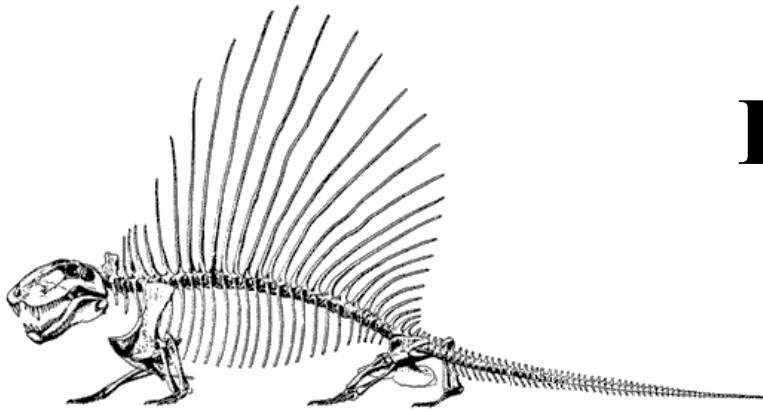

Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society

February 2004



President's Note

We have started off the new year with an excellent field trip. The trip to Jacksboro went extremely well. Hats off to John and Ed, with a special thanks to John Hinte for showing us a new location. We had a great turnout, with a number of new members and visitors showing up.

I was absurdly lucky, finding a beautiful ammonite (*Gonioloboceras goniolobum*), a brachiopod new to my collection (*Linoproductus cora*), and a solid block of tubular corals (*Cladochonus?*). Numerous people found nautiloids. Apparently Gary Rylander found a great specimen as he was leaving, in a spot that many of us must have walked by multiple times. I am pretty sure anyone who did not previously have a *Myalina*, now has several.

John informs me that while sitting around in his hotel room Saturday night, he discovered that one of his specimens was a *Rostrorhynch*, an extinct group of marine mollusks. In his excitement, I expect he got little sleep that night. Or could that have had something to do with sharing the hotel room with three other members, all of who are notorious for the sonic boom quality of their snoring.

Don't miss this month's trip to Killeen. Marc de Vries has kindly agreed to lead us on his home turf and is checking out some possible new spots even as we speak. Directions will be elsewhere in the newsletter.

Again, I would like to thank last year's officers for doing a great job. Ask John to show you his cool, jeweled loupe. With such great bribes, I am sure there will be numerous competitors for the position of president and vice-president next year (thanks again to Ken Timko's wife for our Art Carved loupes).

Mike



Gonioloboceras goniolobum
Found near Lake Jackson

Field Trip

The **field trip** will be **Saturday, February 21st**, to the **Killeen area**. Marc de Vries will lead the field trip. We will meet at **8:30 AM** at Marc's house. He has several sites he will lead us to. Directions to Marc's house will be included later in this newsletter. Dress according to the weather. See you there.

Slate of Officers

Here are the new officers for the year of 2004. Thanks to each of you for volunteering to serve our club.

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!

Fossil Millipede Found to Be Oldest Land Creature

Article provided by Danny Harlow

London (Reuters) Scientist revealed that a fossilized millipede found in Britain is the remains of the oldest creature to have lived on land – and named it after the bus driver who found it.

The tiny fossil was found on a harbor foreshore near Aberdeen, eastern Scotland, about three years ago and has been studied by experts from the National Museums of Scotland and Yale University of the United States.

National Museum's curator of invertebrate paleontology, Lyall Anderson, said it was not only the oldest fossilized millipede found anywhere, at about 420 million years old, but when scientists saw it under the microscope, they could see it had holes allowing it to breath air, meaning it had lived on land.

Aberdeen bus driver and fossil hunter, Mike Newman, 36, told Reuters Monday he found the remains while he was out searching the area and immediately thought: "Here we go".

"I knew this was quite well preserved, the legs were very clear, and although we had been able to infer before that they could have been able to breath air, this was the first we were able to prove had (breathed air)", said Newman, who has a degree in Geology.

"This was breathing air 420 million years ago."

He contacted National Museums of Scotland and an expert at Yale University, Heather Wilson, for them to study the fossil, which is about a centimeter (half inch) long and whose air holes cannot be seen with the naked eye.

The scientists, who reported their findings in the latest edition of the American Journal of Paleontology, have named the discovery after Newman – Pneumodesmus newmani.

"They have named it after me, which is particularly exciting. This is one of the rarest creatures on earth. I was the first person to have seen it," he said.

Curator Anderson told Reuters: "When Mike told me about this, I was very excited because I believed it was the oldest example of this particular group, but when Heather Wilson got stuck in studying it, we realized just how important it would be."

He added: "If there was a millipede living on land at that time, then there must have been something for it to eat, there must have been plant life well developed at that time."

The piece was donated to the National Museums of Scotland

Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
February 10	CTPS meeting
February 21	Field Trip to Killeen
February 21-22	Williamson County Gem & Mineral Show, San Gabriel Park, Georgetown
November 5-7	Fossil Fest, CTPS Fossil Show, Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, TX
December	Christmas Party (no meeting)

They Do Listen!

From Evan Day

From the November 2003 AFMS Newsletter

September 9th, I wrote my Utah Congressman, Rob Bishop concerning HR2416 and D546. I e-mailed the cover letter to him (plus Sen. Hatch, Sen. Bennett, Mr. Matheson, and Mr. Cannon), then, hand delivered a complete hardcopy to his Brigham City office.

The evening of Wednesday, Sept 17th, he personally telephoned me to say he got the information, had checked with some of the other people in his district that I had

mentioned as being impacted, and SAID HE AGREED WITH ME! Turns out he is on the House Committee and the sub-committee responsible for these bills. He is hopeful that they can be killed for this term, but Rob recognizes he is a freshman with little clout, but will try his best. He seemed appreciative of getting a letter with specifics, from one who had read and analyzed the bills, and was personally involved in the issue – not copycat rhetoric.

I take this as a positive sign.

From your Editor:

My apologies for my very first issue being sent to you late.

The past few weeks I have been preparing for the birth of my grandson. He was a week late and had to be induced. He must take after his grandma then, late.

On Monday, February 2, 2004, Thaddeus Blake Landeros was born, at 5:34 PM. He weighed 8 pounds and was 18 ³/₄ inches long with lots of beautiful black silky hair.

Baby and Mom, my daughter, Angela, are both doing fine both are home.

Directions to Marc de Vries house:

Take I-35 north (obviously 😊) then the last exit at Salado. That's exit 286, this exit takes you on the 2484. Follow this road for about 7 miles; go right there, there is a sign with Killeen and Harker Heights on it. You will follow this road until you hit traffic lights; go left there. Take the second street right which is Pioneer, take second street right again which is Grizzly Trail, our house is number 2108. There will be a red Ford Bronco in front of the house.

In short: I-35 north, exit 286 in Salado, 7 miles go right where it says Killeen/Harker Heights, right at first traffic lights, right second street, right second street.

News Title: A & M researchers help unearth mammoth skull near Clute; January 14 2004

Staff and Wire Reports

CLUTE — The skull of a Columbian mammoth unearthed here has been tentatively dated to an age of 38,000 years, paleontologists say.

The remains were unearthed in a sand pit by Texas A&M

University students and the Brazosport Archaeological Society. No mammoths had earlier been discovered on the Texas Gulf Coast, Brian Miles, paleontology curator at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, told The Brazosport Facts in Tuesday's online edition.

Digging that began Friday had by the weekend produced about 40 strands of clumped hair, presumably from the mammoth, said lead researcher Robson Bonnicksen, director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M.

The center has been a part of A & M's anthropology department since 2002, when it moved from Oregon State University with Bonnicksen. Its goal is to study early humans and how they arrived in North America.

While in Oregon, the center also began a molecular biology project, focusing on studying DNA from archaeological sites. The project included a computer imagery program that compared ancient hairs to modern day specimens.

The center also publishes a quarterly newsletter called the Mammoth Trumpet.

Bonnicksen told the Houston Chronicle that it is "highly unusual" for mammoth hairs such as those found at the site to be preserved.

Such samples could allow scientists to collect DNA from a Columbian mammoth for the first time and determine how closely it is related to the woolly mammoth, he said. Other DNA samples have been collected from the woolly, and some Texas A&M researchers have even talked of cloning the mammal.

A backhoe operator, Joe Kimble, said he was working in the pit in November when he came across a tusk, said Kenny Vernor, president of Vernor Material and Equipment Co. Kimble, 46, ran into a single tusk, but the scientific community had little interest in the discovery, said Vernor.

But he found a pair of tusks a short distance away about a week later. Researchers were down the next day, Vernor said.

Miles said part of the skull and miscellaneous bones were also found in addition to the tusks. The Columbian mammoth is a warmer-climate cousin of the woolly mammoth.

The sand pit's owners have allowed archaeologists to cordon off an area of interest with a 50-by-50-foot fence, where they will dig for at least three or four more weekends, said Bonnicksen. Researchers plan to place the bones — or at least a cast of the bones — in the nearby Brazosport Museum of Natural Science.

Officials of Conoco/Phillips are partnering with Vernor Material on the excavation.

Article as taken from the Bryan - College Station Eagle
<http://www.theeagle.com/aandmnews/011404mammothskullfloyd.htm>

Minutes of the January 13, 2004 meeting
As written by Eric Seaberg, CTPS secretary

The slate of officers as nominated was elected:

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

Hal Hopkins offered to guide a Lake Travis boat trip in the next six weeks. He will work out the details depending on interest.

Ed Elliott brought in some Eocene corals (*Endopachys maclurii*) to share with those in attendance from a Trinity River site.

The new field trip schedule is posted on the website. The club is to vote later in the year on the location of the October field trip.

Ron Root is actively recruiting members for the Fossil Fest show committee.

The main presentation of the evening was by John Hinte on the fossils of the Finis shale. This was the site of the Jan 24th field trip. The presentation outlined many of the fossil specimens that can be found in this area. John also brought in many fossils from his collection to aid the presentation and whet the audience's appetite for the field trip ahead.

The CTPS Library is on line!

<http://www.texaspaleo.com/ctps/books.html>

<http://www.texaspaleo.com/ctps/books.html>

If you are interested in checking out any one of the library books, please email the librarian at:

dopsticks@juno.com at least a couple of days in advance.

At this time there are no rules for our library checkout, but I would appreciate that any book checked out not be kept any longer than two months. One month would be better, but unless there is a demand for any one book, two will be our guideline for now.

All of you as members are encouraged to use these books, maps, and publications. Many of them were donated by members both recent and from the past.

We, CTPS, will also welcome any contributions to our library. Many times at Half Price Books or garage sales, good books can be picked up for minimal cost.

Thanks, your librarian *Hollis*

Websites of Interest

The Anomalocaris homepage at:

<http://www.geocities.com/goniagnostus/anohome.html>

Guide to the Orders of Trilobites at:

<http://www.aloha.net/~smgon/ordersoftrilobites.htm>

If you find a website or have an article you would like included in the newsletter, please send it to me at

dopsticks@juno.com

Central Club Contacts, 2004

President	Vice President Show Chair	Secretary
Michael Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com	Ron Root 6801 Rustling Oaks Trail Austin, TX 78759 (512) 345-6718 ron_root@bnc.com	Eric Seaberg 9283 Scenic Bluff Drive Austin, Texas 78733 512-402-0433 eseaberg@austin.rr.com

Field Trip Chair,	Treasurer	Program Chair Board Member
Ed Elliott 5502 Roosevelt Austin, TX 78756 (512) 453-5390	David Lindberg 9413 Sherbrooke Street Austin, TX 78729 (512) 401-0812 DLINDBERG@austin.rr.com	Danny Harlow 1140 Elder Circle Austin, TX 78746 (512) 327-4535 dharlow@austin.rr.com

Newsletter Editor	Board Member	Club Founder
Hollis Thompson 207 Adelfa Drive Round Rock, Texas 78664 (512) 341-0212 dopsticks@juno.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