

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.

Next meeting

Next meeting is **Friday, February 13, 2015** at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below).

President's Corner February 2015

Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs – Scholarship Program:

Just a reminder: 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) for more information regarding the scholarship program.

Proceeds from the “boutique” and the “wheel” go directly to the scholarship fund. Bob Morse, Rockwood Gem & Mineral Club, requested the clubs donate petrified wood that can be tumbled (he will tumble them) and any other items that would be appropriate (larger pieces of petrified wood, marine fossils, etc.). When you are out collecting and you see something “nice” but not what you would want in your collection, pick it up and bring to the next meeting. I will make sure it gets to Bob for the next show.

Thanks to Casey Thater for giving a mini presentation on his time in the club and talking about a number of field trips in and outside the club. Also for Carl Campbell's mini presentation on his visit with the Geology club to the Field Museum

(Chicago). While there they were able to visit both prep labs and also view some 470 million year old fossil meteorites.

Congratulations to Dave Lukens for receiving the annual Jaques L'Ecuyer award!

Also a black jacket was left at the Christmas party. It will be at the February meeting.

Meeting Schedule

February 13, 2015: Connie Van Beek, Preparator, Fossil Vertebrate, Chicago Field Museum, included in her presentation will be about prepping Green River fm fossils.

March 13, 2015 (YES, Friday the 13th): Program to be announced

April 17, 2015 (Please note change as the second Friday is MAPS in Iowa City, IA, and many of the club members attend and/or have booths at this great weekend event).

Field Trips

Saturday, February 14: Trip to a new location near Potosi, MO.

This is a members-only field trip. To be eligible to attend this trip you must renew your membership no later than the February 13 meeting. After this date, there will be a 30-day waiting period before new or renewing members are eligible to attend field trips.

Renewals and new member applications will **not** be accepted on the day of the trip. New members joining after the January meeting are not eligible to attend this trip. This 30-day rule is to insure that

people don't join at the last minute just to go on a trip.

All field trip participants must have a current Liability Waiver with a 2015 signature on file. Rick Poropat will bring the existing forms (also blank forms) and an eligibility list to the February meeting, and also on the field trip. A trip sign-up sheet will be at the meeting.

Events

February 13-15 Cabin Fever Gem, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show at the Kirkwood Community Center.

April 3, 2015 will be fossil night at the St. Louis Science Center. There will be a number of speakers including our own Mike Fix. The center will also be running 3 movies that night. The club is asking for volunteers from 6:30pm – 10:30 pm to man tables, help identify fossils, answer questions, and promote the club. There will be a signup sheet at the next meeting.

April 10-12, 2015 - MAPS fossil show in Iowa.

Education

Still need volunteers for mini-presentations. Please contact me if you would like to share some information.

With all this wonderful “spring-like” weather, I am sure there are a lot of great specimens our members can bring to the February meeting to get identified, showoff, and inspire others to get out and get collecting.

Outreach

Friday, April 03, 2015: St. Louis Science Center's First Friday's theme is “JURASSIC PARK” – All About Things Dinosaur. We will need to provide volunteers to help support this event. Reserve this date on your calendar and we will do a signup sheet later.

New members- we have a photo database for members to help us remember faces. Please consider posing for a portrait at January's meeting. For your awareness- EMSP has an Earth Science club scholarship to help with college costs for any

earth science related courses or books. Any member or child of a member can apply.

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. Let 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

Color Vision Over 300 Million Years Ago

Fossilized rod and cone cells have recently been discovered in a small fish specimen from Kansas. *Acanthodes bridgei* is about 4 inches long and is the last known common ancestor to modern jawed fishes. Kept at the National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo; this 300 mya fossil is the oldest example of eye structures used for seeing in color. The scientists detailed their findings online today (Dec. 23) in the journal Nature Communications. <http://www.livescience.com/49238-fossil-eye-cells-color-vision.html>

200 Million-Year Old Palm Tree Resurrected

French scientists digging in the permafrost of Antarctica in 2013 found the remains of plant material with intact seeds. Months later a team of paleobotanists managed to actually revive those same seeds. The extinct plant is thought to be in the cycad family and a close relative of our modern *Cycas rumphii*. Using micro propagation and lots of trial and error with oxygen and carbon dioxide levels they were able bring them back in an artificial environment. Figuring out this plants needs will help the understanding of the atmosphere during the Jurassic period.

<http://worldnewsdailyreport.com/french-scientists-bring-back-to-life-200-million-year-old-palm-trees/>

DUES ARE DUE

Our treasurer, Rick Poropat 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:

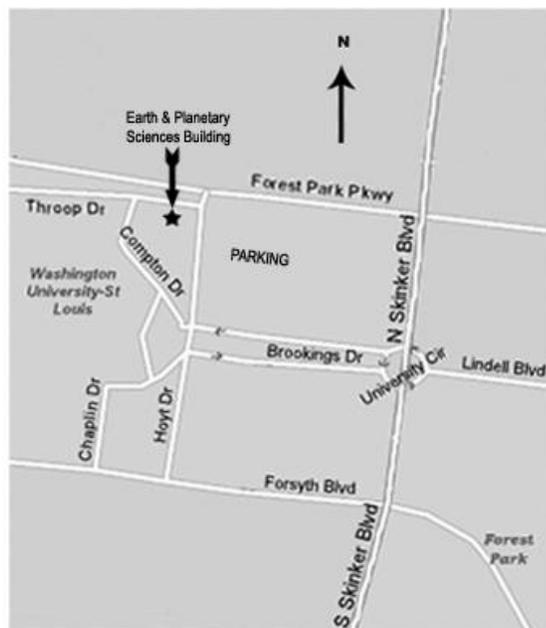
**EMSP
P.O. Box 220273
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Distribution of the Newsletter by email

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

MEETINGS

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)
- Vice Pres: Abigail Fairbanks (emsp.vp@mofossils.com)
- Treasurer: Rick Poropat (emsp.tr@mofossils.com)
- Secretary: Ryan Fairbanks (emsp.sec@mofossils.com)
- Educational Outreach: Steve Bynum(emsp.outreach@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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

