

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, January 9, 2015** at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below).

President's Corner

January 2015

Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs:

Just a reminder: Each year each of the member clubs appoints a representative to the Board for a two-year term. My term expired in December 2014 and I am the Secretary for the Association. If anyone would like to volunteer to take my position as representative and Secretary (meetings are on the uneven months), please let me know. The next Association Board meeting is January 12, 2015.

Christmas Party:

What a wonderful time! Our host and hostess were Ryan and Abby at their new home. Everyone got to view their collections and some of us, ME, were envious of their displays. The food was great and we got to try many different dishes – that's the fun of a potluck. Carl and Rick outdid themselves with the "Dino Trivia." Although none of the teams even got 50% of the answers correct, the tie breaker was the team name, BRUCEASAURUS! What fun!

Meeting Schedule:

January 09, 2015: Rick on "Fern Glen Formation"
February 13, 2015: Program to be announced
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:

Weather is usually too bad to have a field trip in January; however, Dr. Bruce will probably reschedule the cancelled trip to the Potosi, MO, area in February.

Education:

Please let me know if you would like to do a mini-presentation and what your topic is. Something that you have collected with specimens to show and a power-point would be great. If you need help with a power-point, I will be glad to help.

Winter Activities:

Winter fieldtrips are great because we don't have to deal with ticks, bugs, poison ivy, sun, etc. I got to participate in a few so far. Went to the Mark Twain National Forest south of Cherokee Pass and collected some Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian samples. Also went to Cedar Creek area near Fulton, MO, and with Dr. Bruce's help found some great specimens. A new one for me was the "spirillum" of a brachiopod. This is the support for thelhorophore (part of feeding mechanism). This preservation only occurs in chert - never in limestone. Dr. Bruce found a trilobite which was rare for the Mississippian Era. On a separate outing to the Smithville formation, Chris and I found two great specimens. His was a high-topped snail and mine was a cephalopod neither of which could we find in Dr. Bruce's "Paleofossils" so we are looking forward to showing these specimens to him for further identification.

Tucson, AZ Trip:

Several from the club are going to the big annual show in Tucson, AZ, the end of January. This is a

great event to add some items to your collection and also to “learn” from the vendors and just see some incredible specimens from around the world.

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

I would like to thank John and Dorothy for this next article.

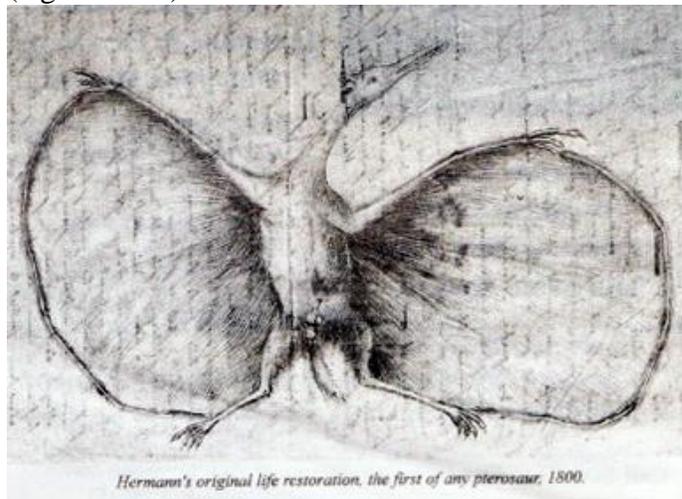
Interesting Fossils

*From the Scrapbook of Miss Grace King
Correspondence of The Times-Democrat.
Colfax, La., Aug. 5, 1896.*

The researches and accounts of the Llarto mounds have aroused some curiosity among those who take an interest in such matters. But more interesting and far richer fields invite the attention of the student of geology. I allude in particular to the stretch of blue bank on Red River lying twenty miles above here and just below Montgomery. There is a bank of a half mile in extent which is a rich find to the geologist. There is found in profusion sea shells, bones of salt water fishes, shark teeth, and other curios. I once found there a section from the jaw of a shark: the teeth more than an inch and a half in length and the edges serrated similar to some of the extinct specimens named in geology by Lyell. Several years ago the State geologist here exhumed the fossil remains of an extinct specimen of the

whale. But by far, the greatest find is now in the office of Dr. M.A. Dunn, of this place.

In 1895 Dr. Dunn found exposed in the sides of this blue bank the remains of an animal; the erosion and crumbling of bank had exposed it. The doctor went after suitable tools to exhume it. On his return the irrepressible fifteen-year-old boy was there and had damaged the find considerably, but enough is recovered to identify the animal as the pterodactylus, which became extinct about the end of the paleozoic age; accurately described in Dr. Buckland's "Bridgewater Treatise." This horrible creature could fly, walk or swim. The orbital space (eight inches) indicates him to be a nocturnal animal

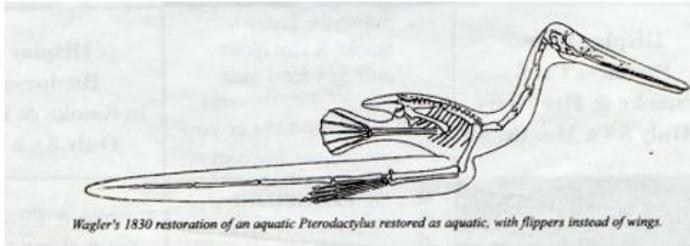


also. The bones are of a density and hardness unknown in any of our living species. His gigantic Flippers were armed with hooks, and on the end of the flipper was another hook or hand terribly armed. His jaws cut past each other like scissors., and were armed with a horrible set of teeth, those in or specimen being as large as the largest sharks. The size of the teeth and bones would conflict with some of the ideas of modern geologists. Having seen no

restored specimen to accurately judge by, I could only say that any approach to symmetry would indicate an animal of tremendous proportions, with bones like steel and armed with hooks and flippers, and could fly in the air, climb precipicea, hop on the ground, and dive and plunge in the water, Such an animal would seem like some horrible apparition, enough to vanquish a regiment of soldiers. Probably further research would reveal wonderful things. Ages ago, before the upheaval, here sported on the vast sea antediluvian and prehistoric monsters. There are many such banks exposed where the surf roared and the incoming tide deposited these animals. I will

incidentally mention that Dr. Dunn has a copy of Lyell's Geology, now a very rare book and out of print.

J. E. Dunn.



Christmas Party Mulled Wine Recipe

As requested- below is the recipe for the mulled wine served at the holiday party:

I used a 1.5L bottle of cabernet sauvignon/ merlot blend from Frontera (Chile) which can serve a large crowd because you add juice and brandy as well. You can scale down the recipe to a 750mL wine bottle and use any dry red wine.

Mix wine, 1 bag of fresh or frozen whole cranberries, 4 cups orange juice, 2/3 cup white granulated sugar, 1 orange sliced, 3T whole cloves (easy to remove if placed in mesh infuser ball), and 3-4 cinnamon sticks in a large crock pot. Heat until cranberries are soft enough to squish (that took ~3hr on high in an old crock pot but new ones will simmer liquid on low). DO NOT allow wine to reach simmering point. Adjust crock pot accordingly.

Next squish cranberries a bit to add flavor and then skim out the contents of pot or strain all liquid through sieve. Add 1 cup brandy to the infused wine, mix. Keep crock pot warm for serving during the party.

DUES

Our treasurer, Rick 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
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. E-mail requests to ryfairbanks@gmail.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

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Vice Pres: Abigail Fairbanks

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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

