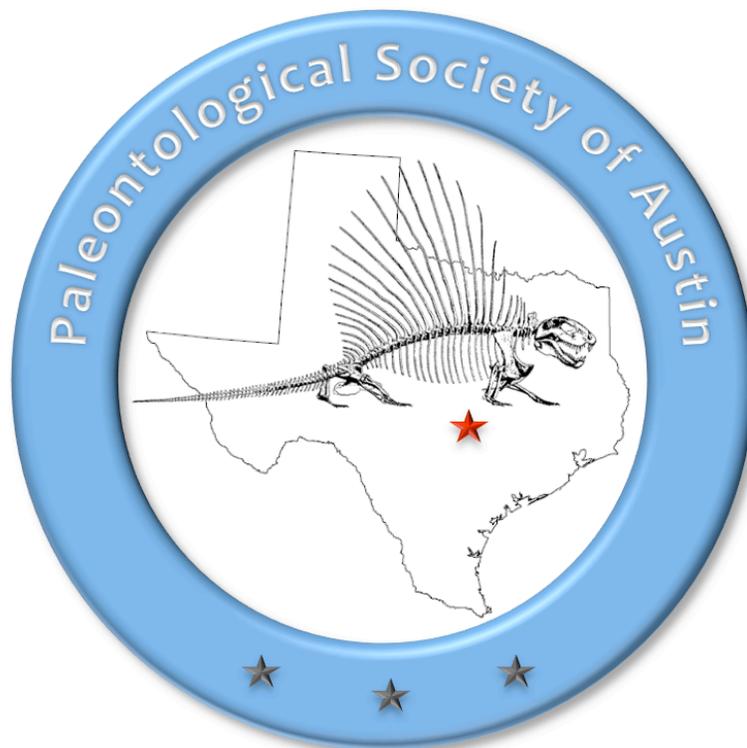


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 7, Number 2  
February 2012

## President's Note

The year has started out rather nicely here in Central Texas. Rain, some of it heavy enough to dredge up new fossils, with reasonable temperatures and sunny days. The field trip to the Brownwood area started in the 30-40s and ended in the 50-60s. Just perfect. Our next trip will be to yet another great Pennsylvanian age site, well known and always prolific. If you have not been to the spillway at Lake Jacksboro then I highly advise attending. It's a long drive (4-1/2 hours) but well worth the effort and if you can stay over for Sunday there will be a number of other sites to visit.

Our speaker, Dr. Ernie Lundelius, always has interesting things to tell us and I am sure his topic this month, mammals of Australia, will be no exception.

Our web master, Mike Smith, has been busy setting up a new web domain and a new system for doing e-mail blasts to members. You may have received a request. A few of us found the request had been snagged by our spam/junk filters. Please check your mailboxes if you did not see the request. Below is a copy of what was sent.

-- Erich

From: mailing list manager <majordomo@ml.1and1.com>  
To: <<you>>  
Subject: Request for confirmation of subscription to the mailing list [psoamembers@austinpaleo.org]

We received a request for subscription to the following mailing list:

Mailing list: PSoAMembers@austinpaleo.org  
Moderator's e-mail address: webmaster@austinpaleo.org  
Your e-mail address: <whatever it is>

You received this e-mail for confirmation purposes. In order for your e-mail address to be added to the above-mentioned mailing list, please click the following link:

<http://confirm.mailinglist.perfora.net/cgi-bin/...>

If you do not want your e-mail address to be added to the above-mentioned mailing list just ignore this message.

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Once you confirm, you will get a message saying you have been added. Notice that if you don't want to receive these e-mails you can opt-out, BUT you may miss important club notifications. We (PSoA) will not use the list to forward solicitations or other forms of junk mail. You can unsubscribe at any time. If you experience any problems (like spam) let us know.

The only change to the way we are using your e-mail address is that it will be stored on the machine hosting our website.

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday February 21, 2012**

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

**Origin of the Australian Mammal Fauna**

Dr. Ernie Lundelius

The mammal fauna of Australia has fascinated biologists ever since Captain Cook landed there. The convergence of the marsupials to the placentals of the northern continents is a never-ending source of interest. In addition the presence of egg laying mammals raises other important questions. The fossil record of the origin and history of the Australian mammal fauna is an excellent example of the way holes in the fossil record are filled as work continues.

**Next Field Trip**  
**Saturday February 25, 2012**  
**(With more optional sites Sunday)**

**Pennsylvanian Fossils, Lake Jacksboro, TX**  
**& Other Pennsylvanian sites of North Central Texas**

This site will once again be in the Upper Carboniferous of Texas. If you enjoyed or missed the last trip this one will be every bit as good. We will be collecting from rocks of the Upper Pennsylvanian Period. Fossils will be mostly marine in origin, including brachiopods, trilobites, corals, bryozoans, molluscs of all sorts, crinoids, echinoids and teeth. Most of the fossils will be small and loose so bring plenty of small containers. The sites will involve some hiking so be prepared with proper footwear, gloves, walking stick, etc. If you stick around for more on Sunday we will hit various road cuts and possibly the Mineral Wells Fossil Park.

We meet at 8:00AM in Jacksboro, TX at the town square. It will be easy to find and the site is a short drive from there. Its just a long drive from Austin so either drive up the night before or set your alarm clock and hit the hay early Friday night. Directions to the square in Jacksboro:

Head North on 183 from Austin. In Lampasas watch for signs and follow 281 North. At that point it's 281 all the way to Jacksboro. Look for our cars in front of the courthouse. That will be Main(281) and Belknap. We will caravan as a group to the first site so please be on time.

Bring food and drinks (WATER!) and whatever else you'll need, as we will be out in the country all day. It's not a long drive back to town for lunch but why waste collecting time. Depending on the site we may be in full sun for hours so be prepared. Check the weather for temperatures as well. It can be both cold or warm this time of year and will probably be both.

## January 2012 Meeting Minutes

Minutes 1/17/2012

The meeting was called to order.

Marilyn Austin introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Leon Long. His presentation was titled Continental Drift, Plate Tectonics. He started by telling us about the Paleozoic super continent that included what is now known as South America, Africa, Australia and Madagascar along with other current land masses. One of the early proponents of continental drift was Alfred Lothar Wegener.

Evidence of this drift can be found in the fossil remains of the Lystrosaurus, an animal approximately the size of a pig with only two teeth. This animal was a strictly land animal, yet fossils of this animal have been found on many continents, including Asia, Africa and South America.

Where plates pull apart, like the oceanic ridge system, land is created. Where plates collide land is consumed. Where plates slip land is conserved.

The oldest known portion of earth's crust can be found off the coast of Japan. This crust is dated at 150 million years old.

A break was taken.

### Business:

Guests were introduced.

Prior minutes were approved.

### Treasurers Report:

Checking	\$5,224.01
Savings	\$17,860.58
Total	\$23,084.59

The 2012 budget issues discussed and approved:

- The loss of Fossil Mania income will hurt the budget
- We will be short this year
- Dues increases going forward:
  - o For an individual, from \$15 to \$18

- o For a family, from \$20 to \$24
- o For an associate, from \$10 to \$12

- Budgeted amount for scholarships this year will be \$1,000.00
- The Scholarship budget for next year will be equal to the sum of donations specifically designated for the Scholarship Fund.
- Dues is not tax deductible, donations to the scholarship fund may be (get professional advice).
- Gary Rylander has official receipts for those that want one for donations.

A last request for volunteers to coordinate Fossil Mania was made.

Joan Crane is willing to train anyone who takes over the Fossil Mania position. Among other activities there will be 2 meetings a year and our club is responsible for getting prizes.

Correct of reported Fossil Fest earnings: The amount earned was \$642.49

Volunteers were requested to form a committee to look into how we could put the \$23,084.59 amount to better use for the club.

The Volunteers for the Scholarship Committee were selected as follows:

- Science Advisors Dr. Anne Molineux and Dr. Pam Owen
- Board Member Kevin Bills
- Club Members Melinda Falk (Chairperson) and Gary Vliet

Suzanne is looking for Fossil Fest volunteers.

We were warned about fossils that were casts but sold as actual fossils. Be careful!

The field trip will be to Brownwood.

Door prizes were awarded.

Meeting was adjourned.

## January Field Trip Report

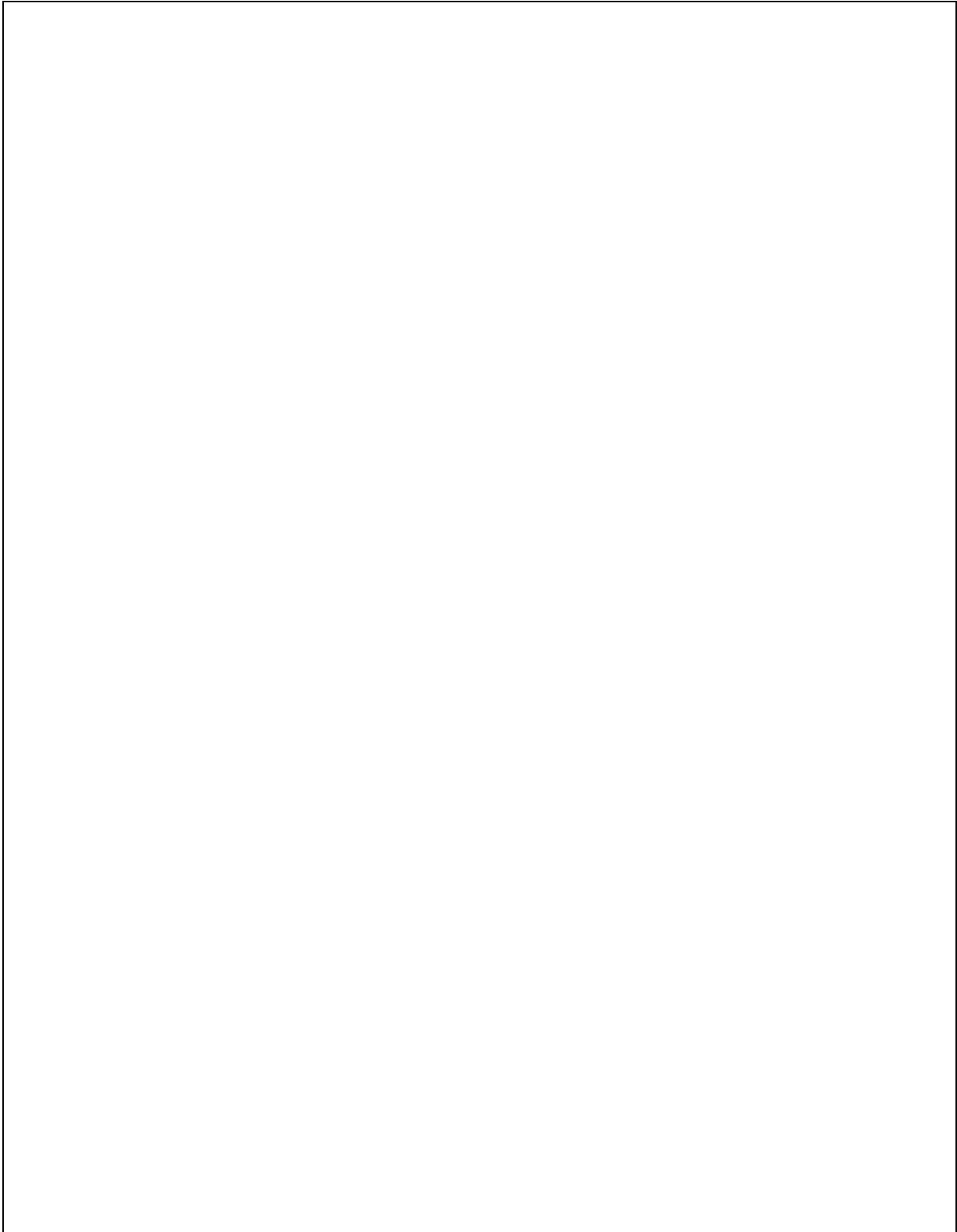
The parking lot at the mall in Early was nearly emptied when we pulled out to head north. Twenty seven members came to hunt the Pennsylvanian: Gary and Cathy Rylander, David Lindberg, Shawna Graves, Will and Chantal Berczovytsch, Gus, Karen, Jason and Lexi Ikonomopoulos, David and Bobbie Mell, Sal Scibetta, Valerie Whiting, Tonya Mills, Sam and Diana Ramirez, Mark Montgomery, Kevin Bills, Gary Vliet, Erich and Emelia Rose, Frederick and Melinda Falk, Ron and Janet Root, Melvin Noble.

Our destination, Wilson Quarry, is large enough to handle that many people and more. This site is Harpersville Formation, Cisco Group and is upper most Pennsylvanian and a place that I don't seem to be able to leave as long as I can still see. The more you look, the more you will find and there is so much to find at Wilson. I'm calling that day "the day of the tooth" for the simple reason that so many were found. I found two *Petalodus ohioensis*, one of which was good and the other not. David L. found a nice tooth, as did Erich. And I was told that the birthday boy, Jason did as well. Gary and Cathy both found a *Peripristis semicircularis* and Erich found most of a *Symmorium reniforme*. At least for a day, what was rare became common. With so many people (most of whom did not tell me what they found) I'm sure that there were others found as well. Brachiopods, bivalves, corals, bryozoans, and the occasional trilobite, these rocks are abundantly fossiliferous.

I think next time we will go to the Santa Anna site for an hour or two first, and then go to Wilson. Once I get to Wilson, I don't want to leave despite the nice things to be found at Santa Anna. I hope to see all of you at Jacksboro this month for some more excellent Pennsylvanian fossils.

---Ed Elliot





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: \$18/individual, \$24/family and \$12/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**