

# Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the  
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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## **President's Note**

I'm sorry for all those who missed the auction. We had lovely weather, a beautiful location, lots of good food, a good speaker and a lot of laughs coupled with a chance to pick up some nice fossils. I don't know how much money we made for the club, but I call it a success.

The mass inventory is still on-going at the Non-Vertebrate Lab at the J.J. Pickle Research Center. Dr. Anne Molineux is staying after hours and is looking for volunteers from 5 to 8:30 on Wednesdays. We are making headway but there is a long way to go. If you want to help and haven't done so before, contact Anne at [annm@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:annm@mail.utexas.edu) so she can get your name on the security list. It must be known exactly what is in the collections in order for researchers to use it; that's what we are helping with.

I've been involved in family matters these past weeks and haven't been able to do any collecting. I hope to be able to go to Oklahoma for what should be another great trip. Hope to see you there. Ed

**Next Meeting – Tuesday May 19, 2009**

## **The Acceptance of New Ideas in Science**

**By Hugh Downs & J.W. Downs**

Resistance to new scientific ideas has been a factor from the time of Pythagoras to the present, with evolution encountering the most persistent resistance. Not all resistance has come from religion, with examples coming even from the scientific community. Max Planck observed: "An important scientific innovation rarely makes its way by gradually winning over and converting its opponents.... What does happen is that its opponents gradually die out and the growing generation is familiarized with the idea from the beginning."

### **Important Note:**

If the AGMS parking areas are full please do not park in front of the fence/gate at the building to our north (left side.) They have to have access to their fenced yard 24/7. It is OK to park in the grassy area across the street behind the Farmer's Market.

## **Unofficial Bio of Hugh Downs**

**By Wally Downs**

Since I have known Hugh longer than any other living person, I think it appropriate that I should add some things that are not covered his official bio. Hugh and I have always had an interest in all things scientific. He has tended more to astronomy and cosmology, while my more mundane interests have been in the areas of geology, mineralogy and paleontology.

Hugh's other interests include flying nearly anything that can be flown, including balloons, gliders and multi-engine aircraft. He has been a licensed pilot for sixty years. Although he has

never been launched in a spacecraft, he went through NASA's astronaut training program with John Glenn prior to Glenn's second trip into space.

A term paper written for an astronomy course Hugh attended at Columbia University is titled [Three Scale Models of the Universe](#). It gives the best presentation for visualizing the extent of the universe of the many publications on the subject that I have read.

We have both been to the South Pole, but at different times. Hugh documented his trip with a camera crew for ABC-TV's 20/20 program, and I installed some tracking equipment for NASA two years later. In a moment of brotherly one-upmanship, I climbed to the top of the large geodesic dome at the pole and had my picture taken to prove that I had been farther south than he had. I also performed the first (and possibly only) live classical music concert given at the Pole. Flutists have the advantage of being able to carry their instruments with them on such trips, but performing without accompaniment leaves performers exposed and has much in common with streaking.

It has been a real privilege to have Hugh as an older brother. I am sure that there are many things that I would not have attempted if he had not broken ground ahead of me. While our professions have been quite different, our interest in science has always been very similar, but we have never been in competition with each other. It has been an interesting eighty years.

You can find Hugh's official Bio and his article Three Scale Models of the Universe at our society's web site: <http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/papers.html>

## **Next Field Trip**

### **Oklahoma for Paleozoic Fossils May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

We will meet in Ada, OK at 8:00am at the Callixylon tree on the East Central University campus. This incredible petrified tree is located at the corner of Main Street and Francis Ave. and then we will caravan to Clarita, our first location. There are no towns of any size closer to stay in that actually have motels, to my knowledge. It will be about a 45 minute drive to Clarita. This is an 80 acre quarry with lots of fossils and I would expect to stay there most or all day. Clarita is basically just a post office so bring everything with you. There are rattlesnakes so jeans and boots are a must, snake guards too if you have them. Kids are allowed, but take into account the snakes when making that decision. There is a \$10 fee per person so please have cash at hand. Cars can't drive in so we'll leave them at the gate and "car-pool" as at Yellow Bluff. This should be a really good trip with several other stops on Sunday.

## Places to be... Things to do...

May 16-17--LUBBOCK, TEXAS: **51st show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society**; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, special exhibit "The Rock Food Table"; contact Archie Scott, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: [asscott3@windstream.net](mailto:asscott3@windstream.net)

May 22-24--CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS: Show; ; Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Dr.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day; contact Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; Web site: [www.myspace.com/beadjamboree](http://www.myspace.com/beadjamboree)

May 23-24--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Show, "Jumpin' for Geodes"; **Fort Worth Gem &**

**Mineral Club**; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, children 12 and under free; jewelry, gems, beads, minerals, fossils, more than 25 dealers, demonstrations, displays, silent auction, kids' Wheel of Chance and rock/fossil dig, door prizes; contact Steve Hilliard, P.O. Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: [fwgmc@embarqmail.com](mailto:fwgmc@embarqmail.com); Web site: [www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com)

June 19-21--SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Show; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day; contact Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; Web site: [www.myspace.com/beadjamboree](http://www.myspace.com/beadjamboree)

## PSoA April Meeting Minutes Sunday , April 26, 2009

12:32 pm, Westcave Preserve, Annual Auction & Meeting

### SPEAKER

George Hansen spoke about his book "Trilobites of Black Cat Mountain." The book includes a photographic guide to Oklahoma's Devonian trilobites, the geological history of Coal County, Oklahoma, descriptions of rock formations where trilobites are found and excavation/restoration of trilobites.

### BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order 3:17 pm by President, Ed Elliott

### UPCOMING MEETING

Mike Smith announced that the Speaker for the upcoming PSoA meeting will be Hugh Downs. The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19 at the AGMS facility.

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Ed mentioned that the May field trip will be to Oklahoma. The Dallas club got washed out at the

quarry. They had some areas stripped for them. If we can get those same areas at the quarry (after 6 weeks of rain), it will be fantastic. The dates of the field trip are May 23-24 (Sat-Sun).

### TRI CITY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

John Hinte reported that the Tri City Gem & Mineral Society would like our fossil group and members to put in displays at the 40th Annual Tri City Show and South Central Federation of Mineral Society Convention on October 10-11, 2009. The Tri City Gem & Mineral Society consists of the Temple-Belton-Killeen areas. The South Central Federation of Mineral Society is a larger group that the Paleontological Society is a member of.

There is an application form that needs to be completed, and returned to a Temple address by September 10. Declare whether your case is for competition or non-competition. **YOU MUST SUPPLY YOUR OWN CASE.** The show location is the Frank Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, and displays must remain in place until the show ends at 5pm on Oct. 11. Round the clock security will be provided.

John believes this would be an excellent venue to highlight both Fossilmania and Fossil Fest, and to

show the SCFMS what our members do and can offer. And it will help you get your displays together as a practice run for our shows.

**FOSSIL FEST**

Linda McCall requested members to pick-up extra fossils when out collecting for Fossil Fest (Dig Pit / Spinning Wheel & Teacher's Kits).

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, 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 Site: <http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/>  
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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**

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**