

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 5, Number 10
October 2010

President's Note

Ed offers his apology for not having a President's Note or a Field Trip Report for us this month.

Pre-Meeting FOSSIL STUFFING PARTY!

COME ONE - COME ALL - to the Fossil-stuffing party of the year! October 19, 2010 at 6:00 pm. We need to stuff 1000 sandwich bags with a flier and a fossil before the meeting commences at 7:00pm - so the more bodies the better!! Come an hour before the regular club meeting and show your club spirit! Please bring any extra small, clean, identifiable fossils you have lying around along with you - after all - we're going to need 1000! Any extras will be used for the dig pit or the spinning wheel, so don't worry about us having too many! Hope to see everybody there!

Next Meeting – Tuesday October 19, 2010

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

Late Pleistocene Non-analog Faunas and Their Significance

Dr. Ernie Lundelius

Non-analog faunas are those faunas that contain associations of species that are now allopatric, i.e. no longer have overlapping geographic distributions. They are characteristic of late Pleistocene mammalian faunas of many continents. These associations often contain pairs of species with apparent conflicting ecological requirements. Examples from Texas Pleistocene faunas are: the ermine (*Mustela erminea*), the masked shrew (*Sorex cinereus*) and the southern bog lemming (*Synaptomys cooperi*) occurred at the same time with the fulvous harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys fulvescens*), the rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*) and hispid (*Perognathus hispidus*) on the Edwards Plateau. These associations imply climatic regimes that are not found today. They disappear about 11,000 YBP coincident with the extinction of the large mammals.

October Field Trip Saturday & Sunday 16 & 17, 2010

Ada, Oklahoma

This trip will have already occurred before the newsletter is received by everyone.

Hopefully you received the e-mail blast regarding this trip. Circumstances prevented an early mailing of the Newsletter. If you did not receive notice we apologize.

PSA September Meeting Minutes

Minutes: 09/21/2010

Meeting called to order by Marilyn Austin at 7:00 pm.

A presentation "Geologic Wonders of Central Texas" was given by Dr. Leon E. Long of the Department of Geological Services, University of Texas. The northern part of central Texas is composed of sedimentary deposits lying on top of the continental crust. The sedimentary layer was deposited in the cretaceous period by the Interior Seaway. It covers all of what was to become Texas.

The Llano Uplift is older and deeper rock, exposed when the sedimentary layer was eroded away. The exposed rock is igneous rock, granite, whose disposition was not continuous.

Enchanted Rock is a batholith (a large body of intrusive igneous rock believed to have crystallized at a considerable depth below the earth's surface) in the Llano Uplift. It is composed of granite. The different colored crystals are:

- * Pink - Feldspar (Potassium)
- * White - Plagioclase Feldspar (Sodium)
- * Grey - Quartz

Its coarse grain indicates it was formed deep in the earth.

The concepts of Inversion of Topography

and Fault Drag were explained. Onion Creek is an example of a meandering creek filled with grus or decomposed granite. Dr. Long invited club members to a field trip to the Llano Uplift on Saturday October 9th. It will be approximately ten hours long.

Details will be sent to club members via a separate email. Pilot Knob is the remains of a volcano. It was probably an explosive type of volcano and was probably completely submerged.

Break

Old Business

It was proposed and seconded that Joan Crane be added to the club checking account. The proposal was voted on and passed.

New Business

Because the AGMS Gem Capers event and the Austin Science and Engineering Expo are on the same day, it was decided that the club would only have a table at the Gem Capers show.

Kathleen has donated her fossil collection to the club. Ed Elliot volunteered to pick the collection up and store it. It was decided that we would rent the storage unit for another year (13th month will be free). A request was made for fossils for give aways, fossil wheel of fortune, dig pit, teacher's kits etc.

Logistics for the Midlothian fossil trip were discussed.

It was decided that next month's trip will be to sites in Oklahoma not to Texoma.

Door prizes were awarded.

Meeting was adjourned.

VOLUNTEER!

It's here again!! The Austin Gem and Mineral Society (AGMS) Gem Capers annual show is just three weeks away! The show will be held **Friday, October 22 (9am-5pm), Saturday, October 23 (10am-6pm) and Sunday, October 24 (10am-5pm), 2010** at the Palmer Events Center (900 Barton Springs Rd) in Austin, Texas. PSoA will have a table at the show featuring a touch table, fossil display, paleo tools, fossil cleaning and give-aways.

Please consider volunteering for a shift/shifts! Volunteers are needed for Set-Up (Thursday, Oct. 21 beginning at 3pm), manning the Paleo Table during the show, and Tear-Down (beginning at 5pm on Sunday, Oct. 24).

SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS

The sign-up has gone digital!! Please visit our web based sign-up page at:

- 1) <http://www.mysignup.com/agms>
- 2) The link above will direct you to a page titled PALEO TABLE at AGMS Gem Capers 2010. There you will see the message, "This signup is private. You will need the passcode to continue. Please enter the passcode:" followed by a white text box. Type the word **paleo** in the text box in all lowercase letters and then click the "Enter Passcode" button. You will now be directed to a page containing the sign-up, information about the show and instructions on how to sign-up.
- 3) Review the Volunteer Schedule. You may volunteer for any spot that is listed as OPEN.
- 4) Once you have selected the date and time you would like to volunteer, click on the OPEN

button.

- 5) You will be asked to provide your name, email and home/cell phone number. Also, you may provide an optional UNDO code in the event you need to change your volunteer date/time. Write your code down!!
 - 6) Click on the CONFIRM button to select your volunteer time slot.
 - 7) You will need to enter the passcode again. The passcode is the word **paleo** in all lowercase letters
 - 8) You're done!
- FYI - ONLY your name will appear on the website. E-mail and home/cell phone number is only visible to the PSoA Volunteer Scheduler for this event.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING! THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP!!!

The temperatures are cooling off... just in time to sort through all those fossils you've been collecting this year (or years for some of you) and purge!! PSoA will gladly take your purged material for our upcoming booth at AGMS Gem Capers and our annual local show, Fossil Fest. It would be a great help if you would **please write on the bag which category the fossils are to be used for - AGMS, TEACHER KITS or DIG PIT.** (This will help us get the fossils to the right coordinator for each group in a timely manner). Here's what we are currently looking for:

AGMS

- **SMALL, RECOGNIZABLE FOSSILS** for give-aways to school children & public at PSoA's booth at AGMS Gem Capers held Oct. 22 - 24.

These need to be clean and small enough to fit into sandwich sized ziploc baggies along with a Fossilmania/Fossil Fest flier.

Recognizable just means that it looks like a "fossil" as opposed to some rock on the ground.

We need LOTS and LOTS of these because we have 1000 give-aways to make!!

Any extras will be used for Dig Pit.

TEACHER KITS

- **SMALL, QUALITY FOSSILS IN QUANTITY (10+)** to be given to teachers at Fossil Fest.

These need to be clean, quality specimens for teaching purposes and small enough to fit into a 3.5 inch square container.

Please include the location where the fossils were collected. (All teacher kit fossils are labeled with the following information - fossil name, period, group, formation and location. If you know this information, then go ahead and include it. Otherwise, just let us know where you found it and we can figure out the rest!!)

DIG PIT

- **VERY SMALL and SMALL, RECOGNIZABLE FOSSILS** to be "hidden" in sand (very small) and gravel (small) for kids to "dig" up at Fossil Fest.

These just need to be clean and recognizable as a fossil.

We need LOTS and LOTS of these too because the kiddos will do this activity over and over and over...

FOSSILS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT ANY UPCOMING PSoA MEETING

- **Tuesday, October 19 at 7pm - PSoA Meeting at AGMS Facility**

- **Friday, October 22 between 9am to 5pm - PSoA Booth at AGMS Gem Capers Show**

- **Saturday, October 23 between 10am to 6pm - PSoA Booth at AGMS Gem Capers Show**

- **Sunday, October 24 between 10am to 5pm - PSoA Booth at AGMS Gem Capers Show**

Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX

Sign-up to be a PSoA volunteer and get in FREE. Volunteers are still needed, especially on Saturday.

Sign-up at <http://www.mysignup.com/agms> (the passcode is **paleo**)

If you are unable to attend an upcoming meeting and you have fossil donations, please feel free to contact a coordinator to make alternate arrangements.

Teacher Kit Donations - David Lindberg - email: dlindberg@austin.rr.com

AGMS and Dig Pit Donations - Suzanne Galligher - email: suzanbg@gmail.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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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