



Geology Museum 2004 Annual Report



Celebrating 34 Years at the Helm

In March, more than 100 people gathered in Tripp Commons at the Memorial Union for a banquet to celebrate the accomplishments of Klaus Westphal, the longest serving director the Geology Museum has ever known. The hall filled with laughter many times as his

Klaus proudly displays his new clock.

friends took to the podium and shared their favorite Klaus stories. Based on the sustained standing ovation that followed a video honoring his career, it was clear that Klaus had touched the lives of many people. For his retirement, he was presented with two premium bottles of Scotch, a personalized Badger hockey jersey and an antique clock.

The Bigger They Come...

A student chain gang under the leadership of Joe Skulan spent the month of June digging up Late Jurassic dinosaur fossils in Wyoming. Equipped with a backhoe, a diamond-tipped rock saw, and delusions of grandeur, the crew removed more than 200 tons of rock that was covering a jumble of skeletal material. This bonebed contains the remains of multiple sauropods - the largest animals to have ever lived on land. Scattered among these gigantic bones are parts from lungfish, turtles, crocodiles, and small predatory dinosaurs.

Most of the Wyoming field crew consists of students who have completed Joe Skulan's online course "The Age of Dinosaurs". Although undergraduates make up the bulk of the workforce, teachers from



...the harder they are to lift.

Wyoming expedition members haul an excavated femur to the van.

Wisconsin and beyond also take the class and are able to join the expedition. This field work is supported with funds from the College of Letters and Science that are allocated for distance learning courses.

In honor of the former museum director, this new site was named the Westphal Quarry. Museum expeditions will be returning to this locality for many summers to come.

A Friend of Devil's Lake is a Friend of Mine

The museum now offers half-day guided tours in Devil's Lake State Park on the geology of the Baraboo Hills. Graduate students John Marma and Jake Eaton coordinated this self-supporting program in 2004 and together introduced about 500 students to some world-class geology. These tours were started as a private enterprise by Paul Herr, who generously turned over operation of this program to the museum.

Out for the count in 2004

Number of people receiving guided tours: 12,200

Percentage of visitors from blue states, excluding Wisconsin: 62

Number of states with no visitors: 2 (Utah and West Virginia)

Brooke Goes Underground



Brooke learns all about the dark side of paleontology while working in Cave of the Mounds.

Brooke Swanson was hired in February to oversee the museum's outreach programs and in particular, to manage the Wisconsin Vertebrate Fossil Project. Brooke earned her Master's degree from the department in 2003 after finishing her thesis on the Eocene Green River Formation of Wyoming. Like an educational whirlwind, Brooke coordinated the museum's tour program, participated in family science nights, and taught a four-part workshop on geology for

Madison middle school teachers.

In August, Brooke escaped the summer heat by excavating late Quaternary bone deposits in Murphy Cave, the primary research site for the Wisconsin Vertebrate Fossil Project. This year's excavation lasted two weeks and involved students and teachers from Argyle and Waunakee high schools. Thanks again to Cave of the Mounds and Carol Vandersluis for teaming up with the museum to make this opportunity possible.



Shiver Me Horn Corals

The museum swelled to capacity once again with its annual open house. Several undergraduates dressed up as the Pirates of the Paleozoic and helped children go fishing for fossils in a mock Ordovician sea. Attendees also received rock and mineral specimens by playing the trilobite toss game and geology bingo. Matt Kuchta and Carrie Moeller regaled visitors with talks on gemstones and glaciers respectively.

The museum thanks Burnie's Rock Shop, Paul Mayer, and everyone else who contributed the geological booty that was given away at this event.

Carrie "Polar" Moeller glides in to deliver her talk on glaciers.

Fun with Friends

In 2004, the museum began providing special field trips and programs to members of its support organization, the Friends of the Geology Museum. So far, these events have included a Behind the Scenes Night at the museum and a fossil hunt at a local quarry. During the collecting trip, Friends filled their pockets with fossils of cephalopods, brachiopods, and other sea creatures. Museum staff were on hand to help identify the discoveries.

The museum also has started publishing a quarterly newsletter for its members.



David Pontes and Scot Moss (l to r) prospect for fossils on a field trip for Friends of the Geology Museum.

Students Put Opposable Thumbs to Work for Museum



Adam Behlke, Clint Boyd, and Summer Ostrowski (l to r) help remodel the platform in the vertebrate room to make way for the incoming T-rex skull. During the renovation, the front limbs of the Edmontosaurus were temporarily removed.

In other expedition news, Clint Boyd and Adam Behlke spearheaded the museum's Montana dinosaur program. Their field party recovered several limb bones from a juvenile duck-billed dinosaur and will return this summer to collect more. Clint, Adam, Beth Valaas and a crew of student volunteers also assembled and installed a 23-piece cast of the best preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull known. Peter Larson and the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research donated this cast material to the museum at the 2003 open house. Like a fearsome weather vane, the skull now rests atop a swiveling mount next to the *Edmontosaurus* skeleton.



Collections and programs benefit from donations

The museum's collections were bolstered with several specimens this year including a ten pound piece of tellurium from Millard Goldsmith, and a diverse collection of invertebrate fossils from Gerald Gunderson. The Friends of the Geology Museum donated a football-sized sample of albite adorned with muscovite and

quartz crystals, which is now on display. In addition, the Friends brokered a trade with the Madison Metropolitan School District through which the museum received an important gem and mineral collection. Because Wisconsin lacks Mesozoic bedrock, it was a surprise when Peter Rodewald donated some ammonite shells that he had

found within the state. Peter discovered these Cretaceous fossils in nodules while collecting rocks from glacial deposits.

The museum also received especially charitable gifts from Ken and Linda Ciriacks, David Jones, and Bob and Ramona Sneider. Thank you for investing in the museum.

The following people contributed to the success of the Geology Museum in 2004:

Graduate Assistants

Carrie Moeller
Beth Valaas

Prep Lab Supervisors

Adam Behlke
Clint Boyd

Saturday Host

Lou Goodman

Museum Specialists

Leslie Dundore
Matt Kuchta
Craig Pfister
Troy Stoneman

Emeritus Director

Klaus Westphal

Devils Lake

Tour Coordinators

Jake Eaton
John Marma

Tour Guides and Volunteers

Maya Ackerman
Brooke Alderfer
Cyrus Anderson
Andy Arntz
Jessica Armstrong
Angie Barbian
Miriam Barquero-Molina
Katie Bott
Sarah Edwards
Peter Gill
Erin Gray
Anna Huntley
Dan Hyslop

Erica McGrath
Stephanie Kautzer
Carrie Larson
Shasta McGee
Simon Masters
Mike Mechelke
Rebecca Moeri
Summer Ostrowski
Laramie Roecker
George Rothdrake
Craig Schiller
Kurt Spearing
Colman Sutter
Ian Sweeney
Arthur Talmadge
Matt Tibbits
John Worzola
Meredith Wismer

... and the Friends of the Geology Museum

Carlos Peralta - President
Richard Emerson - Vice President
John Evans - Treasurer
Maxine Triff - Secretary

We appreciate your help. Thank you!

Rich Slaughter, Director

Brooke Swanson, Outreach Coordinator

Joe Skulan, Researcher and Instructor