

The Paleo Times

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The Official Publication of the Eastern Missouri Society For Paleontology

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).

REMINDER: I-40/64 will be closed between I-270 & I-170, if you use this route to get to the meeting, remember that you will need to take a different route.

Sorry for the shorter, earlier newsletter. Lots of work and travel.

David

President's Corner

We had a great meeting in May. We saw a video from Montana and Carl narrated it from his seat. We had volunteers for committee chairpersons, both field trip and guest speaker committees. And, we organized a May field trip.

The field trip was great! Bruce led a group of 7 or 8 club members down to his new property southwest of Cape. As far as I know every one found something from the late Cretaceous Sea sediments exposed there. I found some very nice gastropods and maybe even some crab legs. I will need Bruce to take a look at them.

I hope every one has a very productive summer hunting for fossils and i hope to see y'all at the club picnic in July.

Don Howell III

Next meeting

Friday, June 13th at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below).

Please remember that there will not be any meetings in July or August though there will be the annual picnic in August.

Speakers for the June meeting will be Rich Hagar and Mark Allard, both club members. Their talk will be on the Acila River (sp?) and the St. Marks River in NW Florida and its Pleistocene deposits. They recently dove the river and came back with a lot of bones. Their talk should be really interesting. They will have a number of their finds on display.

Business for the next meeting:

- Details for a June field trip. I have been unable to make arrangements for a trip so planning will need to be done at the meeting.
- Discussion of possible road trips to either Burpee Museum (northern ILL) to see their T-Rex or a trip to River Bluff Cave.

Thanks / Congratulations

Thanks to Don Howell for his presentation at the May meeting related to Carl Campbell and Peter Larson.

Thanks for Bruce Stinchcomb for leading the field trip to his site near Artiola Missouri and opening up his property for us.

Upcoming Events/ **Field Trips**

<http://www.mostateparks.com/resourcecenter/nr08/289.htm>

[Mastodon State Historic Site](#) in Imperial will host **Fossil Day from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 7.** Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the event is free and open to the public. Rock piles with fossils will be available to look through. You can also bring your own fossils to be identified. The Eastern Missouri Society of Paleontology will have exhibits on Missouri fossils and displays of fossils spanning the geologic history of Missouri.

<http://www.lakeneosho.org/Temp9.html>

Ecological History Day sponsored by the SEMO Fossil Club and the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center will be held on Saturday June 21, from 10:00am to 4:00 PM. This will include talks at 10AM by Matt Forir on Riverbluff Cave (who recently talked at the club), a 12:00 noon talk by Brent Ashcraft (club member) on the sands of time on the geological history of SE Missouri, and a 2 PM talk by Mike Fix (club member) Project Geologist on the Missouri Dinosaur Project on the Chronister site.

Annual EMSP Picnic – Reservations have been made for the shelter at Kirkwood Park for Sunday July 27th, 2008. Details will follow, as the date gets closer. It is a great opportunity to meet, talk, and have fun with other club members. We will also have a fossil swap for anyone who is interested.

August Field Trip – The trip will be on August 24, 2008 starting at approximately 12:00 noon (expected to last 3-5 hours). This will be a canoe trip on either Cold Water Creek on the north side of St. Louis (north of I-270) or on the Missouri river near just west of STL. This will be looking for Pleistocene fossils on gravel banks in the river. Which location will depend on the water levels.

More details will be forthcoming. If you want to go you will need to sign up or contact me ahead of time (dmslukens@yahoo.com). We also need to know who among club members can provide canoes (and lifejackets) for the trip. We need to make sure there are enough canoes for everyone.

September Field Trip – Possibly Mark Twain lake, will work out details as we get closer.

November Field Trip – maybe Millstadt Illinois if we can get access to the property.

We will have a booth **Nov 7-9 at the Stratford Inn Rock & Fossil show (Fenton).** We will have 2 - 8ft long tables costing us \$130 to rent. This will give us plenty of time to make our displays and price the fossils. So look through your stuff for items to donate or if you are out collecting this summer, pick up a few more for the club.

Notes from the May Meeting

During the June meeting, Glori L'Ecuyer will be awarding prizes for the Science Fair awards for the related to paleontology. This year there are 3 winners. Each will receive a fossil board and a years membership in the club.

In addition, 2 committees were formed. The guest speaker committee is headed by Carl Campbell with Bruce Stinchcomb assisting. I am heading the Field Trip committee and am looking for others to help. If you have suggestions of places to go, please let me know. We will be looking to form some other committees in the future if we can get volunteers.

Addie has informed the club that she will be donating the "sale" fossils that she and Joe had to the club. Anyone who has been to the Rock and Fossil shows and seen the collection of items that they had know that this is a great gift to the club. It was motioned and passed that the money from the sale of these fossils will be used to establish the "Joe Bolser Memorial Fund". This money will be used either to fund scholarships or possibly to help fund a teacher for TeacherTrek in Montana.

We are also hoping that members of EMSP will also be willing to donate money to the fund to help

jump start the fund. If you would like to donate to the fund, please send the money to the club post office box (see address at end of newsletter) with a note that it is for the Memorial Fund.

In early June, Addie will be coming up to Jordan Montana and some of Joe's ashes will be scattered at one of his favorite places.

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.

From David Lukens

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/localgovernment/article503435.ece>

Due to budget restraints, digging will soon be stopping at Boca Ciega Millennium Park in Pinellas County. The county is considering giving the thousands of bones found to the U of F. The park, which was built in the 1990's, was determined to be a trove of fossils last year by the high school student walking in one of the creeks. While walking, she discovered a black rock, which turned out to be the tooth of a giant armadillo. After reporting it to park officials additional digs were performed which turned up numerous fossils. Much of the digging was done by both the Tampa Bay Fossil Club and by the public, which resulted in 30 boxes of fossils. Species identified include Columbian Mammoths, glyptodonts, armadillos, horses, bison, and other animals.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080505221645.htm>

Scientists have long wondered about some dinosaur bones that have holes or are missing pieces. They have now determined that insects caused some of this. The evidence was found while examining parts of a 148 million year old Camptosaurus skeleton. Analysis revealed damage caused by Dermestid beetles (which still exist today). Based on this it is likely that the habitat had 60-80% humidity and was between 77-86 F. During the study over 7000 bones were analyzed and many were determined to have insect traces though the Dermestid traces were only found on the Camptosaurus.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080516123153.htm>

Paleontologists in Denmark have found evidence of parrots from 55 million years ago. The new species is named *Mopsitta tanta* though its nickname is Danish Blue parrot. The only portion of the skeleton found are the upper wing bone but this allowed it to be identified as being from the parrot family. This fossil indicates that parrots may have originated in the northern parts of the world, as the oldest parrot fossils in the southern hemisphere are 15 million years old.

<http://www.paleontologynews.com/link.asp?ID=286221&Title=Neanderthals%20big%20mouths%20allowed%20them%20to%20take%20extremely%20large%20bites>

New analysis of Neanderthal fossils indicates that they could open their jaws much wider than modern humans or their direct ancestors. They could do this due to a combination of facial bones, the position of their molars, and the large space at the rear of the jaw. Exactly how wide the jaws could open can not be determined due to lack of fossil muscle structure. It is thought that this change might either be an adaptation to diet or due to changes in the skull structure from evolution.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7410032.stm>

Dinosaur trackways have been discovered in Yemen, an area where the fossil record is scarce. The two trackways are 150 million years old. One was produced by a 2-legged ornithomimid dinosaur alone and the other by a herd of 11 sauropods, which apparently ranged from young to old dinosaurs. The initial tracks were accidentally found by a journalist in the area. These are the first trackways found on the Arabian Peninsula and previously only isolated dinosaur bones have been found.

BBC 28 May 2008

Mothers are even older than we realized. An Australian fossil has provided evidence of a live birth 380 million years ago. The fossil shows an embryo still attached by an umbilical cord. This pushes this type of birth back another 200 million years. The fossil is of a placoderm fish, which were armored vertebrates with strong jaws. The fossil,

which is about 10 inches long, has been named *Materpiscis attenboroughi* in honor of Sir David Attenborough who first drew attention to the site over 30 years ago. Based on this discovery the paleontologists have examined other fossils removed earlier and discovered additional evidence of live births.

Websites

Have you spotted a website about fossils for paleontology that peaked your interest. Thought that others might like it. If so, send me a note along with the website address and a brief summary of what is there.

Around Town

St. Louis Zoo – Dinoroarus

An animatronic exhibit of 17 life-sized dinosaurs has opened at the Zoo through September 1. Admission is \$3, \$5 if you want to see the 5 minute movie Dino Island 2.

St. Louis Science Center is currently running several movies in the Imax with the fossil theme. Check out the website.

Upcoming Rock / Gem / Fossil shows
(<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>)

JUNE 2008:

13-15--PARK HILLS, MISSOURI: 11th annual swap and sale; Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society, Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs; Missouri Mines State Historic Site, Hwy. 32; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free admission; rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary;

21-22--OZARK, MISSOURI: Show, "Gem Fair 2008"; Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; Finley River Park, 205 N. First St., by the Bull Ring; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission;

27-29--BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA: 43rd annual show/swap; Lawrence County Rock Club; Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, Airport Rd.; Fri. 10-6:30, Sat. 9-6:30, Sun. 10-4; gems, minerals, jewelry,

fossils, rocks, lapidary equipment, rockhound and prospecting supplies, 4-H and ect science project material; contact Dave Treffinger, 13101 E 250 N, Loogootee, IN 47553, (812) 295-3463; Web site: www.rockngem.com.

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Reports

If you have suggestions for field trip locations, please e-mail them to me and I will begin putting together a list.

NEEDED

We are still 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. So keep an eye out as summer gets here.

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

Abby Lee

DUES ARE DUE

Our treasurer, Pete Smith will accept dues payment for a full year. **Dues are \$15.00 per household per year-payable in January.** If you join in the middle of the year the amount will be prorated. 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, motirek@gmail.com or abfactor@gmail.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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

