
MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

NDGS Geologists Participate in History Conference

By Ann Fritz

Why were geologists involved with a history conference? Because the theme of the conference focused on how the environment shaped the regional character of North Dakota, that's why. The 1998 North Dakota History Conference, "What is this Place North Dakota? Environment and Identity on the Northern Plains," was held at the Heritage Center September 25 through 27. Co-sponsored by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota Humanities Council, Preservation North Dakota, and the NDGS, the three-day conference explored a range of topics including women writers on the Plains, Lakota winter counts, and the geology of flooding.

NDGS staff members Jonathan Campbell, John Hoganson, Ann Fritz, and state geologist John Bluemle were all involved in presentations and field trips during the conference. Johnathan Campbell and John Hoganson presented a mini-workshop on mineral and fossil preservation in North Dakota, and John Bluemle presented a session on the geology of flooding in our state. The weather was sunny and mild for the walking tour of the North Dakota capitol grounds led by Ann Fritz. The walking tour focused on the geology of the building stones and monuments of the capitol grounds. The last day of the conference was a day of excursions exploring the Plains. John Hoganson led a group of explorers on a field trip to the Stumpf Dinosaur Site Natural Registry Area south of Mandan.

NDGS MAPPERS ATTEND STATE MAPPING WORKSHOP

By Karen J.R. Mitchell

The Mid-Continent Mapping Center (MCMC) and National Mapping Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) hosted a State Mapping Workshop August 31 to September 3 in Rolla, Missouri. Mapping professionals representing the USGS and state government agencies in 20 states attended the workshop. The 1998 State Mapping Workshop was the first such workshop to include state agencies from both the central and eastern United States. Historically, the MCMC State Mapping Workshop involved only USGS cooperators from within the MCMC's 15 state region of responsibility. Karen Mitchell and Ryan Waldkirch represented the NDGS at the workshop, embracing an unplanned, two-day, 1000+ mile drive to get there when the airline strike forced a change in travel plans. Both felt the meeting was well worth all the time on the road to be able to represent North Dakota interests at the federal level.

The MCMC State Mapping Workshop is held biennially to enable state agencies to meet with the USGS and exchange information regarding mapping and digital data requirements and concerns. The workshop centered on a series of presentations by the USGS updating attendees on the status and future of USGS digital programs currently underway. A technical tour of the MCMC map and data production facilities was offered, allowing attendees a comprehensive, behind-the-scenes look at the methods the USGS uses to produce their map products. State agencies were given the opportunity to present a summary of their current mapping activities and informally display the resulting products, highlighting innovative techniques in mapping and application of digital data. Perhaps most importantly, a portion of the workshop was devoted to State Caucus Sessions, allowing the states to compile a list of issues (recommendations, praises, and criticisms) related to USGS programs and present them to the USGS.

The underlying message of the meeting was that it will remain essential for state, federal, and private agencies to communicate and work together to ensure efficient creation and maintenance of digital data. None of us have the financial resources or personnel to keep up with the ever-increasing demand for digital products on our own. The truth of this message is particularly apparent to us in North Dakota, with our relatively large geographic area and relatively small population. It would be difficult for any one agency to maintain currency for such a large area, given the personnel and budgetary restrictions we all feel. It remains critical for us to work together to ensure that adequate cartographic resources exist in North Dakota.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY HELD AT SNOWBIRD, UTAH

By John W. Hoganson

The fifty-eighth annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was held September 30-October 3, 1998 at Snowbird, near Salt Lake City, Utah. Several hundred scientists, mostly vertebrate paleontologists from around the world, attended this international meeting. Concurrent theme sessions included presentations about the following topics: the armored dinosaurs, preparation of fossil vertebrates, three-dimensional scanning and computer modeling of vertebrate fossils, ecology of fossil vertebrates, vertebrate paleontological research on BLM lands, Gondwana dinosaurs, Eocene vertebrates, isotopic ecology of fossil vertebrates, several general technical sessions, and poster presentations.

Glenn Kays, graduate student in geology at the University of North Dakota, and John Hoganson (NDGS) presented the results of research being done on Paleocene age turtle fossils from Billings County, North Dakota. Hoganson also attended the meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) Government Liaison Committee at the conference. The SVP Government Liaison Committee helps establish policy for the Society regarding fossil resource management and other issues. The members of the committee also act as liaisons with state and federal agencies and elected officials concerning paleontological issues that are important to the public. Hoganson has been a member of the Government Liaison Committee for several years.

North Dakota Geological Survey Co-hosts Fifth Conference on Fossil Resources

By John W. Hoganson

The *Fifth Conference on Fossil Resources: Partners Preserving Our Past and Planning Our Future* was held October 13-16, 1998 in Rapid City, South Dakota. The North Dakota Geological Survey, National Park Service, USDA-U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology co-hosted the conference. John Hoganson, Survey paleontologist, was a member of the conference planning committee along with representatives from Badlands National Park, Nebraska National Forest, Custer National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The primary sponsor of the conference was the National Park Service. Rachel Benton, paleontologist with Badlands National Park, chaired the planning committee.

These biennial fossil resource conferences, initiated by the National Park Service, and now including other federal, state, and tribal agencies, are meant to promote an interchange of ideas regarding paleontological research and management

of fossil resources on lands administered by these agencies and to encourage the development of partnerships between the agencies and other interested groups including paleontology avocationalists. The intent of this conference was also to explore ways to provide paleontological information to the public through outreach and educational programming.

The 1998 conference was divided into the following theme sessions: Education and Outreach; Science and Research on Public Lands; Paleontology and the Public Trust; Technology and Paleontology; Paleontological Resource Management; Curation, Preparation, and Conservation; and Partnerships. A day of field trips to significant fossils sites was included in the program.

Nearly 200 people from around the U.S., Canada, and England attended the conference. About 65 platform presentations and 15 poster presentations were given. There were 20 presentations in the Science and Research on Public Lands symposium co-chaired by Benton and Hoganson. Presentations about North Dakota paleontology included discussions of the Paleocene age Ash Coulee turtle fauna by Glenn Kays (University of North Dakota), J. Mark Erickson (St. Lawrence University), and John Hoganson (NDGS); paleontology of Theodore Roosevelt National Park by John Hoganson (NDGS) and Johnathan Campbell (NDGS); paleontological partnerships between the Custer National Forest and North Dakota Geological Survey by Carol McCoy Brown (USFS), Barbara Beasley (USFS), and John Hoganson (NDGS); and fossil localities on federal, state, and tribal lands in North Dakota by Joseph Hartman (Energy and Environmental Research Center-UND). Russ Runge, Steve Hager, and Paula Anderson, from Theodore Roosevelt National Park, presided over the Technology and Paleontology symposium.

A volume containing 15 technical articles presented at the conference, edited by James Martin, John Hoganson, and Rachel Benton, was published by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology as volume five of *Dakoterra*.