



CONTINUING ED SEMINAR
 The next Continuing Education Seminar will be held:
DATE: January 5, 2015
WHERE: MPR

FORTHCOMING CONT ED SEMINARS
 Mark your calendar with dates of forthcoming 2016 Seminars:
 February 16
 March 29,
 April 15

FOP
 Our January FOP speaker, on January 18, will be Spencer Lucas. His subject will be : *A Critical Review of Devonian Tetrapod Footprints*. Our February 15 speaker will be Allan Lerner.

Our "Diamond Anniversary"

30th Anniversary of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science

- ...Welcome the Museum's New Director
- ...Celebrate our Smithsonian Affiliation
- ...Participate in Family Activities
- ...Demos and displays by The Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club
- ...Public Unveiling of The Smithsonian Post Tiara: A "Treasure from the Vault" of the



Sunday January 10, 2016 • Tiara Unveiling Ceremony at 2:00 pm

Created in France around 1840, the silver and gold Post Tiara has 1,198 old mine and rose cut diamonds mounted on trembler springs to enhance their sparkle with movement. Purchased for the Smithsonian by Marjorie Merriweather Post in 1970, the tiara is on loan to us from the National Museum of Natural History to celebrate our 30th Anniversary and our status as a Smithsonian Affiliate.

All exhibits and events are included in general museum admission.

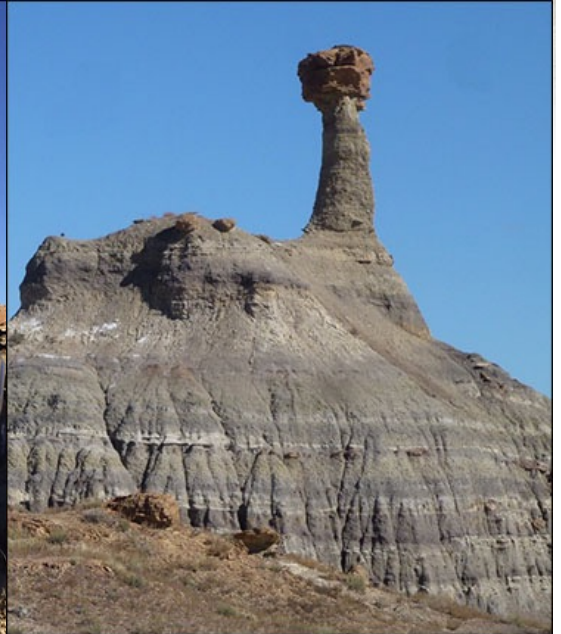
Check the Museum website for more information about the special 30th Anniversary events on January 10th and throughout the 2016 year.

Note: See the March lecture by Smithsonian Curator, Dr. Jeffrey Post, on the U.S. National Gem Collection.

FOP Working Field trip Crownpoint, New Mexico

October 24, 2015

Tom Suazo says , "We will find dino fossils!"



We had beautiful weather and a stunning desert landscape (see photos) when 28 Friends of Paleontology (FOP) members assembled on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands to assist in a search for new fossil localities.

Tom Suazo (NMMNHS Chief Preparator) and Amanda Cantrell (NMMNHS Collections Manager) served as "tour guides" for the day. We searched an area north of Crownpoint, New Mexico where there were excellent exposures of the late Cretaceous (about 75 million years old) Fruitland Formation. We found fossil bones from large dinosaurs (see photo). The group documented the locales and partially excavated the bone bed (see photo) but did not have time to collect the specimens. We covered the bones back over with dirt to protect them until a NMMNHS crew can return later and finish the excavation to collect the fossils. Until the fossils are collected, the type(s) of dinosaurs remains unknown, but perhaps they are from large hadrosaurs or ceratopsians.

The fossil prospecting trip was a grand success. Volunteers were thrilled to find their first fossil dinosaurs. Their excitement is now being shared with other volunteers and museum visitors as they relate their first-hand paleontology experiences.

We did find dino fossils!





-Jim Moore

January-February 2016

Museum Adult and Family Educational Programs

JANUARY

JANUARY 3 • First Sunday

JANUARY 9 • STARTUP Studio

JANUARY 9 • Special Event
30th Anniversary Celebration

JANUARY 18 • Space Science
Lunar Monday

JANUARY 21 • Prehistoric Preschool
Session 1 First classes

JANUARY 21 • Short Talk
Bosque del Apache Field Trip

JANUARY 22 • Curator's Coffee
Search for Alien Planets

JANUARY 24 • Field Trip
Bosque del Apache



JANUARY 27 • Adult class
Minerals and Jewelry

Ongoing • Museum Exhibit Tours

*Don't forget! • Junior Docent Program
Calling Teens!*

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 6 • STARTUP Studio Workshop

FEBRUARY 7 • First Sunday

FEBRUARY 13 • Special Event
*Spying Birds: The Great Backyard Bird
Count*

FEBRUARY 15 • Space Science
Lunar Monday



FEBRUARY 16 • Lecture
Natural History Collections

FEBRUARY 20 • Adult Class
Paleoart Workshop

FEBRUARY 27 • For Teachers
Hide a Butterfly

NEW Exhibits coming in February

- *Top Secret: License to Spy*
- *25 Years of Space Photography*

LECTURE

Of Museums, Specimens and Maps: How Collections Help Conservation in a Time of Extinction

J Tom Giermakowski, Ph.D.

Senior Collections Manager
Division of Amphibians and Reptiles
Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB), UNM

Tuesday, Feb 16 • 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Research collections are an important part of natural history museums. They are libraries of biodiversity and geodiversity and are often used in very diverse fields of scientific research. For example, biological specimens and their associated data are used in studying the past, present, and future distributions of important or threatened species. Join Dr. Giermakowski for a fascinating look at the MSB collection of reptiles in New Mexico, including unusual and threatened species that live along New Mexico's rivers.

Dr. Tom Giermakowski is a Senior Collection Manager of the Amphibian and Reptile Division at the Museum of Southwestern Biology at UNM. His research interests are related to mapping the distribution of species, both in present and future, based on relationships with climate and geology. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and a Ph.D. in Biology at the University of New Mexico.

Held at New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science
1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 • (505) 841-2800 Visit: www.nmnaturalhistory.org

\$6 (\$5 members, \$4 students) Museum Volunteers are FREE

Purchase in advance online to guarantee your seats, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org or purchase tickets at the admissions desk the night of the event. Doors open at 6:15 pm

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call (505) 841-2861

CURATOR'S COFFEE



A Café Style Program

Join us for a casual discussion. Limited to 15 people and includes coffee, light refreshments, and Museum admission.

The Search for Alien Planets

Michelle Creech-Eakman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Physics, New Mexico Tech

Friday, Jan 22, 2016 • 9:30 am to 11 am

Science fiction has become science fact. We now know of more than 1400 planets orbiting other stars in our galaxy, and much of that research is being done in New Mexico. What do these planets look like? How big are they? What type of stars do they orbit and what type of atmospheres do they have? What would it be like to visit them? What is the probability that they have life... perhaps intelligent life? Join Dr. Creech-Eakman for a fascinating voyage of the imagination to distant planets.

Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman is an astrophysicist at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech). She is the Principal Investigator on the New Mexico Tech Extrasolar Spectroscopic Survey Instrument (NESSI) and Project Scientist of the Magdalena Ridge Observatory Interferometer. She worked previously at Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Lab, and earned her Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Denver.

\$8 (10% discount for members and Museum volunteers)

Pre-registration required. Limit 15 participants.

To guarantee your place, register online, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call (505) 841-2861

ADULT CLASSES - ART & SCIENCE

Creative Wire: Minerals and Jewelry

Camille Argeanas, artist

Jayne Aubele, geologist

January 27 • 9:00-noon

Learn a few fun things about New Mexico's minerals and then create your own handcrafted wire jewelry for yourself or as gifts. No prior experience required. If you have taken this class previously, learn more and take home more finished jewelry.

This class is geared for adults and older children, ages 13 and above.

The class fee includes all materials.

Camille Argeanas, a native New Mexican, is a nationally known artist who has transformed the use of wire to create jewelry.

Jayne Aubele is a Adult Programs Educator/Geologist at the Museum. Over the years, she has taught adult classes in all aspects of geology.

\$45 (10% member discount)

Pre-registration required. For more information or to guarantee your place in this class, register online, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Paleoart Workshop: Reconstructing a Dinosaur

Matt Celeskey, artist

Saturday February 20 • 8:30 am - 11:30 am

How do we know what dinosaurs looked like? For nearly two centuries, paleoartists have shaped our views of the prehistoric world by combining scientific knowledge with an artistic eye. Join artist Matt Celeskey for a brief look at the changes in paleoart from the 19th to the 21st Centuries, then try your hand at reconstructing a dinosaur. Using the Museum's Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton as a starting point, we will examine the bones, review

review the latest science, then add muscles, skin, scales and feathers to create your own artist's representation of a living T. rex!

Adults and interested children ages 13 and up.

Anatomy handouts and basic drawing materials will be provided. Feel free to bring your favorite sketching supplies (no tripods, easels, or wet media please).

Matt Celeskey is a paleoartist whose work has appeared in popular books, scientific publications, and museum exhibits. He is a former staff illustrator and designer at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and is currently an Exhibition Designer for the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs in Santa Fe.

\$45 (10% member discount)

Pre-registration required. For more information or to guarantee your place in this class, register online, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org

::: STARTUP Studio Workshops :::

For families (children ages 8 and up), students, and adults. Workshops are held in the Highlands Classroom at the Museum.

3D Printing, Scanning, and Design

Saturday, January 9 • 1 - 4 pm

Instructor: Allie Burnquist, New Mexico Highlands University AmeriCorps Intern

Learn how to scan and design objects for 3D printing.

Intro to Video Games

Saturday, February 6 • 1 - 4pm

Learn the basics of coding your own video game using *Scratch* programming and how to play your game with a *MakeyMakey* microcontroller.

CONTINUES

Allie Burnquist is an AmeriCorps Cultural Technology Intern focusing on using art in STEM programming at the museum. She is a graduate of the New Mexico Highlands University Media Arts and Technology Program.

\$15 (Members, 10% discount) **for each class**
Pre-registration required. Go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org
 Questions: Contact August Wainwright at programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us or call 505-841-2861

MUSEUM TOURS

Museum Exhibit Tours

Mondays • 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Take a docent-led, fact-filled, fun, guided tour of the Museum exhibits. Limited to 14 participants ages 13 and up. Meet in the Atrium at the stadium seating.

Free (with Museum Admission)
 No registration required. First-come, first-served.

FIRST SUNDAYS

Sunday, January 3, February 7
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

FREE Admission to the Museum for all New Mexico Residents

On the first Sunday of every month, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science is **FREE** to all New Mexico residents. Bring NM ID or proof of residence. Regular admission fees for DynaTheater and Planetarium shows.

Guided Tour of the Museum Public Exhibits Every First Sunday • 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Take a free, fact-filled, fun, guided tour of the Museum exhibits.

Limited to 14 participants ages 13 and up
 Tours are first-come, first-served

FREE to New Mexico Residents

FIELD TRIP

Birds of the Bosque del Apache

Trip Date: Sun, January 24 • 10 am - 9 pm
 (Depart Albuquerque/Return to Albuquerque)

Preview talk: Thur, January 21 • 7 pm - 8 pm

Trip Leaders:
Laurel Ladwig, Birder/
 Photographer
Tish Morris, Naturalist



Join us on a day-long journey and see thousands of birds at New Mexico's own world-famous refuge south of Socorro. Drive there on your own OR come with us in the Museum van (limited van seats! You must let us know when you register). We will stop for a sack lunch (bring your own lunch) and then board a large, windowed Refuge bus for the afternoon. We will identify as many species of birds as we can until dusk. Trip includes a buffet dinner in Socorro.

Laurel Ladwig will give a Bosque del Apache preview talk for field trip participants on Thursday, January 21, at 7 pm at the Museum.

Laurel Ladwig is a life-long birder and photographer. **Tish Morris** is a naturalist and retired Museum educator who has led many field trips for the Museum, including annual trips to Bosque del Apache.

No experience necessary—come and join the fun!

Cost: \$65 for the field trip and talk (\$60 for members) (Includes the preview talk, limited seats in the Museum vans, snacks, bus and tour guides at Bosque del Apache, and dinner in Socorro.)

Space is limited to 25 participants. Adults only.

Pre-registration required. Go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org
 Questions: Contact August Wainwright at programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us or call 505-841-2861

PREHISTORIC PRESCHOOL

Prehistoric Preschool is a Museum program for 3- to 5- year-olds and their adult companions to explore natural history topics in a supportive and fun atmosphere. All activities are child-centered, hands-on, and age appropriate. Classes include two hours of crafts, songs, games, puppet shows, investigating specimens from the Museum's collections, Museum visits, and a fun and healthy snack.

All class participants must be accompanied by an adult. No more than two children per adult companion, and no more than two adults per child. Permission for attendance by siblings younger than 3 is made on a case-by-case basis with Early Childhood Educator. Maximum class size is 12 children and their adult companions.

Spring Session 1: *Dinosaur Detectives*

Begins January 21st, 22nd, 23rd

Visit New Mexico's prehistoric past with your junior paleontologist! We'll travel through time to meet our state fossil from the Triassic, *Coelophysis*. We'll stomp through the Jurassic swamps with *Seismosaurus* and *Saurophaganax*, and swim through our Cretaceous seas like a mosasaur! We'll discover what characteristics make a *Pentacertops* a dinosaur and why a *Pterosaur* is not a dinosaur!

Participants may choose to attend either Thursday or Friday morning classes from 10 am to noon or Saturday afternoon classes from 1 pm to 3 pm. There are 4 classes in each session, and classes meet every other week.

Preregistration is required. \$90.00 for the first child, \$81.00 for the second child in the same family. Museum members receive a 10% discount. Scholarships are available.

Pro-rated registration available after classes have started.

For more information or to Register for classes, go to <http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org/preschool.html>

Questions? August Wainwright at programs.nmmnhs@state.nm.us or (505) 841-2861

Museum Junior Docents 2016 CALLING ALL TEENS!

Are you a teen entering 7th grade - 12th grade this fall and 13-17 years old?
Know anyone who is?

Join us on an adventure in science and technology as **JUNIOR DOCENTS** this summer! Learn science content and put your customer service skills to work as you work as an educator in the Museum's exhibit halls. Special projects are available to draw on your interests and skills, and the field trips are just one of the perks.

Applications accepted: February 1 - March 15, 2016. (If openings remain, applications will be accepted after this date.)

Acceptance notification by April 15th.
Training Week - June 6-10, 2016
Work weeks: June 11- Aug 5, 2016

COST: \$175

Visit www.nmnaturalhistory.org/juniordocents for more information and applications or contact Kelly White, Junior Docent Coordinator at kellyj.white@state.nm.us

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

Hide a Butterfly

Early Childhood Teacher Workshop

Saturday, February 27, 2016 • 1:00 - 2:45 pm

Instructor: Cirrelda Snider-Bryan, NMMNHS
Early Childhood Educator

Offer children opportunities to learn about parts of a flower, camouflage, predator/prey, and survival behavior in the real outdoors.

CONTINUES

Hide a Butterfly "Hide a Butterfly" is a guided-discovery of "Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS)" program from Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley.

This professional development workshop is intended for early childhood teachers. Purchase in advance. Limited to 20 participants.

Preregister at www.NMnaturalhistory.org to guarantee admission

Cost: \$20 Includes: copy of the **Hide a Butterfly GEMS** curriculum. Held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 • (505) 841-2800.

Questions: call August Wainwright at 841-2861, or email programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us

SPECIAL EVENT



Spying Birds: The Great Backyard Bird Count

Family Birding Event • Ages 3 to 100

Sat, February 13, 2016 • 9:00 to Noon

@ New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science: Instructors: Museum staff

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to scan the skies, branches, bushes, and grounds for birds around the Museum and in the Sawmill/Old Town neighborhood. Join with folks around the world to count birds. Meet at 9:00 am in the Learning Garden for directions, and stay after in the garden for hands-on activities to learn more about birds. Bring your binoculars for this great Citizen Science event. Limit 20 families.

Held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 • (505) 841-2800 Visit:

www.nmnaturalhistory.org.

NEW EXHIBIT IN SPACE SCIENCE

Coming in February in the Space Science Wing

30 Years of Space Photography

(A 30th Anniversary Special Event)

We are proud to be the permanent home of a coveted collection of photographs that explores the convergence of science and art. Originally organized by Curator Jay Belloli and exhibited in Los Angeles and New York City, this collection includes the first photographs of each planet in our Solar System and chronicles the early U.S. spaceflight missions run by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and NASA. Missions such as Lunar Surveyor, Mariner 9, and Voyager brought these worlds into close view for the very first time. The Museum has added images from Venus, rovers on Mars, and the New Horizons Mission to Pluto to complete this record of exploration. Not only a scientific record, this collection can also be viewed as art. Los Angeles art critic Christopher Knight, wrote in the collection's catalog, "... framed and hanging on the walls of a gallery, space photographs are transformed into aesthetic objects...."

Free (with museum admission)

Check the Museum website for more information

New Exhibit...Coming in February 2016

Top Secret: License to Spy

Uncover facts and learn about the science and technology of spying and espionage. Watch for more information about the exhibit on our website www.NMnaturalhistory.org

COMING UP

Young Explorers Summer Science Camp 2016

Looking for summer fun for children from Kindergarten through 8th Grade?

Experience an adventure with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science this summer! Explore mountains, climb volcanoes, dig fossils, and

hike forest trails with experienced instructors. Discover space science and the biology, geology, paleontology, and ecology of our state.

Week-long, full-day or half-day camps for children entering Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Look for information about Young Explorers 2016 on our website this spring.

www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Family Fun on a River Run! Rafting the San Juan River

Monday, June 27, to Thursday, June 30, 2016

Join us for a family rafting adventure next summer! We'll float 26 miles between Bluff and Mexican Hat, Utah. Learn about the natural history of this river ecosystem, and the plants and animals of the area through games, stories and other fun activities. There will be lots of time for playing in and on the water. It is a great family experience!

For children 7 years and over with parent(s), grandparent(s), aunt(s) or uncle(s)—no experience necessary. Complete itinerary available.

Expert Guides:

Tish Morris – Naturalist and retired Museum educator.

Kristin Gunckel, Ph.D. – Geologist, educator and faculty member at the University of Arizona.

Cost: \$715 adults, \$690 child under 12 (\$20 off for Museum members: \$695 adult/\$670 child)

Includes all food from Dinner, Day 1, through Lunch, Day 4, expert staff, river guides, group equipment and supplies. Families meet in Bluff, Utah, on the evening of Monday, June 27th and get off the river and back to Bluff the afternoon of Thursday, June 30th. Camping equipment may be rented.

Co-sponsored by Four Corners School of Outdoor Education

Trip questions: tish.morris11@gmail.com

Registration through:

Four Corners School of Outdoor Education:

<http://www.fourcornersschool.org/programs/southwest-ed-ventures-swed>

800-525-4456

The Volunteer Association Newsletter (The VAN)

The VAN is published bimonthly. There are six regular issues each year: January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, and November-December with an occasional Special Issue. The deadline for submitting articles and photographs for the next regular issue is always the fifteenth of the month prior to the publishing date of that issue. The deadline for the **March - April 2016** issue, for example, will be **February 15, 2016**.

Please send items for the VAN to Louise Harris, VAN Editor, <vanmmnhs@gmail.com>, with a copy to Chris Sanchez DCA <chris.sanchez@state.nm.us>

The VAN mission is to inform, engage, and enhance the experience of NMMNHS Volunteers by acting as a vehicle of continuing education, keeping volunteers informed about the Museum, and relaying news of volunteers and their activities.

Your articles pertaining to the museum are most welcome.

Articles may be edited for clarity and space limitations.

EDITOR'S REQUEST: Please put the word "**VAN**" in your email title when you submit an article or photo for the VAN. Thank you!



