

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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April 2010

President's Note

Another month gone by and not enough collecting done. Too many sites and too many fossils to pick up -- we need 48 hour days! Hope that you've had a chance to take advantage of the longer days to do a little collecting. For those of you who missed the East Texas trip, it was lots of fun and lots of good stuff was brought back. You should have been there! And I hope you all show up for the annual PSoA Auction. It's as much a social event as it is a fund-raiser. Pick a fossil, book or whatever that others might enjoy, fix a side dish, pick up your check book and come on out and have a good time. Westcave Preserve is a lovely place for a pot-luck dinner and talking with your friends. If you haven't already, you could even take the tour after the auction. Hope to see you there. And our trip next month will be to the Pennsylvanian of the Brownwood area. Ed

Next Meeting – Sunday April 25, 2010

**12 Noon to 3PM
Westcave Preserve**

“Annual Auction and Pot Luck”

The main dish and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert (let us know what you will bring to avoid duplications. RSVP: Suzanne Galligher <suzanbg@gmail.com>).

Please bring fossils or fossil-related items to contribute to the auction.

And don't forget your checkbook!

Stay after the auction and take a guided tour at 4pm. Tour rates are \$5 per adult, \$2 per child under 12, or \$15 per family. Free tour admission is offered to Westcave Preserve members.

Westcave Preserve is located at 24814 Hamilton Pool Road (RR 3238) in the far west corner of Travis County. From Austin take Bee Cave Road (2244) or 290, to TX-71 and head west.

Hamilton Pool Road will be on the left after the town of Bee Cave. Follow the road past Hamilton Pool Park and down across the Pedernales River (Hammett's Crossing). The preserve will be at the top of the hill across the river. We will be meeting in the Visitors Center.

Note: cell phones do not work well in that corner of the county.

PSA March Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes 3/16/2010

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00pm.

Presentation:

Linda McCall presented “A Field Trip to East Texas”. The virtual trip started at “Whiskey Bridge” near Caldwell Texas. Fossils collected from this location are from the Eocene period. Next we visited Jasper Texas. Here we collected petrified wood from the Oligocene. Species collected here were live oak, palm among others. Next we

visited the Rose Vine rock quarry. The formation here is the Claiborne Weches (Eocene). Linda showed slides from a "Secret Quarry" again yielding fossils from the Eocene. Finally we visited lake Nacogdoches.

We took a short break.

Dr. Ann Molineux displayed the fossils she was able to buy at the Tucson show due to club's donation. She was able to buy a horseshoe crab cast, a Moroccan urchin, and horseshoe crab fossil. She did mention that the dinosaur egg she purchased had to be returned, because it was most likely imported illegally.

Old Business:

David Lindberg stated that the financial report was the same as last months. Meeting minutes from the last meeting were approved.

The date for the club auction was moved to Sunday (from Saturday) April 25th. Starting time will be around 11:30am. Bring a side dish or a desert. Also bring your checkbook ;-)

There is a request for volunteers for the 1st Balcones Canyon Land Festival. It will be held close to the intersection of Avery Ranch and Palmer.

Camp Fire USA will be held at Old Settlers Park on April 15th.

Linda has purchased the door prizes for Fossil Fest 2010. They are 1) a slab of trilobites 2) a sharks tooth display and 3) 3 Moroccan ammonite halves.

New Business:

Jamie Young made a motion to change the date of the October field trip. It was scheduled to coincide with an AGMS event. The motion passed. The date was changed to October 16th 2010.

Visitors were recognized.

Suzanne Galligher passed out a list of potential storage units. Option "F" (Round Rock Mini Storage 1400 E Palm Valley Blvd.) was selected.

Next field trip will be to Brownwood in May.

Mike Smith volunteered to pick up the Bar-B-Que for the auction.

Door prizes were awarded.

Meeting was adjourned.

March Field Trip Report - Jasper

We had a large gathering at "the Stump" in Jasper. Thirty people, a few from the AGMS and a couple from the Pine Country GMS as well as our host, Ron DuCote. We started out early and stayed later than usual in the creek and I think most of us wanted to go back the next day. Beef Creek runs through the lower Catahoula Formation, which is Oligocene and one of the woodiest fossil sites any of us will ever see. It sure would be fun to see what a back-hoe could turn up there in a day! As always, we did our best to remove as much wood as possible, and barely scratched the surface. Rich Geist picked up the find of the day -- a large piece of palm

that was completely opalized, and semi-transparent with a yellow cast. Very pretty. Melody Barnett and Linda McCall both picked up hand sized pieces that were exceptional in their surface detail, knots and wood grain that were weathered just right to sit on a bookcase. The rest of us had to settle for full rounds, pieces covered in drusy quartz or filled with pocket-rot and chalcedony. A word to the wise if we ever are lucky enough to go back: Linda took a lovely photo of a water moccasin in a section of the creek furthest from where we walked in. They are there, even if it is the first time we've seen one. We've been told that this was the last trip there. I can only hope that isn't the case as we always have a really great time. Are you listening Ron?

The rest of our day was spent in a glauconite quarry east of San Augustine. All of our Eocene sites were Weches Formation this trip. We weren't allowed to drive down into the quarry this time but a good number of people made the long walk down and back in search of sand dollars (*Protoscutella mississippiensis mississippiensis*). Those of us who stayed at the top searching the mounds found crab carapaces, shark teeth, gastropods, bivalves, corals and more. A fun afternoon in the piney woods of east Texas.

Those of us who stayed over met in Nacogdoches Sunday morning and drove out to "Lake Nac" for some more Eocene marine hunting. It's a beautiful and sometimes frustrating place to hunt, but the rewards can be as beautiful as the scenery. A variety of gastropods, bivalves and corals were found as well as a few shark teeth and a couple of nautiloids. Mike Smith dug into a "nest" of *Balanophyllia desmophyllum* corals. At least 250 were found in that area. WOW. The fauna has many similarities with the Stone City fauna, but many of the specimens I have to ID out of the book on the Reklaw Formation. Another place that I love to go hunting. Everyone that I spoke to had a smile on their face, so I'll say again.....another great weekend in East Texas! Hope to see you at the auction. Ed



A Big Turnout! (Photo by Linda McCall)

Mineral Wells Fossil Park Grand Opening!

May 8th, 11:00AM

A free public fossil park in Mineral Wells, Texas

Regular open hours will be 8:00 to dusk on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. Part of the former landfill borrow pit will be available for fossil collecting by individuals or groups.

Typical finds here are crinoids, trilobites, and brachiopods of the Pennsylvanian Age. A joint project by the City of Mineral Wells and the Dallas Paleontological Society www.dallaspaleo.org

Note that PSoA has also been a contributor to this project and we made numerous field trips to the park over years. If you can make it to the opening the show of support will go a long way to letting the folks of Mineral Wells know they did a great thing setting up this park.

Places to be...Things to do...

April 24-25--WACO, TEXAS: 50th annual show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club; TSTC Industrial Trade Center; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (both days), students \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Rd. 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311

April 30- May 2--HOUSTON, TEXAS: 2nd annual show, "Houston Fine Mineral Show"; Fine Mineral Show; Embassy Suites Hotel, near The Galleria; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; more than 50 dealers; contact Dave Waisman, P.O. Box 8543, Spokane, WA 99203; Web site: www.finemineralshow.com

May 1-2--LUBBOCK, TEXAS: Show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students (6-12) \$2, children under 6 free with adult; door prizes, children's "Spinning Wheel", demonstrations, sphere making, wire wrapping, silent auction, club displays, dealers, beads, jewelry, minerals, carvings, rough and polished rocks; contact Archie

Scott, 2709 Belvedere Rd., Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: archie.scott73@yahoo.com; Web site: <http://lgmstx.org>

May 29-30--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: 59th annual show, "Fabulous Fossils"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, Amon G. Carter Exhibit Bldg., 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, children under 12 free; 30 dealers, kids' games, hourly door prizes, grand prize, silent auction, exhibits; contact Steve Hilliard, P.O. Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234; (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

4-6--TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Show, "Gem Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Expo Square/Central Park Hall, 4145 E. 21st St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

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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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

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL