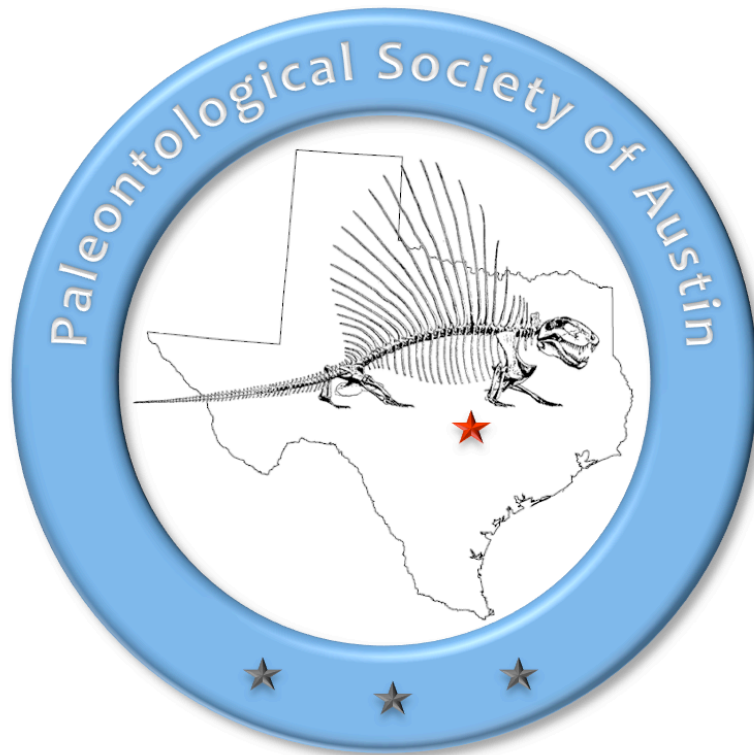


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 1
January 2011

President's Note

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday and is looking forward to a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Setting down to write this first message to you as the incoming president, it occurred to me that many of you may not know much about me, so I thought I'd start with a thumbnail sketch of me and mine.

I grew up a military brat in Alaska where I learned to ski, ride out earthquakes, and hunt, in that order. After a tour in Viet Nam, my Dad was transferred to Germany where I completed my senior year of high school and took my first two years of college. Once the shock wore off, this turned out to be a wonderful experience. I was able to travel quite a bit during breaks, became fairly fluent in German (ein bier, bitte), and learned enough Spanish and Italian to get the two thoroughly confused. We moved back to the US the summer of '73 and I resumed college in Colorado, got into banking and later into real estate appraising. Having been on the Ski Patrol in Alaska, and having kept my proficiency up while in Europe, I was also able to get a part time job teaching skiing at a local resort. This wasn't as easy as I thought it would be (skiing came naturally to me, course I started when I was 5), but I loved the smile I got when a student finally discovered they could actually control those boards stuck to their feet. A two-hour beginner class taught a person the most basic control maneuvers, but with that they could start having fun, and that's what it was all about. Besides, it paid for my lift tickets (big smile). By the late '80s fallout from the high interest rates and deep bought-down loans of prior years' real estate markets spelled the end of my appraising career so I moved to Florida, where my folks had retired some years earlier, and started over. I got a job at a toll plaza in Orlando and met my future husband...all in the same week. Twenty two years later I'm still in the tolls business, now auditing the operations I used to oversee, and am still married to the same easy-going, kind-eyed technician I first saw coming out of the Dean Road off ramp. I learned to scuba dive (his idea) and we have been able to take many trips up and down the coasts of Florida, the Bahamas and the Caribbean. During my time in Orlando I developed a love for orchids, eventually amassing a collection of some 400 plants, species mostly (Doug built 2 wonderful greenhouses for me to house them), became president of the Central Florida Orchid Society, and joined the AOS judging program (another thing that wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. Orchids are the largest group of flowering plants in the world and the taxonomists keep changing their names) It was also in Orlando that I developed my interest in fossils. I joined Florida Fossil Hunters, met some really wonderful people, and spent many a weekend crawling through shell pits, wading creeks & rivers (dodging gators & snakes), scouring beaches, and diving for shark's teeth (the fossilized kind). So, it was a natural progression that when I moved to Austin in '08 I should seek out another club with which to spend more enjoyable (weather permitting) weekends wondering around looking for things that died millions of years ago. Doug thinks I'm nuts, and maybe I am...a little, but it sure is fun. Doug & I have two cats, a dog, many nieces & nephews, and no children.

Now that you know more about me than you ever wanted to, let's get to business. 2010 was a great year! Our main outreach, Fossil Fest, bettered our previous year's show, Linda McCall published a second incredible paper, and Mike Smith won 1st place in the 2010 SCFMS Website Contest. Many thanks to our two out-going officers, President Ed Elliott and Treasurer David Lindberg, for all their hard work over the past several years. And Ed, thank you for continuing to guide our field trips.

Looking forward, Marilyn Austin has some great programs lined up for us this year, and opportunities to fulfill our society's purpose are numerous. Speaking of which, the Board thought it would be a good idea for all of us to refresh (or learn afresh) ourselves on how and why we do what we do. To that end Mike has added the PSA Code of Ethics & Conduct and the Bylaws to our website. From the home page click on the Membership or Newsletter tab, then click on Club Documents in the upper right-hand corner. **For convenience, Erich has also included them in this newsletter** so I encourage you take a few minutes and read them, I think it'll help everyone to move in the same direction.

Now, what can you do to enhance your experience with PSA? Be vigilant to see where your interests and experiences can make a difference and then join the fray...many hands make lighter work. At the January or February meeting I plan to outline our know events for the year so everyone can plan ahead to help, find out how an event works, learn something new about fossils, meet a new friend, and fulfill our society's purpose which 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". Together we can make 2011 a banner year and have fun in the doing!

See you at the meeting,
Melody

Next Meeting
Tuesday January 18, 2011

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

Tracking Texas Dinosaurs at Texas Memorial Museum

Pamela R. Owen, Ph.D.

Senior Paleontology Educator, Texas Natural Science Center
The University of Texas at Austin

An extraordinary 112 million year old set of dinosaur tracks is exhibited at Texas Memorial Museum. Discovered in rock layers exposed in the Paluxy River near Glen Rose, this trackway is an important piece of Texas' history. We will explore evidence for dinosaur anatomy, ecology and behavior as recorded in the trackway as well as the trackway's current conservation needs.

BRIEF BIO

Dr. Pamela R. Owen is Senior Paleontology Educator with the Texas Natural Science Center (TNSC), The University of Texas at Austin. She is a vertebrate paleontologist and mammalogist with a research focus on the evolution of the Carnivora. Dr. Owen is a native Californian who has been from an early age, interested in natural history. Her formal education includes a B.A. and M.S. in Biology from California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Owen conducted her master's thesis research on saber-toothed cats, American lions, coyotes and dire wolves at the Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries (the infamous "La Brea Tar Pits") in Los Angeles, CA. In May 2000, Dr. Owen was awarded a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from The University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation focused on the evolution of American badgers and included a detailed description of a new fossil species from New Mexico.

Throughout her career, Dr. Owen has been sharing her knowledge of vertebrate anatomy and evolution. She has taught laboratory sections in biology, geology, and paleontology during her studies at CSULB and at UT Austin. More recently, Dr. Owen has been an invited lecturer for several Continuing Education programs at UT. Dr. Owen has also been a guest presenter at meetings of local organizations including the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club, Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center, Austin Gem & Mineral Society, Paleontological Society of Austin and Scholia. She is also a facilitator for Project WILD.

Prior to her appointment as the Senior Paleontology Educator in 2003, Dr. Owen was the Collections Manager for the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory of the TNSC. Not only did she fulfill the standard collections management duties, she also developed and implemented collection-based teaching and outreach programs. Dr. Owen continues that aspect of her work today as a participant in docent training and several education programs at the Texas Memorial Museum, notably *Evolution Professional Development*, *Museum Express*, *Identification Day*, and *Family Fossil Fun Day*. She is also the manager and staff supervisor for the TMM *Paleo Lab*.

Next Field Trip Saturday January 22, 2011

Harker Heights, Texas and Vicinity

Meet at 8:00AM at the McDonald's on the north side of 190 at Indian Trail.

This trip will be to Harker Heights and other locations along US-190. We will be collecting from the Fredericksburg Group, Walnut and Comanche Peak Formations. Although many of you have collected these same formations in and around Austin the variety of fossils will be somewhat different with a few different types of echinoids being common as well as many other species of invertebrates we don't commonly see here. Shark and other fish teeth have also been found.

Most of the fossils will loose and easily connected. Some may require a little digging or down-sizing. But mostly you will need a variety of containers (boxes, zip lock bags, divided boxes, etc.) for everything from tiny crab claws to ammonites.

Directions:

Take I35 north to Belton.

Go west on US 190 to Harker Heights and exit at Indian Trail.

Look for the McDonald's on the right across Indian Trail at the light. We will meet there.

Travel time from central Austin is about 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Be there on time because we will caravan to our first stop fairly quickly.

For more information contact Ed Elliot, Field Trip Leader at 512-657-7581.

PSA December Meeting Minutes 12/17/2010

Prior to the meeting being called to order, a potluck dinner was held. Very delicious!!!

Meeting called to order by Ed Elliott at 8:00 pm.

New Business

There was no new business

Old Business

A short report on Fossil Fest was given. Conclusion - Fun had by all.

Our website won a competition. Congratulations to Mike Smith for a job well done!

The following slate of candidate officers was presented:

President - Melody Barnett

Vice President - Michael Smith

Secretary - Dennis Stock

Treasurer - Gary Rylander with help from Cathy

Show Chairs/ Board Members - Linda McCall and Suzanne Galligher

Program Chairman - Marilyn Austin

Field Trip Chairman - Ed Elliott

Web Master - Michael Smith

A vote was held and all candidates on the slate were elected unanimously.

The rules for the White Mammoth Gift Exchange were discussed. The exchange was held and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun.

The meeting was adjourned

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Purpose: The Paleontological Society of Austin is a scientific, non-profit, community-based organization devoted to the study of paleontology. Our goals include:

Educating the public.

Advancing the state of the science by promoting interest in and knowledge of the science of paleontology

Providing a network for the exchange of data between professionals and serious amateurs in the field.

The Society is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes.

To assist the Society in meeting these goals, the following are the guidelines for the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

1. Members will conduct themselves in a manner that best represents the purpose of the Society.
2. Members will act responsibly and safely so as not to bring other members or themselves into harm or danger.
3. Members will respect private and public properties and will not collect without appropriate permission. Moreover, members will make a sincere effort to keep themselves informed of all laws, regulations and rules regarding collecting on private and public lands.
4. No member will use the name of the Society to gain access to lands, or scientific sites actively under study by paleontological professionals for personal gain or profit.
5. Members will not visit a site prior to a scheduled field trip with the intent or purpose to prevent fair collecting opportunities by the members of the Society.
6. Members will respect and cooperate with the field trip leader or designated authorities in collecting areas. Field trip leaders may ask that certain scientifically significant fossils, found on society field trips, be surrendered to the appropriate facilities. The determination of scientific significance will be the responsibility of the field trip leader.
7. Members should contact the appropriate professionals upon discovery of what the member considers to be scientifically significant fossils. This includes excavation, preparation, and documentation of the fossils in question. Members should consider donating such fossils to appropriate facilities.
8. Members will not barter, sell or purchase scientifically significant fossils unless it brings them into or keeps the fossils within a public trust. We acknowledge that any private trade or commerce in scientifically significant fossils deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens such that part of our natural heritage is consequently lost.
9. Membership of any person failing to uphold the purpose of the Society may be terminated upon recommendation of the Directors, followed by a simple majority vote of the members.

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN BYLAWS

A TEXAS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE I - Membership, Dues and Fees

1. Requirement of membership is the payment of dues.
2. All members shall be of good character.
3. Honorary membership can be awarded by the recommendation of an active member and voted in by a majority present at the annual business meeting,
4. Dues amounts are established at the annual business meeting. Membership categories are 'individual', 'family' or 'associate'. Voting members consist of either adult individual or adult family members whose

- dues are current.
5. Associate members are non-voting and receive the newsletter, but are not otherwise active.
 6. Dues shall become payable January 1st and shall become past-due on March 15th. Dues received after October 31 are credited to the following year.
 7. All new members shall have available for review upon request a copy of the Articles and Bylaws
 8. Dues paid by voting members shall include South Central Federation of Mineral Societies membership dues.
 9. This Society shall be affiliated with and maintain an active membership in the Mid-America Paleontological Society.

ARTICLE II - Meetings

1. Monthly meetings shall be scheduled at a time and place as determined by the Board of Directors. A calendar of forthcoming meetings shall be published in the newsletter. Meeting minutes shall be published in the Newsletter and any changes or corrections shall be made at the next meeting.
2. To constitute a regular meeting, a member of the Board and a quorum of the membership must be present. A quorum for the regular meetings is defined as one-tenth of the voting membership.
3. The November meeting shall be the annual business meeting for the election of Officers, Board of Directors and honorary members.

ARTICLE III - Officers

1. Election of officers shall be held in November of each year with the new officers assuming their duties on January 1. Term of these officers shall be one year.
2. Officers shall be nominated for election by a nominating committee appointed by the President and/or by open nominations from the floor.
3. Officers shall be active members elected by a majority vote. No person shall hold more than one elected office at one time.
4. Vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the term by the Board of Directors.
5. Officers of this Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
6. Vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the term of office by the Board of Directors.
7. President. The duties of the President shall be to preside over all meetings of the organization, appoint all committees deemed necessary, and see that the activities of the organization are designed to carry out the purpose of the Society.
8. Vice-President. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to perform the duties of the President in the President's absence. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties from time to time as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.
9. Secretary. The duties of the Secretary are to keep and report the minutes of all meetings of the Society, and to maintain membership records and conduct correspondence as necessary, and to perform all duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties from time to time as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.
10. Treasurer. The Treasurer is charged with the custody of the Society's finances, and has authority to pay all bills recommended by the Board and approved by the membership and to report all information to the members. In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of the Treasurer and such other duties from time to time as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors. Treasurer is responsible for payment of Society's dues to the South Central Federation of Mineralogists by the 1st of January according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the SCFM, Article II, Dues Section 2 and 3.

ARTICLE IV – Board of Directors

1. The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors.
2. Committee Chairmen, Society members or persons having business with the society may attend any meetings of the Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three other active members elected to the Board at the annual business meeting.
4. The Board of Directors shall meet at least three times a year.
5. At the first monthly meeting following the election of a new Board they will present a proposed yearly budget to be voted on by the members.
6. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by, or at the request of, the President or any two Directors.

7. Quorum - a majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board.
8. Minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and actions taken shall be presented to the Society at the following meeting. The Society may accept or reject these minutes.
9. Informal Action by the Board of Directors - Any action required by law to be taken to the Board of Directors or any action which may be taken at a meeting of Directors, may be taken without a meeting, if consent in writing setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the Directors.
10. In case of a Board vacancy in a given year, the Board of Directors shall appoint a new member to serve for the remainder of the year.

ARTICLE V - Compensation

1. Directors and officers shall not receive any compensation for their services.

ARTICLE VI - Committees

1. There shall be standing committees appointed as needed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII - Authority

1. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern this Society in all cases where applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII - Fiscal Year

2. The fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments

1. Approval to change the bylaws shall be two-thirds of majority of responding members.
2. Responding member shall be a member responding in writing or voting at the meeting.
3. Members will receive notice of any proposed changes in the bylaws at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted on. Notification of amendments of bylaws shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

ARTICLE X - Waiver of Notice

1. Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act, or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or by the Bylaws of the corporation/organization, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether it be before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equal to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE XI - Acceptance

1. Upon acceptance, these Bylaws shall become effective immediately.

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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Vice Pres Mike Smith
Treasurer Gary Rylander
Secretary Dennis Stock
Field Trips Ed Elliott
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Editor Erich Rose
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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