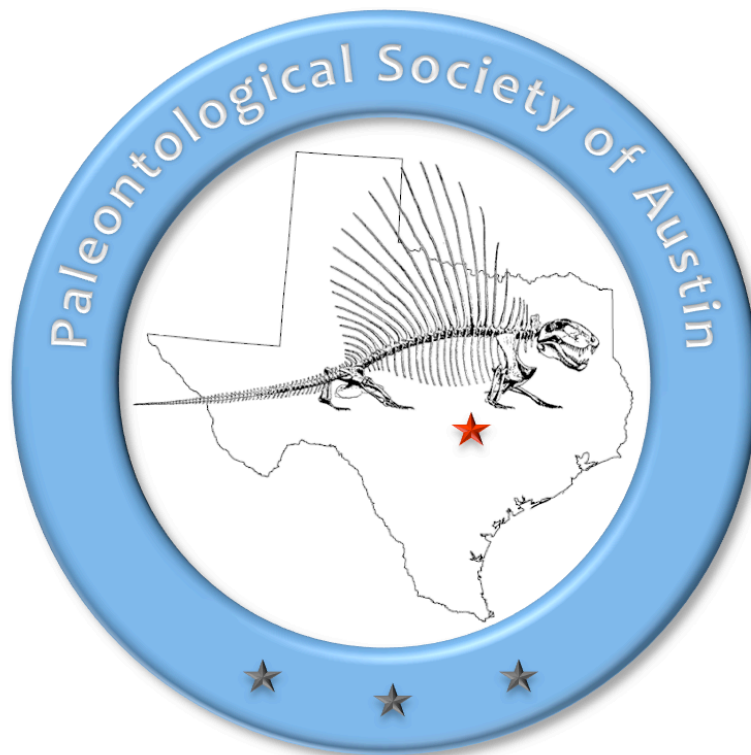


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 2
February 2011

President's Note

I hope everyone survived last week's cold snap ok. We experienced 14 degrees, 2 inches of snow and lots of ice in Georgetown. The dog's water dish and birdbaths froze and so did a portion of the surface water of our pool...which totally freaked our little grey tabby, Junior. Nitty, our orange tabby was totally nonplused by the whole event and the snow didn't seem to bother Junior much, but that other stuff...that would require extreme feline vigilance. Talk about comic relief, I thought his eyeballs were gonna fall out before he got used to it.

After our meeting last month, several people commented favorably about the Buffalo Chicken Dip so I've included the receipt at the end of my note. Feel free to use, augment, or ignore any or all as you please.

During the business portion of our meeting this month, I'd like to take some time to discuss Scholarships & Donations. We all think it's a good idea to do and we've included \$1,000.00 in this year's budget for it, so I'd like your help developing some logic/criteria/procedures for handling it. It doesn't have to be a complicated or highly formal plan, and we probably won't come to consensus right away, but please give it some thought and come prepared to talk about it.

I'm looking forward to hearing about (and hopefully seeing) some of the nifty things found at Harker Heights last month. I know there are a number of easily accessible hunt sites in that area and its close enough to Austin for an easy day trip...how much more could you ask for! February's field trip to Jacksboro is further out but it's an awesome hunt and I encourage everyone who can to go. I had a great time (because I found stuff!) on last year's trip and am disappointed I can't go with the club this year.

The Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society's 'Gemboree' will be held at the Community Center, San Gabriel Park, Georgetown, on Feb 19 & 20. We will have an information table there so please volunteer to man the booth for a couple hours and enjoy the show while you're at it. Go to www.wcgms.org for map & directions, and see Suzanne to sign up & for other information.

It's also time to start thinking about our annual auction, which will be held during our April meeting. Keep an eye out for nice fossil related items you can donate and start saving some extra dollars so you can buy some of the nice things donated by others. The auction is a fun, potluck style picnic, usually held at West Cave Reserve, and it is our primary fund raiser of the year. I hope everyone will plan to participate. More details will be made available as the date draws nearer.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting and as always...happy hunting!

-----Melody

Buffalo Chicken Dip

2 cans, 10 oz. white meat chicken, drained
& shredded
¾ cup Frank's Red Hot Sauce
1 cup Ranch dressing
2 blocks cream cheese, softened (I only use
1 block, personal preference)

Shredded Cheddar Cheese

Chips for dipping
Place chicken & hot sauce in a sauce pan
and cook till warm. Add ranch dressing and
cream cheese & cook till melted. Transfer to
crock pot, on low, and sprinkle with
shredded cheese to taste. Enjoy.

**Next Meeting
Tuesday February 15, 2011**

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

**Triassic Phytosaurs
From the Petrified Forest in Arizona**

By Michelle Stocker

Michelle is currently a PhD candidate in the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT Austin. She did her undergraduate (BS, Geological Sciences) at the University of Michigan and received her MS (Geoscience) from the University of Iowa in 2008. Her thesis focused on description of four new phytosaur (relatives of crocodiles from the Triassic) specimens from Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, and she performed the first analysis of the group to determine the relationships of all of the group members. For her PhD she is continuing analysis of a Late Triassic fossil assemblage from Texas to see what different animals were present and how the assemblage compares to other Late Triassic assemblages around the world. She will focus on her work on phytosaurs and then go into what she's been doing with the Texas locality.

**Next Field Trip
Saturday February 26, 2011**

Jacksboro - Lost Creek Lake Dam Spillway

**Jacksboro, TX Pennsylvanian Period (~300mya)
Other Pennsylvanian sites in the area will be visited as well.
Meet at the town square at 8:00AM.**

This can be a two-day trip for those who want to stick around. It can be quite cold this time of year, or bright, sunny and warm. Bring layers of clothes to be prepared.

Call or e-mail him for directions: 512-657-7581, edwardelliott@ymail.com

PSA January Meeting Minutes 1/19/2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Jamie Young introduced our guest speaker, Pamela R Owens PH. D. from the Texas Natural Science Center.

Doctor Owens' presentation was "The Dinosaur Tracks of the Glen Rose". There is a program

starting to raise money to be used to move the tracks from their current location to inside the Memorial Museum on the UT campus. There is a lot of preservation needed to stop the current deterioration of the track ways.

Dr. Owens continued by describing the history of how the tracks were discovered and brought to their

current location on the UT campus in a Civilian Conservation Corps built shed.

In 1940 on the banks of the Paluxy River near the town of Glen Rose Roland T. Bird discovered the track ways. He acquired a WPA grant to collect the tracks. They were from sauropods and theropods (he called them carnosaurs). The WPA broke out two slabs, one for the Museum of Natural History and one for the Texas Memorial Museum.

Based on the missing left track in the track way, Bird claimed the tracks represented a hop attack.

Currently most paleontologists do not believe this is accurate. The theropod tracks were most likely made by an Acrocanthosaurus a 30-40 foot long allosauroid. There are several candidates for having made the sauropod tracks. Pauluxysaurus Jonsi and Sauroposeidon Proteles are some of them.

Because the shed the UT slab is housed in was built by the CCC it is a historical site and cannot be modified.

Some of the contributing factors to the deterioration of the tracks are:

- * The tracks were painted over
- * There is no climate control in the shed
- * Ground water seeps up from the bottom of the shed

A break was taken.

Old Business

Minutes of last meeting were corrected to show Linda McCall is Vice President not Mike Smith. (Sorry Linda!!!). Minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer reported club account balance of \$22,260.31

The proposed field trip schedule was discussed and adjusted.

New Business

ID Day at Texas Memorial Museum will be this coming Sunday. Volunteers were encouraged.

David Lindbergh passed out copies of the proposed budget. Discussions about the deficit, raising dues were held. The budget as proposed was voted on and approved.

The Williamson County Gem and Mineral club show conflicts with our February field trip. Our field trip moved to weekend of February 26th.

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned.

Places to be, Things to do...

Feb 25-27—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; AKS Gem Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; weekend admission \$5; lapidary demonstrations and classes by Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; contact Kay Schabillon, e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Web site: www.aksshow.com

March 5-6—BIG SPRING, TEXAS: 42nd annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, dealers, demonstrations, displays, spinning wheel, hourly prizes, stone setting; contact Jerald Wilson, (432) 263-4662, or Lola Lamb, (432) 263-3340

March 19-20—LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TEXAS: 50th annual show, “Fiesta of Gems”; San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, children 50 cents; 25 dealers; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, games, hourly door prizes, silent auction; contact Robert Bowie, e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: www.swgemandmineral.org

March 25-27—ADA, OKLAHOMA: “A Festival of Gems, Minerals & Fossils 2011”; Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, Main Bldg. #1, NE corner of state Rte. 99/U.S. 377 and the Richardson Bypass/S. Hwy. 1/3E; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; demonstrations, displays, fluorescent rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, jewelry, silent auctions, raffle Sun., kids’ fossil dig and petting zoo, dealers; contact Ed Vermillion, (405) 527-6431; e-mail: okieed42@windstream.net; Web site: www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm

Here's your first opportunity of the New Year to promote paleontology, earth science and a love of fossils to your community!!

volunteer...

The Paleontological Society of Austin will man a booth at the upcoming Williamson County Gemboree

Saturday, February 19, 2011 from 10am to 6pm
Sunday, February 20, 2011 from 10am to 5pm
at

COMMUNITY CENTER SAN GABRIEL PARK
445 E. Morrow Street
Georgetown, TX 78628

For more info about Gemboree, please visit The Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society website at <http://wcgms.org/Gemboree.html>

Please consider volunteering for a shift! Volunteers are needed for Set-Up (Saturday, Feb. 19 @ 8am - 10am), manning the PSoA Table during the show, and Tear-Down (beginning at 5pm on Sunday, Feb. 20).

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

You may sign-up at the next PSoA monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15th at 7pm OR online anytime at <http://www.mysignup.com/gemboree> (the passcode is **paleo**)

FYI - ONLY your name will appear on the mysignup website. E-mail and home/cell phone number is only visible to the PSoA Volunteer Scheduler for this event.

QUESTIONS?

Jamie Young is the PSoA Volunteer Coordinator for this show. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie at FossilYoung@aol.com

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

January Field Trip Report Harker Heights

The new meeting place for Harker Heights seemed to work out well, no complaints about not being able to find it. Say whatever you will about McDonalds' food..... the restaurants make good, easily found meeting places. Seventeen members were present and excited about the day: Mike Smith, John Hinte, Ron and Janet Root, Cathy and Gary Rylander, David Lindberg, Paul Hammerschmidt, Bobbie and Dave Mell, Dax Gonzalez, Javier Pedemonte, Dick Cameron, Dennis Stock and Mark and Beki Pool.

We caravanned to the first stop, a new site for the club. It consisted of something like 40 acres of torn up surface exposing a decent *Phymosoma* layer. This and all sites for the day are of Walnut Formation, Fredericksburg Group. The Walnut was a time of shallow seas and all of our favorite beds have a high marl content indicating a nearby clastic source, i.e. a landmass. This same marl is responsible for an incredible number of beautifully preserved (and easily cleaned) fossils. The first little bit of the day was a little cool, as I walked across a flat area – I realized I was standing on ice. A few hours later and it would be a couple of inches of water. As we spread out, I realized the size of the area – I could only see a few people. Some of the things found: *Phymosoma texana*, *Phymosoma mexicana*, *Heteraster texana*, *Salenia mexicana* and *Tetragramma taffi*. For the ammonites, two species of *Engonoceras* and one of *Oxytopidoceras*. There was a great variety of bivalve steinkerns and gastropod molds . We all agreed that it was a site worth coming back to.

Close to noon we caravanned a mile to the second site. The draws for this site are the frequent *Salenia mexicana* and the variety of well-preserved small fossils. A lot of the gastropods have beautiful original surfaces. We were just starting to think about the next site when Mike showed up with a lovely 8 inch (?) *Oxytopidoceras* that he'd dug out of the hillside. Kudos! So often they come “ready to reassemble” due to all the fractures.

After a lunch stop we went to the last site of the day, another large well stocked outcrop. I know that Gary said that he had in excess of 40 *Phymosomas*, I can't imagine that anyone didn't find some. Along with the echinoids mentioned for the first site, we also found *Hemiaster whitei* and *Loriolia rosana* as well. I also remember David Mell jacketing an ammonite, an *Oxy.*, and getting it out. Hope it cleans out well. I spent most of my time looking for crab parts and other small things in the grey clay – and even doing that I picked up five kinds of echinoids. We were blessed when we found this site.

As dusk approached, so did the wind and cold. Those of us left all started walking back to the cars and warmth. As John and I drove toward the highway, we just weren't ready to quit..... so we drove to another small site that has a lot of lovely *Salenias*. With only 20 minutes of light left we scoured the area. With the afterglow of another beautiful Texas sunset washing over me I lay on the ground shivering with eight more little echinoids in my hand. Wishing for more light! The end of another wonderful day collecting nature's treasures. See you in Jacksboro.! --Ed

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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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL