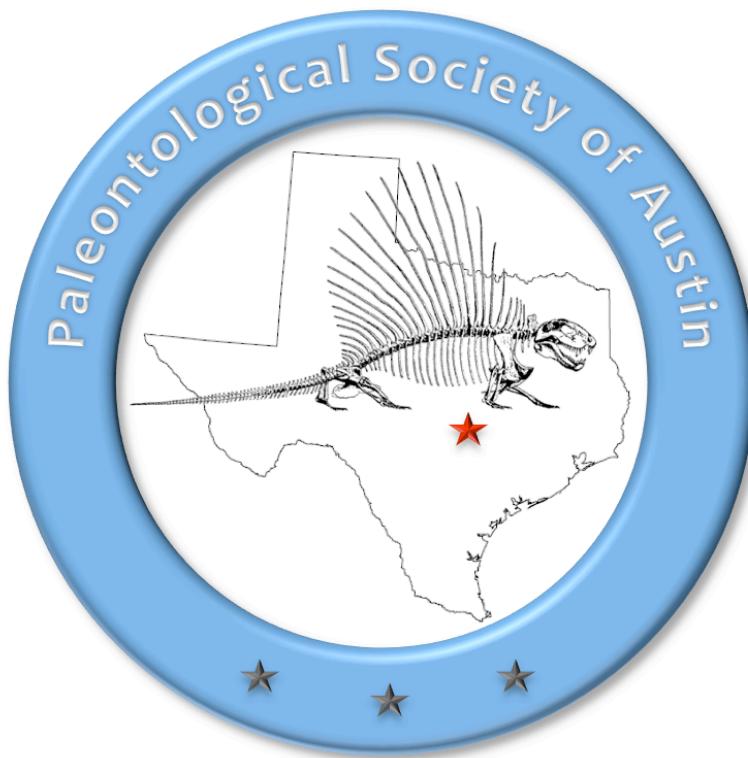


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 7, Number 11  
November 2012

## **President's Note**

This time I am not going to complain about missing the third field trip in a row. I was enjoying the day at a beautiful wedding in the Hill Country and eating ribs at the County Line on the lake. And what a beautiful day it was. I'm sure it started chilly up at Ash Grove but hey who would complain?

Gem Capers, the annual show of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society, was fun. We had a nice mix of the usual volunteers and a few folks who pitched in for the first time. Suzanne did an excellent job organizing things and it still amazes me how she can take care of all those kids, run a household and be show chair on top of it all. THEN she hand wrote us all thank you cards. I think we can be sure that Fossil Fest (Dec. 1 & 2) will be a great show this year and she will be asking for more help as we get closer and closer to the show. Please show your appreciation by pitching in. It doesn't take much to make a difference. See the details in this newsletter.

Did I really forget to mention that October 17th was National Fossil Day? We were all a little baffled that no one contacted us for outreach this year. With all the other commotion we didn't miss it but maybe next year we can plan something fun.

The annual holiday party will be the weekend after Fossil Fest. We know many of you get tied up later in December so we like to have the party early in the month. The party will be Saturday December 8th. We will have the usual White Mammoth gift exchange and pot luck dinner. I strongly encourage our new members to attend. This is a chance to mingle and talk and share some laughs. The exchange is always a hoot, especially for the kids. Look for the Evite and details in this newsletter.

See you at the next meeting. -- Erich



Ash Grove Quarry, October Field Trip, photo by Ed Elliot

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday November 20, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building**  
**6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

## **Reptiles Represented in the Eocene of West Texas**

Michelle Stocker

Recent fieldwork led by Dr. Chris Kirk of UT Austin, that I've been able to be a part of, has recovered many new specimens of squamates (lizards and their relatives) as well as a new animal related to alligators and caimans. I'll talk about those new animals and what they mean for our understanding of the groups and what was happening in the American West in the Middle Eocene.

Michelle is currently a PhD candidate in the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT Austin. She did her undergraduate (BS, Geological Sciences) at the University of Michigan and received her MS (Geoscience) from the University of Iowa in 2008. Michelle last presented to us in February 2011.

### **November Field Trip**

*As of November 17th we have no field trip planned. Enjoy your Thanksgiving weekend with family, friends and maybe a few fossils.*

### **November 2012 Meeting Minutes**

#### Minutes 10/16/2012

The meeting was called to order and guests were introduced.

Gabrielle A. Russo is Ph.D. candidate in Physical Anthropology at The University of Texas at Austin. Her presentation discussed measurements in three skeletal areas that might indicate whether a fossil primate was bipedal or not. These three measurements were of the 1) foramen magnum 2) sacrum and 3) caudal vertebral growth. The presentation was very technical and very interesting.

A break was taken.

#### **Business:**

#### Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were amended to show that 1 large booth and 1 small booth were still available for Fossil Festival.

The minutes were approved as amended.

#### Treasurers Report

Checking	\$7,115.24
Savings	\$17,929.82
Total	\$25,045.06

Treasurer's report was approved.

#### Dino Days

Dave Lindberg Reported on Dino Days.

Gem Capers

Helps is needed for Friday. We have one display case volunteer, Erich. Do we have anyone else that would like to setup a display case? Contact Suzanne if you can volunteer.

Fossil Fest

We do not have enough tables. There was some discussion about buying more tables. It was proposed that we spend approx. \$1,800 on new tables. It was put to a vote and passed.

Other

We discussed purchasing PSoA hats. Mike Smith will find out more about purchasing hats.

The field trip to Ash Grove Quarry will be on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Be there by 7:30. The group will leave the staging area at 8:00am. If you are late you will not get in. No open toed shoes will be allowed in.

Door prizes were awarded.

Meeting was adjourned.

## FOSSIL FEST

I'd like to share one of my favorite poems with you. I first heard it from my son's preschool director and it has stuck with me ever since. It has inspired me and is one of the reasons that I do what I do - because every little bit makes a difference! Please read this and see if you can find a way to make a difference at our 22nd Annual Fossil Fest.

### "The Starfish Flinger"

An old man had a habit of early morning walks on the beach. One day, after a storm, he saw a human figure in the distance moving like a dancer. As he came closer he saw that it was a young woman and she was not dancing but was reaching down to the sand, picking up a starfish and very gently throwing them into the ocean. "Young lady," he asked, "Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" "The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die." "But young lady, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You cannot possibly make a difference." The young woman listened politely, paused and then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves, saying, "It made a difference for that one." The old man looked at the young woman inquisitively and thought about what she had done. Inspired, he joined her in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved. (This poem is an adaptation of the original - an essay titled "The Star Thrower" from the 1969 book The Unexpected Universe by Loren Eiseley.)

**The 22nd Annual Fossil Fest is in 2 weeks!** Setup will take place on Friday, Nov. 30 from 9am to 9pm with dealer load-in at noon. Those who have signed up to create display cases may set them up beginning at 3pm). The show dates are Saturday, Dec. 1 and Sunday, Dec. 2 from 9am to 5pm at Old Settlers Association Headquarters, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, TX (intersection of Hwy 79 & Harrell Pkwy, next to the Dell Diamond). Keep an eye out for our new outdoor banners and directional signage!

The Fossil Fest Sign-up is available online at [www.mysignup.com/fossilfest](http://www.mysignup.com/fossilfest) (the pass code is paleo). We have many volunteer positions that need to be filled across all 3 days. Whether you prefer helping with setup & tear-down, manning the Admissions Desk, magnifying fossils under the microscope, helping out in the Kitchen, talking to kids about the touch table fossils, spinning the Wheel of Fossils or watching kids dig up fossils - there's something for everyone! For those that enjoy teaching kids and making crafts, there are a few new fossilization mini-workshops available each day!

This year we are asking for donation of physical items for the show - such as 12-packs of Coke/Diet Coke, and air-dry clay for our fossilization craft. We have done this in the past (for soda) on a very informal basis; but have included it in the Fossil Fest Sign-up this year. Be sure to take a look at those items and bring them to Tuesday's meeting.

**Bring all your donations to the club meeting on Tuesday, November 20th at 7pm - including CLEAN fossils!** Bring as many as possible for the DIG PIT (recognizable as a fossil, very small for the sand pit and small for the gravel pit) and WHEEL OF FOSSILS (think what would you want to take home)!

**Spread the word about Fossil Fest!** Talk, email, tweet, post on Facebook and any other place you can think of online! Print and post our flyers everywhere - in libraries, bookstores, restaurants, coffee shops, ice cream shops or anywhere that has a community posting board!

See you all at Fossil Fest!

-- Suzanne Galligher VP>Show Chair,



*Ptychodus* sp. shark tooth from Ash Grove Quarry, October Field Trip, photo by Ed Elliot

# 2012 Annual Holiday Party

## Potluck Dinner & White Mammoth Gift Exchange

Saturday December 8th  
**6:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building**  
**6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

Please join us for the annual PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN WHITE MAMMOTH HOLIDAY POTLUCK! The main dish (BBQ) and drinks will be provided.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert (let us know what you will bring when you RSVP to avoid duplicates).

If you would like to participate in the "White Mammoth" gift exchange, please bring a gift-wrapped fossil-related item (around \$15).

Rules will be explained after the dinner.

RSVP by Friday, Dec. 2nd  
via Evite or to Suzanne Galligher at [suzanbg@gmail.com](mailto:suzanbg@gmail.com) or (512) 751-1351

### Outreach Report

On Tuesday, October 23 I went to Spring Hill Elementary School in Pflugerville to give a talk to 16 second and third grade students for one hour. The teacher is Julie Leith and she has started an after school science club. There were 16 second and third graders and we all sat around two tables. I took a variety of fossils and gems and minerals. I started with the fossils and they were OK. They knew that there were fossils all in that area. But then I uncovered the tray of gems and minerals I had taken. I picked items that were pretty spectacular in shape, color or texture. They were so excited. Everything was touchable so they got to feel the texture and the weight. I also shared some of my geology stories and think that they really enjoyed them. The children were so attentive and asked questions and had very high vocabulary skills. As is so often the case, I think I had more fun than they did and I learned from them.

---- Kathleen Howard



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Fossil Fest**

December 1 & 2, 2012  
Saturday & Sunday, 9am to 5pm

**Old Settlers Association Headquarters**  
3300 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, TX  
(on Hwy 79 - next to the Dell Diamond)  
Indoors, Free Parking

## FEATURING

- Spotlight: Volcanoes - Learn about Central Texas' explosive past!
- Keynote Speaker: Learn about a Central Texas volcano and its reef life
- Opportunity to interact one on one with a UT scientist, science educators and knowledgeable PSOA members – hands-on learning & demos, questions & answers and fossil identification
- Guest Speaker: "Fossils Talk – Hear their Stories"
- Mini-workshops: Learn how plants & animals fossilize and make your own fossil imprint
- "Paleo Passport" educational quest to fully explore displays, exhibits and activities
- Hands-on Fossil Touch Table and Microscope
- Educational Exhibits and Displays: See what amateur fossil collectors in Texas find
- Start your own fossil collection at the Wheel of Fossils and Fossil Dig Pit
- Fossils / Minerals / Books / Gifts / Jewelry / Toys...
- Hourly and Grand Door Prizes

## ADMISSION

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Adults:</b>   | <b>\$3.00*</b> |
| <b>Students:</b> | <b>\$2.00*</b> |
| <b>Under 6:</b>  | <b>FREE</b>    |

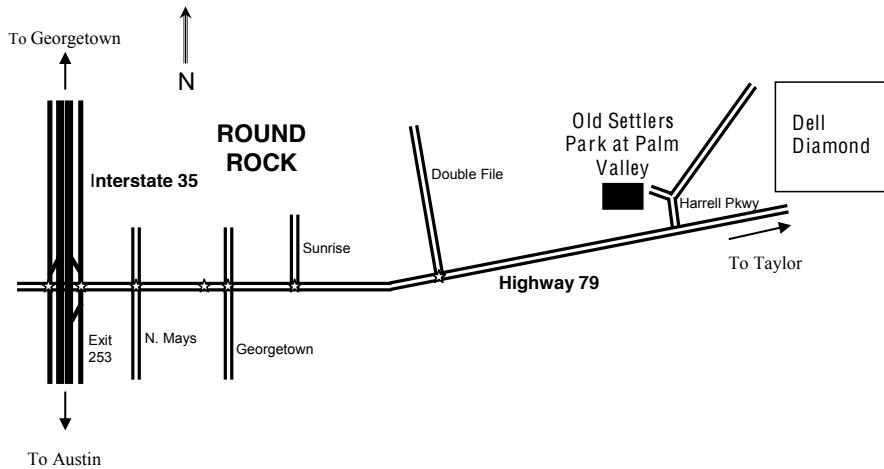
\* Tickets valid for both days



Interested in a Fieldtrip? Special educational support for small School/Scout/Youth Groups!  
Pre-register at [www.austinpaleo.org/signup](http://www.austinpaleo.org/signup).



Teachers: Extra Credit for your students & a classroom Fossil Kit for you! More info & TEKS Correlations at [www.austinpaleo.org/fest](http://www.austinpaleo.org/fest).



Paleontological Society of Austin



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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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. See web site for April & December dates.

Annual Dues: \$18/individual, \$24/family and \$12/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter) Send to: Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, PO Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791

PSA Web Site: [www.austinpaleo.org](http://www.austinpaleo.org)  
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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

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**PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN**

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**