



# Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society

August 2006

## President's Message

This month's newsletter is about the creation of a single paleontological society in greater Austin.

Central Texas Paleontological Society and Austin Paleontological Society consist of members with one thing is common: an interest in paleontology. Some are more interested in the science of paleontology. Others are more interested in the collecting aspect of paleontology. Together we will form a more talented, complete, productive, influential society.

The approach decided on is for each club to dissolve and jointly form a new club. The proposed articles and bylaws of the new club are included in this newsletter. Like all organizations a provision to amend the charter is included in the articles. After the new club has formed, the members of the new club can handle anything that has been overlooked or needs to be changed. This is all about forming one club and working together to make it the best Paleontological society it can be.

A ballot for this proposal is in the newsletter. If you agree that one paleontological is best for Austin, bring your ballot to Tuesday's meeting or mail it in by August 21st.

Also bring your fossils for Tanner Schenewark and his Eagle Scout project. CTPS has agreed to help him create a fossil garden for Hutto Elementary. It will be an area where students can look for fossils and learn to identify them. So the fossils need to be two inches in size or larger to make the area manageable.

Please classify the fossils, and describe about how old they are and where they were collected.

Ron Root

## August 8th Meeting Tuesday night

The August meeting will be at the LCRA Building on Tuesday night August 8th starting at 7:00 PM.

## Meeting Calendar

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 3-5

December

CTPS Meeting

CTPS Meeting

CTPS Meeting

Fossil Fest, CTPS Fossil

Show at Old Settlers

Heritage Association,

Round Rock, Texas

Christmas Party (no

meeting)

**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**

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

### **Book Auction at ADS meeting Aug 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Austin Paleo Society invites CTPS members to their August 15th meeting for a book auction. These will be the books from the estate of Ed Bowden, which includes items not only about fossils, but also about modern corals and modern shells. The proceeds of the auction will be added to the already donated funds for a scholarship in Ed's memory. A future auction will be held to disperse his fossil collection for additional funding of his scholarship. The meeting is at

7pm. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society clubhouse on Burnet Lane.

### **August 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday Field Trip**

We look forward to seeing you at 10AM on Saturday August 12th. We will take a look at the Canyon Lake Project to see the progress and get a look at the new collection from Dr. Fox.

Thanks, Ann Mollineux

### **Kelly Hinte**

Long time member Kelly Hinte (since June 1989), daughter of John Hinte, Jo Ann Hinte, and Rebecca Benz, was married May 21st to Robert Eby of Dallas. She had just graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a B.S. in Urban Forestry the week before the wedding. Robert is also a graduate of S.F.A. (2005) with degrees in Forestry and Environmental Science. After spending two weeks traveling Italy, the couple now lives in Longview, TX.

Join us in congratulating them and wishes them a happy life together.

### **An Article from David Lindberg**

Sean

for [National Geographic News](#)

July 25, 2006

Markey

A cache of bizarre animal fossils unearthed in Australia includes killer kangaroos, marsupial lions, and a giant relative of a huge bird nicknamed the "demon duck of doom," scientists say.

Researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney say they found the remains of as many as 20 new species during a recent two-week dig in northeastern Queensland.

"There are weird, flesh-eating kangaroos," Michael Archer, science dean at UNSW, told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio earlier this month.

"There are about 35 different kinds of extinct kangaroos in [Queensland] deposits. None of them would've looked like anything we would have recognized today, because they didn't hop," he said. "These were galloping kangaroos with big powerful forelimbs. Some of them had long canines like wolves." Henk Godthelp, a UNSW vertebrate paleontologist, says the new kangaroo discoveries include a saber-toothed species that may have used its large teeth for grooming or to attract mates.

"[The teeth] don't really look [like] anything used to rip intestines out of unsuspecting prey," he said. The team also found more complete skeletons of a previously known carnivorous kangaroo, an early species with short, muscular arms. "[It] looked like it would give you a very serious bear hug," Godthelp said, adding that 'roo may have used its arms to grab ambushed prey. "[It] used to leap out from behind trees and scare the bejesus out of prey and then calmly chomp it to pieces."

### **"Demon Duck of Doom"**

The UNSW paleontologists also found fossils of a larger relative of a giant bird previously dubbed the "demon duck of doom."

Most closely related to modern ducks, the flightless "demon bird" probably resembled an enormous emu or ostrich, although fossil remains are scarce.

A single fossil leg bone from the new, larger find stands as high as his hip, Godthelp says. The bird's entire leg would have towered above his head.

"And I'm not a short chap. I'm well over six foot [two meters]," he said. "So these were big birds, and you can only imagine what some multinational like Kentucky Fried [Chicken] would have done with them."

### **Treasure Trove**

The fossils come from the Riversleigh fossil beds in northeastern Queensland, an area rich in old river beds that later became riddled with limestone caves.

Acting like pit traps, the caves captured and preserved a wide array of plant and animal species from between 5 million and 20 to 23 million years ago and the environments they lived in.

Such a rich fossil record provides clues about how species evolved in response to climate change in ancient Australia, says Benjamin Kear, who studies ancient kangaroos at the Museum of Southern Australia in Adelaide.

(Read ["Weird Australia Rocks Are Earliest Signs of Life, Study Says"](#) [June 7, 2006].)

Riversleigh digs have also uncovered fossils of Earth's oldest known kangaroos and many branches of the kangaroo family tree.

"The beauty of it is they're relatively complete skeletons as well," Kear said. "So you can start looking at things like how hopping evolved, which is quite a novel adaptation for a modern group of animals."

"It's one of the great things about Riversleigh," Godthelp added. "It actually allows us to collect many, many different kinds of things." Examples from recent years include a number of early crocodile species that were smaller than today's crocs and appear to have been land-based. It's been suggested that the ancient reptiles may have behaved more like modern-day goannas, or Australian monitor lizards.

The crocs may have climbed trees to escape predators and to leap on prey, scientists theorize.

It's difficult to deduce such behaviors from fossil records alone, however, Godthelp says.

The research team will prepare their new fossils and send them to researchers in Australia and elsewhere for further study.

**Articles of Incorporation**  
**Austin Central Texas Paleontological Association**  
A TEXAS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

**ARTICLE I – Corporate Name**

1. The name of this society shall be the Austin Central Texas Paleontological Society.

**ARTICLE II - Registered Agent and Registered Office**

1. The initial registered agent is an individual resident of the state whose name is set forth below

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The business address of the registered agent and the registered office address is

\_\_\_\_\_

**ARTICLE III - Management**

1. Management of the affairs of the corporation is to be vested in its board of directors. The number of directors, which must be a minimum of three, that constitutes the initial board of directors and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors are elected and qualified are set forth below.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>City, State Zip:</i>
Frank Crane	12718 Trails End	Leander, TX 78641
Joan Crane	12718 Trails End	Leander, TX 78641
Jamie Young	1217 Cypress Mill Circle	Cedar Park, TX 78613
John Hinte	10962 Longbranch	Austin, TX 78736
Ron Root	6801 Rustling Oaks Trail	Austin, TX 78759
Danny Harlow	1140 Elder Circle	Austin, TX 78733
Michael K. Smith	8324 La Plata Loop	Austin, TX 78737

**ARTICLE IV – Organizational Structure**

1. The corporation will have members

**ARTICLE V – Duration**

1. The period of duration is perpetual

**ARTICLE VI – Purpose**

The corporation is organized for the following purpose or purposes:

1. The purpose of the Austin Central Texas Paleontological Society is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossil record and assistance to individuals, groups, and institutions interested in various aspects of paleontology.
2. Limitations: This organization is not created for profit but solely and exclusively for educational and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. None of its assets shall be used for the monetary gain or profit of the society or of any individual member.

## **ARTICLE VIII - Amendments**

1. Approval to change the Articles shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of responding members at the monthly meeting after an announcement to the total membership.
2. A responding member shall be a voting member responding in writing or voting at the meeting.
3. Any proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation must be submitted to the Secretary of the Society in writing.
4. Any proposed changes in the Bylaws will be published in the newsletter at least twenty days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted on.
5. Notification of amendments of Bylaws shall be included in the minutes of the meeting. Members will receive notice of any proposed changes in the Bylaws at least twenty days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted on.

## **ARTICLE XI - Dissolution**

1. In the event of the dissolution of this Society, assets of the Society shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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# **BYLAWS**

## **Austin Central Texas Paleontological Association**

A TEXAS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

## **ARTICLE I - Membership, Dues and Fees**

1. Requirement of membership is the payment of dues.
2. All members shall be of good character.
3. Honorary membership can be awarded by the recommendation of an active member and voted in by a majority present at the annual business meeting.
4. Dues amounts are established at the annual business meeting. Membership categories are 'individual', 'family' or 'associate'. Voting members consist of either adult individual or adult family members whose dues are current.
5. Associate members are non-voting and receive the newsletter, but are not otherwise active.
6. Dues shall become payable January 1st and shall become past-due on March 15th. Dues received after October 31 are credited to the following year.
7. All new members shall have available for review upon request a copy of the Articles and Bylaws
8. Dues paid by voting members shall include South Central Federation of Mineral Societies membership dues.
9. This Society shall be affiliated with and maintain an active membership in the Mid-America Paleontological Society.

## **ARTICLE II - Meetings**

1. Monthly meetings shall be scheduled at a time and place as determined by the Board of Directors. A calendar of forthcoming meetings shall be published in the newsletter. Meeting minutes shall be published in the Newsletter and any changes or corrections shall be made at the next meeting.
2. To constitute a regular meeting, a member of the Board and a quorum of the membership must be present. A quorum for the regular meetings is defined as one-tenth of the voting membership.
3. The November meeting shall be the annual business meeting for the election of Officers, Board of Directors and honorary members.

## **ARTICLE III - Officers**

1. Election of officers shall be held in November of each year with the new officers assuming their duties on January 1. Term of these officers shall be one year.

2. Officers shall be nominated for election by a nominating committee appointed by the President and/or by open nominations from the floor.
3. Officers shall be active members elected by a majority vote. No person shall hold more than one elected office at one time.
4. Vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the term by the Board of Directors.
5. Officers of this Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
6. Vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the term of office by the Board of Directors.
7. President. The duties of the President shall be to preside over all meetings of the organization, appoint all committees deemed necessary, and see that the activities of the organization are designed to carry out the purpose of the Society.
8. Vice-President. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to perform the duties of the President in the President's absence. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties from time to time as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.
9. Secretary. The duties of the Secretary are to keep and report the minutes of all meetings of the Society, and to maintain membership records and conduct correspondence as necessary, and to perform all duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties from time to time as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.
10. Treasurer. The Treasurer is charged with the custody of the Society's finances, and has authority to pay all bills recommended by the Board and approved by the membership and to report all information to the members. In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of the Treasurer and such other duties from time to time as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors. Treasurer is responsible for payment of Society's dues to the South Central Federation of Mineralogists by the 1st of January according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the SCFM, Article II, Dues Section 2 and 3.

#### **ARTICLE IV – Board of Directors**

1. The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors.
2. Committee Chairmen, Society members or persons having business with the society may attend any meetings of the Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three other active members elected to the Board at the annual business meeting.
4. The Board of Directors shall meet a least three times a year.
5. At the first monthly meeting following the election of a new Board they will present a proposed yearly budget to be voted on by the members.
6. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by, or at the request of, the President or any two Directors.
7. Quorum - a majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board.
8. Minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and actions taken shall be presented to the Society at the following meeting. The Society may accept or reject these minutes.
9. Informal Action by the Board of Directors - Any action required by law to be taken to the Board of Directors or any action which may be taken at a meeting of Directors, may be taken without a meeting, if consent in writing setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the Directors.
10. In case of a Board vacancy in a given year, the Board of Directors shall appoint a new member to serve for the remainder of the year.

#### **ARTICLE V - Compensation.**

1. Directors and officers shall not receive any compensation for their services.

#### **ARTICLE VI - Committees**

1. There shall be standing committees appointed as needed by the Board of Directors.

### ***ARTICLE VII - Authority***

1. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern this Society in all cases where applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws.

### ***ARTICLE VIII - Fiscal Year***

2. The fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year.

### ***ARTICLE IX - Amendments***

1. Approval to change the bylaws shall be two-thirds of majority of responding members.
2. Responding member shall be a member responding in writing or voting at the meeting.
3. Members will receive notice of any proposed changes in the bylaws at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted on. Notification of amendments of bylaws shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

### ***ARTICLE X - Waiver of Notice***

1. Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act, or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or by the Bylaws of the corporation/organization, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether it be before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equal to the giving of such notice.

### ***ARTICLE XI - Acceptance***

1. Upon acceptance, these Bylaws shall become effective immediately.

# Central Club Contacts, 2006

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President	Vice President Show Chair	Secretary
Ron Root 6801 Rustling Oaks Trail Austin, TX 78759 (512) 345-6718 ron@grassrootstrader.com	Danny Harlow 1140 Elder Circle Austin, TX 78746 (512) 327-4535 dharlow@austin.rr.com	Mike Smith 8324 La Plata Loop Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6582 msmith17@austin.rr.com michael.smith@eds.com

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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	

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Newsletter Editor	Board Member	Club Founder
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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.

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

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

## Ballot

The Central Texas Paleontological Society proposes to dissolve and form a new club according to the articles and bylaws published in this issue of the newsletter, with members of the Austin Paleontological Society contingent on mutual agreement of both clubs.

I agree to this: (circle one)

YES

No

Bring your ballot to the Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, or mail it to the CTPS P.O. Box 90791, Austin TX 78709-0791 by August 21, 2006

A family membership is entitled to two votes.

## **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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**P.O. Box 90791**  
**Austin TX 78709-0791**