



# Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society  
April 2003

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## President's Note

I'll be the first to admit it, Central Texas area collectors are mighty proud of the area we call home. We have such an abundance of Cretaceous material and sites to choose from. Then the club got an opportunity to collect in East Texas with **Ron Ducote**, his wife **Donna**, and long distance member **Rich Geist**. Ron, a retired forester with Temple-Inland, led us to a heavily wooded, remote oasis with a beautiful, clear-running creek outside of Jasper, TX. What a gorgeous day and area to collect Oligocene-age petrified wood! I had no idea there was so much relief to the area, until I tried to drag my 98.5 lb. beauty back to the truck. Two sets of two ended up carrying the cotton wood-like barked trunk, tied to a downed pine tree and slung over shoulders. These three East Texans were mighty proud of their collecting areas, and they backed it up with beautiful agatized and whole rounds of trees covered with drused quartz. Thanks Ron and Donna! Then Rich led us to Nacogdoches to collect Eocene marine material from the Weches. How many squid beaks can come from a single site? How about twelve! This field trip is listed as one of my most favorite collecting days! Thanks Rich!

CTPS is being included in the recently upgraded UT publication, Austin Science Fun Guide. Be prepared for new, eager minds approaching members...

Don't miss this **UT Paleo lecture April 12 (or 11<sup>th</sup>?)**. **Chris Schneider** will be presenting her findings on the **Brown County Archeocidarids**. These 280 million year old, Pennsylvanian-aged sea urchins are from the Winchell Formation. Her report starts at 4pm, in the old Geology room 100 lecture hall, which has a new number, 2.34? according to member Greg Thompson.

### April Auction !!!

**Saturday, April 12 - West Cave Preserve  
food at noon...**

**Directions: see Calendar or call  
1-830-825-3442, John Ahrns.**

I don't have to remind you that this is an AUCTION, **not** a

garage sale. This is a **FUND RAISER**, not a bargain basement sale. If you see an oyster, you bid **BIG BUCKS**. If you see an ammonite, you bid **BIG BUCKS**. This is a **FREE BAR-B-QUE**, you just bring a side dish to go around the edge of your plate. Now come have fun and donate fossil related material and money to your hobby.

John

## March Field Trip

The day was clear and a little crisp in downtown Jasper- as we waited for possible stragglers. Gary and Kathy Rylander, Bill Kidd, Rosemary Smith, Hal Hopkins, John, Hinte Ed Elliott and our hosts, club member Rich Geist and Ron and Donna Ducote of the Jasper Gem and Mineral Society were all smiling this day.



*Hal Hopkins checking a petrified log for life.*

Springtime in the Piney Woods. Dogwoods and Redbuds in bloom., The sun coming through the tall pines. Cool, clear water gurgling, over pile after pile of nice Oligocene-Catahoula formation wood. Both the quantity and quality of the wood in this creek were exceptional. Kudos, to Gary for a nice piece of palm wood. Several nice full

rounds made it back to the trucks. Many pieces had drusy quartz as well. We were only limited by what our backs could stand. Several of us encountered those limits.

After leaving the wonderful Jasper site, six of us spent several more hours on a marine Eocene outcrop west of Nacodoches, courtesy of Rich Geist. A very nice ending to a beautiful day.

Extra "THANKS!" to Rich and the Ducotes for going out of their way to get our club onto private land. The best trip this fossil-hound has had in a long time.

Ed Elliott



*Logman (aka Rich Geist) with some of his loot.*

## March Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by president John Hinte at 7:02 on 3/11/03 at the LCRA building

John introduced Shaun Venish, a graphic artist from South Africa. Shaun currently lives in the Austin area. He visited CTPS to discuss his sketches and drawings of dinosaurs. Shaun became interested in dinosaurs in the early '90s. He began sketching them and learning how to accurately depict them. In 1995 he published 2 coloring books

depicting realistic action figures of dinosaurs. Shaun shared his coloring books and several of his sketches with the club. He is currently looking for other opportunities for his sketches and drawings.

John reported that he had attempted to discuss combining the CTPS and the APS with some members of the APS. The fact that the Austin club remains very committed to Fossilmania and CTPS is committed to Fossil Fest seems to be the major stumbling block. John plans to continue to look for an approach that will permit this to happen.

The plan for the 3/15 field trip to Jasper was discussed.

John talked about some fossil fish bladders he purchased at the Tucson show. He then discussed an article about the industrial CAT scan unit at UT. It is being used to create 3D images of fossils. More information about the CAT scan is available on the UT website.

John asked for someone to coordinate getting the barbeque for the April 12 picnic and auction. Mike Smith volunteered.

Rochelle announced she knows someone who owns property with a Llanite hill. She asked if someone with a 4-wheel drive vehicle would help her check out the area.

The door prize was won by Ron Root.

The meeting closed with a discussion of fossil collecting trips to Florida. The State of Florida requires a fossil collecting permit. John has several copies of the form.

Ron Root

## Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
April 8	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
April 12	<b>Picnic and Auction</b> - North on 12 from Dripping Springs. At T intersection with Hamilton Pool Road (3238) go left. West Cave Preserve is about 7 miles, just after the hairpin curve and one lane bridge over the Pedernales.
May 13	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
May 17	<b>Field Trip:</b> Midlothian (?)
June 10	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
June 21	<b>Field Trip:</b> Banderra
November 7-9	<b>Fossil Fest</b> , Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, TX

## Club Contacts, 2003

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## 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.

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**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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