

# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 5, Number 6  
June 2010

## **President's Note**

Another month has gone by and it's time for our yearly foray into Oklahoma. I'm working on making it a good trip but nothing is panning out, so far. Some people have changed their phone numbers and others won't return my calls. I'll pull it out of the hat before time for the trip. We'll have a good time no matter what. I will have some sites for us to hunt. June in Oklahoma will be hot and there are chiggers and snakes wanting to make friends, so be prepared and bring lots of water, bug-spray, light colored clothing, all the usual stuff. We've never had anything but a lot of fun in years past and I expect this one to be the same. Hope to see you there. Ed

### **Next Meeting – Tuesday June 15, 2010**

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

### **Archosaurs; the "Ruling Reptiles"**

By Derek Main

The Arlington Archosaur Site is a prolific fossil site that was discovered in northern Arlington Texas in the summer of 2003. The site was later reported to Dr. Christopher R. Scotese at the UTA Earth Sciences Dept. and his geology graduate student Derek J. Main in the fall of 2003. Main identified the fossils as dinosaur teeth and vertebrae along with various crocodile scutes and teeth. Hence the origin of the name for the site, as dinosaurs and crocodiles both belong to the Archosaurs; the "Ruling Reptiles". Derek J. Main and the sites discoverers agreed to work the Arlington Archosaur Site as a collaborative effort.

Derek Main is a part time lecturer at UTA. Currently he teaches courses on Earth Systems, Earth History & Dinosaurs at UTA and leads his students on excavations to the Arlington Archosaur Site. He is a member of the Geological Society of America, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology and the Dallas Paleontological Society. He is a strong supporter of educational programs that bridge the divide between scientists and the public.

He has worked at local Texas museums over the years; the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science and the Shuler Museum of Paleontology at SMU. While at the Dallas Museum, he worked in the fossil labs and assisted with the Big Bend *Alamosaurus* project. While at the Shuler Museum, he worked on the Jones Ranch *Paluxysaurus* project. Derek earned a B.Sc. in Geology from UT-Dallas in 2001 and later a M.Sc. in Geology from UT-Arlington in 2005 with a thesis on Woodbine Formation Stratigraphy, Paleoecology and Paleobiogeography. In recent years he has continued his graduate work at UT with a Ph.D. dissertation on the Arlington Archosaur Site and Dinosaur Paleobiogeography.

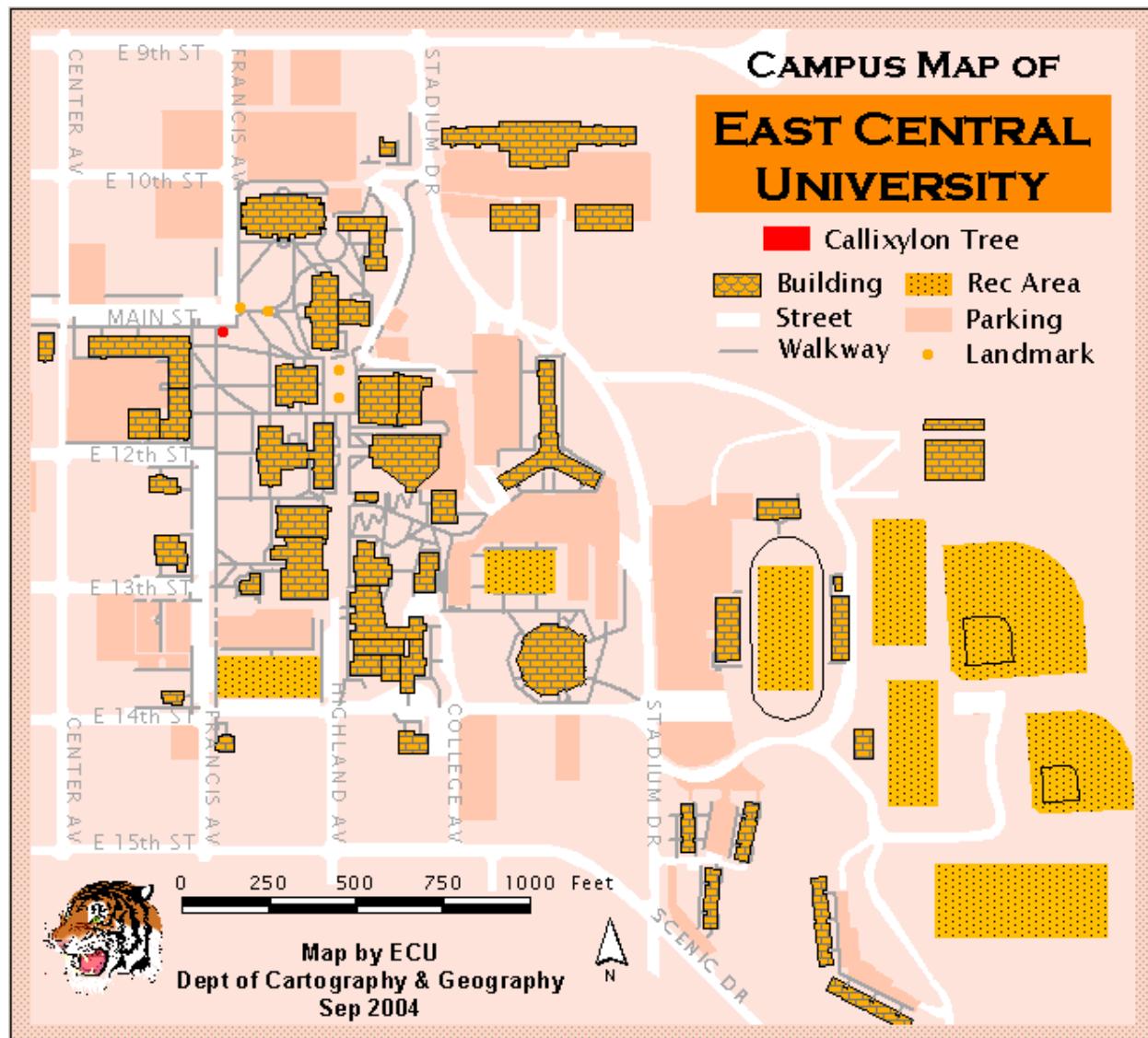
## June Field Trip

**Saturday & Sunday June 19th & 20th**

### **Paleozoic of South-Central Oklahoma**

I hope to see a lot of you in Oklahoma on the 19th or 20th. We'll meet in Ada, Oklahoma at the Callixylon tree on the East Central University campus (see map). We will first meet at 8:00AM

Saturday. This incredible petrified tree is located at the corner of Main Street and Francis Avenues. There will be parking spots along Main Street. Last year we did have to park about a block away at Center Ave. and Main, because they had rearranged the streets. Our collecting sites will be in the Devonian, Silurian and Ordovician. More detailed info will be provided at the next meeting but if you can't make it to the meeting call Ed Elliott at 512-657-7581.



## PSA May Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Minutes: 5/18/2010

Marilyn Austin called the meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

A presentation “The Evolutionary Morphology of Lung Fish, Lepidosirenids” was given by Katherine Chriswell. She stated that the oldest known fossils of lobe fin fish are from the Devonian period. These fish are more closely related to Tetrapods than to other fish and were air breathing. Many fossils have been found in aestivation boroughs. It is estimated that as much as 8 months would be spent in these boroughs. There are currently 6 extant species. Katherine discussed the evolution of lung fish skull roof evolution and the issues surrounding the naming conventions of these bones. There have been fossils found of lung fish in Texas.

A break was taken.

### Old Business:

Davis reported that the net proceeds from the auction were \$744.40.

Minutes from the prior meeting were accepted and approved.

Mike Smith mentioned that forms need to be filed once every three years or the club could lose its 501C status.

### New Business:

No one attended the opening of the Fossil Park at Mineral Wells.

Dr. Anne Molineux could use some volunteers on Wednesday evenings to help with a mass inventory.

Logistics of the Brownwood trip were discussed.

The door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned

We got a nice letter from the Williamson County Parks and Recreation Director thanking us for our participation in Dino Day. Good work, everyone who participated.



May 7, 2010

Mr. Ed Elliot  
Paleontological Society of Austin  
  
Austin, Texas 78759

**Jim Rodgers**  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Elliot,

On behalf of Williamson County I want to thank you and your volunteers for making our event in Champion Park a success. Dino Day featured activities that highlighted the park's design theme, which is an exploration of the area's paleontological and geological past. Your group helped us link fun in the sand to science and I think the children & their parents much appreciated your efforts. More than anything I think you helped the children see the wonder of the outdoors. Again thanks for being with us and we hope to have you back next year.

Sincerely,

*Jim Rodgers*

Jim Rodgers  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
Williamson County

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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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**

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**