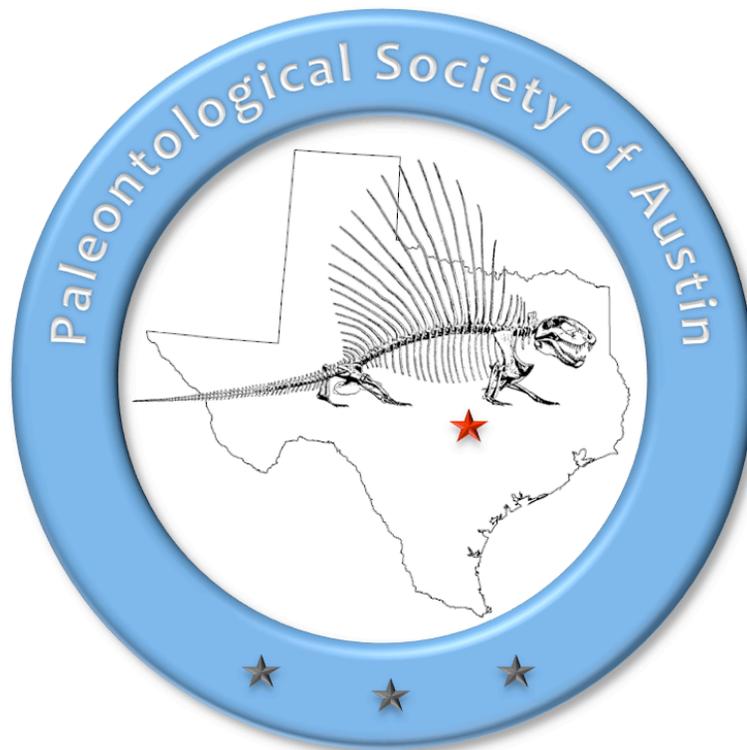


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 8, Number 1  
January 2013

## **President's Note**

The last month has been a blur for me. I wish I could say a good part of that was spent on fossils, but alas, no. Family, holidays and work all conspired to keep me away from any fossil collecting, and I haven't even had time to sort old fossils or work on my catalog. My daughter, Emelia, did get me a nice ammonite from Madagascar for Christmas so there was some paleo relief.

We had a short board meeting this last week and went through the budget, set up a preliminary field trip schedule and discussed various society issues. The biggest issue we have to tackle now is election of officers. As of now most of us will stay on in our current positions (if you'll still have us) with the exception of secretary. We will be looking to elect a new secretary and we will need a new hospitality host. We need to thank both Dennis Stock and Cathy Rylander for filling those two positions respectively so well over the last few years. I'll be making some calls this weekend to find possible replacements. We encourage all members to consider taking a more active role in the society.

We have a special treat in this month's newsletter. A very special Fossil Fest report by one of our younger members. I couldn't make a better argument for why we do this show. Thanks a bunch Ace!

Hopefully I will see you all at the next meeting as well as in Jacksboro for our first field trip of the year.

-- Erich

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday January 15th**  
**7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building**  
**6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

## **The Educational Importance of Deep Time**

Dr. Pamela Owens

The concept of *Deep Time* is often only introduced within earth science curricula, so K-12 students have minimal exposure (if any) to the history of life and deep time during instruction in biological science. Deep time concepts including fossilization, extinctions and the diversification of life on Earth are critical to understanding macroevolution. Misconceptions about evolution held by students and the public are most often about macroevolutionary processes, not microevolutionary processes, which are the focus of K-12 science curricula. I will report on TNSC's successful IMLS-funded education program, *Life Through Time*, which integrates biological and geological sciences. We'll discuss common misconceptions about the fossil record and share ideas for developing a better sense of deep time both personally and in educational activities.

## January Field Trip

**Saturday January 19th**

(With more optional sites Sunday)

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

This site will be in the Upper Carboniferous of Texas. 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.

There will be a small admission fee to cover the state park land we must cross from the cars to the collecting site. \$3 per adult, children are free, please bring cash.

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.



Collecting the Finis Shale at Lake Jacksboro

# Fossil Fest

**By Asas Husain**

*Author and Illustrator of: Cephalo the Daring Dinosaur*

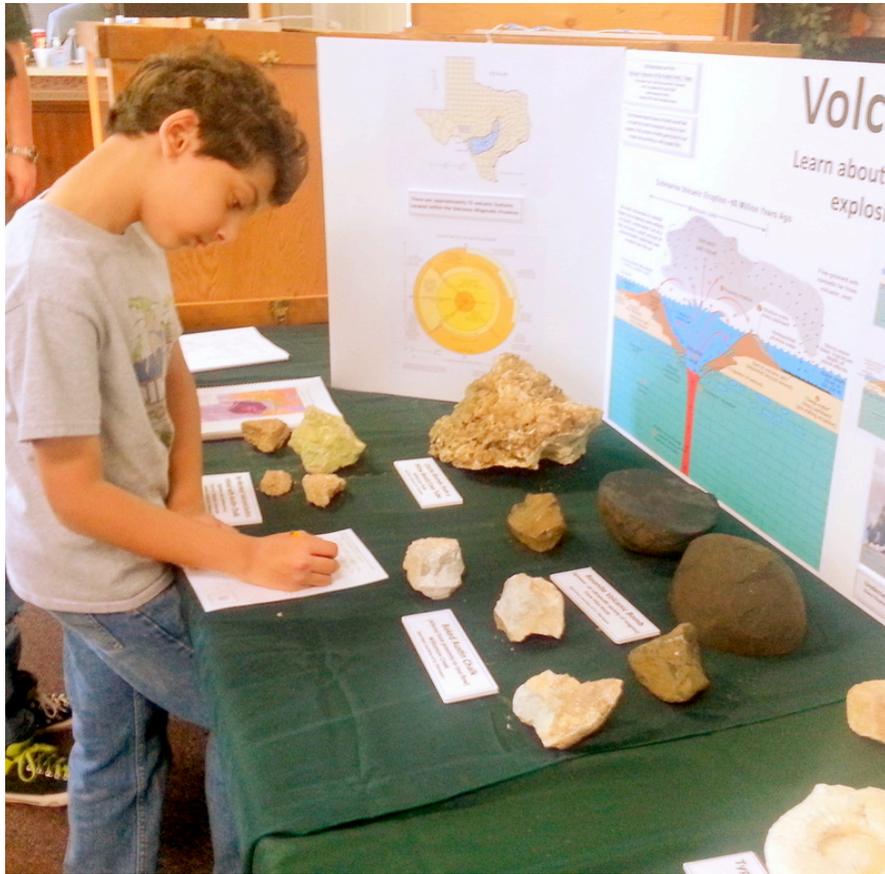
Hi, My name is Asas (A.k.a Ace) and I want to share my amazing time at the Fossil Fest. I have been studying paleontology for as long as I can remember, and this was a spectacular event I will never forget! There was everything an eager youngster like me would ever want! As soon as I entered, I felt waves of excitement pacing through my body. I couldn't wait to see everything. I got a 'passport' and had to fill it out to choose something from a paleontologist's treasure chest. It was harder than I expected, with questions we really had to think about and research. I discussed a few of the topics with paleontologists. This really added to my knowledge!

I soon went into the large hall, it was amazing! Dig pits, fossils for sale, Paleontologists talking to grownups and kids about their work. It felt like heaven! I first started a conversation with a paleontologist with a 360 million year old Orthoceras from Morocco. It was inky black, polished and looked like an iron without the handle. I had saved up all my allowance to spend at the Fest and became the excited owner of the Orthoceras! How amazing to have something THAT old!

I then looked around, just to find... a small 'baby' Xiphactinus fish from the late Cretaceous,. I still had some money left over and bought the fish too! It was certainly my lucky day. Then, my eyes fell on something else, a perfectly preserved, amazing ammonite! I struck up a conversation with the paleontologist who found it and he showed me the spiraling form. My money had run out, so I turned, giving the ammonite back to the paleontologist. My mother saw me do that and came over to buy it for me as a birthday gift (I turned 9 a couple of days ago!) I was then surprised by my mother...she also had a trilobite for me. BEST DAY EVER!

Next.... DIG PIT TIME! I immediately got in line. The timer went on and I had to dig through the pit quickly before my minute was up. I found quite a lot of ancient fossils, in sixty seconds and it only cost 25 cents! I also participated in 'Fossils Talk' an activity where kids could learn more about different fossils. It was great fun!

My passport was soon filled out. As I showed it to the paleontologist at the counter he said "boy, I love it when they fill it all out!" and he opened his treasure chest, there were a bunch of different, interesting objects, but my choice was: a magnifying glass. Now I can study my fossils even *closer!* I will never forget this awesome event! Thank you Paleontological Society of Austin! I can't wait for the next Fest!



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

PSA Web Site: [www.austinpaleo.org](http://www.austinpaleo.org)  
Web master: Michael Smith: [webmaster@austinpaleo.org](mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org)

2012 Officers:

President Erich Rose  
Vice Pres Suzanne Galligher  
Treasurer Gary Rylander  
Secretary Dennis Stock  
Field Trips Ed Elliott  
Programs Marilyn Austin  
Editor Erich Rose  
Web master Mike Smith  
Show Chair Suzanne Galligher

[president@austinpaleo.org](mailto:president@austinpaleo.org)  
[vicepresident@austinpaleo.org](mailto:vicepresident@austinpaleo.org)  
[treasurer@austinpaleo.org](mailto:treasurer@austinpaleo.org)  
[secretary@austinpaleo.org](mailto:secretary@austinpaleo.org)  
[fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org)  
[maustinsxsw@hotmail.com](mailto:maustinsxsw@hotmail.com)  
[editor@austinpaleo.org](mailto:editor@austinpaleo.org)  
[webmaster@austinpaleo.org](mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org)  
[showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org)

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD. [annm@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:annm@mail.utexas.edu)  
Pamela R. Owen, PhD. [powen@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:powen@mail.utexas.edu)  
James T. Sprinkle, PhD. [echino@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:echino@mail.utexas.edu)

Permission to copy material printed herein is granted provided proper credit is given to the author and source.  
The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

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



**PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN**

Erich Rose, Editor  
807 The Living End  
Austin, TX 78746

DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**