

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 4, Number 11
November 2009

President's Note

Another month has come and gone and Fossil Fest is upon us. I haven't heard yet from Frank or Joan, but from what I saw --Fossil Mania was a success. That room was full of dealers and patrons. What I liked the most was that a lot of what was for sale was found by the seller -- at least it wasn't all from overseas. This is the last meeting and newsletter before Fossil Fest, and I hope everyone is ready to gear up and participate in whatever way they can. We have an on-line sign-up sheet for all the different positions --please sign up for as much as you can. And by the way, this isn't work....it's fun. Knowledge or experience is not a prerequisite for any of the positions -- what little you need to know you'll find out in a few minutes of OJT. And we still have some display cases available to show off whatever you've collected. Remember that this can only be a success if we all pitch in. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing old friends, looking at all the offerings and hanging out and talking fossils all weekend. I hope to see most of you there.

Ed

Next Meeting – Tuesday November 17, 2009

"Trends in Evolutionary Morphology: A Case Study in the Relationships of Batoid Fishes"

Kerin M. Claeson

The Jackson School of Geosciences

The University of Texas at Austin

Kerin will be speaking about some of her research on extant and fossil sharks and their relatives.

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

TEACHER KIT STUFFING PARTY!

**COME ONE - COME ALL - to the Fossil-stuffing party of the year!
Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00 pm. Before the meeting.**

We need to stuff 1000+ specimen bags with a fossil and label before the Paleo Society meeting commences at 7:00pm - so the more bodies the better!! Come an hour before the regular club meeting and show your club spirit! Please bring any small, clean, teacher kit quality fossils you have lying around along with you - we're especially short on corals, brachiopods, ammonites (pieces OK) and petrified wood. Any extras will be used for future teacher's kits, so don't worry about us having too many!

Hope to see everybody there!

PSoA October 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes

SPEAKER

Dr. Pamela Owen of the Texas Natural Science Center presented *Digging Deeper into the Fossil Record of Badgers*.

Nov. 1, 2009] in Glen Rose, TX. Joan Crane reported that 77 tables have been sold. See Joan if you would like to purchase tickets for the Fossilmania Raffle Prizes.

MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:40pm by President Ed Elliot. The meeting minutes from September were approved.

Fossil Fest – All dealer tables have been sold for Fossil Fest. Linda McCall even managed to sell the club tables! Therefore, the club table has been pushed out to the entrance area. Ed Elliot noted that 3 dealers contacted the club recently to find out if it was too late to purchase a table.

Accounts - Treasurer David Lindberg reported \$4,791.31 combined from in the checking account.

Fossils Wanted –Fossils are needed for the Teacher's Kits which should be a lot of something nice.

OLD BUSINESS

Tri-City Gem & Mineral show – Erich Rose and Ed Elliot did not put together a display case for the show in Temple, TX.

AGMS Gem Capers –Jamie Young requested volunteers for the Paleo Table (same weekend as Texoma trip) Oct. 23 – 25. The show will be held at the Palmer Events Center. Unloading of heavy material and parking is available (for free) in the Service Yard until it fills up.

NEW BUSINESS

Diann Strout's husband recently underwent hip replacement surgery. Rosemary Margolis reported that he is doing well.

Newbies – There were a few new faces at tonight's meeting. Welcome! Galen has collected fossils on vacations and in upstate New York. Club members encouraged them to join the upcoming field trip. to Lake Texoma.

Fossilmania – The show will be held the last weekend in October [Friday, Oct. 30 through Sunday,

Next Field Trip - November 21, 2009 The Waco Pit

We will meet at the parking lot for the pit at 8:00 AM. This parking lot is not huge so you are encouraged to car pool. If you have some rubber boots they could be a definite asset. The pit can be a morass when wet, so check to see if it has rained earlier or rain is predicted for that day. Collecting there is mostly small stuff so bring those knee pads and small containers. The formation is the Upper Cretaceous Del Rio. Fossils include a wide variety of marine invertebrates, various shark teeth and also includes a fair variety of small pyritized material.

Here are the directions:

1. From Austin take I-35 North to Waco.
2. On the north side of Waco, EXIT at 340/2491/Lake Shore Drive.
3. Turn LEFT (west) under the freeway onto Lake Shore Drive. Follow Lake Shore as it curves around and to the south past the intersection with Lake Brazos/Steinbeck Bend and go over the Bosque River.
4. Continue on Lake Shore to FM 1637/19th Street and turn RIGHT (west again.)
5. Proceed to Steinbeck Bend and turn LEFT. (Careful, there is an earlier intersection with Steinbeck. Do not confuse that one with this later turn off.)
6. At the intersection of Airport and Steinbeck Bend (a block or two past the last turn) there is a cement plant on the SE corner (across the intersection on the left.)
7. Just past the plant on the left is the parking area for the pit. There is a gate. If it is not open wait just off the road until someone arrives to open it.

October Field Trip Report Lake Texoma

We had astonishingly beautiful weather for a fabulous day of snatching up some of nature's treasures at Lake Texoma. With me that day were Morgan and Dennis Stock, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Linda and Bruce McCall, Bob McDonald and Galen Randell. As we approached our first site, I looked out across the deep blue waters – you could see for miles – I felt excitement. I was really looking forward to this trip. As I got closer to the shoreline I felt sick. The area wide 12-inch rain in the preceding few days had erased the shoreline completely. No hunting anywhere at Texoma anytime soon. As of the previous Wednesday, the water level was perfect. The best laid plans of mice and men.....

We regrouped; weighed our options and headed for Oklahoma. Since I didn't have any phone numbers with me, we chose the Silurian road-cut south of Ada. After a couple of attempts to reach it from the east (high water in the creeks) we had to go into Ada and come in from the north. We had a good time. Gary and Bob picked up some trilobites; some of the rest of us got pieces. Linda picked up a lovely large crinoid cup. As always, there was a large assortment of brachiopods, at least five kinds of corals (Linda picked up the largest horn coral I've seen there –*Breviphyllum* sp ?), a few gastropods and lots of bryozoans. Just FYI, the landowner came by and stated that he did not want anyone on the wrong side of his fence. Despite the friendliness of most Oklahomans, this guy had had problems in the past. This makes for a much smaller outcrop. This site is known as Amsdens' P-7 and is the Henryhouse Formation of the Hunton Group. And I'm happy to say that we got back to the border in time for the traditional great catfish dinner at Wendys'.

Sunday morning we all got behind Linda and Bruce and they led us to some sites off of 820 in Ft. Worth. The first was over quickly. It was small and picked over. The next two were large construction sites and kept us busy. I believe that both are Goodland Formation, Fredericksburg Group. The second site is on the west side of 820, just north of Lake Worth. Ammonites, heart urchins, corals, bivalves and gastropods were found. This was a heavily worked construction site, so many of the fossils (ammonites) were damaged. The third site was certainly fossiliferous. All of the ammonites that I saw were some variant of *Oxytropidoceras*, and almost all of the echinoids were *Hemiaster whitei*. Bob said that he had gotten a nice ammonite. I have to admit that I headed for the grey bed and kept my nose in the dirt picking up small stuff; i.e. I didn't see what everyone else got. Linda and I both picked up three *Salenia mexicana* and she topped me by getting a small *Goniopygus* sp.(*texanus*?). I didn't mind because I was picking up so many crab claws; the first time I ever approached "enough" crab material. Three genera, one very predominate (*Callianassa*?). And a lot of other small stuff: a small piece of pycnodont jaw with eleven teeth, shark and fish teeth, fish vertebra, lots of small oysters and gastropods. Just loads of fun.

This was a really fun trip, even if it was nothing like what we had planned. There are simply too many places to hunt to let the loss of one, spoil a weekend. Thanks to Linda for showing us some sites. I hope to see you in Waco! –Ed



Our very own Award Winners!



Linda McCall and Ann Molineux in Shreveport, LA on Sept 27, 2009 to receive the GCAGS's Grover E. Murray second place award for Outstanding Published Paper in it's 2008 Transactions volume. Dr. Molineux, Dr. Sprinkle and Ms. McCall won the award for their paper entitled. Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from a Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas.

EXTRA FOSSILS NEEDED!!

It's that time of year again, folks! We need fossils for the Fossil Fest spinning wheel, dig pit and teachers kits. Please bring any extra fossils you have lying around to the November meeting so we can see what we've got. Also, be sure and pick up extras when you are out hunting!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GENOME PROJECT

This is a great way to help improve the world knowledge base and find out a bit about your own personal past as well! You can go online to:

www.nationalgeographic.com/genographic for more information or to order a kit. Kits cost \$100.00, but you will get your DNA analyzed and your own personal ancestry genome map of where your ancestors came from - all the way back! All the info is on the website. James and Bruce and I all did it and are eagerly awaiting our results! I wonder what markers we will have?? What markers will YOU have??

THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

DON'T LET SANTASAURUS CATCH YOU EMPTY HANDED!



VOLUNTEER AT FOSSIL FEST THE PERK OF THE WORK IS...YOU GET TO STOP AND SHOP!

That's right, PSA members! It's time to gear up for FOSSIL FEST! Donate your time by volunteering to work the Admissions, Kitchen, Wheel of Fossils, Dig Pit or Microscope table. Dust off all those fossils you've collected throughout the past year and show them off in a display case at Fossil Fest.

WHEN?

Friday, Dec. 4, 2009: Display Case and Show Set-up 5pm til ???

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009: Fossil Fest Day 1 9am to 6pm

Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009: Fossil Fest Day 2 9am to 4pm - 4pm til ??? - Display Case and Show Tear Down

WHERE?

Old Settler's Park in Round Rock Hwy. 79, 3.3 miles east of IH 35, next to the Dell Diamond

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

I'm glad you asked! The Sign-Up Sheet is now accessible 24/7 ONLINE!!

- 1) visit the web based sign-up page at: <http://www.mysignup.com/fossilfest>
- 2) You will be asked for a pass code. Get the pass code from Suzanne - suzanbg@gmail.com.
- 3) Review the FOSSIL FEST 2009 Sign-up Sheet. You may sign-up for a DISPLAY CASE and/or VOLUNTEER for any spot that is listed as OPEN.

4) Once you have selected a DISPLAY CASE or VOLUNTEER shift, click on the OPEN button.

5) You will be asked to provide your name, email and home/cell phone number. Also, you may provide an optional UNDO code in the event you need to change your volunteer date/time. Write your code down!!

6) Click on the CONFIRM button to select your volunteer time slot.

7) Enter the pass code again.

8) You're done!

FYI - ONLY your name will appear on the website. E-mail and home/cell phone number is only visible to the PSA Volunteer Scheduler -aka Suzanne Galligher- for scheduling/contact purposes.

FAQ:

WHAT IF I NEED HELP SIGNING UP? I'd be happy to answer any questions or sign you up! Just contact Suzanne Galligher at 512-751-1351 or email suzanbg@gmail.com

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!
THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP!!!**

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/>
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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL