

Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society

July 2005

President's Message

By Danny Harlow

In case you have not noticed, summer is here. Collecting gets more difficult in the 100-degree sun but some hardy souls don't let that stop them. Just use plenty of sunscreen and take a lot of water. Also watch out for Rattlesnakes. For some reason every encounter I have had with these nasty critters (I have not been bitten to date) have come in the heat of the summer. Shady ledges, under cool damp rocks or the shade of low growing shrubs are where I have come close to them while collecting.

The July issue of the Journal of Paleontology has hit the news stands (figuratively speaking) and it does indeed include the long awaited monograph on the Brownwood Spillway urchins by Schneider, Sprinkle and Ryder. It is very informative and includes excellent photos.

We will be meeting on our regular date this month (Tuesday the 12th) but the LCRA Board Room is unavailable due to scheduled renovations. Not to worry. The timing was perfect to have the meeting at the Pickle Center on Burnet Road. Since we have Dr. Ann Molineux scheduled as the speaker, she has graciously agreed to let us have the meeting in her office. Directions will be included further in the newsletter. Her talk will be on Cretaceous Rudists. This arrangement is very convenient for Ann (She doesn't have to leave her office) and we get to see the best specimens in their collection.

Plan on being at the meeting, it will be very informative.

It looks like we will finish the year with a slate of very interesting speakers. Stay tuned.

Preliminary discussions have begun on the possibility of a joint club arrangement between the APS and CTPS. If we have any updates, we will cover them at the meeting. Everyone I have mentioned this to has had a very positive outlook to this possibility. Both Clubs have their strong points and possess very enthusiastic, loyal memberships. A joining of the two clubs would make a strong / united organization, indeed.

See you at the meeting!

Danny

July 12th Meeting

We will be meeting at the Non-Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at the UT JJ Pickle Campus (south of Braker between Burnet and Mopac), courtesy of Dr. Ann Molineux (who is also our speaker). See map included in newsletter.....

For information about CTPS and our meetings and Fossil Fest, **Visit our Web Site**

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

Photo of the month



"Crinoid float bulb (Scyphocrinus) found in the Jennings Quarry by Mike Smith on the Ada Field Trip. 4.75 inches in diameter. Devonian Age



Crinoid crown found by Mike Smith at Yellow Bluff on the Ada Field Trip.

Upcoming Shows

July 23-24, Casper, WY - Natrona County Rockhounds. Casper Gem & Mineral Show. Parkway Plaza Hotel, I-25 & Center St. 23rd, 9-5; 24th, 9-4. Darell Polk, 307-472-5950

Aug. 13-14, Baton Rouge, LA - Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society. Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. Clara Broussard, 225-687-3864, clara_broussard@hotmail.com.

November 4, 5, 6, 2005 -Fossil Fest Old Settler's Park Highway 79, Round Rock, Texas

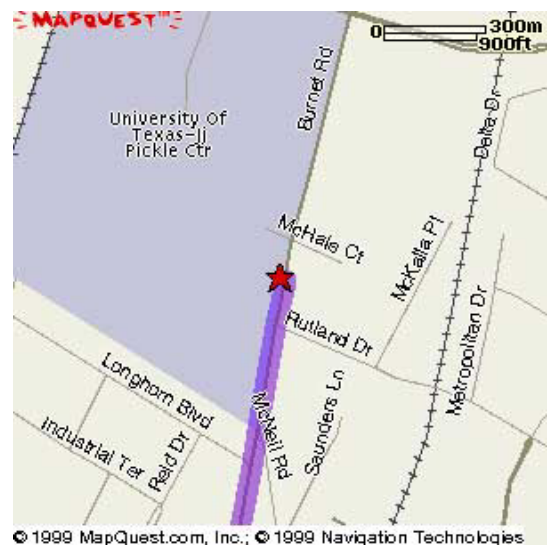
2005 Field Trips

Schedule for this year's field trips but subject to change

July 16 th	Brazos Canoe needed
Aug 13 th	Non-Vertebrate Lab (UT)
Sept 17 th	Midlothian
Oct 15th-16 th	Sulfur/Red River
Nov	Kerrville

Site of the July meeting Tuesday the 12th.

Non-Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at the Univ. of Texas JJ Pickle Campus



Go to the main entrance off Burnet Rd. around 6:30pm Tuesday the 12th. Proceed to and stop at the guard station. Tell them you are with the "CTPS" and are a guest / attendee of Dr. Ann Mulineux. Proceed straight ahead to the sign telling you to turn right. Follow that to a sign saying to turn left. You will see the Bldg up ahead on the left.

Fossil Palm

Science, Vol. 308, Issue 5730, Page 1864

June 24, 2005

Courtesy Mike Smith

Paleontologists this week got their best look yet at one of the world's first trees, a palm-like growth that

flourished in a tropical environment in the middle Devonian Period, about 380 million years ago.

Only fragments were previously known of the tree, called *Pseudosporochnus*. But last summer, staff from the New York State Museum in Albany came across a 3-meter-long specimen in a gravel quarry near Conesville, New York—the first time the foliage has been found attached to the trunk. It is well preserved with a crown made up of frond-like branches. Although no roots are in evidence, "it gives us the first clear impression of what this tree looked like," says William Stein of the State University at Binghamton, New York, who is studying the fossil. "What really strikes me is how modern it is," says Stein, noting its leaf-like branches. (Modern leaves had not yet evolved.) The fossil was described at the North American Paleontology Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, by New York state paleontologist Ed Landing.

Fossil Hunting

"Fossil hunting is far the most fascinating of all sports. It requires knowledge, skill, and some degree of hardihood. And its results are so much more important, more worthwhile, and more enduring than those of any other sport! The fossil hunter does not kill; he resurrects. And the result of this sport is to add to the sum of human pleasure and to the treasures of human knowledge."

George Gaylord Simpson (1902 - 1984)

Compliments of Danny Harlow

NetWatch

Science, Vol 308, Issue 5729, 1721, 17 June 2005
Courtesy of Mike Smith

Step into The Virtual Fossil Museum (www.fossilmuseum.net) for a peek into life's past. The growing site, created by physicist-turned-bio-informaticist Roger Perkins of Jefferson, Arkansas, offers a gallery of eye-catching fossil photos--from a cave bear's toothy skull to a more than 440-million-year-old impression of the trilobite *Nankinolithis* extricated from Moroccan rock. Users can browse the images by taxonomic group and by fossil location. Another section profiles famous sites such as the Chengjiang formation in China, which teems with

remains of some of the earliest known animals, and the fossil-rich slate of Bundenbach in Germany.

Visitors can use the museum's images, which come from fossil collectors, researchers, and other contributors, for research and education purposes.

Science, Vol. 308, Issue 5729, 1721; June 17, 2005

June Field Trip to Oklahoma

Oklahoma has come and gone. This was my third time to this area and I can't wait to go back. I've done a fair amount of hunting in rocks of Pennsylvanian age to the present and I feel comfortable discussing the geology on their fauna. In the older periods of the Paleozoic, I am still a neophyte. I am very happy that Dr. James Sprinkle was able to join us on this trip and I want to thank him, not only for sharing a great site, but also for putting up with us continually saying, "What's this?" He must have felt like he was on a freshman field trip.

My field trip started on Friday. Mike Smith, John Hinte, Tom Bowers and I checked out some Cretaceous Duck Creek sites on the Oklahoma side of Texoma. By our second stop, we were joined by Bill Thompson and Paul Hammerschmidt. It didn't quite measure up to our Denison area sites, but we enjoyed ourselves. One site near Madill had an ammonite micro-fauna that was fun to collect.

The following morning, we were joined by Bill and Cathy Kid, Rosemary Smith, Dianne Strout, Eric Seaberg, David and Mark Lindberg, Jeff and Jonathan Doerzbacher and Dr Sprinkle. Our first stop was Randy Jennings Quarry in Fittstown. This is Haragon Formation, Hunton Group, Devonian. The main prey here was *Camarocrinus*, a large holdfast or float, probably belonging to the crinoid, *Scyphocrinites ulrichi*. Manual labor was required in the digging and several comments were made about brining a backhoe next time. Of the bulbs I saw, I think Mike Smith won out with a nicely shaped grapefruit sized one. John Hinte has one with crinoid holdfasts, brachiopods and tentaculitoid encrusted on it. Several small horn corals, brachiopods and gastropods were also found in the digging.

In the early afternoon, Dr. Sprinkle took us to the Wiggins Quarry, south of Fittstown. This location he had not only hunted for 25 years, but had done an extensive paper on. It is mid-Ordovician,

Bromide/McLish Formation. In the Bromide, we found plates from calceocrinids and from a type of cystoid called a rhombiferan. Holdfasts, brachiopods and large bryozoans were also found. In the McLish, several brachiopods were found and I believe Eric found a trilobite. This is a location I hope to go back to soon. The prospect of finding any of the early echinodermata is exciting.

We finished off the day at one of Amsden's Silurian sites called P-7. It's the Henryhouse Formation of the Hunton Group. Brachiopods, horn and tabulate corals, bryozoans, trilobites, crinoids including many Pisocrinus cups, were among the finds; a wonderful roadside stop.

Sunday morning we met again at the Callixylon tree at the university in Ada. This time we went to a site none of us had been to. We will be back! I want to mention a little diversion first. In locating the proper gate to enter, I stopped a landowner and asked a question. The next thing I knew, he tuned around and threw open his property and gave access to Bois d'Arc creek. He said, "Have a good time" and left. Oklahoma has some friendly people. We didn't find anything but a pretty water snake, but you don't know until you look.

The next site we went to is called "Yellow Bluff" and is Bois d'Arc Formation, Hunton Group, early Devonian. A little difficult to get to, but certainly worth it. Lots of trilobites, a large number of brachiopods, horn corals, crinoids calceocrinoids, bryozoans, the more I looked the more I found. Mike Smith picked up a very nice large crinoid cup. I'm told that Paul picked up a pretty Eucalyptocrinites cup. There were lots of Pisocrinus cups and others as yet unidentified. Trilobite parts and pieces were everywhere and quite a few people got nice ones. I saw Eric and Dr. Sprinkle's trilobites but, sorry, my nose was to the ground and I didn't see everyone's. I have talked to the property owners and if he doesn't lease the land, we are invited back.

By early afternoon, most of the members had left. Tom had mentioned that he wanted some plant material, so after a quick phone call; we went back to Fittstown for some Pennsylvanian leaves and ferns. The club has been to this site-it's simply too small for sixteen people.

I had lined up another Pennsylvanian site at the Thomas Ranch, Wewoka Formation. Since we were expected, I went in to check it out. It reminded me of Runaway Bay in that fossils came out of nodules. I

only looked for 10-15 minutes but it appeared to be a fairly small locality. It has possibilities and maybe we will go there sometime. To be honest, it is hard to get excited about the Pennsylvanian when you have Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian right around the corner.

All in all, it was a weekend that ended way too soon. Good weather, nice people and great fossils-much better than Six Flags to me.

Thanks again to Dr. Sprinkle! Hope to be on the Brazos on the 16th!

See you there. Ed



Oklahoma field trip October 18 & 19, 2005

New Contact Information

For any of you that might have known Ron, here is the new contact information for him at the Dallas Museum of Natural History

Ron Tykoski" <rtykoski@dmnhnet.org>

Ron Tykoski, Ph. D., Fossil Preparator

Dallas Museum of Natural History

P.O. Box 150349

Dallas, Texas 75315

Phone (214) 271-4711 or Fax (214) 428-4356



2. NW Area

NPL Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab

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Central Club Contacts, 2005

President	Vice President Show Chair	Secretary
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	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	Mike Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com

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