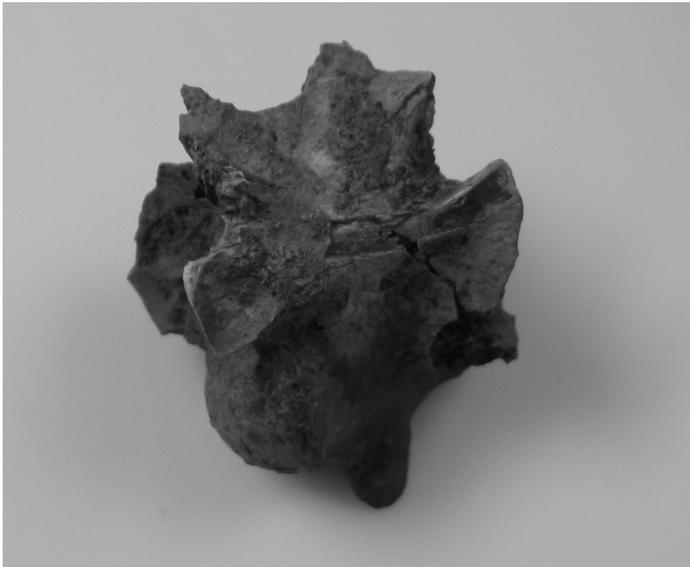


Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society
October 2003

President's Note

September was great for Rebecca and I. First off, we attended the show in Jasper with daughter Kelly coming from Nacogdoches, and Mike Smith drove up Saturday morning. Mike and I tried to get permission to collect downstream from Toledo Bend's dam, to cross private property, but a hunt was in progress at the gun club. So we opted for a drive to Lake Nacogdoches. Mike found an reptilian vertebrate at this Weches site (it is a marine snake, appears to be *Pterosphenum schucherti* – MKS). A guy collecting ahead of us had picked up a handful of shark teeth.



Sunday morning, before the show, Ron Ducote and his wife Donna, along with Rich Geist, led some Dallas club members, Mike and I back to Beef Creek north of Jasper. This Temple-Inland property was the same as the CTPS had collected this spring. I came away with two beautiful druzied pieces and left a full tree round taller than my knee that would go 150 pounds, but not fit into my pack. It was too solid to break in two. One of our party got separated, and found himself on nearby Hog Creek, only to be chased off by a feral pig! (as the story goes...). He left his bucket of wood behind. I still think he enjoyed the outing to this

Jackson Group, Oligocene site.

September 20th found us in New Mexico, hiking in the Manzano Mountains east of Albuquerque. I was collecting Pennsylvanian brachiopods and corals when I came across a petrified tree, a pre conifer, according to Scott Singleton from the Houston GMS.

The following Tuesday, we stopped at a Pennsylvanian site around Alamogordo. I didn't leave myself enough time to do it justice, but mostly because of some great tasting green sauce from a late lunch tearing through my gut, cutting that stop short. There will always be next year...

The trip back down I-10 allowed us to stop and collect in the Boracho fm. around Kent. Then we came home, got the kayaks and immediately took off for the coast to High Island. Hurricane Claudette didn't bring much up much Pleistocene material out of the Gulf, according to George Wolf from the Houston GMS. I did manage to find a horse tooth and a dolphin paddle bone? during a walk on the beach.

The reason I keep mentioning Houston GMS members is because Rebecca and I stopped at the Houston GMS's 50th show. It was huge, with a lot of kids. Seven of our current or past dealers were there, so it must be a great show! The best part were the fantastic exhibits displayed by their paleontology section. George Wolf has a fabulous collection. He's now retired, and can devote even more time to collecting. He even identified my supposed Brazos River cheetah jaw as a panther, which is more likely.

Past dealers Jim Ferguson, and Monarch Mineral and Fossil were there. Joe and Glenda Bone, Bob Freymueller, Chuck and Vicki Shuler, Glen Kuban and his wife, and Dan Ryder were also there. Dan even has an eight month old daughter now! There were also some possible future dealers for our show.

See you at our meeting, and at our show

John

October Field Trip Lake Texoma



Who would have thought the Rube Goldberg device above could produce the beautiful spheres below. You need to get the newsletter via email to get a color image. I wrote down the name of the dealer who had this great device running at the Jasper show, but I seem to have lost it. My apologies if he reads this. He did an amazing job with salvaged parts. The balls are initially ground against pipe fittings and finally against cups that he carved. A clockwork movement periodically dumps polishing compound on the ball.

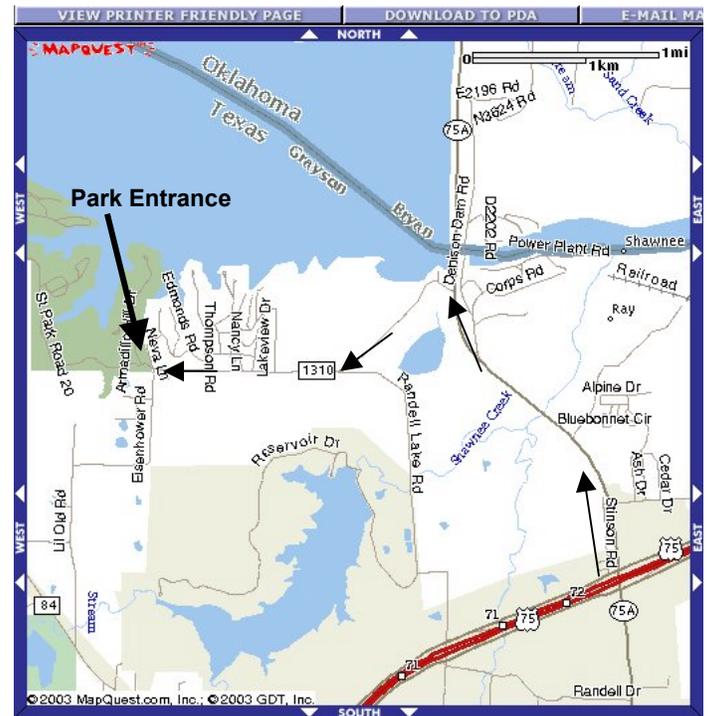


All are invited to the annual collecting trip to the Lake Texoma area. This trip is the event of the year. Fall weather, camping, and collecting are as good as it gets, and this area of Texas is where friendships and memories are made. And, your collection will be greatly enhanced! Just ask young Jonathan Doerzbacher from Tennessee about his starfish from last year.

Meet at the entrance to Eisenhower State Park at 8:30 on Saturday morning. We will be collecting a wide variety of material, from giant ammonites to small echinoids.

Five tent camping sites have been reserved at Eisenhower State Park, north of Denison, TX. CTPS is paying for the campsites for both Friday and Saturday nights. Unfortunately, no electrical sites were available.

Hopefully, by the end of our October meeting, we will have it coordinated so all you have to do is drive in, look at a note on the entry bulletin board, and see which campsite to drive to. You can only do this if you **let us know by our October 14th** meeting if you need a campsite. You will be responsible for daily park entry fees. And only two vehicles are allowed at each of the five campsites.



To Sherman

September Trip Report Bridgeport Vicinity

Four vehicles caravanning for an hour and half through thick fog. Losing people because phones didn't work. Later, losing other people due to a line of school buses hiding the exit signs. Not exactly an auspicious beginning to a field trip. However, in the end all four vehicles arrived in Bridgeport without any real mishap.

The morning was cool, the sky nicely overcast, and, due to recent rains, a lot of Pennsylvanian fossils were waiting to be found. Gary and Kathy Rylander, Bill Kidd, Rosemary Smith, Linda Swanson, David and mark Lindberg, and myself started off at the two sites a runaway Bay. The mud was mildly annoying, the trilobites, beautiful corals, gastropods and al the other things made it worthwhile. Gary came away with a very nice large un-enrolled trilobite.

After lunch we went to two more sites in Lake Bridgeport. Huge echinoid spines, a good variety of sponges, many crinoid cups, a number of gastropods and a few brachiopods were grabbed up. Linda stole the day with a crinoid crown. She topped herself with and even nicer one the next day at Mineral Wells. Kudos!

On the way back we stopped at a Goodland fm. Site by Lake Worth. We were losing light, but still managed to pick up some nice things: mostly some very pretty heart urchins.

Despite how it started – an excellent trip, enjoyed by all.

Ed Elliott

September Meeting Minutes

The business meeting was called to order by president John Hinte at 7:10 pm. The meeting began with a discussion of field trips. The October field trip will be to the Bridgeport area. October 18 & 19 will be the annual trip to Lake Texoma.

The club has been invited to participate in the Earth Science Week event at Pickle Center on October 14th from 10 am to 2 pm. John asked for volunteers.

John reported on a trip he and Mike Smith recently made to the Jasper area. He reported successful petrified wood collecting.

There followed a discussion of the future of the club library given the recent donation of books from Don O'Neill. It was agreed the first step is to catalog everything and publish in on our web site.

All booths at the November 7 & 8 Fossil Fest are filled. There will be seven small ones and 5 large ones.

The door prizes were won by Danny Harlow, Tom Oliphant and Hal Hopkins. - Ron Root

Fossil Fest Update

FOSSIL FEST CANCELLED. Don't let this happen! This is your club, and this is the only time we really need EVERYONE to volunteer, from the set up on Thursday evening, throughout the show, and for the knock down on Sunday. Please tell Danny Harlow, the show chairman, what you will be doing for this great event.

Scott Singleton (of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society) will be identifying fossil wood at Fossil Fest. Bring him some, especially if the grain is visible.

If you have been saving all of those grocery bags from HEB and they are spilling out of your cupboards, bring some to the show. We can use them to give to kids on the Wheel of Fossils to carry away their loot.

Calendar

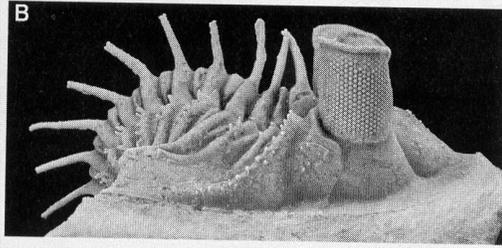
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
October 11-12	Tri-City GMS show, Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX
October 14	CTPS meeting
October 18-19	Field Trip: Lake Texoma. See above
October 24-26.	Fossilmania, Somerville Co. Expo Center, Glen Rose, TX
November 7-9	Fossil Fest , Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, TX
November 9	Rock and Fossil Swap Meet, HGMS Club House, 10a-5p.
November 15	Field Trip: U.T.'s VERTEBRATE LAB, tour by PAMELA OWEN, PhD.
November 15-16.	Dallas GMS Show, Bigtown Exposition Hall
November 28-30	Chihuahuan Desert Show, Terlingua/ Study Butte.
December	Christmas Party: Pot luck (the club supplies the meat). Bring a fossil related, wrapped prize for the white elephant exchange.

Paleo News

A Devonian Trilobite with an Eyeshade

R. Fortey and B. Chatterton, *Science*, 19 September 2003.

A really neat trilobite. Each columnar eye has 560 lenses, 18 high. The eyes commanded a 360 degree



field in the horizontal plane. The animal could even see backwards over its back! The eyeshade (the ridge at the top of the column) apparently prevented glare from surface light interfering with the trilobite's ability to see over the Devonian sea floor without distraction. [MKS]

The Anatomy of the World's Largest Extinct

Rodent, M. R. Sánchez-Villagra, Orangel Aguilera, Inés Horovitz. *Science*, 19 September 2003.

Well, I'm sure you have all read about it. A rodent weighing 1500 pounds from the Upper Miocene of Venezuela! Ten times larger than the largest living rodent, the capybara. Apparently the species had been known before from isolated teeth and post-cranial bones, but the recent specimen is a relatively complete skeleton. Interestingly, this makes Rodentia one of the mammalian orders with the largest size range, second only to diprotodontian marsupials. [MKS]

Primitive Jawed Fishes Evolved Teeth Independently, *Science*, 21 February 2003.

Researchers had assumed that teeth evolved only once. But it appears that placoderms, a group of extinct jawed fishes evolved teeth independently. This result seems likely to force a revision of significant portions of the vertebrate family tree.

Placoderm teeth differed from living toothed vertebrates in several ways. New placoderm teeth took root in the back of the mouth, not along the margin of the jaw. [MKS]

"Biggest Fish Ever Found" Unearthed in U.K.

James Owen in England
for National Geographic News
October 1, 2003

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/10/1001_031001_biggestfish.html

Fish tend to inspire exaggerated tales, as anglers know all too well. But paleontologists digging up a giant fossilized fish in England have plenty of bones to back their claim that this really was one heck of a whopper. First, however, they've got to piece all the evidence together. Discovered

by two paleontology students in clay pits near Peterborough, the fossil is the largest known fish ever recorded. Identified by experts from the universities of Portsmouth and Glasgow, *Leedsichthys problematicus* swam the world's oceans some 155 million years ago.

"It's by far the biggest and most complete *Leedsichthys* ever found, which makes it the biggest fish ever found," said Mike Barker, head of paleobiology at Portsmouth University.

Equipped with massive, teeth-lined gills, experts say the creature was probably one the first giant planktivores. A Jurassic version of the baleen whale or basking shark, it would have filtered out huge quantities of tiny shrimp and other marine organisms while cruising over what is now central England.

The Peterborough specimen's estimated length is 22 meters (72 feet)-almost twice as long as a whale shark, the largest fish swimming today.

Outback hunt for turkey-sized raptors

Sharon Mascall in Australia

23 September, 2003

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3132292.stm>

A remote sheep station in outback Queensland, Australia, is providing evidence of small, turkey-sized dinosaurs that lived 100 million years ago.

More claws and teeth were found in two days at The Age Of Dinosaurs dig near Winton, 1,100 kilometres (684 miles) northwest of Brisbane, than would normally be discovered over 30 years of digging at most sites, according to palaeontologists.

"We've found all sorts of bones we've not seen before. It's very exciting. We're finally getting small dinosaurs out of Queensland."

Until now, evidence of Australian coelurosaurs - raptors the size of a turkey - had been limited to fossilised footprints, such as those at Lark Quarry, 110 km (68 miles) southwest of Winton.

But now, volunteers working with palaeontologists have discovered a bed rich in fossils and fragments of dinosaur bone.

"In two days, we've found two claws from these two-legged dinosaurs and it's the first time we've found anything like this. They're so well preserved," he said.

"Local people are out there 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Scott Hocknull.

"We rely on them; we need to train people up so when they find something they know what to do about it."

[Thanks to Tom Bowers for the last two articles.]

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Club Information

The Central Texas Paleontological Society is a scientific, non-profit, community-based organization devoted to the study of fossils, advancing the state of the science, educating the public, and collecting fossil specimens. Most of us are amateurs, fascinated by fossils, who love to collect.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the LCRA building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. (between Redbud Trail and Enfield Ave.) at 7:00 PM in the LCRA Offices Board Room of the Hancock Bldg. **The public is cordially invited** to attend these meetings as well as our field trips held throughout the year.

Annual dues are: \$15 per person or \$18 per family, which includes a subscription to this newsletter, membership in the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, and liability insurance coverage for club activities. Associate membership is \$10 per year and includes a subscription to this newsletter.

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About the Newsletter

Fossil Footnotes is distributed once a month prior to each meeting. Contact the Membership Chair to subscribe or obtain a sample-issue. If your mailing-label has a date marked with a colored pen, it means your membership has or is about to expire. Please send your check to the club Membership officer or bring it to a meeting.

We accept material from club members (and non-members at our discretion) including, but not limited to, information relevant to club activities, fossil collecting, paleontology & geology, and science education. Feel free to reproduce original material contained in this newsletter for educational purposes (including other club newsletters), so long as you credit the newsletter issue and author, if applicable. Send submissions by e-mail or hardcopies to the Editor (see above) at least two weeks before the meeting. Expect some publication delays for exotic formats.

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