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).

Lots of events will be happening over the next couple months so make sure you take a look at the items listed below.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello all, the first meeting of the fall calendar went extremely well, considering the fact that a chemical spill or fire occurred earlier that day. Remember we will have the same program at the October meeting since none of us was able to share what we did/found over the summer. I very much anticipate all that each of you found. From my perspective the 1st annual Parkpalooza was a great success; we talked to between 200 and 300 people throughout Saturday! I am sure Sunday went just as well. Special thanks to Carl, David, Marie, Mark, Robin, Louis and any others that volunteered. I can't wait to see the turn out for the next meeting since we had the largest crowd I can remember at the September meeting. Don't forget to bring fossils, pictures or video of your summer paleontological adventures. Your pres. Don III

Next meeting

Next meeting is **Friday, October 10th** at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below).

While there is not a speaker, please bring photos or a Powerpoint of your summer fossil hunting adventures and bring along some of your finds to show off at the meeting.

Thanks / Congratulations

To everyone that helped out at the Palooza at the Arch. Also thanks to Mark Allard who sent me donations of shark's teeth, dinosaur egg shell fragments, and fossil ferns for the club sale this fall. I will bring them to the next meeting.

Upcoming Events/ **Field Trips**

October 10, 2008 – Meeting – At the Oct. meeting we will be kicking off the fundraising for the Joe B. Memorial Scholarship. Please bring your monetary donations to the October meeting to help give the fund a kick start.

October 11, 2008 – Field Trip – This will be on Saturday 10/11/08. Confirmation will be at the meeting the night before. We will be meeting at a Marina at 10:00am with departure promptly at 10:30. We are usually out on the lake for at least 3-4 hours so you will need to bring lunch & drinks for yourself. Cost of the boat rentals will be split between the people taking the trip, typically the cost for the rental is between $10-15/ each. This is a great family trip. Again, we would like to know ahead of time how many people will be going so we know if we need to reserve 1 or 2 boats.

Trip will be led by Tom Lee (Thanks Tom) Additional information from Tom This is a great trip for club members of all ages. We will be collecting Burlington fossils (mostly crinoids and brachiopods, but there are many other fossils to be found if you look closely). We will meet at the Marina on the north shore of the lake at 10:00 a.m.. Boat will leave at about 10:30 a.m.

Easiest directions to the Marina from St. Louis.

Take interstate 70 west to exit 175 (New Florence), take Hwy 19, north to near Perry, MO., go west on Hwy 154 to Hwy 107. go north on Hwy 107 to Hwy 24. Travel east on Hwy 24 to State Road HH. Go south on HH and follow signs to the marina. Please consult a map before you leave. Plan on a 3 hr trip to reach the Marina from St. Louis.

Equipment. Bring a hammer, chisel, newspaper to wrap your fossils, knapsack, lunch, water and sunscreen. This is State Land, so please don't bring any gas-powered rock saws. Plan on getting your feet a little wet getting on and off of the pontoon boat. Trip will proceed in overcast weather or sporadic showers, but we will cancel if steady showers or high winds.

If you plan to attend, I would recommend attending the October meeting to discuss the trip in more detail. However, if you plan to attend or have questions, please be sure to call Tom Lee at home (314-997-4521) or by cell (314-805-2606). We will reserve a boat and need a headcount. Typically, we will divide the cost evenly for the boat among those that attend. Typically about 10-15 dollars per person, depending on how many attend and how many hours we rent the boat.

Tom Lee

Rich Hager will be running a private (not the club) (limited space) fossil hunting trip by boat in the next couple months. One will be on the Missouri river on 10/11 & 10/12 (SA & SU). You will be on the river 4-6 hours/ day though much will be spent fossil hunting on gravel bars. Will involve camping on gravel bars on the river overnight. To go you will need to talk directly with Rich. If you do not have his contact information, call me and I can provide it. (david lukens – 636-751-8746)

October 25, 2008 – Fossil Board get together – There will be a get together at Tom & Keri's house to work on putting together more fossil boards for the club to sell at the upcoming show. In addition, we will be making sure that the fossils we have are organized and priced. If you have small fossils to donate for the kits (or something else to donate) please bring to either the October meeting or to the get together. We hope you will show up so we can get a lot of things organized. Time is 1-3 PM on Sat. October 25th.
The subdivision is just North of the intersection of Olive Blvd. and Graeser Acres, about 1 mile west of Lindbergh Blvd.

November 1, 2008 – Nov. Field Trip – Will be to Bruce Stinchcomb's site in southern MO. This site had turned out some really great fossils so far. Trip will be on Saturday 11/1/08 leaving at 9:00 am. Departure site will be the commuter parking lot located at the south-west corner of I-55 and Richardson Road. From there we will carpool down to Bruce's site. It is about a 2 ½ hour drive. You will need to bring your tools, water, and lunch. This is out in the country so there are no bathrooms. Also, there is lots of poison ivy so long sleeve pants and shirts are recommended. Also bring shovels and pickaxes if you have them and paper to wrap your finds in as they are fragile.

November 21-23, 2008- The Rock and Gem club show - It will be held at the Viking Conference center located on the northwest corner of Lindbergh and Watson Road in south St. Louis County. On November 21-23, 2008. This is the weekend before Thanksgiving. EMSP will have two front tables and one back table. This will cost us $130. This is a major fundraiser for the club so we are looking for volunteers to help man the table. We hope to sell a lot of the items purchased at the Tucson AZ to raise money for the club.

Notes from the Meeting

September was an interesting meeting. There was a fire or chemical spill and the building was closed so we held our meeting outside on the benches. The weather was nice so we had a brief discussion of upcoming items. September Field trip to Mark Twain Lake was postponed until October due to high water levels at the lake and predicted heavy rain for the weekend due to the remains of the hurricane.

Also a new member, Nathan Felcke came with his mother and sister and showed some of his collection off. Thank you Nathan. We also determined had a discussion about our dues owed to the Great St. Louis Assoc. of Earth Science Clubs. We will offer to pay our dues and attempt to resolve this issue.

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.

17 September 2008 BBC
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7620621.stm

Within recent years that have been concerns that many of the dinosaur species found and named may actually be duplicates of previously found species. While many duplicate species were produced between 1870-1870 during the "bone wars", more recent work has been a lot more careful. Based on original descriptions, there were 1,047 species identified but only around 500 were really unique. After 1960, most new species have been identified using much more complete skeletons.

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_10506826?IADID=Search-www.sltrib.com-www.sltrib.com
Bone thieves have raided and damaged a dinosaur quarry on federal land in Hanksville, Utah. The site had been excavated by paleontologists from theb Burpee museum in Rockford Illinois this summer. Among the fossils damaged were bones from an allosaurus that the scientists have exposed and plaster jacketed. The thieves ripped off the plaster and jerked the bones out destroying many other bones in the area. Two other specimens at the site were also damaged. Investigators from the BLM believe that the site has been hit at least twice. Among the species that have been found at the site are diplodocus, camarasaurus and possibly brachiosaurus, all dating to about 148 million years ago. The hope of the museum had been to display a complete sauropod along side the juvenile tyrannosaurus named Jane that they have on site. The museum's website is at http://www.burpee.org/

http://www.paleontologynews.com/story.asp?ID=324047&Title=W.Va.'s%20'official'%20sloth%20fossil%20on%20display%20near%20Cheat%20Lake

The West Virginia Geological Survey Museum in Morgantown WV has recently put up a replica of a 12' tall giant ground sloth. The Megalonyx jeffersonii became te official state fossil in March after remains were found recently in a cave. It was the first example of the species found in WV in over 200 years. The first skeleton what found in the 1790's in as saltpeter mine and were given to Thomas Jefferson who was an amateur paleontologist. Recent searches of land records were able to identify the cave where the original bones were found and additional excavations uncovered other bones. Casts were made of the original bones given to Jefferson and were used to make the model now on display. The WVGS survey also displays the only dinosaur skeleton on exhibit in the state. See the museum's web site at http://www.wvgs.wvnet.edu/www/museum/museum.htm

http://www.paleontologynews.com/story.asp?ID=323588&Title=Prehistoric%20human%20remains%20found%20in%20Perak,%20Sarawak
Recent findings of groups of 3,000 year old human skeletons in Malaysia and Sarawak are reported to be the most important discoveries since Perak Man. The first site, located submerged in a coastal mangrove swamp contained 3 male skeletons between 25-35 years old. The second site, a cave complex, contained 7 male and 1 female skeleton, all between 25-45 years old. The first group had Mongoloid (Asian) features while the second group have Austro-Melanosoid (like Australian aborigines) features. Both sets of remains were located in graves and were accompanied by artifacts such as shells, pottery, beads, etc.and the cave skeletons were accompanied by cave drawings. These skeletons were also 98% complete.

http://jurassicpark.org/crocodile-skeleton-north-dakota-first

During the summer, a public fossil dig in southwest North Dakota discovered bones and the skull of a 60 million year old crocodile. In addition, preserved tracks were also found. If determined to be complete, it will be the first skeleton of its kind found in North Dakota. The site, located west of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is being

http://jurassicpark.org/australian-dinosaur-find-new-species

A dig in Queensland Australia found the bones of what may be a new species of dinosaur. These remains were found in the same area where 3 years ago the remains of a 98 million year old herbivore named Matilda (~66 feet long) were found. The new bones are too small to me part of the previous skeleton. Paleontologists stated that as all the previously discovered dinosaurs in Australia are distinct species from the rest of the world, this newly is likely to be also.

http://jurassicpark.org/mammoth-migration-visit-then-return

Studies of mammoth DNA indicate that previously held theories that the majority of the population came from Asia and Europe may be incorrect. Study of issue from 16 mammoth carcasses indicate that mammoths from North American performed a reverse migration back to Siberia and replaced the mammoths there who went into decline. Most important of this discovery is the ability to use fossil DNA to learn about the movements of animals based on time and location. The mammoths crossed the Bering Strait about 200,000 years ago but about 50,000 years ago began to cross back to Siberia.

http://jurassicpark.org/feathered-embryo-found-in-china

The first fossil of a baby bird still in its egg has been found in 121 million year old deposits in China. The unique feature is that the embryo has feathers in the egg whereas modern birds are born without feathers. The embryo had its head tucked in the characteristic manner of an unborn chick. The maturity of the feathers and bones indicate that it is similar to modern chickens, ducks, and others whose young are born with feathers. This also indicates that the bird was likely ground dwelling and not raised in a nest in a tree. In a separate finding, a 125-145 million year old bird skeleton has been found in China with very long feathers on its legs. This supports that theory that birds may have gone through a 4-winged phase early in their evolution. Previously paleontologists have found the fossil skeleton of a four winged dinosaur called Microraptor.

http://www.paleontologynews.com/link.asp?ID=320724&Title=Who%20Ruled%20the%20Triassic%20Food%20Chain?%20A%20Crocamander%20(or%20Is%20It%20...

Around 240 million years ago, the king of Antarctic was *Kryostega collinsoni*, a 15 foot long amphibian with an extra set of teeth. While it resembled a crocodile, it was actually a relative to frogs and salamaders. Because of this it has been given the nickname of “crocamaders” or “frogodiles”. At the time of its existence, all the continents were together as Pangaea and Antarctic was located father nort and was warmer. In addition to having teeth attached to their palates, they also had a second row of long sharp teeth that would have allowed them to take down large prey.

http://www.paleontologynews.com/link.asp?ID=320719&Title=Whales%20Had%20Legs%20Until%2040%20Million%20Years%20Ago,%20Fossils%20Show

A new study of fossils has indicted when whales developed flukes and lost their legs. Paleontologists say that *Georgiacetus vogtlensis*, a fossil found in Alabama was one of the last whales to have back legs and a dog like tale before whales developed flukes around 40 million years ago. This species, based on studies moved its hips and trunk in the water to move. Shortly after this time, around 38 million years ago, the first whales with flukes appeared, indicating that the change happened in approximately 2 million years.

http://www.paleontologynews.com/link.asp?ID=320711&Title=Was%20the%20Dinosaurs'%20Long%20Reign%20on%20Earth%20a%20Fluke?

Were the dinosaurs just lucky? A recent study thinks so, that the dinosaurs dominance in the world for 180 million years depended more on luck that one some other trait. Studies of fossil data on the ancestors of crocodiles indicate that they were as diverse as dinosaurs. While the data does not disprove that dinos were superior, the fact is that crocodiles survived extinctions while dinosaurs did not. The early dinosaurs lived at the same time at time at the crocodile ancestors known as crurotarsans about 200-230 million years ago. The reptiles varied from quick meat eaters to slow herbivores. But as the Jurassic started the reptiles disappeared and the dinosaurs flourished. Studies of both the reptile and dinosaur families showed that the two groups have similar evolution rates but that the reptiles have a wider range of body types. It is thought that an extinction event at the start of the Jurassic was just bad luck for the reptiles.

http://www.paleontologynews.com/link.asp?ID=320714&Title=Boy's%20Fossil%20Discovery%20a%20Rare%20Find

Every amateur fossil hunters dream came true for an 11 year old boy this summer. While on vacation with his family, Devon Zimmerman found a set of bones at Fort Randall Dam. After excavating, paleontologists have determined that they are the fossilized remains of a short-necked plesiosaur which was about 25 foot long. The scientists have determined that the plesiosaur died from a volcanic explosion, inhaled hot ash, and died before being covered with mud and ash. Scientists allowed Devon to keep a souvenir from the find, part of the reptiles stomach contents.

http://www.paleontologynews.com/link.asp?ID=320712&Title=Big%20fossil%20find%20for%20the%20Royal%20Tyrrell%20Museum

Big fossil find for the Royal Tyrrell Museum

Updated: Thu Sep. 11 2008 14:52:14

Scientists have announced another large fit by the Royal Tyrrell Museum in the Drumheller Valley of Canada. The fossils remains are from a Ostrich Mimic, which was a meat eating dinosaur. The museum only have one other example of this dinosaur that includes the skull. The skeleton was found by a local who reported it to the museum.

(From Pat Eicks) This is some information on jelly fish found in Utah making these jellyfish middle Cambrian. Nice photos

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/10/071031-jellyfish.html
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4188/is_20071101/ai_n21092391

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. Check out the following museum sites

http://www.burpee.org/
http://www.wvgs.wvnet.edu/www/museum/museum.htm
.

Around Town

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. Please bring to the October meeting so we can meet later and work on putting more fossil boards together for the upcoming show.

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)
Vice-President: Bruce Stinchcomb
Treasurer: Pete Smith
Secretaries: David Lukens (dmslukens@yahoo.com) 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 Buildingon 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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