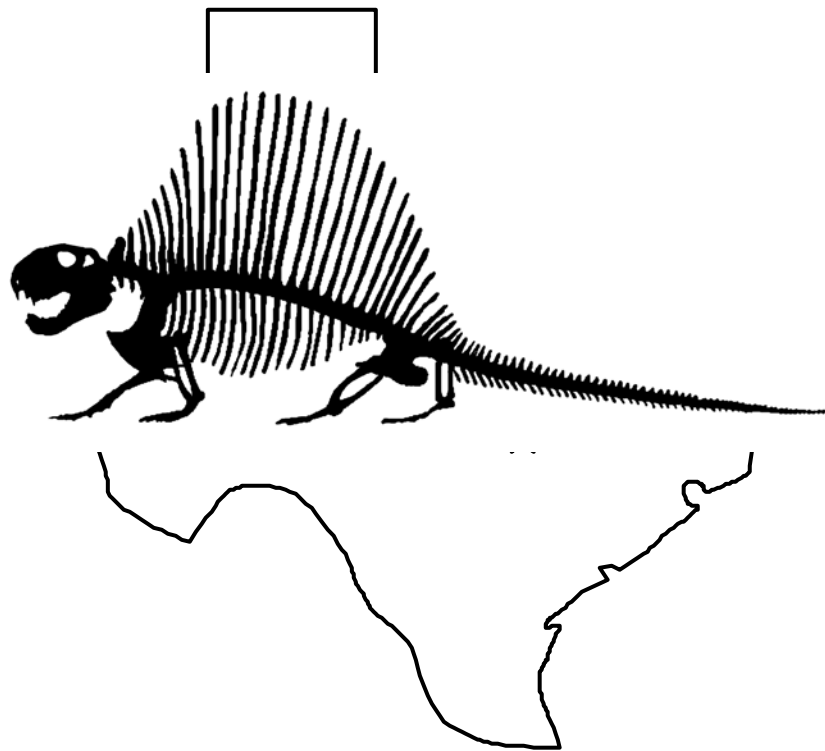


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 3, Number 5
May 2008

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Another month has gone by, hope everyone has been able to do a little collecting. Now that the days are longer, a few hours at a local site can be fun after work.

Thanks to everyone that showed up at the auction. West Cave Preserve is such a lovely site to have it. A beautiful day, a nice drive, lots of great food plus the fun of the auction. Adding to our collection or bookshelves isn't bad either. Thanks again to Mike Smith for being auctioneer.

In looking forward to the trip to Clifton. It starts at 10:00AM so try and be there by 9:30. And bring your notarized release. (Editor's note: see field trip changes below)

At the next meeting we will have a vote that involves saving a great fossil site. The city of Mineral Wells is toying with the idea of selling the dump. Hopefully we can be part of keeping that from happening.

See you there,

Ed

Next Meeting – May 20th

“Trilobites I Have Known”

See the bio below for an idea of what to expect.

Tuesday 7 PM

Austin Gem & Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

Bio for John R. Moffitt

A theoretical astrophysicist by education, John Russell Moffitt has been a member of the **Houston Gem and Mineral Society (HGMS)** since 1972 and is a past president of that organization.

During his years with the **HGMS**, he served as chair of the



Paleontology Section three times, and was their field trip leader four times. John believes that for clubs to be stable and well attended over the long haul, meetings must be interesting and something that people look forward to attending. In his professional career, John has served in mostly management positions over the past 30 years, but has also served on the boards of three non-profit corporations. Under John's leadership, the HGMS Paleontology Section purchased and set up a sophisticated fossil cleaning station, making the HGMS one of the first gem and mineral societies to have such a permanent installation.

John has also been an occasional member of the Dallas paleo club, the Austin club, the Clear Lake club, and the Rolling Rock club during these years. For the last 30 years, John has also been a member of **Mid-American Paleontology Society (MAPS)**, and has been a regular at their annual convention in

Illinois and now in Glen Rose, Texas. John has been a frequent contributor to the HGMS newsletter, the MAPS newsletter and other publications. He has led many paleontology field trips for local school children and adults during his spare time. John is a frequent public speaker and has given lectures on fossils and certain localities as well as on quality fossil preparation. John is a past **International Director** for **Toastmasters International** and often gives keynote addresses for a fee. He usually speaks for free to local schools and other organizations including the **SCFMS** conference, other **Gem and Mineral Societies**, and the **Houston Museum of Natural Science**.

John has also led several field trips to the **Sahara Desert**, and as a result of one of these trips ended up in **Prague** working with the **National Museum** to republish an important classic trilobite reference from 1852. Upon John's return from living in Europe, John was elected **First Vice-President** of the **HGMS** for 2001. He also took on the job of **2001 Show Chairman** for the annual Houston show in September. He was able to move the show from the George R. Brown downtown to its present location at the Humble Convention Center and made it a successful and profitable show for its first year at the new location. The show has continued to grow in the new location each year and hosts the national show in 2008. In 2002, John earned the **Rockhound of the Year Award** through the **AFMS**, the same year that he was elected **President** of the **HGMS**. In 2004, John was made an **honorary lifetime member of the HGMS**. In 2005, John was asked to serve as a **Vice-President** of the **SCFMS (South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies)**.

In 2001 John was first nominated, and in 2002 was inducted into the **Rockhound Hall of Fame**, for works in paleontology and for being a leader in the field for over 20 years. **The National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame**, located in South Dakota and sponsored by the Lapidary Journal, receives nominations in six categories from rock clubs all over the United States. Since 1987, six people are inducted each year under Minerals, Lapidary, Jewelry, Fossils, Education and Deceased. The basis of this induction is rooted in contributions at both the national and international level, as voted on by their peers.

John is a strong supporter of **Earth Science Education** and works to educate people on the importance of studying the fossil record and actively promotes free and open collection of fossil material on public lands. John's **collection of trilobites** is considered world-class and was featured in a special exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in 1995/1996. His love of geology, paleontology, and astrophysics drive him to share his ideas and goals with others.

John is also a member and supporter of the **Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences**, organized to create a professional association of commercial fossil and mineral collectors. The AAPS promotes ethical collecting practices and cooperative liaisons with researchers, instructors, curators and exhibit managers in the academic and museum paleontological community. John constantly strives to show others how to respect collecting sites so future generations can also have access to fossils and minerals, in order to learn to love the earth and all of its wonders.

April Meeting Minutes

The business meeting was held before the annual action at West Cave Preserve on 4/19/08. It was called to order by President Ed Elliot at 1:15. David Lindberg reported that we have \$5796.89 in the old CTPS account. The balance for the old APS account was not reported.

Old business:

Linda McCall reported on a questionnaire regarding the University of Texas "Cool Talks" event PSA participated in on April 4th. Suggestions for

improvement were solicited. The members in attendance had several comments and suggestions. Linda announced that we were invited back on May 2. Dr. Sean Gulick will be speaking on "The Rock that Changed the World." A sign-up sheet was passed out.

Mike Smith reported that a used Dell laptop had been purchased for the club. Mike has installed a Power Point viewer and other software. It is now ready to be used by our speakers. The speaker chair will be responsible for it.

Mike also reported that the 501-3C document he has labored over is almost ready to be sent to the IRS.

New business:

-Joan Crane reported \$330 had been spent on prized for Fossil Mania

-Linda McCall announced that Grandview Hills Elementary had requested that we form a partnership with them. Linda will ask for more information about the partnership before we reply.

-Ed announced the field trip to Clifton quarry will be May 17th and the field trip to the Midlothian quarry is planned for May 24th. (Editor's note: The Midlothian trip has since been rescheduled to September.)

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Ron Root
PSA Secretary

Next Field Trip

Note: both May field trips had to be rescheduled.

The Midlothian trip will happen next fall and the Clifton trip has been moved to June due to water in the quarry.

Clifton Chemical Lime Quarry Field Trip June 14, 9:30am.

We enter at 10 and can collect until 3:00pm.

CRITICAL : You need to print out the permission form in the April newsletter, fill it out and get it NOTARIZED. Ed has been assured twice that kids are ok (unusual for a quarry). Make sure everyone's name is on the permission form and it is signed by the adults. And notarized.

The quarry is on the west side of Waco.

Directions:

1. Exit I-35 onto Highway 6. Go west.
2. Go through Valley Mills towards Clifton.
3. 3 miles before Clifton you will see a cattle facility with pens on the left. Shortly after that you will hit 2602. Turn left.
4. Go 1-2 miles and enter the quarry on the right.

Places to Be...Things to Do

May 24-25--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: **Show, "Let's Rock"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club;** Amon Carter Exhibit Bldg., Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5contact Steve Hilliard, P.O. Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com

May 30-June 1--TULSA, OKLAHOMA: **Show; Gem Faire; Expo Square/Exchange** Center 1, 4145

E. 21st St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

September 24-28 - HOUSTON, TX : **Show & Convention,** American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc., Houston National Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble,

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossil 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