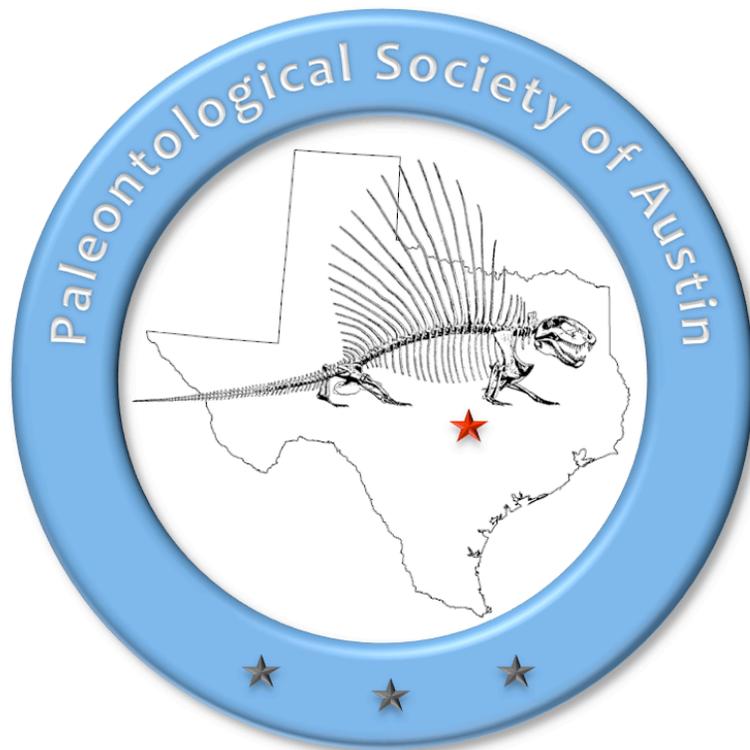


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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President's Note

This will be short note from me this month. It has been a busy month and I have barely had time for fossils. But we had rain and I wish I could get out there and see what it exposed. You will all have a great chance to do just that this coming weekend when the field trip goes north to Mineral Wells for Pennsylvanian Period fossils. A few of us hit some road cuts around Mineral Wells last month after visiting the Perot Museum in Dallas. We had fun in the few hours we had before sundown and it got Ed all excited about collecting that area some more. So with lake levels high up at Texoma we decided to go back to the Paleozoic. Unfortunately I will not be joining you, as I will be somewhere between New Orleans and Virginia, taking my daughter off to college. I will be thinking about crinoids and trilobites all day and probably passing too many road cuts (are there road cuts in Louisiana?) that I will not be able to stop at. Emelia assures me we can go collecting in the mountains near Hollins University, but not on this trip. Maybe next spring when we go snag her at the end of her freshman year. But you all have fun and bring great stuff to the September meeting for show and tell.

We should have a very interesting presentation this month by doctoral candidate Lauren English and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Take care and stay cool,

-- Erich



Dinosaurs at the Perot Museum of nature and Science
Photo by Ed Elliott

Next Meeting

Tuesday August 20
7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

Evolution of Pterosaur Wings

Lauren English

She will be discussing the research she did for her M.S. in looking at how wing shape in pterosaurs changed as species evolved to become larger and as individuals grew up to adulthood.

Lauren is a doctoral student working under Julia Clark. She is originally from Long Beach, California and has a B.S. in Geology from University of California, Riverside and M.S. in Biology from California State University San Bernardino.

Next Field Trip

Saturday August 24th

Mineral Wells Fossil Park and Vicinity

We will meet at the McDonalds on US-180 at 8AM.
Please be on time, as we will caravan to the first site promptly.

Collecting will all be in various Pennsylvanian Period formations. A wide variety of invertebrate fossils as well as rare ancient shark teeth can be found. All are small and generally loose and mostly you will need lots of small containers. Visit the web site for the fossil park to learn more about collecting there:
<http://www.mineralwellsfossilpark.com>

We will probably visit a few other nearby road cuts to add some variety. Some of those will be similar with all loose specimens but others may require some scrambling on slopes and a rock pick and chisel could come in handy.

It is August and it will be hot. Bring water, lots of it, as well as protection from the sun. There are all sorts of places to eat in Mineral Wells and the sites are close but bring a lunch if you don't want to lose collecting time.

Directions: You have your pick of two routes. Each takes about 3-1/2 hours from Austin.

Take US-183 north to Lampasas and then US-281 north all the way to Mineral Wells. Turn left at US-180 and look for the McDonalds on the east side of town.

Take IH-35 north to Ft Worth via IH-35West. Then go west on IH-20. Get off at US-180 west to Weatherford and then continue on to Mineral Wells. Look for the McDonalds on the left.

July Field Trip Report

Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas

Well we did it. We managed to scrounge up 15 members and qualified for the group rate at the brand new Perot Museum in Dallas. Mike Smith travelled with Emelia and I and at 11AM we were joined by Ed Elliot, Melvin Noble, Ron and Janet Root, Charles Newsom, Virginia and Howard Friedman and the entire Gallagher Family. It was hot in Dallas that morning but the museum was cool and inviting and there were plenty of fossils and geology exhibits to search out and view. The building itself is quite something. From the outside it has a rather stratigraphic appearance and from the inside it featured all sorts of interesting nooks and crannies as well as views back out to some rather interesting features including a strangely layered stone roof and odd "extra concrete parts. We all spent some time trying to figure some of it out but in the end decided it didn't matter since what was inside was what we came to see and it was great.

As some of you know I design exhibits for museums. So maybe I was mixing both my interest in paleontology with a critical look at the exhibits and how they worked in the spaces. I was rather pleased with both. The exhibits are a good mix of displayed specimens and interactive features. Suzanne Galligher made the observation that compared to the Houston museum visited last year there were not nearly as many fossils to see but there was still plenty to do. In fact after most of us cut out at 2PM Suzanne and her family decided to stay and make a full day of it.

I am not going to try and give a full description of all the geology and paleontology exhibits here. But what I did find very nice about the exhibits was the quantity of well-labeled Texas specimens and the way they worked in the "voices" of local scientists. If you were a young person considering a career in science there was lots of inspirational material.

I will add a few photos by Ed and Suzanne to end this report. But I will also highly suggest you pay your own visit to the new Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Go early when parking is easy and plan on spending at least 2-3 hours if not the full day. Oh, and the word is that the cafe has great, fresh food.



Photo by Suzanne Galligher

PSA BOOTH at AGMS GEM CAPERS SHOW

At this month's meeting, a sign-up will be available for our Paleontology Table at the **AGMS Gem Capers** show held **Friday through Sunday, October 18 - 20** (with set-up on Thursday, October 17) at the Palmer Events Center. This is our largest educational outreach of the year and presents an enormous opportunity to spread the word about Fossil Fest. It's great fun and all volunteers will receive free admission all weekend long! In the meantime, please start gathering up small, clean fossils for donation. We'll be bagging 1500 of them as give-aways along with our Fossil Fest show flyer at Gem Capers. Extras after the show will be given to Pamela Owen to give-away to field trip students at the Texas Memorial Museum.

FOSSIL FEST UPDATE

The 23rd Annual Fossil Fest is just around the corner - save the date on your calendar for **Saturday to Sunday, December 7 - 8, 2013** (with set-up on Friday, December 6). The support and assistance of *every* PSoA member is essential in making Fossil Fest a success. There are many ways that members can help out so please stay tuned for upcoming opportunities! Currently, there is 1 Large Booth and a few Small Booths available for interested vendors. Keep your eye out for potential vendors while travelling or at upcoming gem and fossil shows. Send your vendor recommendations to showchair@austinpaleo.org. Next month, we will announce this year's show theme - so stay tuned!

In the meantime, please consider displaying your fossils at Fossil Fest and start gathering fossils for donation to the Dig Pit and Spinning Wheel as detailed below.

DISPLAY CASES: We encourage you to create a display case for the show this year. We have a lot of display cases to fill! We would love to see those fossils you worked so hard to collect - in searing heat, ankle deep mud, slippery slopes, capsizing canoes or finger numbing cold! So start sorting through your fossils now! Additionally, it would help us teach some key TEKS concepts to the kids. If you're in need of display case ideas, consider:

- A display of how fossils form with an example of each (permineralization, carbonization, etc)
- Examples and a brief description of changes to an organism over time
- Collection of a particular organism and their structures
- One organism - characteristics used to identify it with samples and diagrams
- A fossil and display showing what we were able to learn about the type of climate / environment the organism would have been in while living - deep ocean/shallow ocean, cold/warm temperature, turbid/calm environment, etc - this may be one for one of our university grad student / researcher / professor

FOSSILS: We need lots and lots of CLEAN cast off **fossils** for the DIG PIT (very small) and SPINNING WHEEL. Keep this in mind when you're out collecting: if you come across an outcrop with a lot of a particular fossil, please pick up extras for the fest! Until next month...

Suzanne Galligher
Fossil Fest Show Chair

Meeting Minutes for Austin Paleo Society July 16, 2013

President Erich Rose called the meeting to order at 7:07, noting tonight's guests and visitors. He introduced the speaker for this meeting, our fellow club member David Lindberg, who has given varied presentations to us such as fossil shark teeth and fossil bacteria. David's topic was amber, which is fossilized plant resin.

Lindberg explained that the conditions under which amber forms is not well understood, but that it has unique properties- it's relatively soft, can shatter, oxidizes, can actually burn, is often fluorescent, even in sunlight, and is slightly more dense than water.

Amber sites around the world include the Baltic Sea area, Columbia, Lebanon, and Canada- with John Hinte noting reports of amber in Big Bend, TX. Amber holds an important place in paleontology for its preservation of a wide variety of other life forms that are found inside of it, such as fossilized ants, spiders (with even their webs and prey), worms, pollen, hair, and water. Amber has a variety of colors- red, green, blue, in addition to gold and yellow. Amber has a close relative, copal, which is partially fossilized amber and is found in Columbia.

David then enlisted Avery and Riley Gallagher, some of our youngest members, to demonstrate the density of amber by placing some pieces in water and in salt water to show that amber can

actually float in salt water, but just barely sinks in fresh water. David concluded his talk with questions from members.

Our meeting then took its refreshment break. Then Erich brought the club business portion of the meeting back to order and gave a brief treasurer's report without Gary, who was out of town vacating. Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

Mike Smith reminded us of the Paleo Society's hats that we offer. John Hinte informed us that the eclectic rock shop in New Braunfels had reopened, sort of- and the fine quality of their wares was noted.

Dr Sprinkle then spoke about some events that had led to the availability for purchase of some exceptional crinoid specimens, and asked our society to consider donating funds toward acquiring them. Erich then reviewed the details of the field trip to Perot Museum on Saturday, and Ed added that there may be an opportunity for field collecting following the museum visit. Erich then handed out flyers detailing an East TX petrified wood field trip on 8/25, sponsored by their local gem and mineral show. We welcomed Dave, a new member, and the door prizes were won by John, Jeanne, David, and Avery.

Erich adjourned the meeting at 8:36pm.

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

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL