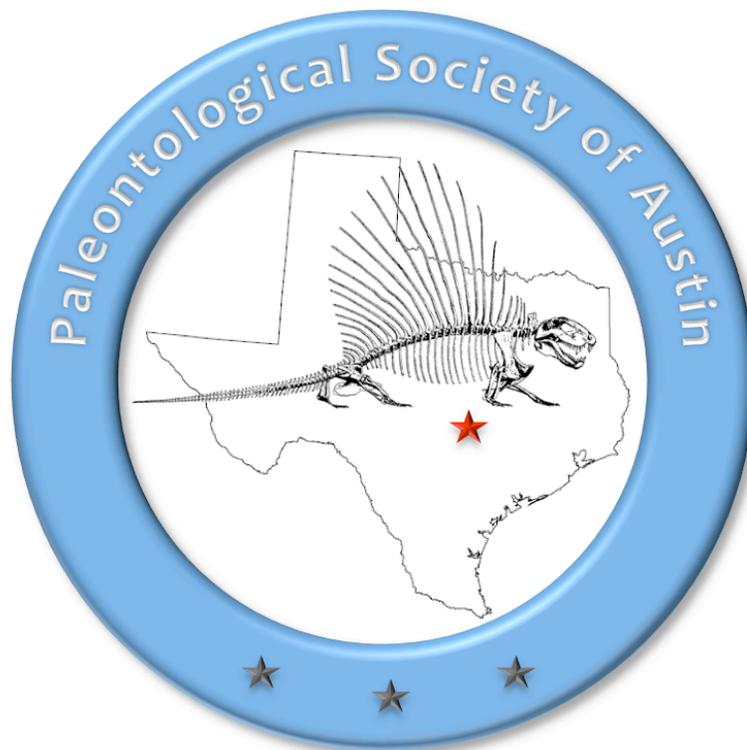


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 8, Number 10
October 2013

EARLY FIELD TRIP! SEE INSIDE

President's Note

First my apologies for the very short field trip notice. This month we will be going to Lake Texoma to collect ammonites, "jellyfish" and other spectacular fossils. It is usually a full weekend's worth of collecting to make the long haul worthwhile. If you need more info contact Ed Elliott (fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org or 512-657-7581).

And after having the last trip rained out many of you may be itching for a good one.

We are also starting to get geared up for Gem Capers (October 18-20) and Fossil Fest (December 7-8) and in preparation for that we have a fossil stuffing party planned for the hour before the next meeting. Come to the AGMS clubhouse at 6PM and help us stuff fossils and flyers into bags for Gem Capers. It is always fun and a great chance to hang with your friends.

And of course that just rolls right into the proverbial request for volunteers for both Gem Capers and Fossil Fest. The more the merrier. We can use anyone who has a few hours to spare at each show. Suzanne will have sign up sheets at the meeting or you can go online to the sign up board via the link you will see elsewhere in this newsletter.

Take care and stay cool,

-- Erich

JOIN US! PRE-MEETING FOSSIL STUFFING PARTY 6PM before the Meeting

It's time for the annual stuffing of 1500 Ziploc bags with Fossil Fest flyers and small fossil giveaways. Got Fossils? Bring them! We need 1500 clean, (recognizable as) fossils that will fit in a sandwich sized Ziploc bag. These giveaways will go to students and the general public at the upcoming AGMS Gem Capers show October 18 - 20. After the show, the extras will be given to Pamela Owen for give-away to field trip students at the Texas Memorial Museum.

Next Meeting

Tuesday October 15
7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

An Introduction to the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic Dinosaurs of the American Southwest

Adam D. Marsh

The talk will surround some of my fieldwork and current research in the Chinle Formation of Petrified Forest National Park as well as the Glen Canyon Group that crops out in the Navajo Nation. I am interested in the evolutionary history of saurischian, or 'lizard-hipped', dinosaurs in North America, which survive the Late Triassic mass extinction and diversify on the continent later in the Jurassic.

I have a BS from the University of Notre Dame in Biological Sciences as well as Environmental Geosciences. As an undergraduate, I helped synthesize novel actinide minerals in order to understand how spent nuclear fuel might interact with the environment. I completed my MS in vertebrate paleontology from the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT in May, where I described *Sarhsaurus aurifontanalis*, a new genus and species of sauropodomorph dinosaur from the Early Jurassic of Arizona. I'm continuing my research at UT for my PhD under the advising of Dr. Tim Rowe.

Next Field Trip

Saturday October 12

Lake Texoma

Meet at 8:00 am Saturday morning at the entrance to Eisenhower State Park. Unless you want to leave at three in the morning, you will need to drive up the night before.

Plan to stay overnight in the Sherman area.

We will be collecting Sunday morning as well.

We will be going to a variety of sites. Some of these include large ammonites, so be prepared. You will definitely want your hammers and chisels to remove specimens, and backpacks, as you will be walking a fair ways along the lake shoreline.

It goes without saying you will need lots of water or equivalent, sunscreen,
a good hat, food, etc.

If you need more info contact Ed Elliott (fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org or 512-657-7581)

PSoA BOOTH at AGMS GEM CAPERS SHOW

Don't miss out! No prior experience or expertise required! Sign-up NOW (online at www.mysignup.com/agms - the passcode is paleo) as a Volunteer for the Paleontology Table at the **AGMS Gem Capers** show held **Friday through Sunday, October 18 - 20** (with set-up on Thursday, October 17) at the Palmer Events Center . This is our largest educational outreach of the year and presents an enormous opportunity to educate the general public about paleontology and fossils while spreading the word about Fossil Fest. Volunteers will receive free admission to Gem Capers all weekend long! It's a blast! The PSoA booth will feature an educational Quest for Knowledge, fossil touch table, fossil displays, paleo tools, fossil cleaning and give-aways. Please consider filling a Display Case for the show - PSoA has two cases reserved. It's great practice for Fossil Fest! If you're interested in filling a Display Case at the show, consider participating in the SCFMS Case Competition (optional). Did I mention that Volunteers get in FREE to Gem Capers?! It's a great show and lots of fun! For more information about Gem Capers, visit the AGMS Gem Capers website.

FOSSIL FEST UPDATE

Save the date! The 23rd Annual Fossil Fest will be **Saturday to Sunday, December 7 - 8, 2013** (with set-up on Friday, December 6). This year's show theme is... Dinosaurs! We'll be exploring dinosaurs that roamed Texas. **Sign-up NOW (online at www.mysignup.com/fossilfest - the passcode is paleo).** We are very fortunate to have Melinda Falk working with the Show Committee to update our educational quest, the Paleo Passport, with TEKS aligned content for this year's show. Additionally, the Root's are retiring from running the Fossil Fest Kitchen this year. Thank you Ron and Janet for your many years of hard work in the Fossil Fest Kitchen! Please welcome Dale Vargo and Merrily to the healthified Fossil Fest Kitchen this year! Yes, that's right healthified! Stay tuned for more info... Many members will be ecstatic to learn that club t-shirts are in the works - so be sure to attend the monthly meeting to hear more about ordering one for yourself! Last month, volunteers were asked to disperse Fossil Fest tear pads/flyers. Those flyers should all now be in place at your designated public attractions and facilities around the Austin area. Please send email to showchair@austinpaleo.org if you have ideas for other locations where we should advertise our annual show. The support and assistance of every PSoA member is essential in making Fossil Fest a success. There are many ways that members can help out so please stay tuned for upcoming opportunities!

Currently, there is 1 Large and 2 Small Booths available for interested vendors.

Vendors/Exhibitors include: AGMS / Sue & Les Postlethwait, Jack Grant, K. Howard, Lonestar Paleontology, Natural Selection Enterprise, Nature's Treasures, Don Painter (FL fossils), Shu's Rocks & Minerals and Teredo's. Keep your eye out for potential vendors while travelling or at upcoming gem and fossil shows. Send your vendor recommendations to showchair@austinpaleo.org. In the meantime, please consider displaying your fossils at Fossil Fest and start gathering fossils for donation to the Dig Pit and Spinning Wheel as detailed below.

DISPLAY CASES: We encourage you to create a display case for the show this year. We have a lot of display cases to fill! We would love to see those fossils you worked so hard to collect - in searing heat, ankle deep mud, slippery slopes, capsizing canoes or finger numbing cold! So start sorting through your fossils now! Additionally, it would help us teach some key TEKS

(Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) concepts to students. If you're in need of display case ideas, please consider:

A display of how a plant or animal becomes a fossil

Examples and a brief description of changes to an organism over time

Collection of a particular organism and their structures

One organism - characteristics used to identify it with samples and diagrams

A fossil and display showing what we were able to learn about the type of climate / environment the organism would have been in while living - deep ocean/shallow ocean, cold/warm temperature, turbid/calm environment, etc - this may be one for one of our university grad student / researcher / professor

FOSSILS: David Lindberg is assembling the teacher kits this year. He is in need of quality (these are for teachers after all) Texas fossils, such as regular and irregular urchins, ammonites, gastropods, clams, bryozoans, corals and etc. Please separate these out from your other fossil donations and clearly mark them as "teacher kit - for David Lindberg". Additionally, we need lots and lots of CLEAN cast off fossils for the DIG PIT (very small) and SPINNING WHEEL. Keep this in mind when you're out collecting: if you come across an outcrop with a lot of a particular fossil, please pick up extras for the fest! Until next month...

Suzanne Galligher
Fossil Fest Show Chair

Dax Gonzalez, Kathleen Howard, Melvin Noble, Ron Root, Erich Rose and Mike Smith
Fossil Fest Show Committee Members

Meeting Minutes for Austin Paleo Society September 16, 2013

President Erich Rose called the meeting to order at 7:03. He introduced tonight's speaker, Lauren English, a doctoral student, whose Master's thesis is the subject of her talk, "Evolution of Pterosaur Wings".

Her work involved studying the wing development and flight analysis for 2 major groups of Pterosaurs, the iconic, familiar large flying dinosaurs. English's work exemplifies a scientist's thorough examination of often-limited fossil evidence, coupled with the study of general flight dynamics, comparison to modern flying creatures like bats, birds, and insects, and exhaustive analysis of bone size and shape and other possible factors that could account for the evidence. Her slide overview showed similarities and contrasts to the other known flying genera, and she showed pictures of the immense variation in size and even head shape of these flying dinosaurs. Her presentation covered her required intense examinations into the variation of fossil Pterosaur wing bones,

how these structures enable actual flight and how their wing bone development could be analyzed as a logical engineering feat, with complex variables such as age, maturity, size, and evolution as factors to be considered. An isometric study, which doesn't allow these complexities to factor in, only presents hard data, with little potential for sophisticated analysis and results. But Lauren's work is allometric study, which embraces these growth, age and evolutionary variables and draws on them to refine the analysis of her project toward high-quality, usable conclusions. She noted how limited examples of these rare fossils are and yet there are some promising finds of Pterosaurs in China recently. Ms. English concluded by answering members' questions.

We then took our refreshment break. After the break, the previous minutes were approved and Treasurer's report given. Erich noted we should look at our scholarship program again. Gary stated that a board meeting is needed before the

next meeting. Fossil Fest committee meetings were mentioned, along with our AGMS' Gem Capers booth and our field trip variables. Kathleen volunteered to work on a fossil presentation in Killeen. Erich spoke about our Fossil Fest and its theme, 'Dinosaurs'. Discussion ensued how to present the dinosaur theme and the different sources available. We also need donations of small fossils for Fossil Fest. Volunteers and signups were requested by Suzanne for our outreach booth at the upcoming Gem Capers, 10/18-20, as well as for Fossil Fest. Many children will attend the first day of Gem Capers. There are many ways to volunteer at Fossil fest too and we can sign up online.

Ed told about the upcoming Whiskey Bridge field trip, the fossils to expect, the requirements of collecting and possible hazards if rain occurs there. Dr Sprinkle announced our member Linda McCall's upcoming award that will be presented to her Oct 6 in New Orleans, and a likely collecting trip to points northward for those interested Oct 12. Ed announced that the field trip next month will be to Lake Texoma, and Erich noted what a great trip it is. Visitors Kim, Paula and Ryan were acknowledged. Door prizes were won by Christine, Bob, Kim, and John. Fossil Fest display cases need to be assigned and planned for. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

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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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