

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 3, Number 2
February 2008

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I hope everyone's been taking advantage of the great weather for collecting! Almost every weekend has been great. And for those who are willing to do a few hours of volunteering – the Williams County Gemboree is this next weekend, the 16th and 17th.

This month's field trip is in town and starts off at 10:00AM Saturday at the Vertebrate Paleo Lab at the J.J. Pickle Center. Dr. Pam Owen will be showing us around. Afterward we will run over to Bee Caves Road and 360 for collecting.

Hope to see you there.

--Ed

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with the introduction of the slate of officers:

President - Ed Elliot
 VP and Show Chair - Linda McCall
 Editor - Erich Rose
 Secretary - Ron Root
 Treasurer - David Lindberg
 Speaker Chair - Diane Strout
 Field Trip Chair - Ed Elliot
 Board Member - John Hinte

The slate was elected unanimously.

Guests Ray and Chris Bell and Chris Garby introduced themselves

Linda McCall gave a presentation on her discovery in Georgetown called "Edwards Limestone of Georgetown". She discussed her ideas on how the formation was formed and showed us photo of the numerous fauna that were found at the site.

Treasurers Report

David Lindberg reported there was \$ 6524.34 in the old CTPS account. Joan Crane reported there was approximately \$8694 in the old APS

account. She also reported Fossil Mania had a profit of \$1331.74. It will be split with the Dallas club.

John Hinte reported that Guenther Oswald is looking for a copy of Volume 2 of the Ammonite book that he and Ed Bowden put together. Guenther would like to make a copy of it.

Ed Elliot discussed our search to find a place for the club library. It is hoped we can find space in the AGMS clubhouse.

Dianne suggested that the club buy a laptop to be used by guest speakers. There was discussion on the topic. It was voted to buy a laptop. The board will decide which one to buy.

After some discussion the members decided to have a booth at the Williamson County show on February 16 & 17. The times are 10-6 Saturday and 10 -5 Sunday at San Gabriel Park.

John Hinte discussed the field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural History on March 29. He reported we may be able to get a back office tour. There will be a signup at the next meeting. If there are 20 or more we get a discount rate.

Next Meeting – February 19th

**"A new fossil skimmer porpoise and other air heads:
Sinus and ear anatomy in porpoises as revealed by CT data"**

By Rachel Ann Racicot

7:00 PM

Austin Gem and Mineral Society
6719 Burnet lane, Austin, TX

Okay -- I will start with some brief biographical info. I basically got into paleontology as a kid (much like everyone else), my dad and I used to go around collecting invertebrate fossils in my hometown (Killeen) back before they started building up over all the nature that was around.

When I got to college (UT Austin) I wanted to do something to save the planet so I got into conservation, which I am still interested in, but discovered after talking with the vertebrate paleontology faculty that I actually could pursue an academic career in paleontology. They happened to have an opening for an undergrad at the High-resolution X-ray CT facility, so I got that job because I already had some computer skills. While working there as an undergrad I did a project on a scan of a bottlenose dolphin skull. I continued working at the CT lab for about a year, but as I was already interested in

whales and wanted to move on, it followed that after obtaining my undergraduate degree I should continue on. I wasn't sure if I wanted to get a PhD yet so I went to get my MS at San Diego State University, where I studied the pterygoid sinuses of porpoises using CT scanning, including one fossil porpoise which I am in the process of describing.

While at SDSU I made a trip to Texas to do some paleontological field work with Tim Rowe's grad students through UT. The CT lab happened to have a job opening available just as I graduated with my MS, so I came back here to work until I go on to work on a PhD somewhere (applications have been sent - but haven't heard back yet). My talk will be on my M.S. work but I'll be focusing mostly on the fossil.

Thank you,
Rachel

Next Field Trip

**Vertebrate Paleontology Lab
University of Texas
and Local Fossil Collecting**

Saturday February 23, 10AM
J.J. Pickle Research Campus

The campus is located west of Burnet and south of Braker and can be entered off Burnet Road. Ask for directions to the Vertebrate Lab at the gate. After we enjoy our tour of the lab given by Dr. Pam Owen we will move on to the large road cut on Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360) at Bee Caves Road (FM 2244). There we will collect in the Walnut Formation.

The Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society Presents there 38th Annual

Williamson County Gemboree

An Exposition of Gemstones, Beads, Jewelry,
Fossils, Minerals and Artifacts

Feb. 16 & 17, 2008

San Gabriel Park Community Center, Georgetown, Texas

Saturday 10-6 & Sunday 10-5
Adults \$2, Youth 6-12 \$1, Under 6 free

Exhibits – Demonstrations – Games

Contact Bill Medford, Show Chairperson, 512-930-2768

Field Trip Report **The Waco Pit, January 19th**

Ten of the faithful made the trek to the Waco Pit; Gary and Cathy Rylander, Paul Hammerschmidt, Melvin Noble, Will and Chantal Berezovych, Tom Bowers, Ron and Janet Root and myself. The day began a bit unusual. The temperature was in the upper twenties and the ground surface was frozen. The sun quickly remedied the situation and we had a beautiful collecting day albeit slightly cool.

We collected the usual variety of pyritized ammonites, gastropods and bivalves. Also some shark teeth, brittle star parts, oysters, echinoid spines and plates, and *Neithea subalpina*. Tom picked up one of the tiny floating crinoids. (I looked – but could not find them.) There were a few echinoids found. I picked up a very tiny *Coenholectypus manus* and a *Hemiaster estepi* (I believe the name was changed from *H. cranium*),

and Gary picked up a *Goniophorus*. Gary also picked up two associated fish jaws with teeth – about three inches long.

In the afternoon we went over to the spillway. It has been several years since I was there but it seemed as though there has been a good bit of erosion. Paul and Melvin found a few nautiloids (micro) and Melvin had the find of the day with what I think is a very nice Plesiosaur vertebrae. A good day of collecting as always.

I've contacted the Army Corp of Engineers office and asked if they were aware of any papers done on the Waco Research Area. They didn't know of any. If anyone knows of any I'd appreciate the information.

-- Ed

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)

PSA web page: <http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/> Web master: Michael Smith: msmith17@austin.rr.com

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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