



Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society
February 2003

President's Note

Well, I'm back as president for a second time. I want to say thanks to Danny Harlow for being such a good president last year. He is a great spokesman for the club, as well as a great collector and fossil prep person. Danny will be stepping into the role of the Show Chair for Fossil Fest 2003, something he has done very well before.

We are on target for another great year with club activities and speakers. Kathleen Howard brought Jeri Rodgers from UT as our speaker last month. (See minutes.)

Greg & Hollis Thompson will be our representatives at the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Show this month in Pasadena. This show is hosted by the Clear Lake G&MS Feb. 22-23. Clear Lake is very active in fossil collecting, and this should be a good show. Also, don't forget to go to Georgetown to support the Williamson County G&MS Feb. 15-16.

The Austin G&MS sponsored a workshop Feb. 1, bringing in Scott Singleton from Houston to teach about identifying fossil wood. It was well attended, with 25 people from all over the state, even from Three Rivers. Some of our members attended. Thanks to Miriam Hall and Mike Smith for e-mailing as soon as they found out about the seminar.

Several members have headed toward the huge Tucson Show this month. And my wife, Rebecca, ran into fossil friends Jack & Sue Vogel of Nebraska in Quartzite, AZ, as she was on her way to visit her folks in Yuma. They are well and send their greetings to all. They had several nicely prepped turtles they had collected, and were for sale in their booth.

This month's field trip is a classic, to the Brownwood and Santa Anna areas.

John

February Field Trip

We will meet at the Heartland Mall parking lot in Early, TX at 8:30 am, Saturday Feb 15. Highway 84 heading into Early is also 183 coming from Goldthwaite.



February Speaker

Our speaker will be Dr. Chris Bell. The title of his talk is: "North American Reptiles of the Pleistocene: Avoiding Circularity in the Stability Hypothesis."

Dr. Bell received his BS Degree in Geology from The College of William and Mary in Virginia (1988), MS degree in Quaternary Studies from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff (1990).

He spent two years working as a field geologist in North Dakota, and as Collections Manager in Earth Sciences at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, CA.

He began his Ph.D. in Integrative Biology in 1992 at University of California at Berkeley, where he was

affiliated with both the Museum of Paleontology and the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. He completed his degree in 1997, and immediately came to Austin to join the Department of Geological Sciences.

His current research interests include North American Pleistocene mammalian biostratigraphy; Anatomy and systematics of lizards, snakes, and turtles; and the application of new methodological and philosophical approaches to the study of Quaternary paleontology.



Alan Peters with Brownies at Fossil Fest 2002, doing his usual fabulous job.
(Picture courtesy Hollis Thompson)

January Meeting Minutes

The speaker for the evening was Jeri Rodgers a doctoral candidate at the UT School of Geoscience. The title of Mrs. Rodgers' speech was Galen's Elephant: The OS Cordis. The OS Cordis is a bone that is found in the heart of an unknown number of large non-primate animals. Very little is known about this bone. It was first mentioned in the literature in ancient Roman times when it was discovered in an elephant.

Mrs. Rodgers has begun from almost ground zero researching and studying this bone. Her current focus is to document the species in which this bone occurs. In the process she has studied over 300 hearts from a variety of large animals.

By the end of her talk we were all part of the very small group of people who know anything about this bone.

The arrangements for the field trip to the Killeen area on January 18th were discussed. We are to meet at the Stillhouse exit north of Salado at 8:30.

Kathleen asked if we would be interested in moving our meeting location to the AGMS building on Burnett. She will confirm that AGMS is willing to allow us to use their

facilities. She will report back to the new board for discussion.

If you would prefer getting the newsletter via email, send a note to Mike Smith at MSMITH17@austin.rr.com

The following officers for 2003 were elected.

President:	John Hinte
Vice-President/Show Chair:	Danny Harlow
Secretary:	Ron Root
Speaker Chair:	Kathleen Howard
Field Trip Coordinator:	Ed Elliott
Treasurer / Editor / Website:	Mike Smith:
At Large Board Position:	Gene & Sheri Siste

January Field Trip

It was a very cold morning, so only the truly hardy (Hal Hopkins, Bill and Cathy Kidd, David Lindberg, Ron and Janet Root, Mike Smith, and Rosemary Smith) showed up north of Salado for the January 18th field trip. We then proceeded to the Killeen vicinity where we found enough collecting to keep us occupied for most of the day. We were annoyed to find that the developers at the *Salenia mexicana* locality had the temerity to go ahead and build houses on top of our collecting site! We only came up with 5 or so. At the other locations we found quite a few echinoids as well as lots of ammonite fragments for the Wheel of Fossils.

Florida Field Trip Possibility

Rosemary Smith has a contact in Florida who could provide us with what sounds like an extremely neat field trip, perhaps in April. As we get more information I will put it in the newsletter. Meanwhile, see his web site: www.paleopress.net/labelle.htm

Calendar

(Field Trips tentative)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
February 11	CTPS meeting
February 15	Field Trip: Brownwood
February 15/16	Williamson Cty. Gem & Mineral Show, San Gabriel Park, Bus. Hwy, 81N, Georgetown, TX
February 22/23	SCFMS & Clear Lake Gem * Mineral Show, Pasadena Convention Ctr. 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX
March 1 & 2	Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard County Fair Barn, Big Spring, TX
March 11	CTPS meeting
March 14 / 15	Southwest Gem & Mineral Soc, Morris Activity Ctr, Coliseum Rd. @ Freeman Blvd. San Antonio, TX
March 15	Field Trip: Jasper (wood)
March 29 / 30	Gulf Coast Gem & Min. Soc. Bayfront Plaza 1901 No. Shoreline Dr. Corpus Christi, TX.
April 8	CTPS meeting
April 12	Picnic and Auction
May 13	CTPS meeting
May 17	Field Trip: Midlothian (?)
June 10	CTPS meeting
June 21	Field Trip: Bandera
November 7-9	Fossil Fest , Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, TX

Four-winged dinosaur fuels debate over evolution of air-borne birds.

http://www.nature.com/nsu/nsu_pf/030120/030120-7.html

The discovery in China of a remarkable dinosaur with birdlike feathers on its hindlimbs and tail as well as its forelimbs will re-ignite debate about the origins of birds, feathers and flight.

Xing Xu from the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology in Beijing and his colleagues found six specimens of the new, 77-cm-long dinosaur in the fossil beds of Liaoning Province, in the north-east of China¹. They are believed to belong to a new species - *Microraptor gui* - of the previously known genus *Microraptor*.

The researchers think that the animals lived between 124 and 145 million years ago in trees and used their two pairs of wings, limbs outstretched, to glide between branches - much as flying squirrels, though entirely unrelated, use inter-limb skin flaps to leap from branch to branch.

The new specimens will certainly fuel the long-running argument about precisely which group of extinct reptiles are birds' closest cousins.



Central Texas Paleontological Society Membership 2003

		Phone	Email			Phone	Email
Bill	Ainslie	(307) 856-3857		David	Lindberg	(512) 401-0812	burrberg@io.com
LaRue	Ainslie	(307) 856-3857		Jo	Lindberg		
Genny	Albright		drgenalbright@aol.com	Ritamarie	Loscalzo	(512) 349-9655	drloscalzo@austin.rr.com
Ken	Albright	(512) 247-7802	drkfa@aol.com	Bill	Lowe	(817) 579-0955	
Terry	Almsted	(830) 990-5076	talmsted@real-time-sys.com	Wanda	Lowe	(817) 579-0955	wslowe@granbury.com
Ashi	Alperovich	(512) 383-9782	aalperovich@yahoo.com	Rochelle	Margolis	(512) 864-0334	
Elizabeth	Arford			Quentin	Martin	(512) 441-0094	qmartin@lcra.org
Robert	Asreen	(302) 838-0339	rcasreenjr@msn.com	Larry	McBee	(210) 655-8625	
Christine	Bennett	(512) 335-1510	christinebenne@hotmail.com	Sandy	McBee	(210) 626-3242	
Rebecca	Benz	(512) 301-1317		Bob	McDonald	(512) 452-7183	
Chantal	Berczovytch			Polly	McDonald	(512) 452-7183	
Will	Berczovytch	(512) 327-7303	watchcat@austin.rr.com	Jacintha	Mezzetti		
Glenda	Bone	(512) 990-2083		Thomas	Mezzetti		
Joe	Bone	(512) 990-2083	AquariumBeautiful@ev1.net	Jean	Nelson		
Dr. Edwin	Bowden	(512) 454-1788		Steve	Nelson	(512) 331-1469	nelsonov91@hotmail.com
Marilyn	Bowers	(512) 327-7462		Liz	Oliphint	(512) 259-0818	
Tom	Bowers	(512) 327-7462	aden0313@msn.com	Tom	Oliphint	(512) 259-0818	
Scott	Claver			Don	O'Neill		
Mark	Cohen	(817) 244-4432	txbugman3@cs.com	Linda	O'Neill	(830) 741-3557	
Roger	Cundiff	(512) 244-9211	scundiff@austin.rr.com	Guenther	Oswald	(512) 892-0423	
Sharon	Cundiff			Alan	Peters		
Gregory	DeLong			Carl	Ponder	(512) 328-0102	ponder@austin.ibm.com
Jeff	Doerzbacher	(901) 399-5224	Jeff.Doerzbacher@smith-nephew.com	Jo Ann	Ponder	(512) 328-0102	
LuAnn	Doerzbacher			Farhan	Rahman	(512) 837-1527	frahman@austin.rr.com
Edward	Elliot	(512) 453-5390		Jeri	Rodgers		JeriCR55@aol.com
Burke	Forte	(512) 479-6159	fort@mail.utexas.edu	Janet	Root		janet_root@bmc.com
Sharon	Freeto	(830) 833-9139	blancoum@moment.net	Ron	Root	(512) 345-6718	ron_root@bnc.com
Virginia	Friedman	(817) 473-6559	friedmanvj@aol.com	Cathy	Rylander	(512) 250-9743	
Cindy	Fryar	(512) 259-7409		Gary	Rylander, MD	(512) 250-9743	garyrylander@hotmail.com
Dennis	Fryar	(512) 259-7409		Gene	Schneider	(512) 933-7510	linnettglen@webtv.net
Rich	Geist	(936) 634-6545	richgeist@earthlink.net	Chuck	Schuler	(281) 332-0623	shurocks@aol.com
Julia	Germany	(512) 441-4568	germanyj@aol.com	Vicki	Schuler		
Miriam	Hall	(512) 892-2900	MHALL@tceq.state.tx.us	Yael	Schulgasser		
Angela	Hansen			Eric	Seaberg		eseaberg@austin.rr.com
George	Hansen	(512) 383-9321	ahansen@austin.rr.com	Linda	Seaberg		
Danny	Harlow	(512) 327-4535	dharlow@austin.rr.com	Mike	Shaver	(505) 532-5355	Mshaver@las-cruces.org
Nancy	Harlow	(512) 327-4535		Gene	Siste	(512) 794-0880	GENSRI@CS.COM
RC	Harmon			Sheri	Siste	(512) 794-0880	
Jimmy	Hendricks	(512) 371-7631	trogon7@hotmail.com	Elizabeth	Smith	(512) 288-6582	
Eric	Henry	(512) 416-1295	fossilhenry@earthlink.net	Lt. Col. Lawrence	Smith	(210) 497-7422	LAWRENCEASmith@Hotmail.com
John	Hinte	(512) 301-1317	tashi@infohiway.net	Michael	Smith	(512) 288-6582	msmith17@austin.rr.com
Hal	Hopkins			Rosemary	Smith	(512) 346-1437	rock-mom@webtv.net
Kathleen	Howard	(512) 491-9201	khoward@mail.law.utexas.edu	Linda	Swanson	(512) 422-2322	lindaswanson41@hotmail.com
Bill	Irwin			Kenneth	Timko	(512) 443-3794	ktimko@gbonline.com
Kevin	Keys	(281) 354-3688	KKCM69@aol.com	Cheryl	Wildfong	(830) 896-8940	
Cathy	Kidd	(512) 453-9686	billkidd@texas.net	William	Wildfong	(830) 896-8940	wildfong@kfc.com
William	Kidd	(512) 453-9686		Elizabeth	Yancey	(409) 693-1404	
Glen	Kuban	(281) 515-3331	gkpaleo@yahoo.com	Thomas	Yancey	(409) 693-1404	tyancey@tamu.edu
Don	Lavigne			David	Lindberg	(512) 401-0812	burrberg@io.com
Eva	Lavigne			Jo	Lindberg		
Robert	Lawrence	(210) 828-9235	paleo@wireweb.net	Ritamarie	Loscalzo	(512) 349-9655	drloscalzo@austin.rr.com
Leila	Levinson						

Club Contacts, 2003

President	Vice President Show Chair	Secretary
John Hinte 10962 Longbranch Austin TX 78736 (512) 301-1317 tashi@infohiwv.net	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

Field Trip Chair,	Treasurer	Program Chair Board Member
Ed Elliott 5502 Roosevelt Austin, TX 78756 (512) 453-5390	Michael Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com	Kathleen Howard 11601 Sterlinghill Dr. Austin, TX 78758 (512) 491-9201 khoward@mail.law.utexas.edu

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Board Member	Club Founder
Michael Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com	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.

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P.O. Box 90791
Austin TX 78709-0791