

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Paleontology at the Museum

Charles Dailey and George Bromm recently lead a fossil hunting trip to the Yerington Area of Nevada where past expeditions have resulted in a very large collection of Miocene fossils. Finding the lower leg bones from a very large cat were a highlight of the three day trip.

This past summer Dick Hilton, Charles Dailey and George Bromm took a group of students to the Flaming Gorge area of Wyoming. Here we collected 50 million year old fossil turtles, early hoofed mammals, some carnivore remains and even parts of monkeys. We worked under a BLM permit in the badlands topography of the Bridger Formation.



Charles Dailey and students screening for fossils near Yerington, NV. George Bromm is in the background.

This Fall, Charles Dailey, Dick Hilton, George Bromm and museum volunteers Tina Campbell and Sue Ayers collected ice age fossils in the Susanville area. Here we found mastodon remains, wolf bones and footprints, bird bones, plus beaver,

horse, camel, deer and ground sloth remains.

Dick Hilton, George Bromm, and museum volunteers, Pat Antuzzi and Jim Readle made four trips to northwest Nevada this year to collect under BLM permit in Miocene beds discovered late last year by Hilton and Antuzzi. Here rich floodplain, lake and mudflow deposits have yielded an abundance of fossils. These include fish, leaves, petrified wood as well as the bones from hoofed mammals such as three-toed horses, oreodonts, rhinos, camels, and even a horse relative that resembles a Dr. Suess animal called a chalicothere. Chalicotheres had a horselike head but had short hind legs and long front legs. It had claws to bring down tree limbs and for defense. In some ways it resembled a giant ground sloth. Also found were the bones of birds, beaver and carnivorous animals such as wolves, cats and badgers.

We are busy preparing the fossils collected recently for curation in the Sierra College Natural History Museum.

On another note, the University of California Press has just released Dick (Richard P.) Hilton's new book entitled "Dinosaurs and Other Mesozoic Reptiles of California." •

FIELD TRIP FIND

Juvenile Triceratops Skull

This juvenile Triceratops skull was found by Geology Professor Richard Hilton. It was excavated by Sierra College students and staff in the late Cretaceous (about 70 million years old) Hell Creek Formation at Fort Peck Reservoir, Montana, in the summer of 2002. It was on display for the first time at Dinosaur Day. •



FUN FOR ALL

Dinosaur Day 2003

The Sierra College Natural History Museum's fourth-ever Dinosaur Day was held Sunday, May 11, 2003 and was a roaring success. Nearly 1400 people were in attendance; approximately half were children. Dino Day visitors were able to see new, temporary and permanent exhibits, attend paleontology lectures and planetarium shows, talk with paleontologists, watch a dinosaur fossil being prepared, make and take home a cast of a real fossil bone, tooth or shell, dig in the sand to uncover dinosaur bones, have their face painted, venture into a dinosaur coloring booth, work dinosaur puzzles, purchase a souvenir t-shirt, and have a great time learning new and exciting things about dinosaurs and science. The students of the Science and Physics Clubs provided a BBQ lunch.

The organization and running of Dinosaur Day was a volunteer effort. The Dinosaur Day Committee included Kim Stevens, Mike Price, Tina Campbell, and Sue Michaels. Other participants include Kerrie Cassidy, Charles Dailey, George Bromm, Karen Otto, Ken Kirkland, Dick Hilton, and Peggy Munson. Many other students, volunteers and faculty were indispensable in assisting the event to run smoothly.

The first Dinosaur Day was held on Mother's Day in 1998, then again in 1999 and 2000. By popular demand Dinosaur Day was revived. We are considering making Dino Day a bi-annual event. So, you can look forward to the next Dinosaur Day event to take place in May of 2005! We look forward to seeing you there. But, feel free to stop by the museum any time! •

SIERRA COLLEGE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER



SHARP NEW DISPLAY

Charles Dailey is shown presenting a plaque to Kelvin Moss of Humboldt Bancorp in appreciation for his corporation's contribution to the new shark teeth display shown above them. Thanks to all the individuals who contributed to this great new display!

OUR NEWEST DISPLAY

Shawna Martinez unveils the museum's Sierra Nevada Forest Display. This diorama was six years in the making, built by staff and students of Sierra College. It depicts a mid-Sierran mixed conifer forest and its wildlife.

FALL/WINTER 2003



SIERRA COLLEGE
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
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check out our web site
www.sierracollege.edu/museum



Planetarium Presentations

The Astronomy Department offers "Wonders of Astronomy," a presentation given in the Sierra College Sewell Hall Planetarium. This lecture/demonstration showcases our present understanding of the universe with a multimedia arrangement that includes a slide show, a hands-on activity, and the projection of star images on the planetarium dome. Fun for all ages. Call Dr. Harry L. F. Houpis, the Planetarium Director, at 916-789-2715 to schedule a presentation time.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 12 - A HIMALAYAN ODYSSEY. DR. ED WEISS

JANUARY 30, 2004 - BISON. DR. DALE LOTT

FEBRUARY 27, 2004 - SALMON IN OUR STREAMS. GREG BATES

MARCH 26, 2004 - BATS. SUSAN RAMONES

The above presentations are in Sewell Hall, Room 111, 7:30 pm. Admission \$2/students \$1/Museum members free.

APRIL 23, 2004 - JOHN MUIR PLAY. LEE STETSON