

The Paleo Times

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EMSP SOAPBOX

By David Lukens & Don Howell

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

Newsletter is short and early this month so that people are aware of the upcoming field trip and the Christmas party. So there is not as many articles as normal.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello fellow club members! We had a great November meeting. We re-elected all the officers – that's to all for re-upping. We also got a great start on the Joe Bolser fund. Thanks very much to Clarence, David Lukens, and others for there generous contributions to get it started. The mineral and gem show went very well. Thanks to Abby for getting all the fossils at Tucson last year and also to all that volunteered to work our tables. Hope to see ya at the November 29th field trip and the Christmas party.

Don Howell III

Next meeting

There is not meeting for December, but there is a Christmas party. See details below

Next meeting is

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

While there is not a speaker planned that I know of discussions will be held related planning for field trips next year and fund raising plans for next year.

Thanks / Congratulations

To Bruce for his presentation on Amber and Copolite and his slide show. Also thanks to Don Howell for his work on putting the shadow boxes together for the Viking show. Thanks to Clarence for his generous contribution to the Joe Bolser Fund.

Welcome to two new members: Kelly and Helen.

Upcoming Events/ Field Trips

November 21-23, 2008- The Rock and Gem club show - It will be held at the Viking Conference center located on the northwest corner of Lindbergh and Watson Road in south St. Louis County (10709 Watson Road). On November 21-23, 2008. . EMSP will have two front tables and one back table. This will cost us \$130. This is a major fundraiser for the club so we are looking for volunteers to help man the table. We hope to sell a lot of the items purchased at the Tucson AZ to raise money for the club.

November 29, 2008 – Dec. Field Trip – Will again be to Bruce's site in southern MO. This site had turned out some really great fossils so far. Trip will be on Saturday 11/29/08 leaving at 9:00 am. Departure site will be the commuter parking lot located at the south-west corner of I-55 and Richardson Road. From there we will carpool down to Bruce's site. It is about a 2 ½ hour drive. You will need to bring your tools, water, and lunch. This is out in the country so there are no bathrooms. Also, there is lots of poison ivy so long sleeve pants and shirts are recommended. Though this time of year it probably will not be as much a problem. Also bring shovels and pickaxes if you have them and paper to wrap your finds in as they are fragile.

Christmas party – December 6th starting at 4:00 PM at Rich & Lisa’s house. The club will furnish meat for sandwiches, bread, and drinks. Please bring a dish to share with everyone else. Also please contact Lisa or Rich ahead of time at to let them know what you will be bringing for food.

Notes from the Meeting

During the meeting, collections were started for the Joe Bolser Scholarship Fund. We have almost \$600 so far. Elections were held for club officers and all previous officers were nominated and reelected.

President – Don Howell

Bruce Stinchcomb – Vice President

Pete Smith – Treasurer

David Lukens / Peggy Cole – Co-Secretaries

Starting in January we will be selling raffle tickets for a nice 4” Megalodon tooth from Florida. The drawing will probably be during the April meeting.

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://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/gloucestershire/7710415.stm

Fossils of a 50,000 year old woolly rhino were found in England by a 5 year old girl. The girl was with her father and a group of fossil hunters looking in a gravel pit when the atlas vertebra (used to hold up the head) was found. The dig which numbered 75 people also found other bones from deer, belemnite, and items.

<http://jurassicpark.org/discovery-in-utah-land-plants-of-200-million-years-ago>

A 200 million year old site near St. George Utah is demonstrating the variety of plants on land at this period of time. It is the only early Jurassic plant site in the western US. This site is important as it was at a time of mass extinction prior to the arrival of dinosaurs as the dominant land animals.

<http://jurassicpark.org/t-rex-was-one-nosy-dinosaur>

Studies of the T-Rex skull have shown that in addition to having excellent eye-sight, it also had a great sense of smell. While the brains no longer exist, scientists have been able to measure the size

of the olfactory bulbs by examining the skulls. Of all the dinosaurs studied, T-Rex had the largest olfactory bulb relative to its size. Modern animals that have this feature also tend to hunt at night. Studies of primitive bird fossils have shown similar size in the bulb also.

<http://www.paleontologynews.com/story.asp?ID=347264&Title=Dinosaur%20experts%20bust%20up%20prehistoric%20party%20theory>

Paleontologists have said that the reported “dinosaur dance floor” reported in St. George Utah is nothing more than potholes scoured in the rock. The reported tail marks are also found to be erosion marks. The report of the tracks was made by a group of geologists in the area.

http://www.kypost.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=EE695F86-8E17-4B67-8AC8-10F1A24EBE6D&gsa=true

Remains of a 200-600 year old bison were found this summer at [Big Bone Lick State Park](#) in Kentucky this summer. The bones showed up after rains and drought exposed them. Among the finds were more than 600 bones from several animals along with stone tools and artifacts. Finds of bison kill sites are rare in the Ohio valley.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7736786.stm>

Fossils of some of the earliest turtles have been found on a beach on the island of Skye, Scotland. The 164 million year old species, *Eileanchelys waldmani*, is a link between land and water turtles. The rock contained 4 mostly complete turtle skeletons and two partials. They are the most complete middle Jurassic turtles found to date. The remains help bridge the 65 MM year gap between the land and water turtles. This new species adds to two other new species from the same period found in Russia and Argentina recently. While the outside might look like a modern freshwater turtle, the internal bones were different. At the time the turtles were alive, the area consisted of shallow lagoons and freshwater lakes. Other species found near the turtles includes sharks, salamanders, and other aquatic species.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7735544.stm>

Fossil bones found by a trawler in the North Sea came from a 1-2 million year old scimitar cat. The partial leg bone, from an animal weighing almost 900 pounds, are the farthest north this species has been found and the first recovery from the North Sea. The trawlers, looking for bottom dwelling fish, also dredge up bones such as mammoth, hippo, bears, and deer and are paid up to 100 euros for each find. Paleontologists said that the *Homotherium crenatidens* probably lived in the area during a warm spell between ice ages. Fossil from only one other species of sabre toothed cat *Homotherium latidens*, have been previous found in the North Sea but they are much younger.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7739703.stm>

A single-celled ball about the size of a grape may provide an explanation for one of the mysteries of fossil history.

Scientists believe that they have identified the creatures that have left tracks 1.8 billion year old. The animals are a single celled organism known as “protest” which are blind, brainless, and usually covered with mud. Biologists studied them found that they made the tracks over months sometimes only moving cm in that period of time. The modern tracks are very similar to pre-Cambrian tracks found in the Stirling Range in Western Australia.

.Around Town Reports

If you have suggestions for field trip locations, please e-mail them to me and I will begin putting together a list.

NEEDED

We are still looking for more donations of small fossils (quarter size or smaller) for the fossil boards. We are especially in need of small trilobites (the Utah ones are best) were also looking for horn corals, other corals, gastropods, bryozoans, and other donations. Please bring to the October meeting so we can meet later and work on putting more fossil boards together for the upcoming show.

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.

President – Don Howell
donhowelliii@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President: Bruce Stinchcomb
Treasurer: Pete Smith
Secretaries: David Lukens
dmslukens@yahoo.com) and Abby

DUES ARE DUE

Our treasurer, Pete Smith 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 Pete 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, motirek@gmail.com or abfactor@gmail.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 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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

