

Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society
December 2003

President's Note

Dear Santa, I now know how you feel. I'm stuffed, and I feel like a turkey. Really, I feel like a couple of pecan and pumpkin pies. We need to get out for some exercise and collecting before it's too late.

I want to thank you for the early Christmas gifts. You know the ones. There was that great Fossil Fest show with the great dealers, great deals and great members helping insure the show was a success. Allan Peters, a.k.a. dinosaur howler, was great again with the kids. Danny and Mike put their all into the production again. And it was great seeing Don O'Neill and family visiting and shopping at the show.

There were also all those great field trips this year, but I'll just thank you for the November trip to **UT's V-P Lab**. Dr. Pamela Owen proudly showed us their improvements to insure that all those bones will last far into the future. They have been working very hard on redoing the displays at the Texas Memorial Museum. We will keep you updated as to the grand opening early next year.

Santa, I know you won't be able to carry all those tons of fossils we need for Christmas this year, your sleigh being so small and all. So, I've come up with a backup plan for you. The club is planning a **Christmas party, Sunday, December 14**, and each person will bring at least one wrapped fossil or fossil-related item, and a side dish/ desert. See map. There will be bar-b-que and a gift exchange. All are welcome, including guests. Thank you, Greg and Hollis Thompson for hosting the party at your house again. I plan to have a slate of officers to be voted on at the party. Come make sure you don't get elected in absentia.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! John

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be held this year at the Thompson's.

Sunday, December 14, beginning at 5:00
207 Adelfa Dr. round Rock, TX 78664
341-0212

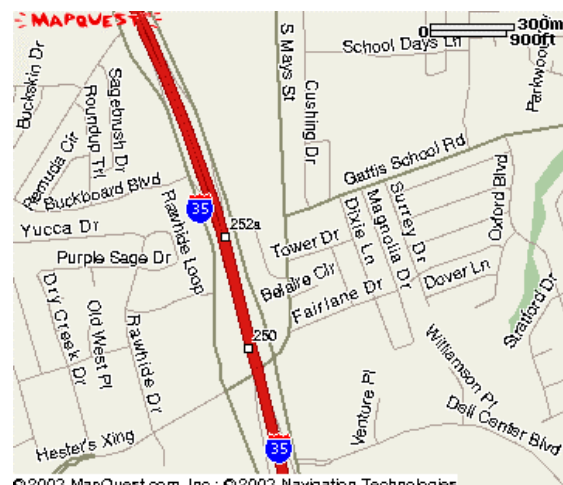
Each person should bring at least one wrapped fossil or fossil-related item, and a side dish/ desert. Past examples have ranged from fossils, to books, to Paleontologist Barbi.

There will be **NO MEETING** in December. Do not be found hanging around the LCRA building on Tuesday, December 9th. The Christmas party serves as our December meeting.

Directions (from Hollis): Diagonal parking on our lawn is preferred! Some of the neighbors have sprinkler systems. So if you pull into our front yard like diagonal street parking, a lot of cars will fit. Driveway is available also.

Traveling North on I-35

1. Exit 250 (Business 35); pass Home Depot, Joes Crab Shack.



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2. Turn right at light. Pass carwash and Quick Stop.
3. Turn right at (second?) light onto Gattis School Rd. Go about 3 miles to 4-way stop at Red Bud, just past Albertsons on left. There are several 4-way stops before you get to this one.
4. Turn right on Red Bud.
5. Take the first left, Adelfa Drive.
6. Second house on left, #207, white stone.

November Trip Report Vertebrate Paleontology Lab

Dr. Pamela Owens gave us an extended guided tour of the lab. We met at the Burnet entrance at 11 am, Saturday, November 15.



Hal Hopkins examines early Permian amphibian

We had a large turnout, including several new members. We viewed the preparation area and got an idea of how creative those folks have to be on a limited budget. Then we checked out the care and feeding of the smaller fossils upstairs and got to spend a great deal of time wandering around the large shelved fossils in the basement (see the picture above and below). It is always a treat to get to wander through shelf after shelf of incredible specimens. Thanks again to Dr. Owens for a great tour. We'll be back.

Mike Smith



Fest visitor, with cool sweatshirt.

Fossil Fest 2003 Report

Fossil Fest went well this year. Despite the fact that attendance was down somewhat from last year, the Club netted \$1986. I am guessing the attendance drop was a combination of the rain and the Texas Book Fair. Thanks to everyone who showed up and put in so much time. I'm not going to single out any adult members, since I am sure to overlook someone, but a number of folks were there for two or even three full days, and their work is hugely appreciated. And those who helped out when they were able to make all the difference. Thanks to Mark, Taylor and Caroline on the wheel of fossils – you did a great job guys! The Wheel was awesome this year. We had some unbelievable stuff picked up for 25 cents. Thanks Rich, for making sure every kid got a piece of wood.

Don Carpenter gets the award again this year for traveling the farthest. Thanks to Betty for dragging him out here.

Congratulations to our Grand Door Prize Winners!

- #1 Tim Bicknell (Trilobite slab reproduction)
- #2 Judy Satterfield (Fossil Wood)
- #3 Bob Wirig (Mammoth Tooth)

NOTE: The Texas Memorial Museum Store is having a sale - 20% off all purchases Dec 4-14. Special extended hours on Thurs, 12/4: 9 am to 7 pm. All other days: Mon-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm; Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm; and Sundays 1 to 5 pm.

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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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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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