

Minutes of the Southwest Chapter Utah Friends of Paleontology Meeting held on March 18, 2015

Our new Chapter President, Bill Bieseles, opened the meeting welcoming the 24 attendees.

- Bill gave updated information on UFOP's Statewide Annual Meeting to be held April 24-26, hosted by the Great Basin Chapter at George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park in Ogden.

On-line registration was now open till April 15, including on-line payments (a first); registration in person and reception would be on Friday, 4/24 6-9 p.m.

On Saturday, 4/25, board and business meetings from 8-10 a.m., talks from 10:15-5 p.m. followed by poster sessions. Banquet from 7-9 p.m. including the keynote speaker.

On Sunday, a field trip was arranged to Spiral Jetty and the Gunther Family Fossil Collection of trilobites and invertebrates.

Bill suggested to access the UFOP website www.utahpaleo.org to find more detailed information.

- Treasury report: Sandra Sandberg indicated an ending balance of \$1,831.53 from which was deducted \$86.83 for February's speaker dinner and the transfer of State Funds to the Museum Lab of \$864.97, leaving a current balance of \$ 897.73.
- Minutes: Elisabeth Nipperus read her Minutes of the February 18th UFOP meeting, which were voted on, approved, and entered as such into the record, and subsequently posted on UFOP's website.
- *Bill reminded the attendees that there was a need for a volunteer to serve as State VP for one year (2015-2016) and then as State President for another year (2016-2017) in order to be in place for the 2017 annual meeting in St. George. Nobody came forward.
- *Bill then introduced our speaker of the evening, Dr. Tracy Thomson, currently with the University of California Davis. The title of his presentation was: "*Revealing the 'hidden' diversity of the Lower Triassic Moenkopi Formation.*" His talk concerned an ancient deltaic ecosystem in Central Utah devoid of body fossils where recently vertebrate tracks had been discovered and with them invertebrate trace fossils. Further studies indicated a preciously hidden biodiversity of this system showing evidence of fish, reptiles, arthropods, bivalves and many more invertebrates, as well as insights into the life habits of previously unknown organisms, thanks to the traces they left behind.

Meeting adjourned : 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary. UFOP Southwest Chapter

April 15, 2015