



# Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society

March 2006

## President's Message

By Ron Root

Fellow collectors: There is some great collecting (and hopefully collecting weather) in the next few weeks. The postponed February trip to Jacksboro is on for March 4. We will meet at 8:00 at the Jacksboro courthouse on the square.

Something new has been planned for March. Arrangements have been made for us to collect on a private ranch just west of Big Bend National Park! It is reported that dinosaur bones and marine fossils can be found.

The cost will be \$25/person. We will meet at the gas station in Study Butte at 8:00 on Saturday, March 18. This will be at least a three-day trip. The ranch is just a few miles from Study Butte, which is 490 miles and about 8 hours from Austin. So if you go, plan to leave on Friday.

The timing is a little poor as this is also spring break weekend. Most of the lodging in the Big Bend area is full, so make your reservations now. The rancher has agreed to let us camp on the ranch for \$10. There are motels available in Alpine, 78 miles away. I have reserved two extra rooms in Alpine if anyone is interested.

I am sure there will be some who will want to carpool. Contact me if you willing to provide a ride or want one.

Contact me if you have questions, Ron Root

## March Meeting Tuesday night

The March meeting will be at the LCRA Building on **Tuesday night March 14** starting at 7:00 PM

## Meeting Calendar

<b>March 14</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>June 14 (Wed)</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>August 8</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>September 12</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>October 10</b>	<b>CTPS Meeting</b>
<b>November 3-5</b>	<b>Fossil Fest, CTPS Fossil Show at Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, Texas</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Christmas Party (no meeting)</b>

## Visit our web site

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

## Membership Information

- \$18 per Family
- \$15 per Individual. Individual and Family memberships include a newsletter subscription, membership in the South Central Federation, and liability insurance coverage for club activities.
- Associate membership is \$10 per year and includes a newsletter subscription.



See you at the meetin' partner !!

## 2006 Field Trips

March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ranch at Big Bend
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Picnic & auction at West Cave Preserve
May 13 or 20	Lake Travis
June 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Ada, Oklahoma
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Canoe trip Brazos River
August 12 or 19 <sup>th</sup>	Vertebrate or Invertebrate Lab at UT
September 16	Brazos River for Eocene fossils
October 14-15	Lake Texoma
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Waco Pit
December	Christmas Party

## Fossil Collecting in the Tampa Vicinity

Michael K. Smith

I thought I'd provide a short report on my recent collecting in Florida. I was in Tampa the week of February 13-17 for a conference and stayed over Friday afternoon and Saturday to collect.

Friday afternoon I had time to spend a few hours on Honeymoon Island State Recreational Area. This is on the coast, north of Tampa a short ways. Coming out of the airport I took 580 (Hillsborough Ave.) north to 584 to 586, which leads straight to the park. Went to the northernmost parking lot and walked the beach. There is a lot of rock here. I was told it was dredged from the

bay side to stabilize the beach. Mixed in with it is some fossil coral. I found 3 different species and some small to medium pieces of agatized material. My best finds were within about 50 feet of the men's room!



Saturday I met the Tampa Bay Fossil Club near Zolfo Springs at an RV park on the Peace River. This is a site that can only be visited as a club member. I had been in email contact with Fred Hendershot, their field trip chair, before the trip and was already a proud member of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club. In addition, Fred provided the gear that was critical to making this trip successful - a shovel and a set of screens with flotation devices attached, as well as 10 lbs. of fishing weights on a line to hold the screens in place against the current.

I happily spent the rest of the day shoveling gravel. There are a couple of approaches you can take. First, it is possible to snorkel looking for larger items. But on this trip the water was fairly murky and this did not seem too productive. Second, you can screen. The people who had collected here numerous times were looking for the larger items and did not explore the smaller contents of their screens in great detail. We were told that one of the RV folks had found a 4-inch shark tooth on the bank of the river the previous week. Newbies like me happily collected large numbers of modest sized shark teeth, though periodically turning up tantalizing pieces of larger ones. By the end of the day I had 80-90 complete teeth (shark and ray), some shark centrums and fish vertebrae, a partial plate from a ray mouth (I had not understood that ray teeth, at least in some cases, are part of a large, solid plate), some pieces of manatee rib, an armadillo scute, and lots of turtle parts and miscellaneous bone.

Finds by club members that day included some significantly larger shark teeth, tapir and horse teeth, a large elephant bone (probably ankle), as well as a lot of material I no doubt missed.



At the end of the day I was provided what is apparently the now traditional pulled pork sandwich prepared by Ted Akin. Many thanks to the Tampa Bay Club for their terrific hospitality.

For more information on these sites and the club you can Google "Honeymoon Island FL" and "Tampa Bay Fossil Club".



## Articles of Interest

I received several articles of interest from club members. Unfortunately, each one of them had the awful note at the bottom, "Copyright 2006 Imaginova Corp. All Rights Reserved, etc...."

So not wanting to go to jail.....I am including only the title and the web address.

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

### *Mutant Chickens Grow Full Set of Teeth*

By Bjorn Carey in Live Science.

<http://www.current-biology.com/top20>

This would certainly change the way we gathered eggs from the hen house!

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### **'Jurassic beaver' unearthed in China**

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11522136/>

Fossil overturns ideas about mammals' lowly status in dinosaur era

Not related to modern beavers. Built to swim the sea.

From the Associated Press Feb 23, 2006

Check it out!!

### **News From Tucson: dated 2/23/06**

AP

TUCSON, Ariz. (Feb. 23) - Federal agents seized tons of fossilized dinosaur eggs, pinecones and other artifacts at the nation's largest gem show after determining the items may have been smuggled out of Argentina.

Authorities said three small watermelon-sized eggs and 14,400 pounds of prehistoric pinecones, crab claws and other artifacts belonged to the Argentine government.

Federal agents took digital photos of the artifacts at Tucson's Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase earlier this month and conferred with Argentine paleontologists after getting a tip that a vendor was selling fossils of significant scientific value.

No immediate arrests were made.

Erichrose [erichrose@austin.rr.com](mailto:erichrose@austin.rr.com) wrote:

Well, as many of you read in the latest Newsletter or heard at the last meeting, the Society has agreed to take part in the Museum's Science Sundays. See the web page at:  
<http://austinkids.org/calendar/sciencesundays.htm>



We are scheduled to be there the fourth Sunday for the next four months. That is March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, (last Sunday of April), May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>.

The time slot is 3 to 5. Note that the museum is free after 4 on Sundays so invite your friends and their kids.

The Museum will give us a space in the lobby area where we can set up a table or two and do demonstrations, display fossils and/or conduct hands-on activities with the visitors.

We have not completely determined what we will do this first Sunday (3/26) but it does not have to be anything too elaborate. Here are a few possibilities.

A nice display of fossils (local and or from around the USA or the world.

Information on local geology and collecting

Display about earth history and evolution

Provide specimens to hand out (so next time you are in the Walnut Creek and other rich formations, fill a bucket)

Have kids make their own "collection" with specimens we supply and labels they fill out

Demonstrate how to identify fossils and suggest that visitors bring fossils for us to identify.

Demonstrate how to clean fossils

Demonstrate how fossils are formed with clay or plaster  
Obviously there are many more things we can do. We also do not have to do the same thing every time.

So now what we need are members to volunteer and help organize and attend. So, if you are interested in lending a hand, please call or write me soon so we can make some decisions and prepare. We only need a few folks for each Sunday. So, if you can't do one of the dates, but can do another one, let me know and I will coordinate as best I can.

I can be reached during the days at the Children's Museum: 472-2499 ext. 207; evenings at home: 382-7197 or by email: [erichrose@austin.rr.com](mailto:erichrose@austin.rr.com)



## **Subject: Big Bend Dinosaur Dig in 2006**

Our Ranch is offering a professional fossil dig at our Ranch in May and January of 2006 near Big Bend National Parks. Was wondering if you would list our web site on yours and/or pay to get in a publication to get the word out. The link is <http://www.tenbitsranch.com/dinosaurexcavation.htm>. Steve Wick and Professor Tom Lehman of Texas Tech are conducting excavations on our Ranch. All fossils are donated to the U.T. Austin's VPL and Texas Memorial Museum in Austin.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wick

Ten Bits Ranch [www.tenbitsranch.com](http://www.tenbitsranch.com)

866-371-3110

# Central Club Contacts, 2006

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## 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.

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**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.

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