

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 5, Number 2
February 2010

President's Note

I've always been a shorts and T-shirt kind of guy, maybe that's why I dislike winter so much. "Cold and dreary" has always been my thoughts concerning this time of year. Since our last trip, I've spent three days out in the cold picking up some great specimens -- the whole time I was absolutely miserable and having a great time. It's funny, you couldn't pay me to go on a "skiing" trip. Are you NUTS? It's cold and there's snow everywhere! But I will lie on a wet quarry floor and pick up echinoids in 38 degrees and wonder why others wouldn't. In Texas, it's always too hot or cold -- you can't let that stop you from rescuing those poor orphan fossils. They all need homes too.

Speaking of cold -- it's time for the yearly jaunt to Jacksboro and the Finis Shale. The last three times we've gone we've been lucky enough to encounter a Canadian front. Maybe this time will be different. It's a great trip either way. Just check the weather before you set out -- then pack an extra coat. And certainly something to be excited about.... we're going to get to collect wood in Jasper again. Whatever is going on behind the scenes with that piece of property, we are allowed in one more time. Don't expect it to happen again. (I hope it does!!!) At the site of my choice and with no collecting done for a while -- this should be good. The 13th was the only day in March available ...or wait until May. Hope that the change doesn't inconvenience anyone.

During the field trip, the Georgetown G&M show is going on. We're expected to man a table and do the usual information and promotion thing we usually do. I hope we have some volunteers for Saturday and Sunday. It is an annual thing --I've done it many times -- and it's usually fun. You get to browse the show and meet and talk to people who like what you like. And it promotes our club and our shows. We have two other organizations asking for paleo/nature talks/displays, one at the end of April and the other on may 1st. We will discuss them at the meeting. I hope to see you there. Ed

Next Meeting – Tuesday February 16, 2010

**7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

"Fossil Insects of Texas"

Chris Durden, Ph.
Texas Memorial Museum

Chris will speak about the various fossils that can be collected in Texas from various geologic ages as well as some from nearby states.

**Next Field Trip
Saturday, February 20th**

Jacksboro - Lost Creek Lake Dam Spillway

**Jacksboro, TX Pennsylvanian Period (~300mya)
Other Pennsylvanian sites in the area will be visited as well.
Meet at the town square at 8:00AM.**

This can be a two-day trip for those who want to stick around. It can be quite cold this time of year, or bright, sunny and warm. Bring layers of clothes to be prepared.

Call or e-mail him for directions: 512-657-7581, edwardelliott@ymail.com

PSA January Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes: 1/19/2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Ed Elliot.

A Presentation was given by Drew Eddy, a Ph.D student at The University of Texas at Austin and a GSEC member at large.

Drew gave a presentation entitled "New information from a re-analysis of the skull of Acrocanthosaurus, an Early Cretaceous theropod from North America, supports its close phylogenetic relationship with large carcharodontosaurids that predominantly inhabited Africa and South America instead of the smaller North American theropod, Allosaurus." Afterwards he had a question and answer session.

Old Business Discussed:

Thank you letters to Karen of Nature's Treasures and Craig (Dealers Dinner?) were presented for members to sign.

David Lindberg presented the current balance of the club's coffers.

The minutes of our last meeting were approved.

Jaime (Young?) will check on a booth at the Williamson county Gem Show in Georgetown.

Ann Molineux, Ph.D, curator and collections manager, Non-vertebrate Paleontology, Texas

Natural Science Center at The University of Texas at Austin will be attending the Tucson Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show. It was suggested the club donate \$1,000.00 for Dr. Molineux to purchase specimens for the Science Center collections. The suggestion was voted on and approved.

Murchison Elementary Math and Science Night is Thursday, January 21st, 6:30-8:00PM. Ed Elliot asked for volunteers to help staff a booth. If you can help please bring "touchable" materials and contact Ed (phone number at end of newsletter).

There was a suggestion that the club donate to the Mineral Wells Fossil Park. Members were encouraged to donate privately. To do so it was suggested that we donate thru the Dallas club website. It was decided that the club will not donate at this time.

David Lindberg presented the club budget. The budget was voted on and approved.

Mike Smith asked each club member to send him an email if receiving the newsletter by email only was acceptable. In the future when a new member signs up the news letter will be send by email only as the default.

Purchase of additional storage was discussed. It was mentioned that AGMS had 2 storage trailers and that one was for Fossil fest related equipment. No decision was made.

A representative from AGMS mentioned that the theme for their October 2010 event will be Petrified Wood. He asked if anyone can donate small "giveaway" pieces. He also asked if anyone would mind lending display petrified wood specimens for the event.

There was a discussion of book cases that have been promised for Kathleen (Howard?). Joan (Crane?) said she may have two that she can give to Kathleen. Joan and Kathleen will discuss.

The slate of officers was read, voted on, and approved.

New Business:

Dr. Ann Molineux and Linda McCall are working on a new paper.

The upcoming field trip to Harker Heights was discussed.

The door prize was awarded.

- The meeting was adjourned.

January Field Trip Report - Harker Heights

We had quite a crowd meeting in that dark parking lot in Harker Heights: Ron Root, Melvin Noble, Kathleen Howard, Jimi Hendrix, Dick Cameron, Dax Gonzalez, Jeanne Bowman, Peter Cornell, Dennis and Morgan Stock, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Shawn Anthony, Gary Vliet, David Mell, Richard and Will Wilkerson, Kevin and Tyler Bills, Frederick and Melinda Falk. I was certainly glad that our first site was so large and packed with fossils. We didn't have to leave until early afternoon, I'm happy to say. There are lots of sites in the area and I'd been afraid with this crowd that we would have to hit a lot of them to keep everyone happy. Three was the magic number. All of these sites are Walnut Formation, Fredericksburg Group and all were filled with fossils this trip.

The first site was the *Phymosoma* site and I have no doubt that at least 70 or more were picked up; I know that Gary Rylander had said that he had over 40. The echinoids found there are: *Phymosoma texanum and mexicanum*, *Heteraster texanus*, *Hemiaster whitei*, *Tetragramma taffi*, and *Salenia mexicana*. These are what I have seen there, there might be more. There were a great variety of gastropods, clams and oysters, some in excellent shape. A small horn coral was infrequent at the first site but common at the others, *Parasimillia austinensis*. Gary and I both have samples of a small colonial coral that I have no name for. Several complete ammonites were found, *Oxytropidoceras sp.* and *Engonoceras sp.*. I know that Kathleen Howard found one of the latter and Kevin Bills found several of the former. I wish him well as the Oxys tend to be jug-saw puzzles. There were also crab claws, fish vertebrae and teeth as well as shark teeth. I know of four *Leptostyrax* found., three my, me and one by Melvin Noble. The two afternoon sites were *Salenia mexicana* and *leanderensis* sites with at least 70 found. Gary and I had 50 between us and I know others were finding them. The last two sites contained a lot of crystalline material, many of the gastropods and small bivalves had the original exterior markings -- so much nicer than the usual limestone mold.

Everyone that spoke with me seemed to have had a good time. The day was over-cast, a good deal cooler than I had anticipated and it did try to rain a few times.....but the fossils were everywhere and what more could you want than that? Looking forward to Jacksboro and the Finis Shale in a couple of weeks! Hope that a lot of you make the trip. Do check the weather up there before you go.....sometimes you need to dress real warm on this trip. See you at the meeting! Ed

EARLY NOTICE!

The March trip will occur before the March Meeting.

**Jasper, Texas for Fossil Wood
Saturday the 13th of March**

Meet at The Stump*, 7:30 AM sharp

Directions:

*Stump Restaurant: Starting out from Lufkin - go southeast on US 69 toward Zavala. At Zavala turn left onto highway 63 East. About 15 miles further turn left onto Road 255. Start watching for Sam Rayburn Dam and the Stump Restaurant. If you come from Jasper look at a map and choose which way you want to go- it's easy. Arrive by 7:30 and wear clothing that can get wet and muddy. Wear something on your feet that will be comfortable walking in a creek in the water- usually ankle deep but can be thigh deep in places. And please bring cash (\$5 or \$10) for the fee so it'll be easy to collect - please.

Publications Available from Linda McCall

We found a printer to make copies of my Pilot Knob spiral bound presentation and also the North America through Time spiral-bound picture book for \$20.00 each. I want to let club members know, and take orders before I tell them how many to print up. Anyone who wants either (or both) can email me and let me know and how many.

Contact: Linda McCall, Paleontological Society of Austin
512.422.2322, indmccall02@yahoo.com

Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society Show

February 20 & 21

Community Center in San Gabriel Park in Georgetown, Texas

We need volunteers for this show! If you are not going to Jacksboro please consider putting in a few hours. Find out more at the next meeting or contact Ed Elliot and he can hook you up with the folks working the show.

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossil 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) Send to: Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, PO Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL