

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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President's Note

Hello again! Another year has nearly slipped by and that always leads to reflective thoughts for me. Things like the 40th anniversary of high school graduation. Moving on to the less personal (and less depressing) recent history ---- Fossil Fest is behind us and I think a great success! We had enough volunteers to make set-up, tear down and the entire show run smoothly. I think that the economy kept the dealers from reaping the great rewards they wanted. While that is a concern for the club – we need happy dealers – our goal is to put paleontology and science before the general public, to excite their interest, to remove ignorance and impart knowledge. And make it fun. I believe that we achieved our goals and had a good time doing it. We owe thanks to everyone who helped make this years show a success.

The Christmas party is upon us! This is a “must do” social event and is always a lot of fun. Good food, talking fossils with friends, the “white mammoth” gift exchange and a very short meeting -- it always add up to an enjoyable evening. One thing we'll address at the meeting is the election of officers. Linda has said that she doesn't mind continuing to do a great job as VP/Show Chair, even if from afar. Suzanne said that she will stay on as board member and continue to work on EVERYTHING as she did this year. David and Erich said that they could continue doing their jobs but REALLY wouldn't mind if someone else volunteered to take over. We have several opportunities and it would be great if we had some volunteers step up.

Come to the party and close out the year with a lot of fun. --Ed

Next Meeting – Friday December 11th, 2009

HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY!

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

Please join us for the annual
PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN HOLIDAY POTLUCK!

The main dish and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert (let us know what you will bring when you RSVP to avoid duplications).
RSVP to Suzanne Galligher 512-751-1351.

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.

Fossil Fest Report 2009

Well it's all over now. The fossils have been handed out, the cases packed up and the tables hauled away. The 19th annual Fossil Fest is history. Next year it's the 20th ANNIVERSARY OF FOSSIL FEST! *The volunteer sign up sheet will be circulated at the next meeting...* just kidding. But Linda and Suzanne will tell you I am only *slightly* kidding because the amount of work and time that goes into this, and our other events, must all so often feel like a full years worth. We had lots of great volunteer help this year so thanks go out to all but I want to especially thank both Linda and Suzanne. --E. Rose

From David Lindberg, Treasurer : All in all, we seemed to have had a good year. Last year was very good, but you can't have very goods every time. Attendance: 663 (down about 1/3rd from last year.) Income, not including dealer income: \$2259.63. Raffle tickets sold: 400. Profit, yet to be determined.

Linda McCall wrote: Fossil Fest is over and BOY, did we have fun! Killeen sent a school bus load, and we rated, "Best Field Trip EVER!" A BIG THANKS to everyone who volunteered and helped out - it's all of you that make the show such a success! Next year will be our 20th anniversary - let's make it a great one! Thanks!!!

Here are a few pictures I snapped Friday and Sunday...



Setting up Friday evening.



Think we have enough fossils to give away?



Linda making it all so interesting.



Emelia working admissions & doing homework.

November Field Trip Report Waco Pit

Star date, November 21, 2009. Its 5:00am in the morning and the club is going to hunt in the gray shale of the Waco pit, Del Rio formation, Washita group, Cretaceous. I am looking for coffee.

I left Austin at 5:30 with some apprehension about the trip. It started to rain as I got to Round Rock and rained all the way to Waco, Texas, stopping just as I got to the site.

I got to the site 10 minutes early and no one was in sight. I walked down to the pit or should I say slipped thru the mud to the bottom. In a few minutes I must have had 2- 3 inches of mud on the bottom of my boots. I walked back to the truck and still nobody had showed up. I was thinking about going back and hunting anyway, if no one showed up.

But, the hardcore fossil hunters in our club are a hardy, tough lot, Kevin and Tyler Bills showed up followed by Dennis and Morgan Stock. We took off for the mud and whatever adventures awaited us. A person had to look at the ground real hard before stepping because once you had stepped in that spot, there would be no collecting in that area.

In few minutes, Dax Gonzales, Juliea Presas, Gary Valet and Galen Randall showed up, making it a total of 9 people. Not bad for a wet, damp, cold and muddy day.

As we scanned the ground it took a while to see anything. Low and behold pyritized ammonites where everywhere! There was a lot of the Mariellas, the ammonite that looks kinda like a gastropod (snail) with bumps. Mostly broken, but some whole ones where found. As we searched we also found 7- 8 species of round ammonites. They were everywhere, (nice rain). Kevin Bill's son, Tyler, found a nice complete thin flat ammonite that looked like an *Engonoceras serpertinum* and a nice complete nautiloid. Kevin found some shark teeth as well as some other people.

About noon Dex Gonzales and Juliea Presas had to leave because his wife is expecting a baby boy. Congratulations Dex. Dex took pictures of my 3 inch mud built up boots (with ammonites on top) with his camera phone before he left. This trip was starting to feel a whole lot like Woodstock.

We searched till about 1- 1:30 pm and at that time Galen found a nice echinoid, its looks like a *Goniophorus*. He needs to bring it to meeting to identify it. Gary Vlet found some nice oysters with both valves and I found what I thought was a messed up nautiloid but it turned out to be the tail section of a lobster. It was a *Hoploparia*, (I found a picture of one on the internet)

Dennis and Morgan had left so Gary, Galen, Kevin, Tyler and myself went to Heittmillers steak house in Elm Mott, (north of Waco), to eat. After a meal of good old style country cooking, the Bills left for home and I took Gary and Galen to the Mother Neff site. We hunted for a couple hours finding heart urchins and gastropods. Gary found a small exposed out croup of rudists. We found a few pieces but it was to weathered to be of interest.

I would say it was a good trip. Lots of ammonites, some shark teeth, nautiloids, 2 nice echinoids, and some oysters were found and I believe a good time was had by all.

Report by "in a pinch" Field Trip Guide - Melvin Noble

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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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL