



# Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society  
April 2003

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## President's Note

The new digs at the **West Cave Preserve** were very cool. I'm talking about the new education building, not a new hole. John Ahrens and his crew welcomed CTPS for our auction/ barbecue last month. Teamed up with the LCRA, the West Cave Preserve has stepped up to a higher level in comfort for the naturalists' presentation. The building project had only opened the week before our picnic. Thanks to the members and guests as they made the auction a success. We had a great time and raised \$405 for the club. Danny Harlow did another fine job of talking up fossil items as our auctioneer. A special thanks, from me, goes to Rich Geist for coming all the way from Lufkin, and bringing some fantastic items for auction. Don't wait until next year's auction; go check out the new preserve building and find the fish and ammonites in their stonework.

I hear **Chris Schneider's** talk on the Brownwood cidarids was wonderful. Several CTPS members were there. I apologize for printing the wrong date of the talk in last month's newsletter; I had "12" on the brain. Chris responded favorably to Bill Kidd's request to see if she would like to do the same power point presentation for one of our Tuesday meetings. From the details I heard about her presentation, she obviously "ROCKS"!

CTPS was well represented at the grand opening for the new **Dino Pit**. We had an informational table next to the sand pit. Lots of sand was flying as kids of all ages uncovered replicas of several Austin area fossil finds. The kids, parents and grandparents would wander over and ask questions. The best of the kids told us he thought the large fossil was a cephalopod, when told it was an ammonite. Then he went on to tell us of his trilobite at home, the live one, with skin and bones. Oh, those imaginations! Thanks to **Danny Harlow** for providing the display, and thanks to **Jimmy Hendricks, Ron Root, the Kidds, Ed Elliott, and Rochelle Margolis** for sharing themselves with this event. **Margaret Russell, the Austin Nature Center, UT and Dr. Ed Theriott** did a great job celebrating this fun place

where future paleontologists will be practicing their field skills.

This month's presentation will be by (student) **Tom Bowers**. Tom has been involved with CTPS since June 1990, one month longer than I have. Tom has collected fossils and minerals seriously most of his life. This semester found him happily taking classes he loves, and he is going to share part of his new perspective by presenting on sponges.

Lastly, the **field trip** for the month will be a repeat classic, not- to- be missed entry into the **NTC Quarry in Midlothian, TX**. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 24**. See more details on the next page. Danny set this trip up as before, to collect in the a.m. Shark teeth, anyone? Come enjoy!

John

## April Meeting Minutes

Several members brought in samples for display and identification prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President John Hinte at 7:25 pm.

There was no speaker at the meeting.

John discussed the previously proposed scholarship fund in honor of Don O'Neal. The suggestion is to set it up through UT. UT has an existing program that may assist in managing the fund. The hope is that the money earned from Fossil Fest each year would add to the fund. Mike Smith will investigate the UT program and report back at the May meeting.

A discussion concerning field trips followed. John reported the March field trip to Jasper was one of the best ever. The April field trip will be the annual picnic and auction. The May 17<sup>th</sup> field trip will be to quarries in the Midlothian area.

Danny Harlow reported the Brownwood spillway is not in a good condition to visit at the present time.

The door prizes were won by Chantal Berczovytch, Mike Smith and Eric Seibert.

Ron Root

## May Field Trip MOVED TO MAY 24th

The May field trip to the NTC Quarry in Midlothian is on, but it has been moved to the 24<sup>th</sup> due to blasting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. **Be there by 7:45 am.** They need to escort us in and there is no guarantee that you will be able to get in if you are late.

**No one under 18 is permitted.** You will need to sign a release. I have provided a map below of the vicinity of Midlothian showing the exit off 67. To get to Midlothian you have two options. Go north on I35. After Hillsboro you can take 35 E to Waxahachie and then take 287 through Midlothian to 67. Or, you can take I35 W after Hillsboro and at Alvarado, take STATE 67 to Midlothian. Past Midlothian, take the Gifco Exit, cross over the freeway going west and stay on Gifco until you get to the NCT plant. Meet in the parking lot.



## Other News

**Dino Pit:** The Austin Nature Center opened the Dino Pit on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and CTPS had a table there. It was manned at various times by Ed Elliott, Danny Harlow, Jimmy Hendrix, John Hinte, Bill and Kathy Kidd, Rochelle Margolis, and Ron Root. Thanks to those folks for

representing the club at this epochal event.



*Dino Pit opening volunteers Rochelle, Ron, and John*

**Sea Urchin Surprise:** A number of members got to attend Chris Schneider's Technical Sessions talk at UT on the Brownwood echinoids on April 24. We even got coffee and cookies (very important if you, like me, had forgotten to eat lunch)!

The title of the talk was "Sea Urchin Surprise! Pennsylvanian Echinoid Lagerstätten from North-Central Texas". A lagerstätten is a site with fossils in a state of exceptional preservation. Chris (soon to be "Dr. Chris") described four new echinoid species. We truly enjoyed this talk, given the club's experience with this site and the significant contributions of specimens to the Department in support of this work, especially by Danny Harlow.

Before and after we got to admire the Geology Department's 1/2 square meter echinoid, as well as a number of other, new exhibits in the cases that are part of the new addition to the building. The famous starfish slab (*Austinaster mc-carteri*) is also on display.

## Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
May 13	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
May 24	<b>Field Trip: NTC Quarry, Midlothian. 7:45 am.</b>
June 10	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
June 21	<b>Field Trip: Banderra</b>
November 7-9	<b>Fossil Fest, Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, TX</b>

## Club Contacts, 2003

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

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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

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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

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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.

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**