

# The Paleo Times

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Rick Poropat, Editor

## President's Corner

Hi all,

Welcome back after our summer break! We had a fun August picnic with beautiful weather. I hope most club members managed to get in a fossil trip or two. If so, bring a picture, power point or fossil specimens to show and tell to the September meeting where we will have updates from Montana. As a reminder, the parking is going to be tricky for a while. There should be space on Friday evenings in the garage along Forest Park Parkway, but don't park in the 24-hour slots marked in red! If parking continues to be a problem we will evaluate other options.

Abby

## DID YOU KNOW?

If human civilization were to be destroyed and its cities wiped off the map, there would be an easy way for future intelligent life-forms to know when the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century began: plastic.

From the 1950s to today, 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced, with around half of it made since 2004. And since plastic does not naturally degrade, the billions of tons sitting in landfills, floating in the oceans or piling up on city streets will provide a marker if later civilizations want to classify our era. Perhaps they will call this time on Earth the *Plastocene Epoch*. Imagine future paleontologists excavating an ancient ocean floor layer totally composed of plastic debris! (Excerpt from a New York Times article by Tatiana Schlossberg, 2017)



## September Meeting

Our next meeting is **Friday, September 8, 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 a "What I did on my summer vacation", a collection of presentations by club members on their summer fossil trips.

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 Upper Ordovician trilobite, *Bumastoides porrectus*, from the Decorah formation in Lincoln County, Missouri. The illustrated specimen is approximately 1 1/2 inches long. Pieces of this trilobite (probably molts) are common in some layers of the Decorah, but complete specimens are rare. The genus can be identified by the smooth exoskeleton with no axial lobe on the pygidium (tail) The thorax (body) may contain 8-10 segments and the eyes are located on the outside edge of the cephalon (head).

The genus *Bumastoides* is the ancestor of *Bumastus*, a trilobite common in certain Silurian rock formations of New York State and often seen for sale at the MAPS Fossil Expo. and other shows.

## Calendar

Sept. 8-10	Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Hancock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds Greenfield, Indiana
Sept. 6-17	Denver Mineral & Fossil Showcase Various Venues in Denver, Colorado
Sept 30-Oct 1	Porter Fossil Collection Sale
Nov. 17-19	Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show & Sale Affton Community Center
Dec. 16	Holiday Party Kirkwood Community Center

## Treasurer's Report

A detailed report is available by request from the treasurer.

## Food & Fossils

The best restaurants in town will be showing off their finest dishes at the *Taste of St. Louis* festival at the Chesterfield Amphitheater on September 15-17. The three-day event features food, art, music, cooking demonstrations and more. Admission is free.

Details are still evolving on an opportunity for the club to do some self-promotion at the festival. It has been proposed that we share a table/booth at no cost. Our club would hand out club flyers and conduct fossil-cleaning demonstrations. More details to come at the next meeting.

## Board Meeting

There will be an EMSP board meeting at 6:30 pm on Friday, September 8, prior to the next general club meeting. Business will include field trip and other activity plans, 2018 officer nominations, and the club's future participation in the August, Machinist's Hall (Association) show and/or the March, Rock Hobby show, also at Machinist's Hall. All board members and other interested club members are invited to attend.

## Rick's Ramblings

As the summer winds down, it is time to start planning for fall. What a busy time of the year! It seems like everyone is having a festival and it is difficult to find time to do everything. We are considering our options for fall field trips. Everything is on the table since our spring trips were rained out.

A trip to Mississippi is tentatively planned for the first weekend in October. More info will be made available at our general meeting. Other possible trips include the quarry at Parsons, Tennessee and our annual trip to Mark Twain Lake.

We still have some issues with the August show and our club's continued participation is questionable. Attendance at the show continues to fall and our sales have reached their lowest point in several years. The Association pulled a fast one and used, without permission, the Federation insurance policies from Association member clubs, plus our own insurance, to cover the show. We, and other area clubs, do not intend to let this happen again. Show participation will be a major point of discussion at our upcoming board meeting.

Election of EMSP officers for 2018 is coming up in November. If you have an interest in taking on a management role in the club, now would be a great time to let your intentions be known. The jobs are not difficult and we have a great group of people to support you. Talk to a current officer or board member if you are interested.

The main event for this fall just might be the sale of the Henry Porter collection at the Porter home in Ellisville, Missouri on September 30 and Oct. 1. The collection is in excellent condition and represents the life-long passion for fossil collecting by longtime EMSP member Henry Porter. More than 800 individual specimens and boxed lots have been identified and labeled for sale in all price ranges. Much of the collection is self-collected from St. Louis-area localities that are no longer accessible. Many of the specimens are never seen for sale except from private collections. This is a great opportunity to build your collection from the St. Louis area and around the world at very reasonable prices. There will also be geodes, crystal vugs, minerals, hand and power tools and display cabinets for sale plus free stuff. I encourage everyone to attend! Don't miss out! When it's gone, its gone!

# IMPORTANT FOSSIL SALE!

Announcing the sale of more than 800 individual specimens and boxed lots\*\* comprising the *world-class* fossil collection of the late *Henry Porter*, plus powered rock equipment, hand tools and cabinets.

When: Saturday, September 30-Sunday, October 1, 2017

Place: 1143 Fairview Drive                      Have Questions? Email: [mycaracara@aol.com](mailto:mycaracara@aol.com)  
Ellisville, Missouri

Sale runs 9:00 am – 3:00 pm each day. **NO EARLY BIRDS!**

**Saturday only:** due to limited space in the sale area, numbers (one per person) will be handed out at 8:00 am and entrance to the sale will be controlled.

**Terms:** Cash or credit card with ID (no debit); personal check if we know you.  
Everything is priced to sell. Discounts on Sunday only.  
We are **Not Responsible for Accidents!**

## Fossils include:

- **Petrified Wood** (large assortment from around the U.S., including polished and rough specimens).
- **Fish** (from U.S., Europe, China, Morocco, etc.)
- More than 200 **Crinoids** (most are prepped crowns), plus **Blastoids** (some with brachioles) and other rare echinoderms from the Warsaw, Paint Creek, Ridenhower, Renault, Gilmore City, LaSalle, St. Louis, Frailey's, and Burlington formations of the Midwest and other parts of the U.S. and world. Also, many unprepped pieces containing echinoderms.
- **Fern Fossils** in nodules & shale from Indiana and Illinois (also a few Mazon Creek animals).
- **Bivalves, Bryozoans, Brachiopods, Corals, Gastropods** and other invertebrates.
- **Ammonites** and other **cephalopods**.
- Flats of **Florida** fossil **Mollusks**.
- **Dinosaur** vertebrae and other bone.
- More than 120 **Trilobites** from around the Midwest and world, including a huge selection (many unprepped) from Grafton, IL.
- **Amber/Copal, Insects, Bird Tracks, Shark Teeth, Mosasaur Teeth** and many other fossils.
- **Rocks, Minerals, Geodes, Crystal Vugs** and **10 boxes** of **Native American artifacts**.
- **Power Tools:** diamond-bladed and other saws, including 17-inch and 14-inch tile saws and 18-inch lapidary saw.
- **Hand Tools** including many types of hammers, chisels, sledges and an old geode cracker.
- **Storage Cabinets** of many shapes & sizes.
- **FREE STUFF!**

\*\* All individual specimens and boxed lots are labeled and priced.

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.

**Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology (EMSP)**  
**P.O. Box 220273**  
**St. Louis, MO. 63122**



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