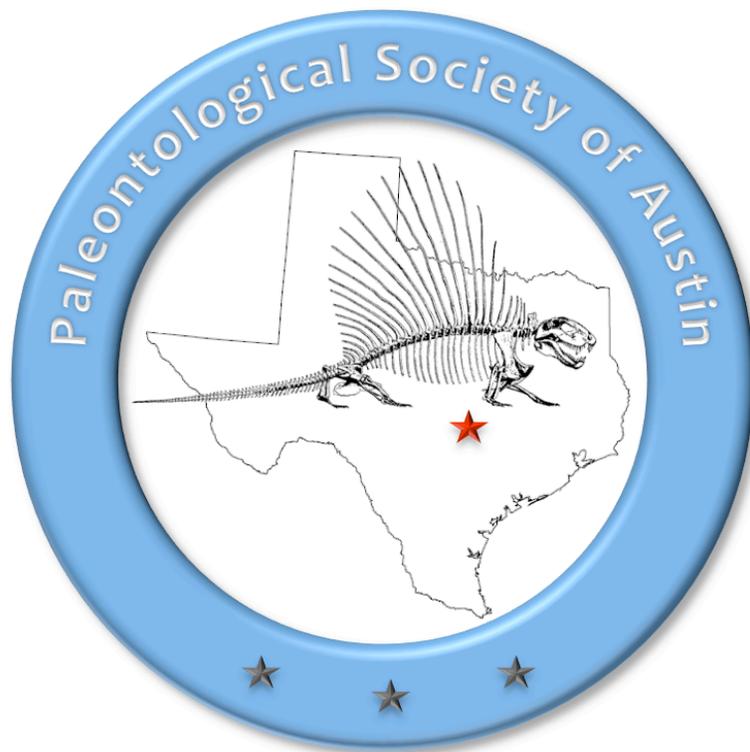


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 7  
July 2011

## President's Note

Hello again!

Well, they say the days' are getting shorter but I sure can't tell it by the heat index yet. That's ok, I can still remember February's snow and that cools me down...not!

I had a wonderful time over the Fourth of July holiday weekend and I hope y'all did too. Doug & I spent the weekend with family and friends over near Houston, ostensibly for a nephew's birthday, and while I didn't get to go fossil hunting, I did get to visit a flea market and several antique shops in the area. I love to rummage through the stuff you can find in these places, and the more cluttered the better as far as I'm concerned. In a sense, I guess, it's kinda like fossil hunting...looking through lots of not-so-good stuff (didn't want to say dirt) to find a treasure. And, I did come back with a couple of treasures, although my husband calls 'em junk – go figure. I found a cute little spark lamp with wick cap for \$1.50, a nice matte-yellow McCoy pelican planter for \$5.00 (this is cool because I'm a McCoy), and a very nice Fenton strawberry basket for \$10.00.

That's what I like about flea markets, often folks don't really know what they're selling so sometimes you can get a good deal. I'm not really a collector but I do have trouble passing up a good deal, especially if it's something that speaks to me. I didn't pick up anything at the antique shops...they usually do know what they've got and price accordingly. Although, several years ago, I did find an old pewter water jug (about 10" tall) at an antique shop in Crosby for \$5.00, good condition too...don't know what that was all about but it now sets proudly on my fireplace mantel. Like I said, I'm not really a collector (well maybe I am), but I do like to hunt, and sometimes things just call my name.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> so until then happy hunting...whatever your definition of treasure may be ☺

Melody

**Next Meeting: Tuesday July 19, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building**  
**6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

**Presentation: Dadoxylon Logs from a Late**  
**Pennsylvanian Fossil Forest, Central Texas**  
By Scott W. Singleton

A comprehensive research project was undertaken to describe and identify the type of trees found in an Upper Pennsylvanian fossil forest in Central Texas. The forest was found in the Fambro Sandstone member of the Palo Pinto Formation, which is the basal formation in the Canyon Group (Missouri Series) of the upper Pennsylvanian Age (approximately 305 ma). The

environment of deposition was a wide, high bed-load river in a lowland plain. Large diameter weathered trunks were found as logjams. No other associated parts of the trees were found. This suggests that the trees were allochthonously transported some distance and possibly were representatives of an upland flora. Tree heights in the forest were estimated to be 110-132' (34-40 m). Secondary xylem was similar to *Dadoxylon recentium* (Dawson) but was unique enough to warrant a new species name, *Dadoxylon fambroensis* (Singleton) sp. nov. The primary structure is similar to both extinct Cordaixylon as well as present day conifers. However, with tree heights identical to other reported Cordaitaleans and considering the lack of pith resin canals that are common in Pennsylvanian Walchian conifers, *D. fambroensis* is presumed to be Cordaitalean and a member of the Cordaixylon genus.

### **Paleobotany Bio, Scott W. Singleton**

Mr. Singleton is an earth scientist and researcher with 30 years of experience in the oil industry. He initiated a project in 2000 to add to the body of scientific knowledge about fossil woods in the Texas Gulf Coast Cretaceous and Tertiary. Plant “megafossils” are important because they are more common than leaves or fructifications and can be used in place of those plant structures for paleoclimatical reconstructions. In particular, fossil wood assemblages reconstructed in this study can be used to delineate the early Eocene warming trend, the late Eocene cooling trend, and the sudden transition to the cooler Oligocene climate.

The objectives of this work are (1) to identify the taxonomy and range of silica-replaced wood in the Tertiary and Cretaceous of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico, and (2) to assess the paleoclimate using correlations between paleo and modern plant species assemblages and analysis of known wood anatomical climate indicators.

Work is proceeding on the collection, preparation, analysis, and identification of fossil woods within the study area. This work currently involves over 700 thin section slides with about 25-100 being added per year. Sampling within the study area is very good, totaling about 100 localities spread from the Mexican border to the Louisiana border, and from the Late Pennsylvanian of Central Texas through the Cretaceous and Tertiary of Central and Coastal Texas.

Publishing and article writing have been ongoing during the course of this study. Many of the non-technical articles can be found on the Houston Gem and Mineral Society website ([www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org), scroll down on home page to link for “Petrified Wood Articles”). Others can be found in the publications list below. The series printed in the Citizen Scientist describes this research program in more detail.

## **July Field Trip** **Saturday, July 23rd** *This month's field trip details are still to be determined*

Traditionally the July field trip is to a museum or paleo lab where we can be out of the summer heat. As of the printing of this newsletter the location is undetermined – there is some possibility it will be a local collecting trip. For a final determination, come to the July Meeting or contact Ed Elliot, field trip chair, after the meeting. Ed can be reached at 512-657-7581 most evenings.

## PSA June Meeting Minutes 6/21/2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Guests were introduced. Angie Thompson, an assistant to Dr. Ann Molineux at University of Texas gave a presentation based on her trip to the 4th Annual Fossil Preparation & Collections Symposium held at the South Lincoln Training and Events Center in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

The overheads and summaries of the workshops she discussed can be found at:

<http://www.fossilprep.org/FPCS4proceedings.pdf>.

Angie also mentioned a web site

<http://www.simple3d.com> that had examples of Close-Range Photogrammetry.

A break was taken.

### New Business

Minutes from last meeting were corrected: Fossil Mania was incorrectly called Fossil Fest. Minutes of last meeting were approved as corrected.

### Treasurer's Report:

*	Savings:	\$15,034.51
*	<u>Checking:</u>	<u>9,316.46</u>
*	Total:	\$24,350.97

The treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

Dr. Ann Molineux will start/resume a mass inventory July 13th on Wednesday nights from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. Volunteers would be appreciated.

October 12th is National Fossil Day. The club has been invited to participate. Erich

volunteered to take the lead and research (he will send out some emails) how we might participate. He will report back.

Suzanne and family are in our thoughts and hearts.

Jaime asked to have our October field trip date changed. Date was changed to the weekend of the 15th.

Field trip schedule for the remainder of the year:

- \* June 25 - Oklahoma
- \* July 23 - Non-Vert Lab or Museum
- \* Aug 20 - Brazos River or Whiskey Bridge
- \* Sept 24 - Midlothian
- \* Oct 15 - Texoma
- \* Nov 19 - Clifton
- \* Dec - none (Fossil Fest & Christmas Party)

The upcoming field trip to Oklahoma was discussed. It will be HOT, please plan accordingly.

### Old Business

Committee for Scholarship Guidelines will give a report next meeting.

Show and Tell fossils presented.

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned.

## June Field Trip Report

As of the printing of this newsletter I do not have a June field trip report. Having taken part in the trip I can tell you all it was a really good time in Oklahoma. We had a good turnout and some excellent fossils were collected. One of those was the almost-perfect trilobite below collected by Mike Smith.

Stay tuned and I am sure we will have a full and detailed report from Ed in August.



*Calymene clavacula*, Silurian, Yellow Bluff, OK  
Collected by Mike Smith and prepared by Scott Rongey.

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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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**