

# Minutes of the SW UFOP Chapter Meeting

## — September 18, 2013

Steve Stephenson opened the meeting at 7 p.m. and welcomed the 22 attendees. This was our first meeting at our new location in Room 128 of DSU's Snow Math and Physical Science building (SMPS), which used to be the old library. Fortunately, it stands right next to the Science building we used to go to, and was easy to find. We are grateful to Dr. Jerry Harris, DSU's Head of the Paleontology Department and a member of our Chapter, for arranging the room for us.

Elisabeth then read the Minutes of the previous meeting held on May 15, 2013; they were voted on, approved, and entered as such into the record.

As Linda was not able to attend the September meeting, Steve read her treasurer's report, indicating a balance of \$1,200.28 in our SW Chapter account.

Steve then announced that Tylor Birthisel had accepted the position of Prep Lab Manager at the Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City. Kudos to him!

Andrew R.C. Milner was our speaker for the evening. As Curator and active Paleontologist of the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm, he is constantly on the lookout for good fossil sites, and therefore spends a lot of time exploring potential fossil holding layers and leading field trips/work whenever time permits. The area he had worked on from August 26 to September 2, 2013 with around 10 volunteers, is located in Lisbon Valley. The title of his presentation was:

"An Overview of Late Triassic Paleontological Resources in Lisbon Valley, San Juan County, Utah"

Andrew began his talk with an overview of the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm discussing significant finds there, including 26 track-bearing layers with over 6,000 documented tracks, plant fossils (conifer material, ferns, horsetails), fish fossils (including freshwater sharks, lungfishes, coelacanths, semionotids, and palaeoniscoids), the world's largest and best-preserved collection of dinosaur swim tracks, and a unique crouching Eubrontes trace. A conference, hosted by Dr. Jerry Harris at Dixie State College in 2005 called "Tracking Dinosaur Origins," led Andrew to investigate fish faunas across the Triassic-Jurassic Boundary. Beginning in 2004, he started exploring fossil sites in the Lisbon Valley area in south-central Utah close to the Colorado Border and south of Moab.

Andrew's work in Lisbon Valley is mainly in the Upper Triassic Chinle Formation, and the region has proven to be rich in fossils. Over the years, it has yielded many finds and the excavation of several quarries. Walt's Fish Quarry has now produced hundreds of well-preserved fishes, including several new species. Many photos were shown to illustrate all these interesting fossils, including phytosaur and crocodylomorph skulls and skeletons.

Andrew invited Randy Irmis (Natural History Museum of Utah) and Jeff Martz in on the project to help with the systematic documentation of paleo sites in the area, detailed stratigraphy, and documentation of many of the recently discovered fossils.

He also had brought several fossils for us to see and hold, and answered questions at the end of the presentation.

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

*Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary Southwest UFOP Chapter on October 16, 2013.*