

# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



In Harker Heights on a cool gray morning in November.  
Photo courtesy of Linda McCall

Volume 3, Number 12  
December 2008

## **President's Note**

Season's greetings! The weather is certainly seasonal - far too cold for my tastes. It's hard to pick up fossils with thick gloves on. We are in Texas so it'll soon change - hopefully for the better. What meeting we'll have will be at the Christmas party, which is another reason to be there. Bring a covered dish, a fossil or related gift and a smile. Should be fun! We'll discuss a field trip if anyone wants one. Hope to see you there!

Ed

**Next Meeting – SUNDAY December 14<sup>th</sup>**

## **Paleontological Society of Austin Annual Holiday Potluck Party**

Please join us for the Holiday Potluck! The main dish and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. You are also welcome to bring wine, beer, etc.

If you would like to participate in the "White Mammoth" gift exchange, please bring a gift wrapped fossil-related item (around \$10). Rules will be explained after the dinner.

Sunday 5PM  
Austin Gem & Mineral Society Building  
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

## **Field Trip Report**

### **Harker Heights & Vicinity**

Standing around waiting for everyone to arrive, I couldn't help but wonder if I had worn enough clothing. It was cold with a north wind blowing. After all sixteen of us had arrived and were scouring the first site, I realized the wind had died and it really wasn't that bad. It was a fun day hunting the Walnut Formation in Harker Heights. We only went to four locations among the many to chose from; while the first was both biggest and best, they all had their own flavor. And lots of fossils: *Salenia mexicana*, *Phymosoma texanum* and *P. mexicanum*, *Heteraster texanus*, *Hemiaster whitei* and *Tetragramma taffi* (found by Gary Rylander) were the echinoids found. *Engonoceras gibbosum* (?) and *Oxytropidoceras* sp. were the only ammonites I saw. At the first site several of us found at least four kinds of small crab claws and several kinds of shark teeth. There were lots of *Parasimillia* sp. horn corals, a variety of oysters and clams and an incredible array of gastropods - many with nice original surface detail. The Walnut was good to us that day.

Special thanks to Marilyn Austin for giving us a new site. Like most of Texas, it needs a few good gully-washers to freshen it up. Even as is, it was fun. Thanks

See you at the next one. Ed

The following article (thanks M. Smith) was taken from: **EWRI CURRENTS**, The Newsletter of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers

Quentin was a long time member of the Society.

### **Quentin Martin Award Nears Funding Threshold**

by Mark Killgore

Thanks to the generosity of EWRI Congress attendees and a special donation by David Ford Consulting Engineers, nearly \$14,000 of the \$15,000 required endowment has been raised to set up the first EWRI endowed award. If the remaining amount can be raised this year, we may be able to offer the award in 2009 and certainly in 2010. The purpose of this award is to honor the memory of Dr. Quentin Martin, an innovative and successful water resource planner and a frequent contributor to ASCE water resource planning and management committees, conferences, and journals. This award will be made annually for the Best Practice-Oriented Paper published in the ASCE Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management.



**Quentin Martin**  
1946-2003

At his death on May 11, 2003, Quentin was chief water resources planner of Texas' Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Among his many contributions in 18 years at LCRA, Quentin led development of the first water management plan in Texas in 1989, followed by the first drought management plan in 1991. In the late 1990s, Quentin was instrumental in developing a regional long-term water plan under a statewide planning process required by the Texas Legislature. Prior to joining the LCRA, Martin was employed for 13 years by the Texas Water Development Board and its predecessor, the Texas Department of Water Resources. Quentin also served as a consultant on United Nations water resource projects in Brazil, Spain and India, and generously shared his knowledge and experience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

The required endowment for a new Institute Award bearing the name of an individual is \$15,000 which will be sufficient to cover award costs of the award recipient(s). Please send your check (note Quentin Martin Award on the memo line) made out to EWRI (tax-deductible) to:

Brian Parsons  
EWRI of ASCEzz, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA, 20191

### **A Thank You from The Nature Center**

Dear Linda, Ron and members of Paleontological Society of Austin,

Your donation of buckets of fossils will go a long way in nurturing the enthusiasm of future paleontologists; these children who excavate *Exogyra* from matrix share in the thrill of discovery. Thank you so much!

Dinoland and Margaret Russell

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)

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