

Minutes of the Utah Friends of Paleontology Southwest Chapter meeting on November 18, 2015.

Bill opened the meeting at 7 p.m. welcoming the 22 attendees, reminding them to

- indicate on the attendance sheet (if not done during previous meeting) of their intent to attend the Xmas potluck party on Dec. 10th
- not forget to to renew their membership at next meeting
- think about election of officers for 2016, mentioning that all current officers were available

The four officers, President Bill Biesele, Vice-President Ann Sherwood, Secretary Elisabeth Nipperus, and Treasurer Mike Santella, were immediately voted back in for 2016.

The Secretary's report, which had been e-mailed to all members a few days before, was briefly discussed, and then the Minutes of October 21 were voted on, seconded and as such entered into the record, to be subsequently posted on UFOP's website.

Mike gave his report, indicating there had been no transaction since the previous month. So the balance was still \$788.30.

Bill then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. James Kirkland, after giving an extensive overview of his studies, research, and professional work. He especially stressed his involvement with UFOP in general (as advisor) and also with the initial research at the Johnson Farm track site.

The title of this presentation (his fifth one for our branch since 2001) was:
Feathering Utah Raptor: The Real Star of Jurassic Park.

Jim gave a global historic overview of paleontological discoveries starting in 1914 through 2015, each discovery causing an increasingly heightened public interest in dinosaurs. It is safe to say that a peak was reached in 1993 with "Jurassic Park" written by Michael Crichton, and made into a movie by Steven Spielberg. That year was rightly called "The Year of the Dinosaur."

After 1993 there was an explosion of different types of dinosaurs, culminating 5 years later in overwhelming proof that many had been feathered, and that our modern birds were their descendants; China e.g. produced hundreds of specimens of feathered dinosaurs by 1991; fossils of the largest one to-date were found in 2014.

Jim ended his presentation by mentioning the Utah raptor, which descended from 4-winged birds, showing quill knots, found in four different quarries around Arches Park, and Dakota raptor with a taller, but lighter build than Utah raptor, also bearing quill knots. Jim had brought a few samples that we all could hold and pass on while we were listening to him and watching the excellent photos on the screen.

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

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. SW UFOP Chapter
January 18, 2016