



## NUGGETS

- Summit County is one of seven original counties of the Colorado Territory.
- Summit ranks first in Colorado in placer gold production and tenth in the State in total gold production.
- Breckenridge and Tenmile are the two major districts in Summit County.
- Gold was first discovered on August 10, 1869 in Breckenridge.
- The Wellington Mine is Breckenridge's longest producing mine, from 1887-1973.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GPOC Board & Contact Info 2

GPOC 3-Month Planner 3

Stegosaurus 4

2017 GPOC Board Sworn In 4

2017 GPOC Code of Ethics 5, 6

The Roc Doc 7

Hokenstad Awards 8

# The Prospector's Quill

VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2017

## Stegosaurus: Colorado's State Fossil

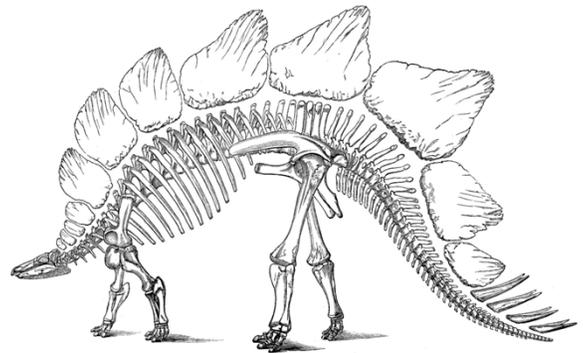
by Destin Bogart

### >>> CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER ISSUE!

What these plates were used for is still up for debate and has remained so since the animal's discovery. Robert Bakker, a world-renowned paleontologist and curator of the Houston Museum of Nature and Science, speculates the plates of Stegosaurus were the inside, or core, of a bigger plate made of keratinous material. Bakker also suggests these plates were semi-movable and the animal used them as a defense, splaying them out to the sides to deter predators from coming too close. Other scientists have claimed the back plates were used to attract a mate or to control body temperature.

Even if the plates of Stegosaurus were not used for defense, Stegosaurus carried with it four spike-like osteoderms (bone embedded in the skin) on the end of its tail. These spikes (informally called thagomizers) bent out to the sides and backward and were likely an incredible defense against many large predators of the Morrison Formation.

In 2014, Robert Bakker found a large open hole in the lower-front portion of the pelvis of a mounted Allosaurus skeleton at the Glenrock Paleontological Museum. The hole fits the tail spike of a Stegosaurus. This is evidence of just how formidable the tail of a Stegosaurus was as a defensive weapon when it struck the crotch of an Allosaurus. Evidence suggests bacteria, broken bone, and other



**O.C. Marsh's 1891 illustration of *Stegosaurus unguiculatus*. Paleontologists now place the arrangement of the back plates in two alternating rows and oriented vertically. Copyright: public domain.**

## GPOC Members Donate Toys to Deserving Tots

by  
Andrew C. Hawkins

The US Marines were in attendance at the December 2016 GPOC Christmas party to accept donations for their



annual Toys for Tots program. The Marines lead the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance, enjoyed a home-cooked meal from the many members who brought tasty morsels, and mingled with the Club members learning about gold prospecting and sharing stories. The Marines accepted a plethora of gifts for deserving children 14 and under.

The toys were distributed for Christmas to deserving children in the Colorado Springs area. Thanks to all the GPOC members for their generous donations!



# GPOC Board & Committee Chairs



## GPOC BOARD

### President

Marty Allen  
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### Vice President

Stan Gurley  
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### Secretary

Elise Pearce  
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### Treasurer

Wayne Wittkopp  
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### One Year Trustee

Dick Margeson  
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### Two Year Trustee

Linda Jent  
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### Three year Trustee

Calvin Johnson  
[gpoctrustee3yr@gmail.com](mailto:gpoctrustee3yr@gmail.com)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Memberships

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### Raffle

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The Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) was founded around 1974 as a non-profit organization for recreational gold prospectors in the Colorado area. Our membership at any given time has grown to over 600 members and continues to grow across the Front Range, the nation, and even the world!

# ♠ GPOC Outings & Events Planner ♠

In response to feedback from our members, we are adding a rolling three-month planning calendar to each issue of the Quill. Now you can see and plan for events months in advance—and make requests to the Planning Committee for outings and events in YOUR club! Also check the next page and the GPOC web site at [www.gpoc.club](http://www.gpoc.club) for more info on events including location and start times.

JANUARY 2017						
HAPPY NEW YEAR—FULL OF NEW PROSPECTS!						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 GPOC Board Meeting	6	7 WMMI Family Day
8	9	10	11 GPOC Gen. Member Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 GPOC Planning Comm.	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## FEBRUARY 2017

FOR THE LOVE OF YELLER GOLD!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <b>GPOC Board Meeting</b>	3	4
5	6	7	8 <b>GPOC Gen. Member Meeting</b>	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <b>GPOC Planning Comm.</b>	23	24	25
26	27	28				

## MARCH 2017

WE ALL WANT A POT OF GOLD!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <b>GPOC Board Meeting</b>	3	4
5	6	7	8 <b>GPOC Gen. Member Meeting</b>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20	21	22 <b>GPOC Planning Comm.</b>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- **GPOC** Board Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month at **7 pm**, Gold Hill Police Station, 955 Moreno Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO, (access from W. Moreno Ave.). GPOC Members only.
- **GPOC** Gen Membership meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at **7 pm**, Elks Lodge, 3400 N. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO. Public is welcome.
- **GPOC** Planning Committee Meeting. **7 pm** at Denny's on Academy Blvd. & I25, CO Springs.

## 2017 GPOC Board and Trustees Sworn-In

by Andrew C. Hawkins

Elections for the 2017 GPOC Board were held at the October GPOC General Membership meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. Then, at the December 2016 GPOC General Meeting and Christmas Party, the 2017 GPOC Board and Trustees were sworn in:

President — Marty Allen  
 Vice President — Stan Gurley  
 Secretary — Elise Pearse  
 Treasurer — Wayne Wittkopp  
 President Emeritus—Ben “Big Ben” Higley  
 3 Year Trustee — Calvin Johnson  
 2 Year Trustee — Linda Jent  
 1 Year Trustee — Dick Margeson

The Board continues to hold open meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Gold Hill Police Station, 955 Moreno Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO, 7 pm (access from W. Moreno Ave.) Join us!



President Emeritus Ben “Big Ben” Higley passed the gavel to new GPOC President Marty Allen. The 2017 GPOC Board and Trustees are sworn in at the annual GPOC Holiday Party in December and take office 1 January 2017.



## Stegosaurus: Colorado’s State Fossil, cont’d

>>> Page 1

>>> Page 4

debris remained in the wound, causing an infection that eventually killed the animal. According to Robert Bakker, “A massive infection ate away a baseball-sized sector of the bone, probably this infection spread upwards into the soft tissue attached here, the thigh muscles and adjacent intestines and reproductive organs.”

The brain of Stegosaurus, although not quite walnut-sized, was unusually small compared to its body mass. So far, Stegosaurus claims the smallest brain size to body mass of any other dinosaur. This small brain presented a problem—how could it survive without more intelligence? It seems the large plates on its back and the spikes of its thagomizer were keys to its survival against predators. Also, Stegosaurus behavior played a role. Paleontologist Matthew Mossbrucker discovered in 2007, footprints of adult, juvenile, and hatching specimens in the Morrison Formation that suggest Stegosaurus stayed together in

small groups, most likely for protection against predators.

Stegosaurus is the rhinoceros of the Late Jurassic as it was both an herbivore and highly dangerous to anything it perceived as a threat. Stegosaurus died out near the end of the Jurassic, leaving only fossils and footprints as a reminder of its existence. However, paleontologists can, using fossils and a little bit of educated guesswork, begin to understand how this animal behaved, how it lived, and how it died.

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Author’s Bio: Destin Bogart is 16 years old and ever since he can remember he has had a passion for paleontology. He is an Earth Science Scholar with the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and is a junior IB World Student at



## 2017 GPOC Code of Ethics

- Members must observe all USDA Forest Service, BLM, and US Army Corps of Engineers regulations and all property rules concerning camping, fires, tree cutting, littering and mining.
- Members and guests must also abide by federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations, where applicable.
- Private property owners that allow us access to prospect on their property may also have additional rules to follow, and these will be respected.
- Public drunkenness, profanity, excessive noise, or other obnoxious behavior is prohibited while prospecting and at all GPOC functions/activities.
- Pets must be under control at all times, and not be allowed to run loose on claims and at GPOC events.
- The principal of pack it in-pack it out shall be observed in all areas. This includes cigarette butts and pull-tabs. If you find cans or other debris left by others, please carry them out with your trash.
- Our objective is to keep all prospecting areas neat and clean.
- Always refill any holes you dig. Try to leave the area neater than you found it.
- Members will not disturb, undercut, or undermine trees.
- When prospecting away from available toilet facilities, use your shovel as a toilet tool away from any camping areas, waterways, or trails. Scrape out a hole no deeper than 4 to 6 inches. That's because the first several inches-the biological layer-contains a system of disposers that will break down the waste (if you go deeper, you spoil the effect). Keep any sod intact and replace it after filling the hole. Sprinkle some pine needles and twigs on top and nature does the rest.
- Never mine within 10 feet of any road or established trail.
- The club is not responsible for any unauthorized use of its claims by non-members.
- While prospecting, always be thoughtful of other prospectors. Never dig closer than 2 shovel lengths from another prospector unless invited to do so. Pan or sluice in an area that does not seriously muddy the water of another prospector.
- Always obtain proper permits in advance of prospecting on public lands and club claims, where they may be required for certain types of prospecting.
- Always display appropriate identification items when prospecting (bumper stickers, name tags, membership card, permits, etc.).
- Members must carry their club membership card and any permits and be courteous when asked to show them on club claims.
- Members will appreciate and protect our heritage. (Do not collect or disturb historic or archaeological resources or sites.)
- Never refuel power equipment where oil or gas can enter any waterway.
- Dredge size is limited to 3 inches on the Private Reserve with appropriate permits (special rules may apply in different areas).
- Water from high bankers must always be discharged into a dug settling pond or other suitable area away from the stream so that this water does not directly re-enter the stream.
- The use of mercury or any strong acids in the testing or processing of gold will be restricted to appropriate areas (usually at home or workshop) and away from any waterway.
- All of our officers, committee chairpersons and committee members are volunteers. These people do their best to perform their tasks in an efficient manner. Harassment by other members is unacceptable. Be courteous to all Club members! No member shall threaten any other member in any way! Any grievances will be in writing and sent to the President. In all cases, use common sense and be thoughtful of others.
- Members who disregard club rules and regulations of this Code of Ethics are subject to suspension or revocation of club membership.

### Personal Conduct on Public Lands

- Control erosion and water runoff by protecting topsoil, and refilling prospecting holes.
- Take measures to isolate, remove, or control toxic materials.
- If you have a fuel spill, collect all contaminated soil by digging up the dirt containing the spill plus the dirt six inches around and beneath the spill. Dispose of the contaminated soil at a proper disposal site.
- Do not unnecessarily degrade public lands and report others who do.
- Reshape and re-vegetate disturbed areas where reasonable and practicable.
- Rehabilitate fisheries and wildlife habitat where reasonable and practicable.
- Do not collect or disturb historic or archaeological resources or sites.
- Do not disturb historic properties listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places. If you find a historically significant site, immediately report it to the BLM office in Canon City or the Forest Service office in Fairplay.
- Motorized vehicles are restricted to designated roads and parking areas. Park your vehicles in the existing parking areas.
- Keep your vehicle at least 20 feet from the edge of the stream and away from wet or muddy areas, such as streamside vegetation, or wetlands. (Exception: Vehicles may cross creeks and streams where a road crosses the creek or river.)

## 2017 GPOC Code of Ethics

>>> Page 5

- Do not disturb, but help protect, state or federal threatened and endangered species.
- Do not build or install any permanent or semi-permanent structures or storage facilities.
- Minimize the impact of fuel spills by refueling your motorized equipment 100 feet away from the river and adjacent wetlands. Store your fuels, batteries, etc. out of the flood-prone areas.
- Observe the principle of "PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT." Remove all trash, debris, or other items you brought to the area -- including cigarette butts and pull tabs. When possible, clean up trash left by others as well.

### General Prospecting

- Maintain equipment and facilities in a safe and orderly manner. (Leaky engines are not appropriate.)
- Be thoughtful of other prospectors. Don't dig, dredge, or high-bank closer than 2 shovel lengths from another unless invited to do so. Do your panning or sluicing where it does not seriously muddy the water of another prospector.
- Never mine within 10 feet of any road or established trail.
- Do not build stockpiles or tailing dumps greater than three feet tall or create other disturbances which could be construed to have significant scenic impact.
- Do not damage stream-side (riparian) vegetation in the process of placer operations.
- Do not disturb or undercut trees.
- Refill areas you excavated when you are through; if you leave for two days or more, complete this work before you leave.
- Rocks from the prospecting areas are to be set aside to be put back in holes at the reclamation stage of the operation. Material too large to be moved by hand shall remain undisturbed.
- Operations shall not disturb in excess of 2 cubic yards of material per day.
- Tractors, front-end loaders, and similar motorized digging machinery are not allowed on GPOC claims.
- Battery operated equipment -- recirculating high-bankers, spiral wheels, vacuums, etc. -- can be used year round.
- All water-based activities shall be conducted to prevent undercutting of banks. Do not undercut stream-banks above the high-water line.
- Use of motorized winches is not permitted on GPOC claims.

### Camping

- Be familiar with and abide by BLM and Forest Service standard guidelines that apply to all public land.
- Camping is authorized utilizing standard guidance applicable to public lands along the Arkansas River in cooperation with the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.
- You can camp up to 14 days in any 30 day period on any GPOC claim. If you want to camp longer than 14 days, you need to move to a camp site in a different location, in accordance with Federal, State or Local regulations.
- All campers are required, at a minimum, to carry and use a portable toilet.
- All campers are required to contain campfires in a fire pan or fire pit.
- Removal of solid waste from the claims area will be completed by each individual. "Pack it in, Pack it out." This includes portable toilets for the removal of human waste.
- The GPOC discourages use of firearms on claims. BLM and USFS regulations apply.

### Safety

- Wear personal protective equipment when you prospect! Boots, waders, and dry suits can protect you from frigid waters. Gloves protect your hands from cuts and scrapes. Safety glasses save your eyes when you are cracking that bedrock!
- The GPOC does not allow or condone the use of any toxic chemicals for gold recovery on our claims. No exceptions.
- Pets must be restrained on leashes no longer than ten feet or under verbal control.
- If you dig an excavation that creates a safety hazard, find a way to mark it or safely cover it until you can fill it in.
- All excavations shall have rocks and dirt replaced upon completion of operations. No sites shall be left open in excess of 14 days. If you dig an excavation that creates a safety hazard, see note above.
- The GPOC does not condone public drunkenness, profanity, excessive noise, and other obnoxious behavior on our claims. Have fun, but don't become an annoyance to your fellow club members.
- Don't drink and drive, and respect all local ordinances. Mountain towns may be small, but they are serious about safety!
- Don't speed in local towns -- we have members who can attest to the consequences.
- Always bring enough water for yourself and a friend who may not be smart enough to bring enough.
- Remember the words of Smokey Bear: "Only you can prevent forest fires!" Be aware of BLM and USFS fire bans.





**Gold Prospectors of Colorado**

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Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

Phone: 719-651-7930  
E-mail: Membership@gpoc.com

**Prospecting Colorado since 1974.**



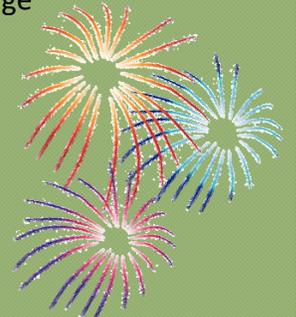
# Happy New Year!

*Thank you all for your friendship, patronage  
and friendly smiles throughout the year.  
We wish you blessed holidays with family and friends.*

*Did Santa bring you everything on your pro-  
specting list? If not, come see us!*

## The Rock Doc

at Prospectors Village



719.539.2019

between Buena Vista and Salida

*Join our email list at "therockdoc.net"*

## Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center Offers Basic Paleontology Course

Noted paleontologist Steven Veatch will present an introductory paleontology course at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center located in Woodland Park on January 28, 2017. This course provides a practical introduction to paleontology—the study of ancient life forms preserved as fossils. While paleontology informs us about remarkable patterns of change in the past and some of the changes that are taking place today, it also helps us understand how these changes may shape our future world. Join Steven Veatch and his team and explore lost worlds where dinosaurs once ruled supreme. The course is sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center (RMDRC) and is perfect for ages 12 to adult.

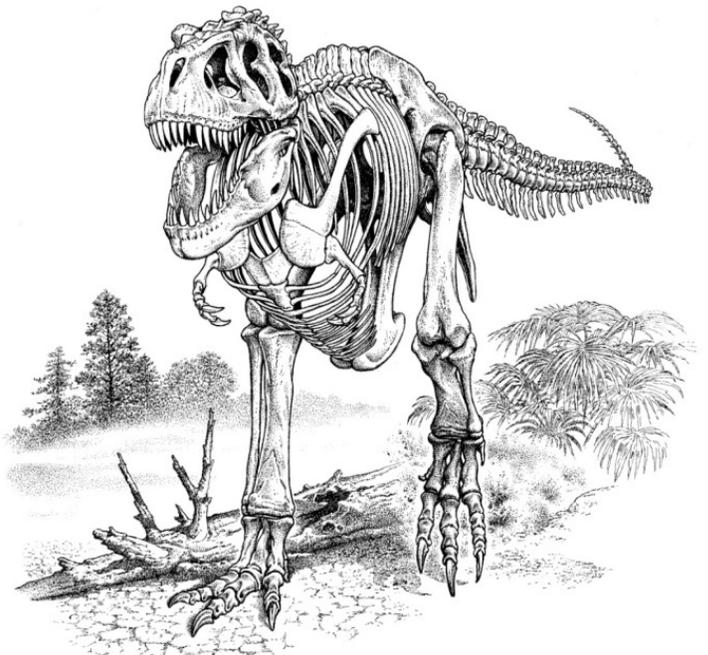
**COURSE DATE:** January 28, 2017

**COURSE LOCATION**

Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center  
201 South Fairview Street  
Woodland, Park, CO 80863

Register with the RMDRC by calling 719-686-1820 X104; ask for Deb.

**COURSE FEE:** \$20 plus admission to the museum (\$11.50). Class must be prepaid at registration and includes a certificate of completion, handouts, and a resource CD to take home.





## 2016 Hugh and Mary Hokenstad Awards Given at Christmas Party

by  
Andrew C. Hawkins

Over the last forty-two years, the Gold Prospectors of Colorado, have awarded annual honors to the most deserving male and female club members. These Awards, named in honor of our founders Hugh and Mary Hokenstad, were first put into effect when the Club was started in 1974.

Each year, the Hugh and Mary Hokenstad Awards go to one male and one female volunteer club member whom fellow club members vote as having made the biggest impact through volunteering throughout the year. The awards are travelling awards that contain small plaques with the year and name of the awardee and a clock to symbolize the time



**2016 GPOC Hugh and Mary Hokenstad Award winners Elise Pearce and Wayne Wytokopp with presenter, Linda Jent.**

that awardee has donated to the club.

When the GPOC was started, Hugh wanted

it run entirely with volunteers. It included General Membership and Board Members. For the past 42 years, the GPOC has remained a completely volunteer-run organization. Founders Hugh and Mary not only donated their time to the club they loved, but also volunteered at the Penrose Cancer Dept, the VA, and Adventure Clubs.

The 2016 Hokenstad Award winners are Elise Pearce and Wayne Wytokopp. Collectively, Wayne and Elise have donated hundreds of hours of their time as club Treasurer/Raffle Chair and Membership Chair, respectively. In addition, both Wayne and Elise volunteer at many events and outings throughout the year. Join us in recognizing and thanking Elise and Wayne for their generous support and leadership of our club!

