Winter 2012

Priscum

Newsletter of the Paleontological Society

Special points of interest:

- Grant and short course announcements
- A remembrance of Bill Berry
- Book reviews
- Strategies for courting media coverage of your research
- Five myths about the *Journal of Paleontology*
- PalSIRP/ Sepkoski awardees

Inside this issue:

President's report: Paleontology now and in the future

By Philip Gingerich, PS President

I have been a member of the Paleontological Society for as long as I can remember. I knew that we publish two quality journals, but before I became president I had no idea of the reach of our communication, education, and outreach programs, nor what it takes to make our meetings run so smoothly. Many members are involved, and I want to start by thanking all who have served and continue to contribute their time and effort to make the Paleontological Society what it is. We are all beneficiaries.

As I think back over the year 2011, several meetings come to mind. Former PS presidents David Bottjer and Doug Erwin organized a meeting in Washington in February to finalize the DETELON Science Plan. This is a vision for funding larger collaborative projects at NSF. My principal contribution to the text was something I remind people over and over: "All expectation for the future, indeed any idea that there will be a future, is conditioned on our understanding of the past." Think about that in an age when energy, environmental change, and sustainability are on everyone's mind. Where does our energy come from? Who studies the past? Is knowledge of the recent past enough to understand the future? No, we must understand the deep past too.

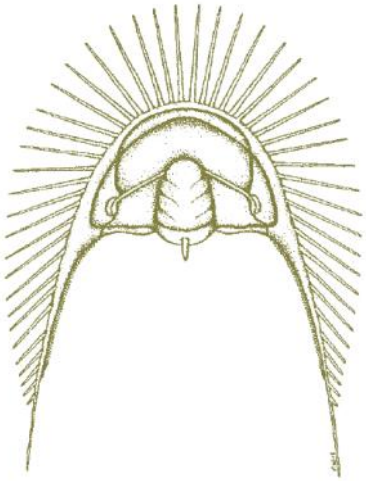
I say this because I want all of us to understand that what we do is *important*. Paleontology is philosophical and it is fun, yes, but it is also important. No other profession studies the full diversity of life, including all that lived in the past. No other profession studies the prima facie evidence of evolution: life changing through geological time. It is no coincidence that Darwin, icon of evolution, was a paleontologist early in his career, and his closest colleague Charles Lyell was a geologist. If people "don't believe" evolution, it is because they don't know enough about the fossil record. If geologists don't understand why geological time is divided into 'zoics,' it is because they too don't know enough about the fossil record.

"All expectation for the future, indeed any idea that there will be a future, is conditioned on our understanding of the past."

No other profession studies how life responded to the full range of changing environments on earth in the past, and no one else is in a position to anticipate what will happen in the future. There will be a future, no doubt, but what environmental changes can we anticipate and how will life respond to the changes that are coming?

President's report: Paleontology now and in the future

President-elect Sandy Carlson and I recently attended an American Geosciences Institute leadership conference in Washington that included visits to the offices of our Senators and Representatives. The leadership conference itself focused on K-12 education to recruit new geoscientists into the workforce of the future. AGI predicts that 400,000 geoscientists will be required to meet the country's energy, mineral, water, and environmental needs in 2021 (ten years from now). If present trends continue, we will have a workforce of 60,000 geoscientists and a shortfall of 340,000.



AGI is right in promoting K-12 education, but there is a bigger problem. When K-12 students reach college and university, will there be a geoscience education system to train them as professionals? Will they learn basic subjects like paleontology, sedimentology, stratigraphy, and mineralogy, required to understand the earth, its deep past, and its likely future? These are all active research areas that are seriously underfunded nationally. Universities depend on research dollars from Washington; and many are moving professorships from core geoscience subjects essential for education to fields that are environmental and applied because that is where the money has gone. Can a college freshman become an environmental geoscientist without basic training in the core subjects of geology? To train the workforce we as a society need a decade from now we have to have a more balanced plan for funding all of geosciences, not just environmental geoscience focused on hazards and sustainability.

We have to work to develop a more balanced approach to education and to national research funding that keeps professorships in the core disciplines of geoscience, encourages individual initiative as well as collaboration, and funds basic research ('curiosity science') as well as applications. Paleontology is important to a lot of people outside our profession, more important than they sometimes know, and this is an area where I think we have to accept more responsibility and be more active in public as well as academic education.

I am a big supporter of initiatives like DETELON, but this by itself is not enough. Other meetings and initiatives this year involved the Paleontological Society working with the Geological Society of America and the SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology to establish a proposed 'STEEPP' office to coordinate, integrate, and advance Sedimentology, Time, Environment, Energy, Paleobiology, and Paleoclimate. Colleague Judith Parrish is leading a Transitions initiative that has great promise. DETELON, STEEPP, and Transitions build on earlier initiatives PS members sponsored in the past. The effort has to continue until we succeed!

What we do individually is important, but what we do collectively as a Paleontological Society will be increasingly important politically in the future. We have the human resources required to make a difference, and we have to consider raising more financial capital if this is necessary to articulate our vision effectively. We are good at thinking stratigraphically, but we have to budget more time for thinking strategically. No one can do a better job of explaining how and why paleontology is important than we can. I appeal to colleagues across the Paleontological Society, young and old, to step forward and budget both time and money to get involved and promote our science strategically. In today's world this is a professional responsibility. Here again we will all be beneficiaries, as will everyone across society.

My two cents: Update from the treasurer…

By Roy Plotnick, outgoing PS Treasurer

This is my final opportunity to write to you as PS Treasurer and to thank the members of the society for their trust. I also want to thank you for the Porsche, which my wife says looks great in our garage. (Actually, like a good academic, I drive a Prius).

Seriously, it has been somewhat intimidating to be responsible for assets of about $2.5 million and an annual budget of nearly $600k. I have tried to assure that our more than century old society has the financial stability to survive in perpetuity, while still being able to commit resources to our stated mission of advancing the science of paleontology. This has been especially challenging in the face of the continuing uncertainties of the national and global economy and of the rapidly changing publishing environment produced by the growth of online publishing.

The society's overall finances continue to be in good shape. Our assets stand at about $2.5 million dollars, roughly the same as they were last at this time. We have been somewhat buffered from the recent market downturns by our policy of having no more than 60% of our assets in stocks.

The most important major change in operations this year has been turning day-to-day management over to the staff of the Geological Society of America Overall this transition has gone very well and has greatly reduced my day-to-day workload as Treasurer, allowing me to focus on the strategic issues that have come up. I hope that this change has also worked well for all of you. I want to emphasize that although GSA now provides "back office" support, we remain and will stay an independent organization.

In terms of initiatives, this year we again made available $1000 to each section to support its activities. We also implemented a new $10000 grant program to support outreach efforts and increased the funding for the Distinguished Lecturer. Our contribution to support the Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology increased, so that our members now have access to the new Treatise Online.

Going forward, the major area of concern is our journals' print subscriptions. Although membership has remained more-or-less constant, individual and institutional subscriptions have continued to decline sharply. A great deal of this loss has been balanced by increased income from online providers to libraries such as BioOne, JStor, and GeoScienceWorld. It still may be necessary, sooner rather than later, to revisit our entire dues and subscription structure.

I would like to thank Mike Foote and Steve Dornbos for their service on the audit committee, and the members of the Council, who it has been a pleasure to work with. The transition to Peter Harries as Treasurer has gone smoothly and I wish him the best in his tenure in the position.

Finally, I strongly encourage members to approach the council with suggestions for worthwhile projects. The society exists to further the science of paleontology; we have the financial resources to do so, so help us be creative and ambitious in doing so!

GSA paleo-sessions

Considering proposing a paleo-oriented topical session at a GSA sectional meeting? Paleontological Society sponsorship allows you to apply for PS funds to help cover travel/registration expenses for speakers who do not normally attend. Contact Tom Olszewski (olszewski@geos.tamu.edu) for more information!

2012 PS Short Course

Reconstructing Earth's Deep-Time Climate – The State of the Art in 2012 (Organized by Linda Ivany and Brian Huber, in Charlotte, NC)

Are you taking advantage of all your membership benefits?

The Society is pleased to announce that all members are eligible for substantial discounts on books published by many university presses, as well as the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and publications of the Palaeontological Association. We are grateful to the publishers for their generosity!

Log into the Members-Only PS page (rock.geosociety.org/membership/paleo/) for discount codes. Note that these discounts are for Society members only. Please do not distribute!

Columbia University Press: Receive a 20% discount on paleontology titles. For a full list of titles on sale, please visit www.cup.columbia.edu/subject/40/35. You can also access this list by clicking on "browse subjects," then selecting "Science" and then choosing "Paleontology" from the drop-down menu. After selecting the titles you wish to order, enter the discount code in the "redeem coupon" box. The box appears on the page after you enter your shipping and billing information and includes simple instructions.

Indiana University Press: Receive 30% off list prices of Indiana University Press books (sale items excluded). Enter the discount code at checkout. View their paleontology titles here: www.iupress.indiana.edu/paleontology

Johns Hopkins University Press: Receive a 25% discount when you use the discount code . This applies to all publications marketed by JHU Press. Website: www.press.jhu.edu

Princeton University Press: Society members receive 20% off any Princeton University Press title. Please click here for details: www2.allenpress.com/pdf/PrincetonUniversityPress.pdf. For orders in the US/Canada: Enter the discount code in the Catalog Code box during checkout on our website, or, call 1-800-777-4726 (mention keycode P04434). Outside the US/Canada, visit press.princeton.edu/ordering.html for more information.

University of Chicago Press: Receive a 30% discount when you use the discount code . This applies to all publications marketed by the University of Chicago Press books division. Website: www.press.uchicago.edu

Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology: Members are eligible for a 20% discount on hard-copy volumes of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*. To receive your discount, you will need to order by fax (785-864-3636) or phone (785-864-3338) and provide the code Paleosociety2010. See the Treatise website www.paleo.ku.edu/treatise for prices and availability.

Palaeontological Association: Discounted member rates on publications of the Palaeontological Association (www.palass.org).

PS Members receive discounts on books and other materials!

2013 North American Paleontological Convention?

It is time to begin planning the 10th North American Paleontological Convention, which will be held during the summer of 2013. Two or three possible venues have been suggested, but no firm plans have yet been made. So, this message constitutes a request for proposals and/or suggested sites for NAPC 2013. Please send your proposals and/or suggestions by email (or any other way) to Mark A. Wilson, Department of Geology, The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691 or by e-mail at mwilson@wooster.edu

Bill Berry, a remembrance

By Arthur Boucot, Stanley Finney, Carole Hickman, Mary Hunt, and Michael Murphy

With the recent death of William B.N. ('Bill") Berry, paleontology has lost one of its real stalwarts. Bill was born September 1, 1931 in Boston and raised there. He died in the Bay area (CA) on May 20, 2011 of skin cancer and related complications. His parents John King Berry, Jr. a Boston insurance man, and his mother Margaret Elizabeth Newell from Richmond, Virginia, sent him to Harvard, the fourth generation of his family to attend that institution. He received his AB in 1953 and AM in 1955 at Harvard, and his PhD at Yale in 1957.

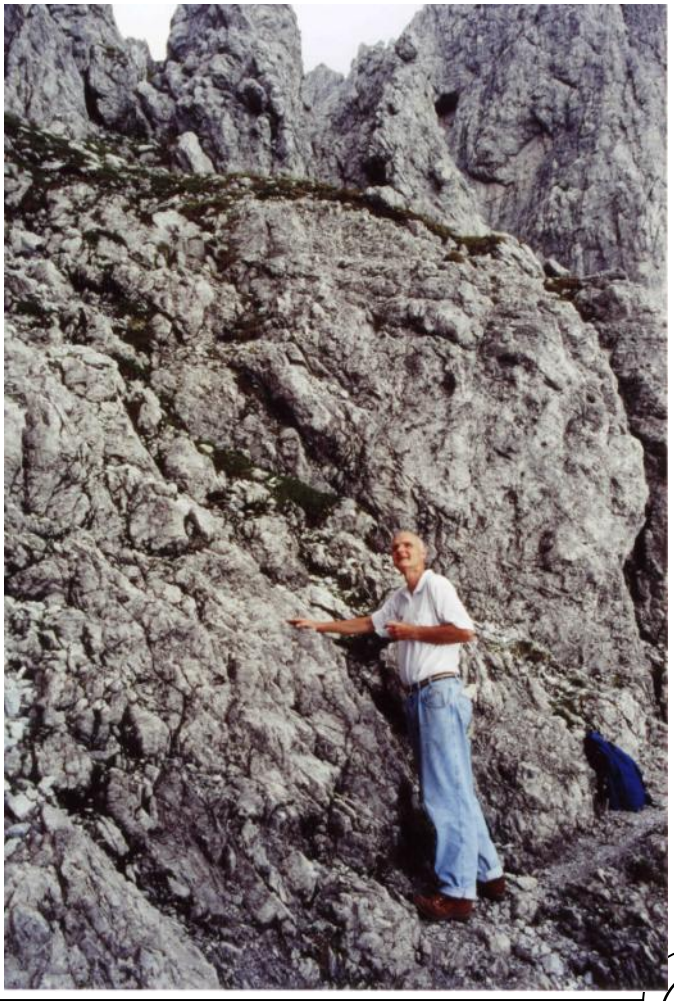
While still a student at Harvard, Bill was advised by Professor Harry Whittington, then at Harvard, to work on graptolites for a Ph.D., because nobody at that time in North America was doing so. His doctoral thesis at Yale dealt with the Ordovician graptolites of the Marathon region of West Texas, detailing the taxonomy and biostratigraphy of one of the richest Ordovician graptolite sequences then known in North America; published as University of Texas Publication 6005, 1969, 179 pp. and 20 plates.

After completing his Ph.D. in 1957, Bill taught for a year at the University of Houston, following which he came to Berkeley in 1958, where he remained until his death. Bill was very active in publishing the results of his work, with more than 300 titles to his credit. He was awarded a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 1966, which was spent at Cambridge University, where Oliver M.B. Bulman, the "Dean" of graptolite studies, was then the Professor.

John Talent, at Macquarie University, N.S.W., reminisces that soon after completing his Marathon graptolite monograph—which marked him as North America's doyen of graptolites and successor to Rudolph Ruedemann—Bill and wife Sue spent a considerable time in Australia coming to grips with the Ordovician graptolite sequence in central Victoria. The possibility of early Devonian graptolites was starting to take root, but the majority of Australian Paleozoic workers opposed such a possibility. Enticed by the late Edmund Gill, who befriended him and Sue, Bill examined all Victorian Silurian and supposedly Devonian graptolites in Victoria then held in Australian collections, sampled numerous localities and was inclined to go along with the late Hermann Jaeger that the graptolites occurring in abundance with the *Baragwanathia* flora were indeed post-Silurian. Bill was one of the first to believe that Hermann's evidence for post-Silurian graptolites was unassailable.

It was during his visits to Australia that Bill discovered Australian meat pies; it was love at first taste. These pies often had a mystery about their contents, but were inexpensive, and could be bought from small shops or petrol stations in every town or village with a few hundred inhabitants. Bill's taxonomic skills stood him in good stead. His knowledge of the best home-made pies and pasties, and where they could be found in central Victorian goldfield towns was stunning. He soon developed an encyclopedic knowledge of the contents of the mass-produced pies: which had acceptable amounts of meat, which were little more than gristle in gravy, and which should be avoided at all costs. Decades later when Talent would meet Bill at international conferences, the conversation would soon turn to his Australian adventures in pursuit of the best meat pies to be downed with a king-sized milkshake.

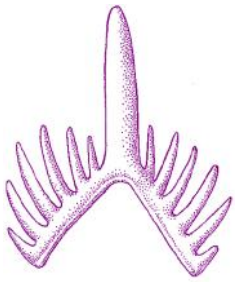
Bill's international fieldwork led to some long-lasting friendships, cemented not only by mutual love of field work and graptolites but also enthusiasm for sports. He was introduced to the rules of Aussie football by Neil McLauren, who



guided Bill and Sue in the early 1960's on a collecting trip to the Lachlan Fold Belt of the Melbourne Terrane, a classic Ordovician graptolite sequence made known, among others, by D.E. Thomas of the Geological Survey of Victoria. McLauren was a protégé of Edmund Gill, a distinguished Australian paleontologist at the Museum of Victoria. He remembers Bill as a "Gentleman graptolitologist" with a "great sense of humor" who immediately won over a reclusive local quarry owner who had a reputation for "not liking visitors." Although Neil went into economic geology, his friendship with Bill and Sue persisted and grew over the past 48 years.

While at Berkeley, Bill was deeply influenced by the thinking of an older mentor, Prof. Robert M. Kleinpell on how best to use fossils for purposes of stratigraphic correlation (see *Earth Science History*, 2008, v. 27, 100-112, for summary).

For more than half a century Bill made outstanding contributions to our knowledge and understanding of graptolites. His research shed important light on ancient environments, the precise age and correlation of rocks, the processes of evolution and extinction, and the positions of ancient continents and ocean basins. For many years, beginning in the fifties of the last century, Bill was a reliable source for the age-dating of varied North American graptolite collections coast-to-coast. He worked successfully at the continual refining of the Ordovician and Silurian time scales based on graptolites. Before the increasing use of conodonts became more widespread he was commonly the best North American source of relative age determinations for the Ordovician and Silurian.



His work, in collaboration with fellow paleontologist Arthur J. Boucot, on the extensive set of Silurian Correlation Charts published by the Geological Society of America (North America, 1970; South America,1972; Southeast Asia and Near East, 1972; Africa, 1973; British Isles, 1974, with A.M. Ziegler, R.B. Rickards and W.S. McKerrow; Australia and New Zealand, 1975, with J.A. Talent; China, 1986, with Mu En-Zhi, Chen Xu, and Rong Jia-Yu), using his expertise with graptolites, was widely acknowledged.

Bill became one of the people who took on major tasks rooted in Mike Murphy's stratigraphic and biostratigraphic attack on the Silurian and Devonian of the Roberts Mountains region of Nevada. Gil Klapper and Mike Murphy analyzed the conodonts; Art Boucot and Jess Johnson achieved wonders with the silicified brachiopod faunas; and Bill Berry together with Mike tackled the graptolites (published as a monograph in the *University of California Contributions to Geology*). The combination of graptolites and conodonts provided a high-precision framework for monographing the shelly faunas and projecting the biostratigraphy of that region into global prominence.

Mike Murphy describes Bill as a special colleague and friend with whom he very much appreciated working. He describes "the sense of loss, frustration, and sadness that comes when a friend, comrade, and esteemed colleagues of more than 40 years passes. All those days trudging up and down the Nevada slopes together, all the risks, challenges, debates, discoveries make field partners something special in your life. It's the kind of bond that continues no matter how interests diverge and opinions change. Even at the time, I always appreciated the wisdom, clarity and depth of my quiet, low-key companion, Bill Berry. He was a great story teller, and from him I learned much invaluable history in the form of anecdotes from the lives of those who had influenced him, like Whittington, Bouček, and Jaeger with whom he had spent considerable time early on. In the part of our lives that we shared, I was privileged to help him make known the history of the Silurian and Early Devonian graptolites of the west and to integrate it with brachiopod, tabulate and conodont biostratigraphies that were currently being developed. After 35 years that work is still the standard reference on the subject and attests to the care he put into it but as readers of this piece will already know, only a small part of his many contributions as scientist and citizen, a legacy to be envied."

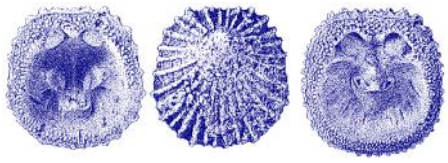
In the late "70's through late '80's, Bill, Mary Quinby-Hunt and Pat Wilde, in cooperation with Carl Orth of Los Alamos National Laboratory, began a series of chemo-stratigraphic studies of mainly Paleozoic black shales. Bill provided many of the graptolite-zoned samples whose elements were analyzed by Neutron Activation Analysis. This combination of paleontology, geochemistry and oceanography lead to redox chemical zonation criteria, which could be used for estimating atmospheric and oceanic conditions. This data base of the Marine Sciences Group was used in extinction studies, reconstruction of portions of the Iapetus Ocean and construction of computer models of oceanic redox among others.

In the 1990s, Bill worked with Stan Finney when Stan began a study of the Vinini Formation and its graptolites in the ranges of north-central Nevada. Having studied and published extensively on U.S. Geological Survey collections and examined graptolite samples for exploration companies from throughout the Great Basin, Bill was an eminently suitable collaborator with Stan, and that collaboration led to publications on graptolite paleoecology and the Late Ordovician Mass Extinction. The stratigraphic distri-

bution of graptolites in the Vinini was well explained by Bill's earlier work with Wilde and Quinby-Hunt on the preferred oceanic habitat of planktic graptolites. Their collaboration in a multi-disciplinary investigation of the Vinini and Hanson Creek formations led to the documentation of coeval sections representing a basin to shelf transect that is unique for studying the onset of the Hirnantian mass extinction and associated oceanographic and climatic changes. In addition, the extinction record for the graptolites in the Vinini section was consistent with their model of graptolite paleoecology. Stan remembers Bill as a wonderful colleague with whom to collaborate, with whom to share new discoveries in the field, and with whom to explore new ideas.

As a member of the Berkeley faculty, Berry trained students for careers in paleontology and environmental science. He put great thought into his work with students, and his courses attracted non-majors as well as majors. He was one of those professors who enjoyed teaching very large undergraduate classes numbered in the hundreds, as well as smaller specialized classes for advanced students.

The interwoven themes of time units, rock units, and rigorous use of the ranges of fossils to delimit ever-finer units of history pervaded Bill's teaching of paleontology. the first principles of geology and biology were seamlessly interconnected. It was a privilege and an honor to teach an upper division course with Bill. Carole Hickman insists that she learned more from his lectures than any of the students in the class, largely because his stories and illustrations conveyed meaning at many different levels.



His 1968 book *Growth of a Prehistoric Time Scale Based on Organic Evolution* served for many years as a supplementary text for courses in introductory geology, evolution, paleontology, stratigraphy, and philosophy and history of science.

Berry's service to UC was extraordinary. His administrative achievements included terms as Chair of the Department of Paleontology, Director of the Environmental Sciences Program, and twelve years as Director of the Museum of Paleontology. He broadened the mission of the Museum by instituting public outreach programs that included collaborations with the Lawrence Hall of Science, a popular annual open house, public lectures, and visits to local schools.

His service extended into the Berkeley community, where he represented UC at Berkeley City Council meetings and Planning Committee meetings. He was an invited panelist, consultant, advisor and organizer at conferences on climate change and urban and environmental planning in California, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we note the passing of the following paleontologists. Let us remember all they achieved for our field.

- William B.N. ("Bill") Berry
- Richard Boardman
- Frank K. ("Ken") McKinney
- Teresa Sanchez
- Leigh Van Valen

In the latter part of his career Berry focused increasingly on San Francisco Bay and the Bay Area environment. He and his students were active in Save the Bay and Save Strawberry Canyon. He redesigned his introductory environmental sciences course around weekly field and laboratory studies of Strawberry Creek, bringing together faculty from across campus in a multidisciplinary approach to management and restoration of urban watersheds. He led Berkeley undergraduate students in landmark studies for restoration of Tennessee Hollow Creek in the Presidio. He is remembered for his work with Galileo High School (San Francisco) in developing a project-based environmental science curriculum. He was honored at a campus-wide Sustainability Summit on May 4, 2005.

Berry walked a lot. He was frequently seen walking on campus, where he stopped to talk with colleagues, students and campus gardeners. He also walked to campus and back home again for 45 years so he wouldn't pollute the air with an automobile. He was a mentor to the women's crew team. He got his colleagues and students outside of their offices and classrooms and into the natural world. We remember him fondly for his enthusiasm for "hands-on": science whether collecting graptolites in the Ordovician or assessing water quality in an urban stream.

He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Suzanne Spaulding Berry, and son Bradford B. Berry.

A Berry Memorial Research Fund to support graduate students in invertebrate paleontology has been established in his memory at Berkeley. Contributions may be sent to the William B.N. Berry Memorial Research Fund at the Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, 1101 Valley Life Science Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-4780.

Five myths about the *Journal of Paleontology*

By Steve Hageman and Brian Pratt, *Journal of Paleontology* Co-editors

Myth #1: *Journal of Paleontology* has a two-year back-log.

Actually, J. Paleo. has a two-*issue* back-log. Papers accepted in February will be in print by July.

Myth #2: *Journal of Paleontology* is just for my taxonomic papers.

Actually, J. Paleo. emphasizes specimen-based research of all kinds (systematics, phylogenetics, paleoecology, paleogeography, and evolution of fossil organisms).

Myth #3: *Journal of Paleontology* is not interested in my group.

Actually, J. Paleo. treats all taxonomic groups including invertebrates, microfossils, plants, vertebrates, and ichnofossils.

Myth #4: *Journal of Paleontology's* acceptance rate is too high or too low for my work.

Actually, J. Paleo. has an acceptance rate of about 65%. Beyond the expectations of originality and accuracy, quality writing and illustrations, adherence to scientific style and journal formatting, the primary editorial constraint for acceptance is that an article place specimens in a context with broader interest and implications.

Myth #5: *Journal of Paleontology's* has a low citation rate.

Actually, in the subject category of "paleontology" for the 2010 ISI Journal Citation Report, the *Journal of Paleontology* is the third highest ranked journal based on total number of citations.

The *Journal of Paleontology* is the oldest English language journal in the field, published since 1927. Historically, *J. Paleo*'s articles have a long citation half-life. Every paper published in the *Journal of Pale*ontology has the profile and distribution to impact the field on its own merits.

The *Journal of Paleontology* welcomes submissions of high quality manuscripts that emphasize specimen-based studies of broad interest from any group of fossil organisms. Submit electronically and browse titles and abstracts of past issues of the *Journal of Paleontology* at www.journalofpaleontology.org

New DRYAD data repository in progress for *J.Paleo.* and *Paleobiology*

Both the *Journal of Paleontology* and *Paleobiology* are moving toward using DRYAD as a data repository for published research. We will keep you posted as the implementation of this initiative moves forward. For some background perspective, Dryad (datadryad.org) has been developed by the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) and the University of North Carolina Metadata Research Center to provide a permanent, stable, curated, and updated online repository for data that otherwise have no home. Dryad preserves all types of bioscience data that were used in published papers, in a form that is citable, universally accessible, searchable, and reusable. In Dryad, data are linked to the publication in which they originally appeared. Thus, data in Dryad are maintained for future (as yet unknown) uses, yet they retain their original attribution and association. Potential benefits of partnering with Dryad are reduced costs to Society members when archiving data, stable archiving of data, and the ability to satisfy such archival requirements for external grants.

Distinguished Lecture Program

By Linda Ivany, PS Councilor

Did you know that the PS sponsors distinguished lecturers to visit your department? Pass this message along to the person coordinating your department seminars and suggest that they invite a paleontologist in for the spring semester!

The Paleontological Society is proud to support the Distinguished Lecturer Program, with the goal of bringing outstanding scientists to colleges, universities, and public events to speak about cutting-edge paleontological research, evolution, and the nature of science. We support three lecturers each year on rotating, two-year terms. Speakers have agreed to make themselves available on an expenses-only basis; no honorarium is required. **The Society provides up to $400 toward speaker travel**. The host institution is expected to cover on-site expenses, including meals and lodging.

Travel support is currently available on a first-come, first served basis, but this process may be amended if demand is high. See www.paleosoc.org/speakerseries.html for more details.

Here is information on his year's speakers.

Peter Wilf (2009–2012), Pennsylvania State University (pwilf@psu.edu)

image by Kirk McCoy, *Los Angeles Times*

- *Fossil Rainforests of Patagonian Fire Lakes and their Australasian Legacy*
- *Do Leaf-Eating Insects Respond to Environmental Change? Insights from Fossils*
- *Leaf Veins, Monkey Brains, and Computer Vision*

Patricia Kelley (2009–2012), UNC at Wilmington (kelleyp@uncw.edu)

- *Teaching evolution with integrity and sensitivity*
- *Evolution and creation: conflicting or compatible?*
- *The arms race from a snail's perspective: evolution of the naticid gastropod predator - prey system*

Gene Hunt (2011–2013), Smithsonian Institution (hunte@si.edu)

- *Understanding the fossil record of evolution: from Darwin to today*
- *Climate change and body size trends in deep-sea ostracodes*

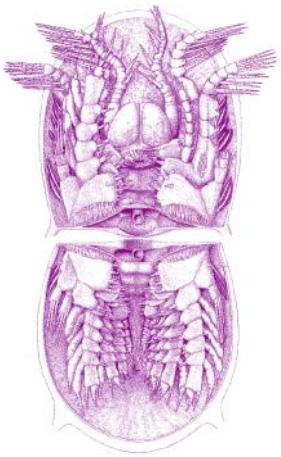
To request a speaker, contact that individual directly. If you have questions about this program, please feel free to contact Dr. Linda Ivany at lcivany@syr.edu.

The Society will cover up to $400 towards travel for a speaker to visit your department !

Want to purchase back issues of Society Special Publications?

Effective May 2009, Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, New York, assumed the role of publications sales agent for back issues in the PS Special Publications series. All previous publications are available for order ($20 per volume plus shipping and handling) at the PRI Publications website. Starting with volume 16, volumes will be $25.00 per copy. Order at www.museumoftheearth.org/publications/bookstore.php or contact Dr Paula M. Mikkelson, PRI Director Publications (pmm37@cornell.edu or by phone 607-273-6623, ext 20).

PS International Research Program (PalSIRP Sepkoski Grants)



The Paleontological Society is pleased to announce continuation and modification of its small grants program for paleontologists living in Eastern Europe and republics of the former Soviet Union. **For 2012, the Paleontological Society will award fifteen grants of US $1000.** These grants will be made directly to individuals and not to institutions. Grantees will be selected by a committee of the Paleontological Society based on the quality and feasibility of the proposed research. Consideration will be given to paleontologists of all levels ranging from graduate student research to research by active retirees. PalSIRP Sepkoski Grants are named in honor of Dr. J. John Sepkoski, Jr., founder of the program. Dr. Sepkoski died at age 50 in 1999. **Proposals must be received by April 1, 2012 to be considered for 2012 funding**. Proposals received after that date will not be considered. Proposals not written in English will be returned without consideration. Please visit www.paleosoc.org/palsirp.html for complete details on application requirements.

PalSIRP Sepkoski Grants Awardees for 2011

Russia

Vasily Marusin
(Trofimuk Institute of Petroleum Geology and Geophysics, Novosibirisk, Russia)
Organisn-sediment interactions during the late Ediacaran-Kotlinian crisis: insight to evolving benthic communities

Evgeny Maschenko
(Borissiak Paleontological Institute, RAS, Moscow, Russia)
M*orphology and evolution of the middle and late Pleistocene Mammoths (*Mammuthus trogontherii *and* M. primigemius*) in Belorussia*

Evgeny Popov
(Department of Paleontology, Saratov State University, Seratov, Russia)
Collecting chimaeriform fish remains from the Albian-Cenomanian phosphatic sands of Stoilensky Quarry, central Russia

Congratulations and best wishes for your research!

Andrey Sennikov
(Borissiak Paleontological Institute, RAS, Moscow, Russia)
Triassic Sauropterygia in Russia: from cymatosaurid to clasmosarid

Anna Stepanova
(Paleontological Institute, RAS, Moscow, Russia)
Taxonomic study of the Equatorial Pacific Pleistocene-Holocene deep-water Ostracoda and paleooceanographic implication of ostracod assemblages

Mikhail Zuykov
(Department of Paleontology, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia)
A revision of British Lower Paleozoic Platystrophia*-like brachiopods*

Ukraine

Pavel Gol'din
(Department of Zoology, V.I Vernadsky Taurida University, Simferopol, Ukraine)
Research on fossil marine mammals in Crimea and adjacent areas

Evgeny Perkovsky
(Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NASU, Kiev, Ukraine)
Syninclusions: to the understanding of the biotic structure of late Eocene environments

2010 International Research Program (Sepkoski Grants) awardees

Helena Sirenko
(Institute of Geological Sciences, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine)
Influence of main geological events in the early Pliocene over the vegetation cover composition of Platform Ukraine and correlation of various in age Lower Pliocene sediments using palynological data

Estonia
Olev Vinn (Department of Geology, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia)
Endosymbiotic invertebrates in the Ordovician of Estonia (Baltica)

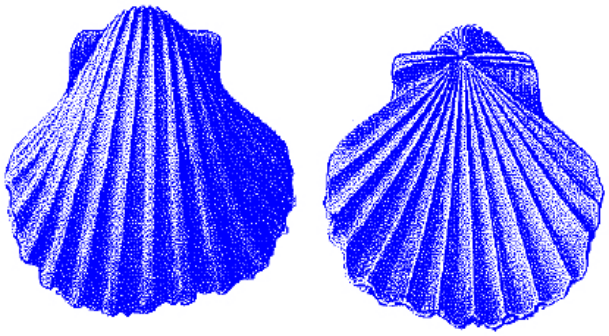
Slovakia
Matúš Hyžný (Department of Geology and Paleontology, Comenius University in Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia)
Systematic revision of the Miocene mud shrimps (Crustacea: Decapoda: Calliannassidae and Ctenochelidae) of the central Paratethyes

Bulgaria
Dimeter Ivanov (Department of Paleobotany and Palynology, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria)
Critical palymorph taxa from Miocene sediments (Southeast Europe): taxonomic identification and climatic reconstruction

Czech Republic
Milos Siblik (Institute of Geology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic)
Lower Jurassic rhynchonellid brachiopods of the southern part of the Totes Gebirge Mtns. - systematic revision paleobiogeographical and facial aspects of their distribution

Poland
Magdalena Łukowiak (Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland): *Historical changes in Caribbean sponge communities: Calibrating the Caribbean sponge spicule record*

Barbara Studencka (Polish Academy of Sciences Museum of the Earth in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland)
Late Miocene bivalves from Cacela (Algarve, southern Portugal) housed at the Geological Museum of INETI in Lisbon



2010 *Journal of Paleontology* Best Paper Awards

First place:

Vladimir N. Sergeev and J. William Schopf. Taxonomy, paleoecology and biostratigraphy of the late Neoproterozoic Chichkan microbiota of South Kazakhstan: the marine biosphere on the eve of metazoan radiation.

Honorable mentions:

Joseph H. Collette and James W. Hagadorn. Early evolution of phyllocarid arthropods: phylogeny and systematics of Cambrian-Devonian archaeostracans.

Thomas E. Yancey, Christopher L. Garvie, and Mary Wicksten. The Middle Eocene *Belosaepia ungula* (Cephalopoda: Coleoida) from Texas: structure, ontogeny and function.

Education and Outreach news

By Peg Yacobucci, Education and Outreach Coordinator

The PS Education and Outreach Committee has been working on several different projects and could use your help!

First, we have been developing new hands-on K-12 classroom and outreach activities. These activities target key paleontological concepts while giving kids practice in scientific reasoning skills. Once developed, the activities will be freely distributed via the PS website so that teachers, parents, and PS members can use them. Do you have a good idea for an activity? Is there something you do in your own outreach activities that works well? Are you willing to share it? Let Education and Outreach Coordinator Peg Yacobucci (mmyacob@bgsu.edu) know!

Second, the old PS educational brochures on various fossil groups (e.g., "Brachiopods," "Crinoids" etc.) have been scanned, converted to .pdf, and will be made available on the PS website. However, many of these brochures are fairly out of date. If you would like to volunteer to "adopt" one in order to revise or re-create it, please contact Peg Yacobucci.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank everyone who submitted a proposal to the 2011 PS Outreach and Education Grant program. The Society has committed resources to provide support to our members for community engagement and educational outreach. These activities are critical to capturing the imaginations of children and encouraging support for our field among the public.

The four awardees for 2011 each received $2,500 to pursue their outreach activities. They are:

- Danita Brandt (Michigan State University) will develop a museum exhibit entitled "Charles Darwin, Geologist: An exhibit celebrating Darwin's contributions to the geological sciences"
- Greg Wilson and colleagues (University of Washington) will offer the "DIG (Discoveries in Geosciences) Field School" for rural Montana teachers, giving them a chance to learn more about the dinosaur-rich strata in their backyards
- Darren Pagnac and colleagues (South Dakota School of Mines) will create portable teaching kits that will allow students and faculty to safely transport casts of vertebrate skeletal material to schools throughout the state
- Nigel Hughes (UC-Riverside) has written a children's book called *Monisha and the Stone Forest*, about a resourceful young girl who uses scientific reasoning to learn about the fossils that are common near her village in West Bengal, India. Nigel has partnered with the Geological Society of India and with the Paleontological Society to produce this book in Bengali. Five copies will be distributed free-of-charge to all upper primary schools in the southern Birbhum district of West Bengal

Congratulations to the 2010 Education and Outreach awardees!

If these projects are giving you ideas, look elsewhere in this newsletter for more information about the 2012 PS Outreach and Education Grant competition. The deadline for proposals will be March 30, 2012.

SPNHC Third Annual Fitzgerald Travel Grant Program

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is pleased to announce the Third Annual Fitzgerald Travel Grant Program designed to assist members with the cost of attending the Society's annual meeting.

The grants will be available for attendance at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society, which is being held in New Haven, Connecticut and hosted by the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University peabody.yale.edu/collections/spnhc2012/home

A total of $3,000 is available and individual awards will be for a minimum of $750 USD each. The deadline for application is March 1, 2012. Some conditions apply. To find out more about this program, visit the 2012 Travel Grant webpage: peabody.yale.edu/collections/spnhc2012/travel-grant

PS Outreach and Education Grant 2012

The Paleontological Society works to increase the public's awareness and understanding of paleontology by enhancing formal and informal educational opportunities. The Paleontological Society Outreach and Education Grant provides support to our members for programs and activities involving educational outreach and community engagement.

Potential fundable projects include, but are not limited to, field trips to fossil sites and/or museums for teachers and pre-college students, educator training and curriculum development, participation in local community initiatives, development of educational materials for classroom use, and website or other online material development. The subject matter covered by outreach proposals may fall within any subdiscipline of paleontology/paleobiology. Particularly encouraged are projects that (1) include opportunities for undergraduate students to become involved in paleontological outreach to younger students or the public, (2) create new educational "apps" or other technologies, and/or (3) produce educational materials that could be distributed more widely through the PS website.

Amount of Grant
The Paleontological Society will issue four grants of $2500.00 each.

Eligibility
Applicants must be members of the Paleontological Society at the time of application. Graduate student applicants should provide documentation of a professional member's willingness to serve as advisor for the project.

Application
Applications for a PS Outreach and Education Grant must include:

1. A project proposal, three to five pages in length, single-sided, which must include:
   - a project title
   - names and contact addresses of participating personnel
   - a brief synopsis of the project
   - target audience (*e.g.,* grade level, in-service teachers, the public)
   - project description
   - goals of the project
   - expected outcomes (including how they will be assessed)
   - timeline
   - a discussion of the significance to the science education community.
   - a detailed, itemized budget with justification of the uses of the PS Education & Outreach funds. We cannot pay overhead or indirect costs. Matching funds from other sources are strongly encouraged.
   - a one-page CV of each of the project personnel.

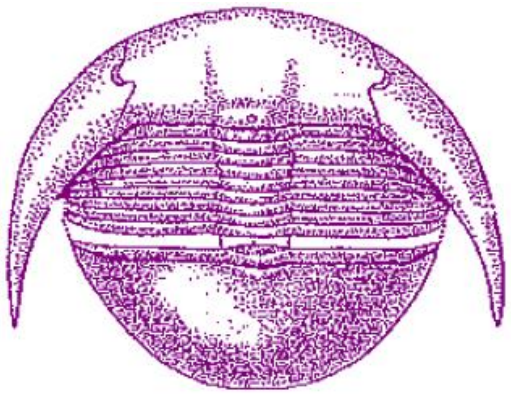
Deadline
Deadline for submission is March 30, 2012.

Submissions
Email all application materials to Peg Yacobucci, Chair, PS Education & Outreach Committee: mmyacob@bgsu.edu. Electronic files should be in .pdf, .doc, or .docx format.

Review Process
Grantees will be selected by a subcommittee of the Paleontological Society's Education & Outreach Committee. Evaluation criteria include the goals, significance, feasibility, creativity, and likely impact of the project, and the soundness of the budget. Recipients will be notified in June.

Grant Award Procedures
Grant awards can be made directly to individuals or to institutions. Please be advised that if a grantee opts to receive the funds directly, the Paleontological Society is required to issue an IRS 1099 form at the end of the calendar year. The grant funds may or may not be taxable; grantees must make that determination themselves. The Society cannot offer tax advice.

Grantees are required to submit a follow-up project report by March 2013 detailing the project's outcomes. Details on the reporting requirements will be sent to all grantees.



PS 2012 Student Research Grants

The Paleontological Society invites applications from student members for a limited number of $800 grants to support research in any field or aspect of paleontology. The top three proposals receive Mid-American Paleontology Society (MAPS) Outstanding Research Awards.

Deadline: 11:59 pm Pacific Time, February 25, 2012.

Who may apply?

Undergraduate and graduate student members of the Paleontological Society conducting research on any aspect of paleontology. The program is not limited to U.S. students.

How to apply:

All applications and letters of support will be accepted electronically by e-mail submission to powell@juniata.edu. Please include the applicant's last name in the subject line of all items submitted by email. PDF attachments are preferred but MS Word-compatible documents will also be accepted.

Complete the application form available at www.paleosoc.org/appform12.doc and attach a one-page description of your project. Please use a 12-point font and 1 inch margins. For additional instructions, please see the application form.

A letter of support from your research supervisor should be sent by email to powell@juniata.edu

Application materials must be received at powell@juniata.edu by **midnight (Pacific Time) on Wednesday, February 25, 2012**. An email message of confirmation will be sent to all applicants.

- Awardees must submit a short summary of their project and photo upon completion. News releases and press clippings would also be appropriate.
- The applicant is responsible for following university or federal guidelines and laws concerning the use of radioisotopes, radiation, human subjects, vertebrate animals, etc. The applicant must ensure that the proposed project is logistically feasible (e.g., verify outcrop access) before submitting the proposal. The applicant is also responsible for obtaining any permits that may be necessary for field collecting.

If the applicant is joining the Paleontological Society at the time of submission of the grant application, the membership application and payment must be sent separately to the address printed on the membership application form. Alternatively, join the Society on-line using the link provided on the Society's homepage at http://www.paleosoc.org/

Student membership

There are many benefits to student membership in the Society, including opportunities for research grants, travel grants, and poster awards at Society meetings. Check www.paleosoc.org/students.html for additional benefits. The current student representatives are Andrew Haveles (University of Minnesota, have0118@umn.edu) and Sarah Tweedt (University of Maryland, TweedtS@si.edu. And for those on Facebook (whether student or not!), keep up on the latest Society news at www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5775384341.

Digital articles of the Treatise available

The Paleontological Institute is delighted to announce the availability of three new issues of Treatise Online. These are available at the Paleontological Institute web site: paleo.ku.edu. Members of the Paleontological Society, Palaeontological Association, and SEPM can access these for free directly through their respective member web page.

The first several chapters of the Bivalvia revision are in production and will be released soon on *Treatise Online* (paleo.ku.edu/treatiseonline). Authors for other volumes of the *Treatise* are also active and producing chapters for *Treatise Online,* including Part E (Hypercalcified sponges), Part F (Corals), Part M (Coleiods), Part P (Chelicerates), Part R (Decapods), and Part T (Crinoids).

PRI Student Award in Systematic Paleontology

In recognition of the importance of basic systematic research to the science of paleontology, Paleontological Research Institution annually presents an award in systematic paleontology to a deserving graduate student, who is also a member in good standing. This award of $500 is available to any student enrolled in an advanced degree program (Masters or Ph.D.) pursuing research in any area of systematic paleontology. Acceptable costs are research supplies and bench fees, fieldwork or museum visit expenses, and/or travel to a scientific meeting to present research results.

Membership information can be found at www.museumoftheearth.org/membership and can be applied for at the time of application. The award recipient will be expected to write a short essay about his/her research for PRI's quarterly magazine, *American Paleontologist*.

The application deadline is February 1 of each year. To apply, send a 500-word description of your research project, including a simple budget of how the funds will be used, plus a letter of recommendation from your primary research advisor (sent separately or with application) to:

Dr. Paula M. Mikkelsen
Associate Director for Science
Paleontological Research Institution
1259 Trumansburg Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
mikkelsen@museumoftheearth.org

John W. Wells Grants-in-Aid of Research

The Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) invites applications from graduate students and post-doctoral researchers for the John W. Wells Grants-in-Aid of Research Program to support collections-based research in any field of paleontology. The program awards grants of up to $500 to visit PRI's collections.

This grant honors John W. Wells (1907-1994), past President of the PRI Board of Trustees, a long-time geology faculty member at Cornell University, and one of the world's leading authorities on fossil and living corals.

The application deadline is February 15th, 2012.

PRI houses one of the largest collections of invertebrate fossils in North America, with particular strengths in Cenozoic mollusks from the Western Hemisphere and marine invertebrates of the northeastern U.S., especially the Devonian of Central New York. PRI's Type and Figured collection is searchable online at www.pricollectionsdatabase.org.

For further information, see http://www.museumoftheearth.org/research.php?page=888262 , or contact:

Dr. Gregory P. Dietl, Director of Collections
Paleontological Research Institution
1259 Trumansburg Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850
gpd3@cornell.edu

Cushman Foundation Student Research Awards

The Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research annually offers three student research awards, with the amount of each award being up to US $2,000. Students with developed or planned research projects are encouraged to apply for support.

Joseph A. Cushman Award for Student Research supports graduate research projects dealing with the systematics, biostratigraphy, evolution, ecology/paleoecology, or genetics of fossil or living foraminifera.

William V. Sliter Research Award supports graduate research on any topic dealing with Mesozoic and Cenozoic foraminifera.

Loeblich and Tappan Student Research Award supports undergraduate and graduate research on any aspect of living or fossil foraminifera or other protists, such as diatoms, coccolithophorids, dinoflagellates, acritarchs, or radiolaria.

Instructions and application forms can be found at the Cushman Foundation website: www.cushmanfoundation.org/awards/index.php. **Application deadline is March 1, 2012**. Proposals will be evaluated and funds awarded soon thereafter.

Course announcements

2012 Paleobiology Database Intensive Workshop in Analytical Methods

About the workshop

The Paleobiology Database has sponsored a five-week intensive training workshop in analytical methods since 2005. The Australian Research Council and the National Science Foundation's Division of Earth Sciences will provide funding for the 2012 edition. As in 2010 and 2011, the 2012 workshop will held at Macquarie University in Sydney. Sessions will be held between 25 June and 29 July.

Topics will include community paleoecology, diversity curves, speciation and extinction, phylogenetics, phenotypic evolution, and morphometrics. Both simulation modelling and data analysis methods will be employed. Training will combine lectures and labs. Participants will be given hands-on instruction in programming using R and taught to use other analytical software. In addition to the workshop coordinator, each week a new instructor will be present. The instructors are expected to be John Alroy, Gene Hunt, Tom Olszewski, David Polly, and Pete Wagner.

There is no fee for registration and participants will be housed for free in accommodations near the campus. Daily expenses such as meal costs are not subsidized but are only on the order of $10 to $15. Participants are encouraged to solicit travel funds from their home institutions or other organizations. A majority of airfare costs will be reimbursed if such funds are not available. There are no other charges of any kind and no other major expenses are likely.

How to apply

Participants should be in the early stages of their own research in any area related to paleontology and should have a background in basic statistics. The ability to understand rapidly spoken English is essential. Although the workshop is open to all undergraduates and advanced graduate students, first or second year graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications from professionals who have completed their studies will be considered but are not given first priority. We strongly encourage applications from women and members of underrepresented groups.

Applications should be submitted in PDF format to John Alroy (john.alroy@mq.edu.au). Applications received by the end of Monday, **15 February 2012** as reckoned in the Pacific time zone will receive priority. Applications should consist of a one-page statement. Do not include separate documents such as a curriculum vitae. No form needs to be filled out.

The statement should include a brief description of current research plans, a list of degrees earned stating the year of graduation in each case, a brief list of relevant classes taken, and an account of the applicant's previous use of statistics and knowledge of programming. Applicants who do not employ English as a primary language should describe their experiences learning and speaking it. Applicants are encouraged to explain why the topics addressed by the workshop are of special interest to them and to what extent these subjects are taught at their home institutions.

Applications must be accompanied by a recommendation letter, also in PDF format, written by the applicant's academic advisor and e-mailed separately. Obtaining a recommendation from anyone who is not an advisor must be explained. It is important that the recommendation give details about the applicant's personal character and abilities, not just credentials and descriptions of research projects. Recommendation letters also should be received by the end of the due date.

For additional information, see here or contact John Alroy at john.alroy@mq.edu.au

Course announcements

Taphonomic and Ecological Processes in Tropical Environments

Summer Field Course in Graduate Research

Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador, Bahamas

July 6 – August 10, 2012

Course website: http://geraceresearchcentre.com/fieldcourse.html

Instructors:

- Dena Smith, University of Colorado, Boulder (dena.smith@Colorado.edu)
- Thomas Rothfus, Gerace Research Centre (tarothfu@gmail.com)
- Michal Kowalewski, Virginia Tech (michalk@vt.edu)

Overview: The 5-week course will focus on graduate-level research in taphonomy and ecology of late Quaternary to Recent environments of the San Salvador Island (Bahamas), including both marine and terrestrial settings. Each student participant will lead an independent project based on field, experimental, or laboratory data. The instructors will assist students, both logistically and intellectually, in developing projects that can generate publishable quality data. San Salvador field sites and laboratory facilities offer opportunities for conducting topically diverse projects from experimental ecology and taphonomy to Quaternary paleoecology and biosedimentary processes.

Where: Gerace Research Centre, located on San Salvador Island, one of the outermost of a chain of some 700 islands that comprise The Bahamas

Who: Students interested in taphonomy, paleoecology, marine ecology, carbonate depositional systems, reef paleoecology, coastal environments (both marine and terrestrial), and Quaternary paleoenvironments are particularly encouraged to apply. The course is aimed at graduate students who aspire to develop strong research portfolios. Advanced undergraduate students interested in research-oriented careers are also encouraged to apply. Students from all countries are eligible for admission.

Application Process: Please submit (1) one completed application form and (2) your most up-to-date Curriculum Vitae to Dena.Smith@colorado.edu. A reference letter should be emailed separately by the academic advisor. The application is due on **Feb 1, 2012**. Maximum enrollment: 16. The application form can be downloaded at the course website or directly at the following address: http://geraceresearchcentre.com/pdfs/TaphonomyApplicationForm.doc. Please contact instructors if you have any questions regarding the course or the application process.

Fees and Anticipated Expenses: The course fee is anticipated to be $2300 per student and will cover (1) lodging and all meals for four weeks, (2) access to all facilities at the research centre, (3) transportation to and from field sites around the island, and (4) instructional and advising activities. The fee also includes health insurance for the duration of the course. The fee does not include transportation to San Salvador ($700 to $1000 from the mainland USA). The total anticipated cost per student is expected to be around $3000-$3300 per student.

Given more expensive airfare for international flights, the total cost is likely to be higher for international students. Students are encouraged to apply for financial aids/scholarships at their home institutions. Additional financial aid may be available from the course organizers. For details see the application form.

See course website at http://geraceresearchcentre.com/fieldcourse.html for additional details.

Strategies and recommendations for media outreach

Editorial introduction by Phil Novack-Gottshall:

Although paleontology always finds a way to capture the attention of the public, this attention is typically disproportionate to the amount of funding and respect we garner as a "hard and serious science." A strategy to bolster our standing is to work with our local media representatives to help them better understand the amazing and useful science we do. The following essay, by the Communications Manager at NESCent (the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in Durham, NC), offers useful advice to garner the most publicity for your research. Although a Press Officer is standard fare at larger research universities, smaller colleges and universities are increasingly developing press offices that can offer similar services. (Thanks for Roy Plotnick for soliciting this essay!)

By Robin Smith (Communications Manager, NESCent)

Media outreach can be a great way to disseminate your results beyond the journals and tell the taxpayers who funded your work what you have been up to with their money. But science doesn't become news by leaping off the pages of a journal and into a reporter's lap. Most of the time, the media finds out about your research thanks to the writing and hard work of someone called a Press Officer. Here's how to help your Press Officer help you:

1. Alert your press officer to papers in the pipeline. The earlier the better—at acceptance works best. Once the paper is published, it is already considered "yesterday's news" and is too late for your press officer to help. Rest assured that your Press Officer is well versed in journal embargo policies. Their goal is to post your press release as soon after the embargo date as possible, but not before. Contacting them in advance of publication gives them a chance to do their best work.

2. Not sure who your university Press Officer is? A quick online search for "your university's name" + "news and communications" should take you to a "contact us," or "staff" page. Many universities have news writers dedicated to the life sciences, the physical sciences, etc.—these are the writers you want to contact. Your Press Officer may or may not have a background in your field. But what they do have—and here is why they're important—is an understanding of how to craft a compelling story and write for the general public. If your university doesn't have a dedicated science writer, or that writer is swamped and only covers papers in *Science* or *Nature*, or for some reason you haven't been 100% satisfied with their work, another option is to email the news writers at the agency who funded your work. If your research is NSF-funded, for example, you can find your Press Officer here: http://www.nsf.gov/news/olpastaff.jsp

Science doesn't become news by leaping off the pages of a journal and into a reporter's lap. Most of the time, it's thanks to the hard work of a press officer.

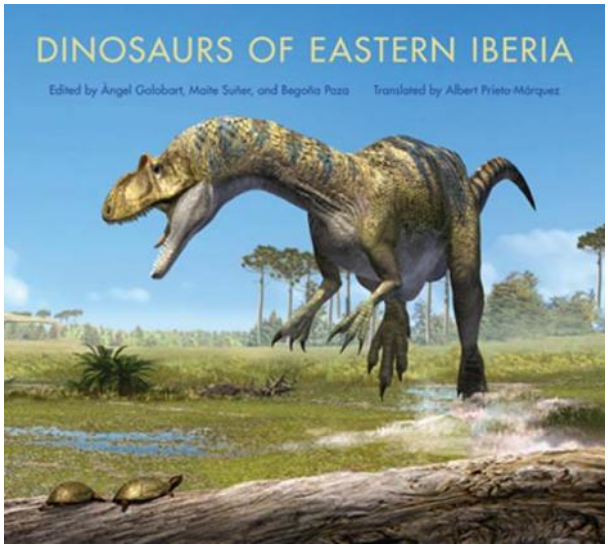
3. When you do email your Press Officer, it's polite and professional to ask for his or her help in assessing whether your manuscript is newsworthy or of interest to general readers. Tell him or her why you think it is, but don't assume. Send the paper (or at least the abstract), and a brief note along the lines of "Let me know if you see anything here that catches your eye and I'd be happy to talk more."

4. Your Press Officer will most likely translate your work into a lay-friendly press release for distribution to reporters and journalists. Press releases are the appetizers of the media world. Universities issue them in the hopes that the media will bite and then do a main course—not necessarily a longer article, but at least a main course in the sense that it reaches a larger audience. Sometimes the media bites, and sometimes they don't. If they do, interested reporters will then contact you to arrange a phone interview or ask for written quotes via email.

The Paleontological Society is now on Facebook!

Search for Paleontological Society in Facebook, or click on the Facebook icon

Book reviews



Galobart, À., M. Suñer, and B. Poza, editors. (Translated by A. Prieto-Márquez) 2011. *Dinosaurs of Eastern Iberia*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington, IN. 344 pp. ($31.50 cloth with 30% PS discount.)

Reviewed by Cynthia D. Crane-Muston (East Carolina University)

Immediately upon receipt of this book I thumbed through it just to get a feel of the type of document I was to read and review. Just from the way in which it was put together (from choice of easy-to-read font type to the vivid and well placed images and figures) I knew I was going to enjoy this book! Overall, I highly recommend this book to any dinosaur enthusiast. It not only delivers up-to-date research on the vertebrate paleontology in Eastern Iberia, but it also is very comprehensive and systematically steps through the science behind the dinosaurs.

This volume is comprised of twelve chapters written by a multitude of authors. The stage of this book is set by the introduction of the historical account of the paleontological research and discoveries of the region. Following the introduction, an in-depth yet easy-to-follow introduction of Eastern Iberia Mesozoic geology is presented. Split into two chapters (the Upper Jurassic through Lower Cretaceous and the Upper Cretaceous), the geologic history and depositional processes are presented to the reader. Coupled with photographs of outcrops and sedimentary structures as well as drawings of cross-sections and stratigraphic reconstructions to support the text, the geologic history of the Iberian Peninsula is well interpreted and presented.

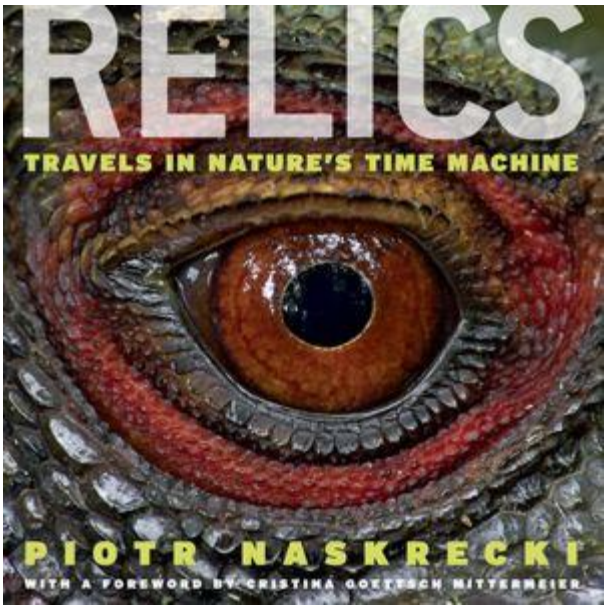
Succeeding chapters introduce the history, classification, origin, and diversity of dinosaurs on a general level and incorporate the dinosaur discoveries and research of Eastern Iberia. Sub-topics include an introduction to basic osteology, comparison of vertebrate organisms, the bird-dinosaur relationship, and the classification of vertebrate organisms. Coupled with explanations and images of hands-on techniques both in the field and in the lab, the reader will be able to grasp an understanding of vertebrate paleontological research from discovery and identification of fossil remains, to dinosaur life habits, to paleoenvironment interpretation.

Coupled with amazing photographs, this book clearly defines somewhat difficult topics on an easy-to-comprehend level.

Of particular note, although this book's title is the *Dinosaurs of Eastern Iberia*, the flora and fauna of the region are also introduced and discussed. This allows for the reader to gain a perspective of the overall environment and ecology of the region during the Mesozoic. The introduction of the regional flora and fauna is followed up with interpretations as to how the dinosaurs of Eastern Iberia fit into the biogeographic puzzle on a global scale. Finally the book culminates with the subject of mass extinctions, reconstructions of the Mesozoic world in Eastern Iberia, and also an introduction to modern paleontological studies and perspectives.

In conclusion, from the historical accounts of paleontological research to the demise of the dinosaurs, this book is a must read for anyone remotely interested in dinosaurs. The content of this book is very thorough and comprehensive, stepping the reader through the basics of dinosaur research while introducing the specimens discovered in Eastern Iberia. Coupled with amazing photographs and diagrams, this book not only introduces the dinosaurs of Eastern Iberia to the world, it also presents the basics of vertebrate paleontology and clearly defines the somewhat difficult topics on an easy-to-comprehend level. What a great read!

Book reviews



Naskrecki, P. 2011 *Relics: Travels in Nature's Time Machine*. University of Chicago Press: Chicago, IL. 384 pp. ($31.50 cloth/$18.90 paper with 30% PS discount.)

Reviewed by Paul Winrow (Imperial College London)

This is a book about relicts of the biological past reflected in modern animals and plants but, unlike many offerings on this topic, the focus is very much on the modern fauna and flora rather than paleontological specimens—the author is an entomologist/zoologist, although as he points out on the first page his interest in the evolution of life began with a fossil! (For someone currently undertaking a PhD on them, it is nice to know it was a brachiopod.) The book is extremely well illustrated with a huge number of spectacular photographs of living animals which are a throwback to the past in some way. This is more a "coffee table" book than a textbook or narrative discussion of past/present life and for paleontologists is unlikely to be of interest to their day-to-day work.

In the introduction, the author discusses that cringe-worthy term "living fossil" before defining "relict" in a biological sense—organisms that can provide clues to what life was like in the past, a concept that has largely remained unchanged since its introduction in 1944. (The author prefers the more venerable connotation of the term "relic" over the more standard biological term "relict", hence the title).

The author visits some fascinating places on his travels, starting in "The land of the unexpected" set in the rainforests of New Guinea, from where a host of plants, insects, reptiles, frogs and other unusual creatures are described, whilst noting that much of the biodiversity of this region is as yet unknown. There are some amazing images of insects which are bound to make many a reader's flesh creep. From New Guinea we head to New Zealand to see the tuatara, the only surviving member of a reptilian order that stretches back 230 million years (ah, that feels more like paleontology) and which is closely related to Jurassic pleurosaurs. Whilst there, we encounter some of NZ's flora (including its range of ferns) and animals—and of course there is a photo of sheep.

This book is tremendous for its photography and the text is an entertaining and interesting read, combining serious science with some sense of the authors travels.

In the chapter on "Mother's care," we are in South Africa looking at the habits of blattodeans, insects with ancestors in the Carboniferous (even older than the previous chapter). The flora and fauna (mainly insects again) of South Africa is expanded in the next chapter ("Southern kingdom") which even includes photos of rocks that will keep geologically orientated paleontologists happy. In "The rain queen's garden" there is an in-depth look at cycads from Limpopo. The chapter on "Atewa" begins with a brief geological history from 2 billion years to the Cretaceous breakaway of South America from Africa. Atewa Forest is a relict of an ancient forest ecosystem in West Africa where we encounter massive tree trunks (as wide as a bus), ferns, mosses, snakes, frogs, bats and giant earthworms—as well as a range of insects.

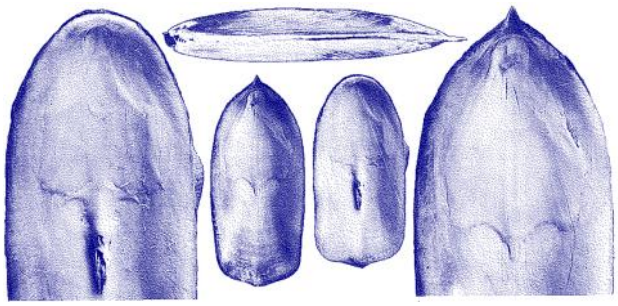
In Guyana we encounter butterflies, monkeys, frogs, sloths, caiman, reptiles (over 300 species recorded!) including legless lizards and amphibians that live, and look, like worms. The largest spiders in the world are found here (don't look at page 236 unless you like large, hairy spiders!), as are a number of scorpions. In the "Yin and yang of Notoptera", we head to Canada to view the grylloblattid, a Mesozoic relict—known as the icebug or ice crawler to you and me. These little creatures apparently

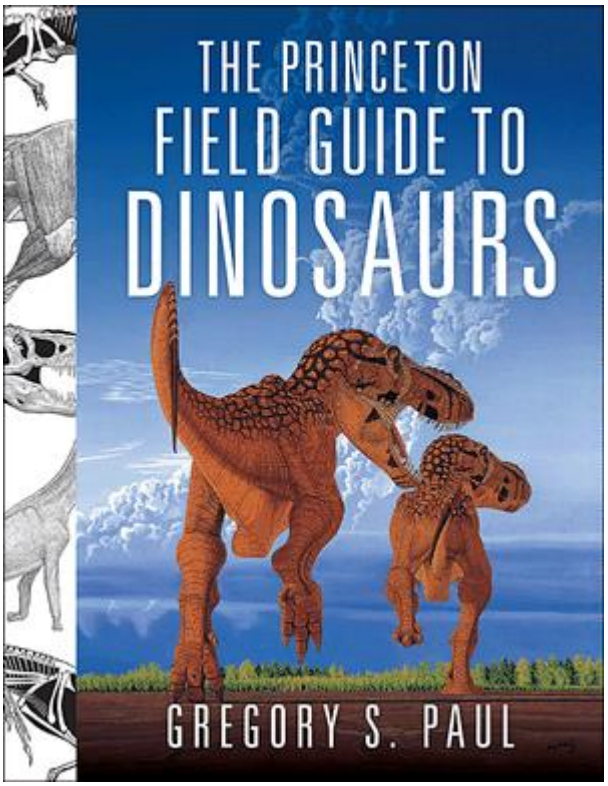
Book reviews

combine characters from a number of insect lineages. Similar animals from Japan and Africa are also discussed.

In the "Great ocean escape" we finally get to one of the classic so-called "living fossils"—the horseshoe crabs of eastern North America. There is a good image showing half living and half fossil horseshoe crabs showing the remarkable similarity between modern and Mesozoic forms. The chapter is copiously illustrated with images of the famous spawning events. "In the sagebrush" discusses a feature that will never be recorded in the fossil record—the soundscapes of the past. The author discusses how it may be possible to reconstruct the sound-making apparatus of extinct organisms, in particular orthopteroid insects (crickets, grasshoppers) which are well preserved in the Permian and Triassic. In the last chapter the author takes us to the Estabrook Woods near Boston to demonstrate that one doesn't need to go to the most exotic places on the planet to find relicts—here he describes *Magnolia* and discusses the problem of the origin of angiosperms in the Cretaceous. In this chapter there is even a photo of a Carboniferous fossil fern used to demonstrate convergent evolution.

Overall , I would say this book is tremendous for its photography and the text is an entertaining and interesting read, combining serious science with some sense of the authors travels. From a paleontologist's perspective, the book discusses little of the fossil record but is an interesting approach to the question of relicts (surely a better term than "living fossil"). As a student of lingulate brachiopods, I was disappointed to see that *Lingula,* the often quoted "living fossil", didn't make an appearance but I guess it wouldn't make a spectacular photograph! It has made me wonder whether *Lingula* fits the definition of a relict, though.....





Paul, G.S. 2010. *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs*. Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ. 320 pp. ($28.00 cloth and eBook with 20% PS discount.)

Reviewed by Amy C. Smith (Central Michigan University)

Princeton's latest contribution to paleontology is a modern, detailed archive of the many types of dinosaurs discovered thus far. Of the some 1,500 dinosaurs discovered and named based on varying degrees of specimen quality and completeness, several hundred of the most valid (as indicated by the book) species are summarized and sketched in distinct entries listed in taxonomical order. These entries are accompanied by 52 pages of general information regarding the discovery, definition, biology, behaviors, and global environments of dinosaurs.

The background information preceding the individual entries concisely puts the life of dinosaurs into perspective. The text is written in a practical and educative manner, providing information that is accessible to professionals in the field as well as to general dinosaur enthusiasts. For example, when discussing the functional mor-

Book reviews

phology of dinosaurs, the text compares their morphologies to those of extant vertebrates (e.g., comparing the neck of a sauropod to that of a swan) and explains how this structure relates to function. The section "Dinosaur safari" also paints a vivid scene of what it might be like to go back in time and visit the Mesozoic.

The entries are well organized and arranged by taxonomic groups and subgroups. First, the overall group Dinosaurs is listed, which is divided into the groups Theropods, Sauropodomorphss, and Ornithisichians. These groups are further divided into smaller groups, which are subdivided down to the point where each individual species has its own entry. The larger groups, smaller subgroups, and individual species all provide identifying characteristics for their included taxa.

The affordability and practicality of this text makes it an accessible resource to people within and outside the profession

Each entry for individual species lists the species name, gives its approximate weight and length in metric and English units, describes its anatomical characteristics, identifies the formation(s) in which it was found with the corresponding age(s) and location(s), and mentions other notes that may be pertinent. The entries also list how much of the skeleton of the species has been found thus far (e.g., the fossil remains of *Shamosaurus scutatus* include two skulls and a partial skeleton). This is a detail usually not included in archives of prehistoric life, and it is a great improvement over past publications within the same niche.

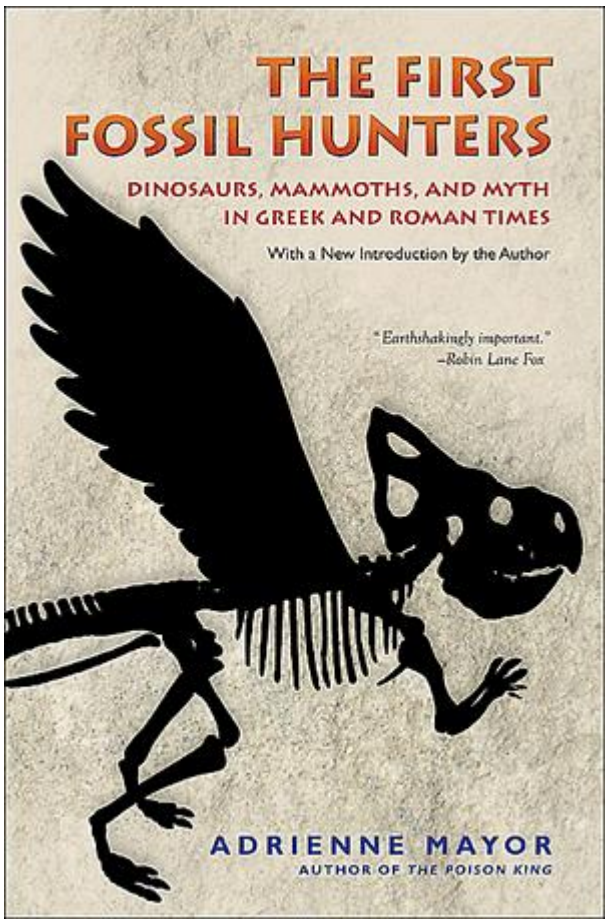
Many entries are accompanied by sketches of one or more parts of the fossil remains. Reconstructions are also often provided with the sketches of the actual bones. Both types of drawings are nicely done, although no graphical scales are provided. The addition of some photographs of specimens to show where these sketches and reconstructions came from would also greatly benefit the text.

Overall, the book is well written, but the author does have a tendency to write in sentence fragments. He starts sentences with the words "but," and "so," and "nor" so often that after reading a few pages it becomes distracting. There are also a few additions that I wouldn't mind seeing in the next edition of this book. The book states that the dinosaur groups and entries are listed phylogenetically in spite of unresolved conflicts at lower taxonomic levels, yet no summary of phylogenetic relationships between larger groups is presented graphically. A phylogram of the major groups and, if possible, subgroups would be a helpful summary of dinosaur relationships in the text. I also wouldn't mind seeing a separate section describing what the book refers to as "invalid taxa." This section would tie in nicely with the section in the beginning of the book describing a brief history of dinosaur discovery and research. It could also explain to non-professionals why sometimes things like dinosaur names and statuses change.

There is a section labeled "Additional reading" that lists five other books that follow the same theme as this text. It is unclear if these are the only sources consulted to compile this work. If this is not the case, I would like to see a list of all the sources consulted to compile this information. This list would provide the reader with greater opportunity to research topics within the field of dinosaur paleontology.

This book has several potential uses among different audiences. It could serve well as a supplementary text or reference to a vertebrate paleontology or dinosaur paleontology class (undergraduate or graduate levels, majors and non-majors), or it could be kept as a reference at a natural history museum that specializes in dinosaur education. The background text articulately provides the information necessary to allow non-specialists to peruse this book at their leisure. Furthermore, the book is extremely economical considering the bounty of information that it provides, retailing at a surprisingly low price for a hardcover copy. In short, the affordability and practicality of this text makes it an accessible resource to people within and outside the profession.

Book reviews



Mayor, A. 2000 (reissued with new Introduction 2011). *The First Fossil Hunters: Dinosaurs, Mammoths, and Myth in Greek and Roman Times*. Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ. 400 pp. ($15.16 paper and eBook with 20% PS discount.)

Reviewed by Dee Ann Cooper (University of Texas-Austin)

When Mayor's meticulously researched and insightful volume was first published in 2000, it was a new and truly unique, textbook-quality attempt to correlate ancient myth with ancient observations of fossils. The premise was suberb.

Although somewhat self-congratulatory in tone, Mayor's quest to synthesize information gleaned from archaeologic, folkloric and palaenotologic literature in order to attempt interpretation of the origins of mythical creatures is admirable and successful. Many of her examples are undeniably persuasive—especially in Chapter 1 where she tracks down the origins of the 3,000–year legend of the griffin through her own travels and direct observations, combined with research of historical sources as diverse as Pliny the Elder, the *I Ching*, and the displays in the American Museum of Natural History. She eventually settles on a prototype for the griffin from a *Protoceratop*s skeleton found in the Gobi Desert. To cap it off, she includes a sketch (Fig. 1-13) that convincingly illustrates the comparative anatomy of an early Scythian version of the griffin with *Protoceratops*. She even includes a map (Map 1.2) of the gold-fields guarded by the griffins, based on Roman writings. She examines depictions of griffins in ancient art. Observers traveling along ancient trade routes could have easily seen the weathering *Protoceratops* and the legend of the gold-guarding nature of griffins is easily explained by the fossil localities. The Scythians probably concluded that spreading this tale would cause their gold fields to be "guarded", not necessarily by actual living griffins, but at least by the idea of griffins! It all works!

Mayor than tries to apply the technique she used for the griffin hunt to search for paleontological origins for other mythical "critters". She looks at the classical literature, fossil localities, fossils, various statuary and pottery, and treats the reader to many other possible fossil-to-myth possibilities. Chinese dragons from giraffid and elephant fossils, Neades from mastodon fossils, Egypt's flying reptiles from spinosaurs, and many more are speculated in the following all-too-short chapters. None, however, are as persuasive or well-researched as that of the griffins of Chapter 1.

When it was first published in 2000, I began using *The First Fossil Hunters* as supplemental reading material for my paleontology students—assigning Chapter 1 at the very beginning of the semester in order to create some excitement. This led to many animated discussions with students quoting biblical sources, as in "there goes the leviathan" from the Psalms and the "giants of old" from Genesis as possible trails to follow like Mayor did. We postulated fossil sources for other mythical creatures—those Adrienne Mayor had not thought to research yet. In short, *The First Fossil Hunters* ignited my students to formulate their own ideas about other mythical "critters" and boring "lab practicals" got a lot more interesting.

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I had hoped that this book would grow over time, with subsequent editions "plumping" out the remaining chapters or newly researched information replacing some of the "iffier" correlations. In this newly re-released 2011 edition, however, Mayor only provides a new Introduction in which she "advertises" in detail all of the genuinely good outcomes resulting from others using her book as a base for a project or teaching opportunity and feels it necessary to remark that "when *The First Fossil Hunters* was first published, in 2000, geomythology—the science of recovering ancient folk traditions about complex natural processes or extraordinary events—was an emerging discipline". I would rather have seen new material and/or a more professionally edited book than this sort of self-aggrandizement.

Mayor's quest to synthesize information gleaned from archaeologic, folkloric and palaeontologic literature in order to attempt interpretation of the origins of mythical creatures is admirable and successful

The First Fossil Hunters is still well worth reading and well worth a full revision and reedit by Princeton University Press.

Books available for review

The following volumes are available to Paleontological Society members in exchange for writing a review for *Priscum*. Reviews should be informative, engaging, and 400–800 words long. The tone can be informal and casual, appropriate to recommending or critiquing a book to friendly colleagues. (Longer reviews are allowed, but please request ahead of time.) Reviews should be submitted by May 1 for inclusion in the Spring/Summer issue or Dec. 1 for inclusion in the Winter issue. **Reviewers must be a current member of the Paleontological Society before beginning review.** If you are interested in reviewing one of these volumes, please contact Phil Novack-Gottshall (pnovack-gottshall@ben.edu). Reviews will be assigned on a first-claimed basis.

Archibald, J.D. 2011. *Extinction and Radiation: How the Fall of Dinosaurs Led to the Rise of Mammals*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Ayala, F.J. 2010. *Am I a Monkey? Six Big Questions about Evolution*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Bonner, J.T. 2012 (Paper reissue). *Why Size Matters: From Bacteria to Blue Whales*. Princeton University Press.

Cronin, T.M. 2010. *Paleoclimates: Understanding Climate Change Past and Present*. Columbia University Press.

Doebeli, M. 2011. *Adaptive Diversification*. (Monographs in Population Biology 48.) Princeton University Press.

Franzen, J. L. 2010. *The Rise of Horses: 55 Million Years of Evolution*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Hayek, L.-A. C. and M.A. Buzas. 2010 (2nd edition). *Surveying Natural Populations: Quantitative Tools for Assessing Biodiversity*. Columbia University Press.

Lieberman, B.S. and R. Kaesler. 2010. *Prehistoric Life: Evolution and the Fossil Record*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Long, J.A. 2010. *The Rise of Fishes: 500 Million Years of Evolution*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Naples, V.L., L.D. Martin, and J.P. Babiarz. 2011. *The Other Saber-tooths: Scimitar-tooth Cats of the Western Hemisphere*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Peterson, A.T. et al. 2011. *Ecological Niches and Geographic Distributions*. (Monographs in Population Biology 49.) Princeton University Press.

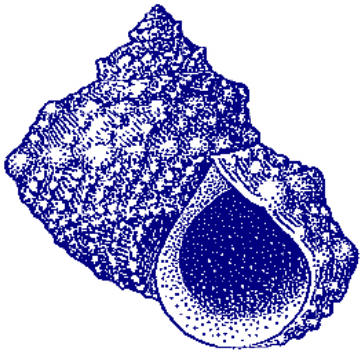
Prothero, D.R. 2009. *Greenhouse of the Dinosaurs: Evolution, Extinction, and the Future of our Planet*. Columbia University Press.

Schmitz, O.J. 2010. *Resolving Ecosystem Complexity*. (Monographs in Population Biology 47.) Princeton University Press.

Stuessy, T.F. 2009. *Plant Taxonomy*. (2nd ed.) Columbia University Press.

Weishampel, D.B. and C.-M. Jianu. 2011. *Transylvanian Dinosaurs*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Call for nominations for Society Awards



The Paleontological Society encourages members to nominate individuals for the three awards made by the Society:

- **The Paleontological Society Medal**, the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Society, is awarded to a person whose eminence is based on advancement of knowledge in paleontology.
- **The Charles Schuchert Award** is presented to a person under 40 whose work reflects excellence and promise in the science of paleontology.
- The **Harrell L. Strimple Award** is given for contributions to paleontology by an amateur; that is, by a person who does not derive his/her livelihood from the study of fossils. Click here for additional details.

The deadline for receipt of nominations for each Award is January15**.** Nominations received after that date will be held for the next year. Nominations for the Paleontological Society Medal and the Schuchert Award should be sent to the Past President, with a copy to the Secretary. Nominations for the Strimple Award should be sent to the President-elect, with a copy to the Secretary. Nominations will be accepted only as a single PDF file incorporating all nomination material and letters of support.

Nominations should include a letter of nomination, outlining the contributions of the candidate and their contributions to the field. Nominations should include a CV (for the PS Medal and the Schuchert Award) and up to **five** letters supporting the nomination. Nominations will be active for three years after receipt, but may be updated yearly, at the discretion of the nominator.

Congratulations to the 2011 PS Poster Award recipients!

First Place
Daren A. McGregor
(Colby College)
Paleontologic analysis of the Waccamaw Formation at Neils Eddy Landing, Acme, North Carolina

Second Place
Patrick Ryan Getty
(University of Connecticut)
Sand pseudomorphs of dinosaur bones: implications for (non-) preservation of skeletal material in the Hartford Basin, USA

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- Interact and exchange ideas with the worldwide paleontological community while shaping the future of the profession.
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- Members-only discounts on the *Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology* and other paleontology books.
- Student research grants opportunities.
- Discounted member rates on publications of the Palaeontological Association (www.palass.org).
- Discounted member registration rates for annual and regional meetings of the Geological Society of America (GSA). Participate in paleontological topical sessions and other programs at GSA meetings.
- Opportunities to participate in North American Paleontological Conventions.
- Participate in supporting the Society's programs, awards, and publications; including:
  - ◊ Student research grants
  - ◊ International research grants to support those in Eastern Europe and republics of the former Soviet Union (PalSIRP Sepkoski Grants)
  - ◊ Student NSF travel grants, solicited and distributed by the Paleo Society
  - ◊ Educational outreach to K-12 children and the general public
  - ◊ … and more

Membership numbers
(updated Jan. 2012)

Year	Student	Regular	Retired	Emeritus	Spouse	Total
2012	185	582	80	8	5	**860**
2011	405	963	125	92	10	**1,595**
2010	295	940	134	89	10	**1,468**
2009	324	904	141	82	14	**1,465**

Now's the time to renew for 2012!

Ways the Society supports students

- Discount membership rates that include online access to both *Journal of Paleontology* and *Paleobiology*.
- Paleontological Society Student Research Grants for undergraduate and graduate student members of the Paleontological Society
- Discount rates on printed Journal and Short Course volumes for student members
- Student members get discount tickets for the Society luncheon at GSA meetings
- Student members are eligible for the Paleontological Society Student Poster Award at GSA
- Sponsorship at student networking events

Upcoming events and deadlines

W. Storrs Cole Memorial Research Award
Feb. 1, 2012

Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award
Feb. 1, 2012

PS Student Research Grants
Feb. 25, 2012

PS Education and Outreach Grant
Mar. 30, 2012.

PalSIRP/Sepkoski Grants
Apr. 1, 2012

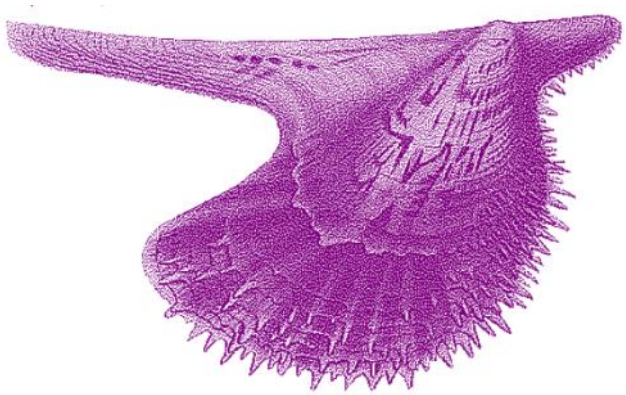
Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences
Check http://www.aaps.net/aaps-grants.htm for details on individual grants and deadlines

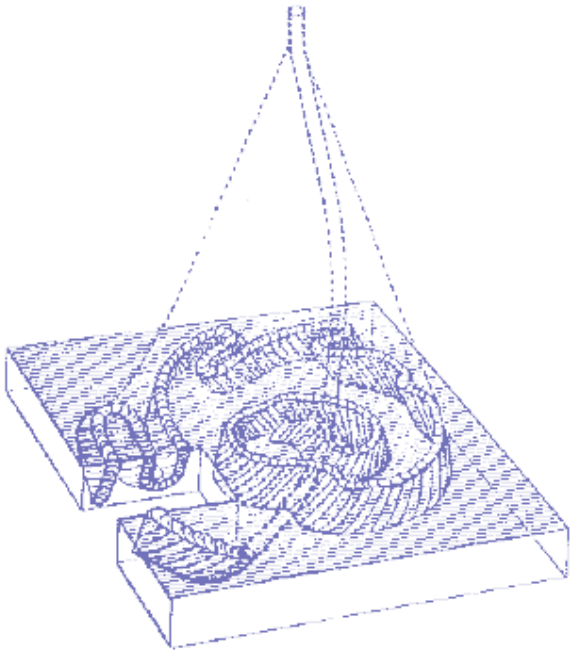
2012 GSA sectional meetings
Northeastern: Hartford, CT, Mar 18–20
Southeastern: Asheville, NC, Apr. 1–2
North-Central: Dayton, OH, Apr. 23–24
South-Central: Alpine, TX, Mar. 8–9
Rocky Mountain: Albuquerque, NM, May 9–11
Cordilleran: Queretaro, Mexico, Mar. 29–31

2012 GSA Annual Meeting
November 4–7, Charlotte, NC
Call for proposals due Feb. 1

Future GSA annual meetings
2013 - Denver, CO: October 27–30
- This coincides with the 125th anniversary of GSA!

2014 - Vancouver, BC, Canada: October 19–22
2015 - Baltimore, MD: November1–4





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Priscum

Newsletter of the
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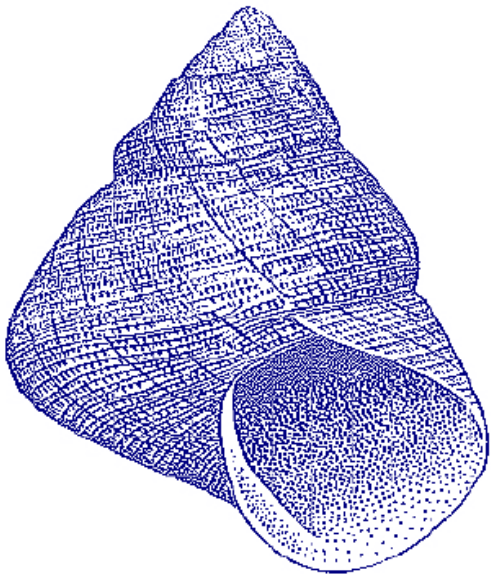
Ideas for *Priscum* content?



By Phil Novack-Gottshall, *Priscum* editor

Do you have any ideas for content for the *Priscum* newsletter? If so, please contact Phil Novack-Gottshall (pnovack-gottshall@ben.edu). We are interested in including a wide range of content of possible interest to members of our Society. Consider anything from a short description of a future GSA symposium or field trip you are planning to an op-ed sharing a cantankerous viewpoint on a topical issue, an idea for a regular *Priscum* feature, or memorable photos of fossils or fieldwork.