



**Official Bulletin  
of the  
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society**

Alaska Pebble Patter  
Chugach Gem and Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 92027  
Anchorage, AK. 99509-2027

Published by the  
**CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
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<b>FIELD TRIP</b>	<b>FEDERATION LIAISON</b>
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THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. maintains memberships in:  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
725 WEST 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE., ANCHORAGE, AK  
(Enter the church from the rear parking lot.)

BUSINESS MEETING – 7:30 PM — 2nd Thursday of each month.

POTLUCK MEETING – 6:30 PM — 4th Thursday of each month.

Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert (plus serving spoon) to serve 5 people.

Also bring your own plate, silverware and drink. But most importantly, bring a rock to show!

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Annual membership fees: Individuals - \$15.00; Families (2 or more) - \$20.00; Bulletin Only - \$10.00  
Lifetime membership fees: Individuals - \$150.00; Families (2 adults & children under 18) - \$200.00



## President's Message

July - September 2005

Greetings everyone,

Well, it is starting to get dark at night, a good sign that we are on the downhill side of summer. Of course there is still plenty of time left to get out and about and join in on the remaining field trips of the season. August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> will be field trips to Gunsight Mountain and Sheep Mountain on Saturday and Sunday respectively. Come out for a day or the weekend and find some fossils. On August 13<sup>th</sup> Bonnie will lead a tour at the Independence Mine where she is volunteering this summer. Should be packed full of fun and information. This will be followed by a road trip over the pass hopefully including gold panning in Willow Creek and blueberry picking. Usibelli Coal Mine is slated for August 20<sup>th</sup>. Participants will meet at the Healy Post Office at 10:45 am on Saturday morning. The tour will begin around 11 am. And the last scheduled trip for the season will be an ATV trip into the Little Nelchina drainage September 16<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>.

Start thinking about what you would like to do for the upcoming rock and mineral show the first weekend in November. We've got plenty of volunteer opportunities for everyone: doing a display case, manning the club table, helping set-up and take down and other logistical tasks. It is a lot of fun and only a little work so think about jumping in and helping out. Andres will be coordinating that effort so give him a hand. Oh, there is also room for vendors so if you would like to have a table to sell rocks and rock crafts please let me know.

Happy trails,  
Anita

## **Chugach Gem & Mineral Society June Business Meeting Minutes**

President Anita Williams called the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting of the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

A warm welcome was extended to guest Larry Ladd.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Recording Secretary - The minutes of the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer - Linda Ewers was absent but the checking account balance was \$3,351.25, the Smith Barney account was \$19,053.37, the savings account was \$4,441.81 and the 2 CDs were \$7,904.73 and \$7,868.90.

Membership – Jean Kane reported 160 paid members, plus 5 who joined that night.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper reminded us to save stamps for the Federation for cancer research, and that there was a register available that listed all the clubs in the Northwest Federation.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford had turned all mail over to the President.

Sunshine Committee – Dorothy Arnold was away, but the club presented Craig Casner with a slice of black jade to cheer him up after several recent health issues.

Newsletter - Sue Hilton said the newsletter was on the website but the printed copies were still at the printers.

Website – Adeline Geldenhuys said an e-mail from Gene Morrison stated that his mother had died and that he had rockhound equipment to sell. See Adeline for how to contact Gene. The website had also been contacted by an organization called Rockhoundstation1.com offering individual memberships for rockhounds across the nation. The organization donated four complimentary one-year memberships

valued at about \$34 each. They were to be given out as door prizes after the program.

Fundraising Committee - Heather Jordan said the committee hadn't met.

Programs - Greg Durocher said he had programs lined up through July, and some dates would be left open in August and September so that members with videos or slides of their trips could show them.

Fieldtrips - Bonnie Hepburn went through the schedule and announced changes. A firm commitment for the Nome trip, July 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, was needed immediately so transportation in Nome could be arranged. Those planning to take the Golden Zone mine trip needed to pay the \$100 fee by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Participants in the July 16<sup>th</sup> trip to Rainbow Mountain led by Anita Williams were to meet at Mile 206 on the Richardson Highway at about 11 AM and camp in that area.

Scholarships - Steve Jensen reported that no UAA students had responded by the deadline two weeks prior. He asked his contact person to extend the deadline and re-advertise the scholarship.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ralph of the GPAA said the June 18<sup>th</sup> show at Crow Creek goldmine was in need of volunteers and folding chairs. Members who wanted to help had to call Tom Ireland.

Club T-shirts – Sheila Macias still had a good selection of all styles and colors for sale.

July Picnic - there were no volunteers to set up a grill so Anita suggested bringing regular potluck dishes instead of grilling.

Aurora mine claim - Anita said the Aurora mine issue had been settled and that Joe and Neil had given up their claim.

NEW BUSINESS

Heather Jordan resigned as 1st Vice President because she was going to school at UAA. Joe Turnbow moved that Greg Durocher be appointed to the position and Tom Cooper seconded the motion. Greg agreed to serve out the term but was not willing to move up to the position of President later on. The motion passed.

Florida. Fisher was a successful treasure hunter of a wrecked galleon.

Door prizes were given after the program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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**Chugach Gem & Mineral Society  
July Business Meeting Minutes**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Norval Kane announced that longtime member Fred Swingle had passed away. Norval also said that he still had a couple copies of the Smithsonian mineral and fossil book if anyone wanted to buy one.

President Anita Williams called the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

Phillip Elrod bought two aluminum sluice boxes at garage sales for \$10 each and was willing to sell them for that price.

The evening's guests were Liz Forrer and Chris Hoitch. Guest Rosemary Insley expressed a longtime interest in rocks and became a member. All were welcomed.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The June 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Wishbone Hill, led by Steve Jensen, was great fun. Five members went and found good plant fossils. The road conditions required four-wheel drive or at least a truck. Beverly was thrilled with the abundance of fossils and was looking forward to a repeat trip.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recording Secretary – The minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as read.

As no members had joined Andres and Sheila Macias for the June 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Boulder Creek trip and the water was too high anyway, they went to the Little Nelchina. The water there was also high but they were able to get in and out okay and found great marine fossils.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers reported the following account balances: checking, \$4,088.24; Smith-Barney, \$19,079.81; two CDs of \$7,893.15 each; and the savings account was \$450.12. The report was accepted.

Membership – Jean Kane reported 176 paid members.

Joe Turnbow and Neil Tysver went to McCarthy and Slana, then followed Andres up the Little Nelchina River recently. They scouted out the area and had fun but the weather was rough and the water was high.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy had turned in all mail.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper was absent.

After a short break, the evening's slide show was "Treasures of the Atocha", presented by Rick Parkhurst who had visited the late Mel Fisher's maritime museum in Key West,

Sunshine Committee – Dorothy Arnold was absent.

Fundraising – Andres Macias' committee had not met.

Pebble Patter – Sue Hilton said the latest edition was in the mail and on the website, and reminded us that she would appreciate members contributing articles.

Website – Adeline Geldenhuys was present but had nothing new to report.

Programs - Greg Durocher said there was a vacancy for the August 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> meetings.

Fieldtrips - Bonnie Hepburn went over the list of remaining trips and gave updates and details. Andres Macias said he would lead a trip to Boulder Creek, leaving Sunday evening August 28<sup>th</sup> and returning the 31<sup>st</sup>, depending on the water level. He also hoped to do a September weekend trip up the Little Nelchina. Greg Durocher was planning to go on a trip to the McGrath-area gold claim of Steve Herschbach from August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>. Food, shelter, and equipment would be supplied for \$1,500. The plane fare was not included. If interested, see Greg for a contact person. You may keep any gold you find.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Club T-shirts – Sheila Macias was absent but Andres had brought them in. Sheila would be working Thursdays and a volunteer was needed to take over sales. As no one offered, it was suggested that samples be kept in our storage case and displayed at each meeting so members could order their choice to be delivered the following meeting. This would save the trouble of moving the heavy boxes as only those shirts ordered would have to be brought in. A volunteer was still needed to store them.

July 28<sup>th</sup> potluck - Anita reminded us that it would be at David Green Park, but would not be a cookout and members were to bring a dish as usual. Bonnie provided a map.

#### NEW BUSINESS

November Show - Anita said there was one vendor signed up. Andres would coordinate the displays. There would be a free rock table and he would delegate various tasks to members. Flyers were available to post, and efforts would be made to increase attendance, which was down from the previous year.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melvin C. Bennett brought a leaf fossil from Wishbone Hill, and offered it to anyone who wanted it.

Norval Kane showed a large, red cubic zirconium, and gave an update on the space program's project.

Bonnie Hepburn announced that the August 13<sup>th</sup> fieldtrip to gold pan at Willow Creek, followed by berry picking near Independence Mine, would possibly include a tour of the mine. Fees would be \$5 for parking 1 vehicle + \$5 per person. A large group would be \$100 so twenty people would be needed. Pat Murphy of Alaska State Parks hoped to be able to arrange an underground tour for CGMS members if we agreed to do an annual cleanup of Hatcher Pass Road; only those doing the cleanup would be allowed on the tour.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Nome trip - July 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> –Sheila Macias and Bonnie Hepburn were the advance team and met Greg and Shari Durocher at the airport with the rental vehicle. They explored the town, then set up camp, enjoyed the campfire and were joined by Nome residents and friends Bob and Gretchen, who also guided them to view a small caribou herd. Pilgrim hot springs was a typical Alaskan experience with very hot water. They did a quick tour of the town site of Pilgrim then on to Teller. Gold panning produced only flour, but it was a fun trip.

Resurrection Creek – July 9<sup>th</sup> - Steve and Sue Jensen were joined by Bea Allen; not much gold panning took place, so a hike

was proposed which was terminated shortly due to swarms of flies. Bea left and Bonnie Hepburn arrived to camp out and hike the next day from Palmer Creek Road to Alpine Lakes via an old mining track with Sue and Steve.

Nancy Danford went fishing and hooked a couple of interesting rocks to show us.

After a short break, Mr. Pat Murphy of Alaska State Parks gave a slide show about the Independence Mine operation with many shots of workers and mine shafts. Pat related historic facts and details of the work and living conditions at the mine.

Door prizes were given after the program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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**Chugach Gem & Mineral Society  
August Business Meeting Minutes**

President Anita Williams called the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral society to order at 7:35 PM.

The evening's guests, Lois Miller, and Jenny Green from Texas, and long-time member Bill Bulen from Arizona were introduced and welcomed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Recording Secretary - Bea Allen read the July 14<sup>th</sup> minutes and there were three corrections: the savings account balance was \$4,450.12, not \$450.12; Bonnie was to give a tour of the buildings, not the mine shafts at Independence Mine; and on the trip to Nome, a small herd of musk ox was viewed, not caribou. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Linda Ewers reported the following account balances: Smith-Barney, \$19,104; savings,

\$4,450; 2 CDs of \$7,932 and checking \$4,673 for a total of \$44,091.

Membership – Jean Kane reported approximately 170 paid members.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper was absent.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford reported that there was no mail received.

Sunshine Committee – Dorothy Arnold had not arrived yet.

Newsletter - Sue Hilton said there was nothing to report and requested articles.

Website – Adeline Geldenhuys said the server was down but was expected to be back up soon.

Fundraising Committee – Andres Macias said activities would be changed to special projects.

Programs – Greg Durocher said he had no speaker for the August potluck so it would be a social evening, and we were to bring a rock to show or pay a 25-cent fine.

Fieldtrips – Bonnie Hepburn said that the next field trip was to Hatcher Pass on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, and gave details. Anita Williams, trip leader to Usibelli Coal Mine on August 20<sup>th</sup>, gave details of when and where to meet. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Bea Allen would lead a trip to Gunsight Mountain, and on the 28<sup>th</sup> a trip to Sheep Mountain, with camping, would be led by Melvin C. Bennett. Sunday evening, August 28<sup>th</sup>, Andres Macias would lead a trip to Boulder Creek barring rain, and members were to meet at 6:00 PM at the Puritan Creek trailhead next to the bridge; people returning from Sheep Mountain would find it convenient to join Andres' group.

Scholarships – Steve Jensen said that as the club donated money for the hadrosaur skull to the Alaska Museum of Natural History, we were only awarding one

scholarship. There were three applicants for the scholarship and a volunteer committee was formed. Joe Turnbow, Greg Durocher, Bonnie Hepburn and Steve would review the applications and report to the club. Anita Williams suggested that a flyer about the scholarships be passed out at the Miners Association show in November.

OLD BUSINESS

The November Alaska Miners Association show at the Sheraton was discussed. Steve Jensen moved to have a "Best Display" contest with a \$30 gift certificate to Nature's Jewels as a first prize. Andres Macias seconded the motion. Joe and Bobbie Turnbow offered to donate second and third place prizes. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Only club members who planned to take part in the annual trash pickup next spring at Hatcher Pass Road near Independence Mine would get an underground tour of the mine. Anita said she had been underground before and would give up her place, and said a second place may be available. These could be raffled off to other members.

Greg Durocher brought a map showing where the USGS office is located and said that many publications and maps may be purchased there. He showed two of the books that were available for purchase.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Greg and Shari Durocher visited the Big Island of Hawaii and made the tough seven to eight mile hike through the lava flows to see a fresh flow, which was VERY hot!

Dorothy Arnold reported that the trip to the Golden Zone gold mine in Denali Park was

a great success and all twelve people enjoyed themselves.

Andres Macias attended a wine tasting and met a vintner from the Tuscany region of Italy who invited club members to visit his family winery to gather marine fossils.

Andres and Sheila Macias and Linda Ewers went to Alfred Creek recently. The water was high and Sheila's ATV tipped and got washed downstream, with Sheila soaked and on a rock until she was rescued. They had a cold, wet campout and further adventures were not recommended. They were forced to leave some equipment behind.

Door prizes were awarded, followed by a short break.

The evening's program was by Mary Smith and featured slides from previous club trips, including a flight in a hot air balloon.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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4th Annual Rock and Mineral Show  
November 4th and 5th, 2005  
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska

For information contact Andres Macias at sheila@super70s.com or Sharon at the AMA office at 907-563-9229 or ama@alaskaminers.org.

Mark your calendars! The annual Rock and Mineral Show is coming up soon, November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to be exact. As in years past the show will be associated with the Alaska Miners Association annual convention at the Sheraton Hotel. The show will begin on Friday from 5 – 9 pm and continue on Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. It is supported by the Alaska Miners Association and the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society.

There has been fantastic public support for the event over the past four years since it has something for everyone at every age. Friday seems to attract more adults and of course the geologists from the AMA convention. Kids are the highlight of Saturday's activities. For some families the show is an all day event with kids leading their parents between displays and vendors finding new and exciting rocks, stones, and treasures at each stop. The resident clown keeps the kids busy customizing their rock bags for a treasure hunt and face painting.

Past rock displays sponsored by the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society included beautiful rocks, minerals and fossils from Alaska and around the world, rocks that glow in the dark, core samples from some of the mining projects across the state and a plate full of polished rocks that look good enough to eat. Of course no one knows what the displays will be this year so you'll just have to stop by to find out. There will be a People's Choice Award for the three most popular displays. Anyone can enter a display since the Gem and Mineral Society has plenty of cases to loan out. Show off a collection, describe a project or mine, or just be creative with some aspect of geology.

No rock show is complete without vendors with minerals from around the world, polished stones, jewelry, natural crafts, carved stones, fossils, books, rock hammers, paintings and items too numerous to mention. There are plenty of return vendors, but there is always room for more. So far most of our vendors are from Southcentral Alaska, but it'd sure be fun to have some folks from the rest of Alaska and the Yukon participate, too – are you all listening out there? A vendor booth is \$50 for a 6' x 8' space and a table.

Remember that no event happens without help and support. The rock show is no exception. Volunteers are needed to help get cases out of storage, set them up, take them down, man the club table, and help out around the show on Friday and Saturday. If you like to work with kids, there

is always help needed on Saturday with face painting, balloon art and the treasure hunt. OR create your own activity for the kids – new ideas are always appreciated.

This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock and Mineral Show and it is still fun and exciting to plan, organize and participate. The show is a great place to see beautiful rocks, learn a few things, expand a hobby, tell a few tales, hear a few tales, and just have a good time with your whole family. And the best part – admission is free. Now, that is a hard deal to beat.

See you in November,  
Anita Williams  
907-345-2541, awilliam@alaska.net

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FIELD TRIP REPORT  
All Roads Lead From Nome.  
July 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.  
By Greg Durocher

Shari and I were met at the Nome Airport Friday morning by the other two rockhounds, Bonnie Hepburn and Sheila Macias (the Advance Team) and Shari's good buddy Gretchen (who's been sentenced to Nome while her husband Bob finishes his career with the State). We set up our tent on the beach, along with the A Team, who had camped out the previous night at Salmon Lake, then spent the afternoon wandering around town and up Anvil Mountain. The latter proved to be quite the treat, as we got to see a herd of musk ox – bulls, cows and calves – at a fairly close range. There were 21 animals that we could count. They all wandered to a large snow patch where most lay down. That was the only way we got an accurate count, as some of the calves had initially blended into the brush.

Bob and Gretchen joined us around the evening campfire for roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. We got a kick out of the group of kids nearby swimming in the Bering Sea. Following excellent campfire

conversation, we were lulled to sleep by the rhythmic surf while the sun sat low in the north.

The mosquitoes were waiting for us Saturday morning before the sea breezes began. They weren't unbearable, and anyway, we soon departed in the rental car for breakfast. After a gas and grocery stop, we headed up the road to Pilgrim Hot Springs. A stop en route at Salmon Lake produced a few interesting rocks, some of which were white granites laced with small black tourmalines. Dwight Smith initially discovered these on the last CGMS trip to Nome in 1998.

The hot tub at Pilgrim was a rickety, slime-lined wooden affair whose best years were decades past. A healthy volume of very hot water emanating from a hose attached to a wellhead casing kept pace with the plethora of leaks springing from every part of the tank. The water was so hot that two of us couldn't do more than soak our feet. How Shari and Bonnie got all the way in, I don't understand. A nearby small lake was lukewarm. If the bottom weren't so mucky, I'd have jumped in. There were a couple other wellheads squirting artesian hot water. One was encrusted with mineral salts, spewing scalding 195-degree water. An investor group is examining the area for its hydrothermal generation potential. The wells were sunk around 1969.

We returned to the main "highway" to continue on to the end at the Kougarok River. The gravel road is really well maintained, and the close-to-100 miles of driving to that point didn't seem that far. On the return leg we stopped at more gravel pits for rockhounding, and checked out a culvert for possible panning material. It was already cleaned out. There are probably dozens of folks who had the same idea! That night we ate at the Japanese/Italian restaurant. Obviously Nomeites believe in consolidation whenever possible! Sushi notwithstanding, we opted for pizza and called up Bob and Gretchen to join us. The

fare was surprisingly good, and we again enjoyed the relaxing conversation.

Sunday morning breakfast at another of the local establishments was followed by our trip to Teller on the "Bob Blodgett Highway", another well-paved, lightly used exit from Nome. It should be traveled once for the experience and twice when forced. The subsistence-living village of Teller was compact like Nome, but less junky and more depressing. We saw a dead dog lying in the back of a decrepit pickup by the fuel tanks near the playground across from a row of residences. Fun stuff. We beachcombed for a while at the end of the spit, coats on and hoods up against the stiff, frigid breeze. We only traveled 75 miles or so north of Nome, but it felt 20 degrees cooler. No kids swimming there!

En route back to Nome (thank you, Lord!) we made a few panning stops, but didn't find anything. We saw a group of 5 musk ox right on the Nome outskirts. When we stopped they all ran behind bushes and lined up sort of like this: / | | | \. Dinner was at Bob and Gretchen's place. Plus we got SHOWERS!!! Later we all panned gold dust on the beach and Shari and I went on a 2-mile hike along the surf's edge. We were eased into slumber by our third seashore lullaby under sunny midnight skies.

Continuing to support the Nome economy, we again had breakfast in Nome Monday morning. Shari opted to stay and visit with Gretchen while the rest of us took the Nome-Council highway. After the obligatory photo stop at "the Last Train to Nowhere", we turned inland, where it became quite warm. There is no road across the Niukluk River into Council, so we stopped there and photographed the other side. Locals can normally drive across the known ford, but the river was so high that nobody was crossing this summer. On our return we did some more panning, saw 3 more musk ox, and stopped at the bar in Safety (last stop of the Iditarod before Nome - population: a few people and dogs scattered over 5 miles of spit). We sampled the grilled salmon they

were giving away for their July 4th celebration and had a couple beers. About the time the bartender put on the Cher tape, we decided that it was time to depart!

We arrived back at camp around mid-afternoon to find Shari and Gretchen chatting and soaking up the sun. Bonnie went for a very brief swim (!!!) while Shari and I started breaking down our site (Sheila and Bonnie were staying put). After checking our bags early at the airport, we all went downtown for a final round. Airport security managed to remove a lighter from me and one from my travel bag. But they did it with a smile! Back home after 11 p.m. We thought of the folks still stuck in Nome - for days or years - but it sure was a fun place to visit!

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"Dino-Mite" Discovery at Denali  
Dinosaur Track Found in Denali National  
Park  
By Jane Tranel, NPS

A roughly 70-million year old dinosaur track has been discovered in Denali National Park and Preserve by a University of Alaska Fairbanks student. The discovery of the three-toed Cretaceous period dinosaur was made last week during a UAF Department of Geology and Geophysics field camp. Dr. Paul McCarthy, associate professor of geology, was showing two students, Susi Tomsich and Jeremiah Drewel, a sedimentary rock that commonly preserves dinosaur track, when Tomsich pointed to the dinosaur track and asked, "like this one?"

The track is about six inches wide by nine inches long. The track was found June 27 near the Igloo Campground, about 35 miles west of the park entrance. The area has been closed to public entry while the park develops a plan to preserve the fossil. The dinosaur track found in rocks called the Cantwell Formation is the first evidence of

dinosaurs found in Denali National Park and Preserve. The University of Alaska Fairbanks Department of Geology and Geophysics, through the efforts of Dr. Rainer Newberry and Bill Witte, have been working closely with Murie Science and Learning Center and Denali National Park and Preserve to conduct a field geology mapping course, which started in 2003. Through these efforts, the park has benefited by gaining a more detailed understanding of the park's geologic resources.

Dr. Anthony Fiorillo, curator of earth sciences at the Dallas Museum of Natural History, has persistently advocated the search for dinosaur remains in the Cantwell Formation due to its age and geological properties. This discovery by the students provides confirmation and inspiration for ongoing paleontological efforts. Dr. Fiorillo partnered with Dr. McCarthy earlier this year for his expertise on fossil soils that provides a critical sedimentological context for this discovery. Dr. Fiorillo has visited the park to search for dinosaur evidence in 2000, 2001, and 2004, and plans to continue the research this summer with assistance from Phil Brease, Denali National Park and Preserve Geologist.

The work is supported through the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program grant, a program which facilitates partnerships with other organizations and neighboring communities. The NPS has partnered with the Dallas Museum of Natural History and University of Alaska Fairbanks Department of Geology and Geophysics for continued investigations. This discovery confirms that conditions exist in the park that will make future dinosaur discoveries in Denali likely.

See:  
<http://www.nps.gov/akso/Press/2005/dinofinal.htm> for photos and map of area – Ed.

