

BULLETIN

NEWLETTER OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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VOL 30 NO 1

WWW.WASHBURN.EDU/KAS

FEBRUARY, 2005

137TH ANNUAL MEETING ON TAP!

A lot of science and progress has been revealed and a few ideas overturned during the past during 136 years since the First Annual Meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science. The 137th Annual Meeting to be held at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas on the 18th and 19th of March 2005 promises to continue the tradition. Accompanying the meeting is the 6th Annual Paleontology Symposium and the Advances in Agricultural Biotechnology in the Midwest.

Note that credit card payment cannot be accepted this year, so payment will need to be mailed. KAS participants are highly encouraged to pay ahead of time. NO MEALS can be purchased following the early-enrollment deadline: March 1. Late enrollment begins March 2, and continues through Sat. morning, March 19. NOTE: ONLY LATE ENROLLMENT FEES CAN BE PAID ON MARCH 18, 19.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN KANSAS CITY.

Johanna Foster, Council Member and Meeting Co-organizer (jfoster@jccc.net)
Brenda Oppert, Treasurer and Meeting Co-organizer (bsu@ksu.edu)

The following is a rough list of events:

Friday

Friday afternoon: two field trips, both beginning at 1 pm.
Field trip 1: Join Mark LaBarge for a guided tour onboard the Arabia Steamship located in Kansas City, MO. A docent will lead the tour from 1-2:30, and then participants will have time to wander the museum until 5 pm. Each person will pay an entrance fee once the group is assembled at the Arabia. Estimated expenses are \$8.75 if there are least 25 people, \$9.75 if fewer. Mark will transport 10 people via a JCCC van, but only the first 10 people who reserve. The van will leave JCCC approximately 12:15 pm, and everyone must meet in the circular drive at the front of the Carlsen Center - see map. People who wish to carpool should also meet at 12:15 at the Carlsen Center.

RESERVATIONS FOR THE FIELD TRIP ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE MARK THE APPROPRIATE LINE, BUT PAY FOR THIS FIELD AT THE ARABIA.

Field trip 2: Join Dr. Pieter Berendsen for a guided trip underground at Park University. This school has many buildings inside caves, and a tour guide will explain how the university has utilized this natural resource. All participants will meet at the University, and the tour runs from 1:30-3:30.

Friday evening: Annual evening banquet, followed by a guest speaker. Dinner is at 6 p.m., speaker schedule for 7 p.m.

The annual banquet will be hosted by JCCC catering, and located inside the student union (COM 1.5). Prices are listed on the enrollment form, and a vegetarian choice is included. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Mike Adang from the University of Georgia. This talk is open to the public as well as KAS participants, and will be held in the Polsky Theater. Dr. Adang will be speaking on the issues of transgenic crops, and his talk is titled "Biotechnology Advances in Agriculture Research."

Saturday (All presentations are open only to KAS conference participants).

Saturday presentations: Posters will be up at 8 a.m., and continue all day. Poster authors will be available from 10-10:30 a.m.

8 a.m. - noon: *Advances in Agricultural Biotechnology in the Midwest*.

A special symposium of invited speakers will present 30-minute talks. There will be one break during the symposium. The 11 AM talk will be presented by Dr. Adang, and will be more technical than the Friday talk.

8 a.m. - early afternoon: '6th Annual Paleontology Symposium'

This symposium has always had many participants, and will likely continue into Saturday afternoon following the luncheon and business meeting.

8 a.m. - early afternoon: Several sessions on a variety of topics will be presented including biology, geology, chemistry, and applied sciences. All sessions begin at 8 am, break at 10 am, and continue until noon. If there are more sessions following the luncheon they will conclude mid-afternoon.

2:30 p.m.: Student award presentations. All students who present a talk, or poster, are eligible to compete. Please make sure to note the level schooling, and whether talk or poster. Students competitors must be present to win cash award.

You may register through the KAS Website (<http://www.washburn.edu/kas>) or by using the enclosed registration form. Details of the meeting and the paleontology symposium also are available on the web site.

AND WHERE TO STAY

List of hotels within walking distance to JCCC:

All housing reservations must be made through the hotels, and not KAS.

Candlewood Suites

Kansas City-Overland Park
11001 Oakmont

Overland Park, KS 66210

Website: www.candlewoodsuites.com

Tel: 1-913-4695557 / Fax: 1-913-4695558

Some of the amenities with this hotel include internet hookups in some rooms, free on-site laundry, and a small on-site snack bar. Make sure to mention the 2005 KAS meeting when reservations because they give discounts. Make reservations as soon as possible because discounts are based on room availability.

Holtze

Overland Park Kansas

11400 College Blvd.

Overland Park, KS 66210

Website: www.4holtze.com/index.htm

Phone: 913-344-8100 / Fax: 913-344-8200

Toll free: 888-4HOLTZE (888-446-5893)

Some of the amenities include a free breakfast buffet, free internet hookups, and on-site laundry. Make sure to mention the 2005 KAS meeting when making reservations because they give discounts. Make reservations as soon as possible because discounts are based on room availability.

Extended Stay America

10750 Quivira

Overland Park, KS 66210

Website: www.extendedstay.com

Phone: 913-661-9299

Some of the amenities include equipped kitchens, and on-site laundry. This hotel does not give discounts, but rates are the lowest of the three.

Maps showing the location of the campus in Overland Park and of the campus are elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Will Creation Science Be Taught In Kansas Public Schools?

That question will be decided by the State Board of Education which presently is conducting public comment forums around the state. The Kansas Academy of Science which strongly favors teaching organic evolution based on proven scientific facts has attended some of the hearings and presented solid evidence in support of its opinion.

The Academy Council has formulated a position statement on this topic:

"The Kansas Academy of Science is a professional organization of scientists representing all areas of scientific inquiry. As a group, the Academy clearly states that biological evolution is a central organizing principle in biology, and as such, its teaching should be of paramount importance to state and local boards of education to ensure a well-educated and productive citizenry. The Academy strongly support education standards and efforts which support the teaching of evolution, and oppose any changes that diminish the teaching of evolution or science in general."

IT'S TIME TO VOTE AGAIN!

A ballot to vote for KAS officers and Council Members is enclosed for your use. It is to be returned to the Secretary. Wow! Is this ballot late? Or rather, this ballot is late. There is a reason for this. With each passing year, it becomes more difficult to find candidates to fill the positions. Some persons are sometimes willing to run in order to fill a ballot but on the condition of a promise not to be elected. The same reluctance is the cause of a slate which all too often presents only one candidate. Votes also may be cast at the annual meeting. If you think this situation is undesirable, you are right! You can help overcome this problem by volunteering now to run for office. The next administration begins duty 1 January 2006. Let us hear from you.

**SEE YOU IN OVERLAND PARK
MARCH 18-19, 2005!**

New Species of Mosasaur from the Smoky Hill Chalk

A new species of mosasaur (marine lizards from the Late Cretaceous) is to be named from specimens found in the chalk beds of western Kansas. Mike Everhart was notified recently that his paper describing the new species has been accepted as part of a special "mosasaur volume" to be published by the Netherlands Journal of Geosciences later this spring. The paper is titled: "Tylosaurus kansasensis, a new species of tylosaurine (Squamata, Mosasauridae) from the Niobrara Chalk of western Kansas, USA." The Smoky Hill Chalk where the specimen was found is a member of the Niobrara Chalk. The first known specimen, now in the Peabody Museum at Yale, was collected by Professor Benjamin Mudge in Graham County in 1876. Although more than a dozen specimens of the new species have since been collected from the chalk, they generally were not recognized to differ from the existing two species (Tylosaurus proriger and T. nepaeolicus) until J. D. Stewart designated a third species as Tylosaurus n. sp. (new species) in the early 1990's. In some cases, they were identified as other genera and left unexamined in museum collections. As a historical note, thousands of mosasaur specimens have been collected from western Kansas since the first one was found in 1868. These specimens are in museums all over the world. At least six currently valid type specimens of mosasaurs from the Smoky Hill Chalk are in museum collections outside of Kansas, the most distant being the type of Halisaurus sternbergi in the Museum of Evolution at Uppsala University in Sweden. Tylosaurus kansasensis (FHSM VP-2295) will be the first mosasaur holotype to reside in a Kansas museum.

A Thought about Tsunamis

Many of us have been horrified and awed by the death and damage wreaked by the December tsunami which raced westward across the Indian Ocean and killed a hundred thousand or more along the northwest coast of Sumatra. The part of the world is as notable for tsunamis as Kansas is for tornadoes. In July 1998, 2,000 people were killed when a wave struck the north coast of Papua-New Guinea. In August, 1976, a tsunami killed more than 5,000 people in the Moro Gulf region of the Philippines, on the south side of the island of Mindanao. The great eruption of Krakatoa in August, 1883, caused a tsunami which killed 36,000 as it swept the shores of Sumatra and Java. No coastline is immune to such catastrophes. The damage which would be caused by a major bolide impact at say 40°N. latitude in the center of either the Atlantic or Pacific oceans is beyond imagination. The whole idea makes Kansas a very desirable place to live.

NOMINEES FOR OFFICE

The Kansas Academy of Science - like the U.S. Marine Corps - is looking for a few good men and women. Officers and two Council members will be elected this fall to serve in 2006.

If you have a yen to run things or just to provide guidance and input, this is your chance. Nominees/volunteers should contact past-president James Taylor (taylor@hutchcc.edu; fax 620-655-3532; phone 620-655-7378). Nominations from the floor also are encouraged and will be accepted at the forthcoming meeting. The next administration begins duty January 1, 2006. Les us hear from you.