

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 3, Number 9
September 2008

President's Note

Another month has gone by so quickly again. Hopefully you've all had a chance to do a little collecting. Back in January we had decided to take a tour of the Canyon Lake Gorge. There's lots of interesting geology as well as paleontology to be seen there. Unfortunately I recently found out that groups need a minimum of four to eight weeks advance notice. We'll be discussing this as well as where to go for our field trip at the meeting. Sorry for not having looked into this sooner. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Ed

Next Meeting – September 16th

Of Mice and Men: Recent Excavations in Southern Africa

Patrick J. Lewis, Ph.D.

Dept. of Biological Sciences, Sam Houston State University

Mr. Lewis will be talking about recent paleontological excavations in South Africa and Botswana. These are Pliocene and Pleistocene age sites. He is trying to better understand environmental change during this period

Tuesday 7 PM

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

About our speaker:

Dr. Patrick J. Lewis joined the Biology Department at Sam Houston State in the fall of 2006 as an Assistant Professor of Biology. He obtained a BS (1996) in Anthropology and MS (1998) in Biology from Texas Tech University, and a Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology and Anatomy from Duke University in 2003. Patrick taught in the Biology Department at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina before joining the faculty at Sam Houston. He currently runs the Paleobiology Lab and is Curator of Fossils at the Sam Houston State Vertebrate Museum

His research spans a variety of periods, locations, and taxa while centering on the effects of environmental change on the skeletal and dental morphology of fossil mammals. In general, he uses statistical methods to study changing morphologies and correlate them with the evolutionary forces that shaped them. He is currently associated with paleontological excavations in South Africa, Botswana and Texas.

Patrick's most recent publications are:

Alicia M. Kennedy, Bhart-Anjan S. Bhullar, **Patrick J. Lewis**, and Mohutsiwa Gabadirwe. (submitted).

A Preliminary Report of a Mid-Pleistocene Herpetofauna from Botswana. *Current Research in the Pleistocene*.

Darryl J. de Ruiter, Juliet Brophy, **Patrick J. Lewis**, Lee Berger, and Steven E. Churchill. (in press). Animal paleocommunity composition and the paleoenvironment of Plovers Lake, South Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution*.

Patrick J. Lewis, Briggs Buchanan, Eileen Johnson, and Steven E. Churchill. (2007). The evolution of *Bison bison*: a view from the Southern Plains. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society*, 78(197-204).

Patrick J. Lewis and Elwyn L. Simons. (2007). Evolutionary trends in the rodent fauna from the Fayum of Egypt. *Palaeontologia Africana*, 42:37-42.

Briggs Buchanan, Eileen Johnson, Richard Strauss, and **Patrick J. Lewis**. (2007). A morphometric approach to assessing late paleoindian projectile point variability on the Southern High Plains. *Plains Anthropologist*, 203:279-300.

He has been married to his wife Rebecca for 10 years, and has two sons: Zane, 17 years old, and Theodore, two. Patrick was born in Mississippi and

raised in Indiana. He spent eight years as a weather forecaster for the Air Force before attending college.

August Meeting Minutes

Speaker:

Linda McCall presented an expanded discussion of the Edwards Limestone Fossils of Georgetown. Linda described the process she used to analyze and describe the fauna found in the material collected from the Georgetown site.

Business Meeting called to order at 8:45.

The July minutes were approved as they appeared in the newsletter.

Old Business.

Joan Crane - 38 tables have been sold for Fossil Mania. The APS account has a balance of \$8466.99.

Mike Smith. - The IRS has not rejected our application for 401C status, but it will be 8-12 months before final approval is received.

New Business.

Mike Smith, Erich Rose and Emelia Rose manned the booth at the Wild Flower Center on August 14th. They reported lots of interest in fossils and passed out membership forms.

Linda McCall reported that only seven deal booths have been sold for Fossil Fest. She has organized expanded publicity for this year's show.

The Georgetown Gem and Mineral Society will be requesting assistance in replacing some of the 6 foot tables that are shared with them and AGMS and PSA.

The Houston Gem and Mineral show will be September 26-28.

The August field trip will be to the Brownwood area. Attendees will meet at the Early Mall at 8:30 am on Saturday the 23rd.

Ron Root - Secretary.

Next Field Trip

The Canyon Lake trip will not take place this month so the September trip is yet to be determined. Possibilities will be discussed at the September meeting and notices sent out.

August Field Trip Report

Brownwood, The Wilson Clay Pit

On our way north, a few of us made a brief foray to Goldthwaite, as usual, with very limited success. Linda McCall did say that she had found a spot with some crab material during her stop. That's something I hadn't encountered there before. The thirty minute stop that the four of us made really wasn't enough, but the clock dictated we move on to Early.

Twelve of us had gathered at the mall on that lovely auspicious morning: Paul Hammerschmidt, Linda and Bruce McCall, Erich and Emelia Rose, Melvin Noble, Tom Bowers, John Hinte, Wayne Mandrell and Dennis and Cindy Fryar.

We hadn't been at Wilson Clay Pit for more than five minutes when I picked up my first *Petalodus* tooth of the day. Dennis had already found some kind of crusher tooth that we didn't recognize and then Paul walked up with a *Petalodus* tooth. A very good beginning indeed! I could see that Wilson Quarry had had a good bit of rain and that I saw no sign of foot prints. By 10:00 we were all commenting on the heat and the oppressive humidity. By noon people were leaving. By about 2:00 Melvin and I were the only ones left. The fossils were there but the heat simply sucked the enthusiasm out of us. Melvin got a

large *Petalodus* tooth in matrix. He also found a *Delocrinus* crown - half of the cup with half of the arms - split down the middle. It looks great from one side! Paul picked up a couple of *Delocrinus* cups, as did I. I also lucked into a second *Petalodus* tooth. Melvin also picked up a gastropod (rare at Wilson) that somewhat resembled a *Worthenia*.

Despite the incredible heat, I still feel it was a great field trip. I love going to this Harpersville Formation site, with its' green and purple rocks. See you at the next one!

- Ed

Show Committee Meeting

There will be a quick Show Committee Meeting after the PSA meeting on Tuesday, Sept16th. We need to talk about T-Shirts, Pins, caps, postcard mail out and AGMS program ad.

PSA will also be hosting a booth at the AGMS show on October 24, 25 and 26, 2008. This is 2 weeks before our own show and a GREAT opportunity to advertise our show. We need volunteers to work the booth all three days. A sign-up sheet will be at the meeting, but you can also email me at indmccall02@yahoo.com with what time you would like to volunteer.

Educational Outreach

For all of you who talk about wanting to make a difference in the lives of kids, here is your chance! We have an opportunity to do some outreach in an underserved part of town, October 27-30 at the UT Elementary Science Exposition

27th: 5 presentations, 30-40 min. each - Pre-K, Kinder and First
 28th: 3 presentations, 45-50 min. each - 3rd, 4th, 5th grade
 29th: 3 presentations, 45-50 min. each - 3rd, 4th, 5th grade
 29th: 4 presentations, 30-40 min. each - First and 2nd grade
 30th: 4 presentations, 30 min each - variety of grades 8:00am - 11:00am

There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting, or email me at indmccall02@yahoo.com with what day you would like to do.

Internship Opportunity with Major Motion Picture

Major motion picture based in Austin is looking for motivated and well-organized individuals to assist in researching for a documentary with high scientific focus. We are looking for interns and researchers with a background in at least one of the following fields: Anthropology, Entomology, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Evolutionary Sciences, Geology, Herpetology, Ichthyology, Marine Biology, Paleobotany, Paleontology, and Zoology. Graduate and Ph.D students are preferred.

Researchers will have interaction with leading scientists, prominent visual artists and an opportunity to work in a small, professional post-production environment, gaining contacts and experience with large-scale filmmaking. Time commitment will be 8 hours a week. Interns may research in-office or remotely. Some in-office work will be required during editing sequences and other events. The internship is unpaid, but we can offer school credit. A film credit may also be awarded to those whose contribution is significant. It is sure to be a memory of a lifetime.

Please contact Russell Leighty at russell.leighty@gmail.com for more information.

Places to Be...Things to Do

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

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

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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 – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL