

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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President's Note

Our friend and member, Greg Thompson, discovered a web site and told Mike Smith about it. Mike told me and I'm passing it on. Do a search for Geology.com - it contains a large page of teasers which, when clicked on lead to some nice articles. Many concern geology, some paleontology, anthropology and other things. It's a good place to spend some reading time. It seems that the Dallas club is going to have a field trip to Lake Texoma on the same day that we were... I say were because they go to some of the same sites we do and it's not worth the resulting ill will seeing who gets where first. Too many places to hunt to stir up trouble over one. We'll discuss an alternative at the meeting. My personal thought is that since we had planned on being on the Oklahoma border anyway, why not go on across? Lot of places to go and we just can't do it in two days.

More on field trips and bad news. That bum of a field trip guy got mixed up on what month was when and didn't get the Midlothian trip organized. Getting approval for a quarry is a process that is usually started 6-8 weeks in advance - not 1 1/2. I'm sorry. Mea culpa. I have lots of excuses, but no real reasons. If I see tar or feathers at the meeting, I'm running. We'll talk about where to go during the meeting, if ya'll are still talking to me. See you there. -Ed

Next Meeting – Tuesday September 21, 2010

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

"Geologic Wonders of Central Texas."

Dr. Leon Long

Professor Leon E. Long is the Second Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Yager Professor of Geology at The University of Texas at Austin, and a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. He received a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1959, and began teaching at The University of Texas in 1962. His research is in isotope geology, specifically using naturally occurring radioactivity and its daughter products as a geologic clock (for example, to date the crystallization of a magma), and as a geochemical tracer (for example, to characterize the source rock whose melting produced the magma). Dr. Long team-teaches an introductory course that covers the entire span of geological science, and he wrote the textbook used for the course. In all, he has taught introductory geology to nearly 25 thousand students. He also teaches an undergraduate field course specially designed for students who are not majoring in geological science, and he facilitates a new graduate course that is likewise a general introduction to all of geological science, but as appropriate for a graduate student. He is the 2001-2002 recipient of the Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching Award.

September Field Trip Saturday 25, 2010

YET TO BE DETERMINED

As Ed mentioned in his opening letter we were not able to secure access to the Midlothian quarry as planned for September. A discussion at the meeting will determine where this month's field trip will take us. If you are interested in going but cannot make the meeting, contact Ed Elliot (512-657-7581 or edwardelliott@ymail.com) sometime before Saturday the 25th for details.

PSA August Meeting Minutes

Minutes: 08/17/2010

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

A presentation "A Sampling of Paleozoic Shark" was given by David Lindberg. David has a PhD in Physics and currently designs computer chips.

The class chondrichthyes includes Rays, Chimeryform and Ghost Sharks. The first shark fossils are found in the Ordovician.

The teeth found in the Devonian period are generally unambiguous. Examples of sharks with denticles on their skin were shown. Shark distribution and diversity peak in two eras, the carboniferous and the present. The carboniferous has been called the golden age of sharks.

Fossils of several sharks were displayed and discussed:

- Stethacanthus: had denticles on the spine and forehead
- Symorism: The fossil shown may actually have been a female Stethacanthus
- Damocles: Called the unicorn shark
- Imiopteryx: had wing like fins and may have flown
- Edestus: Had a scissor like tooth arrangement. One has been found at lake Jacksboro
- Helicoprion: had a very unusual spiral tooth arrangement (symphysial whorl). No other fossilized body parts have been

found, leading to some very curious suggested anatomy

Also discussed were Petalodontiformes Petalodus and Belantsea. Petalodus are found from New Mexico to Ohio in the US and in Europe and Asia. Megactenopetalus had many teeth on its upper jaw and only one on the lower.

Break

Old Business

The prior minutes were approved. The club has not written the AGMS a check yet. It will be \$250. The AGMS Auction will be Thursday August 26th @ 5:00pm.

New Business

Current Account balance is \$24,257.05. The Lockheed Rock Fest will be held on October 9 and 10 in FortWorth, contact Ed if you are interested. Wednesday October 13th is National Fossil Day. The Dallas club is asking for help manning a booth at the Waco Mammoth Site on that day. No decision made. A school in Harker Heights is asking for a presentation. It will be on a week day. It was decided we will pass. Ed will respond. Ed will contact Suzanne to get Evites setup for all the presentation invites we have. Rochelle mentioned that there is a

Williamson county Gem and Mineral club. It has a very "Gung Ho" chairman. They have field trips for active members. August 29th is ID day at Texas Memorial. Volunteers are needed to help with identification. Contact Joan Crane if interested.

Melvin would like his paleontological science fiction book back. If you borrowed it please return it. The field trip to the Brazos was discussed. Door prizes were awarded.

Meeting was adjourned.

August Field Trip Report

Brazos River Pleistocene

The Brazos River was nearly as slick as glass when we arrived at 7:30 on that very pretty morning. We had eleven members extremely ready to hit the water: John Hinte, Dale Vargas, Melvin Noble, Dennis and Morgan Stock, Paul Hammerschmidt, Kevin Bills, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Tom Oliphint and myself. By the time we had unloaded, gotten everything by the water and moved a vehicle to the take-out point, it was nearly 8:30. Getting in is always an adventure in itself. Most places on the river, you can walk out with your boat and get in without a problem. Under this bridge, the shoreline is a place to sink up to your knees in very nice red mud. (What happened to my shoes?)

Our first stop was most of a mile upstream, a short pleasant paddle. The last time I had been there it had been nearly covered in sand. This time there was plenty of gravel. Gary started off the day with a very nice partial alligator jaw. Several of us found turtle, Paul picked up a nice piece of bird bone and what looked like a calcaneum of some sort. Just as we were leaving, Gary showed me a very worn scute - glyptodont! As always, there were assorted pieces of unknowable bone. By the time we retraced our route downstream, we had lost three people - one due to boat problems and the other two to illness. And then we were eight.

Our next stop was an island and I don't believe much was found there. All that I saw was very eroded bone and one small scute - a partial giant armadillo scute, very worn. We hit two or three smaller bars without finding much - Cathy did find an excellent horse tooth and Melvin found a horse jaw full of teeth - even though the jaw was recent, it was still interesting for study. There are always lots of wood pieces on all of these bars, and while that's not what we are there for..... they are nice to pick up as well. The wood is very silicified and since the bones we're looking for come out of Pleistocene terrace deposits, I've always wondered if the wood is from reworked older deposits. Pliocene or even as old as Oligocene?

Our last stop is a very long bar just before the I10 bridge. I picked up a nice horse tooth at my first stop. I must have dug up 500 weirdly shaped rocks and one of the last turned out to be the very nicest bison tooth that I've ever found. John was excited by his first stop, finding a piece of alligator jaw and a very pretty piece of mastodon tooth. Just before I got into the boat for the last time I found a nice soft shell turtle piece. That is all that I know of that was found. Even though it was hot and I was very tired, I really hated the thought of leaving.

This is one of the trips that I have to say is my favorite. Sometimes we find more, sometimes less - but it is always a fun trip. Simply being on the water all day is a lot of fun. And if you get too hot, fall in for a minute, instant cool down. And I want to add a special "THANK YOU" to Paul for providing the rope and the truck to haul all of our boats up the hill for the take-out! Young people would have a bit of a problem pulling loaded boats up that steep sandy hill -

and none of us really fits that category any more. Sorry to those of you who missed a great trip. See you at the next meeting. Ed



Putting In

Fossil Fest Show Meeting

Hello!!

It's about time we had a Fossil Fest meeting this year!!

Moving to North Carolina has really put me a bit behind on things!

I'll be in town on the 12th and Ed has kindly consented to let us use his living room for a get together. So... Tues., Oct. 12, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Ed's place (for any of you who haven't been there yet, Ed's address is: 11603-A Poplar Cove Austin, TX 78753 He's in north Austin, off Braker Lane east of IH-35.)

Any club members interested in helping with the show are invited to attend - we love input!

Hope to see you all there!

Linda McCall
VP / Show Chair
Paleontological Society of Austin
512.422.2322 lndmccall02@yahoo.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

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@gmail.com
Vice Pres	Linda McCall		Indmccall02@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		Indmccall02@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