

RELEASE

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Immediate

EVENT: Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) 36th Annual Fossil Expo – the largest fossil-only show in the world. Dealers/Exhibitors from across the U.S & beyond.

DATES: April 4 – 6, 2014.

PLACE: All events take place at **Sharpless Auction Building**, Exit 249, I-80, East of Iowa City, Iowa

TIME: Show: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday (limited dealers on Sunday)

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

SPECIAL EXHIBITS: *Juvenile T-Rex Skeleton* (Compliments of Michael & Barbara Sincak)



PROGRAMS:

Friday, April 4

5:15 p.m. Forest Gahn - Brigham Young University - Idaho

Keynote Address
Mississippian: The Age of Crinoids"

The Mississippian Period (359-318 million years ago) was named for rocks exposed along the Upper Mississippi River Valley. During this time, warm shallow seas covered much of North America. These tropical waters were full of marine organisms, especially crinoids, which are also known as sea lilies. Crinoids, animals related to sea stars and urchins, have been present in Earth's oceans for about 500 million years, and they still live today. However, they reached their zenith of diversity and abundance during the Mississippian. With an emphasis on the Midwest, this presentation will address important historical figures in the history of Mississippian crinoid collecting. Moreover, it will explain why the Mississippian became "The Age of Crinoids" and how crinoid faunas changed throughout this period.

2:00 p.m. Tom Williams

"An Overview of Mississippian Crinoids"

Crinoids were able to take advantage of the extinction that occurred during the Devonian and expand in types of crinoids and numbers of species. Mississippian age crinoid banks are famous from this time period including such sites as Le Grand, Iowa and Crawfordsville, Indiana. Three types of crinoids were present during the Mississippian: Camerates, Inadunates, and Flexibilia. Camerates were the dominant crinoid type prior to the Mississippian. This however, would change during the Mississippian. Inadunates especially cladids would eventually become the dominate type with camerates decreasing in types and numbers as cladids increased. Inadunates would survive the extinction and would eventually give rise to Articulates.

3:15 p.m. John Catalani:

"Blastoids"

Blastoids are an important component of Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian Epoch) faunas. From their origin in the Ordovician to their increase in diversity during the Devonian, Mississippian, and Late Permian, blastoids have provided collectors with exceptional specimens to study. This program will look at blastoid morphology, physiology, and evolution with emphasis on the amazingly diverse and abundant Mississippian genus, *Pentremites*.

Saturday, April 5:

9:30 a.m. John Moffitt:

“Paleo-Geography”

John will present our extensive knowledge of Earth's paleo-geography during its last 3 galactic revolutions, during which time our planet circled the Sun over 600 million times and extensive matter is constantly swapped back and forth from the surface to the interior. This presentation is fast and visual so fasten your seat belt for a wild ride.

10:45 a.m. Al Scheer

“Maquoketa Formation Trilobites Upper Ordovician Richmondian Fauna of the Upper Mississippi River Valley”

The year 2013 signified the 100th year anniversary of the publication of Arthur Slocum's paper: *Trilobites from the Maquoketa Beds of Fayette County, Iowa*. To celebrate this centennial we will look at: 1) the men involved in bringing this paper to publication, 2) the rock Formation that yields this interesting fauna and finally 3) the trilobites from the Maquoketa beds of northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota as we know them today.

12:45 p.m. Don Johnson

"Beast Foot! Predatory Dinosaurs Large and Small"

Get introduced to a variety of meat-eating dinosaurs including *Velociraptor*, *Allosaurus*, and *T. rex*! See and touch genuine dinosaur fossils including teeth, claws, and bones! How did raptor dinosaurs use their sickle claw to kill prey? Did some dinosaurs hunt in packs? Was *T. rex* a predator or a scavenger? What's it like hunting for dinosaur bones out West? Bring your own questions to be answered about these ancient beasts.

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

“The Ethics of Fossil Collecting”

Can you pick up a fossil from just anywhere and keep it? Should you pick it up and keep it? Find out about the legal and ethical aspects of fossil hunting and help keep collecting enjoyable for all.

Sunday, April 6:

1:00 p.m. Bill Desmarais

“Track'em down and Dig'em up”

Alberta, Canada is a known hot bed of dinosaur discoveries and fossils. Come on this virtual expedition and find thousands of dinosaur tracks and trackways uncovered in a large coal mine in the Canadian Rockies. The expedition continues with discoveries of multiple Albertosaurus skeletons in the badlands of the Red Deer River that hint at the pack hunting nature of large tyrannosaurs. There will be interactive parts where you will be able to apply your paleontologist skills and observe real dinosaur fossils and footprints. Children are welcome and will receive a small sample of real dinosaur bone.

5:15 p.m.

Live Auction.

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 2015. Minimum bid has yet to be determined. 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@comcast.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 non-profit 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 and 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. For more information about the EXPO or our club please visit our web site at www.midamericapaleo.org.

Background Information:

FOREST GAHN

Forest was born in Burlington, Iowa, where he began collecting crinoids in high school. After receiving a PhD in geology at the University of Michigan, he spent nearly three years as a research fellow at the Smithsonian before accepting a position as a geology professor at Brigham Young University – Idaho. Although Forest is particularly fond of Mississippian crinoids, he has worked on echinoderms of many ages, including living species.

Contact: gahnf@byui.edu; Tel: (208) 496-7677

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

JOHN MOFFITT

John Moffitt is both an Astrophysicist and Earth Scientist, working in the oil business for 50 years. He's been a geologist, geophysicist, paleontologist and exploration manager ... and currently supports engineering projects. John is a past president of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, a past Federation vice-president and has led paleontological field trips around the world. A trilobite collector, he's been a member of MAPS for 40 years, and has articles in both all-trilobite special issues. He's found in Tucson every year for 35 years and is a veteran of all Trilobite Jams. A past director for Toastmasters, he lectures, cartoons and writes frequently in the Earth Sciences, and was inducted into the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame in 2002 for his work in paleontology and with children on Earth Science education.

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TIFFANY ADRAIN

Tiffany Adrain is the Collections Manager of the University of Iowa Paleontology Repository where she looks after more than one million fossils from all over the world.

Contact: tiffany-adrain@uiowa.edu 319-335-1822

CHARLES NEWSOM

Charles Newsom is an Emeritus Faculty in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Iowa. He is also a Research Fellow with the Texas Memorial Museum, an avid fossil collector and is currently living in central Texas. He is board member of the Miller Springs Alliance, a non-profit organization which administers the Miller Springs Nature Center and is also collaborating with several paleontologists on a number of paleontological studies.

Contact: Charles-newsom@uiowa.edu

DON JOHNSON

Don is an amateur paleontologist from Iowa City, 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. In 2005, Don founded (and is currently President of) the Eastern Iowa Paleontology Project (EIPP) in order to establish exhibits and promote science education through the wonder of paleontology using the motto "Bringing DINOSAURS to Iowa!". To learn more about the EIPP, please visit www.paleoproject.org.

Contact: 319-213-1390 or donaldjohnson@southslope.net

JOHN CATALANI

John taught high school Earth Science for 32 years before retiring in 2004. From 1995 until it ceased publication in 2011, he authored 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: fossilnautiloid@aol.com; 630-852-8747

TOM WILLIAMS

Tom is a geology graduate of Western Illinois University and later received a Master of Science in Geohydrology at Illinois State. He has worked for 30 plus years as a geologist for Soil Testing Services Consultants, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and as a part time instructor at Illinois State in Geologic Environmental Classes. He has contributed articles to several MAPS digests and is currently Show Chairman for EXPO. He has specialised mostly in collecting Crinoids in the Mississippian Chesterian age since 1980, contributing knowledge and some important specimens while collecting with other researchers. In 1998 he worked with Dennis Burdick on a major crinoid dig in the Chesterian of Alabama which uncovered many important specimens including whole plates up to five ft by five feet with some specimens having stems five to six feet long. A fossil trip with Paleoprospectors resulted in finding a thirty foot Tylosaur poriger in the Kansas chalk of Nebraska and a second trip two years ago yielded a Cretaceous fossil flowering plant that may be used for research.

Contact: Paleotom234@comcast.net

AI SCHEER

AI began to specialise in the collecting of Trilobites during the 1980s and restricted it even further during the early 1990s by concentrating on North American Ordovician trilobites. To fend off the bill collector and put food on the table he had the opportunity to take his educational experiences in the upper Midwest and West Texas into the oil and gas industry for 10 years before the oil crash occurred forcing him back to school to flesh out his ground water education. Today he works in the water resources industry. The enjoyment that he finds through collecting trilobites is not restricted to a single aspect but can be grouped around the following:

- 1) being out on the rocks – just as he discovered back in 1974 he continues to really like being in the field looking for specimens, taking note of the taphonomy, trying to deduce the environment of deposition and making sense of the sequence stratigraphy.
- 2) There's nothing like the exhilaration that comes from finding that complete bug or part that may be new to the science or adds to the basic knowledge base.
- 3) The research that one can carry out whether on the rocks or in the library is rewarding for him and hopefully beneficial to the trilobite community.
- 4) Finally, that trilobite community is really a small group and whether we're communicating through internet discussions or meeting at conferences and shows, the unique group of individuals that comes together gives us opportunity to share our knowledge, our experiences, our collections and our comradeship.

Contact: Ascheer@davyinc.com

BILL DESMARAIS

Bill is a retired high school earth and environmental science teacher from Cedar Rapids,. 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".

Contact: Desmarais_3@msn.com