

## **Minutes of the SW Chapter meeting held on April 20, 2016**

The meeting was opened by Bill Bieseles, our president, at 7:10 p.m.

### **Welcome:**

Bill welcomed everyone (19 attendees) especially new members, pointing out our VP, Ann Sherman, for further information if they should need some.

### **Field trip planned for April 30:**

Jerry surveyed the targeted site with a friend. Jerry could not attend this meeting, so Bill relayed some of the available information Jerry gathered during the survey.

- a) High-clearance car is strongly recommended
- b) There are no paths in this wilderness area, so a long hike will be necessary through heavily vegetated terrain
- c) Communication, even with walkie-talkies, would be very difficult
- d) Excavation (if a permit would be obtained) would be heavily restricted as everything would have to be hauled out on foot. Accessible outcrop lies in the wash (Chinle, Kayenta)
- e) Professionals are interested—as this Jurassic outcrop has never been surveyed before—but they rather go when Denver Fowler is in town

When Bill asked who would still be interested in participating, a total of 12 responded. He then promised to talk it over with the pro's and get back to our members with more detail.

### **UFOP Annual Meeting April 1-3 in Moab:**

- a) Revised state by-laws improving audits and splitting executive board and board of trustees
- b) Newly elected officers from June 2016 to May 2017 are:  
President - Bill Bieseles  
VP - Carrie Levit Bussian  
Treasurer: Tim Bussian  
Secretary: Jean Acheson

Bill added that the presentations/discussions in Moab had been great and that the BLM had introduced a new program: ***Respect and Protect for Archeological and Paleontological Resources.*** Five state director Dr. Greg McDonald will be at the SGDS Museum site in July.

### **Vice-President:**

Anne Sherman, VP of our chapter, talked about recruitment of new members. Old (corrected) brochures were divided up among the members who planned to place them in strategic places around the area.

### **Secretary:**

Elisabeth Nipperus discussed the Minutes of the previous meeting sent by email to all members. There were no corrections offered. They were voted on, seconded, and approved, to be posted on our website a.s.a.p.

### **Treasurer:**

Mike Santella indicated 3 deposits of members' dues, adding \$60 to our February end balance of \$1,174.88 to a balance of \$1,234.88 as per March 31, 2016. No activity in the month of April.

Mike did remark that our chapter owed 25% of dues to state, but that they owed us for online memberships, and that this would be settled in Moab during the annual meeting.

### **Guest speaker:**

Dr. Gerald Bryant, sedimentary geologist with the Colorado Field Institute at DSU. His doctoral studies at the University of Toronto focused on ancient deposits of wind-blown sand, particularly the Navajo Sandstone, and the event interpretation of soft-sediment deformation features within that unit. Ongoing research along those same lines currently provides the primary basis for a variety of student field experiences and research projects among

the extraordinary outcrops of this region. The title of Dr. Bryant's presentation was: *"Paleontology in Context: Fossil Occurrences and the Sedimentary Architecture of the Navajo Sandstone."*

He took us from the Taklimakan Desert in North China, a vast sand-covered dense field, 1000 kms long, to the Sahara Desert to carbonate interdune deposits with a 500 m. diameter capped with bicarbonate, making them more resistant to erosion and sand eroding. This made for so-called "dune transformation", the carbonate building up to 5 m. high, as in Capitol Reef, where many dinosaur tracks have been found.

Many fragmentary vertebrate fossils from the Navajo Sandstone were found to belong to reptiles (Tritylodontid, Sauropodomorphs, Theropods, and Crocodylomorphs.)

Influence of water in the form of rainfall, groundwater, high water tables caused blow-outs, sand volcano's, avalanche sand flows over millions of years.

Dr. Bryant gave us unique insight into the making of dunes and deserts in general, and the Navajo Sandstone in particular, making us realize that "Paleontology and Sedimentology indeed go together."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. UFOP SW Chapter  
May 21, 2016