

# Minutes of the Utah Friends of Paleontology, Southwest Chapter Meeting on May 20, 2015

- Bill Bieseles opened the meeting, welcoming the 22 attendees.
- Our new treasurer, Mike Santella, gave a very effective power point presentation summarizing his report from January to May 2015. The beginning balance was \$1,446.53, memberships added \$535, speakers deducted \$141.01 and a transfer of state funds to the SGDS Museum of \$864.97 brought the ending balance to \$975.55 by May 1st, 2015.
- Elisabeth read her Minutes of the previous meeting on April 15, 2015, which were voted on, seconded and as such entered into the record, and subsequently posted on UFOP's website.
- Bill then talked about the Warner Valley Clean-up to be held on June 1st (weather permitting), asking for volunteers who would be working together with Boy Scouts and Site stewards with no experience while BLM officer William Banek was to be in charge (wbanek@blm.gov).
- Several members volunteered to help out not only with this clean-up, but also with the Bryce Canyon Geology Festival to be held on July 31st and August 1st, by manning several UFOP informational booths. Members from other chapters would also participate, and Ann Sherwood, our new chapter VP, was named as the contact person ((annsacutie43@gmail.com).
- Bill gave a short overview of the State UFOP Annual Meeting held April 24-26, hosted by the Great Basin Chapter at George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park in Ogden. Next year's Annual Meeting will be in April as well, timed to avoid as many activities as possible, e.g. Jeep Safari. The new State officers are:

President: Lee Shenton

Vice-Pres.: Bill Bieseles

Treasurer: Tim Bussian

Webmaster: BJ Nicholls

Past President: Jean Acheson

New statewide managers were also appointed for the year:

Education Manager: Deanna Brandau

Public Relations Manager: Jean Acheson

Lee wishes all chapters to study how UFOP can increase membership, and send any new ideas to him.

- The certification course will be built on the web, details will be forthcoming. Tom Rezny, former member of our chapter, will be doing the narration.
- Our next chapter meeting will be on September 16, 2015.
- A new book written by Jerry Harris and Andrew Milner will be out late December 2015, titled "Tracks in Deep Time."
- Bill then introduced our speaker, Larry Davis, who is currently with the Education Outreach Program of the Bryce Canyon History Association. Between 1992 and 2007 he published many articles and three books, and has been given numerous educational awards.

Dr. Davis has had a very interesting and varied life professionally, starting out with 12 years in the U.S. Army (incl. 20 months in Vietnam), after which he earned his MS and PhD at Washington State University. As a professor of Geology he taught 15 years at that same university and another 15 years at the University of Notre Dame in Australia.

The topic of his presentation concerned the Nautiloids, a large and diverse group of marine cephalopods which appeared in the Late Cambrian and flourished during the early Paleozoic. Nautiloids were the top predators in the Paleozoic marine ecosystems with a great diversity of shell shapes and sizes. Today there are two surviving genera: Nautilus and Allonautilus, which occupy the deep fore-reef environments of island archipelagos in the Indo-Pacific. Dr. Davis spent 15 months studying the Chambered Nautilus in Papua New Guinea and Palau during his time in Australia.

Dr. Davis gave a very interesting presentation, along with detailed pictures and fossils he passed around. These creatures are now restricted to island archipelagos, feed near the bottom and live around 35 years. When they die, their bodies leave the shell, which then becomes buoyant and travels many distances before arriving at a beach and becoming a fossil. So you cannot always deduct that its location is original.

- Many interesting questions were asked and answered.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary, September 16, 2015*