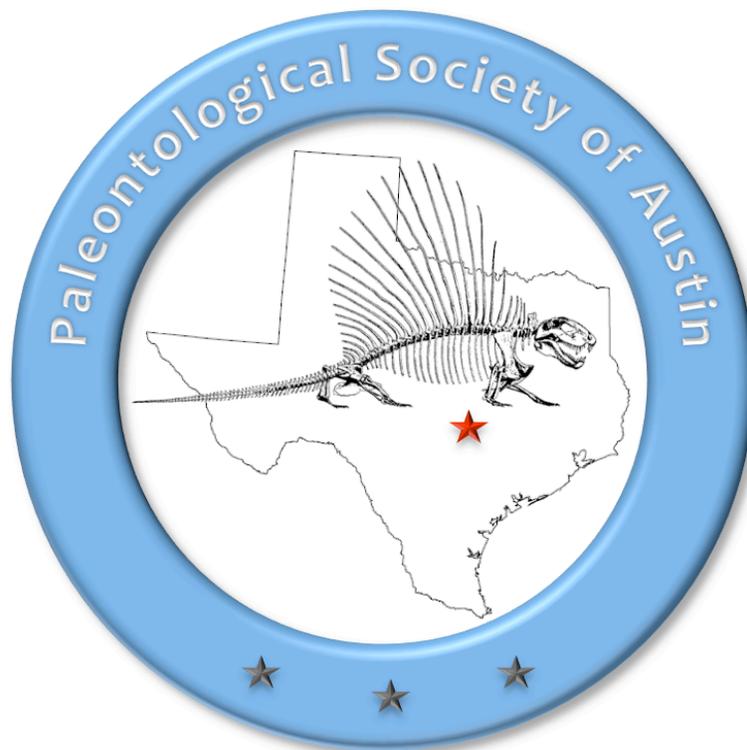


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 4  
April 2011

## **President's Note**

Well, the wild flowers are beginning to lift their beautiful heads and I'm really looking forward to a nice show this spring. I understand from those who supposedly know that we're not going to have as glorious a display this year as in the past due to the dry fall months. Regardless, I think the flowers this year will be delightful and bring much pleasure as we travel along the roads and byways. I am happy to see them and am sure you are too. Wouldn't it be nice if fossils presented like this???

The BIG event this month is our annual auction and potluck meeting at West Cave Preserve. Erich has included details below on the when, where, and how to get there so I'll just encourage everyone to plan on coming out, eating your fill, enjoying a beautiful nature site, and buying lots and lots of nifty fossil-y stuff. I look forward to seeing you all there ☺

Happy hunting,

Melody

## **Next Meeting Saturday April 23, 2011**

### **Annual Auction and Pot Luck Picnic**

**We eat at 12 Noon and the Auction takes us to 3PM  
Westcave Preserve**

### **“Annual Auction and Pot Luck”**

The main dish and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert (let us know what you will bring to avoid duplications. RSVP: Suzanne Galligher <suzanbg@gmail.com> or call her at 751-1351). Please bring fossils or fossil-related items to contribute to the auction.

And don't forget your checkbook!

Stay after the auction and take a guided tour at 4pm. Tour rates are \$5 per adult, \$2 per child under 12, or \$15 per family. Free tour admission is offered to Westcave Preserve members.

Westcave Preserve is located at 24814 Hamilton Pool Road (RR 3238) in the far west corner of Travis County. From Austin take Bee Cave Road (2244) or 290, to TX-71 and head west.

Hamilton Pool Road will be on the left after the town of Bee Cave. Follow the road past Hamilton Pool Park and down across the Pedernales River (Hammett's Crossing). The preserve will be at the top of the hill across the river. We will be meeting in the Visitors Center.

Note: Most cell phones do not work well in that corner of the county.

## PSA February Meeting Minutes 3/15/2011

Meeting called to order by Melody Barnett at 7:00 p.m.

Guest speaker was our own Linda McCall. She compared two sites from the Edwards Formation in Central Texas. Both of the sites have now been paved over. Although the two sites were relatively close to one another, 755 ft apart and 16 ft difference in elevation, and they shared beautifully preserved calcite-replaced specimens, they had some distinctly different fauna. Approximately 1/3 of the fauna were found at both sites, and approximately 1/3 of the fauna were unique to site 1 and 1/3 of the fauna were unique to site 2. Of the 200+ species found, over half (134) are new. Much work identifying specimens, etc. remains to be done.

A break was taken.

### Old Business

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Current bank balance is \$21,826.45. This is \$15,025 in our savings account and \$7,491.45 in our checking account.

The committee reported on the Jacksboro trip on February 26. Everyone had a great time. The trip to Jasper was to be held on March 19 and those attending the field trip were to meet in Nacogdoches.

### New Business:

Hot Science - Cool Talks will to be held March 25 at the LBJ Auditorium at UT Austin. Julie Clark will be the speaker and her subject is "Dinosaurs in Living Color." Ed Elliott and Melvin Noble will be at a society table outside from 5:45-6:45 p.m. Members are urged to get there early as the lecture starts at 7:00 p.m.

Bellaire Elementary School in Killeen will hold Science Day on April 14 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Marilyn Austin will represent our society.

We discussed the April picnic/auction meeting to be held on Saturday, April 23 at Westcave Preserve. We plan to eat at noon, but you can come a few minutes earlier and help set up. This is always a fun time and a great fundraiser. Please bring your fossil-related donations. If you don't have any items to donate, remember you can purchase marvels that others have brought. Please bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, or dessert). The society will provide meat and non-alcoholic drinks.

Saegert Elementary School in Killeen will hold Career Day on May 13 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Marilyn Austin will represent our society.

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m..

## NOTE TO ALL: THERE IS NO APRIL FEILD TRIP

**The May trip is currently planned for Brownwood, TX.  
Stay tuned for more information in next month's Newsletter**

## Paleontological Society of Austin Social Networking PLEASE JOIN!

How many of you are aware that we have our very own Google group? How about our Facebook page? Well based on the fact that only twenty of us have joined Google I am willing to guess not many. The Google group was set up back in 2007 by our web master Mike Smith and for a few of us has become a great way to share news and information about paleontology and other related topics. By example just this month members have posted information on the planned dam on the North Sulfur River and some useful online map resources. These forums give us all the opportunity to stay in contact, asking questions, sharing information and filling in the void between monthly meetings.

So I would like to encourage all of the members of our society to join in. Here is the link to the Google group: <http://groups.google.com/group/paleoaustin?hl=en> just follow the instructions. But better yet let us know which you prefer as well as any other forums, blogs, etc. that we should be aware of. Our goal is to find one that works best for all of us.

### Hot Science - Cool Talks Dinosaurs in Living Color

On March 25th the Paleontological Society of Austin was invited and took part in a great event on the UT campus. We set up a table, covered it in fossils, and talked to all sorts of folks about what we love and do.

This was all part of a lecture series presented by the Environmental Science Institute, the College of Natural Sciences, and the Jackson School of Geosciences.

The lecture that evening was given by Professor Julia Clarke and she talked about the exciting new discoveries associated with the feathered dinosaur specimens coming out of China. By comparing the fossils to what we know about modern birds and feathers there is now a much better idea of what dinosaurs might have actually looked like. And with birds being the closest relative to dinosaurs they were probably very striking creatures.

We had a pretty good turnout of members both for the lecture and to man the table. I

didn't get everyone's name that evening but thanks to all who showed up, especially Ed Elliot who brought a great selection of fossils to display.



PSoA members Melvin Noble, David Lindberg, Emelia and Erich Rose talking to visitors.

## Places to be, Things to do...

**April 30 - May 1—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: 53rd annual gem and mineral show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society;** Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults (13+) \$4, seniors (65+) \$3, ages 6-12 \$2, under 6 free with adult; wire-wrapped stones, precious stones, jewelry, minerals, fossils, rough rock, dealers, demonstrators, exhibits, hourly door prizes, silent auction, grand prizes; contact Archie Scott, 2709 Belvedere Rd., Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: archie.scott73@yahoo.com

**May 28-29—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: 60th annual show, “Marvelous Minerals”; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club;** Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors and students \$4, ages 16 and under free; more than 25 dealers, exhibits, kids’ games, door prizes, grand prize, silent auction; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

## Labeling Fossils

By Erich Rose

Recently there was a discussion on an Internet fossil forum regarding how we each label our fossils. Labeling your fossils is one of the most important things you can do as a fossil collector. Below is the basic entry sheet that I use in my personal catalog.

CATALOG No. 1234	FIELD No. KTX 456	STORAGE: BOX 12
DATE COLLECTED: June 23, 2001		DATE IDENTIFIED: Nov. 10, 2001
TAXON: <i>Exogyra ponderosa</i> (Roemer)		
NOTES: extra large specimens with both valves		PHYLUM: Mollusca, bivalve
ID REFERENCE: Index fossils of North America, shimer & shrock, 1944		
FORMATION: Dessau Formation, Austin Chalk Group		
AGE: Gulfian Stage, Late Cretaceous Period		
LOCATION: Jaekes Hill, Travis County, TX		
LOCATION NOTES: found in sandy layer of upper section & all sitting upright		
DETAILED LOCATION No.: TX Local 789 - Jaekes Hill, Travis County, TX		

CATALOG No. = sequential numbers assigned to a fossil or group of fossils.

FIELD No. = Sequential numbers with a prefix code given to specimens prior to identification. First letter is the time period and second two are the state in which it was collected [ex: K = Cretaceous & TX = Texas]

STORAGE = A code I use to tell me what box, drawer or display case the specimens can be found in.

DATE COLLECTED & DATE IDENTIFIED = Obvious

TAXON = The genus & species along with author, if known that I believe the fossil to be.

NOTES = Unusual or distinct qualities of the specimen, especially if they pointed toward a particular identification.

ID REFERENCE = Bibliographic note reminding me where I found the final identification.

FORMATION = Lithostratigraphic unit the specimen came from (member, formation & group)

AGE = Chronostratigraphic unit the formation falls into (stage, series, period)

LOCATION = *Most important piece of information!* Description of location the fossil came from. Note that I keep another logbook with detailed information on each site and it is referenced as well.

LOCATION NOTES = Specific detail concerning the specimen in relation to the overall location.

DETAILED LOCATION No. = Refers to a list and descriptions of each site that has much more detail.

## March Field Trip Report

### East Texas: Eocene Sites in San Augustine & Nacogdoches Counties

Nacogdoches was the chosen meeting place for our yearly foray into the Weches of East Texas. I also chose to meet at an outcrop due to the large, easy to see sign overhead. While we didn't pause to hunt on this day, I wanted everyone to know of its existence. A few of us have had good luck with sand dollars here, but it's hard to justify the considerable labor involved working with hard glauconite when you're on your way to a place where they're in a soft sandy limestone. Enjoying the outcrop with me were Linda McCall, Melvin Noble, Earl Richards and Joni Sule and Theda Strickla, Cathy and Gary Rylander.

Our first stop was in Chino. This small cut always has some nice things in it. Linda picked up a nice shark tooth. Several of us were picking up *Belosaepia* (squid "beaks"). And there are always a lot of pretty scallops (*Chlamys burlesonensis*, *Amusium zinguli*) and a good variety of gastropods and bivalves. After an hour we moved on.

The next site is (at least for now) lost. Covered by dirt and grass so that I couldn't even tell it had been there. It was small, but a source of the little B-B (*Fibularia texana*) echinoids. Our next stop was a long road cut, four feet of sandy limestone with abundant sand dollars (*Protoscutella mississippiensis*) as well as gastropods, bivalves and bryozoans. We all happily chopped at that poor outcrop for an hour before I took off. I had found out about a possible unused quarry nearby. After checking it out, I had decided that there was nothing left. It had all been "churned" to a uniform mess that wouldn't be worth hunting. As I was leaving, I had an encounter with the landowner. I had come in through an open lane, which I was told was supposed to be a locked gate. (I hadn't even seen a gate.) After a moment of uncertainty, I found that I was in the presence of a really wonderful gentleman. He said there was an untouched area way in the back and we were welcome to look to our hearts content. I returned and picked up the club and we spent the rest of the day (until dark) trying to pick up everything in sight. And digging up what wasn't. This wasn't true "virgin" territory, but it hadn't been hunted in a very long time – and certainly not by a bunch of fossil hungry paleontologists. It may not be as excellent next year, but we have permission to go back and I'm betting that it will still be great. I had two more sites in the area, one a wonderful quarry that we didn't make it to. Not having a firearm, I couldn't persuade anyone to leave this great site. (Someone would have had to hold the gun on me as well.) Dime to quarter-size echinoids were everywhere, many sitting free. Bigger ones were there for the chopping, as well as scallops, B-B's, gastropods, bivalves, crab material and more. When we finally got back to Nacogdoches, most of us got together for seafood and more great conversation.

On Sunday, we again met on University Dr. and caravanned to Lake Nacogdoches. While more than a few of the species here are found at our Stone City Member (Whiskey Bridge), Chris Garvey has told me that the Lake Nac area is very close to being in the Queen City Formation. This is a big vertical difference in the stratigraphic column. For most of my IDing I use Chris' book on the Reklaw. AND I'm very happy to say that I was able to talk our good friend, Rich Geist, into playing "hooky" and joining us. OK, OK,..... I didn't have to twist his arm. And he promptly showed us how to collect this site – with a sectional box full and stacked three inches above full. All very lovely specimens. Earl found a great button coral (*Discotrochus orbignianus*) that are here but hard to find. There are at least six corals found here. As well as:

shark teeth, many gastropods, bivalves, nautiloids and more. By 2:00 everyone had left the outcrop.

I know that many stayed home because we were not hunting wood this trip. I hope that Ron is doing well and we are able to go next year. Frankly, I didn't miss it. There was simply too many wonderful things to collect – who had time to think about wood? Those who didn't go missed out on one of the best Eocene trips I've ever been on. Not to mention the beautiful East Texan piney woods, with dogwoods and redbuds in bloom under a clear blue sky. Absolutely a great trip. See you at the auction, and bring your checkbooks!



lakeside collecting



Road-cut collecting



Some times the best part of collecting is not



Eocene sand dollars



Sunday's crew

Photos by Linda and 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**