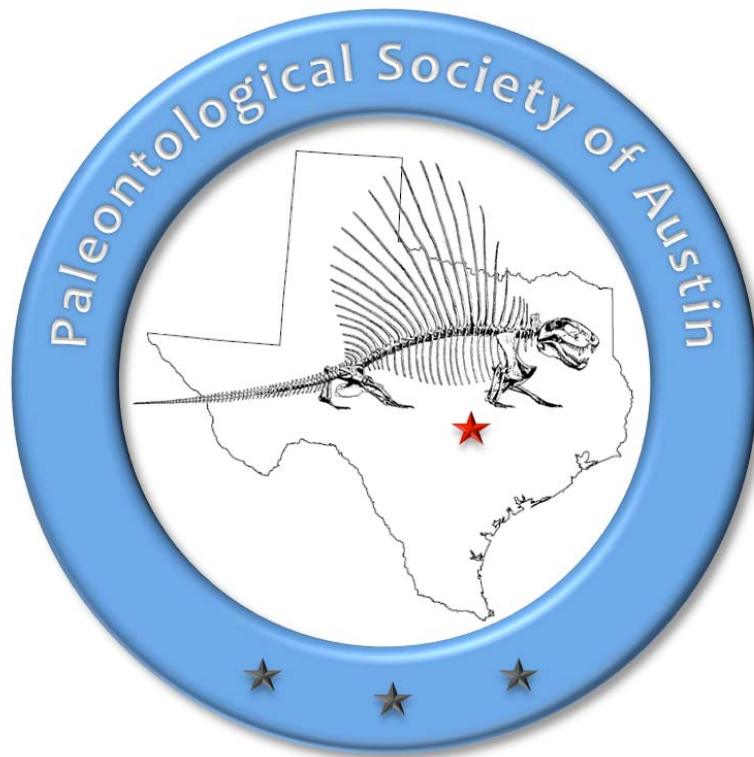


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 10, Number 1
January 2015

President's Note

Welcome to 2015. We started out a bit cold and damp, but the weather is looking better now. Last year was a good one for the society: Fossil Fest was a success and we were able to do a lot of outreach.

We hope to keep up the pace of events this year while adding the national American Federation of Mineralogical Societies show happening here in town. Our best friends, the Austin Gem and Mineral Society, are sponsoring the event. You will hear more about this as we move forward into the year.

We have a very important position that needs to be filled. Our club desperately needs a new treasurer. The position is not difficult and can be explained to anyone interested. It mostly involves keeping track of the few expenses we incur and then writing checks on occasion to reimburse various people as needed. Fossil Fest is probably the biggest challenge, but it is a one-time event for the year. If you are interested, contact either me or the current treasurer, Frederick Falk, for more details.

I have also handed off the job of editor to Dax Gonzalez. Dax will be the new contact for newsletter material. I'm sure he is going to do a great job, and, although this was one of my favorite jobs in the club, it has also been a challenge given my current real job schedule.

Take care and see you at the next meeting,

--Erich

Fossil Fest Update

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed a bright and merry holiday season with family and friends. I am grateful for everyone's hard work on Fossil Fest last year and am looking forward to another spectacular year!

It's time to start forming the 2015 Fossil Fest Show Committee. If you are interested in shaping and planning our largest public educational outreach event, please contact showchair@austinpaleo.org by January 31. This year will be our 25th annual Fossil Fest! The Show Committee will be planning something extra special to celebrate this milestone. We have already started receiving exhibitor contracts and deposits/payments for our big show, which is scheduled for November 14 & 15, 2015. To date, we have sold two small and one large booth. We anticipate that we will sell out early this year and will, again, be placing many exhibitors on a waiting list.

--Suzanne

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 20 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin

Beyond the Mass Inventory: Behind the scenes of the Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab

Guests: Ann Molineux, Chase Shelburne, Cissy Geigerman, Dawn Comford Wilcox and others

The Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab (NPL) moved administratively into the Jackson School of Geosciences in September 2013. In 2015, the NPL is looking ahead to new projects and collaborations.

Dr. Molineux and her associates will cover some projects that may be new to PSoA members and explain more about how the NPL functions. Many PSoA members have helped support the NPL's inventory project since its inception in 2007. Now, find out how the project continues to be vital to the NPL.

Our guests will discuss:

- How the NPL is improving its virtual collection by enhancing its ability to capture more images of more fossils via Google Glass.
- Why it is important to record the location of fossils we collect.
- The new edition of PaleoCentral before it is released.
- Results of an experiment to remove non-archival consolidants, such as shellac.
- The NPL's online library, which contains many of the books donated by members.
- How the NPL is funded and why volunteers are so critical.
- Plans for the future.

NPL members are excited to hear our feedback on these issues and our feedback on their new programs.

--Ron

January Field Trip

Saturday, January 24
Lake Jacksboro & other Pennsylvanian sites
of North Central Texas

Join us for one of the group's favorite hunting spots: Lake Jacksboro. This Upper Carboniferous site is replete with fossils from the Upper Pennsylvanian Period. Most fossils will be marine in origin, including brachiopods, trilobites, corals, bryozoans, molluscs, crinoids, echinoids and teeth. Fossils will generally be small and loose, so bring plenty of small containers.

The Lake Jacksboro site requires some light hiking, so be prepared with proper footwear, walking stick, or anything else you might need. The drive back into downtown Jacksboro is not far, but it will waste valuable collecting time – bring food and plenty of water to maximize your time. Also, remember to pack your sunscreen.

If you stick around for more collecting on Sunday, some members will visit various road cuts and possibly the Mineral Wells Fossil Park.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Jack County Extension Office located at 100 N. Main St. in Jacksboro. This is the heart of the Jacksboro town square. To get there, take 183 North from Austin and, in Lampasas, turn onto 281 North, which will take you straight to Jacksboro. When you get into town, look for a group of fossil hunters huddled near the sign proclaiming the Jacksboro Tigers "State AA Football Champs" from 1962 to 1971...what a feat! There is a gas station one block up, which is a good pit stop for coffee and other necessities prior to heading out to the site, which is just a short drive from the square. Remember that Jacksboro is about four hours from Austin, so either drive up the night before or be prepared to leave early Saturday.

We will caravan as a group to the first site, so please be on time. There will be a small admission fee to cover admission to the state park we must cross to get to the collecting site. Bring \$3 for each adult in your vehicle (children are free). You will need cash to leave in the park envelope.

Check the weather forecast Friday before packing up, but the current extended forecast shows a low of 34 degrees Friday *and* Saturday night with a high of 52 degrees on Saturday. Fifty-two in the full sun may get warm, so layers are always a good idea.

--Ed



Collecting at Lake Jacksboro



Typical Finis Shale fossils



Nautiloids from the area

Holiday Potluck and White Mammoth Report

December 16, 2014

PSoA members gathered in the AGMS building December 16 to celebrate another year of fellowship, fossils and food. A great crowd was on hand to share in a diverse pot luck dinner that ranged from tender fried turkey to award-winning banana pudding.

After the meal, Erich conducted a short business meeting to address a few items, specifically that the PSoA Board had agreed to try switching the order of regular meetings so that association business is addressed before guest speakers deliver their presentations.

Then it was on to the real business of the night: the white mammoth gift exchange. The makeshift stage was littered with presents both small and large. Numbers were drawn and strategies were set. Those of you who could not attend the event missed out on seeing Paleontologist Barbie break a little boy's heart and bring utter joy to a little girl within minutes. The gift "stealing" was fierce, with many items maxing out of their allowable number of steals. Among the gifts were trilobites, blastoids, shrink wood, a Green River fish, ammonite earrings, a collecting bucket, a much-sought-after wall calendar, and many other great fossil-related items.

It was a fun end to a great year for PSoA. Here's to an even better 2015!

--Dax

Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2014

The Board meeting commenced at 7 p.m. at Erich's house. Those in attendance included Erich, Ed, Ron, Frederick, Suzanne, Dale, Melvin and Gordon. A general description of what was discussed follows:

The Board first considered PSoA scholarships, primarily how the scholarship program is working, how to advertise that scholarships are available, and possibly limiting the awards to those entering the field of paleontology.

The Board then discussed memberships. While there have been some new-member sign-ups, there has also been attrition among the membership. The Board considered discussing PSoA business first during monthly meetings and having invited guests speak during the second half of the meeting. Erich explained that the New York club he previously attended would provide field trip handouts and guides to generate interest and maintain relevance among members. Dale suggested a show-and-tell portion of monthly meetings and creating a profile for the group on meetup.com. Suzanne suggested increasing member education.

The Board agreed to switch the order of programs at the monthly meeting to feature association business, with door prizes, first. The change will be announced at the Christmas party. The Board also agreed to create a meetup.com profile for PSoA.

Erich then announced that Dax will be newsletter editor, and the group discussed costs associated with the newsletter. Suzanne inquired about a search function for the newsletter archive, and Erich told the group that more contributors were required to help write field trip reports.

The Board then discussed PSoA shirts and whether the logo should possibly be changed. Members discussed having a design contest or providing different graphics.

Frederick provided a financial report, noting that Fossil Fest generated a profit, no scholarships were awarded, and speakers accepted their stipends. The Board agreed to budget for speaker fees again in 2015. Overall, the PSoA generated more income in 2014 than 2013.

Dale described the display warmer used in the kitchen during Fossil Fest this year and the costs and benefits associated with it. The Board voted to purchase it for continued use at Fossil Fest.

Ed noted that the first field trip of the year will be to Jacksboro.

Erich suggested sponsorship of Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin (CINCA) to help generate publicity for PSoA, and Ron noted that the Master Naturalist program could be another source of publicity.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

--Dale

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 on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building located at 6719 Burnet Ln. in Austin, Texas. The public is welcome to attend. Visit austinpaleo.org for more information.

Annual Dues: \$18/individual, \$24/family and \$12/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter) Send to: Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791.

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

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – *Next Meeting: January 20, 2015.*

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