

Minutes of the Southwest Chapter Utah Friends of Paleontology Meeting held on February 18, 2015

Andrew Milner, our chapter advisor, opened the meeting at 7 p.m. (being our pro tempore president) and welcomed the 27 attendees.

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

Sandra read her Treasury report, indicating a February 1 beginning balance of \$1,726.53 and a February 28 ending balance of \$1,831.53.

Andrew announced that a combined UFOP and NFoP field trip was planned to Nevada's newly designated second National Park in Nevada: Tule Springs, to be held on Saturday, February 28th. It would be led by Josh Bonde, our previous month's speaker. Members had already received an e-mail with relevant information, but some had questions which were duly answered by Andrew. He also gave some information about upcoming speakers and events. In March: Tracy Thomson, in April: Rebecca Hunt-Foster, and in May: Larry Davis, taking the place of Adam Huttenlocker.

In June, we planned to participate in the Geology Days event in Bryce for which volunteers were needed, as well as for maintenance work at the Warner Valley track site in the Spring in conjunction with the BLM.

At this point, Andrew reminded the attendees that we urgently needed a new chapter president as well as a vice-president, and lo and behold (!) Bill Biesele, a relatively new member, came forward to volunteer for the position, receiving a warm applause.

Andrew then introduced our speaker of the evening: Carrie Levitt-Bussian, currently Paleontology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City. Originally from Chicago, she received her Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Masters of Science degree from the University of Utah. The title of her presentation was "*Bone Histology of Chasmosaurine and Centrosaurine Ceratopsid dinosaurs from the Campanian of Southern Utah.*"

Carrie gave a detailed and interesting description of her research into the microstructure of fossilized Ceratopsian bone cells, sampling 42 bone slices, grounding them down to just under one millimeter. She studied their vascular density (simple to complex), looked for arrested growth due to some kind of stress (mostly climate changes), slow or rapid growth (indicated by how the blood vessels grow and how bone tissue around them is deposited), and presence of radial canals. Her findings indicated a pattern in vascularity and metabolism in Ceratopsian dinosaurs, showing a possible latitudinal climate variation that existed across the subcontinent of Laramidia during the Late Cretaceous 80-74 million years ago.

Many questions were asked and answered during the presentation and after its conclusion.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. UFOP SW Branch, March 18, 2015