

# Minutes of the Southwest Chapter Utah Friends of Paleontology Meeting held on November 19, 2014

- Melinda called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. welcoming around 30 attendees.
- Elisabeth read her Minutes of the October 22 meeting, which were voted on, approved, entered as such into the record and subsequently posted on UFOP's web site.
- Sandra read her treasurer's report, indicating a beginning balance as per November of \$1,587.73. After deducting \$65.84 for secretarial supplies for 2014, the ending balance was \$1,521.89.
- Melinda announced the current status of purchases made with UFOP's donation including fiber optic light, Paleotools, Paleobond, Windows and Microsoft software.
- Andrew gave an update on the prep lab reconstruction and SGDS main track layer remapping. He also mentioned the need for volunteers to reclaim the Warner Valley track site which was covered with mud and debris and needed cleaning up. A date would be set.
- He announced a hike on December 6 through Valley of Fire led by Josh Bonde - more details would be sent by email.
- Larry Davis, geologist at Bryce National Park, asked for participation by UFOP members during the yearly Geology Festival on July 31, 2015 at Bryce National Park. The Park is trying to expand their influence attracting a larger variety of speakers and volunteers from a variety of organizations to man booths, etc. His e-mail is: ldavis@csbj.edu
- Melinda reminded the attendees of the upcoming Holiday Potluck on December 10; the starting time was changed from 6 to 5:30 p.m.
- She then went on to introduce our speaker, Dr. John Foster, Director of the Museum of Moab. He began studies of the Cambrian of the western United States as an undergraduate at Occidental College and then diverted into Mesozoic vertebrate paleoecology during graduate school at the South Dakota School of Mines and the University of Colorado. Finding himself unable to shake the lure of the Cambrian during nearly two decades journeying through the land of dinosaurs, he finally gave in and expanded back into Cambrian research also, about eight years ago.

He is author of *Jurassic West: The Dinosaurs of the Morrison Formation and Their World* (2007) and *Cambrian Ocean World: Ancient Sea Life of North America* (2014), both through Indiana University Press. He brought books and posters, which were \$55 and \$4 each respectively, and were viewed by the attendees after the presentation.

The title of his presentation was: *Cambrian Ocean World: Origins of Modern Animal Biodiversity*. John gave a very detailed account of the so-called Cambrian explosion bringing forth innumerable types of ocean fauna.

Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.

*Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary, Southwest Chapter UFOP*

*January 21, 2015*