



# VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

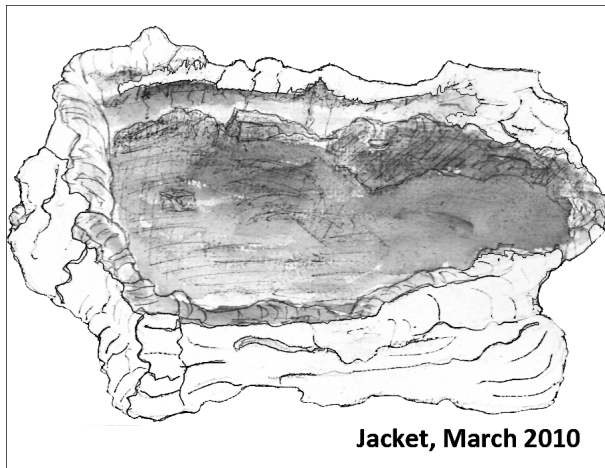


NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENCE

October - November 2011

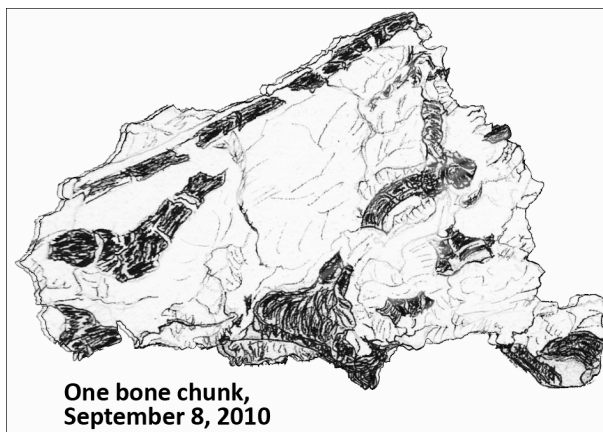
## TALE OF OLD BONES

This is the story of one Snyder Quarry jacket, which came into the hands of Susan and Tony Hunt in early



**Jacket, March 2010**

March of 2010. They had recently completed a course in Fossil Preparation and were now on their own. So,



**One bone chunk,  
September 8, 2010**

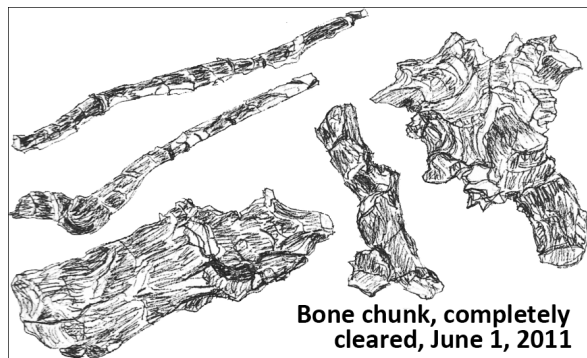
each Wednesday at 1:00, they entered FossilWorks, put on their aprons, took out their tools, and got to the slow, tedious, but strangely-mesmerizing work of releasing 220 million year old bones from their surrounding matrix.

By June the jacket was empty and chunks of matrix-clad bones were arrayed in small boxes, patiently awaiting further scraping and cleaning, mostly with



**Bone chunk, partially  
cleared, February 23, 2011**

the aid of the wondrous air scribe. Many of the bones were quite delicate; so much time was spent gluing back together pieces of bone, which had mysteriously fractured. It did not take long to learn how to unglue fingers from bones or from each other.



**Bone chunk, completely  
cleared, June 1, 2011**

Operations were interrupted by a trip to Australia and several grandparent visits, but by early summer most of the bones were free of matrix. Larry Reinhart then paid a visit and said that some bones came from phytosaurs and others from small theropods. This jacket project was completed on July 6, 2011.

*Preparators: Susan and Tony Hunt  
Text and sketches by Susan Hunt*

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## AUGUST VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP TO ALBUQUERQUE SEISMOLOGICAL LABORATORY

It was no easy task getting to the Seismology Lab. The access road meandered through Kirtland Air Force Base so there were security measures to be dealt with. Luckily, our fearless Field Trip Chairman, Pat Robinson, had paved the way with arrangements already in place. And it didn't hurt that three volunteers in the group had Air Force identifications. Crossing the base proved interesting as our party speculated on the purpose of various unusual structures. At the far south end of the base, we passed through another security gate as we crossed onto Isleta Pueblo land, which is leased by the Seismology Lab.



**Leo explained so much about seismology on our fieldtrip!**

Our gracious host for the day was Leo Sandoval. Leo is a full time employee of the Lab, which has a staff of about 45. He is also a volunteer at our Museum because he periodically gives presentations to groups that want to learn about work done at the Seismology Lab without the difficulties of accessing the Lab, itself.

We were guided through several buildings by Leo, other engineers, geophysicists and a software engineer, as they explained the functions of the Lab and the equipment. We even entered the test tunnels that were blasted out of the granite hill to create a seismically quiet test area. The 50-year-old Albuquerque Lab serves as the premier

seismological instrumentation test facility for the U.S. Government Lab personnel develop and test

new seismological instruments and support and maintain more than 180 seismology stations in 60 countries. Most of those stations are part of the Global Seismographic Network Program, which enables the U.S. to monitor earthquakes around the world.



Volunteers listen attentively to Leo's explanations

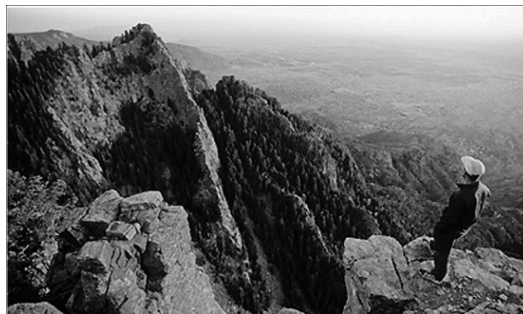
In the instrumentation museum, we examined an early seismometer/seismograph from 1935, which could only give accurate measurements of horizontal displacement in California locations. We followed that with the state-of-the-art Streckeisen models that, in Albuquerque, can detect earthquakes of 4.5 and higher, generated anywhere in the world. Leo also had information on the latest earthquake of interest, the Virginia quake that occurred two days prior to our visit.

The field trip participants had arrived with some knowledge and many questions prompted by interactions with Museum visitors. With their various areas of expertise, the Lab scientists provided in-depth answers to our numerous questions. One of them remarked, "This is a tough crowd," when he was stumped, but an older scientist had the answer to the more historical questions. Our group was expecting a good tour of the Seismology Lab, but the experience exceeded everyone's expectations!

*Submitted by Mary Moore  
Volunteer*

## SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER TRIP

On Wednesday, September 7, a tour to the Sandia Crest was arranged by volunteers Flo Sayer, Jim Deal and Carol Deal. Jim provided the overview of Sandia Crest Geology, while Carol talked about the wildflowers. After our great tour, volunteers were able to picnic together with the lunches that they'd brought.



*Pat Robinson*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR:

**"Pale Blue Dot"**

**SPEAKER: Barry Granoff**

November 9, 2011

10:30 - 12:30 AM

MPR (MultiPurpose Room)

### Synopsis:

In his book *Pale Blue Dot* (1994), Carl Sagan described a photograph of Earth taken by *Voyager 1*, on February 14, 1990, when the spacecraft was at the edge of the Solar System (3.7 billion miles from us), high above the ecliptic plane. The image contained 640,000 pixels; and Earth occupied less than one of those pixels. It was positioned within a beam of light from the Sun, reflected off the spacecraft, and appeared as nothing more than a tiny point.

Recognizing that the tiny dot was our home, Sagan wondered whether an alien explorer entering the Solar System, after a long interstellar journey, would be able to determine whether there were any life forms on Earth. Sagan made two assumptions: (1) the aliens had no prior knowledge of the existence of Earth;



magnitude earthquakes ( $M > 7.0$ ), including a series of earthquakes in 1811-1812. Scientists are currently debating whether the series of catastrophic earthquakes that have been occurring approximately every 500 years in this region will continue to occur.



Dr. Magnani will discuss the existing data, proposed models, and the implications for seismic hazard in the central U.S. The lecture will also present the results of a new study along the Mississippi River suggesting that the NMSZ is not the only fault system that has been active in this region.

*Dr. M. Beatrice Magnani is a seismologist working on the formation and evolution of continents. Dr. Magnani received a Ph.D. in 2000 from the University of Perugia, in Italy; worked at Rice University; and joined the faculty of the Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) at the University of Memphis in 2006. In 2007 she began studying the New Madrid seismic zone in the central U.S., and, with colleagues, has designed a way to map faults hidden beneath the Mississippi River.*

**Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee**

The NMMNHS is proud to host the 2011 Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology and the Seismological Society of America **IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lectureship**

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

**Earth Science Week and National Fossil Day - Week of October 9-15**

- **Solar Sunday on October 9**
- **Class on October 12**

***Celebrate Earth Science Week 2011!***  
***Held October 9-15, 2011***

ESW encourages people everywhere to explore the natural world and learn about the geosciences. "Our Ever-Changing Earth", the theme of ESW 2011, engages young people and the public in learning about the natural processes that shape our planet over time.

**National Fossil Day, October 12, 2011**, is held in conjunction with Earth Science Week. NFD is a celebration organized by the National Park Service to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational values.

**Registration required for the October 12 class only (see below).**

Information - [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

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

## **ADULT CLASS**

***Celebrate National Fossil Day with this one-session class!***

**\*\*\*THE LIVES AND TIMES OF TRIASSIC AMPHIBIANS\*\*\***

**INSTRUCTOR: Larry Rinehart**  
**Senior Preparator**  
**Paleo-prep Laboratory, NMMNHS**  
**Wednesday, October 12,**  
**9 AM to Noon**

Picture a ten-foot-long salamander that has fangs and weighs nearly a ton. Amphibians have not always been the toads, frogs, and newts with which we are familiar. During the Triassic of New Mexico and around the world, they often reached heroic proportions and were major players in the local ecosystems.

We will take a look at several populations of these animals that NMMNHS scientists have studied: some from Europe or Africa, and some from within an hour's drive of Albuquerque. We will attempt to answer questions regarding their lifestyle, environment, and behaviors. People

## 6

often ask, "How do you know all that from a pile of dead bones?" ... after this class, you will understand how we know what we know about these fascinating animals. There will be touch specimens for the participants, and a tour of exhibits, the Paleo Prep Lab, and Museum Collections.

**Larry Rinehart** While working as an electrical engineer at Sandia National Labs, in 1994, Larry Rinehart began volunteering at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science and studying paleontology at UNM. In 2003, he retired from Sandia and started working at the Museum. He is currently the Senior Preparator at the Museum, where he organizes and conducts digs, manages the fossil-preparation laboratory, and currently is conducting research on fossil amphibians of the Triassic Period.

**\$35** (10% discount for members and volunteers)

**Pre-registration required.** For more information, or to guarantee your place in this class, register online at [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**Questions:** August Wainwright: call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

### **ADULT CLASS**

#### **\*\*\*PAPER CUTS BY NATURE\*\*\***

**INSTRUCTOR: Mary Sundstrom**

**Friday: November 4, 2011**

**9 AM - 3 PM**

Paper cut outs have been created for centuries as a popular folk art in Europe, China, Mexico and Israel. Henri Matisse expanded the use of the medium by covering whole walls with painted paper cut outs.

In this class, you will learn to cut shapes from nature out of colored papers with a kraft knife and apply them in layers, mixing a crisp cut edge with the shallow relief of overlapped shapes. Choose your subjects from specimens provided by the museum's collections. At the end of the class, you will have created a 12"x12" paper cut to take home and materials to make another paper cut art piece on your own.

This class is geared for ages 14 and above. No prior experience in art or paper cuts is required. The class fee includes lunch and most materials.

**Mary Sundstrom's** experience encompasses art instruction, fine arts printer/printmaker, book illustrator with 17 children's book titles and an Audubon field guide series, as well as numerous exhibit illustrations for the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. She has recently had several shows of her paper cut artworks.

**\$90.00** (10% discount for members and volunteers)

**Pre-registration required.** For more information, or to guarantee your place in this class, register online at [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**Questions:** August Wainwright: call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

At registration, you will receive a short supply list.

### **ADULT CLASS**

#### **\*\*\*GEOLOGY OF NEW MEXICO\*\*\***

**INSTRUCTOR: Jayne Aubele**

**November 16, 2011**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 noon**

The landscape of New Mexico tells the story of time and changing environments. Oceans once covered the state, camels and saber tooth cats roamed, and volcanoes erupted as recently as 3000 years ago. (Some of NM's volcanoes are still considered to be active). Do you know what New Mexico and East Africa have in common? Have you wondered about the geological history of the Bisti Badlands, El Morro, or the Mogollon Wilderness? This one-session course will teach you to "read the record in the rocks", and learn the amazing story of the unique and dynamic geology of New Mexico.

**Jayne Aubele** is Educator/Geologist at the museum. She has mapped and researched the geology of New Mexico and the Southwest as well as the Moon, Mars and Venus. Her focus is volcanoes. She has authored or co-authored many technical articles and popular books/chapters about NM geology, including the **Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains**. She was geologic technical advisor and on-camera geologist for the KNME-TV programs **Sleeping Monsters**, **Sacred Fires: Volcanoes of New Mexico**, and **The Sandias**.

**\$35** (10% discount for members and volunteers)

**Pre-registration required.** For more information, or to guarantee your place in this class, register online at [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**Questions:** August Wainwright: call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

## **CURATOR'S COFFEE**

### **A CAFÉ STYLE PROGRAM**

Join us for a casual discussion followed by a themed tour.

**Includes coffee, light refreshments, and Museum admission.  
Limited to 15 people.**

**\*\*\*EVOLUTION\*\*\***

**INSTRUCTOR: Michael Sanchez  
Naturalist Center Coordinator and School  
Programs Educator, NMMNHS  
Thursday, October 6, 2011  
9:30 - 11:00 AM**

Biological evolution, or “organic evolution,” has been defined as “change in the properties of populations of organisms that transcends the lifetime of a single individual.” Evolution unites all the fields of biology under one theoretical umbrella; it applies to the past as well as the present. It is the accepted scientific explanation of the diversity of life on Earth, and the science of biology cannot be taught coherently without it. But what is the mechanism by which evolution occurs? What is the evidence? And, most importantly, what is a “scientific theory” and how is that different from a hunch or an idea? If you have always had questions about this topic, here is your opportunity to learn about it. The presentation will include some specific examples from the Museums’s exhibits and collections.

*Mike Sanchez has over 20 years of experience working for the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and is currently the Naturalist Center and School Programs Educator. He has a degree in Physical and Biological Anthropology from the University of New Mexico.*

**\$8 (10% discount for members)  
Limited to 15 participants.**

**Pre-registration required.** For more information, or to guarantee your place in this class, register online at [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**Questions:** August Wainwright :call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

## **COMMUNITY SCIENCE CONNECTIONS**

*Museums, Libraries, and Families: Working in partnership to bring fun-filled educational events to the community!*

CSC is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and welcomes Rio Rancho Library as a new partner. Look for CSC events at <http://libguides.cabq.gov/CSC> for an exciting 2011-2011 “season of science.”

CSC Programs are funded by the *Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)* and managed by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

## **SOLAR SUNDAYS**

**Sundays: October 9, November 13  
12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM**

Telescopes, sun, and bilingual hands-on activities for the whole family

**Free** (with Museum admission). **Planetarium Presentation at 11:00 AM** (Regular fee applies.

**No registration required.** For information go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**Questions:** August Wainwright: call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

## **MUSEUM TOURS**

### **GUIDED TOUR OF THE MUSEUM PUBLIC EXHIBITS**

**Every Monday (September to December)  
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

Take a fact-filled, fun, guided tour of the Museum exhibits. Our docent-led museum exhibit tours for the public are scheduled for every Monday of the month at 1:30 PM and last about one hour.

**Limited to 14 participants ages 13 and up.  
Free (with Museum Admission)**

**Registration welcome:** go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org) , or come for the tour-- *first-come, first-served.* Meet in the Atrium at the stadium seating.

**Questions:** August Wainwright: call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

## **MUSEUM COLLECTIONS** **TOURS**

Join us for behind-the-scenes tours of our Bioscience and Geoscience collection areas.

### **GEOSCIENCE TOUR**

**Friday, November 18, 2011**

**3 PM - 4 PM**

See the largest collection of fossils in New Mexico, and learn about important fossils collected from across the state. Tours are 45 - 60 minutes in length and allow participants to see fossils actively being prepared for exhibits and research.

**Free with museum admission**

**Limited to 20 people.**

**Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Registration welcome:** go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**Questions:** August Wainwright: call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

### **BIOSCIENCE TOUR**

**Friday, October 21**

**3:00 4:00 PM**

Bioscience Collections Manager, Patti Gegick, will conduct a tour of the Museum's biological collections, which includes plants, insects, mammals, mollusks, and birds. Learn the importance of museum collections, how they are used, and how they are preserved and maintained. Tours are 45-60 minutes in length.

**Free with museum admission**

**Limited to 12 persons.**

**No strollers or children under the age of 7. Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Reservations welcome:** For more information, go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**Questions:** August Wainwright : call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

### **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.

### **Fall Session 2: *In Prehistoric Time***

Move in different ways together with creatures from the past, from burrowing worms to flying pterosaurs. Discover creatures from different ages that shared the same kind of movement and see the similarities. Four sessions include creatures that "dig, stomp, swim or fly."

**Choose your session day:**

**Thursdays, 10 AM - Noon:**

October 20

November 3

November 17

December 1

**Fridays, 10 AM - Noon:**

October 21

November 4

November 18

December 2

**Saturdays, 10 AM - Noon:**

October 22

November 5

November 19

December 3

**Saturdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

October 22

November 5

November 20

December 3

All class participants must be accompanied by an adult. No more than two children may be registered per adult companion and no more than two adult companions may accompany any one child. Maximum class size is 15 children and their adult companions.

**\$90 for the first child, \$81 for the second child in the same family.**

*Museum members receive a 10% discount.*

**Pre-Registration Required:** To see detailed description of sessions and/or register for classes go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org) .

**Questions:** August Wainwright: call 505-841-2861 or email: [programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)







## Volgistics Frequently-Asked Questions

**Q: What if I forget to sign in before I start my shift?**

**A:** Call or email Chris Sanchez and let him know. He will update your hours in the computer.

**Q: What if I forget to sign out before I leave the Museum?**

**A:** Call or email Chris Sanchez and let him know. He will update your hours in the computer.  
[chris.sanchez@state.nm.us](mailto:chris.sanchez@state.nm.us)

**Q: What if I don't see my job assignment reflected once I sign in?**

**A:** Select the "Not Sure" button. This function will allow you to sign in, but will send Chris Sanchez an email to assign your hours in the computer. Call or email Chris and let him know which task you were performing at the Museum and he will make sure they are recorded.

**Q: What if I am already signed in, but I need to switch tasks?**

**A:** Return to the login station and enter in your ID number. The computer will offer you a "Switch Assignments" option and allow you to select your next Museum task. If you forget to do this, please call or email Chris Sanchez to let him know.

**Q: What if I volunteer outside of the Museum?**

**A:** Our volunteers who contribute service outside of the Museum typically keep a personal record of their hours of service and email that record to Chris at the end of each month. Please continue to do this.

**Q: What about the times I attend trainings and continuing education events?**

**A:** Make sure to sign the Attendance Sheet at these events and your time will be recorded. You do not have to sign in at the computer station for trainings and continuing education events.

**Q: Does the computer calculate time and a half and double time?**

**A:** Yes. The computer is set up to recognize volunteer service on double time holidays, on weekends, and for special events.

**Q: Will there be another login station on the Museum campus soon?**

**A:** We hope to eventually have computer login stations elsewhere on the Museum campus.

**Q: What if the computer breaks down?**

**A:** Let Chris Sanchez know. If Chris is unavailable, please let the Admissions Desk staff members know. They will have paper sign-in sheets for volunteers to temporarily record hours until the computer is fixed.

**Q: What do I do if I forget my ID number?**

**A:** Let Chris Sanchez know. If Chris is unavailable, please let the Admissions Desk staff members know. They will have a list of all volunteer ID numbers.

**Q: To whom do I send my thanks or complaints regarding the new system?**

**A:** Jessica Sapunar-Jursich, the Museum's Director of Education, is interested to hear feedback from our volunteers about the new program. Jessica can be reached at (505) 841-2836 or via email at [jessica.sapunar-jursich@state.nm.us](mailto:jessica.sapunar-jursich@state.nm.us).

**Q: How is this program being funded?**

**A:** The Foundation generously purchased the touchscreen computer in the Volunteer Lounge, the first year of service, and the funds to bring me back to the museum to set up the program.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Foundation for doing so, as this program is much needed, and is sure to be a great benefit to our volunteer program!

On a personal note, I want to say how wonderful it has been to come back to the Museum for a brief time, to see so many friendly faces, and to have the opportunity to hear what you've all been up to over the past year. It's been a real treat and I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

*Brianne Sisneros,  
Volunteer Friend*



The next two meetings of the Friends of Paleontology will be held in the Museum Multipurpose Room at the following dates and times:

**Monday, 17 October, 2011, 7:00 PM**

**SPEAKER: Allan Lerner.**

**SUBJECT: Lagerstattsens of New Mexico**

**Monday, 21 November, 2011, 7:00 PM**

**SPEAKER: Spencer Lucas.**

**SUBJECT: A 200 MY Evolution: The History of Crocodiles**

Dick Yeck  
VP Programs, FOP



## LIBRARY LINE: BOOKS FOR THE NEW EXHIBIT, *EMERGENCE*

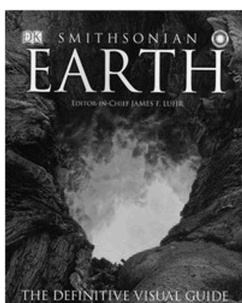
*Emergence*, the new exhibit focusing on the earliest life, touches on a number of ideas that some of our readers might want to explore in more detail. Here's a list of exhibit subtitles, and some related books (with call numbers) that you might want to check out.

### Formation of the Earth

(timeline)

#### *Earth, the Definitive Visual Guide*

By James Luhr, ed., 2007, QE501.E27.



This is mostly a geography book, but the chapter "The History of the Earth" provides a 21-page timeline that starts with the Big Bang and continues all the way to the present,

covering the formation of the universe and the earth, early life, and key events in geologic history. Also includes great photos and diagrams on geologic processes.

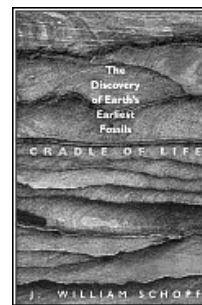
### Origin of Life Theories

(genes, metabolism, citric acid cycle)

#### *Cradle of Life: The Discovery of Earth's Earliest Fossils*

By J. William Schopf, 1999, QH325.S384.

Although somewhat older, this book by one of the pioneer researchers on the earliest fossils has a lot of relevant information. Schopf takes a "history of science" approach to the story, and his chapter on "How Did Life Begin?" covers basic biology, cells, genes, DNA, the tree of life, alternative ideas, and origins of life, with simple definitions and diagrams, making it a great place to start for the non-expert.



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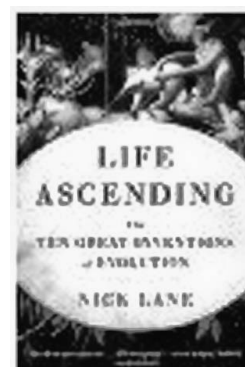
the non-expert.

#### *Life Ascending: The Ten Great Inventions of Evolution*

By Nick Lane, 2009, QH367.L36.

The first two chapters of this book are "The Origin of Life" and "DNA." The

author addresses some of the most recent ideas on how life might have developed in deep sea vents, and discusses how cells may have developed and incorporated others cells to develop their modern structure.

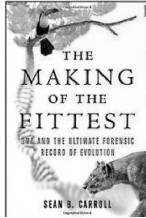


The book is fairly technical compared to Schopf's book (longer review in February 2011 VAN).

***The Making Of The Fittest: DNA And The Ultimate Forensic Record Of Evolution***

By Sean Carroll, 2006, QP624.C37.

In discussing DNA as a record of evolution, much of this book is about larger animals



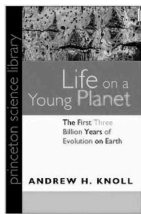
and natural selection, but Chapter 3, “Immortal Genes: Running in Place for Eons,” deals with the DNA of bacteria and archea and the survival of some individual genes.

**Tree of Life**

(bacteria, eukaryota, archea)

***Life On A Young Planet: The First Three Billion Years Of Evolution On Earth***

By Andrew Knoll, 2003, QH325.K54.



This books has several relevant chapters, including “The Tree of Life,” “Life’s Signature in Ancient Rocks,” and “The Earliest Glimmers of Life.”

**Extremeophiles in New Mexico**

***Cave Minerals of the World*, 2d ed.**

By Carol Hill and Paolo Forti, 1997, QE372.2.H55.

This book by Albuquerque’s Carol Hill has a chapter by UNM’s Diana Northup on “Microorganisms and Speleothems” that



discusses the role of microbes in the sulfur cycle, formation of iron and manganese oxides, saltpeter deposits, and carbonate and silicate speleothems (cave formations).

I hope you enjoy reading about these interesting ideas presented in *Emergence*.

*Laurel Babcock, Librarian*

**VAN SUBMISSIONS**

I am always happy to receive VAN submissions. I enjoy having many articles submitted by a variety of different people. If it weren’t for the efforts of those good people, we wouldn’t have a VAN at all, and we would lose this form of communication among ourselves.

VAN submissions don’t have to be of supreme importance. If you don’t usually send anything in to us but see or hear something amusing and/or interesting to our group, please share.

I do have one request. Please do not format your submission! Use only one font to write it up. Don’t use bold, underlining, italic or indenting features, unless you have something really out of the ordinary to say. In order to give the VAN a more unified look, I regularly change most of those features, and it goes a lot faster for me when I don’t have to remove your formatting before using my own. After all, that is what I’m here for!

The deadline is regularly the fifteenth of the month prior to publication. Our next deadline, for instance, is November 15, 2011, two weeks prior to the publication of our December 2011 - January 2012 issue.

Your suggestions, are always welcome. Please send articles, photos, or suggestions to:

**[louise@goingourway.net](mailto:louise@goingourway.net)**

Thanks!

Louise Harris

VAN Editor

# October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>October 9-15 EARTH SCIENCE WEEK AND NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY</b> <b>Prehistoric Preschool * Fall Session 2: Late October to Early December</b> <b>Sessions Begin October 20, 21, or 22</b>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>FIRST SUNDAY</b> Free Day at Museum and SMNHC	<b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM	<b>LECTURE</b> Art and Exhibit Design 2-3 PM		<b>CURATOR'S COFFEE</b> Evolution 9:30-11 AM		
		<i>EARTH</i>	<i>SCIENCE</i>	<i>WEEK</i>		
9	10	11	12		14	15
<b>SOLAR SUNDAY</b> 12-3	<b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM		<b>NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY</b>  <b>ADULT CLASS:</b> Fossils Triassic Amphibian 9:00 AM-Noon  <b>DOCENT DISCUSSION</b> 10:30-Noon			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM			<b>OPEN SESAME STARTUPCart</b> 1-2:30	<b>TOUR</b> Bioscience Collections Public Tour 3-4 PM	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM			<b>LECTURE</b> New Madrid Fault: 200 Years Later 7-8:30 PM		
30	31					

# November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <b>DOCENT SOCIAL</b> 9:30-10:30 AM	2	3	4 <b>CLASS</b> Paper Cuts from Nature 9 AM-3 PM	5
6 <b>FIRST SUNDAY</b> Free Day at the Museum & SMNHC 9-4	7 <b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM	8	9 <b>SEMINAR</b> "Pale Blue Dot" 2-3 PM	10 <b>DOCENT DISCUSSION STARTUP</b> Cart 1-2:30	11	12
13 <b>SOLAR SUNDAY</b> 12-3	14 <b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM	15	16 <b>CLASS</b> NM Geography 9-12	17	18 <b>TOUR</b> Geoscience Collections Public Tour 3-4 PM	19
20	21 <b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM  <b>DOCENT DISCUSSION</b> Cave 9-10:30 AM •	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <b>EXHIBIT TOUR</b> Docent-led 1:30-2:30 PM	29	30			



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**NMMNHS VAN**

**October - November 2011**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**VAN Editor: Louise Harris      Oct-Nov VAN Deadline is November 15, 2011.**

Email articles to [louise@goingourway.net](mailto:louise@goingourway.net) with a copy to [chris.sanchez@state.nm.us](mailto:chris.sanchez@state.nm.us)  
Please limit each article to 800 words—less if you have an accompanying photo.

**VAN MISSION STATEMENT**

To inform, engage, and enhance the experience of NMMNHS Volunteers by:

- Acting as a vehicle of “continuing education”
  - Keeping volunteers informed about the Museum
  - Relaying news of volunteers and their activities.
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