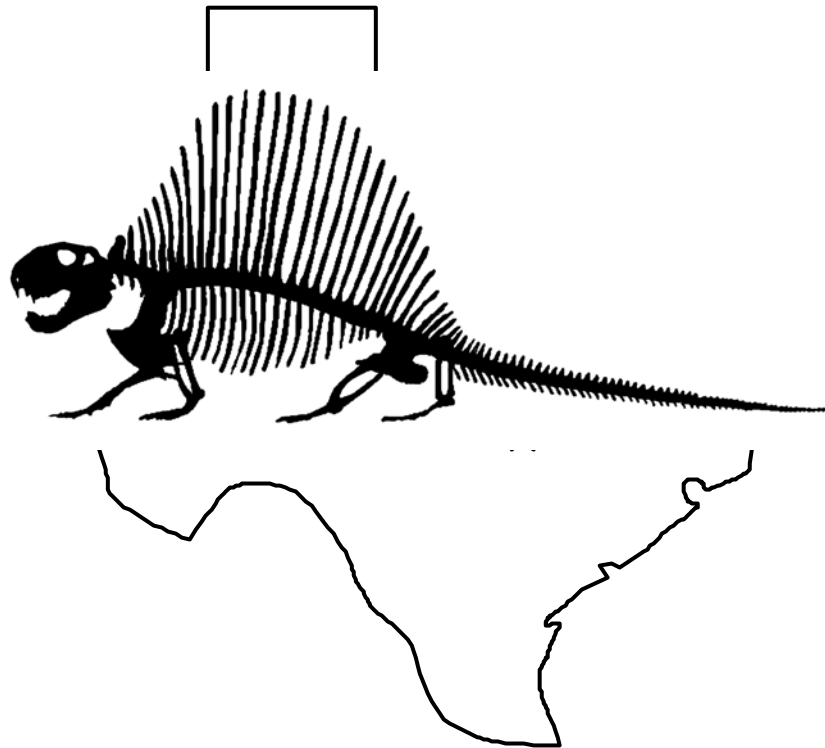


Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 2, Number 5
May 2007

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

There he is, in my mine's eye, grinning in acknowledgement. Ed Bowden would be satisfied and grateful.

The cleared amount from Saturday, May 5th's auction that took his fossil and coral specimens was **\$1073.00**. Add that to the \$1225.00 cash donations, and the \$814.50 from the sales of his books, the grand total for the Ed Bowden Memorial Scholarship is **\$3,112.50**.

This will make a fine scholarship in memory of Ed. Thank you to all who helped, especially to those that brought the bulk of the collection and helped set it out. And thank you to those that supported by bidding on his collection.

There was *another* auction, earlier, in April, for the benefit of the society. John Ahrns and his staff welcomed us to the beautiful facility of the West Cave Preserve. After eating bar-b-que and all, we went inside to listen to Charles Finsley spin his tales of the early years at the Dallas Museum, and how he proceeded to write his fantastic book on Texas Fossils. You will be happy to know he is working on another fossil related book.

This auction netted \$739.00. I do not consider the speaker fee for Dr. Finsley's travel and honorarium part of the expenses. This auction / picnic was a replacement of our regular meeting, but we used this as an opportunity to have a well known personality and an outside speaker. Thank you, Diann, for pulling that together.

Ed Elliott has set up our **field trip to collect wood in East Texas**. This may be the last opportunity for this site as ownership of the land is changing. We are to meet at the "Stump" restaurant at 8:30am, Saturday, May 19th. This is just east of the dam for Lake Sam Raburn. **PLEASE BRING A MINERAL OR FOSSIL SPECIMEN FOR YOUR "FEE"**. This fee goes to the Jasper area Pineland Gem and Mineral Society. Ron and Donna Ducote will be our hosts. Please do not abuse the time limit he sets for collecting. Expect to get wet because you will be in the creek. Expect to carry heavy specimens. And expect to dig these out of the banks of the creek. A sharp shovel will help keep you balanced as well as help you dig.

See you at the meeting. John

Editor's Note

Please excuse the short newsletter this month. I'm afraid to say I was caught off guard by the early meeting date. This is one of the odd times when the "third Tuesday" is only two weeks into the month. But do enjoy the great field trip report of Mike Smith's collecting trip to North Carolina. And I hope to see you all at the meeting.

Next Meeting - May 15

7:00 PM, AGMS Clubhouse

On May 15 we will hear a talk about "**65 Million Years of Penguins**" given by Nina Triche. Nina has a B.S. in Biology from Tulane University and an M.S. and recently-acquired PhD in Geology from UT (thesis on the skull of a caiman crocodile.) She has worked in the Paleo Lab for 6 years, inventoring and cataloging all our rudist bivalves from Texas and, currently, a Texas freshwater mussel collection. Nina also was a TA for 6 years in the geology and biology departments and has done field work in the coastal ranges of California, the desert of NE Arizona and all over New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming.

Places to Be, Things to Do

May 26-27, Ft Worth G&MC Show, Will Rogers Memorial Center,
3401 W Lancaster

June 5 – 10, AFMS/RMFMS Convention & Show,
hosted by Chaparral Rockhounds, Roswell Civic Center, Roswell, NM

Sept .1 & 2, SCFMS Annual Meeting & Show, Arlington

Field Trip to Wilmington, NC and Vicinity March 29-31, 2007

Michael K. Smith

I was remarkably lucky. First, by virtue of the help Tom Bowers provided planning the trip. Thanks, Tom. And second, I found a really nice shark tooth. It's missing enamel and a half inch of the tip, but its 3.5 inches! Would have been 4 if complete. *Carcharocles auriculatus*, Middle Eocene , Rocky Point Quarry, Pender Country, NC.

On Wednesday night, after 3 days of business meetings in Raleigh, I drove down to Wilmington, NC. The sites I went to were all out of Fossil Collecting in North Carolina (<http://nc-maps.stores.yahoo.net/fossils.html> <http://ncmaps.stores.yahoo.net/fossils.html>).

There are two quarries run by Martin Marietta that are north of Wilmington and open on Thursday and Friday afternoon to collectors, if they are not blasting. But for one you must call the day before, and the other the day ,you want to collect. So it's a bit of crap shoot.

On Thursday morning, I went to Maple Hill (in fairly heavy rain), found a few echinoids and brachs. Maple Hill is north and east of the two quarries. As Tom had noted, this site

is almost totally overgrown. Should have taken a shovel.

Rocky Point was blasting on Thursday, but Castle Hanye was not. When I got to the quarry I found the North Carolina Fossil Club was there on a field trip. The fellow leading the trip, John, has been collecting there since 1977. He showed me some amazing flats of large, beautiful teeth, including some of those nifty, serrated whale teeth. Even he did not have one with two complete roots. I need to go back to find one.

The NCFC members were mostly focused on shark teeth, specifically *Carcharocles auriculatis* (known as a 'ric'). So, I had plenty of places to look for echnoids. There is so much there, I ran out of time. I could easily have spent another 4 hours. I believe most of what I got are the standard echnioids and brachs. Nice specimens, none that I have collected previously, but nothing anyone who had been there before would be wildly excited about.

Friday, I called Rocky Point and they said I could come in at noon. They were blasting, but had scheduled the East Coast Fossil Club for a field trip. Normally I would have been out of luck, but since they were letting the club in they didn't think it fair not to let me in. My thought exactly! So they set us looking in a part of the quarry away from the blasting. After 2 PM, we were free to go anywhere that was not too close to the drag lines. Note: Bring a hard hat. I forget to bring one and no one in the office mentioned it. When the quarry employee had led me to the site, he noticed. And then let me slide. I understand there is another person who oversees groups like this and that he is more careful.

Aside from the *C. auriculatis* tooth, collecting was less fruitful than Castle Hayne. Though I did pick up one, maybe two different echinoid species. And saw some beauties. The guy who was leading the ECFC, Dewayne found a really nice tooth. See <http://groups.msn.com/EastCoastFossilClub/march302007clubtrip.mswn> Plus, for you echinoid traders out there, he seems to be tremendously knowledgeable, with a large set of east coast echinoids to trade. If anyone is interested I would be happy to put you in touch.

As we were getting ready to pull out, after showing what we had found, one guy (Gerald) said - "I've got this whale vertebrae from Lee Creek, anyone want it?" I spoke up. So I came home with a 5" x 5" x 9" vertebrae.

On Saturday morning I went to the Elizabethtown land fill. Had to hunt some, asking directions a couple of times, since the current active pit is in a different location than shown in the guide. Found some nice large Eocene shells (look like what you get in the shell pits in Florida). Some shark teeth. Met an interesting guy there who has collected the site for a long time. He was deep in a hole pursuing the Cretaceous layer that is below the level where they have graded. Since I didn't have a shovel or a screen and was slowing down a bit, I just surface collected.

I've only cleaned the better Rocky Point specimens. So I've got a ways to go. Attached is picture of some of the assorted, better specimens.

We need to arrange a club field trip. I've got the fever.

Mike



The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossils record and assistance to individual, groups and institutions interested in various aspects of paleontology.

Meetings of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** are held the third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building, 6719 Burnet lane, Austin, TX. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Annual Dues: \$15/individual, \$20/family and \$10/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter)

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL