

THE PTERANODON

THE STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

No. 74

March 2016

Dinosaurs of the past, the present, and the future.

The Sternberg Museum will host world famous paleontologist Dr. Jack Horner for a special presentation on Friday, April 1 at Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center. Dr. Horner will discuss how views of dinosaurs change with new evidence. 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 Fellowship (also known as the "Genius Grant"), being named a senior adjunct scientist at the Smithsonian Institute and three dinosaur species are named in his honor. He has also served as Steven Spielberg's technical advisor for 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*.

Location: Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center, FHSU campus

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

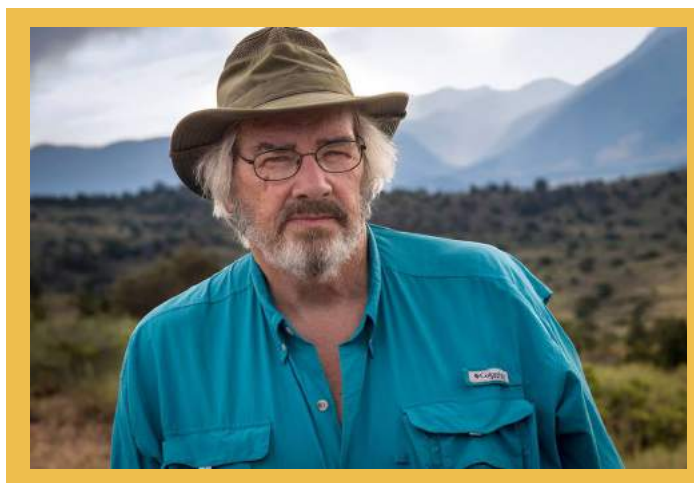
Paid reservations required, so please contact 785-628-5516 to reserve tickets today!

Tickets are available:

Online: <http://webapps.fhsu.edu/sternbergEvents/>

On campus: FHSU Memorial Union (cash or check only) or Sternberg Museum (cc, cash or check)

By Mail: Send check or money order to Sternberg Museum of Natural History, 3000 Sternberg Drive, Hays, Kansas 67601. Please include name, address, phone number, and number of tickets.



Community Connections



Sternberg Sponsors Galapagos Islands Tour Spring 2017

The Sternberg Museum is thrilled to announce a 2017 trip to the Galapagos Islands. 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. Explore the amazing organisms and ecosystems that played a key role in Charles Darwin's Theory of evolution by natural selection.

Along the way sample the regional foods of Ecuador, and enjoy the incredible scenery around every turn. Enjoy an adventure of a lifetime!

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

Sternberg Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 26, 2016

Start Times:

1:00 children under 5

1:30 Ages 5-8 & 9-12

Free to museum members

\$3 for general public

We will hide over 10,000 eggs on our Nature Trail

Many eggs will contain coupons for prizes that can be redeemed on the north side of the parking lot or in our lobby if the weather is too cold or windy.

Darwin Days Draws Crowd of 800

The Sternberg's celebration of Darwin Days on February 14 drew a crowd of over 800. All ages enjoyed a free day at the museum and learned about Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection. Mate selection, or more accurately termed Sexual Selection, is part of Charles Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection, and explains how the selection of a mate can result in evolutionary change. This year's theme was mate selection, so brightly colored and flamboyantly adorned animals took center stage.

"Male peacocks, birds of paradise, and cardinals with bright plumage are great examples among birds. Deer and elk with antlers during the mating season are classic examples of sexual selection among mammals", explains Curator of Paleontology Dr. Laura Wilson.

The Darwin Day celebration is one of the annual "free days" offered by the Sternberg Museum, when admission fees are waived for all visitors. Dr. Reese Barrick, the Director of the Sternberg Museum, says, "free days are important to reach out to the whole community with the opportunity to see the museum and enjoy special events."

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.”



Preschool program: Just 'EGGSactly' whose NEST is it?
Did you know all birds nests are not alike and neither are their eggs. We will build nests and eggs to put in them. Thursday, March 3 and Wednesday, March 16th. 10-11am.
Museum Members \$5, Non-members \$6

NEW: Sternberg Explorers 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.

2016 Summer Camps Catalog now available!

The Sternberg Museum Summer Camps are heading into their third year following an exciting 2015 camps season! Students from Kansas, Oklahoma, California, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Maine, and Ohio experienced incredible outdoor adventures! 2016 promises to be even better. 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 in 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.



For a copy of the 2016 Sternberg Science Camps Catalog, or to enquire about the camp programs, contact Education Director David Levering at DAlevering@FHSU.edu

Sternberg Museum Attends Empower Comic Con in Topeka

Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History visited Empower Comic Con in Topeka over the weekend of February 19-21. Empower Comic Con is unique in that one of the primary goals of this event (in addition to celebrating all things nerdy) is to promote awareness of minority groups. This year's theme was empowering women in today's society and included prominent female celebrity guests such as Lindsey Wagner (The Bionic Woman), Naomi Grossman (American Horror Story), and Gigi Edgley (Farscape).

The Sternberg Museum of Natural History was in attendance as well, with a large assortment of fossils and fossil casts from the education and paleontology teaching collection. Staff members Ian Trevethan (Museum Outreach Coordinator) and Bradley Penka (Manager of Visitor Services) were on hand to talk to the public and increase awareness of the many opportunities the Sternberg Museum of Natural History and Fort Hays State University have to offer. Of the people attending Empower Comic Con Trevethan said "I look around this place and what I see is a lot of powerful and incredibly imaginative minds. To me, that's the perfect starting point for learning about natural sciences!" Empower Comic Con ran from Friday, February 19th through Sunday February 21st and raised \$2,500 in donations for charity.



The Sternberg Museum's booth at the recent Empower Comic Con exhibition.