Citation by Paula Mikkelsen:

Each spring, the Paleontological Research Institution is proud to recognize a nonprofessional for outstanding contributions to the field of paleontology. It is with great pleasure that PRI presents its 2014 Katherine Palmer Award to James F. Jenks.

Jim Jenks of West Jordan, Utah, is an avid collector, particularly of Triassic ammonoid fossils. This passion began in high school and has continued through retirement, taking him to the mountains of California, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah in search of specimens. He is recognized today as one of the foremost collectors, preparers, and researchers, equaling, if not exceeding, the contributions of many professional paleontologists.

Jim’s recognition in the field is evidenced by his nomination, not by one or two, but fourteen colleagues — Nicolas Goudemand, Arnaud Brayard, Thomas Galfetti, Claude Monnet, Hugo Bucher, Spencer G. Lucas, Jean Guex, Christopher McRoberts, Marco Balini, Gilles Escarguel, Nicolas Olivier, Emmanuel Fara, David Ware, and Michael J. Orchard. In their nomination of Jim for this award, they noted:

“Collaborating with scientists from all over the world in the study of the Triassic of the American West, Jim has made a huge mark on paleontology. Many graduate student degrees owe much to Jim’s collaboration, as do advances in our knowledge of the Triassic System researched and published on by all of us and others, often with Jim as a co-author. Indeed, Jim’s resume as a paleontologist puts him on a par with many professionals in the field. Truly, Jim Jenks is a remarkable student of the fossil record, whose contributions to paleontology are as diverse as they are significant.

Jim’s hard work in the field, collecting and documenting the context of the ammonoids, his masterful preparation of the fossils in his home laboratory, his meticulous study of the fossils, and his recent record of research and publications identify Jim as one of the most important living students of Triassic ammonoids. His intentions to donate his collection to the New Mexico Museum of Natural History for future generations illustrate his generosity and his outstanding determination to organize his work in a long-term perspective.”

The Katherine Palmer Award is named for PRI’s second director, Katherine van Winkle Palmer, who held avocational paleontologists in high regard and collaborated with many during her long career. PRI has presented this award almost every year since 1993. We are especially grateful to the Mid-America Paleontological Society for providing us with a very special venue at which to present this award over much of that time.

Remarks by James Jenks:

My selection as the 2014 recipient of the Katherine Palmer Award is indeed a great honor. Imagine my surprise when just a little over two weeks ago, I opened an e-mail from Dr. Mikkelsen that was headlined in bold print: Congratulations from Paleontological Research Institution. My jaw dropped and hit my knees as I read the message — I had no idea I was even being considered for this prestigious award.

With that said, I’d like to thank Dr. Mikkelsen, Dr. Allmon, and Dr. Ivany and the other members of Science Committee of the PRI Board of Trustees for selecting me as this year’s recipient. I’d also like to thank my professional friends and colleagues who nominated me for the award. My association with some of these gentlemen goes back nearly 25 years, and it makes me especially proud just knowing that they all think enough of my work and collaborative efforts over the years to nominate me. They include from France, Nick Goudemand, Arnaud Brayard, Gilles Escarguel, Nicolas Olivier, Emmanuel Fara, Claude Monnet and David Ware; from Switzerland, Thomas Galfetti, Hugo Bucher and Jean Guex; from Italy, Marco Balini; and from the United States, Spencer Lucas and Christopher McRoberts and from Canada, Michael Orchard. I’d also like to acknowledge two of my earliest European friends and colleagues, Wolfgang Weitschat of Hamburg and Hans Rieber of Zurich. These gentlemen are long retired and no longer active, but they always encouraged my work. I’d also like to thank the late Norman Silberling who I know would have heartedly supported my nomination — his encouragement over the years meant a lot to me. And last but certainly not least, I’d like to thank my wife Ruby for her endearing support of my activities over the years. She’s had to turn our home into a bed and breakfast for my European friends on countless occasions and sometimes on very short notice. She deserves a good part of the credit for this award.