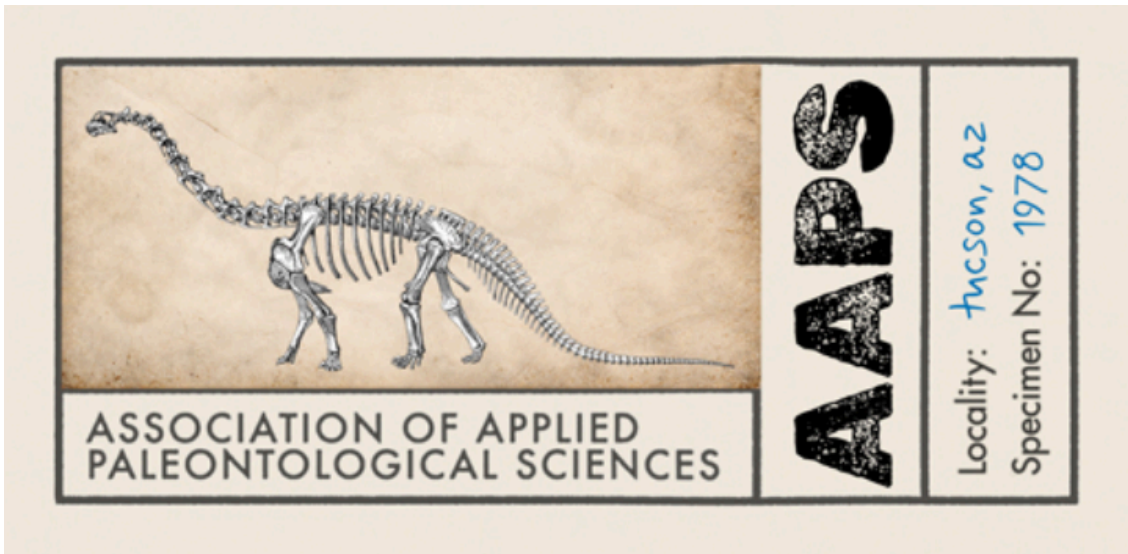
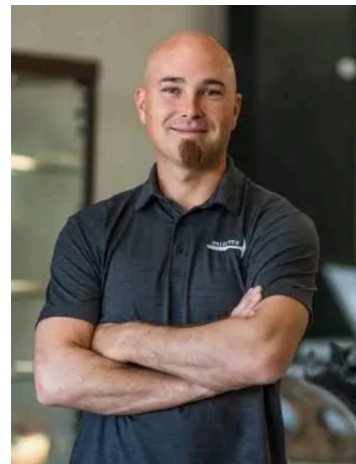


# Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences January Newsletter



## A Message from the President

It is my great pleasure to announce the winning design of the AAPS logo contest. Thank you to all who participated, we had a tremendous response and over 20 submissions on short notice. We all work in a science that is rooted in change, adaptation, and evolution. Our organization is no different: it must and has changed over the years, but all for a better and bright future of the association! So please welcome the new logo of the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences, designed by the incredibly talented Grant Sanders. This logo is not only representative of and familiar to us, but is also versatile and modular, able to be used across platforms for different purposes. It will serve us well. Thank you all again for the outstanding participation in the contest.



Sincerely,  
Andre Lujan  
President, Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences

## AAPS Elections

It is once again time to elect officers to the AAPS Board of Directors! If you are a current, dues-paying member, your electronic ballot has already been e-mailed to you. If you don't see it, please check your spam folder! If your membership is current and you've not received a ballot, please contact [AAPSadmin@proton.me](mailto:AAPSadmin@proton.me)

Below, you will find brief biographies of the four candidates, so take time to read and learn about your potential board members - they will be leading the Association! **Voting closes on February 6th, at 11:45 PM.**

**Lauren McClain**

I provide professional fossil preparation and restoration services for museums and individuals via my company, Big Sky Fossils. I also partner with ranchers and landowners on a variety of field projects in the Hell Creek formation in Montana. I have a Masters of Science in Marketing from Texas A&M and a BFA in graphic design from Hardin-Simmons University. Prior to starting my business, I spent a decade working as a senior user-experience designer and graphic designer at Hewlett-Packard, JLL, and Deloitte.

### **John Porter**

Hi! I'm a new member of AAPS. I've followed the organization for some time and jumped at the opportunity to apply for a board position. I've been into science, fossils, rocks, and minerals since I was a kid.

I'm a middle school science teacher in St. Louis, Missouri, and hold master's degrees in both Nonprofit Management and Teaching & Learning (MATL), with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. Outside the classroom, I'm an active fossil hunter and serve on the board of the Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology (EMSP). I am also the co-founder of the St. Louis Prehistoric Life Show, coming in October 2026, an event designed to bring together researchers, dealers, collectors, and families, much like AAPS does.

My current research focuses on the histories of fossil sites: their discovery, the people involved, what was found, and whether the sites remain accessible today. I've been collecting oral and written histories as part of this work, with the hope of preserving knowledge that can support both science and responsible collecting.

I would be honored to serve on the AAPS board. Your mission resonates deeply with my experience and interests, and I would welcome the opportunity to support the organization in a meaningful way.

### **Trevor H. Rempert**

*(note that Trevor Rempert was not initially included in the ballot: if you believe him best suited to be on the board, please use the "write-in" feature on the e-ballot for the **3rd Board Seat** position)*

My fellow fossil dealers,

I am Trevor Henry Rempert, avocational vertebrate paleontologist, principal investigator of Rempert Paleontology Research Group, longtime member of the AAPS, writer of 13 academic papers, two-time author in the AAPS's *The Journal of Paleontological Sciences*, describer of the new species *Pseudocorax heteroserratus* and *Hainosaurus boubker*, and leisure fossil hunter.

Today, I write to you as a friend and ask, **"Will you fight for Commercial Paleontology?"**

To many of you, fossil hunting is a cherished hobby. To some, it is a way of life. Amateur fossil hunters and commercial dealers are the backbone of the paleontological field. Since the days of Mary Anning, the Great Halls of Europe and the museums of America have been filled with fossil discoveries dug up by non-professional amateurs.

And yet, it seems our shared passion is in more danger now than ever before. Rather than expressing gratitude, researchers demonize amateur fossil collection and express disdain at the idea that fossils have monetary value. Every month, there is a new cry to restrict fossil hunting, from England and Wales, to BC and Alberta, to the Moroccan Atlas and Kem Kem, to the United States.

**It is my view that a proactive AAPS is a necessity in order to preserve Commercial Paleontology.**

When researchers publish a paper that intentionally omits the name of the fossil hunter who is responsible for the discovery (e.g., Hell Creek's *Eoneophron infernalis*), we must call out the lack of professional recognition.

When a dinosaur is going to auction and the SVP puts out articles saying all fossils should be compulsorily donated to the state, we must respond by defending our property rights.

And highest of all, when academic malefactors try to shut down fossil sites, it is OUR DUTY to fight to keep these sites accessible to the public.

**I humbly ask for your vote as we fight together for the future of Commercial Paleontology.**

### **Brook Ricard**

My name is Brook Ricard, and I am the founder of Fossil Lab Innovations. I have spent over 20 years working closely with the fossil preparation community, supporting preparators, labs, museums, and educators through hands-on experience, tool development, and professional collaboration.

As a new and growing company, I am especially motivated to remain actively involved at the association level. I see board service as an opportunity to stay closely connected to the community that has shaped my career.

Serving on the board allows me to both contribute meaningfully to the paleo community and continue learning from the professionals, institutions, and members who make it so strong. I value collaboration, transparency, and shared knowledge, and I believe that continued engagement helps ensure member-focused assistance and payment programs operate smoothly and remain accessible, practical, and aligned with real community needs. **I value thoughtful oversight and believe active engagement strengthens both the association and its members.**

**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

### In Memoriam: Gael Summer

We are saddened to bring you news of the passing of another longtime AAPS member. Past president of AAPS Gael Summer passed away on January 17, 2026. We send condolences to her family and many friends, and honor her long involvement with, and service to, AAPS.

If you have fond memories of Gael and her long career in the fossil industry, please share them with the Association via email: [AAPSadmin@proton.me](mailto:AAPSadmin@proton.me)

### Annual Meeting and Dinner

A reminder: you can digitally buy your tickets to our annual meeting, dinner, and auction right now!

The annual meeting will take place Saturday, February 7, 2026 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! Of special note, there will be an **exclusive preview** of the upcoming documentary *Fossilist: Who Owns the Dinosaurs?*

Would you like to reserve a table for a party of six or more? Purchase your tickets below and email [AAPSadmin@proton.me](mailto:AAPSadmin@proton.me), call/text 765-914-4439, or stop by the AAPS booth in the main building at the Mineral & Fossil Marketplace.

[Click here to buy your tickets NOW!](#)

[Donate to the Auction!](#)

All auction items are generously donated by AAPS members - it's **you** who make the Association and this event great! If you'd like to contribute to the auction, fill out the donation form linked below and email it to [AAPSadmin@proton.me](mailto:AAPSadmin@proton.me). If you'd like to drop your donation off in person, please visit us in the Mineral & Fossil Marketplace!

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. Specimens donated for our annual auction and for youth programs may also be deductible, but check with your tax and estate planner.

[Click here for the Donation Form](#)

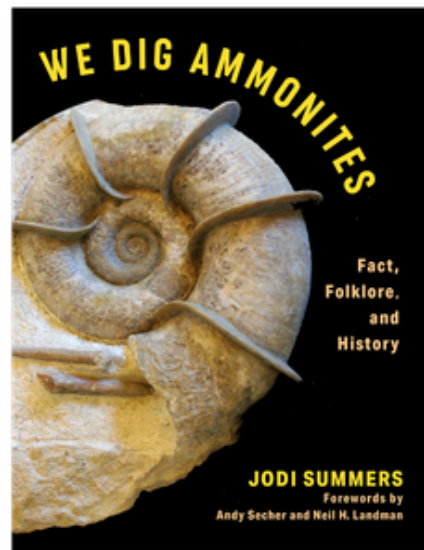
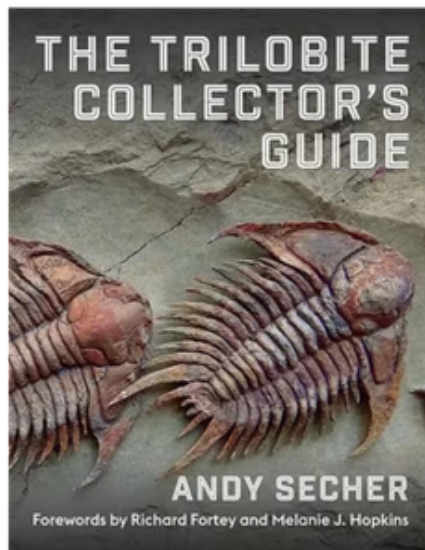


## Book Signing at Fossil Co-op

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 1st, from 2–5 PM — the Mineral and Fossil Co-op will host their annual Author Book Signings.

This year, they will host two fossil-loving authors: Jodi Summers, signing her chart topping *We Dig Ammonites*, and Andy Secher, whose *Trilobite Collector's Guide* flew off the shelves last year.

The Mineral and Fossil Co-op is located at 1635 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705. If you missed out last year, this is your chance to stop by, say hi, and grab some essential reading for any fossil-enthusiast!



## Submit News To AAPS

Do you have something you'd like to share with the AAPS community? Submit news to [AAPSadmin@proton.me](mailto: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!

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