

# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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## **President's Note**

When we think about our passion for collecting fossils – I'm sure most of our thoughts go straight to thoughts about temperature these days. The past two months have been something for the record books. Despite this, I hope some of you have been able to do a little collecting. The mornings really aren't that bad. It is summer in Texas. (And regardless of what rumors you may have heard – the Field Trip guy is unable to alter the weather in any way!)

I believe that "Nature Nights" at the lady Bird Wildflower Center was a success. Thanks for that go to Suzanne and Riley Galligher, Ron Root and Erich Rose. One of the reasons for the existence of our club is to educate the public. The advertising for our shows doesn't hurt either.

We have sent \$500 to the Dallas Paleontological Society to be put toward improvements at the new Mineral Wells Fossil Park. I'm happy that the city of Mineral Wells approved the idea – it would have been a terrible shame to have lost that site.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting. I'm looking forward to hearing Mike Smith's talk on Lyme Regis.

---Ed

### **Next Meeting – Tuesday July 21, 2009**

## **Lyme Regis: Part of the Dorset & East Devon World Heritage Site**

### **Fossils and Geology By Mike Smith**

This is a reprise of a talk Mike gave some time back. He will describe the site's history, geology and fossils and his experience collecting.

7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building, 6719 Burnet lane, Austin, TX

### **Next Field Trip**

## **Invertebrate Lab, University of Texas With Ann M. Molineux, PhD.**

**July 25, 2009, Meet at 9AM**

Meet at the lab which is in the J.J. Pickle Research Center. Use the entrance off Burnet Road between Rutland and Braker. The guards will direct you to the proper building.

This is a great chance to see and hear about the workings of the lab. New members are encouraged to attend. And hey it will be AIR CONDITIONED!

Last year after the visit to the lab, members went and did some local collecting. Depending on who is interested we may do this again.

## Field Trip Report

### Clifton Chemical Lime Quarry, Clifton, TX, June 20th

Twenty two people turned up at the quarry by 8:00 AM, eager for ammonites: Mike Smith, Joe Watkins, Beki Poole, Lyle Graham, Jeff Doerzbacher, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Dennis and Morgan Stock, Ron Root, Melvin Noble, Dave and Roberta (Bobby) Mell, Wayne Kewley, Kathleen Howard, Dax Gonzalez, Julie and Gabriel Presus and son, Erich and Emelia Rose and Emelia's friend Ileana. It was great to see so many new members.

First, however, the quarry representative, Jose Herrera took us down into one of the inactive pits. This was the Edwards Formation and it was packed with rudists. The preservation was odd - most of them were internal molds with no sign of the shell. Some were solid calcite, some had formed vugs containing calcite crystals. Mixed in with them were flat pieces that I think are bivalve steinkerns. Really interesting material. I think the rudists were mostly Caprinids, but we needed Ed or Ann along. In the hard ground underfoot we could see Eoradolites in cross section. Dax found a beautiful *Toucasia*. Ron found a really nice specimen of a bivalve that looks somewhat like *Chondrondonta*, but with three very distinct growth sections.

After a couple of hours collecting in the quarry proper, Jose took us back to where we collected in the Duck Creek and Kiamichi last year. They had graded the hill for reclamation purposes and we were concerned. But the crushing of all the large blocks of limestone in the process of leveling the slope seemed to work in our favor. We found numerous complete ammonites, primarily *Eopachydiscus*. Joe picked up a *Oxytropidoceras* that was very nice. Erich found two *Idiohamites*, the "candy cane" ammonite. A number of other really nice but unidentified ammonites were collected by other members. Melvin and Gary found a few shark teeth and a fair number of *Heteraster texana* urchins were found, though most were small. The hill needs some rain. (see photos)

By 12:30 we had pretty much exhausted the site (or ourselves) and caravanned out.

Now for the amazing part - the weather was actually pleasant.. There was a stiff breeze all morning that kept us relatively comfortable. Good job with the weather again, Ed!

We owe the Quarry and its representative, Lee Kroll, a hearty thanks for their hospitality. And a special thanks to Jose Herrera, who was a terrific host while we were there. A t-shirt is in the mail.

Mike Smith



*Eopachydiscus* sp., Duck Creek Limestone  
Collected by E. Rose



*Idiohamites fremonti* specimens (top) & *Actinoceramus sulcatus* (btm)  
All from the Duck Creek, collected by E. Rose

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)

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**