

The Paleo Times

Volume 13 Number 10

October 2013

The Official Publication of the Eastern Missouri Society For Paleontology

EMSP SOAPBOX

By David Lukens & Carl Campbell

If you have any articles, comments, or need to communicate with me I can be reached through the following: dmslukens@yahoo.com (personal).

Next meeting

Next meeting is **Friday, October 11, 2013** at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington.

PRESIDENT'S BOX

PREZ' BOX

It is my unfortunate duty to report that Rich will not be allowed to go on the next Lake field trip. At the first stop he jumped out of his boat, looked down and found a complete "killer" crinoid; the best find of the day. We had a perfect day and the shoreline lost a couple of hundred pounds of Burlington limestone to Vernon.

Our speaker for October is Dr. Una Farrell, Invertebrate Paleontology Collection Manager at KU. She will speak on New York trilobites and digitizing fossils. Bring any of your suspect trilobites to the meeting for Una to ID.

Since you have not impeached me (darn!), I will finish out my term at the January meeting. One of your Board's goals is to strengthen the club by slowly removing the "fossils" from management positions. I consider myself one of the "fossils", the rest of you know who you are. One of the positions that needs to be filled at the November meeting is

Vice President (aka President Elect). We almost never have elections and positions are filled by volunteers or by "railroading". That said, we really, really need a newer, dedicated member to step forward and volunteer for the Vice President position with the idea of moving into the President slot in about two years. Please seriously consider this over the next month and put yourself forward in November.

Carl

Thanks / Congratulations

Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments to the meeting. Also thanks to Faye for taking notes as I was out of the country during the meeting.

Welcome

Welcome to two new members: Dave and Mark who joined at the last meeting. Also welcome to our two guests Ruth and Eileen.

The club members are on our website so if you want to check out some dubious characters, check out the website at <http://mofossils.com/EMSP%20Web%20Members/index.htm>

OCTOBER MEETING

Items to be discussed during the Fall meeting

- Plans for Fall 2013 field trips
- Review of Lake trip.

- Plans for the November Affton White show
- Reminder of Officer Elections in November

Speaker for the October meeting will be
Una C. Farrell, Ph.D., Invertebrate Paleontology
Collection Manager, Lawrence, KS.

She will be giving talks on pyritized trilobites from
Upstate NY, and a grant project the university has
for digitizing and georeferencing fossils for
paleoecological studies.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Please see the attached information about our
continuing outreach program being run by Steve.

From: Stephen
To: Hilary
Subject: RE: Rocks Program

Hilary, Thank you.

We would love to be able to present to Rockwood
School District talks about Paleontology or Geology.
The group I represent is the Eastern Missouri Society
for Paleontology (EMSP). We have a number of
speakers that are available for presentations, science
fairs, or other activities. We also have a few Boy
Scout Merit Badge Counselors that would be available
if needed. Please do not feel limited in the number of
presentations or in the location. If you need a program
to be set up please let me know as I run the
educational outreach program for EMSP.

EMSP meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 PM
in Room 203 at the Washington University Earth &
Planetary Science Building and is open to anyone.

Our group is a mixture of professionals and hobbyists.
Our monthly meeting topics are typically presented by
professionals discussing their work, adventures, or
areas of study. EMSP is a fun program for kids of all
ages.

Please let us know what we can do to help. Again, we
have a number of speakers available that would enjoy
giving a presentation to your students.

Steve

From: Hilary
To: Stephen
Subject: Rocks Program
Steve,

Hello – We spoke last school year in regard to some
elementary school programs and Cris Dames
scheduled you into some of her schools. The teachers
loved your program, so the word has spread. Please let

me know if you are still available for Rock
presentations this school year.

Also, if you are available, we do not want to
overwhelm you with requests, so please let us know if
there are any guidelines. Rockwood is a large school
district with 19 elementary schools from Fenton to
Chesterfield. If there are any areas that are too far, just
let us know.

We may have 3 or 4 requests in November, 2 in
December, 2 in January and several in the spring. We
haven't gone through all of them at this point, but we
wanted to know your thoughts on what might be
possible with your schedule.

Thank you,
Hilary

Partners in Education
Rockwood School District

Upcoming Events/ Field Trips

link on our website:

<http://mofossils.com/calendar.html#AUGUST>

1. Dates are set for the 2013 Board of directors
meetings, dates are the following, if you want
to attend let any of the officers know and we
will provide directions:
10/21/2013, December 2013 at the Christmas
party.
Meeting start at 6 PM, club members are
welcome but need to RSVP to club officer.
For addresses, please contact myself or
another club officer.

Notes from the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Vice
President Faye. President Carl is attending the
Denver Show.

There were three first-time guests: Ruth; Eileen, and
Mark. Mark signed up as a new member and
registered for the Lake Field Trip (Way to Go New
Member).

New Business:

1. Abby discussed the Fossil Kit she is preparing for school demonstrations. If you have items to share with her, please contact Abby.
2. Reminder about officer elections in November and asked for volunteers for position of Vice President.

Show Report:

1. Marie Shoemaker discussed the November show (11/22-24/2013). They are expanding the display/booth area and tables are still available. Pat Eicks is going to put a link to the show flier on club's calendar page.
2. Machinist Hall Show: Club's receipts minus show expenses was \$745. Attendance was down. Discussion of literature/poster at door and table for future events..

Field Trips:

1. **Ardeola:** Bruce is going to get some of the topsoil removed so club can have a field trip, probably in November after deer season. EMSP is providing \$500 of funds for expenses as voted on in previous meeting. Collecting will be fossil club exclusive for a period of time.
2. **Lake:** 21 September 2013. Collecting will be from Mississippian (Burlington & Keokuk). Plan is to rent two pontoon boats; however, only 13 signed up at meeting and Wednesday, 18 September, will be the cutoff for changing the reservation to one boat. The maximum limit is 24 people (12 each boat) to allow room for fossils. Charge will be \$25 per person. Non-refundable portion will be \$10 for no-shows unless trip is cancelled. Rick is arranging for 6 mil vinyl to cover the floor of boats as last time we were charged \$200 cleanup charge which was paid by club. Participants are to meet at Indian Creek Marina at 9:30am. Rick showed the tools/etc. necessary for collecting and discussed wearing apparel. He specifically noted that anyone in **flip-flops will not** be allowed on the trip – must have either very sturdy tennis shoes or hiking boots. There are no facilities and be sure to bring lunch, water, sunscreen and bug spray.
3. Rick gave Faye information to follow-up on for a quarry in Illinois.
4. Faye will review listing of Missouri quarries with officers and select one to be scheduled.

Presentations:

1. Casey & Pat gave a great slide show presentation on their summer trip. The high point was the Pachycephalosaurus (partial skull) that was found just lying on the ground. Casey explained the structure of the fossil. It is now at the repository in Kansas at Emporia State University and he is to be given a casting.
2. Abby gave a slide show presentation of our June field trip to Holts Summit, MO, and discussed the HARD sandstone in which many of the fossils were embedded.
3. Faye showed slides of Jordan (showing all the green grass that was highly unusual for that area), the casting and removal of the triceratops head over rugged terrain using the dolly. Glen Dive's concretions and brought sample of what was revealed inside: Shale, Brown Barite, and Ammonites. Wyoming's showed flash flooding, collecting petrified wood, gryphaea, belemnites, and dino tracks in Red Gulch.

Thanks to those who brought refreshments.

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.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2013/07/23/Large-intact-fossil-dinosaur-tail-uncovered-in-Mexico/UPI-32581374610944/

Paleontologists have found largest intact dinosaur tail fossils in northern Mexico. Tail is 16 feet long with 50 connected vertebrae. The species of the 72 MYA dinosaur is not sure but it is known to be a hadrosaur, a variety of duck-billed dinosaur. The fossil was found in a fossil-rich area of arid desert that was once near the Gulf of Mexico coast. In addition portions of the hips have been found and more bones are believed to exist at the site.

http://zeenews.india.com/news/science/hobbit-sized-homo-species-had-face-like-humans_864291.html

Analysis shows that the face of the ancient creature known as a "hobbit" was similar to humans. Known as Homo floresiensis, they were three-foot-tall early humans that lived on the island of Flores (indonesia) about 12,000 years ago. Based on analysis of bone and relationship to soft tissues indicate that the

cheeks on the face were more human than previously suspected.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130924193616.htm>

Two new fossil jaws found in Vellberg, Germany indicate the ancestors of lizards, snakes and tuatara (lepidosaurs) were alive during the Middle Triassic period (240 MYA). The small teeth and lightly built jaws indicate the animal ate small insects and are o the tuatara, a lizard-like reptile from New Zealand. The date of the common ancestor was based on the use of a dating technique known as a "molecular clock." This looks at DNA for genetic divergence. Revised molecular dating indicates lizards began to diversify into the modern groups, such as geckos and skinks, less than 150 million years ago in the Cretaceous period.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130919121906.htm>

Recent unique discoveries have been found of an antler from an extinct Ice Age animal known as a stag-moose or elk-moose. Results of radiocarbon dating it is more than 30,000 years old, making it the oldest specimen of a stag-moose ever recorded in North America. Indicating these animals were here before the glaciers covered central Iowa, and that they returned for a short time after the glaciers retreated as well. The stag-moose antler that sparked Hill's interest was discovered by an Ames man, who was searching the South Skunk River near Ada Hayden Park for remains. Radiocarbon dating determined the antler to be 13,400-13,700 years old. The 30,000-year-old specimen was found in the 1970s by a gravel pit operator working near Jester Park in Polk County. The third specimen, located near Parkersburg, was from an animal lived 12,600 to 12,800 years ago. An email from a South Dakota farmer led to one of Hill's largest and most diverse bone collections. Boxes containing everything from leg bones and teeth to skulls and antlers. Over 1,600-plus specimens, were collectec over an eight-month period following the 2011 flood. a sandbar deposited in a field along the Missouri River. What t is a stag-moose? The moose is still common in parts of North America, but its extinct ancestor is one many people would not recognize. The stag-moose is a part of the Cervalces genus, which lived during the Ice Age, and was a rather unusual-looking creature. It had the body of a moose, a face like an elk and the

males had an antler rack that's like neither. The antlers are goofy, the shaft goes straight out from the side of the head for a ways, and then develops into two or three palms that sprout multiple tines. No two are alike,"

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130919085710.htm>

Research indicates that early humans, thousands of years before Neanderthals, worked together in groups to hunt and slaughter animals such as prehistoric elephants.

A site in Kent England contains remains of an extinct straight-tusked elephant (*Palaeoloxodon antiquus*). Excavation revealed a deep sequence of deposits containing the elephant remains, along with numerous flint tools and a range of other species such as; wild aurochs, extinct forms of rhinoceros and lion, Barbary macaque, beaver, rabbit, various forms of vole and shrew, and a diverse assemblage of snails. These remains confirm that the deposits date to a warm period of climate around 420,000 years ago, the so-called Hoxnian interglacial, when the climate was probably slightly warmer than the present day. Included in the finds were 80 undisturbed flint artefacts around the elephant carcass and used to butcher it. The pre-historic elephant was twice the size of today's African variety and up to four times the weight of family car. Previously an another site a skeleton with a wooden spear through its ribs was found in Lehringen Germany in 1948."These early humans suffered local extinction in Northern Europe during the great ice age known as the Anglian glaciation 450,000 years ago. An ability to hunt large mammals, and in particular elephants, as suggested by the Ebbsfleet find, would go some way to explaining how these people then managed to push northwards again into what is now Britain. The flint artefacts of these pioneer settlers are of a characteristic type known as Clactonian, mostly comprising simple razor-sharp flakes that would have been ideal for cutting meat, sometimes with notches on them that would have helped cut through the tougher animal hide. The layer of earth containing the elephant remains and flints is overlain by a higher level of sediment, rich in so-called Acheulian tool types -- handaxes of various forms from later in the same interglacial.

UPCOMING ROCK, GEM OR FOSSIL SHOWS

2013 Mineral, Gem, Fossil Show and Sale

St. Louis Mineral and Gem Society
Affton White-Rodgers Community Center
9801 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123

Show Flyer at

<http://www.strockclub.com/Portals/4/Images/2013%20show%20flier.pdf>

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. Please note that the e-mail contacts have changed

President – Carl (EMSP.Pres@mofossils.com)

Vice-President: Faye (EMSP.VP@mofossils.com)

Treasurer: Rick (EMSP.Tr@mofossils.com)

Secretaries: David (dmslukens@yahoo.com), and
Ryan (EMSP.Sec2@mofossils.com)

Educational Outreach Committee:

Steve (EMSP.Outreach@mofossils.com)

DUES ARE DUE

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 (once we pick some...) E-mail requests to dmslukens@yahoo.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 proud to be involved in partnerships with the St. Louis Science Center and the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc.