

NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate

EVENT: Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) 33rd Annual Fossil Expo – the largest fossil-only show in the world. Dealers/Exhibitors from across the U.S & beyond.

DATES: April 1-3, 2011

PLACE: All events take place in Western Hall, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois

TIME: Show: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 8:00 a.m. to noon Sunday (limited dealers on Sunday)

ADMISSION: The show and all events are free and open to the public. Children must be supervised.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: ICE AGE PARK (*Ground Sloth, Saber Tooth Cat, Stegadon, Woolly Rhino*).

PROGRAMS:

Friday, April 1, 5:15 p.m.: Keynote Address by Dr. Steven Nicklas, Atlanta, Georgia, “Application of Archaeological Field Methods in Paleontology”.

Saturday, April 2:

9:30 a.m. Don Johnson: “When Tyrannosaurs Roamed Montana”. See a replica of the “Peck’s Rex T. rex jaw and touch real T. rex fossils including a T. rex tooth and claw and learn about the tremendous teenage growth spurt of T. rex.

10:45 a.m. Bill Desmarais: “Jurassic Jumble”: Waugh Quarry, Wyoming. This workshop will demonstrate field techniques used to find, remove, and document dinosaur remains from this Jurassic quarry. There will be interactive and hands-on parts to the program.

12:45 p.m. John Catalani: “Ammonites: End of an Era” will compare & contrast nautiloids and ammonites in terms of morphologic features and lifestyles. This program will provide background and evidence to evaluate the survival of the nautiloids and the extinction of the ammonites at the end of the Cretaceous Period

2:00 p.m. Charles Newsom: “Stump the Experts- Bring your fossils to ID” If I can’t identify it, I will find someone who can. I will also give general tips in IDing your material.

3:15 p.m. Tiffany Adrain: “Who Will Look After My Fossil Collection?” In this workshop we will discuss why, when, and how fossils might be donated to a museum, what museums do with donations, what they can and cannot accept, why it takes such a long time for your donated specimens to appear in print or on display, and legal requirements for owner transfer and tax deductions for charitable giving.

LIVE AUCTION: 5:15 p.m. Saturday, April 2.

Approximately 80 fossils and fossil-related items will be auctioned.

Special Auction Item: Dinosaur Dig Trip, offered by Paleo Prospectors, to South Dakota, Wyoming or North Dakota for the summer of 2011. Bidding starts at \$900. Keep almost everything you find (up to \$4000). Pick from three week-long sessions in June or July. More information on the trip can be found at <http://www.paleoprospectors.com>. Proxy bids may be emailed to EXPO chair Tom Williams: paleotom234@dishmail.net Proceeds from the auction are used to support paleontology scholarships.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Silent Auctions Friday and Saturday. Children’s Fossil Dig Box.

MAPS is a nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals from across the U.S. and several other countries whose love of fossils brings them together. The purposes of the organization are to promote popular interest in the subject of paleontology, to encourage the proper collecting, studying, and preparation and displaying of fossils, and to assist other individuals, groups, and institutions interested in the various aspects of paleontology. www.midamericanapaleo.org

INFO ON MICHAEL SINCAK

Geologist Michael Sincak and his wife and business partner Barbara have traveled the world in search of the finest specimens and have made exacting casts of famous one-of-a-kind fossils from the classic museums of Europe, Asia, and the United States. The Sincaks own and operate Treasures of the Earth Ltd., near Johnstown, Pa. The company deals in fossils, minerals, architectural pieces, petrified wood, shells, meteorites, statues and carvings from more than 60 countries.

For further information on the special exhibit - contact: Michael Sincak, Hollsopple, PA, 814-479-7661, treasure@universaltreasure.com

INFO ON BILL DESMARAIS

Bill Desmarais is a retired high school earth and environmental science teacher from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Since 1982 he has been fortunate enough to work with Dr. Phil Currie of the Royal Tyrell Museum of Paleontology and the University of Alberta at Edmonton as well as Pete and Neil Larson of the Black Hills Institute of Geologic Research. During this time he has worked at Cretaceous and Jurassic dig sites in South Dakota, Wyoming and Alberta, Canada. The adventure and thrill of discovering dinosaur remains is what drives him to hunt the "terrible lizards".

INFO ON DON JOHNSON

Don is an amateur paleontologist from Fairfax, Iowa, with a special interest in fossil vertebrates. His collection of fossils and fossil replicas is one of the largest in Iowa, and he has experience collecting fossils in Iowa and other states out West. Using his self-given nickname "The Fossil Guy," he has taught numerous programs since 2002, mostly at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and the Cedar Rapids Science Station. He is founder and president of the Eastern Iowa Paleontology Project (EIPP) – a non-profit effort to establish paleontology exhibits including those with a focus on dinosaurs

INFO ON TIFFANY ADRAIN

Tiffany Adrain is Collections Manager at the University of Iowa Paleontology Repository. She has been looking after fossil collections for 20 years both at Iowa and, previously, in London, England.

INFO ON CHARLES NEWSOM

Charles Newsom is on the physics faculty at the University of Iowa and an amateur fossil collector.

INFO ON JOHN CATALANI

John Catalani taught high school Earth Science for 32 years before retiring in 2004. Since 1995, he has written the "An Amateur's Perspective" column for the newsletter magazine of the Paleontological Research Institution, *American Paleontologist*. John has several publications including one on Upper Mississippi Valley nautiloids and several with Robert Frey on Platteville Group Nautiloids. He has also presented many programs to clubs and at Paleofest at the Burpee Museum in 2010.

CONTACT SPEAKERS for more INFORMATION:

Bill Desmarais, 319-365-0612; desmarais_3@msn.com;
Don Johnson, 319-213-1390; donald-johnson@mchsi.com;
John Catalani, 630-852-8747; fossilnautiloid@aol.com;
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