

Minutes of the Utah Friends of Paleontology Southwest Chapter Meeting – March 21, 2012

At 7 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Steve, our President, who welcomed the 33 attendees (21 current members and 12 guests).

Elisabeth read her minutes of the January 25 meeting, which was followed by vote approval, and Linda read her treasurer's report, indicating an income of \$325 due to memberships and an expenditure of \$30 for our speaker, with an ending balance of \$1,029.97.

Linda remarked that we would really need to save all possible moneys in order to offset the coming expenditures as our chapter would be the host of next year's annual meeting.

Steve had several chapter items of interest:

- Around 20 chapter members and guests went on a field trip on February 25 to Fossil Canyon, a short but very pretty canyon full of invertebrate fossils. Everyone had a good time and went home with several fossils in their bags, but not before first exploring another canyon in the area on the way back. This one did not produce many interesting specimens, alas.
- A full-size Dilophosaurus replica is being created by Art Escapes-3D working with Andrew and Jerry (see Andrew's Facebook page) to be placed in the SGDS Museum in time for the new exhibit.
- There is no chapter meeting planned in April since there will be the UFOP Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City April 27-29.
- The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and BLM opened a newly built shared headquarters in Kanab on February 10. One of our chapter members, Tylor Birthisel, is now the prep lab manager there under Dr. Alan Titus. A group of our members attended the opening.
- There are plans to have a meeting in May.
- Introduction of the evening's speaker Val Gunther.

Val began fossil and mineral collecting at age 6. He majored in Geology. Over their lifetimes, he and his father and son have become world famous for their collection of fossils and minerals and have written a

number of books, magazine articles and technical papers. They have discovered countless numbers of new species and have been honored to have 20 named after them. They are best known for their Middle Cambrian collection from Utah. They love trilobites. Other strengths of their collection include ammonites, echinoderms, plant fossils, and a sprinkling of everything else. They also have over 40,000 mineral specimens encompassing nearly 350 species. They have donated thousands of specimens to schools, museums, and institutions. In 2001 they donated the balance of their collection (more than 130,000 specimens) to the New Natural Museum of Utah in SLC.

Val Gunther's talk was mostly about trilobites from the Middle Cambrian era. He had brought with him many very interesting and beautifully prepared fossils, which everyone was allowed to handle and enjoy at leisure after the lecture.

The meeting was adjourned at around 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary UFOP SW Chapter April 18, 2012.