

**Newsletter of the  
KENTUCKY  
PALEONTOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

**“Paleozine”**

**Vol. 20, No. 1 January 2012**

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**January Meeting**

January's speaker is going to be KPS President Dan Phelps. The title of his talk is "*Geochronology: geologic time and the age of the Earth*".

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**Send us your email address!**

We are still trying to reduce the list of print newsletters and as of now, we have over 100 on the email list. If you can, please send us your email address so we can save a bit more on the club treasury. Your email address also allows for us to contact you on short notice for cancellations (such as field trips) or special events that pop up after the newsletter is out.

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**December Meeting: Annual Party/Potluck,  
Auction and Election**

**The KPS held its annual auction and elections. The club officers did not change:**

**PRESIDENT-** Dan Phelps

**VICE-PRESIDENT-** Rick Schrantz

**SECRETARY-** Jozsef Gal

**TREASURER-** Sarah Lambert

**EDITOR-** George Weems

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**January Field Trip-none due to high possibility  
of bad weather**

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**Meeting Dates for 2012**

January 27 Dan Phelps; February 24, Dr. Glenn Storrs; March 30,, Dr. Carleton Brett; April 27; May 25; June 29; July 27; August 24; September 28; October 26; November 30; December 14.

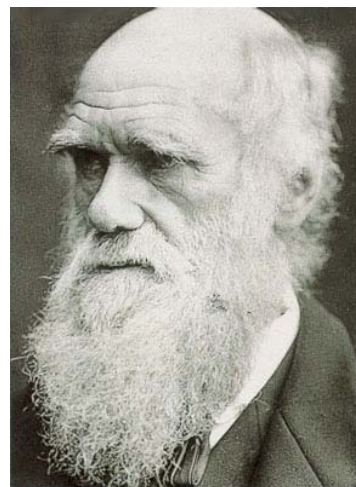
**A renewal of the University of  
Kentucky Darwin Lecture Series by  
Eugenie C. Scott, PhD and Director of  
the National Center for Science  
Education**

February 16, 2012, 7:00 PM at the University of  
Kentucky Singletary Center

**Sponsored by the Kentucky Section of the American  
Institute for Professional Geologists  
and  
The Kentucky Paleontological Society**

**Darwin: Demon or Revolutionary?**

Although Charles Darwin is recognized internationally as the founding father of evolutionary biology and one of the world's most influential scientists, in the creationist world, Darwin's ideas and Darwin as scientist American Institute for Professional Geologists and scholar are routinely denigrated. Three basic themes characterize this demonization: Darwin is presented as an incompetent, or lazy, or plagiarizing scientist; secondly, as the atheist founder of a materialist science (evolution) dedicated to undermining Christianity; and third, as the proponent of toxic social beliefs such as racism. (This would certainly come as a surprise to the quiet Englishman who regularly donated to the American abolition movement, and who almost got himself thrown off the Beagle over an argument with Fitzroy over the evils of slavery). Of course, the actual Darwin contrasts strikingly with these mischaracterizations -- but the mischaracterizations serve to promote an overall anti-evolutionary agenda that survey research has shown has been embraced by a surprisingly large percentage of Americans.



## Saturday February 25th-The Geier Center-Research Collections of the Cincinnati Museum Center

On February 25th, we will be visiting the Geier Center - the research collections of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History followed by a visit to the Cincinnati Museum Center. Please note: This is the research and collections building for the Cincinnati Museum Center; not the Museum Center!

We will meet at the Geier Center. To reach the Geier Center from Northern Kentucky (I-75 North) – take the River Road/Linn Street (US 50 West) exit immediately after crossing the Ohio River Bridge (I-75). After exiting, stay left and exit Gest Street. Turn left onto Gest at the bottom of the ramp (stop sign). The Geier Center is 1.5 blocks on the west (right) side of the street, at the corner of Gest and West 5th streets. Turn right onto West 5th and park in the lot on the right.

If the weather is “iffy”, call Dan Phelps at (859) 296-4870 to confirm whether the field trip is still on. Please be on time – 10 AM. Since this is the weekend, when the tour starts, the building will be locked and there will be no one available to let you in if you are late.

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### Fayette County and State Science Fairs

The KPS is participating in two science fairs coming up in early 2012. First, we are having a table at the Fayette County Science Fair scheduled for Saturday, February 11 at Bryan Station High School from 9 am to 1 pm. Then on Saturday, March 31 we are having a similar display at the State Science Fair. The State Science Fair will be held at ECU Coliseum on Eastern Kentucky University campus. We may be distributing labeled common fossils to attendees. So if you have common fossils you would care to give to school teachers and students, drop them off at the January meeting.

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### Incredible Fossil Preservation in the Soom Shale of South Africa

Solving the mystery of how fossils with preserved eyes, guts and muscles were preserved 1/2 billion years ago.

Republished from a November, 2010 press release by the University of Leicester.

#### A Fossil Preservation Mystery

The mystery of how an abundance of fossils have been marvelously preserved for nearly half a billion years in a remote region of Africa has been solved by a team of geologists from the University of Leicester's Department of Geology. They have established that an ancient wind brought life to the region - and was then instrumental in the preservation of the dead.

Sarah Gabbott, Jan Zalasiewicz and colleagues investigated a site near the Table Mountains in South Africa. Their findings are published in the December, 2010 issue of the journal *Geology*.

### Incredible Preservation - Eyes, Guts, Muscles

Sarah Gabbott said: "Near Table Mountain in South Africa lies one of the world's most mysterious rock layers. Just a few metres thick, and almost half a billion years old, it contains the petrified remains of bizarre early life-forms, complete with eyes and guts and muscles.



"We investigated why these animals are so marvelously preserved, when most fossils are just fragments of bone and shell. The answer seems to lie in a bitter wind, blowing off a landscape left devastated by a massive ice-cap."

Gabbott and Zalasiewicz added that microscopic analysis of the shale layers using a specially designed 'Petroscope', obtained with funding from the Royal Society, revealed remarkable and so far unique structures - myriads of silt grains, neatly wrapped in the remains of marine algae.

#### Nutrient-Rich Surface Over a Stagnant Bottom

The authors state: "The silt grains are sedimentary aliens - much bigger than the marine mud flakes in which they are embedded. They could only have been blown by fierce glacial winds on to the sea surface from that distant landscape. Arriving thick and fast, they carried nutrients into the surface waters, fuelling its prolific life. The deep waters, though, were overwhelmed by rotting, sinking vegetation, becoming stagnant and lifeless - ideal conditions to preserve the animal remains, down to their finest details. A cold wind, here, was key to both life and death."

This study is published in:

Gabbott, S.E., Zalasiewicz, J., Aldridge, R.J. & Theron, H. 2010. *Geology* 38, 1103-1106.

For further details contact: Dr. Sarah Gabbott (sg21@le.ac.uk) or Dr. Jan Zalasiewicz (jaz1@le.ac.uk).



Photos George Weems

# December Meeting, Dinner & Auction



## JANUARY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

WHO- The Kentucky Paleontological Society (KPS).

WHEN- Friday, January 27, 7:30 pm

WHERE- Lexington, Kentucky, Mines and Minerals Resources Building, Room 101, Rose Street, UK Campus.

SPEAKER: KPS President Dan Phelps

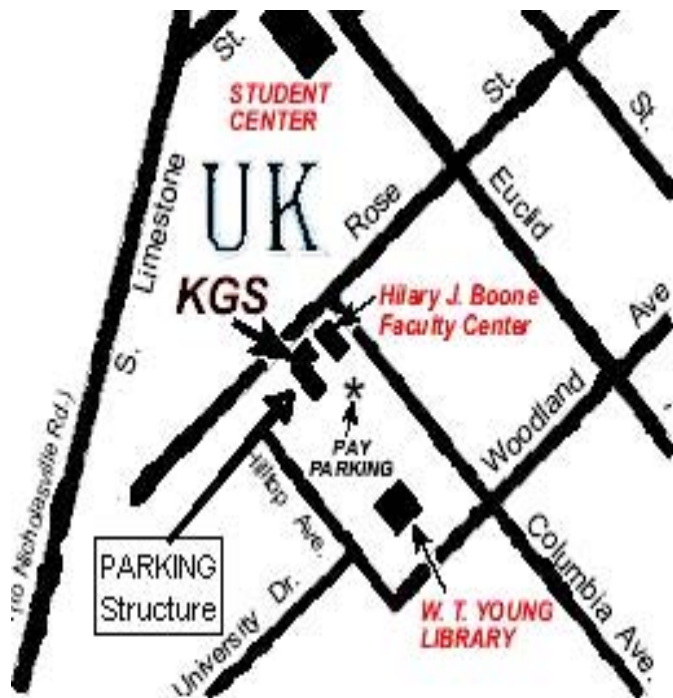
TOPIC: "Geochronology: Geologic Time and the age of the Earth".

For more information, contact Dan Phelps (859) 296-4870.

<http://www.kyps.org>

**Bring your unidentified specimens for us to see!**

**NOTE THAT ROSE STREET NO LONGER CONNECTS WITH NICHOLASVILLE ROAD! FREE PARKING AT THE STRUCTURE ON HILLTOP AVENUE.**



## MEMBERSHIP

MAIL TO: KENTUCKY PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
2004 Sawyer Ct.  
Lexington, KY 40514

### SOCIETY PURPOSE

The Kentucky Paleontological Society was founded in 1993 for the purpose of promoting interest in and knowledge of the science of paleontology. It is intended that the Society be a network for the exchange of data between professionals and serious amateurs in the field. A newsletter is published monthly, and several field trips are arranged annually.

Meetings of the Society are held once a month. Visitors are welcome.

[ ] **Family Membership.** For families. \$17 annually.

[ ] **Individual Membership.** \$12 annually.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

THE NEWSLETTER COMES VIA EMAIL. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL AND NEED TO RECEIVE A COPY VIA US MAIL, CALL George Weems at 859 281-1662.

I hereby promise to support the ethical standards and purposes of this society-

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

### CODE OF ETHICS

I. Members shall not collect specimens where prohibited by federal, state or local laws.

II. Members shall not trespass on private property. All private property laws shall be respected by members.

III. Members agree to protect scientifically important sites. These sites will be made known to members by the Executive Committee.

IV. Members agree to make all specimens of scientific importance available to recognized scientific researchers or institutions for study and photography before final disposal. Sale of specimens of scientific importance should be done with respect towards their scientific value; donations to scientific institutions are encouraged.

V. Members agree not to over collect sites, thus allowing others to study and enjoy those sites.

VI. Members agree not to collect in advance of Society field trips.

The following (optional) information will be included in the society's membership directory:

**OCCUPATION, INTERESTS/COMMENTS** on back of form.

# KENTUCKY PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

www.kyps.org

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT-</b>	<b>Dan Phelps</b>	edrioasteroid@msn.com
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT-</b>	<b>Rick Schrantz</b>	(859) 885-7294.
<b>SECRETARY-</b>	<b>Jozsef Gal</b>	(859) 373-1386
<b>TREASURER-</b>	<b>Sarah Lambert</b>	(859) 254-5138
<b>EDITOR-</b>	<b>George Weems</b>	(859) 281-1662

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS:** Dr. Frank Ettensohn  
Dr. Don Chesnut

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Contributions to our newsletter are encouraged from all interested parties. Please send material to: George Weems, Editor, 220 Castlewood Dr., Lexington, KY 40505 or via email: [george.l.weems@gmail.com](mailto:george.l.weems@gmail.com). **Photos are especially welcome!** Please include in your email subject line in all caps: **KPS NEWSLETTER**.

## KENTUCKY PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

2004 Sawyer Ct  
Lexington, KY 40514

*Ectenocrinus* collected during the Frankfort December 17th field trip. Photo Dan Phelps



Dr. Rebecca Freeman with Frankfort megaripples. Photo Dan Phelps

**Meeting Friday, January 27, Field Trip February 25; Geier Center**