

Dear UFOP Friends:

Below the Minutes of our last meeting which will be posted on our website (I know, I know: you haven't voted for it, but I wanted to have everything done so Jennifer could have all the pertinent UFOP data by June). I wish you all a good summer and hope to see many of you back in September. Take care!

Elisabeth

Minutes of UFOP SW Chapter Meeting on May 15, 2019

Bill opened the meeting at 7 p.m. welcoming the attendees, after which he reminded everyone of the fact that this day was Elisabeth's 80th birthday and that it would be the last meeting for her as secretary of this UFOP Chapter after having been one for sixteen years in a row. In his words:

"Elisabeth has done a great job of keeping the minutes correct and the rest of the board in line and doing what should be done. She has been a tremendous help to me in the last five years, explaining to me what should be done, what can be done, and what cannot be done. Thank you so much. And thanks to Sandy Nipperus Sobey, Elisabeth's daughter, for the refreshments tonight."

(Sandy handed out Dutch windmill cookies—straight from Holland), and Bill gave Elisabeth a present on behalf of the UFOP, very much appreciated by the recipient.

Bill followed up by mentioning Jennifer Bennet who had volunteered to take over as secretary and had been briefly introduced to the members during our previous meeting, but was not present today. He added that she would bring fresh outlooks and ideas for the organization.

Elisabeth then read the Minutes of the meeting of April 17, which were then voted on for approval, seconded, and entered as such into the record and posted on our website.

Alan, our treasurer, announced that there was \$ 2,08,69 on our Chapter bank account by the end of April 2019.

The next few minutes Bill talked about the upcoming Annual Meeting held in Moab, hosted by the Gastonia Chapter from June 7-9. He mentioned the names of seven speakers and their presentation titles, topped by the keynote speaker at the Banquet, Rebecca Hunt-Foster, the Monument Paleontologist at Dinosaur Monument who was going to speak about the discoveries that had been made there.

Field trips were going to be led by Don DeBlieux to three Early Cretaceous sites, and by Joshua Mathews to the largest bonebed in Utah near Hanksville, an active quarry.

More details to be found on our website.

Bill went on to talk about next year's annual conference which is scheduled to be here in St. George and hosted by our chapter. SGDS has offered to cohost the conference with UFOP. They will also start their lecture series this fall which will be open to the public.

Bill mentioned that as usual, elections will be held for the board of the SW Chapter in the fall, but that three of the officers, the president, vice-president, and treasurer, will not be running for reelection, so it was very important people consider volunteering for a position to keep the chapter active. He explained that if no one is willing to fill the empty positions, the chapter will become inactive, and next year's convention location will be decided by the state board. The state board will make the decision in June or wait until after our elections in the fall.

Dr. James Kirkland, our speaker for this evening, had been asked to talk on the joys and rewards of being a part of UFOP and would answer any questions about this issue.

Bill then introduced Dr. James Kirkland. Jim received a B.S. in Geological Sciences from The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1972, a M.S. in Geology from Northern Arizona University in 1983, and a Ph.D from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1990. He is an Adjunct Professor of Geology at Mesa State College, Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Utah and a Research associate of the Denver Museum of Natural History. For the past decade he has been the Utah State Paleontologist for Utah Geological Survey. He has worked with dinosaur remains from the southwest United States of America, Mexico, and China and discovered many new and important genera.

An expert on the Mesozoic, he has spent more than thirty years excavating fossils across the southwestern US and Mexico, authoring and coauthoring more than 75 professional papers. The reconstruction of ancient marine and terrestrial environments, biostratigraphy, paleoecology, and mass extinctions are some of his interests. In addition to dinosaurs, he has described and named many fossil mollusks and fish, and has also coauthored a "Star Trek" novel: First Frontier.

Jim was very involved in the initial research at the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm (SGDS). He is the senior advisor, counselor, and guiding light for the Utah Friends of Paleontology.

The title of his presentation was:

"If Dinosaurs Could Talk, Lower Cretaceous Dinosaurs from Utah."

Jim gave an in-depth view of his work during 25 years in the Early Cretaceous, showing numerous graphs to underline that the discovery of dinosaurs in that period also led to other discoveries, especially in the GSENM where at this point there have been 125 dinosaur discoveries, the most in the world together with Argentina.

He also showed via the use of zircons – laser ablation indicating the age of soils on the atomic level --- a correlation between the existence of certain types of dinosaurs during wet or dry climatic periods occurring all over the world.

Bill thanked Jim for his presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary UFOP SW Chapter
May 30, 2019