

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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February 2009

President's Note

Another month is past and so has most of winter for this part of the world. Unfortunately the usual rains still haven't come to release all those nice little fossils for us. Something else to look forward to. Earlier this month I sat through a couple of hours of an AGMS board meeting- I've had more fun. The long and short of this story is that Quentin Martins' *Archaeocidaris* slab should soon be on display in the AGMS clubhouse for all to admire.

This months' trip will be to Brownwood. Midlothian might still happen in April or May. The quarry manager will let me know when he decides. Hope to see you there. We'll meet at the Mall in Early at 8:00 on the 21st.

Ed

PSoA January Meeting Minutes January 20, 2009

Erich Rose gave a presentation on "Big Brook: Upper Cretaceous Geology and Paleontology - A Classic Fossil Collecting Location of the Atlantic Coastal Plain."

The meeting was called to order at 8:10pm by President Ed Elliot.

Kathleen reported that Cathy Rylander has a painful spinal condition and passed around a card for everyone to sign. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for the meeting snacks.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer David Lindberg reported \$3910.59 in the checking account. The proposed budget for 2009 was passed around for everyone to review.

Joan Crane was absent. Frank Crane reported that the APS acct has not changed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Elliot stated that Kathy Pruyne of Knowles Elementary is looking for a PSoA rep to attend their family science night on Thursday, Jan.29. David Lindberg volunteered to attend the science night.

Diann Strout announced that the February meeting will feature fossil cleaning techniques and tools. Please contact Diann if you would like to show off some fossils that you have cleaned, cleaning techniques or tools that you use!! Linda McCall will bring an air scribe.

Mike Smith will bring t-shirts to the next meeting that were pre-ordered and pre-paid. If you bought a t-shirt last year but have not received it yet, then be sure to attend the February meeting!

Ed Elliot mentioned that a Board Meeting was held in early January whereby the 2009 field trip locations were selected.

This Saturday, January 24th is the field trip to Jacksboro, Bridgeport and Runaway Bay. February 21 - Brownwood/Midlothian - Ed reported that there is a new guy in charge of the quarry and he only allows 2 dates a year for clubs to come in and collect. Ed will check back with him to find out the specific dates. March 21 - East Texas to collect wood. Ed Elliot contacted Ron Ducote who thinks that this date is taken. Linda McCall received an email from Ron confirming PSoA for this date. Ed will speak with Ron about this matter and get back to everyone. So, the date is not set in stone at this time. Jun 20 - Ed will contact the quarry mgr in Clifton to find out if we can hunt on this date. August 22 - Brazos River trip if water is low. The field trip schedule is not set in stone so if there is someplace good you would like the club to go, then let us know.

UPCOMING JANUARY FIELD TRIP

Meet at 8am on the south side of the Jacksboro Court House. Everyone will drive together to the site. In order to reach the location, you have to climb over a gate and walk 1/4 to 1/2 mile to a field where we will collect. Where shoes that you can get muddy. The main problem with this site now is that grass is taking over. So all of the weeds that have grown up will be down in the winter. The weather should be 30s in morning and 55 in the afternoon. Dress in layers. The only tool you will probably need is a screwdriver. John Hinte said that driving up IH-35 is faster. Linda McCall said that typically people stay at the Jacksboro Inn but it is kind of run down and scary. The Butterfield Depot is where Linda stayed last time and they have built a new section on to it. Just google Jacksboro lodging and you will come up with a few options. Fossils to expect there are gastropods, conularids, sponges, ammonites, nautiloids, bryozoans and corals.

BUDGET

Ed fielded questions about the proposed budget from club members. A question was raised about the \$500 Mineral Wells donation. This donation was made in conjunction with the Dallas club. (The former Mineral Wells Land Fill has a significant amount of very collectable Pennsylvanian Age fossils. The City of Mineral Wells has considered selling the land used as the quarry for the landfill.) There is an opportunity to have this location converted into a public fossil-hunting park. Linda McCall noted that the city will be making a decision in the next week or two.

Mike Smith made a motion to approve the 2009 budget. It was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Next Meeting – Tuesday February 17, 2009 Preparing Fossils

Joan Crane will be giving a demonstration on cleaning fossils using her 'mystic cleaning gun' (and, hopefully, Frank will be able to bring a few of these and other cleaning tools to sell to any member who desires one) at our next meeting. She will be assisted by Linda McCall and Ed Elliott who will demonstrate their techniques with different tools.

Tuesday 7 PM
Austin Gem & Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

This little introduction was provided by Joan:

When Frank came back from Vietnam in December 1969 we moved from Camarillo, California, to San Antonio, Texas. I decided to go to college at night and I took subjects that would be easily transferred (English, History, etc). I decided to take Geology to get my science requirement out of the way. Wrong! I loved it, both the physical and historical sections. When we went to Hawaii for three years I struggled through Algebra and Trigonometry and, to treat myself, took Oceanography. After moving to Austin by way of San Angelo, we joined the AGMS and the Austin and Dallas Paleontological Societies. I enjoyed hunting various minerals, but Frank preferred fossils, so here we are. We have both volunteered at UT cleaning fossils. I enjoy cleaning specimens so that you can see as much of the original detail as possible.

Next Field Trip

Brownwood & Vicinity Saturday 21st of February

Pennsylvanian Period (~300mya)

The Wilson Clay Pit will be the main site for the day.
Other Pennsylvanian sites in the area may also be visited.

We will meet at the mall in Early, TX at 8:00AM

Field Trip Report

Jacksboro

We had eight members in Jacksboro on that fine Saturday morning: Linda and Bruce McCall, Mike Smith, Melvin Noble, Paul Hammerschmidt, new members Dennis and Morgan Stock and myself. It was an interesting day to say the least. It started out at 26 degrees and by the end of the day was a balmy 34. The best part was that the wind seldom got above 30 miles an hour. The hunting quality was mixed. We had started out at the old quarry and found some nice bivalves, gastropods and brachs in the Myalina beds - but the flats of the quarry were completely barren of fossils. After a brief stay we went on to the spillway which was fossiliferous as always. Anyone who had been there before would notice immediately how overgrown the site was. Areas that had produced wonderful fossils in the past are now bound by grasses. While everyone found good material, I couldn't help but notice the absence of those spots. No complete ammonites or nautiloids were found and many of my old friends were found by only a few people. Linda did locate a cache of conularids, enough to fill an opening in her sectional box. Mike had the find of the day with a really good

Orodus mirabilis tooth. We all collected a nice selection of bivalves, gastropods, brachs, corals, conularids and bryozoans - this is still a very worthwhile destination. Just speaking as someone who lives in Austin.....I wouldn't mind if Jacksboro Lake overflowed a little and washed away some grasses.

By mid-afternoon someone (me?) mentioned that a little food and some warmth might not be a bad thing. After eating we continued on to Bridgeport. This is really a wonderful little site. Look around and you'll see very little; lay down and there are so many small things to pick up. Melvin picked up a good sized Plagioglypta (scaphopod) as soon as he started looking. I picked up several crinoid cups- the best ones were Allagecrinus. There were numerous brachs, crinoid parts, large echinoid spines and plates, several types of sponges, gastropods and more. I was sorry to see it get dark.

On Sunday Melvin, Paul and I started out the day in Runaway Bay. After several hours at two sites I hate to say that this spot is off my list. It was just like the trip two years ago - no fossils of any kind

worth picking up. I don't know if someone is keeping the place cleaned out or if it's simply worn out. Until someone tells me differently, I'm not going back. Lots of other good sites out there to hunt.

We finished out the day at the wonderful Mineral Wells Dump. Lots of crinoid cups (including two more *Allagecrinus* and one *Plaxocrinus* for me) as

well as a good many trilobites (*Ameura*), crinoid parts, gastropods, brachs, corals, sponges, bivalves and more. Again, I was sorry to see it get dark. I love hunting the Pennsylvanian of North Texas.

We'll be back in the Pennsylvanian in Brownwood on the 21st of this month. Hope to see you there. Ed



*It was 26 degrees...we were insane!
(photo & caption by Linda McCall)*

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

2009/2010 Officers:

President	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	edwardelliott@ymail.com
Vice Pres	Linda McCall	7221 Covered Bridge Dr., Austin, TX78736	Indmccall02@yahoo.com
Treasurer	David Lindberg	9413 Sherbrooke St., Austin, TX 78729	dlindberg@austin.rr.com
Secretary	Suzanne Galligher	12800 Lantan Ridge Ct. Austin, TX 78732	suzanbg@gmail.com
Field Trips	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	512-657-7581
Programs	Diann Strout	11505 Sherwood Forest, Austin, TX 78759	diann_strout@roundrockisd.org
Editor	Erich Rose	807 The Living End, Austin, TX 78746	erichrose@austin.rr.com
Show Chair	Linda McCall	7221 Covered Bridge Dr., Austin, TX78736	Indmccall02@yahoo.com

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.	anmm@mail.utexas.edu
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	powen@mail.utexas.edu
James T.Sprinkle, PhD.	echino@mail.utexas.edu

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



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Erich Rose, editor
807 The Living End
Austin, TX 78746

DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL