

# The Paleo Times

Volume 16 Number 10

November 2017

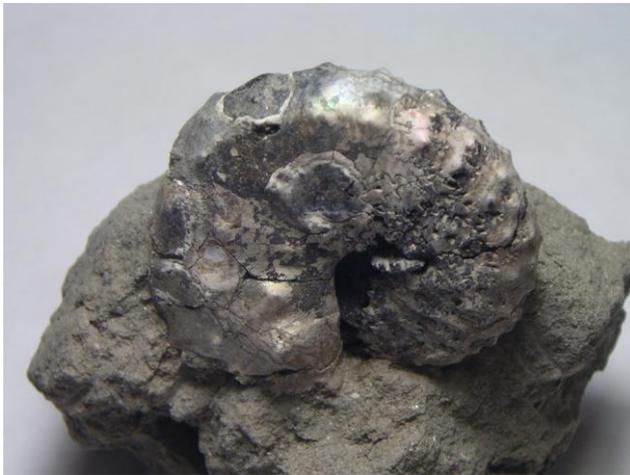
The Official Publication of the Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology

Rick Poropat, Editor

## November Meeting

Our next meeting is **Friday, November 10, 2017** at 7:30 pm in Room 203 on the second floor of the Earth and Planetary Sciences building on the Washington University campus. Our program for the evening will be presented by *Tom Lee* who will talk about soft tissue preservation in dinosaurs and other animals. Due to a number of our members attending the field trip to Mississippi, election of officers, usually held in November, will be postponed until the holiday party in December.

## Fossil of the Month



The fossil for the month of November is the extinct ammonite *Discoscaphites iris* (Conrad, 1858) from the Upper Cretaceous Owl Creek formation of Stoddard County, Missouri. The pictured specimen is from the Nestle-Purina Golden Cat Mine (Kitty Litter Site) and still retains its original rainbow luster. Specimens of such quality can also be found at Bruce's Ardeola site. Attending the November 4<sup>th</sup> field trip will afford you the opportunity to find one for your own collection.

## Calendar

Nov 4	Ardeola Field Trip
Nov 11	Mississippi Field Trip
Nov. 17-19	Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show & Sale Affton Community Center
Dec. 16	Holiday Party Kirkwood Community Center

## Treasurer's Report

The end-of-October account balance is available by request from the treasurer.

## Rick's Ramblings

Lots of club events going on in November! If the weather cooperates we will have two field trips, one to southern Missouri and the other to Central Mississippi. (see elsewhere in this newsletter for details) The third weekend of the month is the annual Mineral, Gem & Fossil show at the Affton White-Rodgers Community Center on Mackenzie Road in south county. Our club will again have a booth to sell fossils and related material. This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this show and there will be some very special gemstones given away as drawing prizes. Our club will also be offering a number of fossils from the Henry Porter collection, including a three-foot fish. What a great opportunity to pick up those unique items on your holiday shopping list! Hope to see everyone there!

It has been decided that, because a number of our members will be attending the Mississippi field trip, which unfortunately coincides with the November meeting, election of new officers and board members will be postponed until the holiday party in December. This will give everyone additional time to consider volunteering to help operate our club.

The Henry Porter sale was a huge success, with more than 85% of the sale items being passed along to new homes. Those who attended went home with some great additions to their collections. Those who didn't attend, missed out! A **BIG THANKS** to *Chris Braught, Chris Cozart and David Lukens*, without whose help, the sale could never have happened!

Incidentally, after the sale, a deal was made for the remaining material, which is now the property of our club. The deal was originally made at a cost of about \$850.00 to the club, but this cost has since been covered by an anonymous donor. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

I currently have more than 80 boxes of fossils, minerals and geodes sitting in my garage, including a number of boxes set aside for the club before the sale happened. Everything will be cleaned, relabeled and offered for sale at our show booth or given away at meetings during the coming year. A **Special Thanks** to *John & Dorothy* for helping me sort all of this material!

## Field Trips

On **November 4**, Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb will lead a trip to his Adeola, Missouri site to collect Cretaceous fossils. The plan is to have the site re-opened with a backhoe. Those interested in attending should meet no later than 9:00 am at the I-55/Richardson Road car pool lot to sign a waiver form. We will regroup down south at the Boomland store (Benton exit) and travel the final miles as a group. Dress for the weather and plan to get muddy. Members only, please! In case of rain, this trip might possibly be cancelled.

On the weekend of **November 11**, a trip to Mississippi is planned to collect Cretaceous, Oligocene and Eocene fossils at several different sites. Fossils to be collected include several varieties of crabs, bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, echinoids and shark teeth. The trip is limited to 20 members. Fourteen signed up at the October meeting (you do the math) and have already received information/itinerary sheets. If interested in attending, please contact Faye Whobrey or Rick Propat no later than November 5. Members only, please!

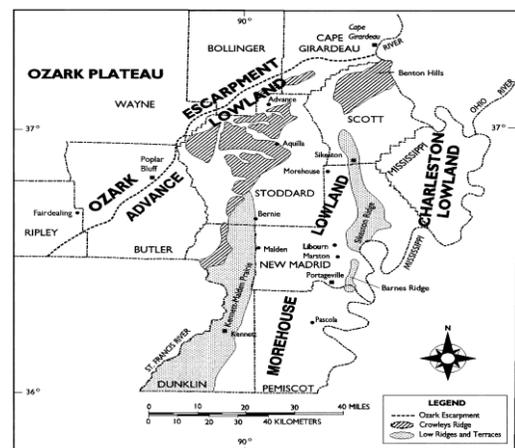


## DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb's Ardeola, Missouri fossil site in Stoddard County is located within a geographic feature called Crowley's Ridge. Crowley's Ridge is a remnant of a coastal plain upland that survived erosion by two large river systems, the Ohio and the Mississippi. The Ridge is about 200 miles long, extending in a southwestern direction from Cape Girardeau, Missouri to Helena, Arkansas. It is irregular in shape and size, ranging in width from less than one mile to over eighteen miles wide. It rises to a maximum height of 260 feet above the surrounding lowlands and is bisected in four places by streams. The resulting sections are known locally by other names. For example, the section in Stoddard County is known as Bloomfield Ridge.

Crowley's Ridge is a product of stream capture. In early Quaternary time, the Ohio River flowed to the southwest on the east side of a coastal plain upland. Crowley's Ridge is a remnant of that upland. The Mississippi River flowed to the south on the western side of the upland. The two rivers came together in the vicinity of present day Helena, Arkansas.

The meandering Ohio River gradually cut away the upland, narrowing it considerably. As this was occurring, small tributaries flowing northwest to the Mississippi River, cut notches in the narrow upland. One notch, at the present location of the Little River, was cut low enough to allow Mississippi River flood waters to spill through it and drain south into the Ohio River floodplain. Repeated flooding continued to cut the notch deeper causing the Mississippi to abandon its channel to join the Ohio. A second capture occurred through a notch south of current-day Cape Girardeau, Missouri, diverting the rivers course to the channel it now occupies.



# 2017 Mineral, Gem, Fossil Show & Sale

presented by *St. Louis Mineral and Gem Society* at

## Affton White-Rodgers Community Center

9801 Mackenzie Road  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
314-615-8822

Fri - November 17 . . . . . 3 pm - 7 pm  
Sat - November 18 . . . . . 10 am - 7 pm  
Sun - November 19 . . . . . 10 am - 5 pm



**Free Rockhound Starter Kits for Children!**

\* \* MULTIPLE GEMSTONE PRIZE DRAWINGS \* \*

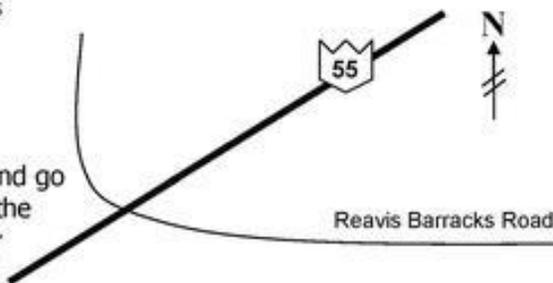
Donations at the door: \$3

Students with ID \$1; all children 13 years and younger get in FREE when accompanied by an adult. Boy and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies and other youth groups in uniform admitted **FREE!**

Affton White-Rodgers  
Community Center

**DIRECTIONS:**

Exit I-55 on  
Reavis Barracks and go  
west one mile to the  
community center



www.StLRockClub.com  
Show@StLRockClub.com  
DEALER SPACE IS FULL

 St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society



The Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology (EMSP) is a registered Missouri 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 ancient life on earth. The club membership includes professional paleontologists as well as amateur hobbyists. 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 Room 203, on the second floor of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Building on the campus of Washington University. The building is located at the SW corner of the intersection of Forest Park Parkway and Hoyt Drive. Each meeting includes an informal exchange of information and speakers on a variety of fossil-related topics. Note: the building doors automatically lock at 7:30pm.

Club activities include field trips lead by experienced collectors and are a fun way to augment discussions at the monthly meetings. The club also participates in joint field trips with other paleo clubs, visiting fossil sites throughout the United States. EMSP is also proud to be involved in partnerships with the St. Louis Science Center and the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc; as well as STEM outreach to classrooms, community events and science fair special awards.

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