

NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate

EVENT: Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) 32nd Annual Fossil Expo – the largest fossil-only show in the world. Dealers/Exhibitors from across the U.S & beyond.

DATES: March 26-28, 2010

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.

PROGRAMS:

Friday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.: Keynote Address by Dr. Robert Frey, Ohio, who will speak about Ordovician cephalopods.

Saturday, March 27:

10 a.m. Don Johnson: "Laura the Hypacrosaurus and Other Duck-billed Dinosaurs," See and touch some of the fossil bones of Iowa's "Laura, the Kid Dinosaur" Examine real fossil bones, teeth, claws, and even an egg.

11 a.m. Bill Desmarais: 'Track'em Down and Dig'em Up," a program that will detail expeditions to Alberta, Canada, to work on dinosaur footprint trackways and to dig for bones at the famous Barnum Brown Albertosaurus site. There will be interactive and hands-on parts to the program that should appeal to the kid in all of us.

2 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 p.m. Tiffany Adrain: "How Do I Organize My Fossil Collection?" See how museums care for their fossil collections, and get some tips for looking after yours. Topics include storage, organization, protection from pests and disasters, and collection records.

LIVE AUCTION: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27.

Approximately 100 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 and July. More information on the trip, valued at \$2320 for an adult, can be found at <http://www.paleoprospectors.com>.

Proceeds from the auction are used to support paleontology scholarships.

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

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: 33' Duckbill Dinosaur Skeleton (*Tsintaosaurus*).

Contact for further information: Michael Sincak, Hollsopple, PA, 814-479-7661,
treasure@ctcnet.net

CONTACT SPEAKERS for more INFORMATION: Bill Desmarais, 319-365-0612;
desmarais_3@msn.com; Don Johnson, 319-213-1390, donald-johnson@mchsi.com

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.midamericapaleo.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.

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. In 2005, Don organized (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!" The group purchased and is preparing "Laura, the Kid Dinosaur."

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.