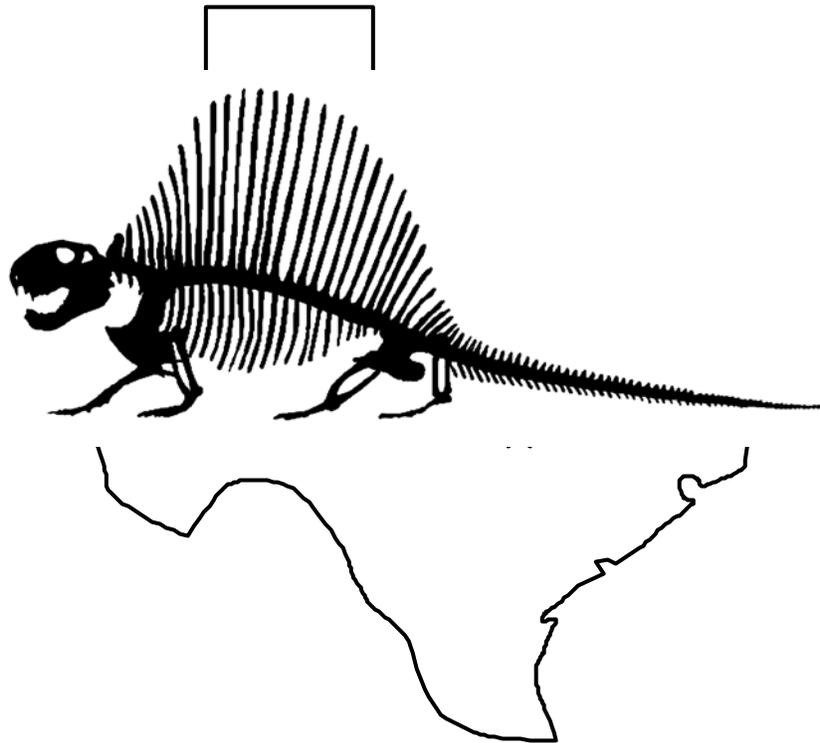


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 2, Number 9
September 2007

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Our fearless field trip leader, Ed Elliott, sure can collect, despite being on crutches. Without bending down to ground level, he was able to spot a huge *Echinocorys texanus*. Not only that, the echinoid even had a crinoid holdfast on it! That is what drew his eyes to it. Sometimes, you can have fun collecting in rock shops, as that is what he and I were doing that Saturday. Come on, you didn't think his knee surgery would let him get down in a creek bed yet, did you?

The week before had PSA members attending a field trip to the Non- Vertebrate Lab at U. T.'s Pickle Research Center. Dr. Ann Molineux showed us how computers and cameras are so critical for archiving and managing the university's huge collection. Volunteers are also very important in helping with the collection. As a matter of fact, as found later in the newsletter, the opportunity to volunteer is expanding to two Tuesday nights and possibly one Saturday per month. Volunteers, such as Joan Crane, are already doing great things, but a lot of work still looms in the future. It was also good to see that her material picked up on a PSA field trip to Oklahoma in June was in the same stage of curating at U.T. as our home collections. There is so much to do.

PSA has won first prize for web site design in the South Central Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies. Congratulations to Michael Smith for doing such a fine job! He picked up his award at the Arlington Gem and Mineral Show earlier this month. I hope to see that on the outside template for our newsletter, too!

Events for the fall are fast approaching: two fossil-related shows, more fine speakers, and more field trips. If only the weather would cool down a bit, everything would be perfect. This month's field trip will be led by Linda McCall. It will be local, and to Berry Creek in Williamson County. And it will be kid friendly. Come to the meeting to find out more details. You never know; it may change to another site you always wanted to collect.

See you at the meeting.

John

Minutes of the August Meeting

We had the presentation on the Mazon Creek Flora by Bill Morgan, club member.

We broke for snack.

There was no word regarding the Chris Garvey award from Anne Molineaux.

Mike almost done with 501.3c

- Eric

Next Meeting – September 18 Just the Bear Facts about Texas

7:00 PM

Austin Gem & Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

Pamela Owen, Senior Paleontology Educator with the Texas Natural Science Center, The University of Texas, will be our September speaker, talking on "Just the Bear Facts about Texas". Pamela, who has spoken several times to our group, is a vertebrate paleontologist and mammalogist with a research focus on the evolution of the Carnivora. A native Californian, she received degrees from California State University. She conducted her masters thesis research on saber-toothed cats, American lions, coyotes and dire wolves at the Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries (the infamous "La Brea Tar Pits") in Los Angeles. She received her PhD in Geological Sciences from The University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation centered on the evolution of American badgers and included a detailed description of a new fossil species.

Come to the meeting and hear more about her varied background and particularly her fascinating topic.

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Editor's Breakfast 9/1/07

I was surprised and pleased to win first place for the club's website in the SCFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest for 2007. Last year, after placing third, I looked at the judging criteria and made some changes, in particular getting motivated to put the newsletter archive out there.

The breakfast was held at the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, which has a terrific meeting place. I counted 10 rock saws and about that many grinding/polishing set ups. It's a great testament to a lot of planning and work over 50 years.

Numerous awards were given out for some great work. Of particular interest to our Editor is a CD with all of the winning features and articles that I brought back for him. In the Advanced Articles, second place was taken by Scott Singleton for 'Ancient and Modern Cycads', which won first place in the American Federation competition. The Houston Club was well represented, winning the top 5 places in the Advanced Articles competition and first place for Large Bulletins, among others. One of my favorite awardees was Jacob Good, 5 years old, grandson of Paul and Margaret Good -- Austin G&MS, who was present to accept his second place award for 'My Story about Rocks' in the Junior Articles category.

Mike

MASS INVENTORY EVENT

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES At NPL PRC 'THE WAREHOUSE' Invertebrate fossils and minerals

FALL 2007

Date: Starting Tuesday evening, September 11th
And then every 1st and 2nd Tuesday evenings
Anywhere between 6- 9PM.
And the 3rd Saturday mornings of the month
Check with Ann for the Saturday morning times.

Dress to get dirty. Timing is not important. Humor is essential. Bring your friends.

IMPORTANT: Give me your name if you think that you may sometimes be able to help
(GUARD GATE requirement because this is 'After hours')
YOU could be part of this GREAT EVENT!

Many thanks, Ann Molineux, annm@mail.utexas.edu

- Places to Be...Things to Do

September 21-23 **Houston G&M Society Show**
Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Humble, TX

September 30 & October 1 **Texoma Rockhounds**
Senior Citizen Center; 531 Chestnut, Denison, Tx

September 29 & 30 **Pleasant Oaks G & M Society**
Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute (EMGI) Bldg
Brookhaven College 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, Tx

Oct 13-14 **Tri-City G&MS Show**
Convention Center, Temple, TX

October 17-20 **Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting**
Hilton Austin, Austin, TX

Oct 27-29 **FOSSILMANIA**
Somerville Expo Center, Glen Rose, TX

Nov 3-5 Fossil Fest

Old Settlers Association Headquarters, Hwy 79, Round Rock, TX

Nov 17 -18 Dallas G&M Society Show

Resistol Rodeo Arena Exhibition Hall, I-635 at Military Parkway, Exit 4, Mesquite, TX

Nov 30-Dec 2 Austin G&M Society Show

Palmer Events Center, Austin, TX

Editors Note: If you plan to attend any of the events listed please double check the dates and locations as best you can. I was not able to reach all the groups to confirm exact dates and found many discrepancies in other published sources.

BE SAFE – BE WELL WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

By Don Monroe, AFMS SafetyChair

We are not “ancient mariners” but rockhounds are definitely mobile people and travel a lot. We go many places and need to give a lot of thought about water which can be our friend or our foe.

Rain, particularly heavy rain, has caused problems in many parts of the country and a little thought and planning can help us avoid hazardous situations. Have you ever seen a flash flood? If not, look around in your favorite field trip areas and see if there is evidence of heavy run-off in canyons, draws, gullies or whatever the common term is in your area. Seeing where trees and big rocks have been moved around by some really strong forces should make us wonder what would happen if we had been there. I found a fantastic fossil of significant size out in the Big Bend country of Texas a couple of years ago. Since the rock was big and I did not have the help I needed, I decided to carefully take bearings so that I could come back the next year. Well, flash flooding in the intervening year had changed everything. My fine fossil was gone and never seen again. Heavy rain can do other things to your trip. I had my return route blocked in rural Missouri and have experienced land slides in Georgia and Alabama. I had the thrill of a wild spin as the result of hydroplaning on a major highway in the South. When we finally stopped we had burst two tires, bent two rims and made many silent promises to the Almighty.

Too much water can mean drowning. Wading in lakes and small streams is one way that we find sapphires and rubies in North Carolina. Have you ever stepped off in a deep hole wearing rubber boots? Even a good swimmer can get in real trouble quickly when the boots fill up, the clothing is soaked and that bag of goodies is weighing you down.

Well, that is enough about too much water but do we have problems with too little water? I have! Thirst and dehydration are extremely serious conditions that can result in bad things including death. There is little substitute for planning ahead and carrying adequate

water. If you must use stream or ground water, you really need to know what you are doing. Outdoor outfitters can supply filtration equipment and chemical treatment outfits but local knowledge can also be invaluable. I have never lived in the West and really do not know much about water that is poisonous. My knowledge is gleaned from Louis L'Amour novels but I have been assured by western natives (some of my cousins) that the situation is very real and most dangerous. I only know that in no circumstance should one drink salt water from the ocean. Now don't tell me that we can't search for rocks and fossils in the ocean as I have found some neat stuff snorkeling off the Florida coast.

~~ AFMS Newsletter, September 2007

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossils record and assistance to individual, groups and institutions interested in various aspects of paleontology.

Meetings of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** are held the third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building, 6719 Burnet lane, Austin, TX. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Annual Dues: \$15/individual, \$20/family and \$10/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter)

PSA web page: <http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/> Web master: Michael Smith: msmith17@austin.rr.com

2006/2007 Officers:

President	John Hinte	10962 Long Branch Dr., Austin, TX 78736	512-301-1317
Vice Pres	Linda McCall	7221 Covered Bridge Dr., Austin, TX 78736	lndmccall02@yahoo.com
Treasurer	David Lindberg	9413 Sherbrooke St., Austin, TX 78729	dlindberg@austin.rr.com
Secretary	Eric Seaberg	9283 Scenic Bluff Dr., Austin, TX 78733	eseaberg@austin.rr.com
Field Trips	Ed Elliott		512-821-2124
Programs	Diann Strout	11505 Sherwood Forest, Austin, TX 78759	diann_strout@roundrockisd.org
Editor	Erich Rose	807 The Living End, Austin, TX 78746	erichrose@austin.rr.com

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.	annm@mail.utexas.edu
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	powen@mail.utexas.edu
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.	echino@mail.utexas.edu

Permission to copy material printed herein is granted provided proper credit is given to the author and source.

The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Erich Rose, editor
807 The Living End
Austin, TX 78746

DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL