

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 3, Number 8
August 2008

President's Note

I know it's been a bit warm, but I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and do a little collecting. Mike Smith and Erich Rose handled the Science Night Out at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. They said it went well and had a good attendance.

Fossil Fest is having a few problems this year – mainly having enough dealers. One has moved to Cincinnati. Another has quit the business and gotten a job. A couple have mentioned gas prices as a profit eater. It's not time yet, so this could all be resolved. We'll see.

Our next field trip will be to Brownwood. We'll discuss exactly where to go during the meeting. See you there!

Ed

Next Meeting – August 19th

Edwards Fossils of Georgetown – Updated!

Linda McCall

My talk will be the updated version of the Edwards Fossils of Georgetown - lots of new information, lots of new and better pix, better identification, and a handout of a list of species we have identified so far. - basically the info that will be presented in October at the GCAGS meeting in Houston where the paper authored by Dr. Sprinkle, Dr. Molineux and myself, "Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from a Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas", will be presented.

Tuesday 7 PM

Austin Gem & Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

July Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 by President Ed Elliot.

Diann Strout introduced the five members who gave short talks on their favorite fossil.

Joan Crane - echinoid from the Kent area

John Hinte - Coral slab from Brownwood area

Gary Rylander – his favorite fish teeth

Ed Elliot - giant coral

Ron Root - fossils from the Lake Valley Formation

Old Business:

Treasure's Report - CTPS account - \$5425.13
APS account - not reported

New Business :

Margaret Russell, Natural Resources Program Manager, of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department discussed the upcoming Dinoland at Zilker Botanical Garden. The event will be from

September 6th to November 30th. with these public lectures:

- o July 31st - *Lone Star Dinosaurs* by Dr. Louis Jacobs
- o August 14th - *Not just any Old Reptile!* by Dr. Pam Owens

PSA is invited to attend, to have a booth at either public lecture or to volunteer for any of the activities. Contact margaret.russell@ci.austin.tx.us if you are interested.

PSA will have a table at the Fossil Nature Night at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on July 31

Linda McCall will have a Fossil Fest show meeting at her house on July 23rd at 7:00.

Arrangements for the July field trip on the Brazos River on July 19th were announced.

Ron Root - Secretary

Next Field Trip

Brownwood for Late Paleozoic Fossils Saturday August 23rd, 8AM

Directions:

Take 183 north to Early, TX.

Follow 183 to the left as it joins with US84.

Meet in the parking lot of the Heartland Mall which is on the right where 183 veers off to right.

Be there on time as we will caravan off to the first site fairly quickly.

Bring food, plenty of water and small containers for fossils.

If you do not make the meeting or get the e-mail contact Ed Elliot (657-7581) for details.

July Field Trip Report

Brazos River Pleistocene Fossils

We had a lovely July day in front of us as we unloaded on the banks of the Brazos River. By the time we had dropped off my truck at the take out site and were actually on the water it was coming up on 9:00. Five merry souls were slicing through the slow current on our quest for Pleistocene mammals and whatever else we could find. Gary and Cathy Rylander, Paul Hammerschmidt, Melvin Noble and myself were all enjoying being on the water again. A river trip is a lot of fun, finding fossils too is icing on the cake.

The river was very low (excellent!) and several bars were more exposed than usual. There were new bars also, so we had a lot to look at. We arrived at the take-out site around 8:00. Don't know why we were all tired.

All of us picked up bones or parts of bones that we like but haven't yet identified. Horse seemed to be the most frequently found animal this time around. Both Gary and Paul found jaws with multiple teeth. Paul also found a couple of solitary teeth. Three large mammoth tooth fragments were picked up, one by Melvin and two by Gary. Two other jaws were

found and are, as yet, unidentified; Gary's had teeth and Melvin's didn't. Melvin and I both picked up piece of turtle shell. We both also picked up an armadillo scute each. My best finds were a mammoth proximal femur, an elephantine toe bone(?), and a very nice sloth claw, *Megalonyx jeffersonii*. Paul also had the luck to have found a nearly perfect spear point. Very nice! The majority of this material is from the Beaumont Formation or Pleistocene terrace deposits. The pieces that are very dark could be float from the Blanca or Irvingtonian formations.

I wanted to add a thank you to all who were with me that day. With my usual grace I slid in the mud about two thirds of the way through the trip. With a badly sprained ankle it could have been very ugly by myself. With everyone's help I made it back to Austin. Thanks!

It was a wonderful trip that we do all too infrequently. I'm ready to go back! Hope to see you in Brownwood next trip.

-- Ed

RAIN, RAIN, RAIN, Please RAIN!

(Just a note from the editor...)

Places to Be...Things to Do

August 23-24--JASPER, TEXAS: **14th annual show; Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society**; VFW Bldg., FM 2799 and FM 1747, 7 miles west of Jasper; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students and children free; rocks, fossils, minerals, gemstones, jewels; contact Lonnie Stalsby, (409) 382-5314; e-mail: rducote@cmaaccess.com

August 30-31--ARLINGTON, TEXAS: Show, **"Nature's Kaleidoscope"**; **Arlington Gem & Mineral Club**; Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, children \$3; jewelry, beads, gems, minerals, fossils, rock food table, demonstrations, Kids' Korner, silent auction, door prizes; contact Karen Cessna(817) 903-5980; e-mail: cessenak@ont.com; Web site: www.agemclub.org

September 20-21--FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS: Show, **"2008 Fall Festival of Gems and Minerals"**; **Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club**; EMGI Bldg., Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane.; Sat.

10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$1, children 6 and under free; hourly door prizes, Grand Prize Sun., kids' mine, Scouting activities; contact Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821; e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com; Web site: www.pogmc.org

September 24-28 - HOUSTON, TX : **Show & Convention, American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.**, Houston National Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, TX.

September 27-28--LLANO, TEXAS: Show, **"Golden-Gem Rendezvous & Knap-In"**; Llano Chamber of Commerce, Badu Park, Legion Dr.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5, free admission; 4th annual State of Texas Gold Panning Championship, gem show, metal detecting competition, flint knapping; contact Tony Griffith, 700 Bessemer, Llano, TX 78643, (325) 247-5354; e-mail: info@llanochamber.org; Web site: llanochamber.org

Web site back to 100%

For many of you who use the internet in your pursuit of paleontological knowledge there is a very useful site that had been in a long period of revision. But the upgrades have been made and Cretaceousfossils.com is now back up in its full version. Along with a new look there are a number of additional features including printer friendly versions of all the pages. The site includes many of our local Cretaceous fauna and flora as well as material from other parts of the country and world. The authors request that collectors feel free to submit specimens for the site. You don't actually need to send them the fossil, just good photos and accurate-as-possible information. They also are very open to

review and corrections regarding specimens already included. They even have great suggestions and instructions for recording the fossils digitally. I myself have a number of specimens I hope to submit, both from our local Cretaceous rocks as well as fossils collected in New Jersey.

Cretaceousfossils.com is an excellent resource that will only get better over time. I encourage all of you to visit the site, offer feedback and even possibly add your favorite specimen to the collection.

--Erich Rose, Editor

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** 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)

PSA web page: <http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/> Web master: Michael Smith: msmith17@austin.rr.com

2008/2009 Officers:

President	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	512-657-7581
Vice Pres	Linda McCall	7221 Covered Bridge Dr., Austin, TX78736	lndmccall02@yahoo.com
Treasurer	David Lindberg	9413 Sherbrooke St., Austin, TX 78729	dlindberg@austin.rr.com
Secretary	Ron Root	6801 Rustling Oaks Trail, Austin, TX 78759	ron@grassrootstrader.com
Field Trips	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	512-657-7581
Programs	Diann Strout	11505 Sherwood Forest, Austin, TX 78759	diann_strout@roundrockisd.org
Editor	Erich Rose	807 The Living End, Austin, TX 78746	erichrose@austin.rr.com
Show Chair	Linda McCall	7221 Covered Bridge Dr., Austin, TX78736	lndmccall02@yahoo.com

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.	anmm@mail.utexas.edu
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	powen@mail.utexas.edu
James T.Sprinkle, PhD.	echino@mail.utexas.edu

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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

Erich Rose, editor
807 The Living End
Austin, TX 78746

DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL