

Minutes of the Southwest Chapter of Utah Friends of Paleontology Meeting — September 19, 2014

Opening: Melinda called this meeting to order at 7 p.m., welcoming the 17 attendees.

Minutes: Elisabeth read the Minutes of the April 16 meeting. They were voted on, approved, and entered as such into the record.

Treasury: Sandra reported a beginning balance in May of \$1,599.87. Membership deposits came to \$75, while expenses (UFOP State -\$120, PO Box fee - \$62, and our donation to the museum-\$600) brought the balance down in August to \$892.87.

Field trip: Melinda gave a review of the successful field trip in May to Smith Mesa road, off Kolob Reservoir Rd. Participation was great: more than 30 people showed up, and we all had a good look at the wonderful Eubrontes trackway in the middle of the wash. They were cleaned, measured, photographed, and mapped. Photogrammetry was also done. Melinda had composed a very detailed report describing all data relevant to this site, which she handed out to all appreciative recipients. A few other tracks were discovered as well, and the weather was phenomenal. It was suggested that a repeat field trip to "Zach's Tracks" would be most welcome.

State Moneys: Melinda explained--in addition to the e-mail sent to our members in May--what had been done with the \$700 from the exceptional funds donated to our chapter; purchased were many needed prep supplies: Acryloid beads, Paleobond adhesive and stabilizer, latex, A-poxy sculpt, a respirator with filters, pin vises, and computer software.

SGDS Museum: Andrew praised volunteers' work on the slabs on the back wall which now look great again. He went on to talk about the new display in the exhibit room opening on National Fossil Day ,October 15th titled "Paleontologists at Work: Fossils in the Field and Lab." He also announced that a mural would be painted by Susan Moss on the half wall along the walkway, and that a replica of the Scutellosaurus was in the making.

Lisbon Valley Field Work 8/25-9/1 2014: SGDS and UMNH fieldwork in the Chinle Formation around Lisbon Valley/Indian Creek areas was quite successful. Andrew reported finding tracks, plants, invertebrates, and especially vertebrates, excavating an associated phytosaurs skeleton, certainly justifying a return a.s.a.p.

Lake Powell Field Work 9/12-13/2014: Andrew reported many finds during this trip with the National Park Service. They visited a site called the "MegaTrack Block" which preserved over 80 tracks that were imprinted into beds of stromatolites on a huge rock (as large as a classroom). The main purpose for this return visit was to do photogrammetry on the block in order for them to finish writing a paper; multiple track layers were recorded on Labyrinth Island, including a beetle trackway; 4-toed tracks of *Otozoum* on Sand Hill Island were photographed; and the discovery of a new tracksite having approximately 200 *Brasilichnium* tracks at the water line; all of which invites lots of new research.

Guest speaker: Melinda introduced Deanna Brandau, a 2012 paleontology graduate student working at the National History Museum of Utah, who gave a very interesting presentation on the "Taphonomy of Ceratopsian Dinosaurs from GSENM." She took us through all the different processes (burial, decay and preservation altering) using clear photographs to illustrate her talk including many examples of bite marks preserved on bones. Many questions were asked and answered.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. SW UFOP Branch, on October 22, 2014.