



April 2017

LOS ANGELES BASIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

April 27 (Thursday) – 11:30 AM

Austin Hendy, Ph.D.

Paleontologist,

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

“PALEONTOLOGY AND THE PANAMA CANAL: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WHILE PRESERVING THE PAST AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM”

Abstract

The Isthmus of Panama has long drawn explorers, biologists, and paleontologists. Construction of the Panama Canal across it in the early 1900s connected two oceans, allowing international passage of people and commodities. In geological time, however, the region has been witness to a dramatic tectonic and paleogeographic evolution in which a once wide-open seaway closed and a landmass arose.

Although we now understand this evolutionary process was protracted and more complicated than once assumed, the connecting land bridge between North and South America ultimately enabled migration of plants and animals between the two continents as well as the severing of once-continuous marine communities.

Dr. Hendy's presentation will provide an overview of the history of the Panama Canal, explore recent paleontological discoveries in the area, and discuss the Panama Canal's role in understanding the geological evolution of the Central American Isthmus.

Speaker's Biography

Dr. Hendy is currently a paleontologist at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC),

where he is the Collections Manager of Invertebrate Paleontology. He obtained his doctorate in 2007 at the University of Cincinnati, followed by post-doctoral fellowships at Yale University, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institution, and Florida Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Hendy is an author of numerous scientific papers, and he has performed research in many parts of the world, but especially tropical South America, where he has studied the biodiversity, biogeography, and paleoecology of Cenozoic mollusc faunas. He is also interested in bioinformatics and application of natural history museum specimens and data for K-12 education.

The NHMLAC is home to one of the largest collections of invertebrate fossils in North America. Its fossil collection historically had considerable research impact, but in recent decades the museum has lacked resources to fully realize its potential. Now the NHMLAC is experiencing a renaissance of sorts, thanks to new funding from the National Science Foundation, partnerships with local academic institutions, and renewed focus on meeting the needs of the modern research and education communities.

***Join us and enjoy this interesting talk about
the history of the Panama Canal area!***

Meeting Time, Place, Cost, and Reservations

When:

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Meeting Agenda

Lunch Served: 11:30 AM to 12:00PM
Announcements: 11:45 AM to 12:00 PM
Guest Speaker: 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM
Questions/Close: 12:45 PM to 1:00 PM

Place:

The Grand at Willow Street Conference Center located at 4101 East Willow Street, Long Beach, CA (562-426-0555). Take Lakewood Boulevard south from the San Diego Freeway (I-405), turn west onto Willow Street, and turn right onto Grand Avenue at the sign for the Center. Park for free in the multi-level garage structure.

Cost:

Lunch and Speaker: \$25.00 *with reservations*
\$30.00 *without reservations*
Retired: \$20.00
Student: \$5.00

PAYMENTS IN CASH OR CHECK ONLY

Meeting Reservations:

We encourage you to make your reservations using the LABGS web site, at www.labgs.org

Otherwise, call Ryan Weller at (562) 637-6019, or e-mail ryweller@gmail.com.

Reservations must be made by: **10:00 AM Tuesday April 25th** to receive the discount price noted above.
As always, walk-ins are welcome.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Book Series Available – Mines Ghost Towns and Legends of the American West: Books of this series authored by Ivan Herring are available via Amazon or by contacting Mr. Herring at iherring202@comcast.net