com/16623-neanderthal-short-legs.html>

It is known that the Neanderthals had shorter lower legs but a new theory is that this was an adaptation for moving across sloped terrain. This has been noted in a number of modern animals that live in rugged terrain. While the shorter legs are more inefficient on flat ground they are the opposite on sloped areas. The Neanderthals, who survived between 200,000 and 40,000 years ago were shorter and more compact, typical of life in colder environments but they also lived in rougher terrain. New studies at John Hopkins indicate that the shorter legs would have given them an advantage in these areas.

<http://www.livescience.com/16542-giant-toothed-pterosaur.html>

Reexamining old fossils is revealing new insights into ancient life. In this case it was review of fossils that have been at the Natural History Museum of London since 1884 and consist of the tip of a toothed pterosaur's nose and part of the tooth. The analysis of this fish eating species indicated that it reached up to 23 feet long. Non-toothed pterosaurs reached in excess of 30 feet. The calculations of length are based on a known relationship between length and the diameter of the teeth. They were also able to

determine that the tooth was from a *Coloborhynchus capito*, a rare ornithocheirid. T

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/10/111013141807.htm>

Scientists in a cave in South Africa have found remnants of face paints dating back to 100,000 years ago. The paints, stored in two sea shells were "in situ" and contained ochre, bone, charcoal, grindstones and hammerstones. These artifacts indicate that our ancestors were using these in social situations longer ago than previously thought.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/09/110914100530.htm>

Modern medicine is being used to find out about how dinosaur hatchlings formed. Doctors at John Hopkins have used computer modeling to look at a 100 MYA armored nodosaur dinosaur baby whose fossil was found in 1997 in Maryland. The baby was very small indicating that it was likely near its nesting spot. By comparing the fossil skull proportions to those of 10 different species of ankylosaurs, they were able to determine it was a new species, *Propanoplosaurus marylandicus*. The area where it was found was once a flood plain and the indications are that it died by drowning. The tiny skeleton, only 5 inches long, was found on its back. Tiny foot prints were also found near the skeleton.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/10/111014212405.htm>

Additional studies have revealed new information about the *Carnotaurus*, a very large predatory dinosaur from Argentina. Examination of the tail structure shows that the caudofemoralis muscle had a tendon that attached to its upper leg bones which made it faster and more powerful than previously thought. This is similar to the T-rex and shows that the tails were not used simply for balance as previously thought. The tail bones have a long line of interconnecting rib-like bones helped in the muscle and tendon attachment but would have kept them from making sharp turns.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110720142357.htm>

A new genus and species of hadrosaur (duck-billed) dinosaur has been discovered, in two different locations. The duckbill, named *Acristavus gagslarsoni*, dates to 79 MYA and the fossils were found in Montana and Utah, 650 miles apart. The unusual feature of these is that they lack the head

crests typical of the later examples of this animal. The distance between the examples indicate that they lived over a much wider area than their descendants. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110715135200.htm>

The examination of 70 MYA titanosaur eggs from Argentina are providing new information about the interaction of insects and dinosaurs. When the fossilized eggs, which were found in 1989 were examined recently it was determined that one of the eggs has small cylindrical structures 1 inch x .3 inches that appear to be fossilized wasp cocoons. This points to the fact that wasps, like other insects such as beetles, ants, and others played a roll in the deterioration of dinosaur eggs. Close examination of the egg shows that it was broken by force and the cracks allowed scavenging insects to attack the eggs. <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/4586064b416c4b64a8866b944d830173/MT-Dinosaur-Dispute/>

A Montana judge has ordered the Black Hills Institute and the Fort Peck Paleontology group to start settlement talks over bone casting made from several T-Rex dinosaurs. BHI says that the Fort Peck group used castings of their dinosaurs to fill in missing parts for their T-Rex.

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 – Don Howell
(donhowelliii@sbcglobal.net, cel 314-954-6922)
Vice-President: Bruce Stinchcomb
Treasurer: Pete Smith
Secretaries: David Lukens
(dmslukens@yahoo.com, cel 636-751-8746) and Peggy Cole

DUES ARE DUE

Our treasurer, Pete Smith 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 Pete 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 (once we pick some...) E-mail requests to dmslukens@yahoo.com



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 Earth & Planetary Sciences building is on the southwest corner of Hoyt Drive and Forest Park Pkwy. There is a large parking lot just across the street.

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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