

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Some typical fossils from Harker Heights, TX,
this month's upcoming field trip.

Volume 5, Number 1
January 2010

President's Note

Another new year is upon us, primed and ready to burst with possibilities. Since our Christmas party I've gone to at least seven different localities, some for just an hour or two, looking for that "something new" we all search for. I can only hope that everyone has had or made the time to get out and do a little looking. With all of the creeks and outcrops we're blessed with around Austin, a field trip can be done in a couple of hours! I found a couple of treasures in some of the same old places that I've been many times -- that's the great thing about erosion, new things are always popping up right where we looked before. And if someone doesn't pick them up, they wash away. My New Years resolution is to save as many as possible this year. (OK, so I make the same one every year. I may lack imagination, but I'm consistent.)

At this months' meeting we will elect officers and announce the field trips for the year. We also have a science day at an elementary school on the 21st to talk about. Our part is all about education and earth science - something our schools are lacking in. I will be there and a couple of others have said maybe. We don't need a crowd but a few volunteers would be great. I don't want to end up by myself in front of all those kids.

Our field trip this month is somewhat local -- Harker Heights. We always have lots of fun hunting the many Walnut outcrops in that area. Hopefully a lot of our newer members will join us to see how much fun it is. Our next two trips will be a little farther away. Hope to see you at the meeting and on the outcrop! ---Ed

Next Meeting – Tuesday January 19, 2010

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

"One of Texas' largest predators: new insights from a well-preserved skull of the theropod dinosaur *Acrocanthosaurus atokensis*"

Drew Eddy, M.S., PhD Student
GSEC Member At Large, The University of Texas at Austin

"New information from a re-analysis of the skull of *Acrocanthosaurus*, an Early Cretaceous theropod from North America, supports its close phylogenetic relationship with large carcharodontosaurids that predominantly inhabited Africa and South America instead of the smaller North American theropod, *Allosaurus*."

"Drew Eddy grew up in the state of West Virginia, where he developed an appreciation for the natural world and all things related to the realm of science. After graduating at the top of his class from Point Pleasant High School, he attended Washington University in St. Louis, receiving a bachelor's degree in Earth & Planetary Sciences. He was then granted admission to graduate school under Dr. Julia Clarke at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, where he spent two years learning the basics of the field of vertebrate paleontology and describing the cranial anatomy of the large Theropod dinosaur, *Acrocanthosaurus atokensis*. During that time, Drew has conducted fieldwork in several areas across North and South America, including the Late Cretaceous Hell Creek Formation in Montana, the Triassic Chinle Formation in New Mexico, and the Eocene Paracas Formation in Peru. Presently, he is working towards a doctoral degree at the University of Texas at Austin, assessing recent changes in Quaternary bird and lizard faunas recorded by the cave systems of the Edwards Plateau of central Texas."

**Next Field Trip
Saturday, January 23rd**

Harker Heights, Texas & Vicinity

Meet at 8:00AM at the small strip mall off Indian Trails on the south side of 190.

This trip will be to Harker Heights and other locations along US-190. We will be collecting from the Fredericksburg Group, Walnut and Comanche Peak Formations. Although many of you have collected these same formations in and around Austin the variety of fossils will be somewhat different with a few different types of echinoids being common as well as many other species of invertebrates we don't commonly see here.

Directions:

Take I35 north to Belton.

Go west on US 190 to Harker Heights and exit at Indian Trails.

Make the left onto Indian Trails, go under 190 and look for the small strip mall on the right, closest to the access road. We will meet there.

Travel time from central Austin is about one hour and 15 minutes.

PSA January 6, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ed Elliot, Suzanne Galligher, David Lindberg, Linda McCall (via cell phone), Erich Rose & Mike Smith

ACTION ITEMS:

- Erich Rose will talk to the folks at the Fort Worth Museum regarding a possible July 2010 PSA field trip there.
- Mike Smith will change the PSA Membership Form so that the default newspaper delivery will be via email and individuals will have to check a box for a paper copy.
- Mike Smith will send reminder to members to consider switching from newsletter paper copy to electronic copy only.
- David Lindberg to print the 2009 Actuals and 2010 Proposed Budget in the upcoming newsletter.
- Ed Elliot to ask Ann Molineux what amount of money would be useful as a donation from PSA for her Tucson trip this spring.
- Ed Elliot to contact Diann Strout, Kathleen Howard, Melody Barnett and Jamie Young regarding their participation as Officer / Chair position.
- Erich Rose to publish slate of officers in newsletter.
- Ed Elliot to purchase gift cards for Karen of Nature's Treasures and the Brandt's for their help with Fossil Fest.
- Linda McCall to update Fossil Fest To Do items

2010 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE:

January – Harker Heights

February – Jacksboro

March – East Texas / Jasper

April – PSA Annual Auction

May – Brownwood / Santa Anna

June – Clarita / Oklahoma

July – Museum trip (Fort Worth or VPL)

August – Brazos (if Brazos floods, then Whiskey Bridge)

September – Midlothian (quarry trip – date may change depending upon quarry schedule)

October – Texoma (possibly same weekend as AGMS show)

November – Clifton

December – Fossil Fest

BUDGET

David Lindberg passed around a copy of the preliminary budget for 2010. PSA spent more money than was brought in during 2009. Discussion ensued regarding reducing newsletter costs by having members switch from paper copy to electronic copy and changing the PSA Membership Form to a default electronic copy of newsletter. David will merge the two checking accounts into one. The \$10,000 CD will be coming up for renewal soon. All told, PSA has approximately \$23,000 - \$24,000 between the two checking accounts and the CD. Mike Smith recommended that when the CD comes due and the two checking accounts are merged, the club should obtain additional CD's and ladder them. Mike recommended that \$16,000 be divided into 4 laddered CD's of \$4,000 each with one coming due each quarter in case the club needed access to it. Discussion took place regarding making a club donation to Ann Molineux for the Tucson trip she will be making in the spring. Ed Elliot will contact Ann and discuss an appropriate donation amount with her. Mike proposed that the club increase the scholarship funds from \$500 to \$1000. The 2009 actuals and the 2010 Proposed Budget should be printed in the upcoming newsletter.

2010 PROPOSED OFFICERS and CHAIR POSITIONS

President / Field Trip Chair – Ed Elliot
 Vice President / Show Chair – Linda McCall
 Treasurer – David Lindberg
 Secretary – Dennis Stock
 Speaker Chair – Diann Strout
 Floating Board Member – Suzanne Galligher
 Editor – Erich Rose
 Membership Chair / Webmaster – Mike Smith
 Hospitality Chair – Kathleen Howard
 Auction Chair – Melody Barnett
 Christmas Party Chair – Jamie Young

FOSSIL FEST

Linda McCall requested that the club purchase gift cards for Karen of Nature's Treasures and the Brandt's for their generous help with Fossil Fest. Ed Elliot will obtain the gift cards. Mike Smith requested that Linda McCall update the to-do items for Fossil Fest.

Proposed 2010 Budget & Report

Expenses			Income		
Item	2010 budget	2009 actual	Item	2010 budget	2009 actual
Newsletter	\$1,000.00	\$1,042.73	Auction	\$800.00	\$764.00
Speaker's fee	\$900.00	\$400.00	Non-FF dues	\$1,350.00	\$1,368.00
Fossil Fest + T-shirts	\$3,300.00	\$3,258.76	FF Dealers	\$1,500.00	\$1,750.00
Fossil Mania	\$2,100.00	\$2,033.08	Fossil Fest	\$2,300.00	\$2,259.63
P.O. Box	\$40.00	\$40.00	T-Shirts	\$30.00	\$30.00
AGMS donation	\$250.00	\$250.00	Fossil Mania	\$3,000.00	\$2,969.04
Gifts	\$200.00	\$196.32	Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00
Xmas party	\$200.00	\$200.89	Total	\$8,980.00	\$9,140.67
SCFMS	\$800.00	\$757.40			
Auction	\$225.00	\$204.00			
MAPS	\$25.00	\$25.00			
Bank fees	\$0.00	\$29.75			
Scholarship/Donation	\$1,000.00	\$500.00			
501-3(c)	\$0.00	\$349.10			
Auction	\$300.00	\$286.83			
Computer equipment	\$100.00	\$0.00			
Misc	\$10.00	\$6.72			
Total	\$10,450.00	\$9,580.58			

Mineral Wells Fossil Park

Lee Higginbotham sent a message to the members of Mineral Wells Fossil Park, Texas.
Subject: The Mineral Wells Fossil Park may open in May 2010 if we finish our fundraising

Lee Higginbotham, Rocky Manning and I met with the Mineral Wells City Manager on Tuesday Jan. 9th. Dallas Paleo will write a check for \$6500 from donations to make the fossil park to match \$6500 from the city to begin the first phase of the park. Dallas Paleo still needs \$3500 to fulfill its commitment and to be able to access the remaining \$3500 of City money for the park. If we can raise the remaining \$3500 we are hoping to see the park open sometime in May 2010.

Please consider going to <http://www.facebook.com/1/86d1d;www.dallaspaleo.org> and clicking on the Mineral Wells note to access the Mineral Wells Fossil Park page that will allow you to donate by PayPal or by mailing a check. Please donate to make this free city owned collecting park a reality.

Volunteers Needed!

Murchison Elementary Math and Science Night
Thursday January 21st, 6:30-8:00PM

We (PSoA) received the following request:

We would love to have you join us! Our event is scheduled on the evening of Jan. 21st from 6:30-8:00pm. You can set up anytime after 4:00. Murchison Elementary School is located in Pflugerville at the corner of 130 and 45, next door to Hendrickson High School. It is a come and go event for our students (grades k-5) and their families. The entire school is filled with exhibits, demonstrations and experiments for people to enjoy as well as our student science projects from the Science Fair. As far as how many people you bring and what you want to share, we are open to anything. Earth science is an area our students are consistently struggling with. Therefore we hoped to have experts in the field join our activity to promote knowledge and excitement. So something related to your specific field, such as the fossils you mentioned) would be wonderful.

You just let me know how many tables you need and if you need certain provisions such as water, electricity, etc. I will have a space ready for you. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thank you,
Jessica Turner, Pflugerville I.S.D.

If you would like to come help that evening contact Ed Elliot at: 657-7581.

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

2009/2010 Officers:

President	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	edwardelliott@ymail.com
Vice Pres	Linda McCall	29617 Evans Lane, Highland, CA 92346	ldmccall02@yahoo.com
Treasurer	David Lindberg	9413 Sherbrooke St., Austin, TX 78729	dlindberg@austin.rr.com
Secretary	Suzanne Galligher	12800 Lantana 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		ldmccall02@yahoo.com

Science Advisors:

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

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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