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### **Mammal fossils featured at Museum program**

Learn more about the creatures who came millions of years after the dinosaurs at the **Tuesday Twilight Talk: Mammal Fossils** on Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sioux City Public Museum. A powerpoint presentation of a typical dig will explain the basics of finding mammal fossils including where they are frequently found, why they are preserved in certain formations and how they are uncovered.

The program will be presented by local amateur paleontologists, Brian Buckmeier, Darren Maurer, Patrick Saulsbury and Steve Saulsbury. While the four are best known for their discovery of a new species of dinosaur, *Dracorex Hogwartsia*, they have also uncovered numerous mammal fossils dating from the Oligocene (34-23 million years ago) through the Pleistocene (1.8 million-10,000 years ago) periods. Many of these are showcased in the Sioux City Public Museum's current exhibit, ***DINO-mite Discoveries: Draco & Friends***.

Among the fossils on display are the Metamynodon, Hoplophoneus, Oreodont, Smilodon, the Cave Bear (*Ursus Spelaeus*), the Dire Wolf, ancient Peccary, *Poebrotherium*, *Leptomeryx*, *Lestodon*, Woolly Rhino, Mastodon and Woolly Mammoth. Especially notable were their discoveries of a rare example of a *Megachoerus*'s nine-inch tusk and the most complete skull ever found of the *Bothriodon*, a very early member of the Hippopotamus family. The presentation will include a discussion of these mammals, including what they looked like and how they lived, followed by a question and answer period.

Despite their impressive discoveries, the four paleontologists are technically "amateurs" who lead professional lives in Sioux City. Buckmeier is an attorney, Maurer is an artist, Patrick Saulsbury is a veterinarian and Steve Saulsbury is a radiologist. Spring, summer and fall are spent in the field searching for more discoveries and the winter months are spent doing lectures as well as the time-consuming work of fossil preparation.

The Sioux City Public Museum is housed in the historic John Peirce Mansion at 2901 Jackson Street in Sioux City. Regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 712-279-6174 or visit [www.siouxcitymuseum.org](http://www.siouxcitymuseum.org).