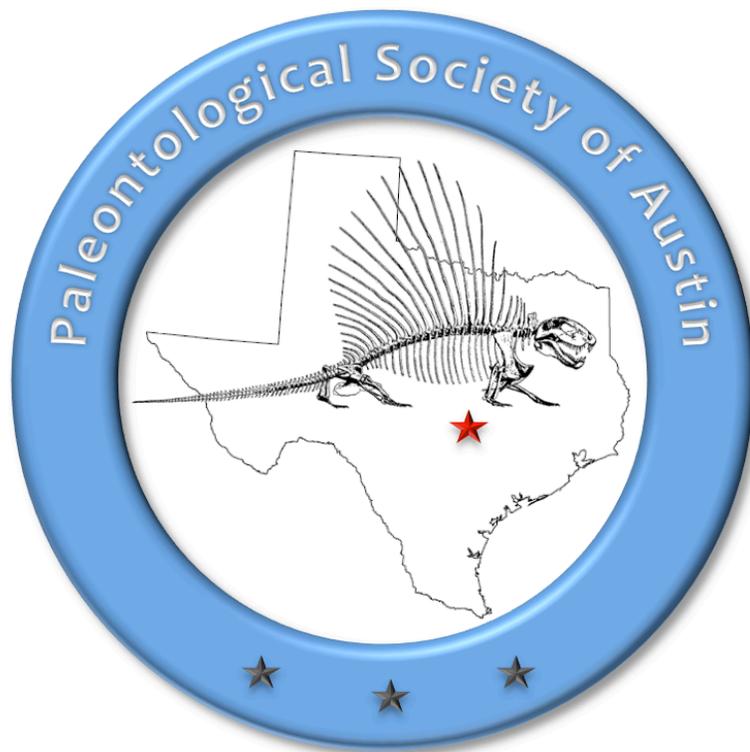


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 10  
October 2011

## President's Note

Wow, what a wonderful rain we had last Sunday! The rain gage my husband put on our back fence indicated that we got a whole two inches in Georgetown. I hope everyone enjoyed at least as much at your homes. Maybe that was just enough rain to wash out/off some fossils and make them easier to find. Who's willing to go check? Speaking of the willing, October is a busy month for PSA and those are the wonderful folks who get and keep everything going.

- Mike Smith, the nominating committee of one, will present the 2012 slate of officers at this month's meeting. He will also take nominations from the floor at that time.
- Erich Rose is heading up our National Fossil Day efforts on the 12<sup>th</sup> and I hope as many folks as possible turn out to support him at the museum.
- Brand new member Kelsey Tom is managing our Touch & Info Table at the AGMS Gem Capers show this year and will need our support there as well. Set up will be late afternoon on the 20<sup>th</sup> and tear down will be late afternoon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. So sign up for a couple of hours in the booth and enjoy the show for free.
- Fossilmania, our joint show with the Dallas Paleo Club, will be held in Glen Rose from the 28<sup>th</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup>. Jamie Young, Rosemary Smith, and I will once again be driving up, along with Joan & Frank Crane, to support the show's efforts. So, if you're available, consider driving up as well and checking out the show, we'd love to see you there.

Like my granny used to tell me...just because you can't do everything doesn't mean you shouldn't do everything you can. So please do everything you can to help make PSA's mission a successful and enjoyable experience for all. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 18<sup>th</sup>, God willing, so until then...

Happy hunting,

Melody

## **Next Meeting Tuesday October 18, 2011**

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

## **Chaetetes, a Coralline Demosponge**

By Marc Connolly

W. "Marc" Connolly's interest in fossils dates to the fourth grade. He received a BS degree in geology from Syracuse University and two additional geology degrees from Texas A&M University. His interest in Chaetetes, a coralline demosponge, began while working on an MS thesis in the lower division of the Magdalena Limestone (Lower Pennsylvanian) in El Paso County, Texas.

Marc has authored or co-authored 25 papers and abstracts. As a student he received two best paper awards from the Geological Society of America and was an invited speaker for the U.S. Geological Survey. Marc is currently a science editor for an educational publishing company.

Chaetetes is a common fossil in the Marble Falls Limestone of Central Texas.

## **Pre-Meeting Fossil Stuffing Party**

**October 18, 2011 at 6:00 pm**

**Before the meeting**

COME ONE - COME ALL - to the Fossil-stuffing party of the year! We need to stuff 1,000 sandwich bags with a flier and a fossil before the meeting commences at 7:00pm - so the more bodies the better! Come **one hour** before the regular club meeting and show your club spirit!

We need small, clean, and recognizable fossils. They need to be small enough to fit in a sandwich bag and distinguishable as a 'fossil' rather than an average rock.

Please bring any extra fossils you have lying around along with you - after all, we're going to need 1,000! Any extras will be used for the Dig Pit or the Spinning Wheel, so don't worry about us having too many! Hope to see everybody there!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Paleontological Society of Austin Booth

At

Austin Gem and Mineral Society's

Annual Gem and Mineral Show

GEM CAPERS

2011

Our society always has a large booth and well received presence at this local show. We need volunteers. You do not have to be an expert on paleontology! All you need is to show enthusiasm for your hobby.

Go to this site: <http://www.mysignup.com/agms> and use the passcode = paleo

Follow the instructions on that page. If that doesn't work for you, contact Kelsey Tom at [kjt\\_86@yahoo.com](mailto:kjt_86@yahoo.com) or call 830-486-8296.

#### **LOCATION:**

Palmer Events Center

900 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78704

For a map, please see: <http://www.austingemandmineral.org/images/Map-Palmer.jpg>

#### **PARKING:**

**ENTRANCES** – The north entrance to the Parking Garage is on Riverside Drive, near South 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The south entrance is on Barton Springs Road, between Bouldin and Dawson streets.

**UNLOADING** – The Palmer has a Service Yard (just past the Parking Garage Entrance on Barton Springs Rd.) where you will unload your stuff. There is a ramp to drive in if needed. For heavy items, AGMS has one cart/wagon and some members bring hand carts that you can probably borrow.

**GENERAL PARKING** – If you arrive early enough, limited parking may be available in the Service Yard where the loading docks are located. If not, you can try to find some parking in the area or pay \$7 per car to park in Palmer's parking garage. AGMS volunteers **will not** be receiving any special parking privileges.

**PSoA BOOTH INFO:**

**SET-UP – (Thursday, October 20, from 3pm to 7pm)** Vendors and volunteers may begin setting up their booth and/or display cases during this time.

**LOCATION** – The PSoA booth will be located in the North Hall next to the AGMS Touch Table.

**FLOOR PLAN** – The floor plan shows three 8 foot tables making a U shape, and we may possibly be able to add one 6 foot table in the back to make a square booth.

**ELECTRICAL NEEDS** – An outlet will be run over to the table to power Dremel engravers used to demonstrate fossil cleaning.

**TABLE COVERINGS** – AGMS will cover the tables with their green plastic table covers. PSoA will string the club banner across the tables as seen in past shows.

**DISPLAY CASES** – PsoA has two cases reserved for club use. They will be located near our booth area. Susan Postlethwait is in charge of display cases for AGMS if you have questions.

**TEAR DOWN** – **Sunday, October 23, from 5pm to 8pm** (or earlier)

**GENERAL SHOW INFO:**

**VOLUNTEER ACCESS TO SHOW HALL** – Volunteers may access the show hall one hour before public opening. With that said, on Friday the show hall will open two hours early for dealers and workers. Please try to clear out every evening within an hour of closing.

**VOLUNTEER PRIVILEGES** – All volunteers are allowed FREE ADMISSION to all three days of the show.

**VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN** – No need to check in with anyone. Susan Postlethwait is the AGMS Show Chair this year and is your go-to person if you need anything or have any problems.

**CONCESSION STAND** – There is a concession stand for food and beverages in the show hall.

**PUBLIC SHOW HOURS:**

- Friday, October 21 (9am – 5pm)
- Saturday, October 22 (10am – 6pm)
- Sunday, October 23 (10am – 5pm)
- 

## Monthly Minutes

*As of this printing I have no minutes to insert. We should have a copy by the meeting to review and approve at that time.*

## Next Field Trip Lake Texoma Saturday October 15th

Meet at 8:00 am Saturday morning at the entrance to Eisenhower State Park. Unless you want to leave at three in the morning, you will need to drive up the night before. Plan to stay overnight in the Sherman area. We will be collecting Sunday morning as well.

We will be going to a variety of sites. Some of these include large ammonites, so be prepared. You will definitely want your hammers and chisels to remove specimens, and backpacks, as you will be walking a fair ways along the lake shoreline.

It goes without saying you will need lots of water or equivalent, sunscreen, a good hat, food, etc.

## Sept. 2011 Field Trip TXI Quarry, Midlothian, Texas

We had twenty-four members in the TXI parking lot anxious to get into the quarry by 7:45. David Lindberg, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Earl Richards and Joni Sala, Melody Barnett, Rosemary Smith, Terry and Hunter Collins, Melvin Noble, Jason, Jordan and Mariah Burns, Terry, Seth and Margo Harvey, Morgan and Dennis Stock, Erich Rose, Sara Smith, Kevin Bills, Joe Watkins and Beki Pool, and Gary Vliet. We were able to pick up hard hats and glasses and be into the quarry just after 8:00 with our great guide Doyle Stanton. This man bent over backwards to do anything he could to improve our visit and collecting possibilities. No guide could have been more helpful unless he did the collecting for us.....in a few cases, he even did that. Several times he found and gave fossils to members.

Unfortunately, the quarry had just pushed all of the deposits in the area provided for us. This meant that we had to break rocks or surface collect. A lot of us did locate and break the contact rocks. These are rocks that underlie the Austin Chalk by up to a meter at an unconformable contact and have a large phosphate content as well as numerous shark and fish remains, bivalves and other less numerous macrofossils. Many fossils, especially gastropods and bivalves, are totally replaced by phosphate. We hadn't been there long when new member Sara had found a very nice *Ptychodus whipplei* of large size. Margo had asked me about an *Inoceramus sp. (labiatus?)* fossil on a slab and I pointed out a nice pelvic fin on it as well. Melvin picked up a good moderate size *Ptychodus* tooth. Jordan found a large mosasaur tooth on a small slab. Kevin showed me a nice *P. anonymus* that he had surface collected. He and David were showing off teeth with the blades broken off that would have been monster *Cretolamna* teeth. And Hunter had what was a great *P. marginalis* (tentative ID by E.Rose). Earlier he had dug up a beautiful imprint, with some nacre attached, of an *Prionotropis* ammonite. And Gary R. had a slab with a 4-5 inch fish. I wished him luck cleaning the extra matrix off. Great find.

We were allowed to stay until lunch (thank you Doyle!) and really had a chance to collect this Arcadia Park Formation site. While there was obviously some Austin Chalk mixed in, at 100 feet thick in this area, we probably didn't see any of the lower Eagle Ford formations mixed in where we collected. A good number of members took home buckets of rock for bulk sampling as well. After a rest stop, we caravanned to southwest Ft. Worth for some Goodland sites. The first, a construction area, had been posted. While I believed that it was just some new home owners posting grounds they didn't own (to keep out us riff-raff) – I thought it best to just go to a different site. We resumed the caravan to Lake Worth. As soon as we got there, everyone scattered..... so I didn't catch a lot of what was found. I know that Kevin, Melvin and I found small *Oxytropidoceras sp.* ammonites. These were probably inner whorls of larger ammonites. I believe that Kevin also found an *Engonoceras*. Gary R. said that he had found a nice *Salenia mexicana* echinoid as well as finding several horn corals, *Trochosmia stainbrooki*. I found a large horn coral that I haven't seen before – more of a V shape than a narrow cone and with growth lines running around it. That and a *Tetragramma* echinoid totally in matrix made my day. There were *Hemiaster (Pliotoxaster) whitei* and *Heteraster texana* heart urchins in abundance. Also, numerous gastropods and bivalves. Other than complaints about the steepness of the trails, I think that everyone had a good time.

See all of you at Texoma on the 15<sup>th</sup>! We've missed it for several years and the water is lower than it has been in a long time. Should be great collecting! ---Ed

### **Places to be, Things to do...**

DALLAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, 54th Annual Show, "The Crystal Craze"  
Saturday, November 19th 10am-6pm, Sunday, November 20th 10am-5pm  
Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, 1800 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite, Texas 75149  
(I-635 @ Military Parkway, Exit 4)

Adults: \$8.00, 12 & under: \$3.00, 3 & under: FREE!  
Family of 4 or more: \$20.00, Scouts & Leaders in uniform FREE!

Rocks/Mineral Specimens, Polished/Faceted Gems, Fossils, Lapidary Equipment, Jewelry Supplies, Games & Demonstrations, Fluorescent Display, Prizes & Silent Auction, Rock "Food" Table, Gem Identification, Gem and Mineral Identification

[www.DallasGemAndMineral.org](http://www.DallasGemAndMineral.org)

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.

Annual Dues: \$15/individual, \$20/family and \$10/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**