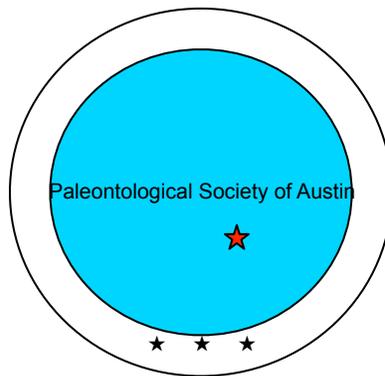


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 5, Number 8
August 2010

President's Note

It's great to be living in Austin. In the past month, I've sneaked off three or four times on impromptu local trips and had good luck each time. While it has finally decided to act like a Texas summer, early or late it's not so bad. A few hours in a creek or road side can be fun, productive and stop that "Jonesing" feeling we get from time to time. I know that I sound like a broken record..... I just hate to hog all the fun. We are going to have some volunteer opportunities in the next few months. We haven't decided which ones to accept yet. My fault. I've been without a computer for two weeks; prior to that, I had one that would barely work at all for another week. E-mails have been sitting around unanswered from many people and organizations. I hope when the time comes everyone will help out manning the tables and talking to the public. It helps the club, informs the public and puts science out there where it can be seen. And it's fun! National Fossil Day is October 13 and we haven't decided exactly what to do about it as a club. We have an option or two, including working at the Waco Mammoth Site (ie having a table or two). We will have more thoughts by the meeting. Our trip, if the water doesn't rise, will be as planned - down the Brazos looking for Pleistocene fossils on the gravel bars. The river was up not too long ago, so we should have a good time, but then, just being on the river is a good time. If the river does rise, our alternate trip will be to the Brazos at Highway 21, near Bryan. Hope to see you all at the meeting and on the river.

Next Meeting – Tuesday August 17, 2010

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

"A Sampling of Paleozoic Sharks"

By David Lindberg

David is a member of the club. He will be presenting a sampling of the wide variety of Paleozoic sharks that have been found. During the Paleozoic, sharks originated and radiated to become top marine predators. There were some very weird looking sharks, some of which we can only speculate about what they really looked like. The Carboniferous in particular has been termed a "golden age of sharks" because of the number of different families of sharks that were known to swim the ancient seas. David will also cover a few of the more common Paleozoic sharks, some of which club members have found themselves.

August Field Trip Saturday the 21st, 2010

The Lower Brazos for Pleistocene Fossils

Meet at the Stephen F. Austin statue parking lot in the S.F.A. State Park in San Felipe, at 8:00AM. Traveling east on I-10, just east of Sealy, take 1458 north (left) to the park. Bring whatever you would need for a day on the water. Food, lots of water, a canoe or kayak, hat, collecting materials-some finds are fragile, etc. Wear clothing that you won't mind getting in the red water. This trip is always a lot of fun

PSA July Meeting Minutes

Minutes: 07/20/2010

Meeting called to order by Jamie Young at 7:00 pm.

A presentation was given by Dr. James Sprinkle, Department of Geological Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas.

Title of the presentation was Phylogenetic Patterns and Controversies in the Echinoderm Subphylum Blastozoa.

Dr. Sprinkle gave a definition for Class and Clade. Dr. Sprinkle proposed the name Blastozoa in 1973. Blastozoans had previously been included in a different subphylum. Blastozoa became extinct at the Permian/Triassic boundary. Blastozoans are closely related to Crinoids.

Dr. Sprinkle discussed: the approximate number of genera, theca characteristics, feeding structures, respiratory systems, stem characteristics and plating and growth patterns for the eight clades of blastozoans:

Eocrinoids, Diploporans,
Paracrinoids, Coronoids, Blastoids &
Solutes

Dr. Sprinkle also discussed current problems in the classification of Blastozoans.

Break

Old Business

None discussed.

New Business

Current Account balance is \$24,482.58.

The logistics of the next field trip were discussed. We will be going to the Texas Memorial Museum on the campus of the University of Texas this coming Saturday. We will meet at 10:00 am.

On August 22nd the Austin Gem and Mineral Society will have an auction from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

An idea was proposed that on long field trips it may make sense to rent a van and car pool. No action was taken on the idea.

Door prizes were awarded & the meeting was adjourned.

July Field Trip Report

Texas Memorial Museum

We had eleven members participating in our self guided tour of the Texas Memorial Museum: Gary and Cathy Rylander, Melvin Noble, Kathleen Howard, Christine Bennett, Bobbie and Dave Mell, Tom Trunick, Adam Velasquez, Marilyn Austin and myself. Not only was it air-conditioned and free, it was also quite a nice exhibit. We milled around and looked at everything, talked and just enjoyed our time there. Dr. Molineux, Dr. Owen and all the other personnel involved have really done a remarkable job in transforming the place. I say that as one who first went there in 1982. It had a handful of very nice specimens - a handful of not so wonderful things and was a real disappointment to me. It stayed that way for decades and I just quit going in the early 90's. Anyone who hasn't been in the last year will find it to be worth their while to do so. The space is well used, open and well lit - no more "dungeon" feel in the basement. All of the specimens are well chosen and worth seeing. In the back of the basement, for those who need help with identifying their finds (or who simply want to look) there are drawers full of named non-vertebrate specimens. This is a small museum, and can never rival the likes of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. That said, when you walk in and see the giant Pterosaur hanging from the ceiling, the huge *Xiphactinus* mounted on the wall, the Permian archosaurs standing before you, or the incredible Volkswagen sized *Glyptotherium* "shell" or the *Archaeocidaris* slab (that we helped purchase) you have to feel amazed and entertained. While the paleontological exhibits are on the ground floor and basement; don't neglect the third floor. Anyone who enjoys "walking in the woods" will like seeing the dioramas of reptiles, birds and mammals of Texas. I'll end this by saying - if you haven't been, go. See you on the river on the 21st.

Notes from Linda

Linda McCall, our VP and Show Chair has asked that we pass along the following request.

It's time to start gathering extra fossils for our upcoming shows and events. When you hit those sites with an over abundance of fossils, take a moment and fill up bucket or gallon ziplock bag. Although it sometimes seems like we have way too many, between the two fall shows and special events we can go thru them quick. Both small stuff for the dig pits, and larger for the spinning wheel are appreciated.

Oh, and our (Linda McCall, Dr. James Sprinkle and Dr. Ann Molineux) second paper on the Edwards, "Comparison of Two Mollusc-Dominated Faunas from Cavity Layers in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation of Central Texas" has been accepted for publication and I will be presenting it at the GCAGS Convention in San Antonio on October 11, 2010.

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
 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		lnmccall02@yahoo.com
Treasurer	David Lindberg	9413 Sherbrooke St., Austin, TX 78729	dlindberg@austin.rr.com
Secretary	Dennis Stock		dennislstock@hotmail.com
Field Trips	Ed Elliott	11603-A Poplar Cove, Austin, TX 78753	512-657-7581
Programs	Marilyn Austin		maustinsxsw@hotmail.com
Editor	Erich Rose	807 The Living End, Austin, TX 78746	erichrose@austin.rr.com
Show Chair	Linda McCall		lnmccall02@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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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Erich Rose, Editor
807 The Living End
Austin, TX 78746

DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL