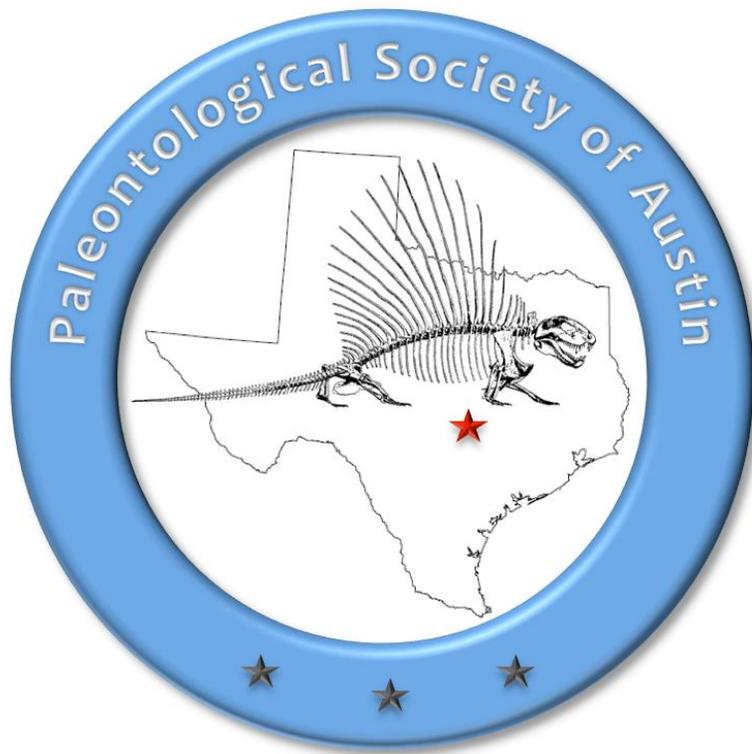


# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 9, Number 8  
August 2014

## President's Note

Finally got around to be hot. If you go out remember to take plenty of fluids. I work outdoors most weekends and I see people all the time who think one small bottle of water will get them thru a full afternoon in the sun. Heat exhaustion is no fun. Be careful, be smart, keep hydrated.

The July field trip to the paleo lab was well attended. Big thanks to those who came and made it worthwhile for Ann Molineux to open the lab and give a tour. We are very lucky to have her as one of our science advisors. If you have time consider doing some volunteer work at the lab.

Again 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.

Looks like the Brazos trip is on this month. Get your canoes and kayaks ready.

AGMS is having its annual auction this weekend as well. For those of you not out on the river come eat some BBQ and pick up some nice minerals. See the attached flyer in the newsletter for details.

See you Tuesday,

-- Erich



Dr. Ann Molineux at the Non-Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, UT Austin

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday August 19, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building**  
**6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX**

**"Window on a Lost World - The Burgess Shale" and**  
**"The Forgotten Fossils in Earth's History"**

DVD by Professor Stuart Sutherland  
of the University of British Columbia

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

Next Field Trip

**Saturday, August 23**

**Pleistocene Fossils along the Brazos River**

We will be collecting on the gravel bars of the Brazos River for Pleistocene-age fossils. You may also find arrowheads and other stone artifacts as well as the odd bottle. This is a great trip when the weather is hot.

Meet at Stephen F. Austin State Park in San Felipe at the statue parking lot at 8:00AM. Traveling east on I-10, just east of Sealy, take exit 723 to FM1458 north (left) to the park. Bring whatever you would need for a day on the water: food, lots of water, a canoe or kayak, hat, collecting materials and packing since some finds are fragile, etc. Wear clothing that you won't mind getting in the red water. You will get wet and probably muddy. This trip is always a lot of fun.

**NOTE: as of the writing of the newsletter the water level on the Brazos was looking very good for the trip. If it is too high the gravel bars are underwater and too low and you spend more time dragging the boat than paddling. So things can change. For this reason the trip may need to be either called off or changed. Please keep an eye on your e-mails for updates. If you are one of the members who do not use e-mail please contact Ed Elliot (512-657-7581) if you have questions.**

## July Field Trip 2014

Our trip to the J. J. Pickle Research Center for a tour of the Non-Vertebrate Lab with Dr. Ann Molineux started at 9:00 and I was nervous that few would come. Most of the old timers can have a been there – done that type attitude toward local trips. And since Ann was giving up precious time.... but, not to worry. We had a bakers' dozen show up. Will and Chantal Berezovytch, Mike Smith, Lacy and Kim Perry, Bill Hill, Melvin Noble, Jimmy Hendricks, Frederick and Melinda Falk, Jeanne Bowman and Ron Root.

Ann started off talking about the move of the NPL from the School of Natural Sciences to the Jackson School of Geosciences and some of the politics involved. A question was asked and she talked for a while about the fate of the Texas Memorial Museum. I won't try to go over everything that was said on her tour, but this is something we all think about. It is still to be determined, but it is still possible that the different schools might pull their exhibits due to a lack of personal. There are enough personal to run the place, but there is no one to act as curator; no one to actually take care of the exhibits. Really sad. Hopefully money will be found to take care of the shortfall. She moved on to talk of what takes up much of her time – finding and acquiring grants to pay the NPLs' way. The collection needs so much done and it is all expensive. Ann has hopes that a portion of the collection will soon receive new bug free, sealed cabinets. The old cabinets are a holdover from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are dusty and full of silverfish. She then went on to show us the Type Collection and to explain what Types were. After a good discussion and lots of questions we went over to the collections building and went through one of the cages. The first topic was the Mass Inventory that many of us have volunteered for. The main first idea was simply to find out what was there, and exactly where it was for the entire collection. Over the years, many things get moved around and borrowed for research and loaned out to other institutions. It is hard to do this kind of thing when things can't be located. The idea was that researchers could look on-line and know what was available. Now the idea has gone further and someday you'll be able to look on-line for a fossil and if you think you've found what you want, you'll be able to actually see photographs of the fossil and the drawer it is in. So far, only the Dumble Collection (which she had a grant for) and a few other cabinets have been photographed – it's a slow process. This marvelous woman talked for three hours and none of us were bored for a minute. With volunteers, with students (UT) and with grants she will succeed in bringing a 19<sup>th</sup> century collection out of the dust and cobwebs and having a 21<sup>st</sup> century collection for the world to use. Great field trip and sorry to those who didn't make it.

On the subject of field trip, the Brazos River (as of tonight) is holding a good height. Maybe even a little bit low. LOOKING GOOD for this next weekend! See you there. --Ed

### NEWS from the FOSSIL PROJECT

The FOSSIL Project's next newsletter will come out in September. They are looking for fossils to feature in their "Featured Fossil" section of the newsletter. If you found anything exciting this summer or have something that you've been yearning to show the FOSSIL following, they would love to showcase it in the newsletter! Email your photos and a description of your fossil to [fossil@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:fossil@flmnh.ufl.edu) For an example of the article, please see the last newsletter by visiting <http://www.myfossil.org/archived-newsletters/> and clicking on "Featured Fossil Chimaeroid Egg Capsule.

### PSoA BOOTH at AGMS GEM CAPERS SHOW

**Sign-up as a Volunteer (at the monthly meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 19th) or online (after the meeting) at [www.mysignup.com/agms](http://www.mysignup.com/agms)** (the passcode is paleo) for the Paleontology Table at the **AGMS Gem Capers** show held **Friday through Sunday, October 3 - 5** (with set-up on Thursday, October 2) at the Palmer Events Center . This is our largest educational outreach of the year and presents an enormous opportunity to spread the word about Fossil Fest. It's great fun and all volunteers will receive free admission all weekend long! In the meantime, please start gathering up small, clean fossils for donation. We'll utilize those donations at a **Pre-Meeting Fossil Stuffing Party on Tuesday, September 16th at 6pm.** We'll be bagging 1000 fossils along with our Fossil Fest show flyer for give-aways at the Gem Capers show to school children and the general public.

### FOSSIL FEST UPDATE

Save the date! The 24th Annual Fossil Fest will be **Saturday to Sunday, November 15 - 16, 2014** (with set-up on Friday, November 14). This year's show theme is... Ice Age Texas! We'll be exploring Pleistocene animals that roamed Texas. At this month's meeting, **volunteer opportunities will include the Fossil Fest Sign-up and dispersal of Fossil Fest tear pads/flyers** to designated public attractions and facilities around the Austin area by September 1. Locations include Georgetown Public Library, Pflugerville Public Library, Round Rock Public Library, Cedar Park Public Library, Texas Memorial Museum, UT Geology Dept., Walter Geology Library, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Inner Space Cavern, Austin Nature & Science Center, Beverly Sheffield Education Center - Splash Exhibit (by Barton Springs Pool), and the Austin Children's Museum. A basket with a labeled packet for each location (containing tear pads, flyers and instructions) will be left on the sign-in table. If you live, work or travel near one of these locations, please consider picking up a packet for that location and dropping off by September 1. Please send email to [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto: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!

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:** 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! Additionally, if you have small, quality fossils in quantity of 10+, we could use these for our TEACHER KITS. For Teacher Kits, please include the location where the fossils were collected (All teacher kit fossils are labeled with the following information: fossil name, period, group, formation and location. If you know this information, then go ahead and include it. Otherwise, just let us know where you found it and we can figure out the rest!!)

Until next month...

Suzanne Galligher  
Fossil Fest Show Chair

## **Paleo Society Meeting Minutes for 7.15.2014**

Our meeting convened at 7:10. Instead of a guest speaker tonight, Ron brought a DVD selection from a video lecture series by Professor Stuart Sutherland, University of British Columbia. This 30 minute lecture focused on reconstructing the ancient climate of the Cretaceous Period. Sutherland looked at various evidence in the fossil and geologic record that reflected known climates today and drew conclusions from them that certain climate patterns were likely present during the Cretaceous. By examining glacial patterns, mud cracks, leaf structures, tree rings, and other evidence, he modelled this ancient climate. We then took the meeting's break. Erich then welcomed everyone to the "business" portion of the meeting, noting some new faces in the crowd. He mentioned the upcoming weekend's field trip to the invertebrate lab at UT. The minutes were offered for approval and Melinda gave a clarification of one part and then they were approved. Erich then reported on the outreach at The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's event, describing the 2 presentations our members gave, with anecdotes from Mike and Melinda's touch table. Overall, it was a great outreach event. Erich has received a request for our presence at an event in Dripping Springs. Bill reported on a YouTube video covering monstrous dino eggs and Ed and Erich reported on an interesting "egg" at Dripping Springs. Melinda relayed that The FOSSIL Project has chosen Suzanne to participate in a teacher's program at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Erich reported that upon our Board reaching consensus by email, we have joined Cinca as a sponsor. Bill announced that he is creating an echinoid photo book and invited us to put some of our prime examples in it. It was noted that other members have previously worked on similar projects. Erich got an email from the McNabbs about their interest in Fossil Fest. The dates for AGMS' Gem Capers were announced as October 18, 19, and 20. Ed mentioned our club's customary fossil display and activity presence there. Ed asked everyone to participate in this Saturday's field trip to UT Balcones Research Center's non-vertebrate laboratory that will be hosted by Ann Molineaux. Erich said that this will be our summer indoor outing instead of a museum visit. Ed offered the possibility of the collecting fossils right after the lab visit. The night's door prizes were won by Jamie, Dale, Jean, David, Erich, Doris, Lacy, Bill and Jim. Will said to take precautions for West Nile virus. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.



6719 Burnet Lane, Austin Texas  
[www.AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org)

**DATE: Saturday 23 August 2014**  
**TIME: Pot Luck Picnic @ High Noon**  
**Auction @ 1pm**  
**Set Up @10am**  
**Food Set Up @ 11:30am**  
**Pre-View Items @ 11-1pm**

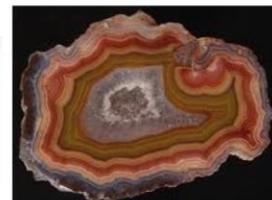


Austin Gem & Mineral Society  
**Annual Auction & Pot Luck Picnic**

**OPEN to the PUBLIC**  
**Come Check Us Out!**

**Head to Austin and Join us for our Annual Auction and Pot Luck Picnic!**

Plenty of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, petrified wood, agates, fluorescent minerals, crystals, rough rock, gift items, jewelry, beads, tools & equipment, local mineral & fossil specimens.



**CONTACT:** 1st VP Les Postlethwait  
 E-Mail: [vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org)  
 Phone: 512-458-9546 (Voicemail ONLY)

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](http://www.austinpaleo.org)  
Web master: Michael Smith: [webmaster@austinpaleo.org](mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org)

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**PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN**

Erich Rose, Editor  
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DATED MATERIAL – *Next Meeting June 17th.*

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**