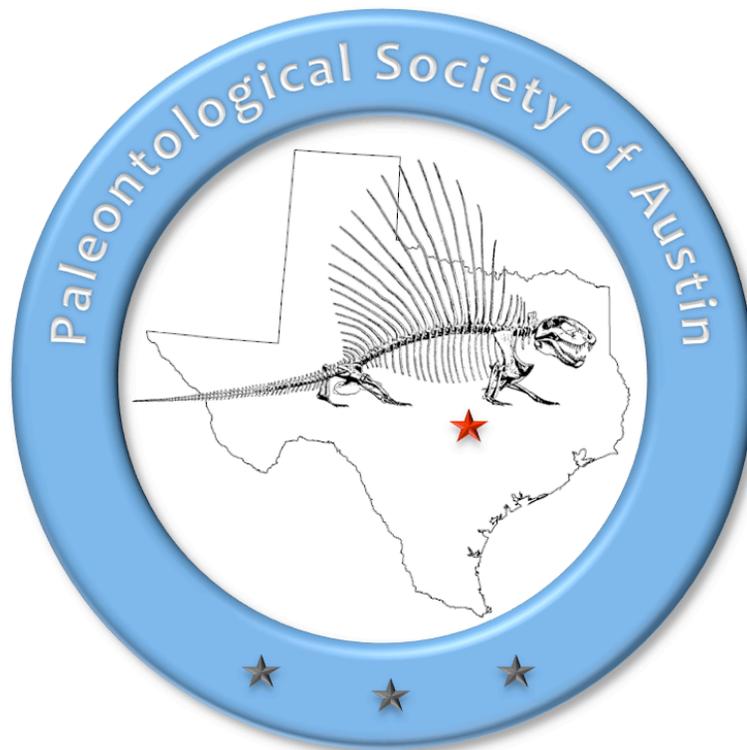


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 8, Number 5  
May 2013

## President's Note

First off, this year's annual auction was a success. The club netted a little over \$1,250 and it was a beautiful day to sit outside and picnic with god friends. There was some nice stuff to bid on as always. Personally I picked up a few good chunks of petrified wood for our cactus garden and I was happy to see the few things I donated go for more than a pittance.

Although, to my regret, I did not attend the Oklahoma field trip the preliminary word was that it was a success and some interesting fossils were collected. As of writing this note I have only seen photos but they include some really interesting crinoids. I'm sure Ed will have a lot more to add.

On my part, missing the Oklahoma trip was not so bad since I was on my own long-distance field trip. A museum conference in Pittsburgh turned into a week-long road trip. I have family in Ohio and Pittsburgh so I was able to combine catching up with family and colleagues with several days of collecting in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. All of my collecting was in the Cincinnati Series (Upper Ordovician). I came back with some nice trilobites, a few crinoids and loads of brachiopods, molluscs, bryozoans and corals, including plenty for the spinning wheel next fall.

The Cincinnati is one of the most prolific series of rocks in the country. Almost a thousand species of invertebrates are known from the various formations. Huge road cuts, fossil parks and a few private sites make for non-stop collecting if you can keep up. It is where I cut my fossil-collecting teeth and still my favorite place to go. Several PSA members have requested I put together a field trip, and I could guarantee everyone would come back with a tremendous variety of fossils. Many years ago I set up a similar trip for the New York Paleontological Society that we ran in conjunction with the local Cincinnati Dry Dredgers. The Dry Dredgers are one of the oldest (1942) societies like ours in the country and know their stuff cold. PSA has not done an extra long trip like this in a number of years so it would involve some planning as well as a certain commitment from members to make it viable. The drive from Austin to Cincinnati is at least 16 hours so you need some time to get there and back and we would want to have at least a full 2-3 days of collecting while there. If you are interested in this trip let me know and include what time of year would be best. If we build enough interest we will see about putting it into next year's schedule.

Dax and Suzanne reported a great turn out for the Violet Crown Community Festival and a wonderful response to our booth. And on the 19th a few of us will be taking part in Diggin' Drippin' Heritage Society event in Dripping Springs. Suzanne has also had a request from a local school to do some more outreach and we will be looking for volunteers for that as well. We will discuss outreach at the next meeting

-- Erich



Trammel Fossil Park, Sharonville, OH and enrolled *Flexicalymene meeki* trilobite from Trammel.

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday May 21st**  
**7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building**  
**6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

## **Reefs in Repositories**

Dr. Ann Molineux

Reef builders have been active in Texas history from over 500 million years and continue to flourish in the Flower Garden reefs of today. Dr. Molineux will refresh that history with a look at those reefs and thus the potential specimens in the repository.

Questions to be considered are how well can we reconstruct the active reefs of deep time Texas from the forensic evidence in the repository at UT and the increasingly connected resources of other institutions and what sort of caveats need to be considered when using such material?

Next Field Trip

**Saturday May 25th**

## **The Waco Pit & FM 107**

We will meet at the parking lot for the pit at 8:00 AM. This parking lot is not huge so you are encouraged to car pool. If you have some rubber boots they could be a definite asset. The pit can be a morass when wet, so check to see if it has rained earlier or rain is predicted for that day. Collecting there is mostly small stuff so bring those knee pads and small containers. The formation is the Upper Cretaceous Del Rio. Fossils include a wide variety of marine invertebrates, various shark teeth and a fair variety of small pyritized material.

Directions to the pit:

1. From Austin take I-35 North to Waco.
2. On the north side of Waco, EXIT at 340/2491/Lake Shore Drive.
3. Turn LEFT (west) under the freeway onto Lake Shore Drive. Follow Lake Shore as it curves around and to the south past the intersection with Lake Brazos/Steinbeck Bend and go over the Bosque River.
4. Continue on Lake Shore to FM 1637/19<sup>th</sup> Street and turn RIGHT (west again.)
5. Proceed to Steinbeck Bend and turn LEFT. (Careful, there is an earlier intersection with Steinbeck. Do not confuse that one with this later turn off.)
6. At the intersection of Airport and Steinbeck Bend (a block or two past the last turn) there is a cement plant on the SE corner (across the intersection on the left.)
7. Just past the plant on the left is the parking area for the pit. There is a gate. If it is not open wait just off the road until someone arrives to open it.

From the Pit we will head back south and collect from the Walnut and Commanche Peak Formations along FM 107 west of Mother Neff State Park.

1. Get back to I-35 and head south.
2. Exit west on to FM107 toward Moody.
3. From the exit head west on FM 107 approx. 20 miles and look for the large road cut on the right just above the Leon River Valley. (about 6.5 miles past the sign for Mother Neff State Park at Rt 236)

## PSOA Members Share Fossils and Experiences with Violet Crown Community

PSOA Members Suzanne Galligher, Ryan Galligher and Dax Gonzalez spent much of the day Saturday, May 4, fostering the curiosity of kids and adults alike at the Violet Crown Spring Festival.

Held at Brentwood Park, just around the corner from the Gem and Mineral Society building, the not-for-profit festival included food, vendors and free activities, music, and informational booths all designed to inspire a sense of community for the central Austin neighborhoods that make up the original Violet Crown community and those all around Austin. The PSOA tent featured display fossils from near and far, as well as a dig pit where kids searched for crinoid stems, gastropods, bivalves and heart urchins.

Dozens, if not a couple hundred, of people stopped by the tent to learn about the fossils on the table, talk about their experiences finding fossils, or show off pet rats (ask Suzanne). Many were surprised to learn that PSOA existed in their backyard, and excitedly took sign-up forms. Additionally, a science teacher camped out at a neighboring tent asked if the club could visit with her students and teach them more about fossils.

Several festival workers heard positive comments about the "fossil tent" throughout the day and consider the PSOA tent to have been one of the most unique attractions at the festival in recent years.



## Field Trip Report, Oklahoma - April 2013

Driving up to the meeting place I could see that we had a small problem, no place to park. Then I realized that all of those cars were ours. Quite a turn out is an understatement. Standing around and itching to go were: David Lindberg, Frederick and Melinda Falk, Ron and Janet Root, Dax Gonzalez, Cathy and Gary Rylander, Terry and Hunter Collins, Melody Barnett, Linda McCall, Paul Hammerschmidt, Mark Clark, Eric Ross, Melvin Noble, John Hinte, Kevin Bills, Gary Vliet, Bob McDonald, Glenn and Bill Tutor, Dr. James Sprinkle, and arriving on Sunday were James and Bruce Mercier, and Paulino and Julia Allande. That's a lot of vehicles for a caravan. And I'm glad that we had good sites to support such numbers.



Our first stop was “Yellow Bluff” and it did produce for us. I had been worried that the recent rains would be a problem, making the creek un-fordable. We got a little wet, but not bad. This location is Bois d'Arc Formation, Hunton Group, Devonian - approximately 390 mybp. It is covered with brachiopods, horn and other corals, gastropods, bryozoans as well as trilobites and echinoderms. I was busy picking up nice things like cups of the Inadunate crinoid *Pisocrinus* when Melinda came over to ask what she had. Two beautiful Camerate cups with arms in matrix. I sent her over to Dr. Sprinkle to see. Cathy did as well with some smaller Camerates. And Melvin found a small cup without arms. Linda picked up something I had never seen, it seemed like an oblong sphere. Dr. Sprinkle identified it as a Flexible crinoid with its' arms folded back in on themselves like a cup on a cup. Very cool. Several of us had picked up the cup for this crinoid, but had no idea what it was. There were several decent trilobites found. Bob and Melvin showed me some nice ones. I had a decent enrolled one without eyes. Lots of trilo-bits. And just as we were leaving, John came down the hill with the largest favositid coral that I've ever seen come off a field trip. Very pretty. What a great site.



Our next stop was Dr. Sprinkles' Ordovician quarry, which has the Bromide and McLish Formations, Simpson Group. He gave a short talk about the quarry and his history with it and we started collecting. Brachiopods, bryozoans, a few gastropods and echinoderm plates. Dr. Sprinkle found a lovely little edrioasteroid cup with legs, which he passed around. Very detailed specimen. Prettier than any I've seen in the field. After a while most of us went on to P-7, a Silurian road cut. This is Henryhouse Formation of the Hunton Group. It had recently been hunted, but we still had fun picking up brachiopods and corals.



Sunday we met again and caravanned to Clarita and Bob Carrols' quarry. The number of vehicles was a problem – Bob doesn't have a parking lot. This quarry is in the Haragan and Bois d'Arc Formations, Hunton Group, Devonian. The quarry had been hunted by many people recently but is big enough that much more was to be found. Brachiopods, corals, bryozoans, a few bivalves, straight nautiloids and (what everyone came for) trilobites. Trilo-bits were everywhere. I didn't see much of what everyone else found, I spent my time looking. While my main goal was to find some of my favorite brachiopod (*Kozlowskiella velata*) and whatever bivalves I could, I still picked up five or six nice trilobites – mostly phacopsids and a lot of pieces I like. Hopefully others fared as well. I had planned no further sites, but we had to leave before 4:00 and there was still daylight. Linda had wanted to go to Sprinkles' Bromide “ditch” so several of us joined her. There were only five of us, and I mention this only because Linda made a really nice find. The echinoderm that Dr. Sprinkle finds there every decade or so – she found a very nice specimen. The actual cup had turned to crystal but the long stem going into it and the beautiful arms coming out of it made it a really wonderful end to a great Oklahoma trip. Hope everyone had as much fun as I did.



See you at the next one -- Ed

(Field trip photos courtesy of Linda McCall.)

### Meeting Minutes for Austin Paleo Society May 2013

The May meeting was the Auction held at Westcave Preserve. There was no presentation and only a minimal business meeting in which we discussed several outreach events and the April field trip to Oklahoma.

## It is Never Too Early: 23rd Annual Fossil Fest

The Show Committee is forming for the upcoming 23rd Annual Fossil Fest. The show will be held the weekend of December 7 & 8, 2013 at Old Settlers Association in Round Rock, TX. Save the date because your assistance will be needed for this stellar event! All members are welcome and encouraged to join the show committee and/or attend show committee meetings. It is a unique opportunity to shape the show, increase the educational quality and make a difference at our largest public outreach event. The first show committee meeting will take place in April (date & location to be determined soon). Please contact Suzanne Galligher, Fossil Fest Show Chair, at [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org) if you are interested in becoming a Show Committee member.

### Places to go, Fossils to see:

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

**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](mailto:fwgmc@embarqmail.com); Web site: [fortworthgemandmineralclub.org](http://fortworthgemandmineralclub.org)



2013 Annual Auction at Westcave Preserve

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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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**