

## Minutes of UFOP SW Chapter Meeting of February 20, 2019

\*The meeting was opened by Bill, our chapter president, welcoming the 21 attendees who had weathered the snow to be present this evening.

\*Andrew, our chapter adviser, mentioned that field work was planned in Indian Creek from March 11 through 17, weather permitting. Volunteers were asked to call him; he ended up with eleven.

\*Alan, our chapter treasurer, announced a balance on our UFOP account of \$1,862.39 as of January 31, 2019 of which \$625 had come from 36 members for dues. And \$715 in 2019.

\*Elisabeth, our chapter secretary, read her Minutes of our previous meeting held on January 16. They were voted on for approval, seconded, and as such entered into the record to be eventually posted on the UFOP website by our webmaster BJ Nicholls.

\*Bill then introduced our guest speaker for the evening: Dr. Joshua Bonde, currently the Curator of Paleontology at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum.

On the way Dr. Bonde earned his BS in Biology at the University of Nevada-Reno, his MS in Earth Sciences at Montana State University-Bozeman, and his PhD in Geoscience at the University of Las Vegas. He also spent some time as an intern at our SGDS Museum, so for some of us he is a familiar figure.

His presentation was an updated version of a previous talk he gave to us in November 2011 titled: *What killed Kermit? Tonight the title of his presentation is:*

*“A Reevaluation of Nevada’s first frog (Euorubeta nevadensis), and the utility of fossils in paleographic reconstructions.”*

*Dr. Bonde gave us an amazing overview of his findings of ca. 2 km long bone beds containing only disarticulated frog bones, all replaced by calcite 5 million years after the Cretaceous extinction. Nevada’s first frog was discovered in 1960 in bedrock, and appeared to be part of a sister group to all modern frogs. It is the first species that survived this Extinction. These frogs (always flattened out) were the only vertebrates found in what used to be a shallow brinestone lake (ca. 6 ft. deep), no tadpoles, no plants, no fish, during the Cretaceous. They may have lived off insects, each other or a combination of the two. Nobody has figured out what the cause was of their deaths, or if it was a mass death. It is possible that storms took already dead frogs and deposited them in microbial mats, preventing scavenging by ostracod swarms.*

*After answering many questions, Bill thanked Dr. Bonde for his interesting albeit enigmatic presentation and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*

*Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. UFOP SW Chapter  
March 16, 2019*