

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 3, Number 1
January 2008

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to 2008. The board has met and a whole new list of field trips and speakers have been set in motion. The society has survived another Xmas party with no casualties, except for Danny Harlow having his gifts taken multiple times. He graciously took the exchanges, I guess, because his beautiful granddaughter Kennedy was present. I hope this holiday season found you out collecting in this mild Texas winter.

There are a lot of changes for this year, but not where we meet. Come to the next meeting to find out!

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Board Meeting Minutes

1-05-2008

The meeting started at 4pm at John Hinte's house. Present was Ed Elliott, John Hinte, David Lindberg, Linda McCall, Ron Root, Erich Rose, and Diann Strout.

Absent was Jamie Young, Rosemary Smith, Rochelle Margolis, and Eric Seaburg.

Education

Ron Root, Mike Smith, Diann Strout and Linda McCall shared ideas of how their school presentations are done.

Something for the kids, like sharks teeth or other materials are great for a reward in holding attention.

Something for the teachers is very good. Linda's extra teacher's kits have recently been a great resource to leave for the teachers.

Something for the school is always good, too. Discussion of purchasing different geologic maps and time lines in bulk ended the discussion on the actual presentations. Creating a list of willing speakers will be sought out starting at the January general meeting.

Field Trips

January 19. **Lake Waco. Saturday, Jan. 19th, 8am, Corps parking lot. Time and date subject to change.**

February 23. U.T. Vertebrate Lab, then a locality in Austin to collect.

March 22. Jasper, TX. Ron Ducote of the Pineland Gem and Mineral Society.

? March 29. possible "back of the house" tour to the Houston Museum of Natural History to see "Lucy". **This has not been set up yet.**

April 19. Auction/ picnic at the Westcave Preserve.

April 26-27. New Mexico. Mississippian and Pennsylvanian sites.

May24. Midlothian. Two quarries.

June21-22. OKLAHOMA. Enough said.

July19. Clifton ?

August 23. Either canoeing the lower Brazos River, or Brownwood as a backup trip.

September 20. Diversion channel of Canyon Lake for a guided tour (no collecting?)

October 25. Sulphur River.

November . TBA

December. TBA

Speaker Fees

Clarification and restructuring of fees was discussed. **For both student and professional speakers, \$100.00 honorarium.**

Members may submit expenses for their talks, but they will not receive an honorarium.

Expenses for travel by professional presenters will have a \$100.00 cap.

PSA Library

Hollis Thompson has the library at her house. John Hinte will ask the new AGMS librarian for space at the AGMS clubhouse.

The library would be available for both PSA members **and** AGMS members to check out.

PSA framed Geological Time poster

John Hinte will ask AGMS if our large framed poster can be displayed in the AGMS general meeting room.

General Budget

David Lindberg will generate the data to help present a formal budget for 2008.

Mike Smith still does not have all the data needed from both Fossilmania and Fossil Fest, 2007.

Election of Officers

The following seven people have volunteered for positions of Officers and the Board.

President: Ed Elliott

V-President: Linda McCall

Secretary: Ron Root

Treasurer: David Lindberg

Board: Editor: Erich Rose

Board: Speaker Chair: Diann Strout

Board: Past President: John Hinte

Field Trip Chair: Ed Elliott

These will be presented for a formal vote at the January 15, 2008 regular PSA society meeting at the AGMS clubhouse

submitted by John Hinte

amendment: The contact at the AGMS for their calendar (on line) is **stretch@epi.com**

Next Meeting – January 15th
"The Edwards of Georgetown - Phase One"
By Linda McCall

7:00 PM
Austin Gem and Mineral Society
6719 Burnet lane, Austin, TX

A bit about Linda (we forced her to write this):

OK, but I hate talking about myself....

My love for collecting started when I was about 6 years old, waiting for Sunday school, in the church parking lot in Columbus, Ohio. I was originally more interested in minerals than fossils (they were sparklier) until we moved to Austin, Texas in 1969 when I was 12. My mother bought a "Gem Trails of Texas" booklet and the next 6 years saw us out on the road many a weekend hunting everything from Epidote and Smoky Quartz to Crinoid stems and turrifera limestone. I started collecting the Del Rio at Ben White Blvd. and I was hooked.

By age 25 I had the most complete collection of Austin Del Rio (and still do), had collected in Creede, CO several times, worked for Dr Langston in the VP lab at the then Balcones Research Center (now the JJ Pickle Research Center) while a freshman Geology student at UT, had done a spot on TV (on the Howdy Dudy show) on fossils for the Natural Science Center, displayed and taught classes at the high school I graduated from (Crockett), taken spelunking and caving classes and worked wildlife rehab through the Science Center, helped author a paper with Dr Sprinkle and the APS on a holotype I had found in Oklahoma, and was well on my way to a promising career.

Then life got in the way and I spent most of the next 25 years only sporadically surfacing to keep my hand in it. But true passions cannot be quelled forever, and I am happy to be back at it full force.

I currently have several projects in the works, but the one I am focusing on at the moment is the one that will be the subject of my talk - the Georgetown Edwards Formation fossils. I'll call this program, "The Edwards of Georgetown - Phase One". It will be a look at the site, the methods I am using and the spectacular specimens that have been found there. It will be worth the trip for the pictures alone!

Next Field Trip - January 19th **The Waco Pit**

We will meet at the parking lot for the pit at 8:00 AM. This parking lot is not huge so you are encouraged to car pool. If you have some rubber boots they could be a definite asset. The pit can be a morass when wet, so check to see if it has rained earlier or rain is predicted for that day. Collecting there is mostly small stuff so bring those knee pads and small containers.

The formation is the Upper Cretaceous Del Rio. Fossils include a wide variety of marine invertebrates, various shark teeth and also includes a fair variety of small pyritized material.

To get there from Austin:

Take I-35 North to Waco.

On the north side of Waco, EXIT at 340/2491/Lake Shore Drive.

Turn LEFT (west) under the freeway onto Lake Shore Drive.

Follow Lake Shore as it curves around and to the south past the intersection with Lake Brazos/Steinbeck Bend and go over the Bosque River.

Continue on Lake Shore to FM 1637/19th Street and turn RIGHT (west again.)

Proceed to Steinbeck Bend and turn LEFT. (Careful, there is an earlier intersection with Steinbeck on Lake Shore Dr. Do not confuse that one with this later turn off.)

At the intersection of Airport and Steinbeck Bend (a block or two past the last turn) there is a cement or asphalt plant on the SE corner (across the intersection on the left.)

Just past the plant on the left is the parking area for the pit. There is a gate. If it is not open wait along the side of the road until someone arrives to open it.

Field Trip Report

Whiskey Bridge, December 8th

It was a fun and interesting trip to “Whiskey Bridge” this time. With thirteen members in attendance – seven were on their first field trip here with PSA. Melvin Noble, Paul Hammerschmidt, Erich and Emelia Rose, Bob McDonald, Pam and Allan Luttig, Seth Johnson, Robert Gonzalez and his sons Roberto and Luiz, and myself.

This locality is the Stone City Formation, Claiborne Group (Middle Eocene) and is a world class site for marine Eocene fauna. There are at least 220 species representing four phyla that can possibly be found. With at least sixty species being easily collected. I'm certain our members collected at least that between us. While it is work digging these fragile fossils from the marly glauconite, it is also a lot of fun. The new members seemed to enjoy it as much as the old.

Bob gave us an eye opener. While we usually enjoy picking up a shark tooth or two each trip, Bob managed a couple dozen. He dug into a high energy zone of shell hash – a spot I would never have bothered with – and proceeded to find small pockets of teeth. Kudos to his inquiring mind.

The only other thing that really caught my eye this trip were the large, beautifully preserved *Belosepia unguis* (squid beaks) picked up by Melvin and Erich. Honestly the best ones I've seen from an Eocene outcrop. [editor's note: actually I(ER) found 2 and another non-PSA collector, looking for points, showed us yet a fourth!]

It was a great trip, I believe, and enjoyed by everyone. I always look forward to going back. Hope to see you at the Waco Pit on the 19th.

-- Ed

Collecting Etiquette

By Ed Elliott

I wanted to briefly touch on a subject that I think should be brought up every once in a while. It's not something we usually discuss or plan out; it is something we should always keep in the back of our minds.

When I am at a site by myself, I occasionally will walk over the entire area somewhat quickly – picking up or marking all the large quality fossils as I go. Then I go back and slowly cover all the best parts carefully. At a linear site, such as a creek, I always go slowly and try to cover as much area as I can.

When more people are added to the equation, everything changes. The question becomes “How can all of us work this site fairly?” A person who runs ahead grabbing up everything of size isn't going to be well liked. With large sites the solution is simple and obvious. Small or linear sites are more problematic. Some people could start from either end of the outcrop. People could take an individual “chunk” of outcrop and leap-frog each other. Whatever works. There are few hard and fast rules. Each equation has its variables, the number of people and size and layout of the site. The solution should always be fairness.

With this in mind it should be obvious that hunting a site prior to the club trip is wrong. A special case that affects our club are river trips. On one that I participated in, a few people decided that they'd go on to the next stop fifteen minutes before the rest of us. This certainly wasn't fair to the rest of us. Stay with the group.

All of us want to take home really great fossils. When we do it in a fair manner – we take home the friendship and good will of our hunting companions as well. **GOOD HUNTING!**

Places to Be... Things to Do

JAN 19-20--FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS: **39th annual show; The Fredericksburg Rockhounds;** Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Park; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Jeff Smith, 208 Castle Pines Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 895-9630; e-mail: jeffbrenda@ktc.com; Web site: www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org

JAN 26-27--TYLER, TEXAS: "**Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Showcase**"; **East Texas Gem & Mineral Society;** Rose Garden Center, 420 S. Rose Park Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students and children \$1; contact Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068; e-mail: kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net

FEB 2-16--TUCSON, ARIZONA: "**Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show**"; Martin Zinn Expositions; various locals in Tuscon; dealers from all over the world; contact Regina Aumente, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

FEB 16-17--PLAINVIEW, TEXAS: **46th annual show; Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Club;** Ollie Liner Center, I-27S; adults \$2, students \$1; contact Mildred Matlock, 701 Zephyr, Plainview, TX 79072, (806) 293-3476

FEB 23-24--PASADENA, TEXAS: **Show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society;** Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students 12-18 \$1, children free; contact Mike Reves, 218 Lazy Hollow Dr., League City, TX 77573, (281) 282-6117; e-mail: demmikeer@hotmail.com; Web site: www.ghg.net/gpenning/index.htm

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.

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

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

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



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL