

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol. 30 No, 4

April 2011

## President's Message

*by Dave Swanston, President*

My thanks to all of those members who have already paid their dues. For those who forgot, there is still time to pay them.

This year we are participating in the Citrus Fair in La Habra. The fair will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17, from 12 noon to 11 pm, however, our booth will be open only until 6 pm on both days. I hope everyone has a chance to come and see not only our booth but also the many other booths at this exciting event.

Don Eschbach and I had a great time teaching about minerals and fossils at the Country Hills Elementary School in Brea. The students were very excited and receptive and enjoyed the presentation. We will have made another presentation to the La Habra Cub Scouts by the time you read this bulletin.

The Pearl Necklace class was a great success and we look forward to further classes Ofelia will be offering this year.

Our Board meeting is Tuesday April 5, at 7 pm and our General meeting will be on Tuesday the 12th of April.

March was not the best month for many of our members due to various illnesses. Many of our members suffered from colds, flu, even pneumonia and hospitalization. I hope everyone is doing much better now and all are on the mend. Hopefully, April will be a much better and healthier month for everyone.

Ofelia is in need of egg cartons, the one dozen size only. If you have some, please bring them to our next meeting. These cartons are needed for the children's room at our show in June.

Also, please remember to let Mary Ellen know when you sign in if this is your birthday month and you will receive three free raffle tickets (more chances to win) from Loretta.

Please check the club roster to see if your information is complete and up to date, as Mary Ellen may be printing a new Club Roster to bring us up to date.

Hope to see you at our April meeting.

## NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting - April 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Field Trip - April 16-17 - Lavic Siding/Southern Cady's (agate, jasper)

Deadline for NOC News - April 17

Class - April 19 - 6-9 p.m.

Show Meeting - May 3 -7:00 p.m.

Citrus Fair - April 16, 17, 18

## Programs

*by Don Eschbach*

April 12 - Justin Zzyzx is the speaker. "Fakes and Forgeries in the Mineral World"

## Refreshments

Thanks to Fran Swanston, Ofelia and Don Warthen for bringing the goodies to the March meeting. Audrey and Barbary Woolfok will bring the goodies to the April meeting.

## Members in the News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have a wonderful day all of you who were born in April.

*Joan Abramson*

*Cheryl Cooley*

*Jeffry Cooley*

*Allen Farquer*

*Nathan Farquer*

*Aida Heidke*

*Trini Hermosillo*

*Vicki Marks*

*Dana Matula*

*David E. Miller*

*Barbara Steed*

*Clyeda Tezak*

*Oscar Veloz*

*Julia West*

Your gemstone is Diamond

Your flower is Daisy or Sweet Pea

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## Shows and Events

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### **April 2-3 - LANCASTER, CA**

Antelope Gem & Mineral Society  
Lancaster High School  
44701 - 32nd Street West  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Rod Skillings (661)400-5198  
Email: [rodneyskillings@ymail.com](mailto:rodneyskillings@ymail.com)  
Email: [av\\_gem@yahoo.com](mailto:av_gem@yahoo.com)

### **April 30, May 1, 2011, Anaheim, CA**

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-4:30  
Beth Pelfrey (714) 774-2754  
Email: [martin.swiderski@jacobs.com](mailto:martin.swiderski@jacobs.com)  
Website: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

### **May 13-15 2011, Anderson CA**

CFMS Convention & Show sponsored by  
Northern California Treasures  
Superior California Gem & Mineral Society  
Shasta Gem & Mineral Society  
Paradise Gem & Mineral Club  
Shasta District Fairgrounds - Anderson, CA  
Near Redding, CA - Off Highway 273  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4  
Show Chairman: Steve Puderbough -  
[steve@applyaline.com](mailto:steve@applyaline.com)  
Website: [www.superiorcal.com](http://www.superiorcal.com)

### **June 4-5, 2011, La Habra, CA**

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Dave Swanston (626) 912-1531  
Email: [swanni3@roadrunner.com](mailto:swanni3@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [nocgms.com](http://nocgms.com)

### **June 4-5 - GLENDORA, CA**

Glendora Gems  
Goddard Middle School  
859 East Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638  
Email: [Ybidwell2@aol.com](mailto:Ybidwell2@aol.com)

### **June 3-5 - WOODLAND HILLS, CA**

Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society  
Pierce College  
20800 Victory Blvd  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Gary Levitt (818) 993-3802, (cell) (818) 321-6290  
Email: [Show@Rockatomics.org](mailto:Show@Rockatomics.org)  
Website: [www.Rockatomics.org](http://www.Rockatomics.org)

### **July 9-10 - CULVER CITY, CA**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veterians Memorial Auditorium  
4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver)  
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5  
Robert Thirlaway  
Website: <http://www.CulverCityRocks.org>

### **September 10-11 - DOWNEY, CA**

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society  
Woman's Club of Downey  
9813 Paramount Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4  
Guynell Miller (562) 633-0614

### **November 5-6 - LANCASTER, CA**

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Cheri George, (562) 243-8470  
Email: [lizardwoman3@yahoo.com](mailto:lizardwoman3@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.palmdalegemandmineral.com](http://www.palmdalegemandmineral.com)

# Education Report

*by Ofelia Warthen, Chair Person*

March was a great month for the education committee. our teachers, Don Eschbach and Dave Swanston. They did a great performance at Brea Country Hills Elementary School.

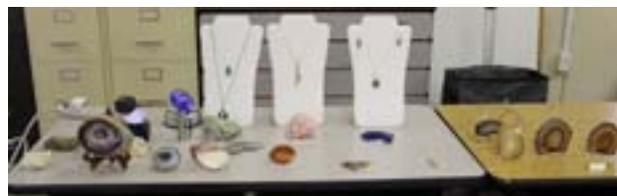
Don taught how important rocks and minerals are in our daily lives. for example, how tooth paste is made out of calcium carbonate. He gave them a memory contest on the difference between nephrite and jadeite jade. also, identified the rock cycle from igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic.

The students were over excited when David exposed his display of the american lion, being the largest feline found, together with the saber-tooth tiger, dire wolf, dinosaur dung and many more fascinating fossils.

Overall, it was a great presentation. teachers and students were very appreciative and spellbound by our member teachers' presentation. thank you fellows!

Our monthly education classes continue to draw a great number of students. Our march class was full, making a pearl-knotting necklace, with Francis Lau teaching. Mr. Lau has a pearl farm in china. he is very well educated in the process of the pearls and always willing to teach our members at no cost.

**Reminder:** we need to replace the community center lobby display case.



# Class Pictures



Saber-Tooth Tiger



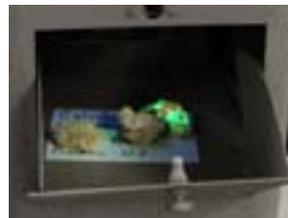
Short Faced Bear



American Lion



Dire Wolf



Don's Home Made Light Box



Mosasaur



## February Copper Class

by Don Warthen



## Free PDF Software

*Condensed article from the 2011 SCRIBE CD/DVD*

*By Dan Imel*

You can go to <http://download.cnet.com> and search for the name of the PDF creator you are in. Some of the FREE PDF software is available at the following links below:

**PDF redirect:** It has a nice interface that allows you to combine multiple PDF files down into one file. [http://download.cnet.com/PDF-ReDirect/3000-10743\\_4-10255233.html?tag=mncol](http://download.cnet.com/PDF-ReDirect/3000-10743_4-10255233.html?tag=mncol)

**PrimoPDF:** Dan's current favorite because it tends to create files roughly the same size as the full retail version of Acrobat. [http://download.cnet.com/PrimoPDF/3000-18497\\_4-10264577.html?tag=mncol](http://download.cnet.com/PrimoPDF/3000-18497_4-10264577.html?tag=mncol)

**Nitro PDF Reader programs.** They allow you to save filled PDF forms, something ADOBE has taken away in newer versions of Acrobat Reader, as well as several other features. Not true to their names, they do add PDF file creation options to your list of available printers. If you don't know whether your machine is a 32 bit or 64 bit machine, I would suggest downloading the 32 bit version and trying to install it. If you have a 64 bit machine, it should prompt you to download the 64 bit version instead.

### **Nitro PDF Reader 32 Bit:**

[http://download.cnet.com/Nitro-PDF-Reader-32-bit/3000-10743\\_4-75205901.html?tag=mncol;1](http://download.cnet.com/Nitro-PDF-Reader-32-bit/3000-10743_4-75205901.html?tag=mncol;1)

### **Nitro PDF Reader 64 Bit:**

[http://download.cnet.com/Nitro-PDF-Reader-64-bit/3000-10743\\_4-75206289.html?tag=mncol;2](http://download.cnet.com/Nitro-PDF-Reader-64-bit/3000-10743_4-75206289.html?tag=mncol;2)

**Adobe Acrobat Reader:** You can download it for free at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

These free downloads contain all the software required for someone with an IBM compatible computer using Windows XP or newer to create PDF files. All three programs create printers you can select from in practically any Windows application.

## Chuckwalla Springs Field Trip Report March 19-20, 2011

by Jay Valle

While much of Southern California was being inundated by rain and high winds, a few of us were enjoying the beautiful Spring days out at the Chuckwalla Mountains. The weather was comfortable and (mostly) dry the entire weekend and the wildflowers were beginning to show their faces. A total of 30 rockhounds signed in, 26 from the Anaheim Searchers. Joe & Marcia Goetz and I (Jay Valle) were the PLS/Whittier contingent and I was the only participant from the NOC.

Robert Burson (Searchers) and I arrived early Friday, March 18, to scout out some more areas around Chuckwalla Springs. We found a small group of wanna-be... I mean trainee scouts waiting and ready to go, so our scouting outing actually was several cars rather than just us. We continued exploring an area where several nice materials have been found. One of our unofficial scouts discovered a nice seam of green moss agate and decided to stay and work on it through the night (he camped at the spot.) Oh, and Robert got stuck. But we got him unstuck and we returned to camp, briefly then made a dinner run into Blythe.

Saturday the rest of our 'hounders arrived and the field trip was under way. The unofficial count of vehicles was 7 - 4x4s and 3 - 2-wheel drive vehicles (this will be important later.) Robert led us to a small but amazingly complete mining camp where he explained the mining techniques used at this location, including a small stamp mill and cyanide leaching pond.

Next was the amygdale location where one of the guests found a recently deceased speckled rattlesnake. The field trip leader and several onlookers had a heart stopping moment when the rockhound picked up the still wiggling snake. She did not get bit I'm happy to say, but I'm not sure she understands the general concern with what she did (vipers can still strike even though technically "dead" because of reflexive muscular activity.) The snake was disposed of in an environmentally friendly way (we cut off the head and buried it.)

The rest of the afternoon was much more sedate. On the way to the plume agate collecting area our 2-wheel drive contingent had a moment in soft dirt and sand, but everyone made it through to where we were going.



At the collecting site, rockhound search parties headed off in several directions with everyone finding things to pick up. No critter reports. On the way out, back to ward camp, our road repair skills and tow straps were tested on the 2-wheelers who had trouble in a couple of spots. Sometimes driving really fast worked and there is this one stretch involving a small climb up a hill along a water cut road with soft dirt and a washed out gully on the right... well let's just say that one of the 2x drivers made a spectacular run up the hill that I dearly wish I'd video taped (ask Robert Burson about it next time you see him). The rest of the drive was uneventful.

A delicious potluck dinner followed our return to camp and that was followed by a warm campfire (don't know if I've told you this before but no campout is complete without a campfire.)

The next morning several of our participants headed for the rainy skies back home while the rest of us went off to Graham Pass in search of the illusive, though very much desirable, sagenite agate. Small specimens were found but the killer piece is still out there somewhere, waiting. One last stop was made at a blue quartz outcropping to collect chrysocholla-stained quartz. After this the field trip pretty much ended.

Chuckwalla Springs is a good rockhound adventure location. I always have an excellent time there. We haven't found everything the Chuckwalla Mountains have to offer in the way of lapidary materials yet so it is still a great place to explore (the old-timers collected paisley agate here - we're still looking for that!!) If you missed the trip, you missed some good, clean, wholesome, rockhound fun.

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## NOC General Meeting Minutes La Habra Community Center March 8, 2011

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by Nancy Bird

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Swanston at 7:00 p.m. He asked Don Eschbach to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don Eschbach introduced our speaker, Stan McCall, who gave a talk with pictures on creative custom jewelry. Many of the members know Stan and are very appreciative of his work.

After the break, the meeting was called back to order and we had the drawing.

The minutes were corrected and approved.

### Committee reports

Our Treasurer is out sick. Loretta Ogden gave the Federation report. Ofelia Warthern, from the education committee announced a pearl workshop for March and Don Eschbach with a wire-wrap pendant for April.

Don Eschbach announced Justin Zzyzx as our April speaker. Reports were given by Nancy O'Conner for refreshments and Frank Winn for field trips.

Show-Fran Swanston talked about some of the publicity. Ofelia Warthen needs egg cartons (save yours!!), and Kathy Eschbach needs donations.

Social Secretary-Nancy Bird would like folks to let her know when they are sick so she can pass the word along. What a bad couple of months for our members! John Erskine, Bill Burns, Richard Schirer, and Mary Ellen Ruiz have or are still ill and we wish them healthy days ahead. A card (or 2) has been sent in our name.

Chalmer Steed could still use personal cards. And many of us helped Ginnie Grafton celebrate her Birthday by going out to dinner and playing cards.

The **Citrus Fair will be April 16, 17, & 18.** We will have a booth and need all hands on deck. If you haven't signed up, please do so at the next meeting. Our presence helps advertise our show.

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## March Pearl Class

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by Don Warthen



# Lavic Siding

## April 16-17, 2011

by Jay Valle

Wouldn't it be nice to go to a place where you could camp and collect in the same spot? Well that place is Lavic siding - off the I-40.

After a good night's sleep you step out of your tent or RV with a cup of coffee in hand and you wonder where you'll go to do some collecting. It's then that you realize all you really need to do is bend over and pick-up the very stone you're there to collect! That's right! The stone is jasper, it comes in green, red, orange, various shades of brown, yellow. Some are mixes of these colors and others have agate "windows" with flecks of color in them.

You'll have this chance on this fieldtrip! Now you may think you're limited to this one area - well this isn't true at all! If you go up the road which you had driven down the day before and check the washes

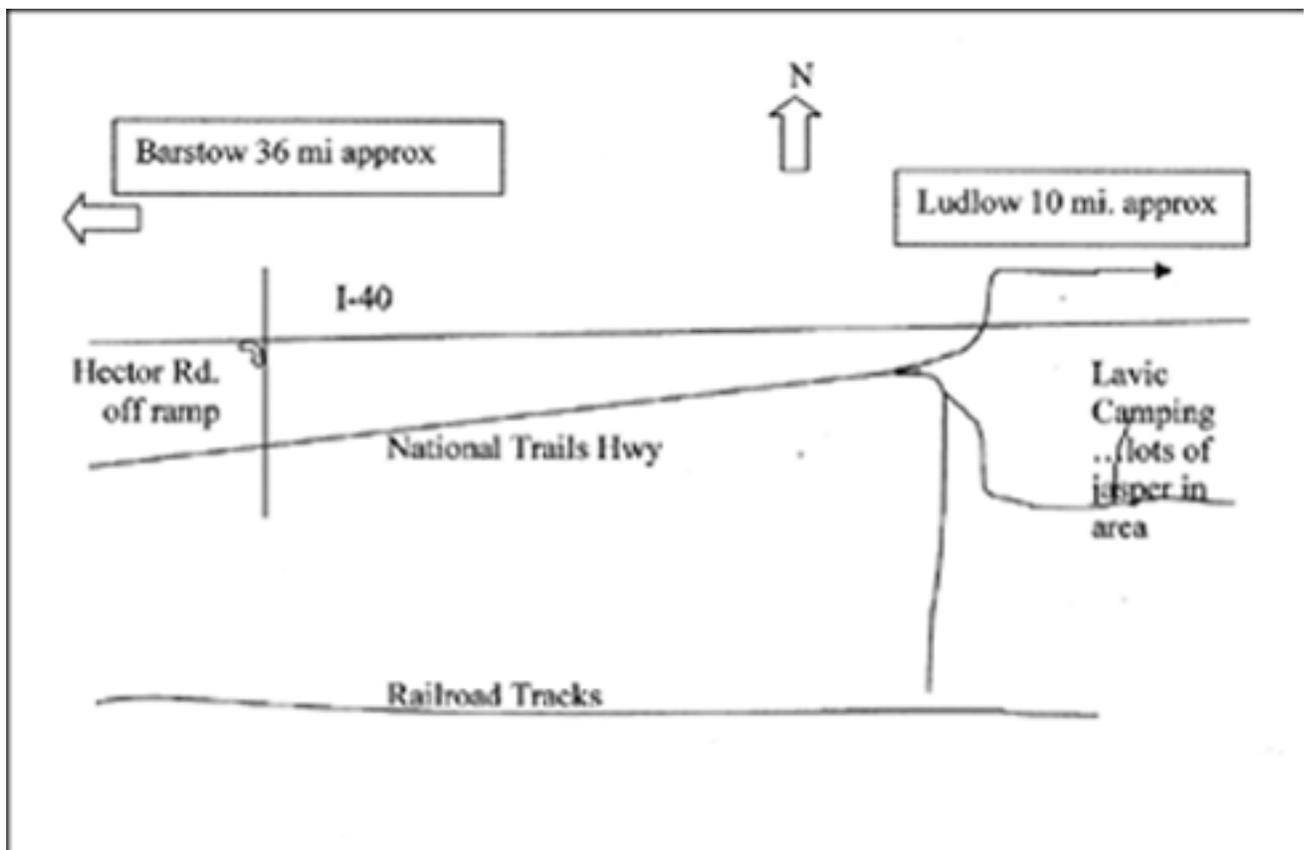
that run north to south, you'll probably find even larger pieces of jasper.

Across the freeway are the Cady mountains, a treasure trove of stones and minerals to collect. Minerals such as, psilomelane, gypsum and copper to name a few.

Agates of plume, moss, banded and fortification, as well as jaspers of all colors possible, similar to what is found in camp. You could quite literally spend a week or two exploring and still not find everything that is out there.

This is a good trip for both the first-timer or the veteran rockhound; there is lots of stuff to collect. It's only 2-1/2 hours from Pasadena, so come for the day!

Typically we will be leaving camp (FRS radio channel 14-0) to the collecting sites around 8:00AM. On Saturday evening we will have a potluck dinner at 4:30PM. Hope to see you there!



# Barstovian FOSSIL BEDS

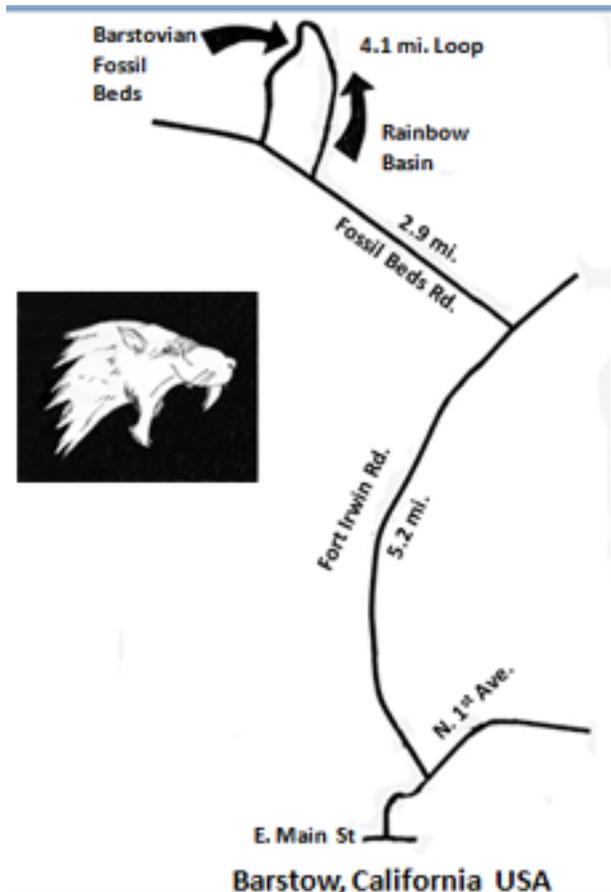
BARSTOW, CALIF

by Don Ogden

A 79 cent, 1963, booklet on the Barstovian Fossil Beds by *Dr. Lawrence C. Davenport* and *Jean Goldbrandsen* is the source of this article

It has a map to the fossil beds, a list of the fossils, and sketches of the animal life as it was then.

It would be nice to learn about the fossils found there, as it is close to our field trip to the Whittier Claim. I will add pictures and data and of the animal life listed below, starting with the camels.



The Barstovian Fossil Beds were deposited in the late part of the Miocene age, or about fifteen million years ago. At this time there were numerous pools of water and the land was flat and grassy. The sabal palm was abundant, and petrified palm has been found at the Barstovian Beds.

Many of the fossils are found in a strata of mud mixed with volcanic ash. This fossil bearing strata is often exposed where the actual bones are easily seen. Occasionally bones or teeth can be found completely eroded away from the rocks.

#### Animal Life Found at the Fossil Beds

- Camels ..... Alticamelus, Procamelus
- Cats ..... Machairodonts (saber-toothed),  
..... Pseudaelurus (true cats)
- Chipmunks ..... Tamias
- Deer ..... Rakomeryx, Merycondur
- Dogs ..... Tomarctus
- Dogs (Hyaenoid) .. Aelurodon
- Dog-Bears ..... Hemicyonid
- Horses ..... Archeohippus, Hypohippus,  
..... Merychippus, Protohippus
- Mastodons ..... Gomphotherium
- Mice ..... Pocket Mice (Perognathoides),  
..... Peridiomys),  
..... Deer Mice (Peromyscus)
- Oreodonts ..... Brachycrus, Ustatochoerus
- Peccaries ..... Dysohyus
- Rabbits ..... Hypolagus
- Shrews ..... Limnoecus
- Birds ..... Condor, Mourning Dove, Ducks,  
..... Flamingo, (Megapaloelodus),  
..... Gulls, Hawks,  
..... Owls (Great Horned),  
..... Quail-like birds (Cyrtonyx)
- Tortoise

# Procamelus

Procamelus had long legs designed for speed, and was about 4.3 feet in height, slightly smaller than a modern Llama.

Unlike modern camelids, it had a pair of small incisor teeth in the upper jaw. The remaining teeth were large and adapted for eating tough vegetation.

The shape of the toes suggests that it possessed foot pads, like modern camels, but unlike earlier forms of camelid, which generally had hooves. This would have helped it walk over relatively soft ground.

It was estimated to weigh around 1,200 pounds..



**Procamelus Mummy**

# Alticamelus (tall camel)

Alticamelus was an ancient species of camel that lived throughout North America during the Miocene.

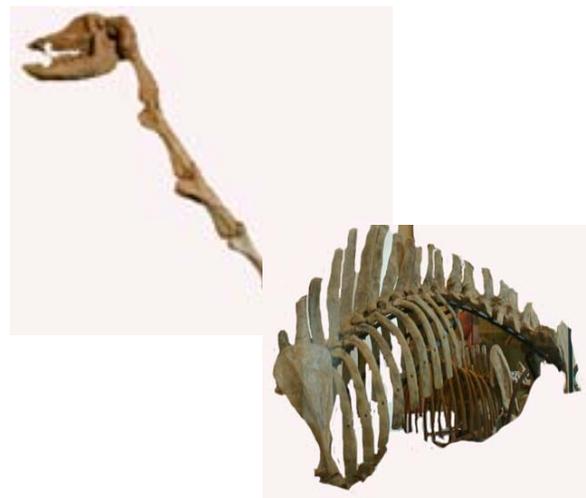
Alticamelus was the tallest of American camels and combined the traits of camels and giraffes.

It has very long legs, and a long S-curved neck that places its head over 10 feet above the ground.

It did not have the characteristic camel hump, but a much smaller one.

A herbivorous grazer similar to the giraffe. The long neck allows it to dine on vegetation other animals are unable to reach.

It was estimated to weigh around 1,500 pounds.

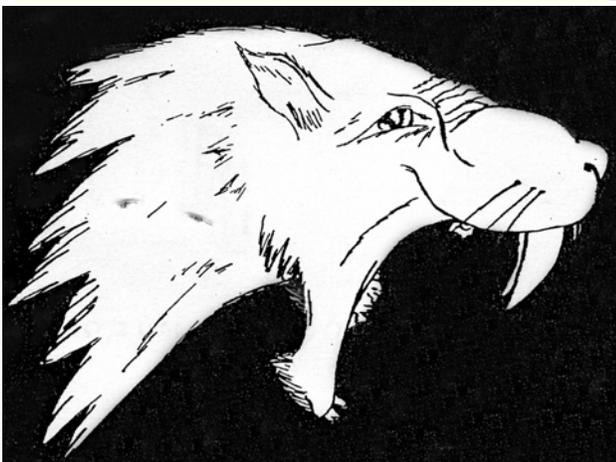


**Alticamelus Skeliton**

## Machairdonts (Sabre-Toothed)

Machairodonts are divided into two types: dirk-toothed and scimitar-toothed. Dirk-toothed cats had elongated, narrow upper canines and generally had stocky bodies. *Scimitar-toothed cats had broader and shorter upper canines and a typically lithe body form with longer legs.*

The longer-toothed cats often had a bony flange that extended from their lower mandible. However, one genus, *Xenosmilus*, known only from two fairly complete fossils, broke this mould, possessing both the stout heavy limbs associated with dirk-toothed cats, and the stout canines of a scimitar-toothed cat.



Scimitar-Toothed Cat at Fossil Bed

## Pseudaelurus (True Cats)

*Pseudaelurus intrepidus* from the Early to Late Barstovian of North America was a relatively large species, overlapping in size with the European *P. quadridentatus*.

A second large North American species from the Early and Late Barstovian was *Pseudaelurus marshi*. *Pseudaelurus stouti* (originally described as *Lynx stouti*) also from the Early and Late Barstovian was a very small and slender form of the genus.

*Pseudaelurus aeluroides* with only a type specimen from Early Barstovian from Nebraska is not well studied, but may be conspecific with *P. marshi*.

A species *Pseudaelurus validus*, from the late Hemingfordian of New Mexico was described in 2001. This species overlaps in size with *P. intrepidus*, *P. marshi* and *P. quadridentatus*.

Recently (2003) an additional North American species *Pseudaelurus skinneri* from the Late Hemingfordian of Nebraska was described. This species is smaller than *P. validus* and overlaps in size with the Eurasian species *P. lorteti*, *P. cuspidatus* and *p. guangheensis*.

