

# Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society  
November 2004

## President's Message

Well, I'm sitting here Sunday afternoon at another successful Fossil Fest. A round of applause is owed to Ron Root, this year's Show Chair. Great job, Ron! And special thanks to Dan Robinson of KXAN for doing his morning weather report live from the show. I think that drove a lot of folks out to Round Rock. And thanks to Danny Harlow for roping him in! Finally, I want to thank everyone who showed up to help out. It's fairly easy to put this show together if we have plenty of help. I keep learning and I know Ron has some ideas on how to improve the process.

I got a call a few weeks ago from Pat Martin, Quentin's widow. She told me she had some of his fossils she wanted to donate to the club. I went over and picked them up. As you would have expected if you had pulled material out of any of our garages there were a couple of buckets of spinning wheel material. What I had not expected was that we would have the Grand Door prizes for the next several Fossil Fest's taken care of. We have a beautiful Moroccan slab, with 6 ammonites and an orthocerid, a *Dactyloceros* slab from Germany, a very large shark tooth, a trilobite slab, and numerous great items for meeting door prizes and the club auction. Thank you very much, Pat.

We are looking for nominations for officers for next year. So before the arm-twisting starts, volunteer! Let me know if you feel the call to serve.

Lake Texoma was great, as usual. We maintained our perfect record of bringing back a jellyfish every year, though it seems to get tougher. Congratulations, Hal! And it was a pleasure to see Jeff and Jonathan Doerzbacher, who again get the award for the longest distance traveled. I particularly

enjoyed Jonathan's video of trying to pass through the wall to Platform 9 ¾ (I think I've got that right, Harry Potter fanatics can correct me).

Watch for field trip details in your email or call Ed Elliott. We are planning a trip for the weekend of Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.

See you at the Christmas party.

Mike

## November Meeting

The meeting date is November 9<sup>th</sup> and will have already happened when you receive your newsletter. I hope you were able to attend.

The December meeting will be the Christmas Party instead of the regular meeting. Our party will be at Ron and Janet Root's home at on Saturday, December 11, arrive around 5:30 to 6:00 and eat about 6:30. Their home is in the Oak Knoll/183 area. Directions will be included further in this newsletter.

The meat and drinks are to be provided by CTPS and each family should bring a covered dish and or dessert.

Each person attending needs to bring a wrapped, fossil related gift if they wish to participate in our gift exchange game.

See you there!!!!

## November Field Trip

As Mike mentioned in his president's message, a field trip is in the works for the weekend of

November 20<sup>th</sup>. At this time the plans are to go to the Invertebrate Paleo Lab with Ann Molineux or the Highway 21 near the Brazos River for Eocene fossils. Get in touch with Ed or watch for an email from Mike.

## Help Wanted

At Fossil Fest, Mike was approached by Ann Couch from Georgetown. Ann is looking for someone to make a fossil presentation.

Ann can be reached at work 943-5060 ext 6638, or at home 255-7541. I think Mike said she was a schoolteacher and needs the presentation for her students.

## Upcoming Shows

**December 3-5, 2004** Austin Gem & Mineral Society, Gem Capers, December 3-5, 2004 held at the Crockett Center on Hwy 290

**February 19-20, 2004** Williamson County Gem & Mineral Show, Georgetown Community Center, San Gabriel Park, Georgetown, Texas

**April 8-10, 2004** M.A.P.S. Expo XXVII, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois

## October 13th Meeting minutes:

By Eric Seaberg

The field trip plans to Lake Texoma were discussed.

Plans for Fossil Fest support were explained and sign-up sheets were available for volunteers.

Ron Root made a presentation regarding his latest trip to New Mexico. He visited the Lake Valley Formation. He did his research for the trip following the instructions from the UT Geology Librarian who was our speaker several months ago.

He found several different interesting localities, but his cautionary tale was that just because you have latitude and longitude coordinates, the locations may not be easy to find. In fact, it could narrow the search down to just a square mile. A square mile in rough terrain may be a difficult search.

He also visited the Kenny brick quarry on his trip and had good luck.

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Don's new phone number 830-426-8597

## Fossil Fest

Recap by Hollis Thompson

Just a few tidbits about Fossil Fest: If you didn't come you missed another really good one.

Attendance was great except for Friday, as many area schools have cut back on field trips. What a shame, when there is so much they could learn by attending shows like *Fossil Fest* and *Gem Capers* to name a few.

Dan Robertson from KXAN television station broadcast his weather forecasts from Fossil Fest. I taped each of the segments and have almost 18 minutes where he talked about our show and showed many of the fossils on exhibit and some footage from previous Fossil Fest shows. He says it's his favorite fall show, but he can't say paleontological very fast. He interviewed Ron Root, Mike Smith, Don O'Neill and Danny Harlow. We very much appreciated him being there and feel some of our attendance was due to him being there.

Alan Peters entertained our kids and their parents with his array of plants and animals and fossils and his great noises. Thank you Alan, you add a lot to our show as well.

We had three great door prizes. Cast of fossil reptile *Seymouria baylorensis* was won by 7 yr old Chay Creswell of Fort Worth, the chunk of petrified **Teredo** wood won by Karen Elm of Florence, Texas and a fossil shark's tooth in matrix won by Miriam Hall of Bastrop, Texas.



A pretty neat highlight of our Friday events was singing Happy Birthday to Elizabeth or Tybb as she has been called most of her life. Elizabeth turned 86 years young on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>, so we sang to her just a couple of days early. Elizabeth is the

mother of Shari Siste, one of our members. Happy Birthday, Elizabeth, and many more.

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Plans are already started for our next year's show, so save you extra fossils for the spinning wheel and ask your boss for that weekend off.

## October Field Trip Report

By Ed Elliott

For me, the wonderful weekend started out early Friday afternoon. After making sure that the campsites were secured, writing a check and setting up camp, Rich Geist and I decided to do a little hunting. Little Mineral Creek seemed a good choice. At the spot we decided to go in, there were thick poison ivy vines going up the trees, two-foot tall poison ivy "bushes" and ivy vines all over the ground. Safety tip---in such situations always wear shorts and a tee-shirt. Well....maybe not. I still have the nice Duck Creek Formation ammonite but the rash is gone. A real tip; if after a silly act like mine, you find yourself with a rash, there's a new product that actually works, called Zanafel. It removes the inflammation and the itch.

By 8:00 Saturday morning ten members had assembled at the gate at Eisenhower State Park. Ron and Janet Root, Gary and Kathy Rylander, Hal Hopkins, Mike Smith, Jeff and Jonathan Doerzbacher, Rich Geist and myself. It was a blustery invigorating morning and we couldn't wait to get to our first site. This is generally a Weno/PawPaw Formation site; if you walk far enough, the shoreline becomes the Duck Creek Formation. Besides being a beautiful place for a morning walk-very nice fossil are always found. Rich found some very lovely gastropods with pearly shells in that red breccia-like rock. He and Jonathan also found some tiny button corals. Hal said he had found a Kirklandia texana, a jellyfish impression. Out of that same red rock, Mike found a very pretty ammonite with shell intact. I picked up a very nice Trigonia clavigera. I am sure that Gary picked up some nice ammonites and large Macrasters from the Duck Creek.

At the close of the day, we all spruced up a bit and went across the dam into Oklahoma for our traditional dinner at Wendy's. To me, sitting around talking and laughing over dinner is simply a much anticipated part of the Texoma experience. I was sorry that some of the usual faces were missing from around the table that night.

Sunday morning most of us ate at the new and very close by I-Hop. (A new tradition?) We then went hunting by the dam. This Duck Creek Formation site has a wealth of fossils. There, a few areas where shark teeth can be found. There are a large number of small to medium sized ammonites to be found including Mortonoceras, Drakeoceras, Idiohamites and the truly large Eopachydicus. Though I have never found any of the large Macrasters here, there are quite a few of the small to moderate sized ones. There is so much area to collect in. The Doerzbachers had to leave to drive back to Tennessee and Rich back to East Texas. One by one everyone left. I stayed until five, partly because I'm hard headed and partly because this is one field trip I always hate to see end. To anyone who missed it, I can only say, "Don't miss it next year!"



## Articles

As you will probably notice, I came across some pretty neat article in the Stoney Statements newsletters that I have had around the house. I don't receive them anymore but the ones I have certainly have included some very interesting articles from minerals to fossils to meteorites and more. I hope you enjoy them.

## Geologic Wonders Hit the Highway

Article provided to me by Greg Thompson

On road trips and family vacations unwinding this summer across North America, travelers have shared the road with a 12-million year old rhinoceros, a 16-foot long turtle and a strange purple invertebrate known as the Tully Monster. No, these critters aren't driving a convertible in the next lane; they are fossils, rendered as colorful graphics on the side of U-Haul trucks.

The rhino is *Teleoceras*. The turtle is *Archelon*. And the Tully Monster or *Tullimonstrum gregarium*, might be a mollusk or it might be a worm, no one is quite sure. Other U-Haul trucks bear illustration of Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds, Kentucky's Mammoth Cave and Utah's Canyon of the Escalante. The U-Haul SuperGraphics program details these geological curiosities on the sides of their fleet of panel trucks as a public service. It is a singular program, showing the average person everything from the Manson meteor crater in Iowa to the fluorescent minerals of New Jersey's Franklin and Sterling Mines, all on the side of a truck.

These illustrations follow an earlier series that, beginning in 1988, documented nationally renowned aspects of cities, states and Canadian provinces. The current "Venture Across America" series, which was initiated in 1997 focuses on more enigmatic local topics. Although most deal with geology, there are also graphics exploring enormous mushrooms, ghost orchids and even the alleged UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico.

The graphics have a uniform format, appearing at a slight tilt with a serigraph-like appearance. Because each color is its own block of ink, U-Haul Senior Art Director Monique Meadows says, "What you get is something that looks more like art and less like pre-fab advertising."

The images often have multiple components. For example, the Tully Monster swims in front of a map of the world, with the Carboniferous location of Illinois marked on the Equator. In the Manson crater graphic, the fiery meteor streaks past a complicated mathematical equation. The Franklin and Sterling Mines graphic bear the mineral formula for hardystonite ( $\text{Ca}_2\text{ZnSi}_2\text{O}_7$ ) lurking behind the miner and his fluorescent hand samples.

A lot of people see the U-Haul graphics. The trucks are out in front of the viewing public every day, with each design applied as a giant decal onto an average of 600 of U-Haul's 89,000 trucks.

"It's a novel way to bring unique things to the attention of the public," says Donald Mikulic of the Illinois State Geological Survey. Mikulic was consulted for the Tully Monster graphic, and he approves of U-Haul's efforts at scientific accuracy. "They put a lot of effort into getting it right," he says.

An emphasis on credibility leads the eight-person U-Haul art team to consult directly with the top researchers on each topic. "We don't want to be sloppy about it," Meadows says.

There is only so much a graphic can convey at 60 miles per hour, however. To supplement the eye-catching graphics, U-Haul maintains separate educational web sites that develop the story surrounding most topics. These Web sites, also designed by U-Haul's team, are exemplars of innovative design, with a sophisticated sense of space and color balance. The geological information is presented in language geared for the general public, with a suite of links for interested visitors to pursue further.

The team is continually searching for fresh topic ideas. New releases in 2004 include New Hampshire tectonics and John Wesley Powell's time in Wyoming. The team's brainstorming frequently finds its inspiration in the earth sciences. "To find things that are unusual, we keep coming back to the scientific world," Meadows says. "Geology keeps speaking to us."

August 2004 issue of *Geotimes* Published by the American Geological Institute Author of this article Callan Bentley, *Geotimes* contributing writer

## Jurassic Bark II

Features Fossilized Trees Millions of Years Old

*Stoney Statements* October 1998

The Houston Museum of Natural Science exhibited a collection of fossilized trees, plants and related graphics beginning September 12 through May 16, 1999. **Jurassic Bark: II the Zuhl Collection of Petrified Wood** is the follow-up to the Jurassic Bark exhibit displayed at the Museum in 1996 and featured

dozens of perfectly preserved, beautifully polished cross-sections of fossilized trees, some of which flourished more than 100 million years ago.

Ancient trees aided in hiding herbivores from stalking predators, camouflaged hungry carnivores searching for food and provided shelter and food for many strange species that roamed our planet tens of millions of years ago. Some of these trees are so perfectly preserved that features such as growth rings, wormholes, and the effects of fires and disease remain clearly visible. Most of these spectacular cross-sections exhibit vibrant colors caused by the minerals present during the fossilization process.

Petrified wood forms when solids precipitate from ground water within and between the cells of buried logs. Minerals that precipitate within these logs can include calcite (calcium carbonate), hematite (iron oxide), and pyrite (iron sulfide). Varieties of silica (silicon dioxide) including agate, quartz, and opal, may also precipitate within wood.

## Eras

October 1998 *Stoney Statements* via Rok-Tok  
August 1997

Written by Roger van Cleef, MAGS Member from  
MAGS May 1997

**Mesozoic: (Era)** It means “pertaining to life” John Phillips coined this term in the early Nineteenth Century. This era originally included the **Cretaceous**, **Jurassic**, **Triassic** and part of the **Cambrian**, but Phillips revised the stratigraphy and proposed the terms now in use.

**Tertiary:** This term was introduced in the Eighteenth Century to mean rocks overlying earlier ones, which at this time were called “primary” and “secondary” rocks. Based on the rocks in the Paris Basin, this period was divided into “epochs” with the Greek names: **Paleocene**-ancient recent, **Eocene**-dawn recent, **Oligocene**-scant recent, **Miocene**-less recent, and **Pliocene**-more recent.

**Quaternary:** A term used by French and German geologists, meaning fourth, they describe unconsolidated materials, like those deposited by streams, lakes, and glaciers, which covered Tertiary rocks.

**Pleistocene:** the term, meaning most new, was invented by Sir Charles Lyell, French geologist. He divided the **Pliocene** into Newer and Older, with the Newer getting this name.

**Cenozoic:** The name, meaning recent life, was invented by John Phillips in 1840, to include the **Tertiary** and the **Quaternary**.

## Amber

*Stoney Statements* May 1998

by Emile Smith member

Amber probably got the name from the French - Ambar. Amber is found in several places such as Dominican Republic, Baltic Coast, United States, Canada, Chili and Burma. “Old” amber is millions of years old while Copal is a more recent deposit of resin, possibly 10,000 years old. Plastic is sometimes substituted for amber.

Amber can be tested several ways. Firstly a heavy concentration of kitchen salt in water, the amber and copal will sink while the polystyrene (plastic) will float. Secondly, benzyl will dissolve polystyrene making it soft and stringy. Thirdly, ethyl alcohol (denatured alcohol) softens the surface of Copal in less than 30 seconds, so if the specimen is rubbed on white cloth, it leaves a distinct mark and the friction will also produce a visible sign of abrasion. So, Amber is not attached by benzyl or denatured alcohol.

Amber is very heat sensitive. It will start to decompose at 150 degrees C and melts at 250 degrees C. When melted it gives off a smell of pine resin.

Amber can be polished very easily either on a muslin buff or a felt wheel after the usual coarse, medium and final sanding are completed. Any grease type polish such as *Zam Rouge* can be used. If too much heat is allowed the Amber will blister.

Amber can be faceted using the cutting angles culet 43 degrees. Use a cutting lap of fine or extra fine. Polish on a wax ultra lap.

## Scientists say Asteroid Movies

### Full of Realism

By Dick Stanley *Stoney Statements*  
Newsletter via the Fort Worth Star

Telegram, submitted by Sharon  
Melrose via the Cowtown Cutter  
June 1998

AUSTIN – The audiences viewing *Deep Impact*, a new disaster movie about asteroids threatening Earth, include a surprising number of enthusiastic scientists. For once, they say, Hollywood has made a science fiction movie with almost as much science as fiction.

“Most of the scientists I know, think it is a very reasonable movie, scientifically,” said Peter Shelus, an astronomer at the University of Texas. Shelus is among the world’s approximately 100 professional and amateur asteroid hunters who aim to keep earthlings from being surprised by one of these mountain-sized chunks of rock.

So far, 108 asteroids or comets – other icy remnants of the early solar system—are classified as potential hazards to Earth. Asteroid and comet hunters hope *Deep Impact* is the idea that the government could keep an impending strike a secret. “It’s not going to begin to be hidden because too many people are involved,” Sheuls said.

Sky & Telescope Magazine recently launched “Impact Hazards: Truth and Consequences,” a new Web Site ([impact.skypub.com](http://impact.skypub.com)). It features the views of Rick Binzel, an astronomer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1985, while he was a UT graduate student, Binzel had an asteroid named after him by the International Astronomical Union in recognition for being the worlds’ most active observer of asteroids.

These days, Binzel is proposing a hazard index for newly discovered comets and asteroids to take some of the sensationalism out of the subject. The index would describe, on a scale from zero to five, the likelihood of any objects striking Earth in the next 100 years.

For dramatic purposes, the disaster movies focus on the danger to cities and other populated areas. Actually, only about 10 percent of the planet is inhabited, so in any year there is only a 1 in 3,000 chance of a fatality from an impact, Binzel said.

## **Fossils and Medicine**

Extracted from an article by Fred Labahn  
Taken from *Stoney Statements* October 1998

What follows is a review of part of the folklore connected with customs and practices dating back to the Paleolithic tribes of Europe.

As recently as 200 years ago, many people of the world, including scientists and doctors, believed that among other things fossils had remarkable powers to cure different ailments. Physicians and Folk Doctors did not agree on why fossils cured people and animals, but they agreed fossils were good medicine. Amber was listed in an important Pharmacopoeia (list of drugs, their use and amounts) as a bona fide medicine as late as 1948.

The use of fossils reached their peak just after the Middle Ages. Physicians and Folk Doctors collected and prepared their own medications. In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, Emperor Frederick II of Germany set down strict rules ordering a separation of roles for the physician and apothecary. These rules, however, did not apply to the Folk Doctors. The apothecaries prepared the fossils for use by grinding them to a fine powder and then mixing with wine, water or other liquids for internal use. Honey, wax, oil or other things were used to make ointments or salves.

In 1700 a large deposit of mammoth bones were found near the Neckar River. The Duke of Wurttemberg ordered a scientific dig. The scientists of the day did so and in the process got into an argument whether they were elephants brought to Europe by Hannibal, bones from old Roman sacrifices or animals destroyed by the great flood recorded in the Bible. While this was going on, the pharmacists, who collected materials for their own use, calmly gathered all the teeth and powdered them for medicinal use.

No one seems to know why certain fossils were used for specific illnesses except that the shape of the fossil determined its use. An example, in Scotland, the oyster *Gryphaea*, commonly called the Devil’s Toenail, was used for arthritic joint pains. Powdered amber mixed with other medicines was given to pregnant women to prevent miscarriage, mixed with wine it eased the pain of childbirth. A necklace of amber beads worn by small babies protected against poisons, witchcraft and sorcery. Callistrus, a Greek of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC, believed that yellow amber if worn as a collar about the neck, cured fevers and diseases of the mouth, throat and jaws. Powdered and mixed with honey and oil of roses, it was good for diseases of the ear, added to honey it was an excellent salve used to improve dim eyesight. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century a doctor found a way to make oil of

amber and from then to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Oil of amber was used by many doctors for gout, rheumatism, whooping cough, bronchitis and other ailments.

Ammonites are the favorite fossils of many collectors all over the world. The Greeks of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century used ammonites as a cure for blindness and snakebites. The snakebite remedy came from the belief that ammonites were petrified snakes. Sea urchins were also part of the pharmacists' stock. A sea urchin spine found in Palestine was used for almost 2,000 years. Pliny, the Roman historian of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, said that whoever licked it would find his gallstones broken and voided in short order, but Galen, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Century physician, said that they should be crushed in a mortar and mixed with water to be effective. Belemnites were thought to be thunderbolts by people of the Middle Ages, and still are in some parts of Great Britain. They were crushed, and the powder kept a person from being struck by lightning or bewitched by demons from the sky. They were also used to cure a variety of illnesses and prevented nightmares.

Fossil shark teeth were thought to be tongues of serpents, which St. Paul had turned to stone on his visit to the island of Malta. Because of this myth, they were believed to have power against the bites of any reptiles. Wine in which shark teeth had been soaked was thought to be a good antidote for snakebite or any other poison.

Cures for ailments were also found in the use of jet, a very hard coal, dragon bones, unicorn horns (which were probably the horn of the male narwhal) and toadstones, which were teeth of rays.

Taken from *The Southwest Gems*, Jan96, as taken from *Triassic Valley Bulletin* Apr94, as taken from *Glacial Drifter* Jan94, from Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter Mar91

## Horn corals

*Stoney Statements* May 1998  
via *Pickin's & Diggin's* via  
*The Pineywoods Rooter*  
August 1997

Whereas most corals are colonial animals, horn corals were small, solitary marine animals. In appearance they looked like a stretched out cone. Their skeletons were solid and probably made of calcium carbonate.

The horn coral belongs to an extinct group of corals known as the Rugosa. They occur in Ordovician-Permian strata around the world. The solitary corals of larger size probably flourished best in moderate depths under moderate light conditions. They may have lived in slightly deeper water than the colonial reef builders.

## Drink More Water

Someone with a real sense of humor placed a picture in *The Beach Triton*, the newspaper in the Galveston area. A lady with very large breasts, too large in fact to fit on our pages so you will just have to use your own imagination.

The message is very clear.....drink a lot of water.  
It reads:

Now that I have your attention, go get another glass of water!

Smile! Try not to think about this the next time you are thirsty and go for a glass of water.

One glass of water shuts down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a University study.

Lack of water is the #1 trigger of daytime fatigue.

Preliminary research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.

A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math and difficulty focusing on the computer screen.

Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79% and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

Are you drinking the amount of water you should every day?

(No kidding, all the above is true..)

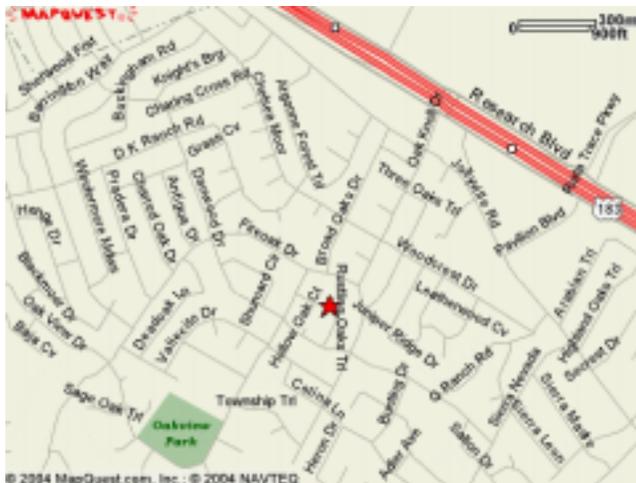
Of course, too much water may have strange side effects. See the picture...you know the one of the lady whose chest is toooooo large to put on our pages!

## Christmas Party Ron & Janet Root's

6801 Rustling Oaks

### Directions:

Heading north on 183 (Research) from Mopac, exit on Oak Knoll. Turn under the freeway and continue west on Oak Knoll about 1/3 mile. Turn right on Fire Oak. Turn left at the next left turn (Oak View) and then left again at the next left onto Rustling Oaks. 6801 is the second house on the right (street light out front and a grassless native plant front yard).



From the Austin American Statesman August 27, 2000

## Bone of the Gods

By Bryn Nelson of Newsday

Fossils of prehistoric creatures may have been the seeds of ancient myths.

Long ago in a land of giants and heroes and gods and monster, brave Heracles rescued the King's daughter Hesione, from the gaping jaws of the gruesome Monster of Troy. Sent as a sacrifice to appease the fearsome creature, Hesione fought back with rocks while Heracles' arrows found their mark.

The heroics of mythic Heracles are chronicled on a Corinthian vase from the sixth century B. C. the earliest depiction of the Monster of Troy story and a prized artifact at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. But for years, art historians have deemed the interpretation of the sea monster woefully inadequate, amateurish even, not at all like the undulating bodies,

piercing eyes and upturned snout of similar creatures rendered by the artist's contemporaries. Instead, the hideous and curiously white head of the beast emerges from a cave or cliff; it's hollow eyes and forward-leaning teeth giving it a ghastly countenance.

When classical folklorist Adrienne Mayor studied the vase, however, she saw something else entirely – something immediately familiar about the monster's disembodied head and something historians had long overlooked.

"I had been looking at so many fossils from the coast of Troy, it just jumped out at me that it had to be a fossil skull," she says. "They thought it was a poorly drawn sea monster, but actually it is a very well-drawn fossil skull."

A number of paleontologists agreed, and the vase is now the cover illustration for Mayor's new book on the connections between mythology and early paleontology in Greece and Rome titled "The first Fossil Hunters." The vase, Mayor argues, is most likely "the earliest artistic record of a vertebrate fossil discovery."

Merging the fields of paleontology, which focuses on prehistoric life or archaeology (which concentrates on ancient peoples, and classical literature) Mayor's research has uncovered striking correlations between modern fossil finds and many of the myths and folklore that sprang up in early Western civilization. Bolstered by evidence linking contemporary dig sites to the origins of monsters and heroes in ancient texts, Mayor theorized that these myths contain at their core, a surprisingly sophisticated attempt to explain bones of immense proportions.

"As a classical folklorist, I believe that legends about nature are usually based on something real, even if it is exaggerated or has elements of fantasy," Mayor says. "There is usually a core of truth, or they wouldn't be so widely told."

Next month, I will put the balance of this article in the newsletter and include a picture of the vase showing the skull.

## Central Club Contacts, 2004

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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.

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