

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

President's Corner October 2015

Election of Officers:

- What office would you like to volunteer for?
- Think about the strengths of your fellow club member – maybe they just haven't thought about supporting the Club in a particular office or committee – nominate them.
- It takes the time, energy and talents of many people to make our Club work for everyone and continue to provide the learning/sharing/information atmosphere that helps each of us.
- We are still looking for candidates for Vice President and Newsletter (we will vote on making the Newsletter separate from the Secretary so it won't be so much time and effort for one individual).
- Responsibilities of the offices:

- **President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors; appoint all committees and oversee all activities of the Society; shall be an ex-officio member of all committees; may authorize the payment of obligations of the Society for ordinary operating expenses, not to exceed \$100.00 in any one month and may sign authorized checks against the Society's account when the Treasurer is not present.
- **Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall preside at meeting in the absence of the President. In the event that the president is unable to perform the duties of his/her office, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President until such time as the President is able to resume the duties of the office.
- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record minutes of all meeting of the Society and of the Board of Directors and provide the President with a copy prior to the following regular meeting. The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the Society, except that which is conducted by other officers or committees as part of their normal duties and shall maintain a central file containing copies of all Society correspondence and documents. Upon direction from the President, the Secretary shall prepare notices of meetings and other activities of the Society and mail copies to all regular members.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall collect all dues and other monies of the Society and shall maintain a checking account in the name of the Society and pay all debts incurred by the society. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all financial transactions of the Society and report on them in each monthly newsletter, at all monthly Society

and Board of Directors meetings; shall have membership applications available at all regular Society meetings. The Treasurer shall submit his/her records for audit by a committee appointed by the President at the close of the year or at any other time by direction of the President.

Meeting Schedule. Remember our new format where program will be first and business meeting after break.

- **October 09, 2015:** Dr. Bruce on St. Louis Pleistocene. Slate of Officers will be proposed and nominations from the floor will be accepted.
- **November 13, 2015:** Potential speaker is Andrew McDonald on the Igenodon family (a genus of ornithopod dinosaur that existed roughly halfway between the first of the swift bipedal hypsilophodontids of the mid-Jurassic and the duck-billed dinosaurs of the late Cretaceous). We will have election of officers in the second half of the meeting.
- **December 2015:** Annual Christmas Party. Carl will host the annual Christmas party. Date & time to be announced.

We want to have “MINI” Presentations at most of our meetings. Have you read a good book? Have you researched a specific fossil? What is your favorite formation for collecting – Why – Examples? Let me know so we can add you to the agenda. We have openings for these for each of our meetings starting with September.

Field Trips: If you have suggestions for field trips or would like to lead a trip, please contact Bruce, Chris or Faye.

- September: We had several field trips to Ardeola (Owl Creek fm, Upper Cretaceous) and to South of Cherokee Pass (PreCambrian Mesoproterozoic).



- This is getting to the “Collecting Site” at Ardeola. The trip is about a 2-hour trip from the commuter lot in Arnold. So we get to chat and get to know some of our fellow members on the way and “pick each other's brain”.



As we dig/excavate holes we have to haul the dirt off to the side so we don't have to keep digging up the same dirt. Anyone have an old wheelbarrow they would like to donate to Ardeola? It would be certainly appreciated.

- Several people including some of our new members have gotten to experience the thrill of “digging” for marine fossils that lived during the same time period of the dinosaurs.
- A great reference for Ardeola that can be downloaded is :“Owl Creek (Upper Cretaceous) Fossils from Crowleys Ridge Southeastern Missouri.” Geological Survey Professional Paper 274-E. Thanks to Dr. Bruce for this reference.

Just google this title and you can print directly or save and print. It has 11 plates with 217 specimen identifications!

- **October 10 Field Trip:** Mark Twain (Keokuk and Burlington, Mississippian). Details at October meeting.
- Fall trips to HWY MM (Decorah formation), Barite Pit (Potosi formation), Mark Twain Nation Forest south of Cherokee Pass (Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian) Chronister Site (Ordovician) and possibly to Fulton area (Keokuk formation and others) to be planned.

Educational/Out-Reach: Steve would appreciate volunteers with our out-reach program for scouts and schools. Contact him for details.

Shows:

- a. **St. Louis Mineral and Gem Club.** November 20-22, 2015. White Rogers Community Center, Afton, MO. We need volunteers for setup/teardown and for working our booth. If you didn't work at the August show, please consider volunteering for this event.

MAPS EXPO is a FOSSIL Show

Marvin Houg, MAPS President

We are now about 5 months past our 37th EXPO and we are into the planning phase for next year's EXPO. EXPO 38 promises to be one our most anticipated with the announcement at this past EXPO that Dr. Philip Currie will be our keynote speaker on Friday evening at the 2016 EXPO. Phil's wife, Dr. Eva Koppelhus will accompany Dr. Currie to Iowa City and will be asked to also make a presentation at some time during our 3 day EXPO event. Because of the expected large attendance from MAPS members and the opening of Dr. Currie's talk to the general public, we are looking into having his Friday night talk at one of the larger auditoriums on the University of Iowa Campus. As a side note, Dr. Currie spoke in Cedar Rapids about 10 years ago and the turnout was very large so we are anticipating a similar attendance for his talk at EXPO. More information will follow as we get closer to EXPO.

At this past EXPO I received a lot of questions and comments concerning rumors that the EXPO show format and focus was going to be changed to allow non-fossil related items to be sold at EXPO, thereby changing what has always been the theme of our show, which is that it is a fossil and fossil related show. Everyone that spoke to me concerning these rumors expressed their strong desire for MAPS EXPO to stay the way it is, which is a fossil only show. I asked many of those that did express their apprehension to write to me or email me with their concerns. As a result, I received a considerable amount of feedback expressing in writing what they had vocalized to me. Let me assure everyone that the MAPS Board has no intention of changing what has been a long standing policy and requirement that EXPO is a fossil and fossil related show only. We advertise this show as a fossil only show which makes us stand out from the literally hundreds of rock, fossil, mineral, lapidary, etc. shows which are held throughout the country. If we allow other items to be sold we literally lose our identity and become one of those hundreds of shows. As the show is now, we draw people from literally all over the country and even some from foreign countries. Changing what can be sold at EXPO would probably reduce the number attending simply because they could go to a show that is much closer to them and still be able to find some fossils there.

On another issue, for many years the MAPS EXPO show has been preceded by a separate motel show. While this show has been put on by many of the same vendors that are also dealers at the EXPO show, it is in no way connected to the MAPS show. In the past few years we have tried to advertise jointly between MAPS EXPO show and the motel show to take advantage of the few advertising dollars available to both groups. However, understand that this is a separate show and is not under control of MAPS. Therefore the dealers for this show can sell whatever they wish and can use whatever motel they decide to use. As a side note, there will be a change in location for the motel show for 2016. The last couple years this show has been at the Travelodge Motel on North Dodge Street in Iowa City. Next year the motel show will be at the Clarion Hotel Highlander Conference Center which is just across I-80 from the Travelodge Motel. The move to this new venue for the motel show may have added to the confusion that I noted above concerning what is allowed at EXPO since there was discussion from

some people that we should also move the MAPS Show to the Clarion Hotel. Having both shows at the Hotel at the same time would have resulted in MAPS losing control of the fossil only requirement for EXPO. I'm sure that this discussion fueled the rumors about changing the format of EXPO.

In summary, the EXPO Show will stay a fossil and fossil-related materials only show and there is no plan now or in the future to combine the MAPS EXPO and the hotel show.

Upcoming events:

November 6, 2015

"ONE NIGHT ONLY! The Missouri State Museum will transform into prehistoric Missouri. Witness volcanoes ready to erupt, explore a shallow sea, walk with the dinosaurs, and dig for fossils.

Guest interpreters from other Missouri museums and state historic sites will be on hand to interact with visitors as we explore the states primordial past.

TOURS of Prehistoric Missouri will run EVERY 30 MINUTES beginning at 6 p.m. There will be hands-on activities throughout the evening.

The event will be held in the first floor* of the Missouri State Capitol Rotunda and in the adjacent Resources Hall of the Missouri State Museum.

First Floor, State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol, Jefferson City, MO.

This event is free & open to the public, for more information call 573-751-2854.

BUILDING ACCESS: Due to ongoing stonework which has closed the grand staircase on the south side of the building and the carriage entrance, access to the building is through the East & West entrances (accessed via the carriage drive and walkway around the building). Also, ADA access is via the parking garage entrance on the East side of the buildings."

Fossil Day at the Science Center

On Saturday, October 17, the St. Louis Science Center will celebrate National Fossil Day (Oct. 14) with a day-long program on fossils and geology. EMSP members will be working in the prep lab or

manning the fossil-identification table throughout the day. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the October meeting. A highlight of the event will be the official unveiling of the Hell Creek Formation (Montana) Hadrasaur track discovered in 2014 by club member David and removed by a team of EMSP members this past summer. This will be your only opportunity to view this very special track up close and personal before it goes on display. The unveiling is scheduled for around 12 noon.

Paleo-shorts

What Can You Do With a Couple of Hours? Faye Whobrey

It was a sunny perfect fall day and I had a commitment after church so wouldn't be available until about 4:30pm. My collecting buddy, Chris, and I headed to the Meramec River about 5:00pm. We were finding a lot of stems (after we brushed off the dirt). Lesson learned: take a stiffer brush as that would have worked better than a paint brush. Sun had set and we were on the West bank with poor light looking at boulders on the bank. I had just remarked that "we are probably wasting our time here because just think of how many hundreds of people who have looked at these already." Then I looked down and here is what I saw:



The larger one is Decadocrinus sp and the smaller one on the top is Dichocrinus sp (thanks to Rick Poropat for the identification). These are from the Warsaw formation, Mississippian, and according to Rick "crinoid crowns are rare from there."

CONTACTS

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

DUES

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
St. Louis, MO. 63122**

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.

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)

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



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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