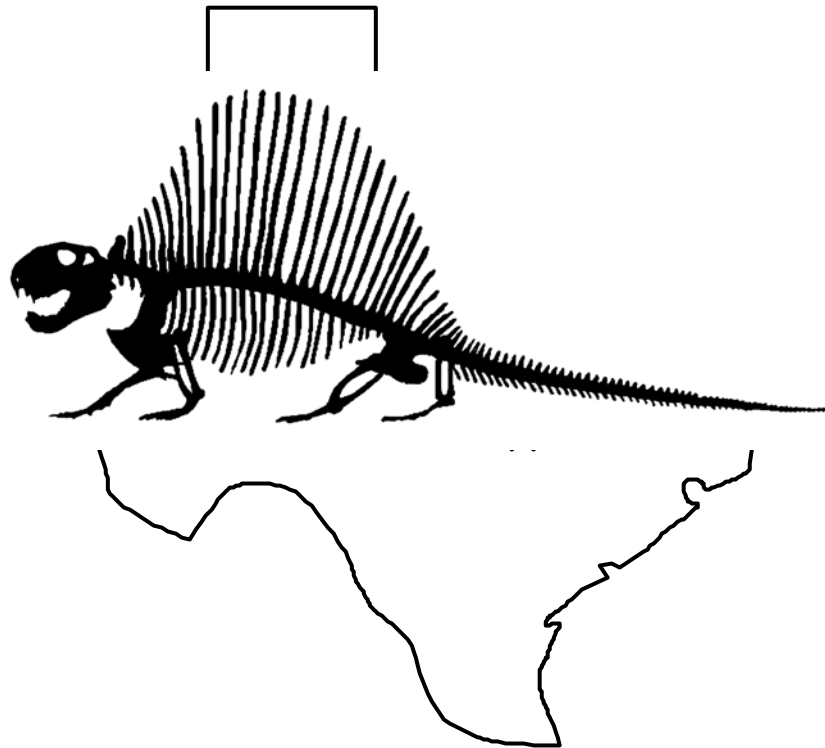


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 2, Number 6
June 2007

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

What a great time tromping through the creek in East Texas one last time! Downed petrified trees everywhere! But, alas, now I know how that can happen. My home got hit by a freight train of a storm last night, straight winds and all, and we lost three 50-60 foot tall cedar elms, several huge oaks and some nice redbuds. All that was missing was some quick mud cover and more water to eventually fossilize my loss. At least they luckily fell away from the house.

Field Trip Czar Ed Elliott has been working hard on creating a fine trip for us in Oklahoma this month, so get your chigger medicine packed. I talked to Mike Marlow of Clarita this weekend. He claims there has been plenty of rain washing out new material and we won't even be able to "scratch" the surface. So I'll see you at the Callixylon Tree on the campus of East Central University in Ada, OK Saturday the 23rd.

In the meantime, you echinoid people can look at a site through the name of Bas Vander Steld. Click on his echinoid site, then click on "more" on the bottom right to see his whole collection. Sorry, these are modern specimens, but they sure are fun to look at!

John

Next Meeting - June 19 "Update on Early Ordovician Echinoderms from NE Utah and SE Idaho"

7:00 PM, AGMS Clubhouse

The speaker for the June 19 meeting will be our very own Dr. Jim Sprinkle, the First Yager Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, where he has been teaching since 1971. Jim grew up in Massachusetts, has a Bachelor's Degree from MIT, and a Master's and Ph.D. from Harvard. Most of his research has been on Cambrian and Ordovician echinoderms, but early in his career he also worked on Mississippian blastoids, and more recently, he has worked on Pennsylvanian edrioasteroids and echinoids. In 1989, Jim started a major project on Early Ordovician echinoderms from the Great Basin, first working with Tom Guensburg (Rock Valley College) and Ph.D. student Colin Sumrall, and more recently with Forest Gahn (now BYU - Idaho). During his long research career, he has published two monographs and a lab manual, plus 141 journal papers, book chapters, popular articles, and abstracts. His talk will be entitled "Update on Early Ordovician Echinoderms from NE Utah and SE Idaho".

Thank you very much, Diann

DISCOVER NATURE REPORT

March 24, 2007, Linda McCall

It was a SUCCESS!!

We were downstairs in the back in the corner in the dark – but with 1,500 attendees at the function – how could you go wrong? We had lots of traffic – handed out lots of Club fliers and Fossil Fest fliers and membership applications. We were there from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm and had a wonderful time. The booth was set up as a series of collecting, cleaning, identifying, displaying stations and the kids really went for the cleaning part with water and toothbrushes flying. It was great fun and we plan to do it again next year. See pix!

Special thanks go to David and Mark Lindberg who came early and stayed all day, manning the cleaning station and to Gary Rylander who manned the touch table for most of the day. Thanks also go out to Jamie Young, Diann Strout, Ed Elliott and my husband Bruce McCall for donating their time to help out. And, if I missed anyone – so sorry – I didn't write this down soon enough!

Pamela Owen said she would be glad to hand out club fliers if we would like when folks come in asking about fossil collecting. I made one up from the website info and I can run off a bunch and take them to her if the club would like.

Fossil Fest Show Committee Meeting Report

April 11, 2007, Linda McCall

Dealer Packets were mailed out to all previous Fossil Fest Dealers on March 30, 2007.

On April 11, 2007 we had a preliminary show committee meeting with Linda McCall, David Lindberg, Erich Rose, Diann Strout and Jamie Young in attendance. Did I miss anybody?

We went over the dealer packet contents, and discussed feed back I had received from several dealers indicating that the show could be improved by ramping up advertising and also by allowing dealers who had more than just fossils to sell, not be limited to just 25% other material. The show committee members in attendance thought this was reasonable – so long as dealers sold a “majority” of fossil material. Last year's attendee numbers and dealer sales were dismal. Next years letter will be revised as such. This year's had already gone out as 75% fossil, 25% other.

Ideas for improving the show included getting UT / TMM “professionals” to demonstrate on Friday to lure more school fieldtrip traffic (Anne Molineux and Pamela Owen have agreed to demonstrate).

Other improvements were to have a “press kit” for media and for the schools (to be created by Bruce McCall) and to create fossil teacher kits as well to hand out prior to the show as well as a question and answer game, age specific, for the school kids to do at the show.

We plan to reinstate the Sat, Sun fieldtrip idea – a quick one to Berry Creek, led 3 times a day – and get a popcorn machine, do “easy” food like hot dogs, etc. in the kitchen, rent, beg borrow, etc. some PA equip for announcements, changing up the table drapes from paper to plastic for a better look and upgrading our signs and banners, just to name a few.

I have been sitting in on the AGMS show committee meetings and getting some ideas from them as well.

We also discussed opening up the show committee to other club members besides just the officers and board members – after all, it’s YOUR show! – so, anyone with an expertise that could help (boy scout connections, girl scout connections, TV, Radio connections, school connections, set up help, tear down help, etc. – or anyone who just wants to join in – if you would like to be a committee member – you can volunteer now, see me after the meeting or send me an email or give me a call! The more the merrier!

We also discussed moving the show next year to a different time. November is bad in sooo many ways – not the least of which is that dealers go to Tucson in February – and by November have only the dregs left! And there are lots of other things going on that same weekend that we lose dealers to. So, we would like to propose moving the show to April sometime. We would probably have to skip a year to do it. So, be thinking about that.

This year is going to be a challenge. Last year was dismal, as I mentioned before. Only 3 dealers have confirmed so far for this year. Scott Singleton will not be returning. Nor will the Schulers (Luckily Alan Peters still will). But we will need to get creative and find more dealers to contact. Any info would be appreciated!

Editor’s Note: A follow up meeting was held May 29, 2007 at 7:00pm at Linda’s house. More notes to follow from that meeting and if Linda is at the June meeting I am sure she will give a verbal report as well.

Some May meeting notes from Linda McCall:

The club approved a code of conduct and ethics. See them later in this newsletter.

BANDERA has been GRADED!!

Discussed starting a FOSSIL SWAP (a forum where club members can set up tables and buy sell or swap our stuff – similar to what AGMS does)

There is a need to change the Colorado field trip to August 9 – 15 (weekend of Aug 11, 12) Details to follow

May Field trip Report

Ed Elliott

Another beautiful day in east Texas. Eight members, Linda and Bruce McCall, Gary and Cathy Rylander, John Hinte, Melvin Noble, myself and our resident woodsman and host Rich Geist, all met with the Pine County Gem & Mineral Society field trip at “*The Stump*.” This wood hunt is one of my favorites. I probably already have enough wood around my house, but if I have the chance I’ll certainly return for more. Being out in the piney woods on a cool morning, jumping into a shallow serpentine creek and wading for hours is fun. For those who filled up their trucks, maybe more work than fun. I love to see the faces of first timers. Even if you have been told of the quantity of wood available – it’s still a shock. I do hope we’re able to return one day. The property is up for sale. We’ll see. The wood around Jasper is all Oligocene, Catahoula Formation. Thanks to the volcanism in west Texas and Mexico during the Oligocene, all this wood is silicified and has nice colors. Drusy Quartz and Chalcedony enhanced the looks of many of the pieces. While several people found palm wood, kudos goes to Bruce McCall for a nice large piece. Our thanks goes out to Ron DeCote for inviting us on this and all the other trips we’ve made.

After leaving Bear Creek Rich led us to the road cut (marine Eocene) at Chireno. The big draw here is an abundance of two things. The first are scallops, *Chalamys* sp. And *Eburneopecten* sp. Rather fragile and usually found only in pieces. The second are *Belosaepia* sp. Whether you call them belemnoid rostrums or squid beaks, they are pretty neat to find.

Our last stop was at Lake Nacogdoches for more marine Eocene shells. An excellent site that always produces great fossils. While its fauna greatly resembles that found at the Stone City Bluff site on the Brazos River, it has many fossils that are different. Corals, nautiloids, gastropods and shark teeth were all found. An excellent trip and our thanks again to Rich Geist for taking us to his hunting grounds.

June Field Trip Paleozoic of South-Central Oklahoma Saturday and Sunday June 23rd & 24th

I hope to see a lot of you in Oklahoma on the 23rd and 24th. We’ll meet in Ada, Oklahoma at the Callixylon tree on the East Central University campus. We will first meet at 8:00AM Saturday. This incredible petrified tree is located at the corner of Main Street and Francis Avenues. There will be parking spots along Main Street. Our collecting sites will be in the Devonian, Silurian and Ordovician. More detailed info will be provided at the next meeting but if you can’t make it to the meeting call Ed Elliott at 821-2124.

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Purpose of the Paleontological Society of Austin:

- To promote serious interest in and knowledge of the science of paleontology.
- To be a network for the exchange of data between professionals and serious amateurs in the field.
- The Society is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes.

To assist the Society in meeting this mission statement and goals, the following are the guidelines for the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

1. Members will conduct themselves in a manner that best represents the purpose of the Society.
2. Members will act responsibly and safely so as not to bring other members or themselves into harm or danger. Firearms are prohibited from all Society functions.
3. Members will respect all private and public properties and will not collect without appropriate permission. Moreover, members will make a sincere effort to keep themselves informed of all laws, regulations and rules regarding collecting on private and public lands.
4. No member will use the name of the Society to gain access to lands, or scientific sites actively under study by paleontological professionals for personal gain or profit.
5. Members will respect and cooperate with the field trip leader or designated authorities in collecting areas. Field trip leaders may ask that certain scientifically significant fossils, found on society field trips, be surrendered to the appropriate facilities. The determination of scientific significance will be the responsibility of the field trip leader.
6. Members will not visit a site prior to a scheduled field trip with the intent or purpose to prevent fair collecting opportunities by the members of the Society.
7. Members should contact the appropriate professionals upon discovery of what the member considers to be scientifically significant fossils. This includes excavation, preparation, and documentation of the fossils in question. Members should consider donating such fossils to appropriate facilities.
8. Members will not barter, sell or purchase scientifically significant fossils unless it brings them into or keeps the fossils within a public trust. We acknowledge that any private trade or commerce in scientifically significant fossils deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens such that part of our natural heritage is consequently lost.
9. Membership of any person failing to uphold the purpose of the Society may be terminated upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, followed by a simple majority vote of the members.

Editor's Note

Oh my it's hot n muggy again. But then it's because of all that rain, and hard rains at that. I'm going back to local sites along 360 every other week and finding new stuff each time. Last year my footprints stayed put for months. We would all love to see what the rain has dredged up for you at our next meeting. In addition we are still looking for new logo submissions for the club. Bring them along and let's get that ball rolling since I am getting tired of putting that old thing on the cover month after month. Now, I am off to Ohio to collect the Cincinnati. I hope to have some great stuff to show as well at the next meeting.

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossils record and assistance to individual, groups and institutions interested in various aspects of paleontology.

Meetings of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** are held the third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building, 6719 Burnet lane, Austin, TX. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Annual Dues: \$15/individual, \$20/family and \$10/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter)

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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL