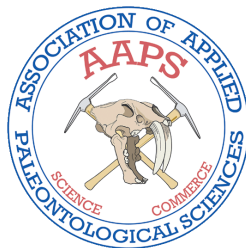


Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences

December Newsletter



MILWAUKEE SHOW
AUGUST 13 - 17, 2025
THE NEW BAIRD CENTER

10' x 10' Booths are \$1,000 for one ■ \$1,500 for two
\$220,000 Ad Campaign \$100 Reserves Your Booth!
300 Booths Already Sold 1 Hour From Chicago O'Hare ✈

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Renew Your AAPS Membership

2026 is almost upon us, which means it is time to renew your AAPS membership. We appreciate each and every one of our members - it is *you* that makes the Association. Please note memberships are automatically renewed unless you choose to opt out of that option.

Note that we now have a new tier - a **lifetime membership**. This covers ten years worth of dues, a custom enamel pin, and an embossed and framed certificate.

Use the button below to renew now!

[Click Here to Renew Your Membership](#)

Annual AAPS Meeting, Dinner, and Auction

Please join us on Saturday, February 7, 2026, for our annual meeting! Like last year, it will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Tucson East, located at 6555 E Speedway Blvd. Come for the fossils, stay for the friends, and enjoy a feast!

Schedule Highlights:

- Doors to the banquet room open at 5:30 pm.
- Meeting starts at 6 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 pm.
- Silent auction items on display with bid sheets available.
- Live auction kicks off at 7:30 pm.

Auction items are generously donated by AAPS members. If you'd like to contribute, please send pictures, a description, and an estimated value of the item to AAPSadmin@proton.me.

As is tradition, the Bill Mason Lab Coat will be offered to the highest bidder during the live auction. Last year, it fetched a record \$1,200! Successful bidders are honored as the 2026 AAPS

Advocate, spotlighted on the AAPS website, and invited to write an article sharing their achievements and perspective in the 2027 Tucson Show Guide: Fossil Dealers and Events.

Dinner costs \$50 per person, with a cash bar offering beer and wine. Tickets are required, and we can only accommodate 155 attendees. Reserve your spot now by following the link to our registration page!

Questions? Email AAPSadmin@proton.me, call 765-914-4439, or stop by the AAPS booth in the main building at the Mineral & Fossil Marketplace.

[Click here to purchase your dinner tickets](#)

2026 Dinner Menu

Street Taco Bar

Chips, salsa & guacamole

Corn & flour tortilla

Chicken tinga & Pork Carnitas

Vegetarian option: sweet potato & black bean

Golden rice, refried beans, and street corn

Pickled red onion & Cowboy candy

Crema & Cotija cheese

Assorted hot sauces

Southern Hospitality

Honey butter cornbread

Fried chicken

BBQ pork ribs

Mac & cheese

Potato salad

Stewed greens

Coleslaw

2026 Elections - Submit Nominations Now!

A reminder that nominations are open for the following positions. Please note you can nominate yourself or any other member of AAPS. Please check the website for a list of our **business members**. We will confirm with nominees that they will accept the nomination before sending out the ballot. Nominations are open until January 10th!

Those with terms ending are:

- Lauren McClain, Board Position
- Walter Stein, Board Position
- Brook Ricard, Board Position

Please send nominations to AAPSadmin@proton.me

[Submit Nominations](#)

James Edward Tynsky

August 18, 1951 — December 3, 2025

Jim Tynsky passed away on December 3rd after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He grew up in Rock Springs, Wyoming where he graduated from Rock Springs High School in 1969. He later moved to Kemmerer, WY where he lived for the last 46 years. He is survived by his wife Vicky, children Rob (Kodi) and Stacey (Dean), Stepchildren Teresa (Adam) and Travis, Grandchildren Tyson (Tasha), Tanner, Terry, James, Bronson, River, and Bryson, Great Grandson Travis, Brother Bob (Marsha) and sister Debi (Mike) and many nieces and

nephews. He was preceded in death by his Father Robert Tynsky, Mother Carolyn Tynsky, and former wife Karen Tynsky.

Jim grew up rockhounding and discovering fossils with his mom, dad, and grandfather. He turned this passion into a life-long business. He inspired his children's and grandchildren's love of discovering fossils. Jim touched many lives with his witty sense of humor, easy going personality, and huge heart. His biggest accomplishment was discovering the three-toed horse. His other passions were his family, hunting, football (cheering on the Denver Broncos), fishing, and his four-legged family members.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 13th at 11 am at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Kemmerer with a luncheon to follow in the parish hall at the church. Condolences may be sent to the family home, 201 Beryl St., Kemmerer, WY 83101.

Obituary courtesy of the Ball Family Chapel

Jim was a longtime member of AAPS and had many friends in the fossil world. His contributions to the field are innumerable, and he will be missed dearly among his friends in the Association.

Remembering Jim

"I was very sad to hear of the passing of Jim Tynsky on December 3rd, 2025. He was a generous, softspoken man with an easy-going personality and subtle sense of humor. Over the years he gave me and my various field crews access to some of the richest fossil deposits in Wyoming: the Fossil Butte Member of the Green River Formation.

I first met Jimmy in the late 1970's when, as a young scientist, I began to explore the Early Eocene deposits of this locality. Over the years, he was one of the most generous and helpful of all the commercial quarriers to my own research career and to the Field Museum's excavation and teaching programs. Beginning in 1984, I would bring my museum field crews, and later also my numerous University of Chicago students, out to his quarry each summer to excavate fossils for the museum, and train aspiring young paleo students in the operations of fieldwork. Much of the Field Museum's massive collection from the Green River Formation is from Jimmy's quarry.

Some of my past students, whose first field experience was in Jimmy's quarry, went on to various graduate schools to pursue their own careers in paleontology. I first wrote about Jimmy in my 2013 book, *The Lost World of Fossil Lake* (University of Chicago Press). Jimmy even has a fossil bird genus named in his honor (*Tynskya eocaena* Mayr, 2000). Jimmy is survived by several family members including his son Robbie and Robbie's wife Kodi, who together carry on the tradition of running quarry operations. I wish them the very best for the future."

-Dr. Lance Grande
Negaunee Distinguished Service Curator
Field Museum of Natural History

"It feels good to say 'celebrate' today because Jim gave us so much to be proud of, so much to laugh about, and so much to carry forward.

Jim was 74 but he packed those years like a toolbox... useful, steady and always within reach. He was a third-generation fossil digger, born with a hammer and chisel in his hand and always chasing the thrill of finding what the earth had been hiding. He turned that heritage into a life's calling, owning and operating a fossil shop and quarry for over 45 years. He always welcomed curious kids and seasoned collectors with the same warm smile and easy-going personality that we all came to love.

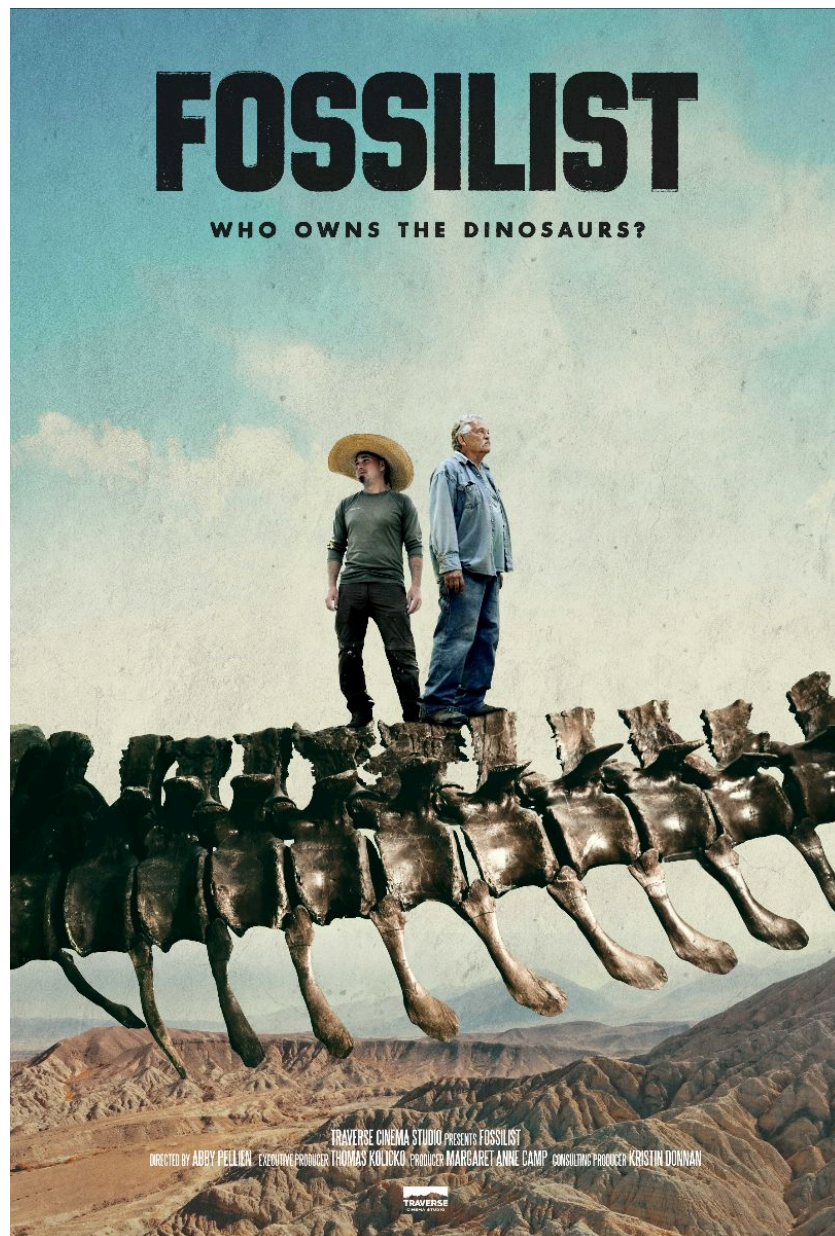
In the story of American discovery, he left a mark.... He found the first complete three-toed horse from the Green River formation. He was always the first in the quarry and was usually the last to leave. He also found numerous other important scientific specimens. Jim happily donated fossils to several museums.

Jim was one of the first collectors to participate in the Tucson Fossil, Gem, and Mineral Show. Each year, he enjoyed visiting with all the other vendors and buyers. He felt very blessed to make his living off of just a couple shows a year.

After his colon cancer diagnosis in 2019, he sold the family business to his son Rob and daughter-in-law Kodi. With fossil finding and preparation in his blood, he was still able to dig and prepare fossils for the next seven years. Jim was one of the most kindhearted, hardworking, gentle souls and will be missed by many."

-Robert "Robbie" Tynsky
Owner and Operator
Tynsky's Fossils

Fossilist Poster



Members who attended last year's annual meeting in Tucson, AZ may recall that AAPS made a substantial donation to the upcoming documentary *Fossilist: Who Owns the Dinosaurs?* We are pleased to show off their official poster, featuring two AAPS members: Current AAPS President Andre LuJan alongside former AAPS president and founding member Peter Larson.

Here is the official description of *Fossilist*, from Traverse Cinema Studios:

"Fossils whisper tales of Earth's prehistoric giants, but those who find them are anything but silent. *Fossilist* unearths a compelling human drama — one of passion, rivalry, and unexpected alliances—that often inspires sensational headlines. *Fossilist* travels beneath the surface to reveal a landscape far more nuanced than what the public perceives, where the thrill of discovery clashes with thorny issues of fossil poaching, debates over excavation practices, and the ethics of fossil sales. From 19th-century "Bone Wars" to modern-day excavations, *Fossilist* traces the evolution of a field caught between scientific pursuit and market forces. And the lines are not as clearly drawn as they might seem."

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!



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



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Donate to AAPS

The Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences (AAPS), is a public charity under IRS section 501(c)(3). As such, it is tax-exempt and is permitted to receive tax-deductible gifts pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service. It is also able to receive tax-deductible bequests for estate tax purposes. Donations to any of our scholarships and grants are entirely tax-deductible in the United States. 100% of all scholarship and grant donations are used for those purposes. Specimens donated for our annual auction and for youth programs may also be deductible, but check with your tax and estate planner.

Donate Now!

It's the members that make the association!





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