



Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society
October 2005

President's Message

By Danny Harlow

Fossils Fest is upon us. We will be discussing the upcoming show at our next meeting and filling in the required time slots with volunteers. Please attend if at all possible. As always, we need your help in any capacity that fits your schedule. We will be meeting at our regular time and place.

There is not a whole lot of news to report. Hope everyone had a great summer, but I am sure we are all relieved that some cooler weather has arrived. We will also be discussing and planning in depth the next field trip at the October meeting.

Ron Johns will be our speaker, and his topic will be "Sponges, our Misunderstood Friends". Should be a great talk. Don't miss it.

See you all at the meeting

For information about CTPS and our meetings and Fossil Fest: **Visit our Web Site**

<http://www.texaspaleo.com/ctps/index.html>

October Meeting

The October meeting will be at the LCRA Building on Tuesday night, October 11th starting at 7:00 PM

We have an interesting speaker lined up, a subject I don't think I have heard presented. Ron Johns did his

PhD. Research on sponges at the University of Texas a few years ago.

Remaining 2005 Field Trips

Schedule for this year's field trips but subject to change

Oct 15th-16 th	Sulfur/Red River
Nov	Kerrville

Up Coming Shows

Oct. 8-9, Austin, TX - Texas Faceters' Guild.

Symposium 2005. 6719 Burnet Lane. Hollis or Greg Thompson, dopsticks@sbcglobal.net.

Oct. 8-9, Temple, TX - Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society.

36th Annual Show. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St. 8th, 9-6; 9th, 10-5. Robert L. Coufal, 254-773-9624.

October 28-30, Glen Rose, TX – Austin

Paleontological Society Fossilmania Somerville Expo Center, Glen Rose

Nov. 4-6, Round Rock, TX - Central Texas

Paleontological Society. Fossil Fest 2005: 14th Annual Show. Old Settler's Park, off Hwy. 79 East. 4th & 5th, 9-5. 6th, 9-4. Ron Root, 512-345-6718, ron@grassrootstrader.com, www.texaspaleo.com/ctps.

Dec. 2-4, Austin, TX - Austin Gem & Mineral

Society. Gem Capers 2005. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. 2nd, 9-5; 3rd, 10-6; 4th, 10-5. 512-458-9546, gemcapers@austin.rr.com, www.austingemandmineral.org.

From Front Page-University News-Pitt Magazine

Spring 2005 issue

“Rock Star”

It began to snow as Adam Striegel stepped off the yellow school bus and followed his instructor and 40 other Pitt students to a highway excavation site near Pittsburgh International airport.

The introductory geology class was on a field trip to study the layers of sedimentary rock that had been revealed after a hill had been blasted apart to make room for a new highway.

Striegel could see his breath in the cold air as lecturer Charles Jones, from the Department of Geology and Planetary Science, pointed out different rock layers and talked about the geological history of Western Pennsylvania. Liberal studies major and senior in the College of General Studies, Striegel plans to enroll in a master of education program next year.

Some students were attempting to take notes for the laboratory project, but it was so cold that the ink in their pens wouldn't flow and their fingers were stiff. Jones told the students to walk around the rocky site to look for fossilized plants and to examine the sedimentary layers.

Striegel stumbled through the rubble of gray rocks, picked one up in his gloved hand, and examined it. *It's just a rock*, he thought and tossed it aside. He continued walking around the site as snow fell on his hat and coat, but he didn't find anything of geological interest. He decided to go back and find the rock he had thrown away.

When he looked at the grapefruit-size rock this time, he thought he saw part of a plant fossil, maybe a fern. He decided to show it to Jones.

It's a double row of jagged teeth and the outline of a skull, Jones thought. Although he didn't know exactly what this creature was, “it was the best fossil that I was ever likely to come across in the field again.” It was a rare find, because the entire skull had been preserved. He pointed out the features to Striegel, and they took it to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

The teacher and student soon learned that the rock-hardened 300 million years ago around the skull of the extinct amphibian was from the family *Trematopidae*. The creature lived among more famous ones, including *Dimetrodon*, the fin-backed reptile that appears in most children's dinosaur books. If alive today, they would be between 3 and 4 feet long and look like massive salamanders with crocodile teeth.

It turns out; Striegel discovered an entirely new genus and species of vertebrate animal. Part of the fossil's name will be *striegeli*. But before all that, at the end of the cold, snowy field trip, Striegel boarded the yellow school bus and sat in one of the plastic seats. He cupped the fossil in his hands and wondered why he had found this ancient rock. **Cara Hayden (A&S 2004)**

Fossil Fest Report by Ron Root

Fossil Fest planning is going well. Our booths are full and we had to turn away school field trips for Friday visits. So the most important item still needed is volunteers to help. Volunteers are especially needed on Friday morning (11/4/2005). We will have hundreds of kids and we need help talking to them, manning the club table and helping the vendors watch for sticky fingers. NONE of it requires any special knowledge or experience, just a few hours of your time. Please call me to put your name down.

We are going to do a bit of pre-organization for the spinning wheel this year. We would like to have everything for the spinning wheel separated by type:

urchins, oysters, clams, brach's, wood, ammonites, crinoids, rudist, etc. If you don't have time, just bring it to the meeting or to my house and Janet and I will sort it.

Please send me a note or call me telling me when you can help. We'll need help setting up on Thursday, 9-5 Friday-Sunday and Sunday evening taking things down.

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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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