

Utah Friends of Paleontology

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Castle Valley "Raptor" Chapter Newsletter

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SLC Field trip

Jerry Golden, President of the SLC UFOP chapter has invited any of our chapter members who would like to participate in their upcoming field trip to join them in Delta, UT on April 17 & 18. They will meet at the Delta city park at 9:00 AM on Saturday. From there they will be guided by Dr. Alan Titus to some late Mississippian Ammonoid beds in the Chainman Shale west of Delta.

Some of the group will go to Delta on Friday where a number of motels are available, and they plan to stay at the Border Inn in Baker NV on Saturday night. (702.234.7300)

If you have questions, give Jerry a call at (801.485.0600) or you can e-mail him at nxfc63a@prodigy.com

Pre-history Week

Last month we made note that Pre-history week would be held from 1 - 13 May, 1998.

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a listing of the activities for the week. Talk about a great time! The local planning committee has been busy and is hosting the best Pre-history celebration of any area of the state.

There will be great events featuring dinners, tours, shoot outs, dancing, lectures and fun activities for the entire family.

For further information, or for tickets to the paid events, contact the CEU Museum. (435) 637.5060.

Paleo In The News Again - And Again, and Again.

It seems that everywhere you look, there are articles related to paleontology in magazines, newspapers and on the 10:00 o'clock news. Some recent articles have reported the following:

"CEU MUSEUM FEATURED IN DISCOVERY CHANNEL DINOSAUR PROGRAM" was the headline of a recent article written by Al Latimer, a staff writer for the Sun Advocate. Al reported about a Discovery Channel program dealing with the question of whether there was a carnivorous dinosaur larger than the well known *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The article features pictures of Museum Director, Don Burge, the skeleton of the *Gastonia Burgi*, and Al, the Allosaurus who greets visitors at the Museum. (Not to be confused with the Al, who wrote the article.)

Another article dated February 26, 1998, by Jill Edwards, a writer for the College of Eastern Utah paper "The Eagle" carries the headline: "PALEO TAKES ON NEW IMPORTANCE AT CEU." A portion of the article states: "The committee plans to create degrees that will be attached to the museum. They will first organize the academic studies and then establish an endowed chair. This means there would always be a pool of money to pay the salary of a faculty member.... The programs will allow a person to receive a one year certificate if they want to be a paleontology technician or to receive a degree as a paleontology technician by taking two full academic years and a required summer in field study."

College president, Grace Sawyer Jones stated: My dream is to have a master's program associated with the museum. The master's program would be in paleontology. We are already designated as a university center and with that designation, that would allow us to look to a university to award the degree for a scholarship here in this area."

Yet another article appeared with photographs of a fossilized baby dinosaur with a nearly complete skeleton with muscle fibers still visible. The article which was in the Salt Lake Deseret News was from the associated Press and read as follows:

A fossilized baby dinosaur from Italy has proved to be so well preserved that scientists can see muscle fibers and the intestine.

It's not the first time that fossilized soft tissues have been found in dinosaur specimens, but experts said the degree of preservation is outstanding.

The creature, from a previously unknown species, was a two legged meat eater that lived some 113 million years ago in what is now southern Italy. Little more than a hatchling, the creature might have measured only about two feet long from snout to the tip of its tail when it died.

The fossil includes the skull and nearly all the skeleton, though it is missing part of the legs and much of the tail. The specimen is embedded in a slab of rock.

It was found in the 1980's by a private collector. A detailed description appears in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

It was Italy's first dinosaur find, said Cristiano Dal Sasso of the Museum of Natural History in Milan, Italy, who reports the description with a colleague.

Dal Sasso said that despite the exceptional preservation, no DNA remains for analysis.

The creature, dubbed *Scipionyx samniticus*, might have grown to more than six feet long if it had reached adulthood, he said.

Another recent article reports that from March 26 to April 26, Dinofest, billed as the World's Fair of Dinosaurs, will fill 100,000 square feet of the Philadelphia Convention Center at 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard near the University of Pennsylvania. The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, which had the first dinosaur display in America -- a duckbill from New Jersey in the mid-19th century -- is putting on the show with Dinofest's founder, Dr. Donald L. Wolberg.

This year's event will include more than 100 full dinosaur skeletons, including the 83 foot long *Neurosaurus*, an erstwhile Brontosaurus - like denizen of Mongolia, and dinosaur bones from every continent. There will be a 43 foot robotic Tyranosaurus rex (besides three T-Rex skeletons), more than 200 eggs, amber and a paleontological art show.

There will also be a symposium April 17 to 19 with more than 100 scientists delivering papers, and a keynote speech by Dr. Stephen Jay Gould of Harvard.

The Philadelphia visitors Center has details at 1-800-770-5886 as does the Web site (www.dinofest.org).

How about one of our east coast UFOP members going to the Dinofest and sending us a report? Teddy Johnson, are you reading this? New Jersey is pretty close to Philadelphia isn't it?

Well, there are other articles to report, but that's enough for the present. If you happen to run into an interesting article, send it in so we can make note of it in the Newsletter.

SVP Meetings Coming in September / October

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists will be holding their 58th annual meeting at Snowbird Resort on September 30 - October 3, 1998. These meetings provide an opportunity to hear some of the most current work that is being done in the area of vertebrate paleontology, and to meet with the people who are at the cutting edge in this field.

This annual meeting is being sponsored by the Utah Geological Survey and the Utah Friends of Paleontology. Our own Clark Warren is a member of the planning committee representing UFOP.

Information is not yet complete on workshop sessions and registration fees, but we will give you more information in the future as it becomes available. If you have questions about the meetings, Clark would be willing to answer them for you. He can be reached at 435.637.0312.

You can also contact the Society business office with questions. They are at: 401 N. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60611 - 4267

Tel. 312.321.3708

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Future Digs

In the Newsletter next month, we will have a listing of some times for upcoming field trips and digs. Although these trips are weather dependent, it might assist you in planning your spring and summer schedules.

Also, be aware that the lab is open every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. You are invited to come help prepare some of the bones recovered from previous digs. Call John Bird at the lab tel.435.637.2120 ext. 5645 for further information, or to let him know you are coming.

Cleveland Lloyd Quarry to Open Soon

At our March meeting, Mike Leschin, who works for the BLM and is overseeing the quarry this summer, announced that they could use volunteers to prepare the quarry for opening on Easter weekend, and to serve as guides and interpreters for visitors to the quarry.

Many chapter members signed up for several days of helping. Twenty four members in all signed up for one or more days at the quarry. If you don't remember the days you signed up for, call Byron at 637.6414, or just go to the quarry on one of the days listed below. Those who were not at the meeting are also welcome to meet at the quarry on Saturday, April fourth, Friday, April tenth and Easter weekend, Saturday and Sunday April eleventh and twelfth.

If you have questions, feel free to call Mike at the BLM office at 636.3600.

Dalton Wells Dig

Ken Stadtman, who was a recent speaker at our monthly meeting has announced that he and a crew will be at the Dalton Wells site from April 15 to May 15. They will camp near the site which is at a turnoff on the east side of the road a few miles north of Moab, Utah. This turnoff is a mile or two north of the Dead Horse Point junction. Call Ken at 801.378.3939 for further information or reach him at his e-mail address: kls@geology.byu.edu

April Chapter Meeting

Just a reminder that the April meeting will be held at the CEU Museum class room on Tues, April 14 at 7:00 PM. At that time we will hold elections for next years officers. We will also view the Discovery Channel program entitled *Beyond T-Rex*, which has a segment featuring the CEU Museum and its director, Don Burge. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Utah Friends of Paleontology
Castle Valley "Raptor" Chapter
Minutes - March 10, 1998**

Meeting was called to order by Byron Ray, President. He introduced guests, including students from Michelle Fleck's class. A new prospective member, Judy Bartholemew, was introduced. She is secretary to the CEU President. Byron explained the purpose of the club and the various things we do.

Duane Taylor presented a new poster which lists certification levels and requirements which each individual member has completed. He suggested that members turn in their field and lab times for recording. This will be brought to each meeting in order for individuals to assess their certification status. Clark Warren explained that Level 3 is being worked on by the State and an extra course has been added for Rocks and Minerals on Level 2. The proposed Level 4 will include requirement of written papers by the individual participant.

Nominating Committee, Jim Huffaker and Duane Taylor presented nominees for club officers:

Vice President/President Elect - Duane Taylor

Secretary - Carole Michael

Treasurer - Roger Crowe

Historian - Jim Huffaker

Byron Ray will continue his reign as President for the 1998-99 year. He filled that office in mid-year as President Elect when Shirley Haycock vacated the position. It was noted that voting will take place in April and that nominations may also be made from the floor at that time.

Barbara and Clark Warren are working on the chapter scrapbook. They need pictures and any other items or articles which you may have that can be used in the book. Please get them to Barbara or call her.

Treasurer Report - Jim Huffaker was unable to bring the records, but will have a full report at the next meeting.

Minutes from last meeting were approved with one correction. Mike Leschin works for BLM, not Americorp.

John Bird noted that the Cleveland Lloyd Quarry will be open on the 27th and 28th of March and April 4, and he needs volunteers to assist. Mike stated that he would also like members to assist him on Easter Weekend, April 10, 11, & 12. A list was passed around for members to sign on which days they would be available. John will contact them prior to the days they are needed.

Byron gave a brief explanation of how He, Duane, and Joan assisted Don Burge on his Paleontology Class Tour and while walking around one of the sites, Duane found an excellent Allosaurus tooth.

Byron noted that the Salt Lake Chapter is scheduling an Ammonite trip to Delta in April. We will get further information at a later date.

Nor further business - Byron introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Steven Prince, from Castle Valley Gas Producer's Council. He gave a very informative talk on wells being drilled in the area by major oil companies.

