

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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President's Note

Due to a number of factors ranging from an illness in the family to computer problems we do not have an actual "President's Note." Ed called me directly to let me know that the field trip is on for the Texas Memorial Museum next Saturday and he is looking into some other interesting possibilities on the UT campus. We will all have to wait to hear from him at the meeting Tuesday to learn more. See you there. --Erich (editor)

Next Meeting – Tuesday July 20, 2010

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

Phylogenetic Patterns and Controversies in the Echinoderm Subphylum Blastozoa

By Jim Sprinkle

Professor Sprinkle will be talking about his favorite group of fossil echinoderms, the Subphylum Blastozoa, which he named in 1973. Jim gave this talk at the big IPC paleontological conference in London this past month.

July Field Trip

**Texas Natural Science Center
(AKA Texas Memorial Museum)
Saturday July 24th, 10AM**

2400 Trinity Street, Austin, TX 78705-5786

An indoor trip while the heat is on. Admission is free.

Car Parking is available at The University of Texas at Austin, San Jacinto (SJG) parking garage located at 2500 San Jacinto Blvd., just north of the Texas Memorial Museum. Please note: van clearance is limited to 6 feet, 11 inches.

Weekend Parking is generally unrestricted around the Texas Memorial Museum. Check parking signs for spaces not controlled during off hours. Please be aware that in the case of special events, such as football games, parking around the Museum is extremely limited.

PSA June Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes: 6/15/2010

Marilyn Austin called the meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

A presentation “Excavating a Cretaceous Archosaur Site in Arlington Texas” was given by Derek Main from the Earth Sciences Department of University of Texas at Arlington. Several archosaur and crocodile fossils have been found at the site.

This is an urban site, located between Dallas and Fort Worth, from which you can see “Jones World” and Six Flags. The site was discovered in 2003 however permission to dig was only recently given.

In the cretaceous there was no polar ice cap. This area was a coastal marsh during the cretaceous. This site is part of the Woodbine formation. The woodbine formation was named and mapped by R. T. Hill.

One fossil found at the site appears to be primitive hadrosaur, evolutionarily fitting somewhere between an iguanodon and a hadrosaur hence it has been labeled protohadras.

Also found at this site are many crocodile fossils. Close to one of the crocodile fossils a lot of turtle fossils were found. The assumption is that it was a nesting site and the turtles were eaten by the crocodile. Baby crocodile fossils also found near by, strengthening the nest assumption.

There was some evidence of dinosaur,

crocodile interaction. A dinosaur limb bone was found with impact marks (bite marks) thought to be from a crocodile. It is not been determined if the bite was predation or scavenging in nature.

If anyone would like to volunteer Derek can be contacted at MainDinos@MSN.Com.

A break was taken.

Old Business:

David reported that the club checking account balance was \$24,417.58.

The minutes were approved.

New Business:

If you would like a club tee-shirt please contact Mike Smith.

Ed Elliot has more boxes of club books. He will contact Kathleen about getting them to her.

Logistics of the Oklahoma trip were discussed. There was some concern about the flooding in Oklahoma. Ed had contacted people in some of the areas that we were to visit and the flooding had not touched them. The expectation of chiggers and extreme heat and how to deal with these were discussed.

The door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned.

May Field Trip Report

Brownwood Area

We had an excellent turn out for our Brownwood trip. More than I've ever seen for this location. Jeanne Bowman, Morgan and Denis Stock, David Lindberg, Ed Slane, Damian Rispoli, Marc Connolly, Joe Watkins, Joe Watkins, Beki Pool, Rosemary Smith, Larry Jernigan, Melvin Noble, Lyle Graham, Sheldon Graham, Bill Hill, Dax Gonzalez, John Hinte, Melanie Barnett, Mike Smith, Emelia and Erich Rose, Bob McDonald. Twenty-three! The caravan through town was really something.

One of the wonderful things about Wilson Quarry is that 23 people can just disappear – not too many of our localities can handle that many people all day. This quarry is mostly Harpersville Formation, Cisco Group, Pennsylvanian. The uppermost section of the back wall is Moran Formation, the lowest Permian (there is argument about that – where exactly to place the divisional line). It is possible that some of the loose-quarried stuff might be Permian. If it's purple or green, it's Pennsylvanian.

There was a good deal of success that day. While a lot of us got pieces of the elusive *Petalodus* teeth, both Dennis and David picked up really nice complete teeth. My vote for fossil of the day goes to Erich for a nearly complete *Delocrinus* (crinoid) crown, a *Petalodus* tooth AND a pretty nice example of a *Peripristis* tooth. Quite a few of us picked up cups (mostly *Delocrinus*) and lots of nice brachiopods, corals, bryozoans, bivalves and even a few gastropods. For some reason, gastropods are somewhat rare at Wilson. Trilobites are present at Wilson, but only as pygidia. Several people picked one up but Bob (leave it to Bob) collected five out of the back wall.

By 2:00 the majority of the group wanted to go to Santa Anna, so off we went to the Santa Anna Shale, Moran Formation. Dirt bikes and ATV's have torn the area up, but the fossils were still there. Due to rains, the area that usually produces trilobites was very over grown. Bob still proceeded to find one enrolled in a small slab. John picked a pretty pygidium and several nice brachs – *Derbyia cymbula* I think. I heard that Melanie found a very nice coral of a type that I don't know. I have found quite a few of that coral, just haven't found a good reference yet. I picked up eight kinds of brach and my find of the day for the S.A. site was a fairly complete bryozoan frond, *Polypora* I believe.

Another wonderful day collecting fossils at a couple of pretty nice sites. A fun day all around.

June Field Trip Report

Paleozoic of Oklahoma

We started off another beautiful day in Ada, Oklahoma in front of the Callixylon tree on the East Central University. In attendance were Dennis and Morgan Stock, John Hinte, Ed Slane, Lyle and Sheldon Graham, Ron and Janet Root, Paul Hammerschmidt, Mike Smith, Melvin Noble, Dr. James Sprinkle and myself. After a short caravan to the metropolis of Clarita we met up with Bob McDonald and Kevin McGinn. Bob Carrolls' assistant Kevin was waiting for us by his shop and took us on into the quarry.

This is a great Devonian site; consisting of the Bois d'Arc and Haragan Formations of the Hunton Group. While trilobites are what most of us were seeking, there were a great number of brachiopods, some corals, a few gastropods and straight nautiloids and the occasional bivalve. My nose was to the ground most of the time so I don't know all that was found. I can't believe that anyone came away without trilobites - this quarry has more than any place I've ever collected.

There was one over-powering presence in the quarry that day, the sun. We expected summer time heat, but the combination of 97 degrees, very little wind and rock surrounding us like oven walls was a bit much. A few clouds, a bit of a breeze – it would have made all the difference between heat stroke and just hot. Kudos to Bob for being out there on the floor of that quarry every day, all day. That's beyond dedication. And we say "Thanks!" to him for taking the time to leave the quarry and show us his really great shop and some beautiful specimens. And, for doing a massive repair on his quarry road.

Most of us went with Dr. Sprinkle to a McLish Formation, Simpson Group, Ordovician site near Bromide. It was a road-side ditch which contained large bryozoans, some brachiopods and echinoderm hold-fasts and plates. After an hour or so, I called it a day due to the heat. We had a couple of members severely affected by the heat and I wasn't far behind.

Sunday morning we met again at "the tree" and caravanned to Fittstown and to Yellow Bluff. This is Bois d'Arc Formation and a lovely location. A great brachiopod, and a good trilobite site; there are also several kinds of coral, lots of bryozoans and a diverse echinoderm fauna. I believe a couple of camerata cups were found, many of the usual *Pisocrinus* sp., as well as parts and plates from several others. The majority of the members started heading home as soon as the shade on the bluff disappeared .

It was a good trip, despite the heat, one that I always enjoy. Next year we'll change it up a bit and do some different sites. Maybe we'll have clouds then. The next trip will be announced at the July meeting. See you there.

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