

RELEASE

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Immediate

EVENT: Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) 35th Annual Fossil Expo – the largest fossil-only show in the world. Dealers/Exhibitors from across the U.S & beyond.

DATES: April 5 – 7, 2013.

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 noon 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: *Tarbosaur (Asian T-Rex) Skeleton and 7 foot Shark Jaw* (Compliments of Michael & Barbara Sincak)

PROGRAMS:

Friday, April 5, **Keynote Address by Brian Witzke of the University of Iowa:**

5:15 p.m.: Devonian Rocks and Fossils of the Iowa Area”

The Devonian strata of Iowa, western Illinois, and eastern Missouri are spectacularly rich in fossils, but much paleontologic study remains to be done. Recent geologic and paleontologic studies of the Middle and Upper Devonian succession in this area has helped to establish it as a global reference section for sea-level history, stable isotopes, and biostratigraphy. Although the richly fossiliferous Devonian rocks have been extensively studied for over 150 years, many fossil groups remain inadequately described. A review of what we know and what we don't know about the Devonian history and fossils in the Iowa area will be presented. Opportunities for scientific contributions by MAPS and other dedicated amateur paleontologists will be emphasized.

Saturday, April 6:

9:30 a.m. John Moffitt: “Devonian Trilobites”

Let's take a look at the time period in the Paleozoic when trilobites became extinct with a very few surviving a few hundred million years longer. Geologist, paleontologist and astrophysicist John Moffitt will examine paleogeography and several localities to illustrate what may have been going on and the defenses trilobites put up to survive. John plans to show us just how beautiful and how dangerous a time it was for our favorite class of arthropods.

10:45 a.m. John Catalani: "A Brief Introduction To The Devonian Period".

This program will describe the physical and biological changes that occurred during the Devonian Period. A mountain building pulse resulted in highlands on the east coast of North America which were subsequently eroded resulting in the bedrock of up-state New York exposed in numerous gorges. However, it was the evolution of both plant and animal life that sets the Devonian apart from most other geologic periods. Significant biological events include the appearance of the first forests and the evolution of air-breathing tetrapods from lobe-finned fish. Several pulses of extinctions mark the end of the Devonian and the beginning of the Carboniferous.

Saturday, April 6 - continued

12:45 p.m. Don Johnson: "The Reign of the Tyrannosaurs"

A number of different kinds of tyrannosaurs including Tarbosaurus, Albertosaurus, Daspletosaurus, and Tyrannosaurus Rex roamed Asia & North America during the Late Cretaceous Period. Were the tyrannosaurs scavengers, predators, or both? Were they smart or stupid? What do the fossils tell us about the tyrannosaurs, and what is merely speculation? What was their correct posture, and how did they balance on two legs? For what did they use their tiny arms? What made their teeth special? What did the ancestors of the large-bodied Tyrannosaurs look like? Get straight answers to these questions and more during this educational program. Those in attendance will see a replica of the "Peck's Rex" T. rex jaw, touch real T. rex fossils including a T. rex tooth and claw, and learn about the tremendous teenage growth spurt of T. rex. Don will share his experiences hunting for tyrannosaur fossils in the badlands of South Dakota and Montana.

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. Sarah Horgen: "The Mahaska County Mammoth Site: Excavation, Research, and Outreach"

Researchers at the University of Iowa are currently overseeing the excavation and associated research of multiple mammoths in rural Mahaska County, Iowa. Bones were first uncovered at the site in 2010 by the landowner, who approached the University of Iowa for assistance in further excavation when it became clear that there were many bones located at the site. Since April of 2012, the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History has been coordinating the excavation and research efforts at the site, with many UI departments collaborating on the project and many participants from schools and groups across Iowa. Sarah Horgen will present on the importance of this discovery and what the associated research may tell us about Iowa during the Ice Age, as well as the educational and outreach impact of this project for Iowans.

LIVE AUCTION:

5:15 p.m. Saturday, April 6.

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 2014. 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.
- Devonian Fossil Gorge tour and University of Iowa Repository tour Sunday morning,
- Field trip to Conklin Quarry Sunday afternoon.

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.

INFO ON BRIAN WITZKE

Brian is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Iowa specializing in Sedimentary Geology, Biostratigraphy & Paleontology. His interests include Paleozoic and Cretaceous lithostratigraphy, depositional environments; sedimentary petrology, especially carbonate rocks, conodont biostratigraphy, invertebrate paleontology (especially brachiopods, mollusks, echinoderms), vertebrate paleontology, late Cenozoic history of the Great Plains, Phanerozoic paleogeographic and paleoclimatic studies.

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; Email: treasure@universaltreasure.com

INFO ON JOHN MOFFITT

John Moffitt is both an Astrophysicist and Earth Scientist, working in the oil business for over 45 years. He's been a geologist, geophysicist, paleontologist and exploration manager ... and currently manages engineers designing the next generation of drilling machines. 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 over 35 years, has travelled to Macomb every year, and has articles in both all-trilobite special issues. He's found in Tucson every year for over 30 years and is a veteran of all three 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. 281-253-6377; jmoffitt.hou@gmail.com

INFO ON SARAH HORGEN

Sarah Horgen is the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. In addition to developing educational programs and outreach presentations for the Museum, she has been assisting with the coordination of research at the Mahaska County mammoth site and the ongoing Tarkio Valley Sloth Project.

INFO ON 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.

INFO ON 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!" He can be contacted at 319-213-1390 or donaldjohnson@southslope.net. To learn more about the EIPP, please visit www.paleoproject.org.

INFO ON JOHN CATALANI

John 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. 630-852-8747
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