

MARYANNINGCLUB@
GMAIL.COM

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Mary Anning had many scientists that visited her because she was and expert and had an extensive collection.
- On December 1st you can learn how to prep a fossil at HMNS.
- Email any questions to MaryAnningClub@gmail.com.
- To subscribe to the e-newsletter just send an email with "Newsletter" in the subject line.

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Mary Anning Club

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Why Mary Anning?

Why Mary Anning?

Well first, we must answer "Who is Mary Anning?" Mary Anning was a famous female paleontologist (or someone who studies prehistoric animals ex: fossils). Her family was poor and she lived with her mother, father and older brother, Joseph. When Mary was an infant, she and three others were struck by lightning during a storm, only Mary survived.

Mary's father, Richard Anning, was a cabinet maker who collected and sold his fossil finds by the shore which was right near the Anning's residence. Richard Anning often took Mary and Joseph with him down to the shore to hunt for "curiosities", or as we call them, fossils. Tragically struck when Richard Anning



Mary Anning with her dog Tray

became ill and died in 1810 at the age of 44, leaving Mrs. Anning, Mary, and Joseph surviving on charity for money to buy primary things such as food. Mary had

realized that she could contribute to her family's income by selling her "curiosities".

Together, Mary, Joseph, and Mary's dog, Tray (who Mary had found and took care of) excavated *Ichthyosaurus* which was later sold to a museum.

Mary also had uncovered other non-dinosaurian creatures such as a *plesiosaur*, *Pterodactyl*, and *Dapedium*.

Back to the first question, why Mary Anning?

Mary Anning was a female paleontologist (which was rare at the time), she not only discovered new and intact specimens, but was interested in them at a young age. She is a great model for young girls interested in the Paleontology field.

About the Club

My name is Myria, Myriapod, Myriasaurus, or any other name David Temple calls me, I am 14 years old and I currently am a junior volunteer at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, I decided to assemble a club where girls or anybody interested in paleontology, could learn more about women in paleontology. I will send out a

monthly newsletter with these things included: an interview with a female paleontologist, upcoming Museum events, newly discovered fossils of finds, and suggestions on paleontology related books. The Mary Anning Club was actually Dr. Robert Bakker's idea, which he had mentioned to me. So I decided to bring this idea to a real club for girls.



Using an airscribe to prepare a fossil while wearing magnifying goggles.

New Discoveries



Above, an illustration of Tatankacephalus a kind of Ankylosauridae

Tatankacephalus

cooneyorum, or *Tatankacephalus* was discovered by a husband and wife team up in Montana. This dinosaur, was part of the *Ankylosauridae* family, it was heavily armored with bony plates and a club tail. This *Ankylosauridae* was alive and active during the Early Cretaceous Period which was about 112 million years ago. To find out more about *Tatankacephalus*, look at the following website:

www.physorg.com/news/176119692.html

Mini T-Rex, or known better as *Raptorex* was announced September 17, 2009 as a newly unearthed dinosaur. Though *Raptorex* looks quite a lot like a "mini" version of the all American favorite, *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, this dino lived 60 million years before it. While T-Rex weighed around 5 to 6 tons with a height of 20 feet tall,

Raptorex weighed only 143 pounds and stood 9 feet tall!

A great site to find more about *Raptorex* is at;

http://scienceblogs.com/notrocketscience/2009/09/raptorex_tiny_king_of_thieves_shows_how_tyrannosaurus_bodys_p.php

Did you know that the name *Dracorex hogwartisa*, or *Dracorex* was from the series of books called "Harry Potter" written by J.K. Rowling?

To the right, a species of prehistoric marine arthropod, the Trilobite, lived during the Early Cambrian Period.



Famous Female Paleontologists

- Mary Anning
- Sue Hendrickson
- Ruth Mason
- Elizabeth Nicholls
- Patricia Vickers-Rich
- Joan Wiffen
- Kristi Curry Rogers

These are just a few famous women in paleontology. The club's newsletter will include an interview with a present day paleontologist. It will be answering questions such as how they got into paleontology, what classes they took in college, and other interesting questions such as those.



F. A. Q. s

What is the difference between a paleontologist and an archeologist?

Archeology is the study of past human life and culture ex; arrowheads, pottery, and mummies. While paleontology is the study of prehistoric forms of life, paleontology deals with much, much older artifacts than archeology.

How do you determine if something is a rock or a fossil bone?

At first, it may seem tricky to try to sort out rocks from fossils, but as you be around fossils more, you begin to learn that a fossil bone has a different texture than the rock or dirt it was found in. A fossil also has a different look, a fossil is smooth and has a glossy shine. A very easy and fast way to tell is if you aren't a picky eater, is to stick it in your mouth! If it sticks to your

tongue, you've got yourself a bone and it was worth it. If it dissolves and turns into a grimy substance, well then you have a mouthful of mud, dirt, or whatever it is you were digging in!

What are trace fossils?

Trace fossils are what is left behind (the evidence) of an animal, such as eggs, footprints, coprolites (or poop), and burrows, not the actual creature itself. Anything n

New at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

The Houston Museum of Natural Science has opened a satellite location in Sugarland. There you will see Stan, the T-Rex. It is actually a replica of a real *Tyrannosaurus Rex* that was discovered by paleontologist Stan Sacrison in the Spring of 1987. He was exploring outcrops (looking at things poking out of the ground) of the Hell Creek Formation near Buffalo, South Dakota, when he spotted a large pelvis weathering out of a cliff face so he began to uncover the skeleton. The amazing part is that Stan was



the largest and most complete T-Rex with 65% of his bones. There is even evidence that he had several broken ribs that had healed. He suffered a broken neck and his cheeks even showed healed injuries. There is even evidence of a healed injury at the back of the brain case—a circular hole that is more than one inch in diameter which ends at a spot where a large

chunk of bone broke away! It is just the right size for a T-Rex tooth!

Did another of his species try to eat Stan?



The real Stan is actually in the Black Hills Museum of Natural History. We have a true to scale replica in our Sugarland facility. See how he was placed there at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBqWvFFqHO4>

Or go to www.youtube.com and

Did you know that the scientist who finds the dinosaur (or prehistoric animal) gets to name it?

Suggested Reading

Want to learn more about Mary Anning? Here is a list of books about her life and fossil discoveries!

- *Rare Treasure: Mary Anning and her remarkable discoveries* by Don Brown
- *Mary Anning the Fossil Hunter* by Dennis Fradin
- *Mary Anning Fossil Hunter* by

Sally M. Walker

- *Stone Girl, Bone Girl: The Story of Mary Anning* by Laurence Anholt
- *Curious Bones: Mary Anning and the Birth of Paleontology* by Thomas W. Goodhue

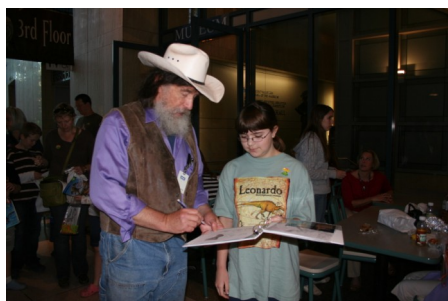
Below are some informational books on paleontology:

- *The Dinosaur Heresies* by

Robert T. Bakker

- *The Scientific American Book of Dinosaurs* edited by Gregory S. Paul
- *National Geographic Dinosaurs* by Paul Barrett
- *Smithsonian Handbooks Fossils* by Cyril Walker and David Ward
- *Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs* by Anthony J. Martin

Dino Days



Every year, the Houston Museum of Natural Science presents "Dino Days", a day all about dinosaurs. You will be able to make cast and models and dig in the HMNS shark pit! Different booths will be set up for different dinosaur activities!

November 7 from 9 am to 11:30 am will be Breakfast with one of the world's famous paleon-

toologist, Dr. Robert T. Bakker!

You will get a chance to meet Dr. Bakker and enjoy a breakfast at the museum. He will show a presentation and be there to sign copies of his books!



Dino Days will be premiering on November 7th from 11 am to 3:30pm

**Would you like to receive this
newsletter in color?**

Mary Anning Club

Is there something that you have always
wanted to ask a Paleontologist?
Email me and I will find the answer and add
it in the next newsletter.

MaryAnningClub@gmail.com

Email

MaryAnningClub@gmail.com
**and put “Newsletter” in the
subject line.**



Upcoming Events at HMNS

Tuesday, November 10th

Excellence in Science Luncheon
Behind the Scenes Tour: *Spirits &
Headhunters: Vanishing Worlds of the
Amazon*
Behind the Scenes: Wiess Energy Hall

Wednesday, November 11th

The Happenings of Ankh-hap

Friday, November 13th

Faberge: Imperial Jeweler to the Tsars

Saturday, November 14th

Family Festival—Homemade Holiday

Tuesday, November 17th

Planetology: Unlocking the Secrets of
the Solar System

Tuesday, December 1st

Fossil Prep Class

Wednesday, December 2nd

Family Fun—Holiday Candy Houses

Saturday, December 5th

Family Fun—Snow Flurry

Sunday, December 6th

Family Fun—Deck the Halls Decorating

Monday, December 7th

Owl Prowl

Tuesday, December 8th

Behind the Scenes: *Spirits & Head-
hunters: Vanishing Worlds of the
Amazon*

Sunday, December 13th

Crazy Cool Chemistry

Monday, December 14th

Distinguished Lecture: “Smaller
than Life: The Lure and Lore of
Amazonian Shrunken Heads”

**GEMS—GIRLS EXPLORING
MATH AND SCIENCE**
Saturday, February 20th, 2010
9am—12pm