



Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society
May 2005

NOTICE

President's Message By Danny Harlow

It was a beautiful spring day, in a beautiful setting, with great food and fellowships with friends. Throw in an incredible array of donated fossils and related items and what could be better. It was a combination producing our most successful spring auction to date. Thanks to everyone who attended and donated the wonderful food items and the exceptional fossils for auction. We also appreciate John Ahrens and his staff at West Cave Preserve for allowing the club to use their beautiful facilities for this fun event. Even with all of the exceptional fossils donated, the honor once again goes to Hal Hopkins for his continued ingenuity in designing an array of fossils collecting tools second to none. We all had a lot of fun trying to figure out all of the unique features and qualities of his designs. They also had some pretty brisk bidding on them. So for novelty and functionality they were very popular. The generosity of time and material by the club members is what makes this organization so successful and a joy to be a part of. Oh, I might add this note. By the time of the next meeting Hal will be officially retired and free to collect and invent at his leisure. Treasurer David Lindberg will give a Treasurer's report and overall final result of the auction in the newsletter. Once again, THANKS.

See you all at the May Meeting.

MAY MEETING: WEDNESDAY
MAY 11, 2005

Fossil of the Month



An unidentified Starfish from the Brownwood Archaeocidarid site showing the ventral side of the body. Currently in the collection of the University of Texas Geology Department. Collected, prepared and donated by Dan Ryder.

Starfish (unidentified)
Winchell Formation
Upper Pennsylvanian
Brown County, Texas

May Speaker

Danny will give a talk on the "Cambrian System of Texas".

Please notice the meeting date is WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2005 in the Board Room. Look forward to seeing you there!!

For information about CTPS and our meetings and Fossil Fest,

Visit our Web Site

<http://www.texaspaleo.com/ctps/index.html>

Minutes April Meeting

By Eric Seaberg

Even though the meeting was in a different place (Moe's restaurant next to the building we usually meet in.), a good crowd was in attendance. The meeting started off with the logistics planning for the auction and the field trip to East Texas.

Fossil Fest is coming along nicely with the large dealer tables being filled. There are still openings for the small tables.

Greg gave us a tip on a speaker at UT. Dr. Greg Erickson was giving several presentations of which one was on growth rates of different dinosaurs.

<http://www.bio.fsu.edu/faculty-erickson.php>

Greg Thompson then presented his book reports on Exceptional Fossil Preservation. He started by discussing the wonderful pyritized trilobites found by Beecher. <http://www.yale.edu/ympip/locations/beechers/> It was an engaging story about how Beecher had to date the landowner's daughter to gain access. Later the bed was lost and had to be rediscovered in the late 80's. Greg then discussed the Hunsruck Shale from Germany. This shale is

commonly used for roofing material and is another place known for detailed pyrite preservation. The following link gives an interesting discussion on the pyritization process.

http://www.chemsoc.org/chembytes/ezine/2002/briggs_aug02.htm

Greg ended his talk with the Orsten beds from Sweden. These are mainly small beautiful things (<2mm) that have been replaced with phosphate.

Our new projector made its debut, but Greg went low tech and utilized overheads. We did put the case to good use though. It was used to draw the door prize numbers.

AUCTION/ BAR-B-QUE PICNIC

Saturday, April 16

About twenty of us were at the club auction and barbeque at West Cave Preserve. The food was great and there were a lot of fossils to bid on. Danny led as auctioneer and I think most went away somewhat happy. It really helped the club treasury.

Hopefully you will be there next year!

Upcoming Shows

May 14-15, Waco, TX - Waco Gem & Mineral Club. Annual Show. Heart of Texas Fair Complex, Fine Arts Building, 4601 Bosque Boulevard. 14th, 10-5:30; 15th, 10-5. Ruby Lois Jones, 254-666-4077.

May 21, Austin, TX - Austin Gem & Mineral Society. Annual Rock Swap. 6719 Burnet Lane, 78757. 10-4. Bob Freymuller, 512-443-8053, bob@naturaltreasure.com, www.austingemandmineral.org.

July 7-9, Kemmerer, WY - Fossil Fest. Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Triangle Park, Pine Ave. 10-6 daily. 307-877-8859, www.fossilfest.org.

July 23-24, Casper, WY - Natrona County Rockhounds. Casper Gem & Mineral Show. Parkway Plaza Hotel, I-25 & Center St. 23rd, 9-5; 24th, 9-4. Darell Polk, 307-472-5950 or Steve Pfaff, 307-234-9874

Aug. 13-14, Baton Rouge, LA - Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society. Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. Fraternal Order of Police, Baton Rouge Lodge Number One, 10777 Greenwell Springs Rd. 13th, 10-6; 14th, 10-5. Clara Broussard, 225-687-3864, clara_broussard@hotmail.com.

November 4, 5, 6, 2005 –Fossil Fest Old Settler's Park Highway 79, Round Rock, Texas

Visit our Web Site

<http://www.texaspaleo.com/ctps/index.html>

2005 Field Trips

Schedule for this year's field trips but subject to change

May 14th	Brownwood
June 18th-19th	Oklahoma
July 16th	Brazos Canoe
Aug 13th	Non-Vertebrate Lab (UT)
Sept 17th	Midlothian
Oct 15th-16th	Sulfur/Red River
Nov ???	Kerrville
Dec ???	

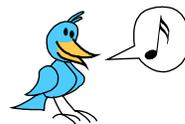
April Field Trip Report

By Ed Elliott

At 5:00PM on Friday afternoon, I was looking up at blue skies. Rain had been predicted and I wasn't looking forward to driving at night on winding two lane roads in a driving rain. But-the forecasters were wrong. (Imagine that!) We had

to put up with absolutely perfect weather all weekend. Even the humidity East Texas is famous for, stayed away. John Hinte and Tom Bowers rode with me and we arrived in Jasper around 11:30 pm. We were up with the sun for the short drive to the "Stump", our breakfast and rendezvous point. We were met there by Guenther Oswald, Hal Hopkins, Rich Geist and Bob McDonald. Ron and Donna Ducote were there with eleven of the Jasper Club members. We owe a great thanks to Rich and Ron for this field trip. Rich was our inside man and asked his friend Ron to get permission to visit this private property. Ron is a retired forester with Temple-Inland and was able to get the key to the gate. We did and do appreciate it!!

It was a short drive from "The Stump" to the property we were to hunt on and then another short drive down to the bottomland. When I lived in that area, I frequently went to the bottoms for the birding and other wildlife.



The tall pines, ferns growing all about, the sound of water rolling over small falls, the creeks winding like snakes back and forth and always flowing with cool clear water. It is a pleasure just to be there, even without the wood. Beef Creek certainly has wood. It was Tom's first visit and he summed it up concisely with a simple "WOW". Pieces from hand size to flat bed trailer size are scattered and piled all through the creek. It is all silicified, some is agatized; cracks frequently are chalcedony filled in reds, browns and yellows. Occasionally, chalcedony covers the sides of the wood. Many have pockets of drusy quartz. The site is Oligocene age, Catahoula Formation and a lot of fun to dig through—looking for that special piece. The looking is fun; the hauling back to the truck is work. One of the Jasper Club members had a pickup load that had my mouth hanging open. That bed was full! As much wood as we hauled out, it didn't put a dent in what remained. Everyone that I spoke with had a great time and I hope we get to do it again next year!

Bob took off and Hal had to get back to work. Sorry Hal. The rest of us followed Rich to Chireno and Nacogdoches for three different Eocene, Weches Formation, and marine sites. Scallops, sharks teeth, squid beaks (*Belosaepia* sp) gastropods, clams and oysters were found. Just as in the Stone City Formation, these are found in glauconite and are almost all, original shell. When we arrived in Nacogdoches, we were joined by John's daughter, Kelly and her friend Jenny; both students at Stephen F. Austin. We hunted until dark and then all feasted on Mexican food together. A really perfect day.

Sunday we all met at another Eocene-Weches site at 8:00 AM. Blue skies above us, piney woods on one side and water on the other; it was a joy just being there. The fossils were nice too, with shark's teeth, beautiful gastropods, squid beaks and many pretty bivalves. The Weches has much the same fauna as the Stone City, but it also has much that is very different. As an example, I found a very nice example of five different corals: *Balanophyllia desmophyllum*, *Flabellum cuneiforme*, *Discotrochus* sp., *Archoehelia* sp., and a rather rare one, *Hemiaster* sp. I dug up many gastropods that I have never seen before. Rich made one of the two real finds of the day, a glauconite replaced (but very pretty) echinoid. I believe it is a *Schizaster caddoensis*. Kelly and Jenny found a huge nautiloid with original and beautiful shell. This was Jenny's first time to hunt fossils; I hope she is hooked.

Guenter had to leave around noon, the rest of us left mid-afternoon. John and Tom and I stopped at "Whiskey Bridge" on the Brazos for a little more Eocene collecting. The clouds rolled in and it got dark early so we didn't get to stay long. We simply didn't want the weekend to be over.

Thanks again to this trip's leader, Rich Geist! We all had a great time.



The Jasper Field Trip group

New dinosaur species found in South Dakota

Scientists unveil fossil of flat-headed plant eater

A fossil found in South Dakota is that of a never-before-seen species of dinosaur, a horse-sized plant eater with spikes on its bony flat head, scientists said Monday.

The nearly complete pachycephalosaur skull was donated to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis by three amateur fossil hunters from Iowa who found it in while exploring the Hell Creek Formation in central South Dakota during 2003.

The pachycephalosaur family is marked by dragon like heads covered with horns, knobs and bumps. The most famous family member, *Pachycephalosaurius*, had a solid, domed bone helmet up to 8 inches thick, believed to be used to ram other dinosaurs in their sides.

Check out this web site!!

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7702738/>

Central Club Contacts, 2005

President	Vice President Show Chair	Secretary
Danny Harlow 1140 Elder Circle Austin, TX 78746 (512) 327-4535 dharlow@austin.rr.com	Ron Root 6801 Rustling Oaks Trail Austin, TX 78759 (512) 345-6718 ron_root@bnc.com	Eric Seaberg 9283 Scenic Bluff Drive Austin, Texas 78733 512-402-0433 eseaberg@austin.rr.com
Field Trip Chair,	Treasurer	Program Chair Board Member
Ed Elliott 5502 Roosevelt Austin, TX 78756 (512) 453-5390	David Lindberg 9413 Sherbrooke Street Austin, TX 78729 (512) 401-0812 DLINDBERG@austin.rr.com	Mike Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com
Newsletter Editor	Board Member	Club Founder
Hollis Thompson 207 Adelfa Drive Round Rock, Texas 78664 (512) 341-0212 dopsticks@sbcglobal.net	Gene and Sheri Siste 5329 Hanging Cliff Cove Austin, TX 78759 (512) 794-0880	Don O'Neill 2600 CR 241 Hondo, TX 78861 (830) 741-3557

Club Information

The Central Texas Paleontological Society is a scientific, non-profit, community-based organization devoted to the study of fossils, advancing the state of the science, educating the public, and collecting fossil specimens. Most of us are amateurs, fascinated by fossils, who love to collect.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the LCRA building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. (between Redbud Trail and Enfield Ave.) at 7:00 PM in the LCRA Offices Board Room of the Hancock Bldg. **The public is cordially invited** to attend these meetings as well as our field trips held throughout the year.

Annual dues are: \$15 per person or \$18 per family, which includes a subscription to this newsletter, membership in the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, and liability insurance coverage for club activities. Associate membership is \$10 per year and includes a subscription to this newsletter.

Central Texas Paleontological Society
P.O. Box 90791
Austin TX 78709-0791

Web page: <http://texaspaleo.com/ctps>

About the Newsletter

Fossil Footnotes is distributed once a month prior to each meeting. Contact the Membership Chair to subscribe or obtain a sample-issue. If your mailing-label has a date marked with a colored pen, it means your membership has or is about to expire. Please send your check to the club Membership officer or bring it to a meeting.

We accept material from club members (and non-members at our discretion) including, but not limited to, information relevant to club activities, fossil collecting, paleontology & geology, and science education. Feel free to reproduce original material contained in this newsletter for educational purposes (including other club newsletters), so long as you credit the newsletter issue and author, if applicable. Send submissions by e-mail or hardcopies to the Editor (see above) at least two weeks before the meeting. Expect some publication delays for exotic formats.

FOSSIL FOOTNOTES
P.O. Box 90791
Austin TX 78709-0791