



# Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society  
January 2004

---

---

## President's Note

A new year is here and a new slate of officers for 2004 awaits your voting at the January meeting. See that list below. The newsletter is also getting retooled; Hollis Thompson will be our newsletter editor starting next month. She has had that honor before, as she was our first editor. Our thanks go to Mike for doing a great job with the newsletter. He will continue handling the club's web site.

The Christmas party was a fun success. 24 friends gathered at the Thompson's for a lot of good food and a great gift exchange. Everyone went home happy with a new "find". It was great having some new members from Fossil Fest join in.

Our three door prizes for raffling off for Fossil Fest 2004 have already been displayed. The Austin Gem and Mineral Society gave us permission to show them off in one of their cases at their Gem Capers 2003 show at the Crocket Center. Thank you, Showcase chair Bob, and Show chair Wing Evans for allowing us to display.

We have been asked to display again, at the Clear Lake GMS show in February. If you are going to attend this show, see me about transporting our prizes...

I hope to have our prizes displayed in several other shows throughout the year.

I suspect your holidays held at least some time for you to get out and collect. The weather for late December and early January was unseasonably cooperative. I got to tromp around in the Little Walnut here in Austin, and the Trinity in East Texas to fill my order of collecting. I also got to do some birding in South Texas. All said and done, a fine time was had in the field. I hope you say the same for your holiday.

John

## Field Trip

The **field trip** will be **Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**, to the **Jacksboro area**. Jack County is west and north of Ft. Worth, and west of Bridgeport. We will meet at **9:00am** near the Jacksboro **courthouse** downtown at the intersection of Highways 281 and 59 (59 goes west). Hwy 281 runs up through town and by the courthouse. Dress according to the weather. **Come to the meeting to see slides and examples of possible finds.**

## Slate of Officers

Below are the folks that have volunteered, after some arm-twisting, to serve as officers for the forthcoming year. (I think I've got this right, let me know if you are surprised to see yourself listed.) Further nominations, including self nominations, are welcome.

Michael Smith – President  
Ron Root - VP/Show Chair  
Eric Seaberg – Secretary  
David Lindberg –Treasurer  
Hollis Thompson – Newsletter  
Ed Elliott - Field Trip Chair  
John Hinte - Dealer Chair  
Danny Harlow - Speaker Chair

## 2004 DUES ARE DUE!

Send your dues to the club PO box or bring them to the meeting. Check your mailing label. The date listed in the upper right corner is when your membership expires. If there is no date, your subscription is complementary. If the date is after 6/04, feel free to wait. If it's after 1/2005 we have probably received multiple renewals from you and you can hold off for at least a year. Of course we are always happy to accept contributions!

# Cleaning Echinoids with KOH (Potassium-Hydroxide).

## BALANCE SHEET

12/31/03

This is Marc de Vries' short version combined with some of the text from the long version. If you would like a copy of the long version, email Mike Smith ([msmith17@austin.rr.com](mailto:msmith17@austin.rr.com)).

### Purchase

Potassium Hydroxide can be purchased at bigger paint stores. The only problem is the amount in which it can be purchased. Normally it is too much for a single user. The best and cheapest form to use is the one made for industrial use. It comes in flakes.

### Cautions

- Never work without safety glasses.
- Always wear rubber gloves and avoid contact with your skin. This include the KOH dust that can be raised by pouring the material into a new container.
- Transferring KOH to another container should take place outside.
- Don't wear new or expensive clothing.
- Potassium Hydroxide should be kept in an airtight container. The best way to store it is in lab bottles which are sealed by a screw top.
- Keep the chemicals and the containers with the just prepped fossils in a safe place.
- Mark *all* the containers.
- Never leave containers open except as necessary.

### Use

Put the little flakes on the parts of the fossil you wish to clean, spray them just a little bit with water.

Wait for about 3.5 to 4 hours. Rinse them well with water. Use a brush on them while rinsing.

Put the fossil in vinegar (the cheapest you can get) for about 3 minutes.

After that rinse, soak the fossil in water for about 2 hours, refreshing the water every 20-30 minutes.

After that wrap the fossil in a paper towel so that the remainder of the chemical is drawn out of the fossil.

This works very well. I have had good results cleaning echinoids.

Just watch out with the chemical, it burns your hands. Use rubber gloves!!

Anyway, hopefully you will do well with it.

Greetings from Harker Heights,

- Marc de Vries

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash		6,788.73
Prepaid Expense <sup>1</sup>		200.00
Prepaid Expense <sup>2</sup>		100.00
Field Trip Fund		-
Shirts & Hats due		-
Hats in stock	4	38.26
Shirts in stock	22	127.23
Brazos Pub in stock	5	52.95
Dealers Deposits		-
<hr/>		
Subtotal		7,307.17

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Newsletter (approx)		-
Dealers Deposits		-
Fest Expenses still due		-
<hr/>		
Subtotal		-

---

NET ASSETS		7,307.17
------------	--	----------

<sup>1</sup> Old Settler's Park Deposits for Fossil Fest 2004.

<sup>2</sup> 2004 Grand Door Prize

## Club Contacts, 2003 (To be updated after the election!)

President	Vice President Show Chair	Secretary
John Hinte 10962 Longbranch Austin TX 78736 (512) 301-1317 tashi@infohiwv.net	Danny Harlow 1140 Elder Circle Austin, TX 78746 (512) 327-4535 dharlow@austin.rr.com	Ron Root 6801 Rustling Oaks Trail Austin, TX 78759 (512) 345-6718 ron_root@bnc.com
Field Trip Chair,	Treasurer	Program Chair Board Member
Ed Elliott 5502 Roosevelt Austin, TX 78756 (512) 453-5390	Michael Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com	Kathleen Howard 11601 Sterlinghill Dr. Austin, TX 78758 (512) 491-9201 khoward@mail.law.utexas.edu
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Board Member	Club Founder
Michael Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com	Gene and Sheri Siste 5329 Hanging Cliff Cove Austin, TX 78759 (512) 794-0880	Don O'Neill 2600 CR 241 Hondo, TX 78861 (830) 741-3557

### Club Information

The Central Texas Paleontological Society is a scientific, non-profit, community-based organization devoted to the study of fossils, advancing the state of the science, educating the public, and collecting fossil specimens. Most of us are amateurs, fascinated by fossils, who love to collect.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the LCRA building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. (between Redbud Trail and Enfield Ave.) at 7:00 PM in the LCRA Offices Board Room of the Hancock Bldg. **The public is cordially invited** to attend these meetings as well as our field trips held throughout the year.

Annual dues are: \$15 per person or \$18 per family, which includes a subscription to this newsletter, membership in the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, and liability insurance coverage for club activities. Associate membership is \$10 per year and includes a subscription to this newsletter.

Central Texas Paleontological Society  
P.O. Box 90791  
Austin TX 78709-0791

**Web page:** <http://texaspaleo.com/ctps>

## **About the Newsletter**

Fossil Footnotes is distributed once a month prior to each meeting. Contact the Membership Chair to subscribe or obtain a sample-issue. If your mailing-label has a date marked with a colored pen, it means your membership has or is about to expire. Please send your check to the club Membership officer or bring it to a meeting.

We accept material from club members (and non-members at our discretion) including, but not limited to, information relevant to club activities, fossil collecting, paleontology & geology, and science education. Feel free to reproduce original material contained in this newsletter for educational purposes (including other club newsletters), so long as you credit the newsletter issue and author, if applicable. Send submissions by e-mail or hardcopies to the Editor (see above) at least two weeks before the meeting. Expect some publication delays for exotic formats.

**FOSSIL FOOTNOTES**  
**P.O. Box 90791**  
**Austin TX 78709-0791**