

FERN AND J.L. CRAWFORD SERIES STARTS ITS THIRTEENTH YEAR

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Date: Monday, January 13, 2020, 01:51 PM MST

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To: WCHS Distribution List <distribution@wchsutah.org>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020, 07:51:14 AM MST

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ZION NATIONAL PARK FOREVER PROJECT PRESENTS

FREE LECTURE AT CCC IN SPRINGDALE

Zion National Park Forever Project presents “Dinosaur Armored Warfare: Ankylosaurs of Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument” by Dr. Alan Titus at the Canyon Community Center in Springdale (126 Lion Blvd), on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. This lecture is free and open to the public.

Some of the most peculiar dinosaurs to ever evolve are the ankylosaurs. With their low profiles and pervasive, thick, prickly armor, they evoke images out of a Godzilla movie; humorously being called the “tanks” of the Cretaceous. Two main groups are known, one with medieval looking tail clubs (ankylosaurs) and one lacking such offensive weaponry (nodosaurs). Both groups are present in recent collections from Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, with at least four new species represented, only one of which has been officially named. The overall uniqueness of GSENM’s ankylosaur dinosaurs indicates much higher dinosaur diversity in the Late Cretaceous of North America (66–100 million years ago) than previously thought, while the unique thorny head of the only named species (*Akainacephalus johnsoni*), also hints at a previously unrecognized connection with Mongolia. Come learn about the origins of this bizarre dinosaur family, as well as their fascinating story of discovery unfolding from GSENM.

Dr. Alan Titus began his tenure as the GSENM’s paleontologist in 2000, where he continues to advance and support the rich paleontology within the monument. Titus received his doctorate from Washington State in 1996, the year the monument was established. In July of 2014 Alan discovered the toe and partial skull of a tyrannosaur at a previously discovered turtle site

The Zion National Park Forever Project’s Fern and J. L. Crawford Lecture Series is a collaborative presentation of the Forever Project and the Division of Resource Management in Zion National Park. Dr. Titus’ lecture is the inaugural lecture of our thirteenth year of the lecture series. For more information please call 435-772-3264. Lectures are free and open to the public.

The Zion National Park Forever Project is the official non-profit partner of Zion National Park.

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