

THE FOSSIL RECORD

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Over the Wire:

SEARCHING FOR EVIDENCE

Can Technology Help?

Researchers using computed tomography (CAT scan) have advanced our understanding of Archaeopteryx, a half bird/half reptilian feathered animal found in 145 million year old Bavarian limestone. Scientists have long argued whether the animal could fly, since it lacked a breastbone.

Recent CAT scan imaging reveals the animal had a brain similar to modern birds, with a keen sense of vision, movement and balance, and therefore an ability to fly. Using this line of evidence, the animal apparently adhered to the philosophy, "I think I can, therefore I can".



Photo Credit: Susan Hatfield

Members, Pat McGuire and Anita Cavigla photograph marine fossils uncovered by a winter tide.

Field Trips:

THE HISTORY OF OREGON

Central Oregon Geology

Date: Saturday September 25, 2004

Cost: \$10 individual (member).

\$20 individual (non-member)

Call: (503) 358-9030 to register.

Join us on this trip beginning at the spectacular John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in central Oregon. We start at the Visitor's Center and then move on to explore ancient rocks formed during the dawn of Oregon's history.

For accommodations, we are recommending the historic craftsman style Fish House Inn in Dayville. Guests will enjoy attractive rooms or camping facilities and a full breakfast. Space is limited. Call the museum for details.

In the Laboratory:

MUSEUM NEWS

Workshops for Members & Volunteers

We are offering free workshops on fossil preparation in our exhibit area at OMSI. Topics include techniques for making plaster supports for fossil specimens and fossil reconstruction.

Gigantic Tortoise

Among our treasures is a rare tortoise unearthed on a Museum field trip eight years ago in eastern Oregon. This three-foot long giant will eventually be on exhibit following preparation. Professional preparator Paul Kirkland will assist us with this daunting task.

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