



Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society
August 2003

President's Note

Last month's field trip on the Brazos happened, despite the state of Texas cutting out the original launch site South of IH10. Canoes, kayaks, and motor boats, oh my! And it was very enjoyable, teeth, tusks, jaws, toes and all. Tom Oliphant motored quite a bit further downstream to watch boatmate Dennis Fryar find a small mammoth tooth. For those keeping a log, the river level was 10.7 feet at Hempstead that day. Now Hal Hopkins is working on a prototype to help look at gravels through the silty Brazos waters. See details of the trip elsewhere in the newsletter.



I hear from Don O'Neill that Larry and Sandy McBee are collecting in Alaska this summer. Don is researching and writing about Celestite in Texas. He has a beautiful collection of Celestite with a lot of great stories to go with each specimen. He also gets to watch Jurassic Park and Power Rangers with his son Shawn, repeatedly. As for other members, Ed Elliott has gotten into some great Edwards' Rudists, and Rich Geist has acquired a nice Weches Nautiloid, 5-6 inches across.

Happy hunting, and I'll see you at the meeting.

John

August Field Trip Bandera and Vicinity

This month's field trip will be to the Bandera area on Saturday, August 16. We'll meet at 8am at the corner in Bandera where Hwy 16 turns, and 173 continues toward Hondo. There is a parking lot across from the OST restaurant. This is an opportunity to collect Cretaceous crinoid cups and *Salenia* sp. and other echinoids. Last week, John was out that way looking for new localities and found two artifacts while collecting in the rain. Prepare for the heat and sun.

July Trip Report Brazos River

As John notes, the Texas State Highway Department is out to get us. But we triumphed none the less. After encountering the "Road Closed - No Trespassing" signs behind the cement barricades that had been placed across the road sometime in the last two months, we re-grouped at the I-10 bridge over the Brazos.

Present were Ed Elliott, Dennis Fryar, Rich Geist, Miriam Hall, John Hinte, Hal Hopkins, Tom Oliphant, Gary and Kathy Rylander, Mike Smith and Rosemary Smith. We had quit a fleet: 3 kayaks, two canoes, and one john boat (not John boat, that was a kayak). We headed upstream to the first big bar upstream, which is fortunately fairly close. And given the size of the group, we were very lucky.

Typical of the Brazos we found included horse teeth, bison and other miscellaneous bones, and turtle shells. Miriam found a really nice tooth that looks like a horse incisor (completely different from the molars we are used to seeing). Tom and Dennis went downstream in the powered john boat (wimps - is my jealousy showing?) where Dennis found a small mammoth tooth.

On the way back to the bridge John, Gary and Kathy had

July Meeting Minutes

the intelligence to stop at one of the bars close to the bridge where John found the item on the front page. It looks a lot like a peccary, but seems a little short and does not have sockets for the large canines you would expect. Gary also found a partial jaw. Plus John picked up a number of other large bison or cow bones. When he got back to the bridge I got to borrow his kayak (which is very nice) and cross the river and hunt around the bridge abutments where I picked up a horse metacarpal (clearly fossil) and a number of large leg bones, some of which seem to be bison, some seem to be cow, and some I can't figure out. (I did order a publication, "A Guide to the Identification of Postcranial Bones of *Bos taurus* and *Bison bison*", which I will bring to the next meeting if you want to try to figure out what you've got.)

All in all, a great trip!

- Mike

Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 12	CTPS meeting
August 16	Field Trip: Bandera
September 9	CTPS meeting
September 13	Field Trip:
October 14	CTPS meeting
October 18-19	Field Trip: Lake Texoma
November 7-9	Fossil Fest, Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, TX
November 15	Field Trip: Vertebrate Lab (tbd)
December	Christmas Party: Pot luck (the club supplies the meat). Bring a fossil related, wrapped prize for the white elephant exchange.

After much discussion of the many item brought for show-and tell, the July meeting opened with Chris Schneider giving a presentation on her studies of the Paleozoic echinoids at the Brownwood Dam spillway.

The talk was followed by a short business meeting. The field trip plans for July were detailed. A field trip to the Bandera area is planned for August.

The door prizes were won by Ed Elliot, Rochelle Margolis and Eric Seaberg.

In the News

Latest Dino discoveries New Dinos From Zuni Basin

Two new species have entered the pantheon of North American dinosaurs, but one still needs a name. A pair of partial skeletons from the Zuni Basin of New Mexico reveal the unnamed creature to be a coelurosaur, a 6-foot-long, two-legged speedster. Most coelurosaurs were lightly built meat-eaters, but the group also includes massive *Tyrannosaurus*. Expert preparators spent months removing rock from the soft, shattered bones. Now that paleontologists have had a closer look at the new coelurosaur, it seems most similar to dromaeosaurs and oviraptors - a close kin of living birds. It probably even sported a shaggy coat of feathers. "Now we're beginning to realize that this guy could be a whole lot more important than we had thought," says paleontologist Jim Kirkland.

Bizarre, Bird-Like Beast

A stranger creature from Zuni Basin's Cretaceous mother lode is the first therizinosaur ever found in the United States. Named *Nothronychus*, or "sloth-like claw," this long-armed, bird-like beast had a small, beaked head and scrawny neck on an upright body supported by broad legs and a short tail. Therizinosaurs belong to the meat-eating theropod branch of dinosaurs, but the tiny teeth of *Nothronychus* may have mainly chewed plants. It could lift its arms overhead and use its claws to hook branches and leaves. More like a turkey than a *T. rex*, "They're not the fast-running, gazelle-like creatures of the Late Cretaceous," says Zuni team leader Doug Wolfe.

From <http://dsc.discovery.com/convergence/dinos/report/report.html>

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.

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P.O. Box 90791
Austin TX 78709-0791