

Discovery Under the Dome...

THE PTERANODON

THE STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

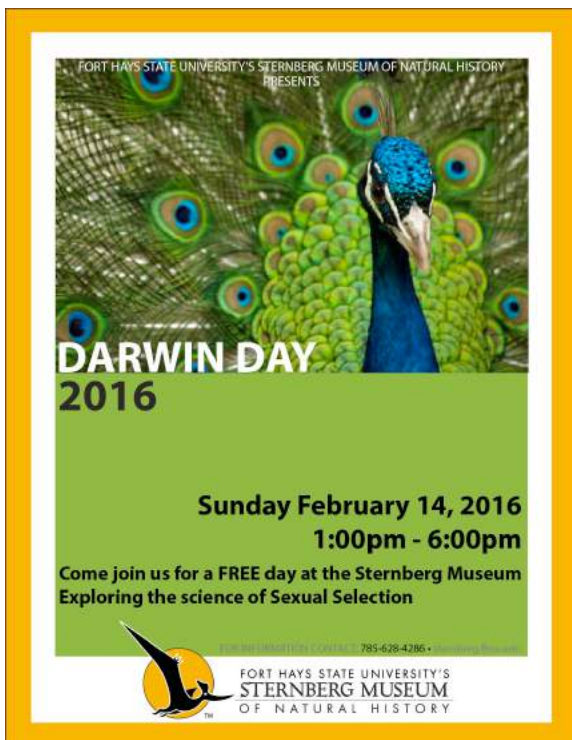
No. 73

February 2016

Darwin Day 2016

The Sternberg Museum of Natural History will celebrate Charles Darwin's 207th birthday with a **FREE day at the museum!** There will be special activities set up around the Museum to explore the science of mate selection (perfect for Valentine's Day!).

Mate selection is a mechanism of evolution describing how individuals in a species select and/or compete for mates. Interactive examples of modern and fossil animals that use extravagant features to attract members of the opposite sex will demonstrate how sometimes features evolve for attracting mates can be dangerous to the individuals. Displays and activities will be appropriate for all ages. **The Museum will be open with free admission during our normal Sunday hours: 1:00pm - 6:00pm.**



Galapagos Trip

The Sternberg Museum of Natural History is thrilled to announce a 2017 trip to the Galapagos Islands! Two museum staff will accompany participants on an adventure through air, land, and sea to witness the spectacular wildlife, scenery, and history of these remarkable islands. We will explore the spectacular organisms and ecosystems that played a key role in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection! Along the way, we will also sample the regional foods of Ecuador, and enjoy the incredible scenery that will surround our every turn. We look forward to you joining us on what promises to be the adventure of a lifetime!

For more information about joining our 2017 trip to the Galapagos, please contact Education Director David Levering at DALevering@FHSU.edu.

Special Visiting Speaker

Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History is hosting world famous paleontologist Jack Horner for a special presentation on Friday April 1. Dr. Horner will discuss how our views of dinosaurs change with new evidence - our perception of dinosaurs has evolved over the past few decades, and it is going to change again in the near future. Dr. Horner's presentation will be appropriate for children with an interest in dinosaurs and fossils - all ages are welcome.

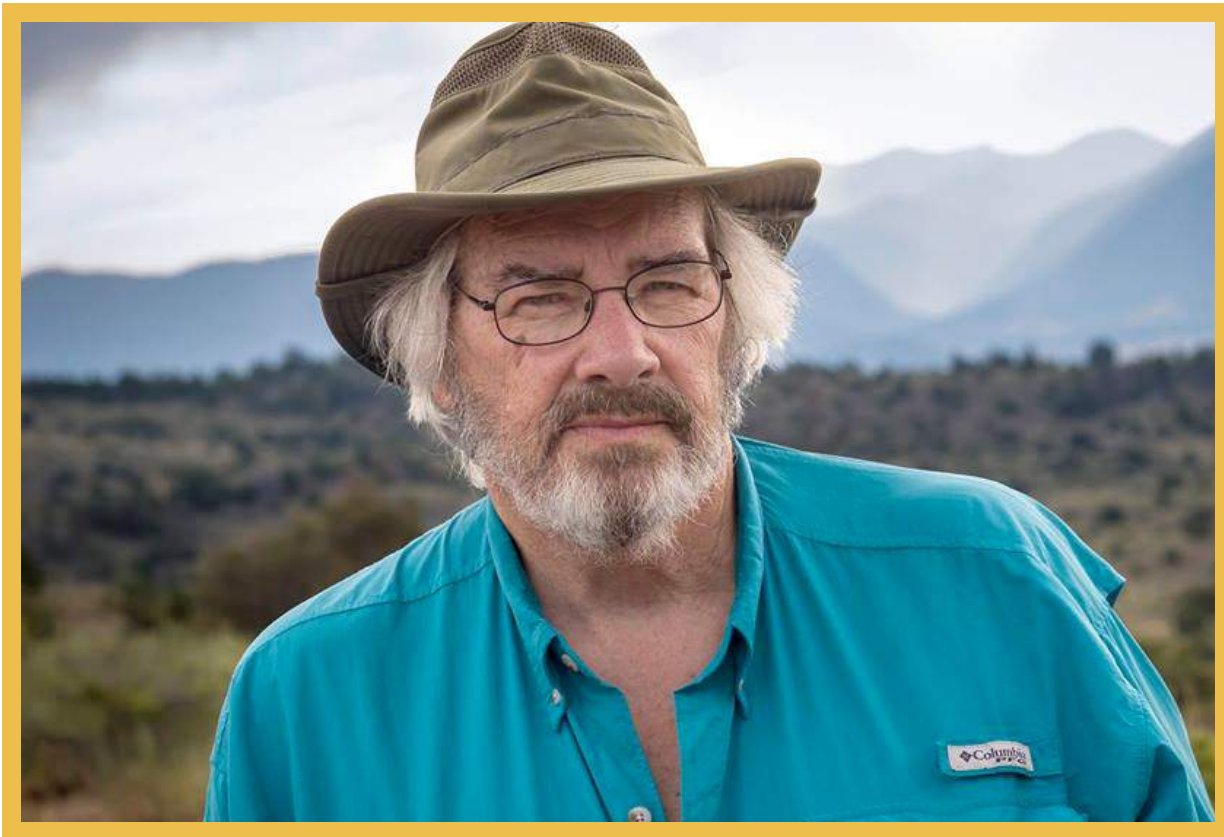
Dr. Horner's many discoveries include the first evidence of parental care in dinosaurs, extensive dinosaur nesting grounds, evidence of gigantic dinosaur herds, and the world's first dinosaur embryos. Dr. Horner's prolific career includes being the recipient of the MacArthur Fellow (also known as the "Genius Grant"), being named a senior adjunct scientist at the Smithsonian Institute and has had three dinosaur species named in his honor. He has also served as Steven Spielberg's technical advisor all of the Jurassic Park films and the FOX television series Terra Nova, and has been featured on 60 Minutes, National Geographic, and The Discovery Channel.

Time: Friday April 1, 2016; 7:00pm

Location: Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center, FHSU campus

Price: \$10 general admission, \$5 Museum members and FHSU students

Paid reservations required, so please contact 785-628-5516 to reserve tickets today!



Science Under the Dome

Adventures and Activities The K-5 Adventures and Activities after school program is moving to Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30pm-5:00pm starting the third week of February. The Museum welcomes Adventures and Activities program instructor and FHSU student Ashli Dinkel this month. A **free shuttle service from the downtown USD489 bus depot** is available to make it easier for students to attend without parents having to leave work early to transport them! Adventures and Activities is a way for students to unwind after school with science-themed activities presented by Museum staff. To register your son or daughter, contact Education Director David Levering at DAlevering@FHSU.edu, or at 785-639-5249."



Natural History for Preschool. Do You Have the Guts for This? Come and explore what is inside your body, and inside the body of some animal friends too.

February 4th & 17th 10:00 – 11:00

\$4 members \$5 general public



NEW: Sternberg Explorers is a program for high school students interested in earth and life sciences! In addition to group activities, students will have the opportunity to work on their own projects using specimens in the Museum collections. Weekend outdoor field trip opportunities will be available as well. For more information on this new program or to get your son or daughter signed up, contact Education Director David Levering at DAlevering@FHSU.edu, or at 785-639-5249.

Sternberg Museum Summer Camps. The 2016 Summer Camp Catalog will be out in February. The Museum's summer camps are heading into their third year following a wonderfully successful 2015 camp season! Students from Kansas, Oklahoma, California, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Maine, and Ohio all joined in for some incredible outdoor adventures! In 2016, students will journey from the Sternberg nature trails and fossil beds of Kansas, to the desert of Arches National Park and wildlife of New Mexico! New for 2016 is Paleobiology Research Methods, a camp for high school students that focuses on how paleobiologists use fossil and modern evidence to pursue new discoveries.



Community Connections

When Mona Lutters of Ransom, Kansas, won the People’s Choice Award in a virtual quilt exhibition, it was the final stitch in a curious collaboration. It started last spring when Kari Schultz, co-owner of Quilt Cottage Co., contacted the museum for help. Her Hays business was joining the Row by Row Experience™, a national shop hop where quilters collect row patterns from participating quilt shops. The theme for 2015 was Row by Row H2O.

“Water...” as Schultz explained, “(you have) to go back more than 60 million years to find much water in western Kansas!” That’s when the Western Interior Seaway covered the region. So she designed her row to depict that sea, the chalk it formed, and two Sternberg fossils buried there—the fish-within-a-fish and the flying reptile *Pteranodon sternbergi*. When she contacted the museum to check her scientific accuracy, it sparked a conversation that grew into a multipronged collaboration.

Schultz created a quilt triptych based on her row pattern, titled “Prehistoric Kansas.” The museum premiered that art quilt in the Hays Arts Council’s summer Gallery Walk last June. Schultz developed coordinating quilt pillow kits to be sold in the museum’s gift shop and the museum hosted an online exhibition of quilts using Schultz’s row pattern.

“We directed visitors to Quilt Cottage and they sent customers here,” said museum director Reese Barrick. “It was a win-win. We’re eager to partner with businesses, civic groups, or others to expand cultural, educational, and scientific opportunities for the community.”

The museum invited visitors to the virtual quilt exhibition to vote for their favorite. The winner was Lutters’ quilt, “Bernbeck Family Reunion 2015.” Her prize included a one-year family membership to Sternberg Museum.



“Prehistoric Kansas”
2015 Row-by-Row
Experience: H2O
Water
Carrie Shultz, Hays
Quilt Cottage



People’s Choice
Award Winner
Virtual Quilt Exhibit
Mona Lutters,
Ransom, Kansas

Eagle Scout Project Builds Benches for the Dr. Howard Reynolds Nature Trail

Take a minute and sit a spell on benches designed and constructed by Jordan Voss for his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout. Jordan is a senior at Hays High School with his eye on graduation, K State, and a degree in Computer Science. He has been a Boy Scout since he was 10. The Eagle Scout rank is about leadership and community service. When considering projects he thought of the nature trail and the fact that there was no place to sit down along the way. He felt benches would be a good addition and presented his idea to his troop leader then to Dr. Reese Barrick, Sternberg Director. With their approval he began the work to accomplish his goal; bench design, materials needed, project funding, construction and installation were required. In November of 2015 he installed five benches with support from troop members and leaders. Thank you Jordan!



Nature Trail Benches
Eagle Scout Merit Badge Project
Jordan Voss, Hays, Kansas