

Minutes of the UFOP SW Chapter Meeting held on Jan. 18, 2017

President Bill Biesele opened the first meeting of this year at 7 p.m. welcoming the 17 attendees in Rm 128 of DSU's SNOW Building, our usual meeting place.

Bill talked about membership dues and several ways to pay for them: in person, at this meeting, by check or cash; on-line (www.utahpaleo.org); by snail mail with a check sent to the Secretary of the Chapter as we do no longer have a P.O. Box in St. George. He praised our VP Anne Sherwood for having recruited six new members.

The Minutes of the meeting held on November 16, 2016, were read by Elisabeth, voted on, seconded and approved to be entered as such into the record to be posted on our website.

Our new treasurer Joanna Overkamp indicated a current balance of \$1,249.88 in our account.

A discussion followed about the coming UFOP Annual Meeting in St. George hosted by our SW Chapter in April 2017, including a T-shirt vendor (Linda Baldazzi), motels willing to give a group discount (Paul Hoernke), catering choices (Bill Biesele). The registration spreadsheet was to be the next step.

Bill announced other symposia:

2) The 51st Annual Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontology Meeting on February 17-19, 2017 in Prescott, Arizona.

2) Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) organizing its 10th Annual Symposium on March 4-5, 2017 in Golden, Colorado. Its theme: "Journey to the Jurassic: Exploring the Morrison Formation."

Bill then introduced our guest speaker, Diana Azevedo. She took over the directorship of the SGDS Museum from Dr. Liz Freedman Fowler in September 2016. Diana has had 5 years of experience as a museum/gift shop manager at Ogden's Union Station. She earned a Master's Degree in Anthropology in 2015 centering her thesis on analyzing fish bones from Jamaica studying subsistence strategies of early indigenous populations and their influence on current fisheries management practices.

Her talk, based on her thesis (from which I have taken below information) was titled *Late Taíno Occupation of Jamaica*. Taíno (meaning good, noble) was the name of an ethnic group living in the northern Caribbean from around 1050 -1500 A.D. They were the ones who greeted Columbus in 1492 on the beach along Bluefields Bay, Jamaica which in 2009 was turned into a fish sanctuary in order to counteract the decline of fish after centuries of overfishing. Nine more preserves have been created, banning fishing in order to rebuild stocks. These non-fishing zones allow fish to mature, reproduce, and "spill over" into permitted fishing zones, creating higher biomass and diversity of targeted fish species. The Taíno subsisted mostly on fishing. Analyzing more than 9,000 of the nearly 18,000 collected fish bone specimens by the Bluefields Bay Marine Sanctuary, Diana was able to conclude that--contrary to the popular belief that small-scale societies did not affect their environments--this relatively small group of Pre-Columbian people had changed the composition of their local fish community qua number of species present (richness) and the abundance of different species present (evenness) over the course of 500 years leading to resource depression. Overfishing, whether in reefs, inshore or pelagic zones, has been for some decades a growing global concern, numerous fisheries have already collapsed or are close to it. Her thesis answered the question: "Can foragers alter marine ecosystems in island and tropical settings, and can zooarchaeological data provide insight?" with a resounding YES! Diana's extensive historical and archaeological research has produced many data which hopefully will be used by ecologists and fisheries managers in order to improve restoration and management strategies in modern times. Her power point presentation added interesting and relevant visuals to her talk.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p,m,

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. UFOP SW Chapter March 22, 2017