

The Paleo Times

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Rick Poropat, Editor

President's Corner

Hi all,

I'd like to take a minute to ask EMSP members (especially newer members and those that have never held a board position) to think about serving on the board. Most of the positions are up for election in November. Long time club members have held each board position more than once. It would be great to have some fresh ideas. Please reference the job descriptions and know that you don't have to be an expert on fossils to hold any of them. Older members are around to help find speakers and mentor where needed. Thanks for your consideration!

Abby

Calendar

Sept 13	Monthly EMSP Meeting Washington University
Sept 30-Oct 1	Porter Fossil Collection Sale
Nov 4	Ardeola Field Trip Sign up at meeting
Nov 11	Mississippi Field Trip Sign up at meeting
Nov. 17-19	Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show & Sale Affton Community Center
Dec. 16	Holiday Party Kirkwood Community Center

Treasurer's Report

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

October Meeting

Our next meeting is **Friday, October 13, 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 Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb on the Cambrian-Ordovician Sequence in Missouri. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this section of Missouri geology from one of the foremost experts. Bring your specimens for identification!

Please join us for an interesting and informative program, plus an update on fall field trip plans and additional club business.

Don't miss out on the next field trip!

Fossil of the Month



The fossil of the month is the distinctive bryozoan, *Evactinopora radiata* found in the Mississippian Burlington Limestone of Missouri. This, along with many other interesting Mississippian fossils can be found in Missouri on our annual field trip. Attend the meeting for more details!

PARKING REPORT

The parking situation at Washington University is not as bad as first reported, if you don't mind a short 10-minute walk. The best parking is located in the parking garage accessible from Forest Park Parkway onto Throop Drive. Follow the signs to the visitor parking area located at the east end of the building and park at the far (east) end. Do Not Park in Red-Marked Spaces!

Exit the garage by way of the southeast staircase and make your way across the service street and up the stairs to the quadrangle sidewalk, turn left and follow the sidewalk through several archways, twists and turns. This will eventually bring you to the front entrance to the Earth & Planetary Sciences building.

For members not interested in walking for any distance, Hoyt Drive, in front of the main entrance to the Earth & Planetary Sciences building, remains open for a short distance to enable passenger drop off. Parking on this street is not allowed! Enter Hoyt Drive from Forest Park Parkway.

A **campus map** showing the parking garage and other parking areas, is included in this issue. Thanks go out to the St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society for providing this map!

Field Trips

There are several field trips on the calendar this fall.

On **October 14** (day after our October meeting) is our annual float trip. This trip involves renting boats to visit various sites. The sites are not normally accessible on foot. The cost will be shared by those on the trip, usually \$20-\$25 per person, depending on the number attending. The fossils are Mississippian in age from the Burlington and Keokuk formations and include a large variety of crinoids, blastoids, corals, brachiopods, gastropods, bryozoans, shark teeth and trilobite parts. This trip, as are all of our trips, is open to **members only**.

Recommended tools include a 2-4 lb. rock hammer, chisels, eye protection, backpack or bucket and newspapers to wrap specimens in. It is also recommended that you wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots (no flip flops or boat shoes) and bring lunch, snacks, water, sun screen and bug spray. Dress for the weather. **This is a kid-friendly trip!**

Floatation vests are provided by the rental company

or you can bring your own. Everyone will be required to wear one in the!

Absolutely no power tools of any kind will be allowed on this trip!

We will meet no later than **9am**. Please consult a map or go online for travel directions. The drive is about 2 hours from St. Louis. See map at meeting.

A sign-up sheet for this trip was started at the September meeting. If interested in attending, please contact Abby Lee by email to be put on the list. You must sign up to attend this trip. The boats must be reserved ahead of trip day, so we can't accommodate members who don't sign up, then show up anyway!

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 reopened with a backhoe. Details on this trip are pending, so please attend the October meeting for additional information.

On the weekend of **November 11**, a two-day trip to Mississippi is planned to collect Cretaceous, Oligocene and Paleocene fossils at several different sites. Fossils to be collected include several varieties of crabs, bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, echinoids and shark teeth. Details are pending, so please attend the September meeting for an update.

Rick's Ramblings

What a busy month it has been. Inventory of the Porter collection has finally been completed, specimens are identified, labelled and ready for our sale on Sept. 30-Oct 1. I hope you will be able to attend.

A **BIG THANKS** goes out to **Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb** for presiding over our club information booth at the recent Taste of St. Louis Festival in Chesterfield. I hope we can expand our participation next year!

I also want to give a shout out to **Mike Fix, Carl Campbell, Bob Skaer** and **Chris Cozart** (in town from Chicago) for doing a great job of identifying fossils at last weekend's SciFest at the Science Center. Thanks guys! We couldn't have done it without you!

An additional shout out to **Kat Golden** for stepping up to give a great outreach classroom talk to students in the Pattonville school district!

Speaking of stepping up. Election of officers and board members is coming up in November. Most of the positions will be open for members interested in helping to manage our club activities. Want some field trips closer to home? Have a favorite fossil topic you would like a speaker to present? A great way to support your club and influence activities is to become an officer or a board member. No experience is necessary. All you need is a genuine interest in fossils and the activities of your club.

Board meetings are used to plan, schedule and carry out club activities such as monthly speakers, field trips, out-reach activities, rock shows, picnics/parties, etc. No single individual is responsible for any of these activities by themselves. We all work together to get things done! Board Meetings are scheduled as needed and are usually held at Wash. U. one hour before the regular monthly meeting.

The governing offices of your EMSP are:

President: Presides over board meeting and the monthly meeting. Keeps things organized and insures everyone is on the same page.

Vice-President: Presides over the board and the monthly meetings in the Presidents absence. Helps President schedule speakers.

Secretary: Takes notes at the monthly meeting and scheduled board meetings. Organizes the notes and provided them to officers/board members.

Treasurer: Handles all financial activities of the club, submits a monthly report and/or show booth report to board. Submits records for annual audit.

Out-Reach Leader: Organizes out-reach speaking engagements at school districts in the St. Louis region.

At-Large Members: Two of these positions are on the club board. They attend board meetings and have a vote in board decisions.

GSLAESC Representative: We are not currently filling this position because our involvement with this organization and the Machinist Hall show in August is under review. It would involve attending an every-other-month meeting and reporting events to the



DID YOU KNOW?

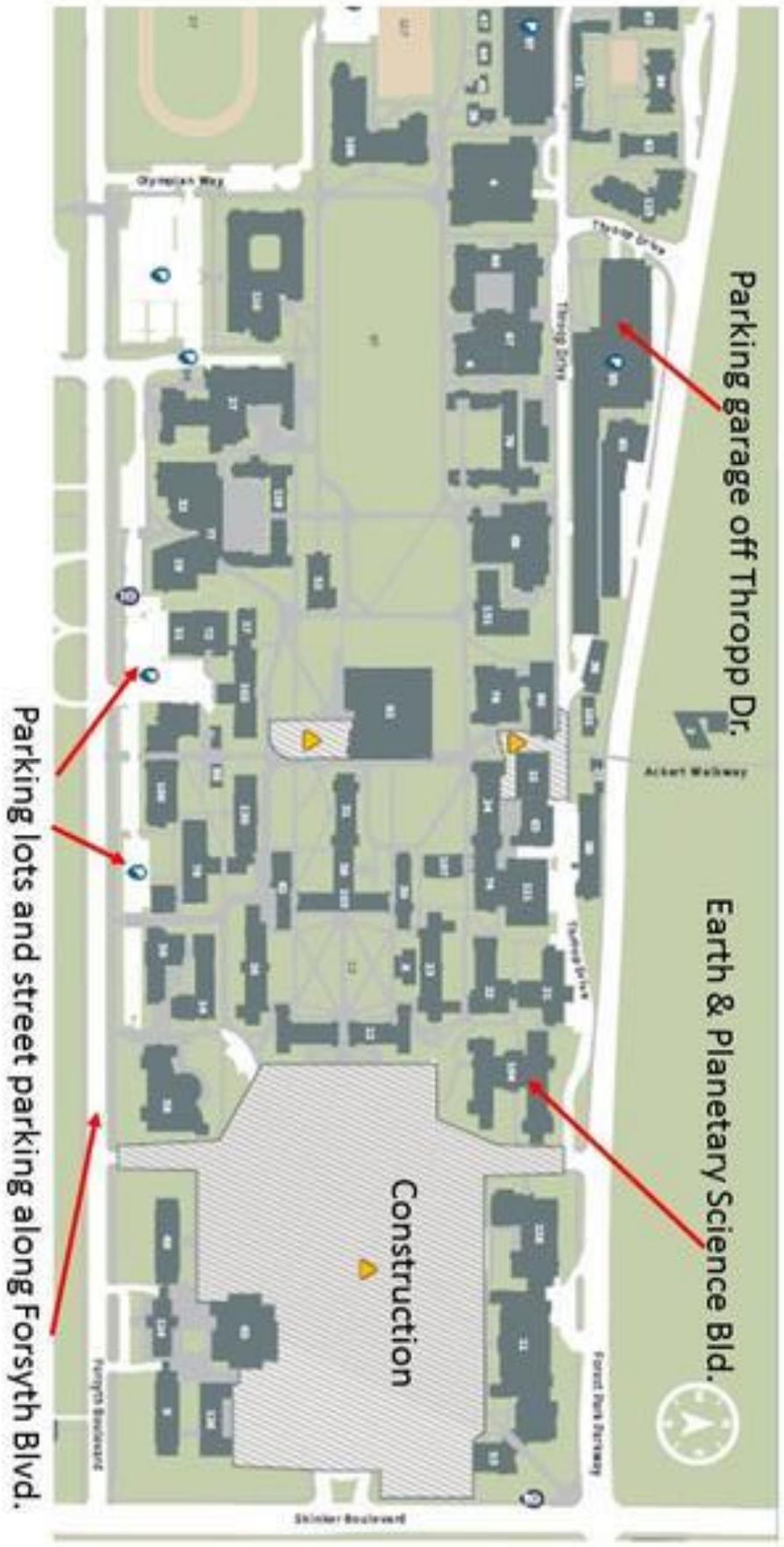
The star-shaped bryozoan fossil *Evactinopora* is very distinctive and is a desirable addition to any fossil collection. It is often mistaken for a starfish fossil. Specimens reveal a range of forms that extend from simple star shapes to elongate vane (rayed) colonies with rounded bases. Specimens from the Fern Glen formation in Missouri have revealed from three to nine rays.

Attempts at determining species names based on the number of vanes reveal that there is little recorded knowledge of this bryozoan, but there is considerable confusion about species categories. There is almost no understanding of the growth or life habits of this bryozoan, apart from the fact that it was free-living (unattached) on the seafloor.

The first description of the bryozoan genus *Evactinopora* was by Meek and Worthen in 1865, with *E. radiata* as the type species, from the Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) Burlington (then called the Keokuk) Limestone. The type colony for *E. radiata* is an 8-rayed star. Subsequently, Meek and Worthen (1868) named two more species: *E. sexradiata*, a 6-rayed colony, and *E. grandis*, a large colony with 4 vanes. Another species was named as *E. quinqueradiata* by Ulrich in 1890, for 5-rayed specimens. Since then, *Evactinopora* have been discovered in the Burlington, Fern Glen and Reed Springs formations in Missouri as well as formations in Arizona, Australia and Germany.

Historically, *Evactinopora* collected locally were identified as *E. sexradiata* regardless of the number of vanes. This trend has now changed so that most are now called *E. radiata*. Some believe that the vane number variation indicates variation in, or growth stages of the same species. Additional study of these fossils is definitely needed.





Parking garage off Thropp Dr.

Earth & Planetary Science Bld.

Construction

Parking lots and street parking along Forsyth Blvd.

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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First Class Mail