

Minutes of the Southwest Chapter Utah Friends of Paleontology Meeting held on January 15, 2015

Elisabeth called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. welcoming 23 attendees. She read the Minutes of November 19, 2014, which were then seconded, approved and entered as such into the record, as well as posted on the UFOP website.

As Sandra was absent, Elisabeth read the Treasury report, which indicated a beginning balance of \$ 1,587.73, office expenditures for 2014 amounting to \$65.00, and an ending balance of \$1,521.89.

She then announced that Melinda had resigned as president of the SW Branch in order to pursue employment opportunities, specifically in biology- and botany-related fields. She is moving to Southern Colorado. We thank her for spending time and effort being our 2014 president of our branch and wish her all the best.

Elisabeth introduced Andrew R.C. Milner, our long-time advisor (and actually the founder of our branch), as the interim president, pointing out that both the positions of president and vice-president were now open. She noted that the hope was that they would be filled soon.

Andrew then talked about:

- SGDS Museum - re-opening of the prep lab, incl. a new office space for himself
- Donations by two of our members: Lillian Zielke who gave \$3,000 to be used for the prep lab, and TR Thompson, who helped out in the prep lab setting up air power at several work stations and donating \$1,000 to pay for parts. They both were thanked heartily.
- Donation by our branch to SGDS for prep lab use in the amount of \$200.
- Announcement of future speakers:
Feb. 18 - open; March 18: Tracy Thomson; April 15: ReBecca Hunt-Foster;
May 20: Adam Huttenlocker.
- Andrew mentioned that sometime in the spring the Warner Valley track site would have to be cleaned in collaboration with BLM, and that we were planning to participate in the Geology-Days event in July at Bryce National Park. For both events volunteers would be needed.

Andrew then introduced our speaker, Dr. Joshua Bonde, who is now the only Paleontology Research Associate with the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, Nevada. He is originally from Fallon Nevada, with a B.S. Degree in Biology at the University of Nevada Reno, an M.S. degree in Earth Sciences at Montana State University Bozeman, and a PhD in Geosciences at

UNLV. His presentation was titled *Nevada's New National Monument: Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument*. This area, comprising 22,000 acres along Highway 95, is now Nevada's second National Park, but as yet, only designated as such. The government still has to allot moneys.

Compared to the Tar Pits in CA, Tule Spring represents twice the amount of time, around 250,000 years comprising 8 ice ages, but has only been studied for 4 months in '62 and '63. A study came out in 1967, earning a Nobel Prize. By contrast, La Brea was studied during the whole of the 20th century. They both contain many of the same species of Pleistocene mammals, such as mammoths, giant ground sloths, 12 ft. tall camels, bison, horses, American lions, dire wolves, 175 pound saber tooth cats, but La Brea has mostly disarticulated skeletons of meat eaters, being a predator trap.

The first fossil found in Tule Springs was from a mammoth, in 1903. Then in 1919, fossils were collected from mammoth, horse, bison and American lion. In 1933 human artifacts were added to the mix.

At the end of his presentation, when Dr. Bonde was asked if he could lead a group on a field trip within the newly designated park, he readily agreed to do so soon.

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m

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*Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary. SW UFOP Chapter
February 18, 2015*