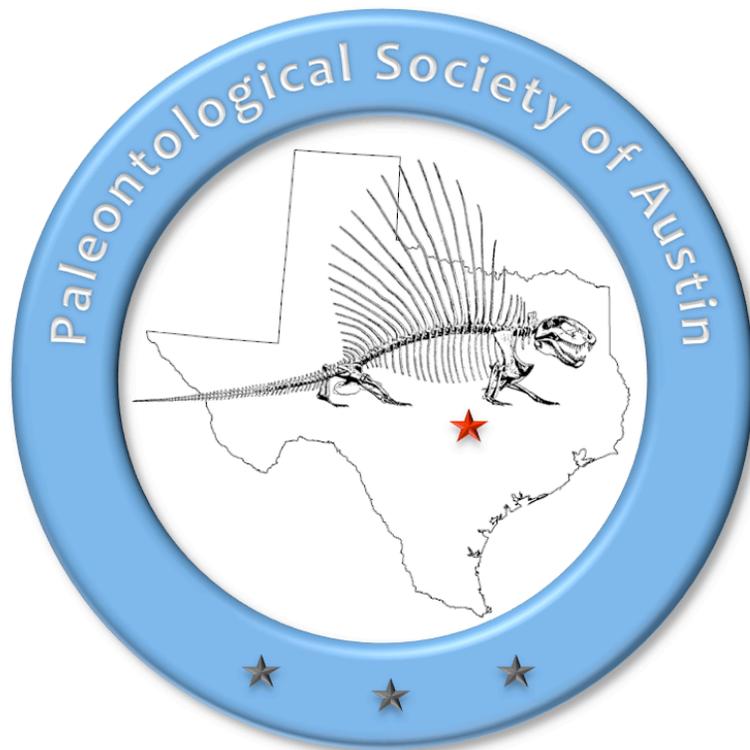


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 8, Number 3
March 2013

President's Note

February just sort of zoomed by. The weather has been nice and I hope many of you had a chance to get out and do some fossil collecting. The field trip to the Brownwood area, which I actually managed to attend, was pretty well attended and it was a beautiful day as well. I am never disappointed spending a day at Wilson's Clay Pit. Ed has had some computer issues and will supply the full report next month but I certainly saw a few really nice fossils that day including some great teeth (including a new one for me) as well as some unusual invertebrate material. My daughter Emelia found a good trilobite plate (see photo) and collected at least three quarts of crinoid stems for handouts as well. We left around 4PM and there were still a few diehards making use of the last of the day's sunlight. I have included some photos here but expect to read and see more next month in Ed's full report.

I will see you all at the next meeting.

-- Erich



Trilobite material from Wilson Clay Pit, collected by Emelia Rose.
Harpersville Formation (Upper Pennsylvanian)



Society members waiting to get a move on in Early



Polyacrodus sp. tooth collected by Erich Rose at Wilson

Next Meeting
Tuesday March 19th
7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

**Across The Great Divide: 15 Seasons of Fieldwork in the
Paleocene/Eocene of the Great Divide Basin, Wyoming**

By Brett Nachman

Early Eocene deposits from the Great Divide Basin (GDB) in Sweetwater County, Wyoming have been the subject of sporadic vertebrate paleontological investigations since the 1950s, and have been the focus of a more systematic research program since the 1994. This fieldwork has yielded nearly 20,000 identifiable fossils from over 100 localities. The paleontological work within the GDB is contributing new data with relevance to issues of early mammal diversity, early primate evolution, and dental development among the Euarchonta. More recently, our team has been testing the use of artificial intelligence-based analysis of GIS/Remote sensing data as a more efficient means of identifying potentially productive fossil-bearing sediments.

Brett Nachman is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. His research interests include the evolution, diversification, and paleoecology of modern mammalian groups, especially primates. He is also interested in hominin foraging strategies and the paleoecology/paleoenvironmental contexts surrounding human evolution and migration. Brett does field work in the Interior West of N. America as well as NW Ethiopia.

Next Field Trip

Saturday March 23rd
East Texas

We will meet at 8:00 on Saturday at O'Reilly Auto Parts on N. University Dr. in Nacogdoches. Go north on Business 59 to E. Main St. (Highway 21) and turn right (east) and go approximately 9 blocks. At the intersection of University Dr. turn left and go a short distance and see O'Reillys on your right. This can be a collection site but it will be just a meeting place to caravan from this time. We will be collecting Eocene invertebrates both Saturday and Sunday. We will be in the San Augustine area all day Saturday and back in the Nacogdoches area for Sunday. Much, but not all of our finds will be small - so sectional boxes will be useful. Bring lunch and water and the usual collecting materials. Watch the weather and dress accordingly. It should be a really good spring trip with dogwoods and other things in bloom.

Austin Paleo Society Meeting Minutes for
February 19, 2013

Erich Rose called our February meeting to order and Programs chair Marilyn Austin introduced John Kappelman, PhD, a 25-year UT Austin professor of anthropology.

In his first-ever presentation to us, Dr. Kappelman discussed, "Blue Highways: Middle Stone Age Foraging Behaviors Along the Blue Nile Tributaries in NW Ethiopia". He began describing a "fun", major archaeological discovery effort in Ethiopia and Sudan, using a large 40-person field crew with numerous collegiate staff participants, requiring serious daily logistical support for its extensive, rigorous excavation and preservation efforts.

"Blue Highways", started with a wonderfully detailed overview of its subject: the early human populations in Africa from their origin period 500,000 years ago, to their important migration outward from Africa 50,000 years ago. The presentation identified these peoples as the true ancestors of European and world "homo sapiens" populations, and noted the substantial capabilities of these ancient human populations inferred by the cultural and hunting artifacts and fossil evidence associated with them. Describing the uplift geology of the Rift Valley of NW Africa and its resulting river valleys with their extensive depositional areas of fossil-bearing sediments, Prof. Kappelman's talk also described aspects of modern Ethiopia as the backdrop for their activities, with its crowded population, concerns for the security of those involved, dealing with the high temperatures and sun (tarpology!), and with the rules for surviving inside of wildfires, producing a rich, relevant background for the project's focus.

This 4-year excavation of one of the many ancient sites in this area, an ancient gravel bar of the Shinfa River site has yielded vast evidence of sophisticated Middle Stone Age hunter populations' activities, with dense deposits of fish bones and mollusks (oyster), along with varied other animal remains: guinea fowl, monkey, buffalo, snake and ancient campfire evidence.

Abundant local quartz silicate gravels there resulted in large numbers of projectile artifacts

recovered at the site, with extraordinarily standardized sizes and shapes. Their uniformity of size, weight, and predictable trajectory caused Prof Kappelman, an avid archer himself, to put forth a compelling theory for their use as standard arrows for bow hunting in this early culture. Fascinating!

Using the latest 3-D printers and computer-aided oxygen level evaporation analysis, these scientists have stepped up their sophistication of analysis and are efficiently providing huge amounts of new information that effectively assesses the environment and technology of these early cultures.

Thanks to the National Science Foundation for funding much of this work.

Kudos to John Kappelman for such an interesting and rich presentation.

Thank you, Marilyn, for the quality of our speakers.

We took a short snack & yack break after the presentation.

Erich called the club business portion of the meeting into order and the previous minutes were approved.

Gary R. gave the treasurer's report. Expenses to be incurred for the recent losses of AGMS and the building due to theft and vandalism were discussed.

Discussion was initiated for forming the upcoming Fossil Fest Committee.

The Paleo Society's grant activity was mentioned and a suggestion that its program be described and publicized on the website was talked about.

More community outreach opportunity was announced for "Digging Dripping Springs" in May.

Field trip chair Ed Elliot then gave details of the upcoming Brownwood field trip.

The lucky door prize winner's were Gary Rylander, Avery Gallagher, and Gary Vliet.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Award

Linda McCall has been selected to receive the Third Place Thomas A. Philpott Award for her paper, "An Undescribed Fauna from the Upper Cretaceous 'Pyroclastic Zone' of the Austin Group at Pilot Knob, Central," presented at the 2012 GCAGS Convention in Austin, Texas.

This was the paper that Linda wrote with Ann Molineux, Jim Sprinkle and Chris Garvey. She gave a practice presentation to us before Fossil Fest and obviously it was worth it.

Primary authors will receive a plaque at the Opening Session and Awards Ceremony of the 2013 GCAGS Convention in New Orleans on October 6th. The exact location has not yet been determined.

Congratulations Linda!

Places to go, Fossils to see:

(Courtesy the Rock & Gem magazine website & others.)

March 16-17—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Annual show; Southwest Gem & Mineral Society; San Antonio Event Center; 8111 Meadow Leaf Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors and military \$3, students \$2, children \$1; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, club exhibits, silent auction, children's games, hourly and grand door prizes; contact Robert Bowie, TX 78133, (210) 287-5233; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: www.swgemandmineral.org

April 5-7—LIVE OAK, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; EGI Shows; Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Brooker Rd.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children free; contact John Soo, 13337 South St. #633, Cerritos, CA 90703, (714) 494-4546; e-mail: egi168@hotmail.com; Web site: www.egishows.com

April 12-14—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; EGI Shows; Will Rogers Memorial Center-Amon Carter Exhibit Hall; 3400 Burnett Tandy Dr.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adult \$3, children free; contact John Soo, 13337 South St. #633, Cerritos, TX 90703, (714) 494-4546; e-mail: egi168@hotmail.com; Web site: www.egishows.com

April 13-14—ABILENE, TEXAS: Annual show; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Abilene Civic Center; N. 6th and Pine St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children \$1.50; contact Linda Walker, PO Box 206, Hawley, TX 79525, (325) 537-4557; e-mail: linewalk@juno.com

April 20-21—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: 55th annual show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, seniors \$3, students (6-12) \$2, children (under 6) and Scouts in uniform free; 17 dealers, rocks, minerals, gems, silver, beads, fossils, jewelry, silent auction, junior activities, spin a wheel, door prizes, demonstrations, personal displays; contact Walt Beneze, TX, (806) 797-5832; e-mail: walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org; Web site: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

April 26-28--Houston, TX: Fine Mineral Show; Westward Look Mineral Show; Embassy Suites Hotel near the Galleria, 2911 Sage Road, Houston, TX; free parking and admission; www.finemineralshow.com

May 4—ARLINGTON, TEXAS: Annual rock and gem swap meet; Arlington Gem & Mineral; Arlington Clubhouse; 1408 Gibbons Rd.; Sat. 8-1; free admission; faceting rough and equipment, rock swap, rocks, equipment, rough, cabs, gems, related items; contact Jack Spinks, 209 Overlook Dr., Midlothian, TX 76065, (214) 335-9452; e-mail: jlspinks@sbcglobal.net; Web site: agemclub.com

May 25-26—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: 62nd Annual Show; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Amon Carter Exhibits Bldg., Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors, students and military \$4, children (under 16) free; "Timeless Treasures", more than 25 dealers, exhibits, kids' games, hourly door prizes, grand prize, silent auction; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: fortworthgemandmineralclub.org



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

AFMS ENDOWMENT DRAWING FOR 2013

DRAWING TO BE HELD DURING THE AFMS CONVENTION AND SHOW
SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2013
JACKSONVILLE, FL

Interest from AFMS Endowment Fund investments is used to support numerous programs that benefit our affiliated member clubs. In the past several years, interest money has:

- Purchased badges for the juniors program which are given at no charge to clubs with organized junior activities programs.
- Digitized the old AFMS slide programs that have been distributed at no charge to the regional federations.
- Purchased new commercially produced programs for the regional federation libraries.
- Supported the Judges Training Program.

TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20.

Many door prizes have been collected.

Such as: Caveman Clothes Pin- estimated value: \$75(NFMS), Float Copper Specimen- estimated value: \$75(MWF), An agate and jasper channel inlay in the style of Scottish Victorian jewelry of the 1800's-estimated value of \$350(AFMS), and many many more.

**Deadline to have tickets returned to your regional federation representative
Catherine Rouchon of Baton Rouge G&M is August 2.**

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



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL