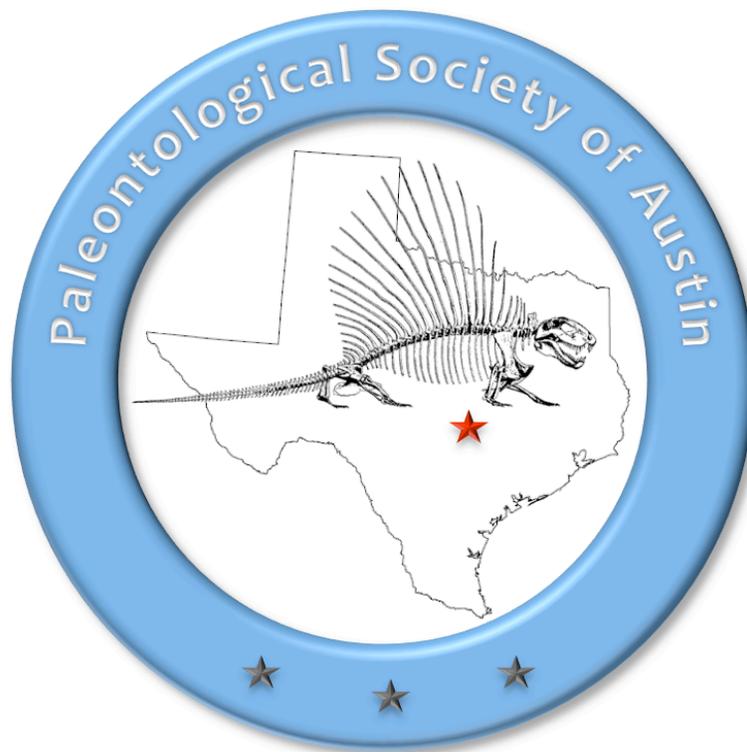


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 6  
June 2011

## **President's Note**

Greetings everyone!

I hope y'all are finding ways to cope with this blessed heat. Be it a lake, river, pool, or sprinkler, getting into some water always makes it more bearable. We opened our pool early this year. By last Monday evening the water temp was up to 86° (yes, I'm a wimp) and we decided to jump in. It was wonderful! Our long-haired dachshund, Smitty, even joined us...on his own float of course. His legs are too short to let him go much beyond the top step without it and he loves being out there with his people.

The heat has kept me out of the collecting field a bit more than usual; don't really tolerate it the way I used to. My husband, it seems, has taken to collecting from the fossils in my cactus garden. I guess that lets him stay closer to the pool...and the cold beer. I was walking along the side fence the other day and noticed a rock he was using to plug a hole so Smitty couldn't get out and thought it looked very different from the usual limestone we have in our yard. When I got around to the gate on the other side of the yard I noticed another different looking stone and took a closer look. The scoundrel was using a couple of the agatized corals I'd collected in Florida! Needless to say we had a protracted discussion about what was and was not acceptable to use for fill. Good thing I love him...

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> and hope some of you have had a chance to get out and find some nifty stuff. Until we meet again, stay safe, stay cool, and...

Happy hunting,  
Melody

## **Next Meeting Tuesday June 21, 2011**

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

## **Report on the 4th Annual Fossil Preparation Symposium**

By Angie Thompson

Angie Thompson is an assistant to Ann Molineux at the Non-Vertebrate Paleontology lab at UT. She joined Ann Molineux at the lab in 2007 and has been working in various niches; upgrading the conservation procedures, learning how to cope with data loggers and helping the department move their database towards "Specify".

"Specify" is a research software application, database, and network interface for biological collections information. It manages specimen data such as descriptions of collecting locations, participants and determination histories as well as information about collections transactions

such as loans, exchanges, accessions and gifts.....

The Paleo Society helped fund her attendance of the 4th annual Fossil Prep and Collections Symposium in Kemmerer, WY on April 25th. She has developed an excellent input system for upgrading publications linking details of specimens with the publications in which they are referenced.

Her topic will be the happenings of the 4th Annual Fossil Prep symposium, including workshops on casting and molding, and techniques for fossil fish and trilobite preparation. She'll be talking about all the great new techniques and tools she's going to be learning about.

## **June Field Trip**

**Saturday & Sunday, June 25th & 26th**

## **Paleozoic of South-Central Oklahoma**

We'll meet in Ada at the Callixylon tree on the East Central University campus at 8:00AM Saturday morning. This incredible petrified tree is located at the corner of Main Street and Francis Avenues in Ada, OK. There will be parking spots along Main Street. Our collecting sites will be in the Devonian, Silurian and Ordovician. More detailed info will be provided at the next meeting but if you can't make it to the meeting call Ed Elliott at 512-657-7581 for more info.

This is a two-day trip and we will visit numerous sites. It will be HOT! Rest stops and facilities will be few and far between so be well prepared. Bring LOTS OF WATER. At least a gallon a day for each person (no kidding). Hats, long sleeves, sun block, etc. are all a must! Food is also suggested since we will be in a very rural area with virtually nowhere to get a quick bite. There is usually a group meal back in Ada Saturday night. Ada is a college town and there are a few motels to pick from. Suggestions will be made at the meeting.

Depending on the site you may need hammer & chisel or just a good set of knee-pads. Bring lots of containers, zip-lock bags, soda flats, newspaper, etc. and something to label it with.

## **SCFMS 2010 Web Site Contest Winner**

**He did it again!**

**1st place - Michael K. Smith**

Paleontological Society of Austin

[www.texaspaleo.com/psa/](http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/)

**Congrats Mike!**

## PSA May Meeting Minutes 5/17/2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

The scheduled guest speaker was unable to make the meeting. Marilyn Austin, with only 4 days lead-time, volunteered to be our speaker. She asked us to be a little compassionate. (Secretary's note: No compassion needed she did a fantastic job!) Marilyn 's presentation was a review of an article from the March 2010 edition of Scientific American titled The Evolution of Minerals by Robert Hazen. Hazen's theory of mineral evolution starts with the big bang and electron, protons and neutrons creating elements like hydrogen, lithium and helium. Then gravity condenses matter-creating stars, which ultimately leads to supernovas which creates even more elements and micro crystals. The explosion of stars creates heavier elements than had previously existed. Then planets are formed. Hazen considers planets Engines of Mineral Formation. With the creation of planets comes water, which also facilitates the creation of more new minerals. With the formation of planets comes plate tectonics. The volcanism and pressures of plate tectonics create a myriad of new minerals. Blue green algae began to grow in the seas. These algae exuded large amounts of oxygen. The oxygen combined with iron and precipitated in to banded iron formations. To date over 4400 minerals have been identified.

A break was taken.

### New Business

We would like to thank Mike Scott for bringing Precambrian Stromatalitic Jasper specimens!

Minutes of last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The club earned \$1,195.25 from the auction. Our current savings account balance is \$15,034. Our checking account balance is \$8,768.00. The treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

Future Outreach Events:

\* Tomorrow is the last night for the mass inventory at UT.

\* On October 22&23 AGMS has an event. We will have a booth.

Ron Root has the Dino Footprint cast. It will be put in the club's storage locker.

A field trip will be held this Saturday. We will meet at the mall in Early TX.

### Old Business

From February, a committee was formed (Eric, Kathleen and Malinda) to propose guidelines for club scholarships. Kathleen asked if anyone knew where a brown rock left by a visitor at Fossil Fest had been found by anyone. No one knew anything about the rock.

Thanks to Bob McDonald for dating the dino bones for the next auction!

June 25th is our next field trip. It will be to Oklahoma.

We sold 44 tables for next year's Fossil Fest.

### Upcoming Fieldtrips:

- \* May 21 - Brownwood
- \* June 25 - Oklahoma
- \* July 23 - Non-Vert Lab or Museum
- \* Aug 20 - Brazos River or Whiskey Bridge
- \* Sept 24 - Midlothian
- \* Oct 22 - Texoma
- \* Nov 19 - Clifton
- \* Dec - none (Fossil Fest & Christmas Party)

Remember that these are posted on our website.

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned.

## May Field Trip Report

There was a crowd waiting in the parking lot when I arrived at the mall in Early. I don't remember having twenty-two people for a Brownwood trip before. Present were Morgan and Dennis Stock, Jason and Mariah B., Terry and Hunter Collins, Jeanne Bowman, Earl Richards, David Lindberg, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Danny Daper, Kevin Bills, James Jordan, David and Bobbie Mell, Mike Smith, Gary Vliet, Jeanie and Shawna Graves.

It was a great day to hunt the Pennsylvanian at Wilson Quarry. (Which, by the way, is in Coleman County – not Brown.) The fossils at this location are mostly of Harpersville Formation, Cisco Group. This is a quarry and lots of rocks were moved around, including the overlying Moran Formation material. The purple and green rocks are definitely Harpersville. Due to the size of the quarry (and the fact that I was Jonesing to collect so badly that I hardly looked up) I didn't see most of what was found. After arriving at Wilson, I probably didn't see more than a third of the hunters again. Gary R. and Shawna Graves both found really nice *Delocrinus* crinoid cups. Several of us found nice partials as well. David L., Melvin and Mike had nice *Petalodus* (shark tooth) crowns and several others found pieces. In my search for the elusive *Peripristis*, I picked up good specimens of at least ten brachiopods; two of which I hadn't found before at Wilson. That's a part of why we love sites like this – I've been there at least 25 times (lost track long ago) and I can still pick up fossils that I or others haven't seen there before. Melvin found a nice large specimen of a conularid. I've never heard of anyone finding them at Wilson. And Gary picked up a nice, large high spiraled gastropod, which I am totally unfamiliar with. I can hold in one hand all of the gastropods I've collected at Wilson. To paraphrase something that Gary said – a bad day collecting at Wilson beats a good day at most other places. Even after a long dry spell. Even on a hot day.

Around 2:30 Mike called me and said that a group of members had wanted to go to the spillway and he was going to run them over and get them in. His report was that it was so dry that the Archiocidarid mudstone was too flaky to dig and the overhead looked dangerous. Some reasonable bryozoan slabs were collected. Lake Brownwood is in the same shape as those around here, very low, so the spillway won't see improvement any time soon. Also, he spoke to one of the rangers while there and discovered that there is a minimum age limit of 18 down in the spillway. (Oops. I've had kids down there before. We need to double-check that with the Water District Office.)

I hope that everyone had as much fun as I did that day. And I hope to see ya'll in Oklahoma soon.

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**