

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 5, Number 3
March 2010

President's Note

Spring has sprung and the last days have been great ones to be out and hunting fossils. Our trip to the Jacksboro vicinity was wonderful and I hope the trip to East Texas in a couple of days will be as well. We have an auction coming up in April, at the West Cave Preserve. The date has changed slightly, it'll now be on Sunday the 25th as Saturday was already taken. I hope you will all participate in our potluck dinner and auction. It's a really fun social event and fundraiser as well as a lovely place to go. Bring a nice fossil or fossil related item for auction and a covered dish and your checkbook. I've been to the last 11 and they were all enjoyable. Those who haven't taken the tour of Westcave can do that as well.

I just received a request for our usual kind of "Paleo help" from Rebecca Benz, John Hinte's wife. She wants us to help out with a Camp Fire USA group at the Old Settlers Music Festival on April 17th. Some hands on stuff like our spinning wheel or fossil dig as well as the touch table. Sounds like fun..... hope we can get some volunteers for this. We'll discuss it at the meeting.

Hope to see you at the next meeting. -Ed

Next Meeting – Tuesday March 16, 2010

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

“A Field Trip to East Texas”

Linda McCall

Linda will highlight six different locations where the club has collected in the past. She will also have many specimens of fossils found on these trips as well as some new ones.

A little about Linda:

Linda attended the University of Texas from 1975-1977 and again in 1998 as a Geology major. She worked as a student assistant, in the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, in the mid 1970s cataloging specimens. Linda co-authored her first paper with Jim Sprinkle and others in 1985 based on a specimen she collected from the Bromide Formation in Oklahoma. As lead author, she presented her second co-authored paper, “*Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from the Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas*” at the joint GSA/GCAGS meeting in Houston in 2008 where it was honored with the second place Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Award. She and her co-authors are currently working on her third paper, “*Second Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from the Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas*”. Her current main areas of interest are Cretaceous marine ecosystems in the Austin area encompassing the Edwards and Del Rio Formations and the Austin Group. Her exhibits have won awards in several society shows, and she is active in outreach, giving lectures and helping create fossil kits for area schools.

Please note that the March field trip (3/13/10) will have happened before the March Meeting. April will be the annual auction at Westcave Preserve.

Williamson County Gem & Mineral Show, Georgetown



Thanks to all that volunteered. Including, longtime member, Jean Wallace who showed up that Saturday and proved she is still a very "active" member.

PSA February Meeting Minutes

Presentation:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Marilyn Austin. She introduced Doctor Emeritus Darden from the University of Texas. He gave a presentation on the fossil record or Tertiary Insects in Travis County. He discussed a method of using various sized screens and a kerosene bath to collect organic fossils.

Dr Darden talked about collecting ant head cases, pseudo scorpions and other insect fossils from the dirt collected from inside a

baby mammoth. Also discussed were 16 to 20 thousand year old peat bogs here in Texas. Fossil Dragon flies, carpenter ants, moss and liverwort can be collected from the peat bog.

A slide show was presented, showing insect fossils from around the US. There were many wing impressions shown. One impression was a section of a dragonfly's abdomen. The section measured 12 inches. Also shown was an example of an early stick insect.

One slide was an example of a fossil leaf showing the effects of insect feeding. This is rarely seen in the fossil record.

The meeting took a break.

Old Business:

David Lindberg gave the balance of club accounts as \$22,225.73

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

John Hinte is moving and needs the club to come get the signs he has been storing.

It was determined that we can not use the AGMS trailers for storage as we thought we might be able to.

Suzanne Galligher volunteered to find a storage facility in Round Rock area. We do not need climate control or high security.

The library is in Kathleen Howard's garage. She still needs some book cases to house the library. Joan Crane said she would get the cases to her in the next week or two.

New Business:

Marilyn Austin ask for some ideas on guest speakers. She also suggested that some of the club members could develop and give

presentations to the club. A cleaning demo by Ed and Joan was suggested. Marilyn asked that if we have any ideas that we get in touch with her.

The Williamson County Gemboree is next weekend. This is the same weekend as the Jacksboro trip (This happens most years). Suzanne Galligher will send a note asking for volunteers to staff a booth.

There was a suggestion that we change the field trip date next year to not coincide with the Williamson County Gemboree. No decision was made.

The day after the club auction (April 25th) will be the Balcones Canyon Land Festival. We have been invited to staff a booth with "Touch" fossils. Suzanne Galligher will send a note.

Linda McCall is offering 2 papers to club members. They will be \$20 each.

Cathy Rylander requested that people sign up to bring refreshments.

Remainder of Meeting:

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned.

February Field Trip Report - Jacksboro

Well, Jacksboro wasn't COLD this time around. It was cool, and fairly muddy...but that's paradise compared to 24 degrees and a howling wind. Eleven members attended: Dennis and Morgan Stock, John Hinte, Melvin Noble, Rosemary Smith, Melody Barnett, Gary Rylander, Gary Vliet and David and Bobbie Mell.

The Finis Shale is the basal member of the Graham Formation, which is the basal formation of the Cisco Group. The Finis is considered the "core" facies within a transgressive-regressive cycle and is bounded by limestone layers. The top of the hill at our collection site is the contact for the Jacksboro limestone. The terrigenous input to the area came from nearby deltas. This is certainly one of the finest Pennsylvanian collecting sites around, both for the quantity and

diversity of fauna and for the quality of the preservation.

I didn't see all that was found and I don't want to itemize all that I saw... it would be quite a list. Numerous gastropods and bivalves were picked up. Several conularids were found and the usual large numbers of corals. Several of the favosite coral *Paleacis sp.* were found. I picked up a large cusp of a *Symmorium* tooth and Rosemary picked up a jaw section with three broken-off teeth. First time that I had seen that. Of the cephalopods, I picked up a nice *Gonioloboceras* and five or six micromorphs – of which two were *Eoasianites* as well as numerous large pieces of other cephalopods. Dennis picked up a nice ammonite (*Shistoceras* ?) and Melvin and I both picked up a *Brachycycloceras*. He had also picked up something weird that he couldn't ID. It was a rather rare *Poterioceras*. Early in the day he had picked up two nice rostroconchs and an *Aviculopecten*, so I'd say that he had a rather good day. Dennis also found a very nice rostroconch on the hill. I'm happy to say that I found three *Plagioglypta* (scaphopods) and one of them was complete. Lots of brachiopods were found; of those, two stood out in my mind. Gary V. picked up a nice large, uncrushed *Linoproductus*. The other – when I got home and was washing, a nice *Knightites* – I found a *Lingula* sitting in the cavity. I had never found one at Lost Creek before. If those whose collections I didn't see did as well as those that I did ... a very good day indeed!

We started out Sunday at the Union Hill road cut just north of Mineral Wells. This is the Salesville Shale of the Mineral Wells Formation, Strawn Group. Every time we go there, it has a little something different for us. The *Paragassizocrinus* cups, the free floating crinoids, were still there. Gastropods, various brachiopods, a few species of corals, straight nautiloids, a few conularids and the occasional cephalopod fragment were the sparse fare. Gary R. surprised all of us by finding a complete ammonite.

Our next stop was the spillway at Lake Palo Pinto for some Pennsylvanian plant material. This is Mingus Formation, Strawn Group. I believe that Gary R. picked up the best fern material I've ever seen come from this location. Several of us chopped out small bits and pieces, but he had a nice large spray of fern leaflets. Gary V., Melvin and I chopped out some nice calamites and a variety of other wood pieces. I saw several people carrying rock pieces back to their vehicles, so there was more found. This area is slated to be under water once a downstream dam is built, so we have to enjoy it while we can.

I hope everyone had a great a time as I did. This is one of my favorite trips to make and I wouldn't mind going several times a year. This won't be seen until after the Jasper trip, so I hope you made that and I'll see you all at the meeting. Ed

Attention! AGMS Swap Meet

Austin Gem and Mineral Society would like to invite you to this year's AGMS Swap Meet to be held on April 10, 2010 in the AGMS Clubhouse parking lot. Set up starts at 7:00am. The booths open at 9:00am and will close around 4:00pm.

www.AustinGemAndMineral.org

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) Send to: Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, PO Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL