

# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 4, Number 4  
April 2009

## **President's Note**

A great trip to East Texas! For those of you who couldn't be there, I'm truly sorry. Great weather, beautiful scenery, lots of fossils and more wood than could be carried out. A wonderful weekend. And now it's time for our yearly auction. I do hope that everyone will come as this is a lovely spot and a fun social event. Bring a fossil that you think others would like to have or a good fossil related item (book, maps, etc.) and your check-book. Remember that while we all want something good for cheap -- this is a fund raiser for the club. We will also have a (very) brief meeting and a speaker, George Hansen, talking about his new trilobite book. He will also have some for sale for those of you who are interested in Oklahoma trilobites. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Ed

## **Next Meeting – Sunday March 26, 2009 Annual Auction Westcave Preserve**

To get to West Cave Preserve from Austin -- proceed west on Highway 71 past 620 about a mile. Turn left onto Hamilton Pool Rd. (AKA 3238) and drive about 15 miles. Go past Hamilton Pool and continue on down the steep drop to the Pedernales River, across the narrow bridge and up the other side. When you get to the top -- you are there. The gate is on the right. We will be in the white limestone main building.

We usually start eating at 12:00 so I'd try to get there 11:30ish. Early is good because we have to put up tables and chairs. Bring a covered dish -- veggie or desert, meat will be provided as well as water and dishes. You can even take the tour after the auction. Don't forget fossils or fossil related items and your check-book! It'll be fun!!

## **Guest Speaker George P. Hansen Trilobites of Black Cat Mountain**

Mr. Hansen has written a book on the Trilobites of Black Cat Mountain and the Devonian trilobites of Oklahoma. For all of you interested in the Oklahoma trips we do each year or just trilobites in general this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more. Mr. Hansen will have copies of his book available for sale.

A short bio:

George Hansen has a PhD in chemical physics from Rice University. His lifetime hobby has been geology and paleontology, collecting fossils and reading both casual and professional literature from these fields. He lives here in Texas with his wife and son where he works for an engineering and technical think tank.

## **Next Field Trip**

## **Oklahoma for Paleozoic Fossils May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Note that there is no field trip scheduled for April. More details on the Oklahoma trip will be provided here in the newsletter, at the May meeting and via e-mail.**

## March Field Trip Report Jasper & Vicinity

As I drove through Crockett, I knew I was going to enjoy this trip. The dogwoods were in bloom -- both pink and white. The azaleas were in every yard; mostly in reds, but in shades ranging almost to white. A few redbuds were still hanging on. There were bluebonnets and many other flowers. Add in the variegated greens of the mixed hardwood/piney woods -- East Texas in the spring is a lovely place to be

Saturday morning at The Stump we had seventeen members present. David and Mark Lindberg, Ron and Janet Root, John Hinte, Linda and Bruce McCall, Katie Henry, Melvin Noble, Gary Vliet, Tom and Beverly Trunick, Bob McDonald, Melody Barnett, Rich Geist and myself. Of course our much appreciated hosts, Ron and Donna DuCote were there to welcome us back.

When we arrived at the creek, no one wasted any time before jumping in. More wood than a person could really look at, much less carry out. While we did our best to remove as much as possible, I doubt that anyone coming after us could tell we'd been there -- other than our footprints. There is still discussion as to the age of this wood. We had originally been told that it was Catahoula Formation, Oligocene. On some USGS maps the Catahoula is listed as Miocene -- on the section map for the Jasper area it is listed as Oligocene. I'm told that Scott Singletons' latest word is that it is Miocene. One unusual item was found. John tells me that one piece of wood that he picked up turned out to be a big chunk of mammoth tooth, so there must be Pleistocene material around washing into the creek.

I had directions to some other sites, but the first couldn't be located. The second was a road cut with *Protoscutella mississippiensis mississippiensis* (sand dollars) in a limey sandstone. I believe everyone was able to chop one or more out. This material is so much easier to work with than the hard glauconite. Also, scallops, gastropods, oysters and bryozoans. Our last site was somewhat of a disappointment --my fault. We arrived at a quarry with barely an hour of daylight left. And the gate was locked. I had planned to drive to the bottom of the quarry. We were allowed in, just not our vehicles. It was a long walk down and back and we were after big blocks of *Protoscutella*. I'll know next year ....bring a wagon.

We did walk around and pick up a few things, but it was not as planned.

Sunday we started out on University Dr. in Nacogdoches. A few sand dollars were chopped out. At one of the other sites we picked up some oysters and I found a part of a crab carapace. We didn't stay long; things were getting overgrown and the sites are smaller. On to the last stop: Lake Nacogdoches. We had a good time picking up *Archohelia*, *Balanophyllia* and *Madracis* corals, a large number of gastropods, shark teeth and the occasional bivalve. As always, East Texas was a wonderful trip and sorry to all who missed it. I look forward to seeing all of you at the auction.

Ed



**Marc's new door stop.**



**Petrified wood chunks everywhere.**

## Jean Wallace

### 2009 AFMS Scholarship Honoree from SCFMS

Our own Jean Wallace, has been selected by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) as the South Central Federation of Mineralogical Society's (SCFMS) scholarship honoree for 2009. Jean was chosen for her contributions to earth science education. She was nominated by Mary Mueller, SCFMS District IV Vice-president.

Jean has exhibited fossils and minerals all over the US and even Canada. Her efforts to promote earth science included donating specimens for display to schools, museums, universities and libraries.

Along with being the former award-winning editor of one of this society's former newsletters she has also served as chairman of the SCFMS Bulletin Aids & Club Publications committee and is now the Historian and Photographer. In 1989 she became an Endowment Fund Patron.

Jean will pick two graduate students in the region who will each receive \$2,000 for the year from AFMS. Both the students and Jean will be honored at the annual meeting in Temple later this year.

### Places to be... Things to do...

May 1-3 – **Houston Fine Mineral Show**, Embassy Suites Hotel near the Galleria, 2911 Sage Rd. Houston, TX

admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day; contact Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; Web site: [www.myspace.com/beadjamboree](http://www.myspace.com/beadjamboree)

April 25-26--WACO, TEXAS: Show; **Waco Gem & Mineral Club**; Heart of Texas Fairgrounds, Bosque Ave.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students and children \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Road 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311; e-mail: [rkcole8@peoplepc.com](mailto:rkcole8@peoplepc.com)

May 23-24--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Show, **"Jumpin' for Geodes"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club**; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, children 12 and under free; jewelry, gems, beads, minerals, fossils, more than 25 dealers, demonstrations, displays, silent auction, kids' Wheel of Chance and rock/fossil dig, door prizes; contact Steve Hilliard, P.O. Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: [fwgmc@embarqmail.com](mailto:fwgmc@embarqmail.com); Web site: [www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com)

May 16-17--LUBBOCK, TEXAS: **51st show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society**; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, special exhibit "The Rock Food Table"; contact Archie Scott, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: [asscott3@windstream.net](mailto:asscott3@windstream.net)

June 19-21--SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Show; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day; contact Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; Web site: [www.myspace.com/beadjamboree](http://www.myspace.com/beadjamboree)

May 22-24--CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS: Show; ; Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Dr.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free

## PSoA March Meeting Minutes

### Tuesday, March 17, 2009

**SPEAKER:** George Phillips of the Conservation & Biodiversity Section, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS gave a talk on "Sand Dollars" (Echinoidea: Cassiduloidea: Faujasidae) in the Upper Cretaceous of North America.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35pm by President Ed Elliot.

The meeting minutes from February were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ACCOUNTS:** Treasurer David Lindberg reported \$4130.19 in the checking account. Joan Crane noted there is \$8229.80 in the old APS account. Joan suggested that we start looking around for a bank giving more interest. The CTPS account is at BofA and is not earning any interest. Mike Smith suggested that the Treasurer initiate a search of banks and look for one that has experience with non-profits. Some of the money needs to go into a CD, some needs to be available to Fossil Fest and seem needs to go to scholarship.

**NON-PROFIT INFORMATION:**

Mike Smith mentioned that PSoA may be able to give Ed Bowden's widow a tax break for all the fossil donations (a little over \$3000) since our non-profit status is retroactive to 2007. She could do a 1040x retroactively.

Now that PSoA is a non-profit, an online IRS form will need to be filled out and submitted by May 15th annually. Additionally, if there is some legislation that is of interest to the club, PSoA cannot take a stand on it and maintain non-profit status. One remaining piece of business is to notify the state of Texas that PSoA is now federally tax exempt in order to obtain a state tax exempt number.

**OLD BUSINESS****WILLIAMSON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW:**

Jamie Young reported on the Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society show. Joan Crane, John Hinte, Marilyn Austin and Jamie Young worked the show on Saturday, February 24. On Sunday February 25, Ed Elliot, Ron Root, Bill Hill and Jean Wallace helped out. The show was very successful. There were lots of kids and adults who stopped by the booth. PSoA had some giveaways for all ages. Rochelle thanked everyone for their help and support. The dealers were very happy with the show.

**LIBRARY:**

Tommie Potts of the AGMS donated the book "Sea Monsters" to the Paleo Society for its library. Thank you Tommie!

Jamie Young inquired about obtaining a current list of the PSoA Library. Ed Elliot stated that Hollis and

he documented the book titles some time ago. Ed will contact Hollis regarding the current status of the library since the books are being housed there. Mike Smith noted that one of the advantages of the library is that some of the books are very obscure and may matter to someone at times. Erich Rose has a program that would make the book list searchable by title and author. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding where to house the library since space is not available at the AGMS facility. Mike Smith expressed the need to store the library in a climate controlled facility otherwise the books risk deterioration or being eaten by silverfish. Kathleen Howard offered to house them in her house. PSoA will investigate obtaining shelving for Kathleen's house.

**NEWBIES**

Many new faces were at March's meeting. Welcome everyone!!

**NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Sprinkle brought copies of the Edwards Formation paper for anyone that would like a copy.

A member requested that an abstract of the speaker's talk be published in the newsletter or put online so that everyone can have access to the information. Mike Smith remarked that PSoA will not publish the talk without the speaker's permission. Diann Strout will ask the speaker to provide an abstract at the time the speaker is scheduled. (See [www.texaspaleo.com/psa/papers.html](http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/papers.html).)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**PSoA AUCTION:** The PSoA Auction will be in April at the West Cave Preserve. The monthly meeting will be held at the auction. Bring a fossil to auction. There will be a Potluck dinner with the club providing the meat. George Hansen will talk about trilobites. He will have a book signing and talk about some of the things he has discovered since writing the book.

**AGMS SWAP & SELL:** Kathleen Howard announced that AGMS will hold a Swap and Sell on Saturday, April 18th from 10am - 4pm at the AGMS facility.

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, 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 Site: <http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/>  
Web master: Michael Smith: [msmith17@austin.rr.com](mailto:msmith17@austin.rr.com)

2009/2010 Officers:

President	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	<a href="mailto:edwardelliott@ymail.com">edwardelliott@ymail.com</a>
Vice Pres	Linda McCall	7221 Covered Bridge Dr., Austin, TX 78736	<a href="mailto:ldmccall02@yahoo.com">ldmccall02@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	David Lindberg	9413 Sherbrooke St., Austin, TX 78729	<a href="mailto:dlindberg@austin.rr.com">dlindberg@austin.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Suzanne Galligher	12800 Lantan Ridge Ct. Austin, TX 78732	<a href="mailto:suzanbg@gmail.com">suzanbg@gmail.com</a>
Field Trips	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	512-657-7581
Programs	Diann Strout	11505 Sherwood Forest, Austin, TX 78759	<a href="mailto:diann_strout@roundrockisd.org">diann_strout@roundrockisd.org</a>
Editor	Erich Rose	807 The Living End, Austin, TX 78746	<a href="mailto:erichrose@austin.rr.com">erichrose@austin.rr.com</a>
Show Chair	Linda McCall	7221 Covered Bridge Dr., Austin, TX 78736	<a href="mailto:ldmccall02@yahoo.com">ldmccall02@yahoo.com</a>

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.	<a href="mailto:annm@mail.utexas.edu">annm@mail.utexas.edu</a>
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	<a href="mailto:powen@mail.utexas.edu">powen@mail.utexas.edu</a>
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.	<a href="mailto:echino@mail.utexas.edu">echino@mail.utexas.edu</a>

Permission to copy material printed herein is granted provided proper credit is given to the author and source.  
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**

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

DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**