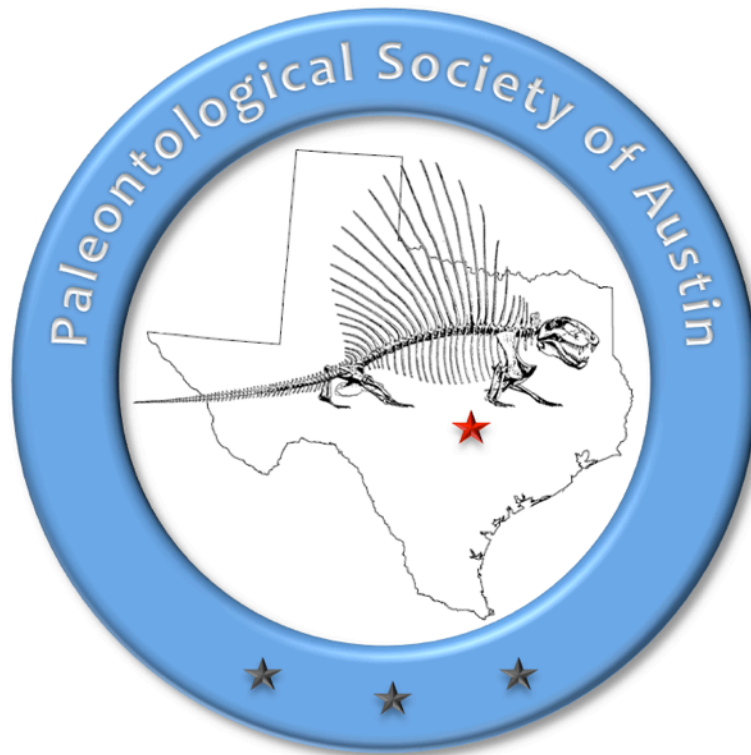


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 5
May 2011

President's Note

The annual potluck / auction meeting we held at Westcave Preserve last month was a great success and I think everyone who attended had a really nice time. It was a beautiful day at Westcave, the side dishes were great, and the BBQ (thanks to Smokey Mo's) was pretty darn good too. There were some really nice items on the auction rock as it were, and the bidding became quite spirited on more than one occasion. I want to give special thanks to Mike Smith for his outstanding auctioneering and to David Lindberg for deftly tracking and collecting the revenue; we couldn't have done it without you gentlemen ☺ Preliminary report has it that our net profits bettered last year's figure by several hundred dollars. Yup, that qualifies as a success to me!

I look forward to seeing everyone at May's meeting, so until then...

Happy hunting,

Melody

Next Meeting Tuesday May 17, 2011

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

The Evolution of Minerals

By Marilyn Austin

Most of the work paleontologists do derives from the last 500 million years of earth's history. But evidence of life on earth begins far earlier than that. Minerals also evolve and on earth, most of that evolution has taken place as a result of . . .biology!

A little about Marilyn:

Retirement gave me an opportunity to pursue my chief passion, which is structural biology, rocks and minerals. Those, happily, led me into fossils but also into chemistry, biology, physics and bluegrass music. Alas, so little time, so much to learn.

May Field Trip

Saturday May 21st

Pennsylvanian of the Brownwood Area

We will meet in Early, TX at the Mall, at 8:00AM. Early is a town that is nearly part of Brownwood and is on the east side. As you enter town going north on 183, you will come to an intersection and make a left turn to follow 183, it's well marked. Very soon after, you will come to the Mall on the right side; we'll be in the parking lot. This is a 2-1/2 to 3 hour drive from Austin. Bring food and drinks (WATER!) and whatever else you'll need as we will probably be well out in the country all day. It's a long drive back to town just for lunch. Depending on the site we may be in full sun for hours so be prepared.

Fossils are generally small and do not require heavy tools. But depending on what sites we end up at you should be prepared. A rock hammer can be the safest method of turning material and avoiding snakes. Bring small containers for the little stuff and newspaper to wrap larger specimens.

PSA April Meeting Minutes 4/23/2011

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm (at Westcave Preserve) By Melody Barnett.

Jamie Young made a presentation to Mike Smith of an award from South Central Federation of Mineral Societies. The award, a plaque, was for the quality of the club's website.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

It was announced that the next meeting, in May, will be in the usual place.

The meeting was adjourned and the annual auction began.

PSoA 2011 Annual Auction and Pot Luck Westcave Preserve

\$1499.00 Auction
+2.00 Donation

\$1501.00 Income
- \$180.75 BBQ, supplies, etc.
- \$125.00 Donation to Westcave Preserve

\$1195.25 'profit'
Last year's 'profit' was \$744.40.

-- David Lindberg



A good turn out.



Good food.



Good stuff to bid on.



Good auctioneer.

Photos courtesy Ed Elliot and Richard Cameron.

Request for Teacher Kit Fossils

If you have any teacher kit grade fossils from the last several field trips, please consider donating them to the club.

Teacher kit grade fossils typically are:

- better quality than "fossil wheel quality"
- no bigger than twice the size of your thumb
- you at least 10 of them or more
- are easily identifiable by sight as a fossil

If you have fossils you are willing to donate, please bring them to a club meeting and give them to me, David Lindberg. If you have detailed information about where they came from, species name, location, and group/formation, that is also welcome since we include that information on a label accompanying the fossil. I already have a sufficient number of crinoid stems and petrified wood pieces, and don't need any more of those. Save those for handout fossils or the wheel. If I can't use any donated fossils in the teacher kits, they will go to the fossil wheel.

-- David Lindberg

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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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies & American Federation of Mineral Societies



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL