



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Harris: 334-328-0730

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Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery & Wetumpka Crater Commission – Wetumpka, Alabama

WHEN DINOSAURS ROAMED: THE WETUMPKA IMPACT CRATER, FEBRUARY 20 THROUGH APRIL 18

Beginning February 20, 2015, the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery in conjunction with the Wetumpka Crater Commission will present the exhibition: *When Dinosaurs Roamed: the Wetumpka Impact Crater*. The multifaceted exhibition will include work by professional paleoartists Karen Carr of New Mexico, Jonathon Hughes of Thailand, Rick Spears of Georgia, Jerry Armstrong of Georgia and Ashere Eilben, a recent graduate of the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Other professional artists will include Wayne Atchison of Titus, Alabama.

The exhibition will also include work from a juried competition. This portion of the exhibition will include original artwork related to the Wetumpka Impact Crater and the Cretaceous period generated by K-12 Students, College Students and Adults. The selection panel will include professional artists, scientists, members of the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission and members of the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery. As of January 16, 2015, KFMG has received more than 300 entries. Award premiums in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded, courtesy of WindCreek Hospitality.

Additional components of the exhibition will include a series of oversized storyboards with images outlining scientific research about the Wetumpka Impact Crater and a display of Cretaceous Fossils and plants of Alabama.

Beginning February 21 and ending April 18, free Docent led tours of the exhibition will be conducted each Thursday and Saturday from 10 am 3 pm. Group tours are available by appointment. To schedule a group tour of the exhibition please contact Sylvia McConnell at 334-567-6174.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE: *as of January 19, 2014*

- **Exhibition Dates:** Friday, February 20, 2015 – April 18, 2015
- **KFMG Schedule:** Monday–Friday, 8:30 – 4:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **Group Exhibition Tours:** Each Thursday & Saturday from February 21 through April 18.
- **Exhibition Reception:** Thursday, March 5, 2015, 5:30 until 6:30 pm (*KFMG Riverview Gallery*)
- **Annual Crater Lecture by Dr. David King:** Thursday, March 5, 2015, 7:00 pm (*Wetumpka Civic Center*)
- **Annual School Student Crater Tours:** Friday, March 6, 2015 (*Reservations are Required*)
- **Annual Public Crater Tours:** Saturday, March 7, 2015 (*Reservations are Required*)

Note: Lecture times and dates will be forthcoming. Dates and times will be added to our website: KFMG-Online.org and posted on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/KFMGonline](https://www.facebook.com/KFMGonline)

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WHEN DINOSAURS ROAMED: THE WETUMPKA IMPACT CRATER—*continued*

ACTIVITIES:

The KFMG "Choose to Know Lecture Series" will feature Karen Carr, internationally acclaimed paleoartist; Rick Spears, Exhibit Designer at the Fernbank Science Center Atlanta, Georgia; Jun Ebersole, Collections Manager at the McWane Center, Birmingham, Alabama, and Dana Ehret, Curator of Paleontology at the Alabama Natural History Museum at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. All KFMG lectures are free and open to the public. The first lecture on Saturday, February 21, will feature Jun Ebersole. Other dates are to be determined.

The Wetumpka Crater Commission's Annual Crater Lecture by Dr. David King will take place at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 5 at the Wetumpka Civic Center. Dr. King is a Professor of Geology at Auburn University, Auburn. Prior to the lecture, a reception will be held in the Riverview Gallery at the KFMG from 5:30 until 6:30 pm. There is no charge for the lecture or reception.

The Wetumpka Crater Commission's Annual Student Crater Tours will take place on Friday, March 6. A limited number of school student tours are available. Teachers should contact Marilee Tankersley at 334-567-4637 to make a reservation.

The Wetumpka Crater Commission's Annual Public Crater Tours will take place on Saturday, March 7. Tours will be held hourly starting at 9:00 am, with van transportation provided. The tour is divided into two parts. Part One, a lecture, will take place inside the Wetumpka Civic Center, followed by the van tour. Part Two, the van tour, will load immediately following the lecture. Van tour space is very limited and must be reserved before February 25. Participants need to meet at the Wetumpka Civic Center on Main Street, 15 minutes prior to their tour time. The total cost for both parts of the tour, including a guidebook is \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children up to age 12, accompanied by an adult. You may attend only the lecture for a charge of \$5.00, children up to age 12, admitted free. Guidebooks can be purchased for \$5.00, if available. Reservations are required. (*Not recommended for very small children.*) For additional information and reservations (*starting January 5th*), contact Donna Carboni at 334-567-5147 or by email at dcarboni@cityofwetumpka.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Major Funding provided through a grant awarded to the KFMG by the Alabama State Council on the Arts, which is made possible through funding from an annual appropriation by the Alabama State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. This public support enables the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery to reach new audiences, foster community development, provide high quality programming, and demonstrate the importance of the arts as a component for quality of life in Alabama.

About the Wetumpka Impact Crater: The Crater occurred approximately 85 million years ago during the Cretaceous period when a large meteor impacted the area now known as Wetumpka, Alabama, resulting in significant changes to both the landscape of the area and the inhabitants of both land and sea. The meteor that struck the Wetumpka area was about the size of Bryant Denny Stadium, resulting in an impact crater approximately five miles in diameter. At that time the Wetumpka area was largely covered by an inland sea with barrier islands and the climate was very different from today. The impact crater is one of nine late craters that occurred during the Cretaceous (approximately 144-65 million years ago) and is regarded as one of the best-preserved marine impact craters in the world.

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WHEN DINOSAURS ROAMED: THE WETUMPKA IMPACT CRATER—*continued*

About the Wetumpka Impact Crater: *continued*

In 1891 State Geologist Eugene Allan Smith noted the unusual nature of the Wetumpka area and described it as being “structurally disturbed.” While making detailed geologic maps of Elmore County in 1969-70, Alabama geologist Tony Neatherly again found these disturbances in Wetumpka with the center being chaotically disturbed. In 1998 Dr. David King Jr., Professor of Geology, Auburn University found shocked quartz which can only be formed by an enormous explosion, such as a large meteor impact would cause. Dr. Peter Schultz, Brown University, as well as another international expert on impact craters, Christian Koeberl at the Institute of Geochemistry, University of Vienna confirmed the findings.

Note: High resolution images available upon request.

EXAMPLES OF ARTWORK WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE EXHIBITION:



A Tsunami Wave Approaches the Charred Shoreline

A post impact view as seen from about 15 miles north of present day Wetumpka. At the time of the impact, a shallow sea covered Wetumpka. Heat from the blast has set the shoreline woods on fire and now a tsunami wave arrives onshore.

Acrylics on canvas, by Jerry Armstrong, 31" x 25"

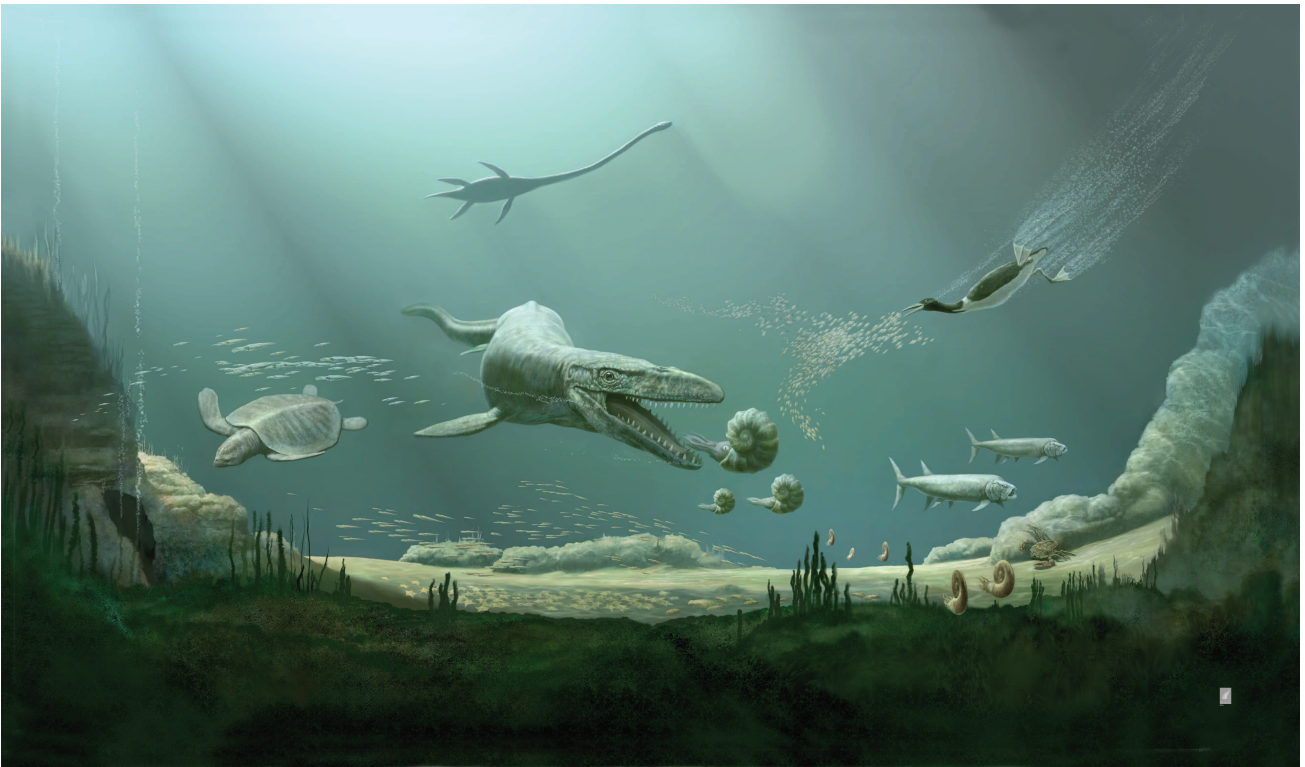
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WHEN DINOSAURS ROAMED: THE WETUMPKA IMPACT CRATER—*continued*



This unusual formation found near the center of the Wetumpka crater is know by local residents as "The Cliffs."

Drone Photograph



Cretaceous Marine Environment, *Digital Painting printed on canvas by Karen Carr, 41"x 24"*

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WHEN DINOSAURS ROAMED: THE WETUMPKA IMPACT CRATER—*continued*



Tyrannosaurus Scene, Digital Painting printed on canvas by Jonathon Hughes, 40" x 18"



Cretaceous Landscape, Digital Painting printed on canvas by Karen Carr, 120" x 33.5"

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