

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 3, Number 11
November 2008

President's Note

Great news from fossil fest! With the loss of quite a few big dealers we had been afraid that we would be going in the red this year. Thanks to Linda's efforts in reducing costs, good advertizing and lots of new faces at the tables - we actually surpassed last year! There was less money from the dealers but more from attendance. All in all, great show everyone! Thanks to all that helped put it on! Thanks also to Craig and Cathy Brandt for a wonderful dealer dinner as well. Excellent food and a really enjoyable social event.

Our field trip this month will be in Harker Heights. Keeping it local for any new members. Hope to see you there.

Ed

Next Meeting – November 18th

Turkish Delights: Rudists from the Eastern Tethya and a little Travelogue Ann Molineux PhD

Ann is long time member and science advisor to our club as well as the Curator and Collections Manager for Non-vertebrate Paleontology at the Texas Natural Science Center
The University of Texas at Austin

Tuesday 7 PM
Austin Gem & Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX

November Field Trip

Harker Heights

Saturday November 22nd
Meet at 8:00AM at the small strip mall off Indian Trails
on the south side of 190.

This trip will be to Harker Heights and other locations along US-190. We will be collecting from the Fredericksburg Group, Walnut and Comanche Peak Formations. Although many of you have collected these same formations in and around Austin the variety of fossils will be somewhat different with a few different types of echinoids being common as well as many other species of invertebrates we don't commonly see here.

Directions:

Take I-35 North to Belton. Go west on US-190 to Harker Heights and exit at Indian Trail. Make the left onto Indian Trail, go under 190 and look for the small strip mall on the right. Travel time from central Austin is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Be there on time as we will be caravanning on to locations yet to be determined.

Minutes of the October Meeting

The meeting was called to Order at 7:15 by President Ed Elliot. The scheduled speaker, Erich Rose was unable to give his presentation because the projector was unavailable.

Laura Naski, Paleontology Educator at the Texas Memorial Museum had an announcement for the group. The TMM is looking for folks who would like to staff the prep table in the Paleo Lab at TMM. We could bring our own specimens to clean or work on theirs. Some of what we would be doing would be answering questions and talking to kids. Currently we would be limited to hand tools, but Laura is checking to see if it would be possible for us to use more interesting resources, like the Chicago pneumatic. They are looking for any help they can get, but would be especially delighted to have folks who can show up for an hour or two during the week (of course the longer the better).

Laura's contact info is: Laura Naski, work: 512-232-5506, email: lauramn@mail.utexas.edu

Old Business

Treasurer David Lindberg reported \$4496.94 in the old CTPS account.

Joan Crane reported that 61 tables had been sold for Fossil Mania and that there was \$8943.49 in the old APS account.

The attendees voted to give \$250 to AGMS for use of their club house.

A discussion followed concerning the status of the PSA library and the options of where to house it. The current location at Hollis and Greg Thompson's house is inconvenient to many. The list of books that is on the web site is out of date. It is agreed the best location would be at the AGMS club house, but it is unlikely there is space for it.

New Business

It was agreed to have the Christmas party at the AGMS clubhouse on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 PM. This will be the traditional white elephant gift exchange of fossils or fossil related items.

Ed announced that there will not be a scheduled field trip in November

Linda McCall announced the final Fossil Fest show meeting will be at her house on Tuesday October 27th at 7:00 PM. She asked again for volunteers for Fossil Fest and for the PSA booth at the AGMS show.

Jim Sprinkle reported on the paper titled Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from a Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas that he and Linda McCall presented at the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of GSA, ASA-CSSA-SSSA and GCAGS. The paper was awarded a certificate as the second best paper at the conference.

Ron Root, Treasurer.

Fossil Fest 2008

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our successful show! This was our first year doing a two day show instead of a three day one, and I wasn't at all sure how it was going to turn out. Couple that with a down-turned economy, us being the third show in three straight weeks of shows and losing over half our regular dealers early on and I was sure this was going to be a disaster.

I was pleasantly surprised. We had right at 1000 people attend (about the same as all 3 days last year) and the total income from the front desk, food, wheel, and dig pit all exceeded last year's totals. So, we did better in 2 days than we usually do in three.

We even picked up several more dealers at the last minute, so hopefully we won't be too upside down on the cost of the hall.

By and large the dealers we had were happy (some were REAL happy) and indicated we had a "solid" show, and nearly all have already said they will be back next year when we will be moving the show to the first weekend in December - December 5 & 6, 2009.

So, congratulations and thanks again to everyone who contributed their time, sweat and heart to making this show the great success it was!

Linda McCall
VP / Show Chair

Volunteer Opportunity

We have an opportunity to help out at the Texas Memorial Museum and at the same time clean some of those numerous fossils in our garages. Laura Naski, Paleontology Educator at the TMM, spoke at the October meeting. The TMM is looking for folks who would like to staff the prep table in the Paleo Lab at TMM. We could bring our own specimens to clean or work on theirs. Some of what we would be doing would be answering questions and talking to kids.

Currently we would be limited to hand tools, but Laura is checking to see if it would be possible for us to use more interesting resources, like the Chicago pneumatic.

They are looking for any help they can get, but would be especially delighted to have folks who can show up for an hour or two during the week (of course the longer the better).

Laura's contact info is:

Laura Naski
work : 512 232-5506
email: lauramn@mail.utexas.edu

Here it is, the official award notice for the Georgetown paper written and presented by Linda, James Sprinkle and Ann Molineux:

Gulf Coast Section SEPM

Linda McCall
Paleontological Society of Austin
P.O. Box 90791
Austin, Texas 78749

October 14, 2008

Dear Linda,

The Gulf Coast Section of SEPM wishes to congratulate you (as senior author) and your 2 coauthors (Sprinkle & Molineux) for your outstanding paper titled "*Spectacularly Preserved, Mollusc-Dominated Fauna from the Cavity Layer in the Lower Cretaceous Edwards Formation, Central Texas*" published in the 2008 *GCAGS / GCSSEPM Transactions*. Your paper has been chosen to receive the **Second Place GCSSEPM / GCAGS Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Award** as a most outstanding paper published in this year's *Transactions*.

Best regards,

Michael J. Nault
GCSSEPM Judging and Awards Chairman
2008 & 2009 GCAGS / GCSSEPM Conventions
biostrat@earthlink.net; (713) 868-7444

October Field Trip: Report Denton, Texas

It was a beautiful Texas day when we met in Ft. Worth. There were nine of us: Paul Hammerschmidt, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Tom Bowers, Linda McCall, Mike Smith, Ron and Janet Root, and myself and we quickly decided to forgo the Ft. Worth site and instead invest our day in Denton. This turned out to be a good choice as there was nearly a square mile to hunt.

I can't be positive of the stratigraphy but I believe that this was Main Street Formation, upper Washita. The goal for most of us was the acquisition of the large echinoid *Pseudananchys completa*. There was lots more to be found. We all found *Pseudananchys* (some better preserved than others) and Mike and Gary both picked up other beautiful echinoids, names unknown at this point. There were quite a few *Cymatoceras hilli* nautiloids and *Mariella brazoensis brazoensis* ammonites were everywhere. Bivalves were plentiful, notably *Ostrea perversa* and a few *Lopha subovata*. There were also *Kingena wacoensis* brachiopods and a few shark teeth. A really fossiliferous site. Thanks to Linda for bringing it to our attention.

Sunday's trip to Texoma will have to be addressed by someone else as I couldn't go.

See you next time.
Ed

October Field Trip: Report – Part II

Lake Texoma, Texas

I forgot that I needed to report on the continuation of the field trip on Sunday, so this is only in the electronic version. My apologies to those who only get the paper version. Of course, how will they know?

The few members who chose to stay over Saturday night, myself, Linda McCall, and Ron and Janet Root met at Eisenhower State Park at 8:00 am. We decided to try out a spot I had found near Russwood, where there is a boat ramp that provides public access to the lake shore.

This shoreline exposes the same formation you get to if you go far east from Russwood – its in the Washita group, I believe Duck Creek. We were pretty sure we were in the right place when we found some echinoids sitting up on little soil pedestals. No one had collected the area in a while.

We found a number of nice *Holaster simplex*, some very large *Macrasters*, and some really well preserved *Neithea*, including one new to my collection, a *Neithea wrighti*. In addition, we collected some small to medium ammonites.

After 3 hours, Ron and Janet left to head home. Linda and I kept hunting for another hour or so and decided we had had enough of the locality. I took off back to Austin and Linda went on and collected at Russwood.

Mike Smith

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossil 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)

PSA web page: <http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/> Web master: Michael Smith: msmith17@austin.rr.com

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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Erich Rose, editor
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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL