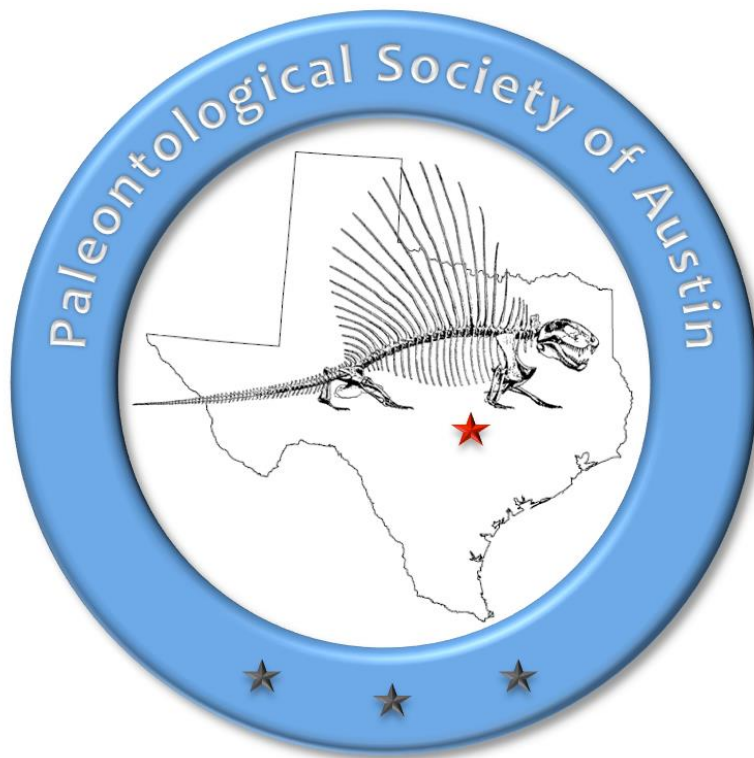


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 9, Number 7
July 2014

President's Note

Slow summer for many of us. Collecting has been mostly close to home and in short doses to manage the heat.

We do not have an actual live speaker for Tuesday's lecture. Instead we will be watching a recorded lecture pulled from a wonderful series on evolution and fossils. Bring some popcorn.

Our July field trip will be to the Invertebrate Paleontology Lab at the University of Austin's J.J. Pickle Research Center. Ann Molineux will give us a tour and share some of the inner workings of the lab. As of the newsletter I have not heard more from Ed.

See you Tuesday,

-- Erich



The Wilson Clay Pit Die Hards
(See the field trip report for more.)

Next Meeting
Tuesday July 15, 2014
7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

"The Sky is Falling - End of the Dinosaurs"
"A New History of Life"

DVD by Professor Stuart Sutherland
of the University of British Columbia

Something different. We will be watching a recorded lecture on this very interesting topic.

Next Field Trip

Saturday, July 19th

Invertebrate Lab, University of Texas
With Ann M. Molineux, PhD.
Meet at 9AM

Meet at the lab, which is in the J.J. Pickle Research Center. Use the entrance off Burnet Road between Rutland and Braker. The guards will direct you to the proper building. This is a great chance to see and hear about the workings of the lab. New members are encouraged to attend. And hey it will be AIR CONDITIONED!

Field Trip Report - June 2014

It had rained during the last half of the trip to Brownwood, and looked as though it could rain all morning. Notwithstanding, we had a very nice crowd show up. Paul Hammerschmidt, Melvin Noble, Joe Watkins, Kevin Bills, Kenneth Harrison, Dave Hoppes, Dax Gonzalez, Bob McDonald, Peggy and Betsy Graham, Cathy and Gary Rylander, and Mike Smith. From our meeting place we caravanned on to Wilson Quarry.

Wilson Quarry or Wilson Clay Pit is Harpersville Formation. Cisco Group, Pennsylvanian. It is the uppermost Formation (in Texas) in the Pennsylvanian. The back wall (upper) I've been told is the earliest Permian Formation, the Pueblo. I mention this because it's

likely that a little of what we find could be from the Permian. A small amount of history: from the 1930's through the 1950's, Wilson was quarried for clay. Two brick factories, one near Santa Anna and the other near Bangs used the clay to make bricks. Everything else they just pushed out of the way. This is how we got our wonderful Pennsylvanian playground. Dax picked up a lovely crinoid cup (*Delocrinus sp.*) dorsal side up on a slab soon after we arrived. For a very long time I had thought that nearly all crinoids from Wilson were of that genus. Our last two trips proved that wrong. Paul picked up a cup that looks very much like an *Endelocrinus sp.*. Many of us have picked up a nearly flat pentagram of five infrabasals, for which I have no name. This time Kevin and I both picked up cups, which were very small cones – again no names. And I picked up an extremely small crown of which all I can say is that it is not a *Delocrinus*. And last trip Cindy Fryar found a cup that I've never seen before. I like it and hope it keeps up. Both Mike and Kevin picked up a *Symmorium reniforme* tooth with the cusps mostly broken off. Still looked pretty cool. Melvin picked up a fair specimen of a *Petalodus ohioensis* tooth. Most of us had to be content with pieces of one. Brachiopods are always a good bet at Wilson. I picked up several different spirifers and a large *Derbia*. Pretty specimen, but too flattened to do a good ID on. And Dax and I both picked up a strange thing that befuddles me. I took it to Dr. Molineux and she agrees with me – we don't know what it is. It looks like an encrusting barnacle – but she says that barnacles of this period bore a hole to live in, and don't have a shell. And in later times their shell is made up of layered plates. This one is like a little volcano, with a tube inside. The even weirder thing is that I have one just like it from the Weno – two hundred million years later. Another mystery. And why I love going to Wilson again and again. Our next trip will be to the Non-vertebrate Lab at the J. J. Pickle Research Facility with Ann Molineux . Hope to see a lot of you there! We might do a little local collecting afterword,

Ed



Wilson Pit crinoid cup and those odd "unknowns"

Austin Paleo Society Meeting Minutes for June 17, 2014

The meeting came to order at 7:12, the lights dimmed, and Suzanne Galligher started the night's presentation, " Perspectives from the FOSSIL Project Symposium and Workshop" with a graphic of a Dimetrodon Skull. The FOSSIL Symposium met in February to foster nationwide

networking between amateur and professional paleontologists in the US. With 60 fossil-dedicated clubs and societies in the country, there really is no national network interface for them. So using a \$1.9 million grant, FOSSIL has goals that foster communication and information exchange in the fossil community at large. FOSSIL seeks to shift from the old linear model of most info being supplied from researchers, educators and through written papers to the public, to a new model of public participation and collaboration with scientists that produces more connections, more social awareness and learning, broader participation, more info-sharing, collaborative problem solving and quicker visualization and discovery via internet. Go to myFOSSIL.org to get the latest info on FOSSIL's activities. Now, FOSSIL's presence in US paleontology circles will build new connections to the paleo community with club directories, park info, and greater citizen access to speakers and presentations and info overall. Suzanne presented a lively variety of new fossil-related programs under the North American Paleo Conference (NAPC); activities that are interesting, fun, creative and growing quickly and she invites our audience to create new works, adding to the ones she showed. Our audience responded with practical questions, like Ron's asking how can FOSSIL be a self-sustaining-organization. Mike addressed how to keep it running. Others of us brought up difficulties in relationships between amateur and pros and gov't, with the bottom line being to break down barriers and have more participation, info and more voices. She ended with a quote from keynote speaker Kirk Johnson: "The best fossils are still in the ground." Erich then called for our break. After the break, Erich noted the changed seating arrangement and Craig explained the saga of removing the bee colony from the walls of the building. The meeting minutes were motioned approved. Erich told of his missing the previous meeting due to bringing Amelia back to TX from freshman year and noted she will be a soph attending U of Houston in the fall. Frederick gave the Treasurer's report. Frederick made a motion that speaker's fees for some of our meetings be donated to our designated scholarship fund and the motion was approved. Erich asked Suzanne whether they talked about scholarship programs at the FOSSIL conference and she said Linda spoke about it. For our outreach, Erich discussed the details of the upcoming fossil presentation at Lady Bird Wildflower Center, Thurs night. He requested more volunteers and Melinda said she would be there. Dale gave info for the upcoming Pine Country Gem and Mineral field trip in August. Erich brought up Cinca, a local nature-networking project that Richard Louv says helps alleviate 'nature-deficit-disorder'. Suzanne attended the 'ice-breaker' and said it mirrors the FOSSIL Project. West Cave Preserve's website has info on Cinca. Erich suggested we discuss it and possibly join as sponsors. New members Ken and Libby were acknowledged. Ed said the field trip to the Brazos was postponed until August due to high water levels and that the field trip was going to Whiskey Bridge instead, to which Bob suggested Brownwood as a good field trip this month since there has been plentiful rain up there. Ed and everyone agreed to go to Brownwood instead. Ed and Erich gave the important details for the Brownwood trip. The door prizes were won by Melinda, and Kevin. The meeting was motioned and adjourned.

PSoA PUBLIC & K-12 OUTREACH

We had a great turnout at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for their Thursday evening Nature Night. The event on June 19th was all about fossils. Lending a hand we had Suzanne, Gordon and the rest of the Gallagher clan, Mike Smith, Ron Root, Melinda Falk and Erich Rose all manning a table or presenting a power point show on the

society and what we do here in Central Texas. We were well received and everyone had fun.

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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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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

DATED MATERIAL – *Next Meeting June 17th.*

FIRST CLASS MAIL