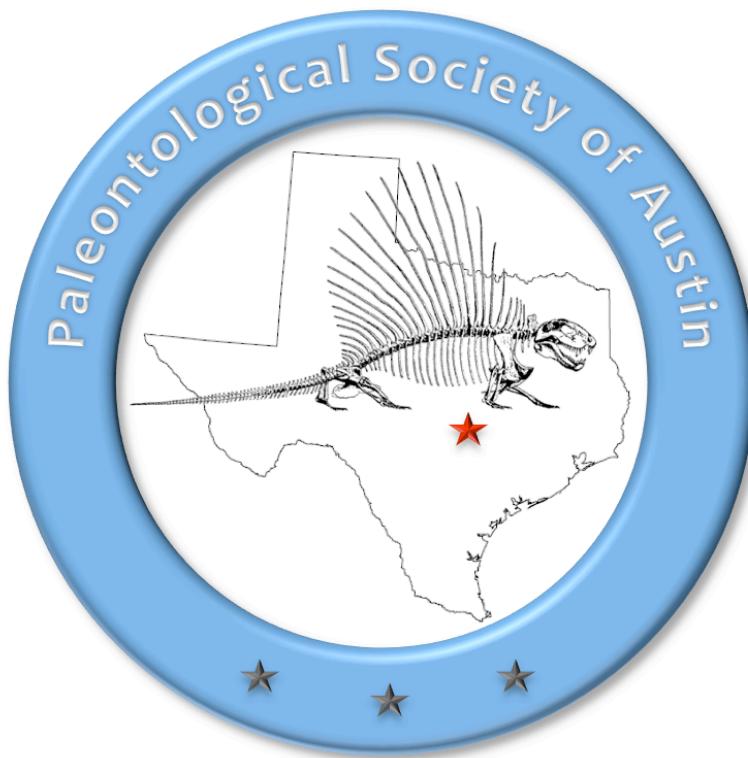


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 7, Number 6
June 2012

President's Note

OK we are officially back to hot weather. The last week or two has hit the 90's almost every day. At least we've had some showers in the mix. Still suffering drought conditions, but not without a little relief here and there. Remember last year at this time? The folks headed for Oklahoma will need to be prepared for toasty times. Wish I was going since it's one of my favorite trips. Ed has lined up a visit to Bob Carroll's incredible trilobite quarry and this may be the last year Bob can let folks in. The variety and quality of fossils, including excellent trilobites, makes it well worth the drive.

I'll be staying here in Austin and would love to suggest an ad hoc local field trip for anyone who can't get all the way to Oklahoma. This would probably be that Saturday morning at one of the road cuts along Loop 360. For those of you who are not familiar with some of these big road cuts they expose the Glen Rose, Walnut and Edwards Formations and the collecting in the Walnut section is excellent. Most of the "old-timers" probably have everything they want from there, but for the newbies this would be great fun. If you are interested contact me directly either at the next meeting or by e-mail: president@austinpaleo.org

As of this Friday we received some bad news. The AGMS had one of its show trailers stolen from the clubhouse lot. Chains/locks were cut and they made off with one of the trailers. AGMS will be doing an inventory but it was a variety of signs, PVC, lights, etc. that were in the trailer and are probably dumped along a back road. But keep your eyes out since any information would help. We will discuss how the PSoA can help AGMS at the upcoming meeting.

See you at the next meeting.

-- Erich



variety of Silurian/Devonian invertebrates from "Yellow Bluff" 2011.

Next Meeting Tuesday June 19, 2012

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

"The Gault Site and the Peopling of the Americas".

Dr. D. Clark Wernecke

The Gault Site, just 40 miles north of Austin, is providing archaeologists with a unique view of the earliest defined culture in the Americas, Clovis, as well as evidence for people arriving in Texas much earlier than previously thought - 14-15,000 years ago.

Clark Wernecke is the Project Director for the Gault Project at Texas State University and Executive Director of the Gault School of Archaeological Research, a nonprofit dedicated to research and education regarding the earliest peoples in the Americas. Dr. Wernecke brings a unique blend of scholarship and experience to the project with degrees in history, business and anthropology. He has considerable experience in business and has specialized in the management of large archaeological projects. Dr. Wernecke has worked in the Middle East, Mesoamerica, the American Southeast and Southwest, and Texas.

Dr. Wernecke is researching the history of the famous Gault site in Bell County and is the lead researcher on the incised stones from Gault, the earliest provenanced art in the Americas. When not working on paleoindian materials he is also interested in early Texas architecture and is writing up information on a mass grave of Mexican soldiers from the second day of the Mexican-American War.



Undergraduate students from Texas A&M University at work at the Gault site. Photograph by Marilyn Shoberg

Photo taken from the UTA Gault web site: <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/gault/index.html>

June Field Trip

Paleozoic of the Arbuckle Mountain Region, South-Central Oklahoma

June 23 & 24, 2012

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 (now pedestrians only at this spot) and Francis Avenues on the campus. There will be parking spots along Francis Ave. & E 12th St. Collecting sites will be in the Devonian, Silurian and Ordovician(?). Sites will include Yellow Bluff, Jenning's Quarry and Bob Carrols' Quarry which should not be missed since this might be the last year we get in there. If you go up early on Friday contact Ed about some of the possible bonus locations and stops to visit south of Ada.

More detailed info will be provided at the next meeting but if you can't make it to the meeting call (evenings only) Ed Elliott at 512-657-7581 for further information.

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! And bug spray because there will be weeds and where there are weeds there are chiggers and ticks. Food is also suggested since we will be in a very rural area with virtually nowhere to get a quick bite.

Some of the locations will require a short but strenuous hike, which in the hot weather can be a challenge for some. If you have any concerns please speak with the field trip leader Ed Elliot.

There is usually a group meal back in Ada Saturday night. Ada is a college town and there are a number of 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.

May 2012 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order.

Dr. Pamela Owen gave an outstanding presentation on Ice Age to Icon: the History of the Armadillo in Texas. Essentially anything you ever wanted to know about armadillos was covered.

A break was taken.

Business:
Prior minutes were approved. No changes.
Treasurer's report:

Checking:	\$6,327.42
Savings:	\$17,902.88
Total:	\$24,230.30

Treasurer's report was approved.

Scholarship Budget for next year is \$500. So far \$376 has been donated. Melinda Falk reported that 2 applications have been presented for review.

Auction netted \$531, down from last year's \$1,193. Less items were donated (49 vs 55 last year), few high dollar items were donated, and there was a big

difference in food costs due to poor RSVP response.
Mike Smith did a great job as auctioneer.

No new outreach projects for this next month.

Fossil Fest - Volcanoes of Austin/(paleo environment) will be the theme for this year's show.

Next field trip is Whiskey Bridge, Sat., May 19th.

Meeting was adjourned.

May Field Trip Report Whiskey Bridge

Instead of being 20 minutes early, I was several minutes late and could see a crowd waiting for me at Whiskey Bridge. While they hadn't all arrived yet, over the next couple of hours, we hit a total of twenty members: Karen Lamphier, Melvin Noble, Cathy and Gary Rylander, Luisa and Mark Montgomery, Paul Hammerschmidt, Frederick and Melinda Falk, Kevin Bills, Dax Gonzalez, Ron and Janet Root, Gary Vliet, Hoang Le, Thuy Nguyen, Ha Le, Gus and Jason Ikonomopoulos. I do not remember having this large a group at this site before, though it certainly didn't cause crowding on the outcrop.

This is a world class site and has been collected for something like 150 years with numerous papers written on it. It is Stone City Formation, middle Claiborne Group, Eocene and is marine in origin. With at least 220 species possible at this site, I'll only mention a few standouts. Both Melvin and Frederick found large *Conus sauridens*, a probable poisonous killer in its' day. I believe that Gary was the only one to find a handful of shark teeth, though Frederick and Kevin both found a rather nice *Carcharoides* (?) (*Otodus*) tooth, with Kevin's larger one pictured. I took home a very small *Trigonostoma*, which was my first that wasn't crushed. We all had a great time talking back and forth on the outcrop and showing what we had. By around four, most of the group had headed home.

Around mid-day, Kevin had run over to the Little Brazos River and had come back saying that a lot of people would find it hard to walk it the current. After everyone had left, Melvin and I decided to give it a try. Due to the uneven bottom and the complete lack of clarity it was a little hard to navigate the ankle/ calf deep water, but worth the effort. We didn't make it all the way to the outcrop, darkness found us still hacking away at boulders on the side of the river only about 400 yards upstream. Melvin found a lovely gastropod (possibly *Falsifusus* sp) that I will send a photo of to Chris Garvey for an ID. Really a very pretty specimen. The faunal list is a little different on the L.B. and a few different species are everywhere apparent. The polychaete worm *Rotularia leptostoma* is seldom found on the Brazos but is everywhere on the L.B.. The same can be said for the bivalve *Plicatula filamentosa*. While I'm not sure everyone would be willing to walk far upstream (in the water to avoid poison ivy) we do need to make a trip just to the L.B. simply because we haven't in more than a decade. Great day! Good weather, perfect conditions on the outcrop and a wonderfully social group..... what more could you want on a field trip? Hope to see all of you in Oklahoma on the 23rd.



PSoA at the bridge(s) early in the morning. Kevin's certainly excited to be there.



Collecting in the soft sediments along the river.



Nice shark tooth Kevin. You had good reason to be excited.

**PINE COUNTRY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
SCFMS* Regional Show & Convention**

**August 25th & 26th, 2012
Jasper, Texas**

*South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies

The annual show and meeting is being held in Jasper, Texas this August. This is the regional umbrella group we belong to and for those who are as much an all-around rock hound as you are a fossil collector the show and convention might be a great way to spend a summer weekend.

If you would like more info contact Erich Rose <president@austinpaleo.org> and I will send you the package of information.

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. See web site for April & December dates.

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

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



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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL