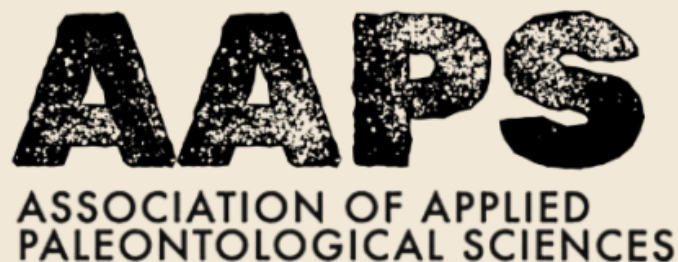


Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences

April 2026 Newsletter



IMPORTANT AAPS LEADERSHIP NEWS

Dear AAPS Members,

Former AAPS President Andre Lujan resigned on Saturday, March 14. Vice President Geoff Notkin accepted his resignation and immediately called for an emergency board meeting. As a result we wish to share the following news with you:

By unanimous vote, and in accordance with AAPS procedures, the Board of Directors appointed Geoff Notkin as interim president. He will serve the remainder of the current term, which ends in February 2027. Elections for the next presidential term and several board seats will take place later this year.

Also by unanimous vote, the board confirmed the following officers:

Former Association secretary Amanda Cantrell of Badlands Scientific is elected to the office of AAPS vice president. Brook Ricard of Fossil Lab Innovations is elected to the office of AAPS secretary.

Tom Suazo will continue in his role as AAPS treasurer, and Craig Kissick remains past president and advisor to the executive board.

Additionally, AAPS co-founder and past president Neal Larson has kindly agreed to fill Brook's vacated board seat on an interim basis.

Geoff Notkin has been a professional AAPS member for 25 years, a board member for the past 18 months, and most recently served as vice president. He is also a longstanding and generous financial supporter of the Association. Geoff is the founder of Aerolite Meteorites, Inc., owner of Notkin Rock & Fossil, president emeritus of the National Space Society, and serves on two other science-related boards. He brings wide-ranging nonprofit and leadership experience to AAPS. Amanda Cantrell brings a background in both academic and commercial paleontology, combining museum and research experience with extensive fieldwork expertise as co-owner of Badlands Scientific. Her vision for raising standards, strengthening collaboration, and reshaping the public narrative around commercial paleontology positions her as a strong and effective vice president. Brook Ricard is a highly organized and accomplished professional, a longtime presence in the field, and the founder of Fossil Lab Innovations. She brings not only proficiency in the tools of the trade, but also the organizational tools needed to support and strengthen the AAPS as secretary.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The Association has been through significant change during the past year. Our longtime administrator, George Winters, retired and former Vice President Alex Ruger stepped in to fulfill his responsibilities. We developed an entirely new and improved visual image, including a new Association logo, gem show signage, AAPS merchandise, giveaways such as updated scale rulers, a wealth of professionally-designed promotional materials to attract and inform potential new members, all the way down to new official letterhead and forms. We have adopted online membership renewal and are working on multiple other upgrades to elevate the way in which we conduct business in the world.

A new program of regular, pertinent, professionally-written, pro-paleontology [official press releases](#) has been implemented, the first of which went out on [Tuesday, March 24](#). A second will follow in the next few days. We are modernizing and improving our Tucson show guide, which has a print run of 15,000 copies and is one of the Association's primary interfaces with the public. An all-new, contemporary, and user-friendly AAPS website is under construction and will launch in the very near future. As a professional art director I have been working very closely with some of the finest designers and web developers I know to create the best possible public image for the Association, all with the constant assistance, input, and support from Craig, Alex, Brook, Tom, and Amanda as well as our impressive Board of Directors. This is too large a ship for one person to steer.

The AAPS is extremely important to me, a fact which is, I hope, demonstrated by my very long business memberships through both Aerolite Meteorites and Notkin Rock & Fossil. I have been finding, buying, selling, and trading fossils since the 1960s and in addition to my work in the natural history world, I am a science writer and media professional with extensive experience in film, television, publicity, design, and related areas. As president, I will continue to put those abilities directly to work for the AAPS.

With an outstanding new executive board at my side, I have no doubt that we will look back at 2026 as one of the finest years in the Association's history. We have already carried out a great deal of modernization and we hope and intend to implement other major and constructive innovations during the coming months.

I believe in an open and accessible approach to leadership, and in listening directly to our members' ideas and concerns. I, therefore, encourage you to [reach out to us](#) with your thoughts and suggestions.

We work for you, the membership, and we are deeply committed to earning your confidence by carrying out our jobs very well.

Our goal is clear: to build an organization that is respected, relevant, effective, and professional—one that not only represents the field well, but contributes meaningfully to it, and one that you are proud to be a part of.

We are not simply looking ahead to a stronger future for the AAPS—we are actively building it. Thank you for your continued membership and support. This organization only exists because of you.

Yours most respectfully,



Geoffrey Notkin
President, Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences

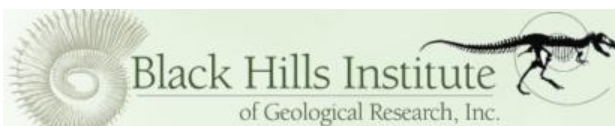
MILWAUKEE SHOW **Single 10 x 10 Booth = \$800 ■ Double 10 x 20 = \$1,500**
AUGUST 19 – 23, 2026 **\$500 Reserves any Booth ■ \$200,000 Ad Campaign**
America's Largest Indoor Show with 1,079 booths

A CORRECTION TO THE MARCH NEWSLETTER

AAPS alumnus George Winters kindly provided us with a correction to the March 2026 Newsletter. The most the lab coat has raised at auction was approximately \$4,000, a record set about 10 years ago. If you were the bidder (or happen to know them), please let us know! We'd like to have this information for our records.

Design Director and Advertising Manager Position for the 2027 Tucson Show Guide: Fossil Dealers & Events

In the previous issue of this newsletter, we put out a call for a qualified professional to take over all design, production, and advertising needs for our annual show guide. This is a demanding job that requires a great deal of real-world experience in graphic design, print production, and dialoging and working directly with advertisers and our print shop in Tucson. We incorrectly stated that applications were due by May 1, 2027 and we apologize for that error. We already have an excellent candidate and are, therefore, putting out a final call for applications. If you are interested in interviewing for this position, [please contact us immediately](#) as we must commence work on the 2027 guide in very short order.



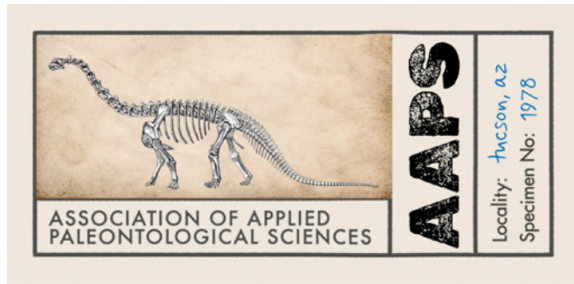
A leader in paleontological excavations
preparation, and display services,
for nearly 50 years



SUBMIT NEWS TO AAPS

Do you have something you'd like to share with the AAPS community? Submit news to AAPSadmin@proton.me to let everyone know! We love to feature stories that showcase what exciting discoveries and projects our members are a part of.

What's your latest Discovery? Send us News!



Established 1978

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