

# When Dinosaurs Roamed the Wetumpka Impact Crater

February 20, 2015 – April 18, 2015

KFMG

KELLY FITZPATRICK MEMORIAL GALLERY

Balcony Gallery

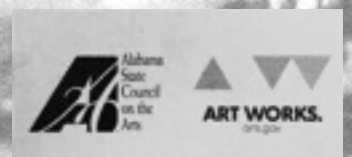
*Jerry Armstrong*

408 SOUTH MAIN STREET | WETUMPKA, ALABAMA 36092 | [KFMG-ONLINE.ORG](http://KFMG-ONLINE.ORG)

More than 85 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period, a large meteor impacted the area now known as Wetumpka, Alabama. The impact resulted in a crater approximately five miles in diameter causing significant changes to both the landscape of the area and the inhabitants of both land and sea. At that time, the Wetumpka area was largely covered by an inland sea with barrier islands, and the climate was very different from today. This impact crater is regarded as one of the best preserved marine impact craters in the world.

The exhibition includes large scale paintings, iron sculptures, exhibition models, fossils, plants and a series of oversized educational storyboards outlining much of the scientific research about the crater area. The exhibition also features the work of Karen Carr, Jerry Armstrong, Rick Spears, Jonathon Hughes, Wayne Atchison, Larry Percy and Asher Elbein. Additionally, the exhibition includes a juried exhibition of 65 kindergarten through grade twelve student work and a juried exhibition of 35 adult artists from throughout Alabama.

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. Additional support provided by the City of Wetumpka, the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission, the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery and Wind Creek Casino.



Major Funding Provided by:

Alabama State Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Gallery Hours:** Monday through Friday from 9am – 4pm, Saturday 10am - 3pm

**Docent Guided Tours:** Thursday and Saturday between the Hours of 10 am until 3pm.

**Student Reception and Award Ceremony:** Thursday, March 5, 2015 from 3:30 – 4:30

**Adult Reception and Award Ceremony:** 5:00 – 6:30 pm

**Annual Crater Lecture:** Thursday, March 5, 2015 @ 7pm

(Dr. David King@ the Wetumpka Civic Center)

**Annual School Crater Tours:** Friday, March 6, 2015

**Annual Public Crater Tours:** Saturday, March 7, 2015

**“Choose to Know” Saturday Lectures** that are associated with the exhibition “When Dinosaurs Roamed: The Wetumpka Impact Crater” at the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery. All Saturday lectures are free and open to the public and will be presented in the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Galley. Saturday lectures begin at 11am.

- February 21, 2015 @ 11 am - "Alabama's Remarkable Biodiversity and Paleobiodiversity." June Ebersole of the McWayne Science Center, Birmingham Alabama
- February 28, 2015 @ 11 am - Meteorites and Art, Jerry Armstrong, Cosmic Artist, Atlanta Georgia
- March 5, 2015 @ 7pm – The Science of the Wetumpka Impact Crater, Dr. David King, Auburn University Professor of Geology at the Wetumpka Civic Center
- March 21, 2015 @11am - Artists Talk, Geologically Speaking: The Kerygma Series, Larry Percy, Associate Professor of Art of Troy University, Troy, Alabama
- March 28, 2015 @ 11 am - Dana Ehret of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, “New Fossil Finds for the Alabama Museum of Natural History”
- April 11, 2015 @ 11 am - Art and Science and Making It Up As I Go Along: How to Create Paleo Restoration Models. Rick Spears of the Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta, Georgia
- Friday, May 1, 2015 (Time to be announced) Artists Talk, Paleoart and the Work of Karen Carr, Karen Carr, International Paleoartist of New Mexico

# Jerry Armstrong

Lecture: Meteorites and Art  
February 28, 2015, 11am



Jerry Armstrong is a well known meteorite collector and a cosmic artist whose paintings are highly sought after. He has been an amateur astronomer for decades and discovered a supernova in M51 on April 1, 1994, beating the heavily-funded Berkely search team by 40 minutes with nothing but his telescope, a timely photograph and a deep understanding of that galaxy's typical features. While all of his artwork is absolutely fantastic, it is his meteorite-related paintings that are most catching.





Jerry Armstrong Balcony Gallery

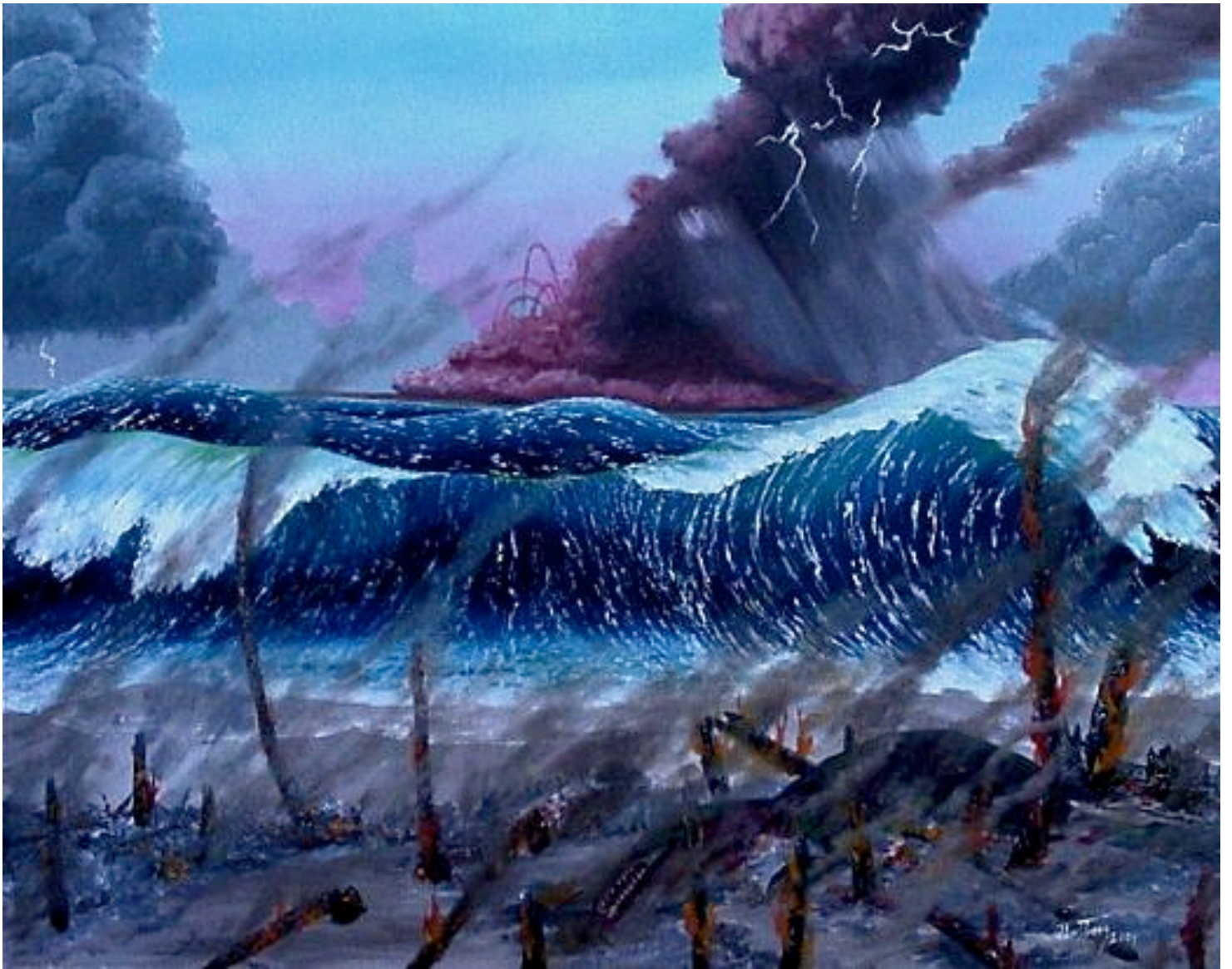
Paintings done in 2005 by artist, Jerry Armstrong, depict what might have happened in the Wetumpka area 85 million years ago....



A marine reptile bites a fish in the Gulf of Mexico waters that covered Central Alabama, 85 million years ago as the Wetumpka asteroid streaked through the sky.



A small tyrannosaurid dinosaur is beachcombing on the island shoreline just north of Wetumpka when he witnesses the asteroid or comet impact 15 miles offshore.



Heat from the blast has set the shoreline woods on fire and now the tsunami wave from impact arrives onshore as the impact crater forms at sea.





After impact, scientists think the rim stood above sea level and excluded sea water, but eventually the weaker southwestern rim collapsed causing a catastrophic flood across the interior.



For almost 20 million years the rim was surrounded by seawater. Jerry Armstrong shows a glimpse of the inside of the crater with pteranodons soaring over the water.

# About Jerry Armstrong

Georgia native and retired from Cobb County Fire Department after 30 years service. I have always, as far back as I can remember, been interested in astronomy. In 1994 I discovered a supernova (named 1994i by the International Astronomical Union) which was located in one of the most viewed galaxies in the sky known as Messier 51. How I managed to be first was the luck of the draw because I beat the Berkeley at UCLA Supernova Search Team by only 40 minutes. Later in the year this was quickly followed by another discovery of Fragment B that had broken away from comet Mahholz 2. This fragment by the way is very important to us as it shares the Earth's orbit during it's journey around the Sun. It has since been lost and we honestly do not know where it is at the moment. Another discovery was a 35 mile diameter asteroid in the Main Belt between Mars and Jupiter.

In 2013 I was selected to be the resident astronomer at Sosussvlei Desert Lodge Observatory in Namibia, Africa for a two month stay. Returning home in March I received an e-mail from them asking if I could return, I said yes but only if I can bring Judy with me, they heartily agreed. Judy and I are currently scheduled for another two month stay in April and May of 2015.

My interest in meteorites peaked during the 1990's. I am a member of M.A.G. (Meteorite Association of Georgia) and the I.M.C.A. (International Meteorite Collectors Association). I have the largest meteorite collection of locations in Georgia and possibly the southeast numbering well over 2000 specimens. I began painting meteorite falls at the request of David Hardy who wanted a painting depicting the Allende Meteorite Fall of 1969. When David posted his painting on the internet, it went crazy. I started receiving orders for other meteorite falls. My paintings can be found in Berlin, New York, Tehran Iran, Tucson, Flagstaff and museums such as Chabot Space and Science Center, Tellus Museum, Fernbank Science Center etc. Four of my meteorite paintings have appeared on covers of books.

During Jerry's lecture on February 28, 2015 at the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery, he spoke about meteorites, and how he does research for his artwork. He also touched on space in general and explained a few things about space including the weird and wonderful with a down-to-earth approach.



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