

# The Paleo Times

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The Official Publication of the Eastern Missouri Society For Paleontology

## EMSP SOAPBOX

*By Abby Lee*

Happy New Year! I hope everyone spent a few days relaxing over the holidays! Perhaps you even got out on a fossil trip or two? We seem to be missing winter again. I've been riding on the KATY trail and watching my family's confused bulbs come up in early January!

I am looking forward to the New Year for the club. We have decided to recruit a speaker this year with our club's money. Also, we are working on up-grading our display for shows. We will discuss the details with the upcoming meeting. Ideas are always welcome. Everyone put on his or her brainstorming hats! My personal wish list includes a canoeing trip on the Kansas River- anyone care to join me? I also hope to write some interesting articles for the newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

**January Meeting** (Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006). The focus of this meeting will be the election of officers for 2007. A speaker for November's meeting had not been identified at the time of the publishing of the newsletter.

**1/26-2/6--TUCSON, ARIZONA:** Show; J.O.G.S. International Exhibits; Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Rd.; Fri. 11-6; free admission; rough rock, polished rock, findings, finished jewelry, Brazilian gems and stones, amber, jewelry designers, minerals, fossils, mammoth bones and carvings; contact Vitaliy, 650 S. Hill St., Ste. 612, Los Angeles, CA 90014, (213) 629-3030; e-mail:

[info@jogsshow.com](mailto:info@jogsshow.com); Web site:  
[www.jogsshow.com](http://www.jogsshow.com)

**1/27-2/10--TUCSON, ARIZONA:** Show, "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; five locations: The InnSuites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; Clarion Hotel - Randolph Park, 102 N. Alvernon Way; Quality Inn, 1025 E. Benson Hwy.; Ramada Limited, 665 N. Freeway; 10-6 daily, 10-5 last day; free admission; more than 400 international dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artist Gallery at InnSuites Hotel; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: MZ0955@aol.com; Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com).

FYI: airline tickets are still available to Tucson around ~\$250 as of 1-5-07.

**March, April and May Meetings:** Three club meetings are tentatively scheduled at the St. Louis Science Center this year. Last year met for one meeting at the Science Center. More information will be forth-coming about this at the next two regular meetings.

**MAPS EXPO 2007.** March 30-April 1. Macomb, IL. This is the largest all fossil exposition in the U.S. each year. It's time to start thinking about hotel reservations for this event.

## DUES ARE DUE

Our treasurer, Pete Smith will accept dues payment for a full year. Dues are \$15.00 per household per year and are payable on the anniversary date printed on your newsletter address label. 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**

## Thanks!

To Dr. Stinchcomb for the use of his wall-to-wall fossil house for the holiday party! The food was good and the drinks were a plenty.

### **Club Officers for 2007**

President: Brian Jackson

Vice President: Bruce Steinchcomb, Rich Hager lending a hand- and anyone else that has speaker ideas and connections.

Treasurer: Pete Smith

Secretary: Abby Lee, editor Tom Lee

## January Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology will be on Friday, January 12th, 2006 at 7:30 pm 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. Please see the map below for more information.



For those that arrive late to the meeting, a cell phone number will be posted on both doors to call. Someone will come down to promptly let you in, but please try to arrive on time.

### **Agenda**

The scheduled speaker will be club member Carl Campbell. He will be speaking about a trip to the national GSA meeting in Philadelphia. For those new to the club, Carl has a master's in geology, runs the prep lab, and is the leader for Paleotrek Montana. Carl is currently a professor at St. Louis Community College-Meramec campus.

We may also discuss field trips, speakers, and events for the New Year. We need to begin construction of fossil example grab bags as well. The supplies have been gathered and templates and examples prepared in advance.

### **Distribution of the Newsletter by email**

We keep adding to the list of club members who have elected to receive the newsletter by email. Many will go out by email this month. This is a cost savings measure for the club. Each newsletter currently costs 39 cents to mail. This is over \$4.00 per person each year for postage alone. A sign-up list will be available at meetings, or email Tom Lee

([motirek@charter.net](mailto:motirek@charter.net)) to begin to receive the newsletter electronically.

### Fossil Related Events/ Courses

**Kayaks and canoes** are great for getting around rivers looking for ice age bones. The Alpine Shop holds an annual Canoe and Kayak **show February 23-25**. It's a great place to pick up a craft or accessories at good discounts- that's where I got mine ☺ Check [www.alpineshop.com](http://www.alpineshop.com) for upcoming details. The Alpine Shop and REI ([www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com) at Brentwood and 40) also host multiple classes and try-it-out days on Creve Coeur Lake in May so you can paddle to see what crafts suit your purposes.

Receive a **GPS** for the holidays? I need to learn how to use mine. I might attend the REI intro **free class on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>**. The class requires registration at 314-918-1004.

The **St. Louis Country Parks** and recreation department holds many nature related events/classes from fishing to caving. They are hosting a **Fossil Hunt at Greensfelder Park** (behind Six Flags). The cost is \$3/person, which includes a 20 minute intro to MO fossils class and hike to find them. The class is held Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> from 10-noon. Call 636-391-0922 for registration. More details are in a PDF catalogue on [www.co.st-louis.mo.us/parks/](http://www.co.st-louis.mo.us/parks/).

### Paleoshorts

*From: "Society sans frills" in Science News Nov. 11, 2006 vol 170, page 318*

Current theories of ceratopsians picture the animals living in herds and using their frills for species identification. A group of multiple juvenile Psittacosaurus from 128 mya China were found in close quarters, suggesting ceratopsian social behavior millions of year before the existence of frills. The "house-cat sized" dinos were in the same position were lying in the same position with half of a square meter. However, the dinos varied in size, thus they were not the same age. Evidence exists that psittacosaurus traveled in groups of unrelated individuals. According to the article, this indicates

that ceratopsians had complex social behaviors before possessing frills.

*"Early tetrapod likely ate on shore" From the same page above:*

Molly J. Markey, a paleontologist at Harvard University used skull suture patterns to infer the lifestyle of the semiaquatic *Acanthostega*. *Acanthostega* lived 365 mya in shallow water. It's suture patterns do not fit either that of *Polypterus*- a modern fish which slurps its prey, nor that of *Eusthenopteron*, a contemporary suckerfish of *Acanthostega*. Both sucking/slurping fish have straight-edged sutures; leading Markey to conclude that the straight edges functioned better with water based feeding. In contrast, *Acanthostega* possesses jagged sutures such as those found in *Phonerperon*, an early amphibian that fed on land. Markey concluded that *Acanthostega* likely fed on land. In addition, Markey concludes jagged patterns are optimum for land feeding, whereas straight edge sutures are best for sucking stresses.

*From: American Scientist May-June, 2006 p 219 "Otterlike Fossil Challenges Timetable of Mammal Evolution" originally from Ji, A. "A swimming mammaliaform from the middle Jurassic and ecomorphological diversification of early mammals. Science 311:113-1127 (Feb 24).*

A new Chinese 164 mya foot-long, furry aquatic mammal was found and named *Castorocauda lutrasimilis*. The animal had a beaver like tail and seal like teeth. This find pushes back the known existence of larger mammals to being contemporary with dinosaurs.

# 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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St. Louis, MO. 63122**

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