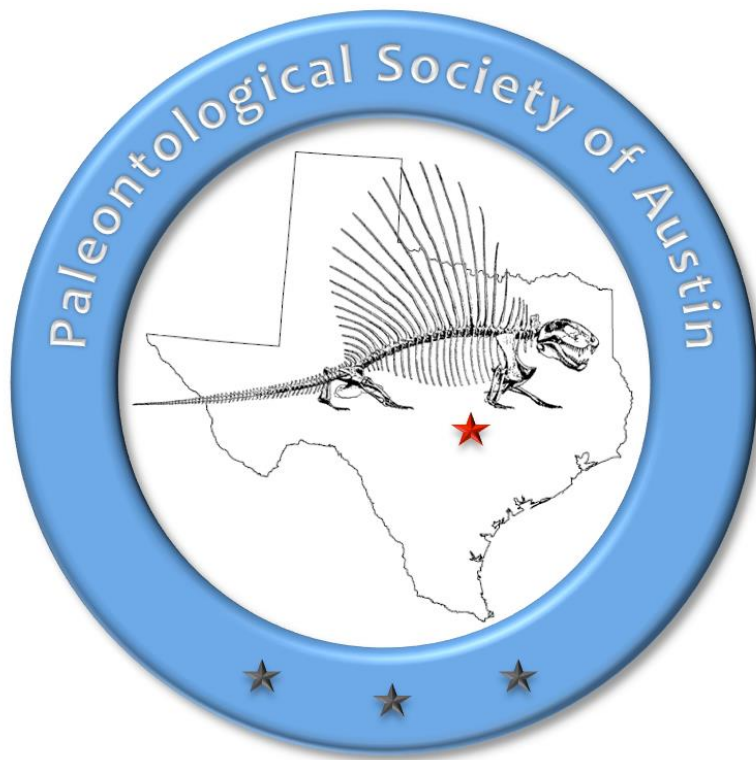


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 9, Number 5
May 2014

President's Note

I was afraid to even mention the "r" word for threat of jinxing it. But boy we sure got some. So get out there, now! Personally, I have been concentrating on working my earlier finds into my collection. Cleaning, sorting, identification and cataloging all can be very satisfying. And hey there was a bonus when I found a bag full of Glen Rose micro zone stuff that had been accidentally placed in the wrong box a few years back. There were even a couple of great specimens that I had forgotten about.

Looks like you all will have an interesting lecture next week: Dinosaur CSI, Insects and their traces on dino bones. Unfortunately I will be out on the road heading back to Texas with my daughter who is just completing her first year away to college. Sure hope she will be up for some collecting when we get back. I miss her sharp eyes and never-failing ability to find something better than me.

Speaking of kids and science, we have been able to pull off a bunch of great outreach events this spring. School visits, fossil fairs and more. In June we will be doing Science Thursday at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center where they just opened a new children's garden complete with dinosaur footprints and other fossils. There are a few of us already lined up to help that evening but feel free to come on out. The more the merrier.

Take care and get out on those rocks!

-- Erich



Williamson County Parks Dino Day 2014 (photo by S. Galligher)

Next Meeting
Tuesday May 20, 2014
7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

Dinosaur CSI

Kenneth Bader, Preparator at the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, will be presenting his research on insect traces on dinosaur skeletons.

Kenneth Bader majored in geology with a focus on vertebrate paleontology at the University of Kansas, receiving his B.S. in 2003 and M.S. in 2008. His thesis applied modern research on bone-modifying insects to investigations into insect damage to dinosaur bones. From 2008-2011 Kenneth worked as the fossil preparator for Petrified Forest National Park. He is currently a fossil preparator for the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at UT Austin and also manages the modern skeletal preparation lab.

Next Field Trip

Saturday, May 24th

Cretaceous of Bosque County, Texas

The field trip for May is still somewhat to be determined (TBD). Hopefully we will start at the Clifton Chemical Lime Quarry* where we get some great ammonites and other Duck Creek and Kiamichi Formation fossils. If that does not happen, we will go just a little further on to Meridian, for some rudist collecting. That being said, the alternate meeting place is TBD. If we don't get into the quarry, we will start in Meridian and possibly backtrack in the afternoon to Highway 107, east of Gatesville. If we go to the quarry, the afternoon will be spent collecting around Meridian**. Do bring tools, water, snacks, hat, and all the usual stuff.

* Directions to the Quarry: This route avoids construction between Belton and Waco on I-35. Head north on I-35 about 59 miles north to Belton. At Belton take exit 293A and follow signs for TX-317 North. Drive about 49 miles north to Valley Mills. Turn left (North) onto TX-6 towards Clifton. 7.4 miles north of Valley Mills you will see a cattle facility with pens on the left. Shortly after that you will hit Farm Rd 2602. Turn left. Go 2.5 miles to the quarry on the right. That is about 2 hours from Austin. Go to the entry building and park. Try to be there a little before 8:00AM.

** Meridian is 22 miles north of Valley Mills on TX-6. Give yourself 2-1/2 hours to get there and arrive by 8:00AM.

For the decided upon meeting place and remaining details you will have three options: come to the meeting Tuesday; look for an email blast with final details; or call Ed Elliott next week after the meeting. Ed can best be reached evenings (512) 657-7581.

Field Trip Report - April 2014 Oklahoma

We had fourteen excited members at the meeting spot in Ada on Saturday morning: John Hinte, Melvin Nobel, Cathy and Gary Rylander, Linda McCall and her friend Lynn, Mike Smith, Paul Hammerschmidt, Jeff Doerzbacher, Frederick and Melinda Faulk, Joe Watkins and Beki Pool. Unfortunately, after we got back, I found out that two other members were there – right by the Callixylon tree – and missed meeting up and the trip. I certainly regret this and can only emphasize that those who go on trips need to have my phone number with them. Even if I am in a place with little or no service, voice mails creep in. If I know of a problem – I can work to solve it.

I had planned the quarry trip for the morning – and they canceled it because they needed to work that day. All of those hard-toed boots purchased for nothing. Some fast-talking got us in at the end of the day. So our first stop was Tuckers' Hill. This is Nellie Bly Formation, Middle Pennsylvanian. I've attempted to refine that somewhat with no luck. The state of Pennsylvanian stratigraphy in Okla. seems to still be in flux. Some very nice things were found. Paul stole the show with an intact large (6 inches?) *Archaeocidaris* spine, as well as a Comatulid (no stem – free floating) crinoid. Gary, Linda and I (possibly others) found crinoid cups. Lots of other nice gastropods, bivalves, corals and brachiopods were found as well. We left the “Hill” with enough time to get to the quarry by 3:30. At the quarry we went through a short safety meeting and donned our safety gear and played follow the leader with our guide. While he could not tell us what formations we were in, what I have listed is Wellington Formation, Viola Springs Formation (Viola Group) and Sylvan Shale and Keel Formation. The first stop contained fossils but was too silicified for weathering, much less collecting. The third was simply barren. The second was both fossiliferous and collectable. I had a great time picking up numerous brachiopods and one small trilobite. From what I saw, others did as well. This is a new location for us, and one thing you do with a new site is to find out where to hunt and where not to. I think that this place has potential for return trips. After our guide returned us to the office we drove to Ada for a group diner and a lot of socializing.

We met again Sunday morning with bad weather looming. Our Internet weatherman Mike, suggested that before walking into Yellow Bluff, we do some roadside hunting and give the storm a chance to pass. We went to the Silurian road cut P-7, which is in the Henryhouse Formation of the Hunton Group. Crinoid cups, colonial and rugose corals, brachiopods and trilobites were found. After one brief shower, the storm passed and we continued on to Yellow Bluff. This is Bois d'Arc Formation, Hunton Group, Lower Devonian. I know that Gary found a beautiful small camerate crinoid cup. Most of the members left about noon without me seeing what was found. Quite a few trilobites were found, I picked up a handful with varying degrees of completeness. Lots of brachiopods (always), corals, gastropods and bryozoans were collected. I love the Oklahoma trips and I think this was a good one. Other than some wind and a brief shower, the weather was great. Couple that with beautiful countryside, great people, and lots of older Paleozoic fossils – what more could you ask? See you at the next one!



PSA at Tucker Hill in Oklahoma (photo by Linda McCall)



Paul's monster urchin spine
(Photo by Linda McCall)



Site P-7 & a threatening sky (photo by Linda McCall)



Safety class at the quarry (photo by Linda McCall)

Paleo Society Meeting Minutes for 4.12.2014

Report from our Annual Paleo Society Auction by Dale Vargo, PSA Secretary

On April 12, a sunny spring day, about twenty of our Austin Paleontological Society members gathered at Austin's beautiful West Cave Preserve for our annual auction fundraiser. There were many enjoyable aspects to the event, which began with an abundant, delicious potluck lunch under the Preserve's pavilion, contributed by all. Upon arrival, we could view, strategize and enjoy the items displayed for auction as we greeted and visited each other. As our meal wrapped up, our event emcee and auctioneer Mike Smith took over and began the auction festivities. The member-contributed items were many, and eclectic as usual, ranging from obscure devices and publications (a favorite of many), to large specimens of clusters of fluorescent clams, to tiny Pleistocene FL fossils. The attendees' generosity was apparent in the quality and number of the items donated, and in the enthusiastic bidding. Mike conducted the auction with velocity, humor and on-the-spot fossil identification and instant book reviews to assist the scrupulous bidders in their quests. Excitement could be seen and heard as members won bids on their favored items, with applause for all winners. And all items were auctioned off, even as the most generous members held their noses and even bid on a couple of less popular things for the sake of the fundraiser. At the auction's end there was an air of pleasant satisfaction, with Frederick having recorded items won and accepting the monies received, as we all gathered up the remains of the potluck and loading up our acquisitions. We departed for our other activities of the day, as some members quickly discussed the logistics of the upcoming major field trip to Oklahoma's trilobite and crinoid district. Another successful Paleo Auction!

PSoA PUBLIC & K-12 OUTREACH

This month, PSoA participated in Williamson County's annual Dinosaur Day on Saturday, May 10 from 10am to 2pm at Champion Park in Cedar Park. Members Ron Root, David Lindberg, Ryan Galligher & Suzanne Galligher were on hand educating the general public about the fossil treasures in their backyard. The weather on Friday threatened another cancellation of the event, but Williamson County organizers rode it out with white knuckles and Saturday proved to be a gorgeous day. Many joggers, families and some canines were out enjoying the park and stopped by for the day's festivities. There was a dinosaur shaped bouncy house for the kids to enjoy, live music, educational and fun activities for children along with hot dogs and refreshments. All of this was provided for free to the public by Williamson County Parks Department. Many thanks to the volunteers for donating their time and talent at Dino Day and to the Williamson County Parks Department for inviting us!

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
Web master: Michael Smith: webmaster@austinpaleo.org

2014 Officers:

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president@austinpaleo.org
vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
treasurer@austinpaleo.org
secretary@austinpaleo.org
fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
ron@grassrootstrader.com
editor@austinpaleo.org
webmaster@austinpaleo.org
showchair@austinpaleo.org

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.	anm@mail.utexas.edu
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	powen@mail.utexas.edu
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.	echino@mail.utexas.edu

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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

DATED MATERIAL – *Next Meeting May 20th.*

FIRST CLASS MAIL