

Minutes of the Southwest Chapter of Utah Friends of Paleontology Meeting – April 15, 2015

Bill Biesele opened the meeting welcoming the 15 attendees.

He was happy to announce (actually reiterating news sent out to the members by e-mail on April 1, 2015) that Ann Sherwood had volunteered for Vice-President, Mike Santella was taking over from Sandra as Treasurer, and that he himself had volunteered for State VP candidate. This news was received with warm applause.

Elisabeth read her Minutes of the meeting held on March 18, which were voted on, approved, seconded and as such entered into the record, and posted on UFOP's website.

The treasurer's report (Sandra's last) indicated a beginning balance of \$975.55, expenses \$136.25 for dues to State UFOP, which brought the balance to \$839.30.

Elisabeth then suggested having members, including chapter officers, tell something about their background, and Ann, Mike, Bill, and Elisabeth each obliged.

Andrew talked about the field trip to Moab.

Bill introduced our guest speaker, ReBecca Hunt-Foster, District Paleontologist for the Canyon Country District of the BLM. She holds a Master of Science in Geology (emphasizing in Vertebrate Paleontology) from Texas Tech University, and has a B.S. in Earth Science from the University of Arkansas. Her current research includes a study of the Upper Cretaceous Williams Fork Formation paleofauna of western Colorado. ReBecca has worked as a paleontologist in western Colorado and eastern Utah since 2007. Prior to moving to the area, she was a research assistant at Augustana College and worked on Cryolophosaur, the first known dinosaur from Antarctica.

Her interesting presentation illustrated the ongoing construction of the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail, started in 2010 by fencing an area enclosing 10 different kinds of tracks (8 dinosaurs, 1 crocodylian, 1 bird). In 2013 they started clearing the site by hand with help from people originating from 7 different countries and 17 institutions. In 2014 a bobcat was brought in, but nothing new was found. The main area, covering 300 square meters, and the North Exposure, covering 40 square meters, both have a variable distribution of tracks, including the first Dromaeosaur tracks in North America, though there are many tracks still undefined. Practical modular sections are being used to build boardwalks, and the total cost (as of now) was around \$100,000.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. UFOP SW Branch, May 20, 2015