

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 6, Number 8
August 2011

President's Note (Not)

Hey folks,

This month the opening note is coming to you from your newsletter editor. Everyone else is too busy (life happens) or just plain dropped off the radar. Melody has asked me to say hi and assure everyone that she looks forward to seeing everyone at the August meeting. And August is proving to be a real bust for everything...but the heat. That's busting records right and left. May I suggest praying, singing, dancing, chanting or otherwise just wishing very hard for rain? I don't know about you but on the road cuts I am still seeing my footprints from last May!

Our speaker this month will be Ann Molineux who will share a bit about her recent fieldwork in Jamaica.

Take care, stay cool and see you Tuesday,

---Erich

Next Meeting Tuesday August 16, 2011

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

A Trip to the Carribean with Ann Molineux

Learn a little about Jamaican geology with special emphasis (of course)
on the Cretaceous rudists (with specimens).

Ann Molineux, PhD, is the Curator and Collection Manager of Non-vertebrate Paleontology, Texas Natural Science Center, The University of Texas at Austin. She is also a long time member of our society and one of our three science advisors.

Next Field Trip Saturday, August 20th

The Lower Brazos for Pleistocene Fossils

Meet at the Stephen F. Austin statue parking lot in the S.F.A. State Park in San Felipe, at 8:00am. Traveling east on I-10, just east of Sealy, take 1458 north (left) to the park. Bring whatever you would need for a day on the water. Food, lots and lots of water, a canoe or kayak, hat, collecting materials – some finds are fragile and will require packing materials. Wear clothing that you won't mind getting in the red water. This trip is always a lot of fun.

PSA July Meeting Minutes 7/19/2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
Treasurer's Report:

Savings	\$15,045.76
Checking	\$9,686.70
Total	\$24,732.46

The treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

Dr. Ann Molineux (representing Dr. Sprinkle) made an offer of a trade. For good Crinoids from our last trip to yellow bluff, Dr. Sprinkle would trade for other crinoids he has. Contact Dr. Sprinkle if you are interested.

Marilyn Austin introduced our guest speaker.

Scott is a past president of the Austin Mineral Society. The presentation was "Wood anatomy of a Pennsylvanian Forest". The presentation was based on a study of petrified wood in Eastland county Texas. The study's goal was to identify the species of several petrified logs. All the logs had similar appearance. Two logs were shown in a slide. One was 1.6 to 2.5 feet in diameter and 48 feet long. The other was 1.75 to 3.5 feet in diameter and 60 feet long. It was estimated that these trees stood between 100 to 130 feet tall when alive. There were no leaves preserved with the wood making the identification more difficult. Portions of the wood were sliced and studied at the cellular level.

Ultimately the logs were compared to three families of ancient trees, Walchian Conifers, Cordaites and Mississippian Lignophites. While the logs had some features of all three families they did not belong to any of the three families mentioned. It is believed that

the trees represent a new genus. The proposed name is *Texoxylon famroensis*.

A break was taken.

Business

Minutes of last meeting were approved.

The mass inventory at UT continues on Wednesday nights from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. Volunteers would be appreciated.

The Scholarship Committee final report will be given on October 12th. Committee members are Erich, Melinda and Kathleen. Several tentative ideas were discussed. Erich will include a draft in the next newsletter.

The library has to be gone from Kathleen's house by September 1st. She is moving. Several people volunteered to help move the boxed books to the club storage shed on Friday 7/22.

Frank and Joan Crane donated an air abrasive machine to the club. Dennis will haul it for them.

The AGMS show at the Civic center, we need help:

- We need a volunteer to run this (Kelsey Tom volunteered)
- Need help doing setup
- Suzanne willing to train on the software
- John will do the website stuff

Door prizes were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned

PSoA Board Meeting Minutes: 07/21/2011

Attendees: Mike Smith, Melody Barnett, Dennis Stock, Gary Rylander, Cathy Rylander, Erich Rose, Ed Elliott

We discussed contributions to West Cave Preserve. Erich discussed the Discovery Trunk.

We discussed scholarships.

We discussed the club's financial accounts. We decided to leave only \$5,000.00 in checking at any time. Gary will transfer any excess to savings. We discussed Life Time Member status. It

would be exempt from dues. It was agreed to have this type of membership. It was also agreed to award Frank and Joan Crane the first Life Time membership for their extraordinary service to the club.

Mike Smith will setup a yearly calendar for the club on Google Calendar.

Melinda, Erich and Kathleen will have a final Scholarship Committee report by some time in November.

The meeting was adjourned.

From the SCFMS NEWSLETTER PAGE 09 JULY - AUGUST, 2011

MORE ABOUT NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011

Eva Lyon, National Fossil Day 2011 Coordinator

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Eva Lyon and I am working with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, American Geological Institute and other partners to organize and coordinate the 2011 National Fossil Day. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in this year's National Fossil Day, which will take place on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. This event is in conjunction with Earth Science Week, as sponsored by the American Geological Institute.

As part of the Paleontological Resources Act of 2009, U.S. federal agencies have been mandated to promote public understanding of the importance of our nation's fossil resources. The National Park Service and its partners believe that one of the best ways to accomplish this is through National Fossil Day.

This is only our second year for National Fossil Day, so we hope to build upon the success of our last event and make this year even better. This is where you come in; we are seeking to bring on board new partners from across the country to join in our efforts to promote public appreciation and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater understanding of their scientific and educational values. Many of our other partners have organized their own events for the day including presentations, mock digs and fossil identification games, among other educational opportunities for children and the public.

In an effort to contact as many people as possible, I have reached out to you as representatives of large, over-arching gem and mineral societies in hopes that you will be able to spread the word to your respective communities. In my efforts, I have come to realize that there are far more rock hounds in this country than I

ever could have imagined! In order to get a better idea of what we do, I encourage you to visit our website at:

<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm>

We hope you will join us for this year's event so that we might reach an even greater number of fossil enthusiasts! If you are interested in joining our team, please reply to this email so that we

can begin putting together a plan of action.

Thank you,
Eva Lyon
National Fossil Day 2011 Coordinator
GeoCorps America Guest Scientist
National Park Service
Phone: (703) 379-2480 ext. 249
"Eva Lyon"
<national.fossil.day@gmail.com>

NOTE: PSoA will be taking part at the Texas Memorial Museum and we will be looking for volunteers to be at the museum that day for an hour or two and help by talking with visitors about our society and collecting fossils here in Texas, or anywhere for that matter. Contact Erich Rose if you are interested.

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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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL