

Minutes of the Utah Friends of Paleontology Board Meeting

Sat. April 6, 2013 from 8:00 - 9:20 a.m.
Lexington Hotel, St. George

Statewide Officers from May 2012 — May 2013:

President: Bob Baldazzi
Vice President: Scott Roskelly (absent)
Secretary: Elisabeth Nipperus
Treasurer: Phil Policelli
Past President: Jim Lehane
Advisors: Martha Hayden and Jim Kirkland
Webmaster: BJ Nicholls

- Bob welcomed all board members and other UFOP attendees to this meeting.
- There were no official Minutes of last year's meeting available.
- Martha requested the closing of UFOP's conference call account, which would then be handled by Elaine. This request was approved.
- A discussion took place about the need for a simple liability statement to be signed by all UFOP members and guests when participating in field trips/work. One was previously put together by Steve Stephenson who used existing forms applied by other organizations. It was felt that it should also include a specific guest release form.

After a short debate, all concurred and Steve agreed to amend the statement according to specifications given, including a separate form for every field trip to be signed -by the participant(s).

BJ Nicholls, our webmaster, offered to re-format the UFOP brochure, and include a website link to this new liability and ethics form. He also suggested that he could set up a Pay-Pal account benefiting the UFOP State account at a minimal cost. Both suggestions were favorably received, but no conclusive decision was made at this time.

- Phil reported a current balance of \$5,660 in the UFOP State Treasury.

There is \$900 available to fund students during field trips. This year it was not needed as the necessary funds were generated otherwise. But this amount will be kept as a buffer.

A subsidy of \$500 will be kept for the host chapter of Annual Meetings, if requested.

Southwest Chapter's Treasurer, Linda Baldazzi, reported that there was \$49 left in the kitty, so essentially, the chapter broke even, and would not need to be subsidized.

Even so, some extra money (\$43) was handed to her at the end of the day through the sale of last year's Annual Meeting left-over T-shirts and pens, which she gratefully accepted.

The chapter's request to have the Annual Meeting every other year was tabled for now, as Dale Gray insisted his chapter had to host the Annual Meeting in 2014 due to the new museum additions in Vernal. The Board acquiesced, so our next Annual Meeting will be in June 2014 and hosted by the Uinta Basin Chapter.

Martha mentioned an amount of \$640 – proceeds from the certification program – held by the now near-defunct Castle Valley Chapter.

After some discussion, it was decided that Phil would contact the chapter, inquire about its status, and find out who controls the checkbook. Phil could become their co-signer, if needed.

In any case, the board finds it prudent to have these moneys transferred to the UFOP State account as soon as possible, whether the chapter declares itself defunct or not, accompanied by a formal letter to the State President.

- Our newest chapter, based in Moab, was acknowledged by the Board. Its name is (for now): UFOP Southeast Chapter, spearheaded by ReBecca Hunt-Foster, BLM Canyon Country District Paleontologist. She is working together with Joel Nowak of the US Forest Service.

There are currently around 25 members signed up, and they have had two meetings in the local Library. There is no slate of officers yet, nor a roster of meetings, but they are working on it.

Bob wondered if it was necessary to give seed money to a new chapter. Discussion followed, and it was decided by a unanimous vote that \$250 from State funds for start-up costs would be made available, plus a waiver for state dues during their first year.

- A request by ReBecca for moneys to finance ads for the upcoming 7-day conference *Mid-Mesozoic: The Age of Dinosaurs in Transition*, was voted on and approved. The amount of \$250 would be made available on the contingency that ReBecca send in a formal request to the Board. ReBecca and Jim Kirkland are both involved in the planning of this international conference which will be held April 30 to May 5, 2014.

For more information on this Conference see

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MidMesozoic2014/doc/132202426938744/>

- Certification Program. As Scott Roskelly was absent and he is in charge of this program, not much was said about it, other than that more discussion was needed.

BJ mentioned the existence of an outline of contents and background and a certification committee, but no chairman had yet been chosen.

Jerry Harris suggested that Utah Education Programs on line would be a good way to go. He indicated that he and a few others are examining the possibilities of having the non-field and non-lab based part of the Level 1 certification on-line.

They are working on the formatting; currently it's all Powerpoints, but they may at some point end up with videos of people delivering lectures. Whatever the format, the material would be available on-line for UFOP members to download. There is no site yet, but that's being worked on.

- Scott Roskelly was voted in as State-wide President for the period of April 2013 - June 2014 (in absentia).
- The Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, UFOP State Secretary May 1, 2013

Minutes of UFOP General Meeting

Sat. April 6, 2013 from 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Lexington Hotel, St. George.

Bob Baldazzi, our current UFOP State President, opened the meeting, welcoming all 46 attendees. He talked first about the explosion in the hotel kitchen due to a gas leak, and the consequences for our group, which were minimal.

After mentioning that two T-shirts , 1 Medium and 1 Extra Large, were still available for sale, he proceeded to welcome ReBecca Hunt-Foster and the new UFOP chapter based in Moab which she started up, together with Joel Nowak.

He then reported the results of the Board Meeting (see the relevant Minutes).

Presentation of Dale Grey, President of the Uinta Basin Chapter:

Dale talked about the construction of an 8,000 sq. ft. storage and lab area which was added to Vernal's new Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum, bringing the total square footage of the entire facility to 11,000 sq. ft. It even includes an air conditioning and dust control system. Dale was and still is the proud key consultant for all relevant designs. (He showed a video of this construction, compressing 8 months into 20 minutes during his presentation after the General Meeting). He is very much looking forward to hosting our next Annual Meeting in 2014, so he can show all of us the end results.

He also talked about his find of rare scorpion tracks during his yearly fall trip to Steinaker Lake, and that more research was needed to determine their origin. Other projects included plants (related to lotus flowers) found in the Uinta Formation, as well as a lower mammal jaw.

He is now working on a temporary museum display of black flow. There is also a German intern writing a paper on Morrison Wood, and he mentioned Linda West, who handles the Museum's P.R. and is the Chapter's Secretary, organizing a yearly Easter egg hunt, and 4th of July events when an average of 800 people visit the Museum.

This UFOP chapter has only six members, but there is a good rapport between the community of Vernal and its museum which sponsors our chapter, including a good cooperation between their geology department and the museum's prep lab. The fact that oil companies present in the area fund many community projects, is fortunate.

Presentation of Jean Acheson, President of the Great Basin Chapter:

There have been six meetings with six speakers; their second annual poster event; a Christmas party. A microscope training for volunteers was started at the Natural History Museum and one fieldwork training (Permian) of 4/5 days was held. There are 35 memberships, including family memberships. There was a balance of \$2,100 in the kitty.

Jim Kirkland added that UGS plans to jacket a family of Utahraptors, N. of Arches.

Presentation by Steve Stephenson, President of the Southwest Chapter:

Steve announced that his chapter currently has 58 members, of whom 16 volunteer at the SGDS Museum and have contributed more than 3000 hours together.

They had four meetings, one field trip, over 6 weeks of fieldwork, and a Christmas party since May 2012.

During the three weeks of fieldwork in Lisbon Valley, Andrew and volunteers excavated the fish quarry and prospected for new localities, of which over 100 new ones were recorded.

Work was continued on the Southern Parkway Project with the cooperation of UDOT, saving more than 600 tracks and trackways (mostly *Anomoepus gracillimus*) from destruction at the "Hamblin Tracksite" by rock-sawing them out. The Southern Parkway "Plant Site" was also very productive: 950 plant specimens from the Kayenta Formation were collected, as well as 4 fish and a few teeth.

- The Southeast chapter based out of Moab, now qualified as a new chapter, with 25 signed up members. As its founder and representative, ReBecca Hunt-Foster was acknowledged by the general membership. She talked about the start-up process and the many possibilities in the Moab area for future field trips.
- Election of new State officers: (VP and Secretary yet to be nominated) Scott Roskelly – President (in absentia); Phil Policelli – Treasurer
- Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, May 1, 2013.

Presentations Session

Presentations were given between 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. with a 1 hour break at noon.

Presenters, background, and the titles of their presentations were as following:

1. Dale Grey – President of the UFOP Uinta Valley Chapter - Video on Utah Field House Curatorial Facility (8,000 sq.ft.) added to Museum, plus commentary.
2. John R. Foster – Curator of Paleontology at the Museum of Western Colorado – *Common Dolichometopidae (Trilobita, Corynexochida) from the Middle Cambrian of the Southwestern Great Basin – Glossopleura, Anoria, and Sonoraspsis: One Genus or Three?*
3. Tylor Birthisel - Manager of the Paleontology Lab at the GSENM in Kanab under Alan Titus – *The Lambeosaurs: Understanding Where Parasaurolophus Fits In*
4. Jennifer E. Hargrave – Assistant Professor of Geosciences at SUU – *Can Birds be Used as Paleoclimate Proxies?*
5. Jim Kirkland – State paleontologist with the Utah Geologic Survey and UFOP State Advisor – *New Early Cretaceous Vertebrate Fossils and Exhibits in Japan*
6. Jim Lehane - Ph.D. student in Paleontology at the University of Utah, and previous UFOP State President - *The Wile E. Coyote Method of Feeding: Trapping in the Trace Fossil Record*
7. Tracy Thomson - Graduate student in Earth Sciences at the University of California, Riverside - *Triassic Swim Tracks in the Moenkopi Formation 245 MYA*

Keynote speaker: John R. Foster

The Late Jurassic Revisited: What's New (and What's Getting Old) in the Morrison Formation

Sunday Field trip: Tracking the Triassic-Jurassic Boundary

39 members signed up.

First the group visited the Early Triassic rocks of the Lower Red Member of the Moenkopi Formation to collect arthropod trackways (mostly horseshoe crab trails) near the town of Virgin.

Then they drove south to Warner Valley where they saw rocks of the Late Triassic Chinle Formation through the Early Jurassic (Moenave and Kayenta formations). In this area they saw dinosaur track sites and had the opportunity to search for new localities in the Whitmore Point Member of the Moenave Formation, and the lower part of the “silty facies” of the Kayenta Formation.

No posters were offered for scheduled poster session.