

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 5, Number 5
May 2010

President's Note

I can say from recent experience that our local creeks are still full of fossils and easy to get to. I hope that I'm not the only one slipping away for a few hours of fun. Speaking of which, under Suzanne's direction several of us went out to 2244 and 360 with a large group of 5th graders and gave them their first fossil hunt. It was a lot of fun for all of us. Every kid that I saw had a smile on their face. I'm not certain that we gained any new members, but it was a great science lesson for them.

We had a fair turn out for the auction, I would have liked to have seen a few more people but those who came will agree that it was a great time. Going out to a lovely place on a beautiful day and eating too much good food while talking and laughing with friends AND picking up a few nice fossils.... what more could you want from a Saturday afternoon? Those who missed it should try harder next year.

I wanted to remind everyone that Dr. Ann Molineux still needs volunteers for the Mass Inventory at the UT Non-Vertebrate Lab. The doors open at 5:00 every Wednesday and we're usually gone by 8-8:30. Show up at whatever time you can and stay as long as you can. The number of helpers is getting smaller instead of larger. This is a very worth while project and your help is both needed and appreciated.

Our field trip this month is to the Pennsylvanian of Brown and Coleman Counties. We'll decide the exact locations at the meeting place in Brownwood. Hope to see you there. Ed

Next Meeting – Tuesday May 18, 2010

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

Studies on the evolutionary morphology of lepidosirenid lungfish: building a comparative atlas of skeletal anatomy

By Katharine E. Criswell

Originally from central Pennsylvania Ms Criswell grew up with an uncle who was a geologist and who got me interested in rocks and minerals at a young age. She attended Shippensburg University as an undergraduate, where she majored in geoenvironmental studies with an anthropology minor and geographic information systems (GIS) certificate, and graduated magna cum laude. She became interested in paleontology while taking a historical geology class, and was able to do a summer internship in the vertebrate paleontology department at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. She worked with researchers at the museum looking at a sample of juvenile placoderms and doing fieldwork in Devonian outcrops of northern Pennsylvania. This experience prompted her to apply to graduate schools for paleontology, and she ended up here at the University of Texas. Her current research focuses on the evolutionary

morphology of lepidosirenid lungfish, but she is also working on side projects looking at Paleozoic fossil lungfish and mapping museum collections using GIS. Ms Criswell just completed her second year as a masters student and is planning to graduate at the end of the summer.

May Field Trip

Saturday May 22nd, 8:00AM

Pennsylvanian of the Brownwood Area

We will meet in Early, TX at the Mall, at 8:00. Early is a town that is nearly part of Brownwood and is on the East side. As you enter town on 183, you will come to an intersection and make a left turn to follow 183, it's well marked. Very soon after, you will come to the Mall on the right side; we'll be in the parking lot. Bring food and drinks (WATER!) and whatever else you'll need as we will probably be well out in the country all day. It's a long drive back to town just for lunch. Depending on the site we may be in full sun for hours so be prepared.

Fossils are generally small and do not require heavy tools. But depending on what sites we end up at you should be prepared. A rock hammer can be the safest method of turning material and avoiding snakes. Bring small containers for the little stuff and newspaper to wrap larger specimens.

PSA April Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes: 4/25/2010

A pot luck lunch was served starting around noon.

Meeting called to order at 1:30 pm.

Marilyn Austin "asked" for 3 volunteers to give presentations some time after July 2010. The volunteers were 1) Linda McCall
2) Ed Elliott (he stipulated later in the year)
3) Marilyn Austin.

Old Business:

Ed Elliott reported on the Booth the club had at the Old Settlers Music festival.

Volunteers were requested for Saturday May 1st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Suzanne Galligher, Bobbie and Dave Mell volunteered.

Suzanne Galligher is organizing a school field trip. It will be at Bee Caves Rd. (360 & 2244) past the pink flamingoes Jeanne Bowman and Erich & Emelia Rose volunteered to help.

The Mineral Wells Fossil Park will open on May 8th.

Remainder of Meeting:

The annual auction was held



Paleontological Society of Austin booth at Dino Days, Champion Park, Cedar Park, TX
photo by Frederick Falk



Myrleen George's 5th grade class field trip outing to 360 and Bee Cave Road for a fossil dig.
Trip arranged by Suzzane Galligher.
photo by Frederick Falk

2010 Auction Results

I'm very happy to report that the auction this year was great success and the society made almost twice what we did last year. Sorry I don't have the exact figures that David Lindberg reported (argh! deleted e-mail...) but it wasn't just a few hundred dollars. There were plenty of great fossils, books and T-shirts to go around and pretty much everyone who was bidding went home with something nice. Food was excellent too! --ERose



PSoA Annual Auction & Pot Luck at Westcave Preserve
photo by Suzzanne Galligher

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

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

June 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:

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL