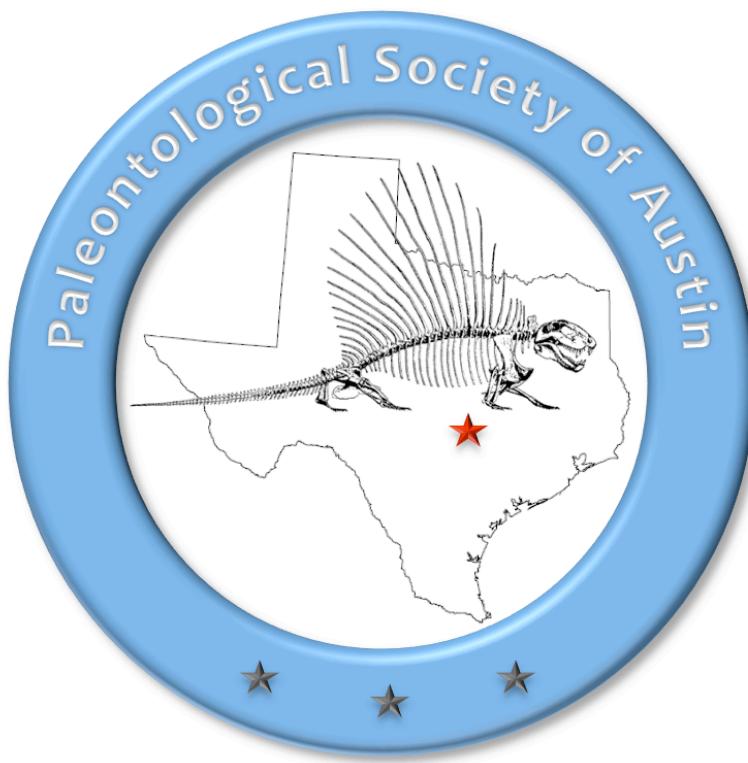


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin
Austin and Central Texas



Volume 8, Number 12
December 2013

President's Note

Fossil Fest! Yet another one has come and gone. It was a cold weekend and that probably affected attendance (down from other years) but it didn't seem to affect the enthusiasm of those who did venture out. Our schedule for the Friday set up was pushed back a bit and we even had a few dealers who either arrived later than usual or cut out a bit early Sunday but overall it went rather well. Thanks to everyone who volunteered time, provided fossils or otherwise lent a hand. Our dinosaur theme went over well and one big reason was our guest specialists: Adam Marsh, Joshua Lively and Professor Lundelius from UT all took turns answering questions and getting kids and adults excited about dinosaurs. Look for a full report from Suzanne in the January Newsletter.

We hope to see many of you at the annual Holiday Party. This is a great chance to just hang out and share some cheer with your fellow PSA members. We provide the main dish and beverages; you bring a favorite side dish or desert. But the best part is the White Mammoth Gift Exchange. Bring a small paleo-related gift, wrapped and ready, if you want to take part.

Election time is upon us and we are still looking for members who would like to be part of the team. Doesn't take much skill, and depending on the position, a minimal amount of time. Most of us are willing to continue in our current positions but there are two that will need to be filled next year: Hospitality and Program Chairs. Can you keep track of and call members who sign up for snacks and drinks or would be willing to help set up our monthly speakers (you would have help) please let us know and come to the next meeting. And feel free to contact me, or any of the other board members if you have questions. Also, neither of these positions requires you to show up for every meeting since all the follow up would be by phone or email.

We were looking to do a local field trip last month. Unfortunately that Saturday morning proved both wet AND cold. We have gone out when it is wet and we have gone out when it is cold, but the combination was just too much. Slipping on wet rocks or hitting your hand with the hammer because your fingers are trembling is just no fun. I will try and find a good date to do this trip in the near future. Maybe as an additional trip so the local members who have less time to travel can attend. Watch for emails regarding possible dates.

Take care and stay warm,

-- Erich

Next Meeting

Tuesday December 17
7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

Annual Holiday Party

Potluck Dinner & White Mammoth Gift Exchange

Please join us for the annual PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN WHITE MAMMOTH HOLIDAY POTLUCK! The main dish and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert (please 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. We suggest around \$10-15 value or just something you think would be fun to have. Obviously fossils, books, toys, games, etc. will all work nicely.

Rules for the exchange will be explained after the dinner.

RSVP via Evite or to Suzanne at showchair@austinpaleo.org or (512) 751-1351



2013 Fossil Fest Show Reports

"Dear president and committee,

I was told about the fossil fest by my teacher, (Ms. O'Meehan from Bill Burden Elementary in Liberty Hill), and attended on Saturday 12/7/13. I had a great time. I learned so many things and am so excited to read and learn more. The exhibits were educational and so much fun. I really enjoyed the paleo passport and even got an ammonite necklace that glows in the dark. I also have many new treasures to share and study with my teacher. Thank you for the great experience and I can't wait until next year. Thank you to all.

Emma McAndrews, age 10



Report from the Fossil Fest Cafe 2013:

Since Merrily Jones and I volunteered to run the food concession at this year's Fossil Fest, we decided to have fun and do what we wanted to produce more enjoyable food and drink. We now call this project Fossil Fest Cafe.

Our theme for this year was as much organic, whole ingredients as possible, with tasty results, on a budget that would not lose money, and a real value to our patrons. We shopped smart, picked the best foods that we thought would sell, and had fun taste-testing prospective items. Huge thanks to Suzanne and to Erich, who provided agreement and support for upgrading the menu. Huge thanks to those who so greatly helped prepare and serve and work the counter. We had some great fun and some successes and some non-starters in the overall menu, and all-in-all, we had a gut-bustin good time!

See ya soon, Dale

Photos from various members:



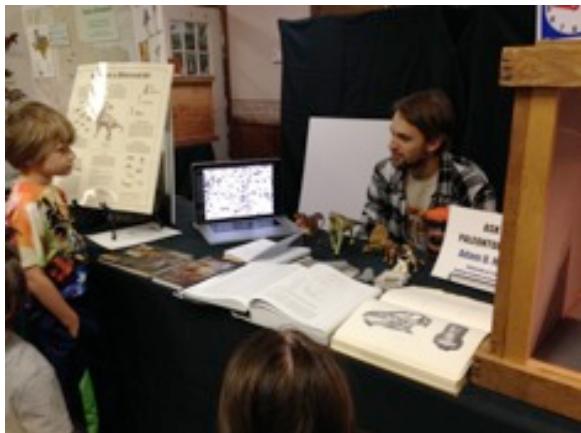
Dino Display (photo by Erich R.)



Emma doing fossil prep (photo by Suzanne G.)



Working with groups (photo by Erich R.)



Adam Marsh, "ask a paleontologist" (photo by Suzanne G.)



The big hall (photo by Ed E.)



Alan Peters (photo by Ed E.)

Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2013

Erich called the meeting to order at 7:07 with a welcome. He introduced Joshua Lively, a second-year PhD student at UT, who gave his presentation, "The Lost Continent of Laramidia: Biography of Cretaceous Vertebrates from Western North America". He described his field experiences studying a 60 million year old, isolated, yet large fossil ecosystem located at present CA and Utah that was home to a richly diverse array of land animals, including dinosaurs.

The remains of this ancient world in Utah are abundant with a variety of well-preserved dinosaurs, such as the classic Ceratops and Tyrannosaurs, with Mr. Lively showing many great examples in his slide presentation.

In his studies of Laramidia, Lively discovered there are two distinct biotic regions with markedly different groups of creatures seemingly living adjacent to each other, but with little of the expected blending together of groups. Yet, there is no readily explainable evidence of any physical barriers to account for these abnormally distinct zones.

Along with his work on solving this anomaly, he has extensively described and analyzed fossil land turtles from these deposits and is using them in his analytic testing for evidence of ancient climatic influences as possible explanations. Lively concluded by answering members' questions.

We then took the break and we returned for the business portion of the meeting. The Treasurer's report was given. Erich stated that the amount of the Scholarship Fund had stayed the same this past year and he suggested that we each donate money toward increasing it, with even \$5 each being helpful.

Erich called for candidates to volunteer to serve board positions for the upcoming year. Gary offered to serve as Treasurer again if there were no takers. And in complementing her good work for the Paleo Society these last few years, Erich noted that Marilyn Austin is completing her service as Program Chair and called for someone to be her replacement. Amid informal discussion of the possibilities of some new board members, joking and laughter was evident and

fun. And Erich stated that we would have more member presentations at the meetings this upcoming year. Then the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

Then new member Brian Murray spoke to the group about needing help to preserve an entire bison he discovered on his ranch, which is threatened by creek erosion.

Erich announced that this month's field trip would be close to home: at the Loop 360 road cut, and that everyone should meet at his house to begin. Ed offered that even though this road cut has been previously collected, the potential for finding a rare specimen there is good.

We then moved on to Fossil Fest, and Suzanne said that there are many available time slots and areas for volunteers. Mike said he would send another email blast requesting volunteers. Suzanne announced that the FFest indoor signage is being replaced with a new, different look to it. This was approved by member vote. New club t-shirts are designed and some samples will be sent by email and a winning design will be chosen based on popularity. Suzanne said we should get the word out about FFest as much as possible, using community bulletin boards, libraries, etc. Nathan, a UT grad will be volunteering his efforts at the show this year. Linda won't be able to be here this year.

Erich called for members to sign up and fill up the display cases with their goods, making sure we are well stocked with fossils to see at this year's show. Ryan was asked to bring his display of how fossils are formed. Strategically-timed email announcements of FFest have begun this past month. David is producing the teachers' kits. Dax is ready to load up our fossil donations after the meeting tonight. Cathy brought up making a decision on the date of the Christmas party. With AGMS' party on DEC 12, we decided that our party will be on Tues, Dec. 17. Door prizes were won by Cathy, Lorraine, Dale, Kevin, and Jimmie. The meeting adjourned at 9:12.

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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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 – **HOLIDAY PARTY NOTICE!**

FIRST CLASS MAIL