

Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



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President's Note

Well folks, it may be a month early, but the heat is here. At the last meeting someone complained that we should go to Oklahoma when it's cool. I tried to explain that there would then be someplace else we go that would then be hot. We try to go someplace every month, hot or cold. This is Texas and some months are cold and some are hot.... not very often is it in between. I love going to Jacksboro - the last two times I was there it was in the high 20's and low 30's - to me that's almost worse than 100. But I still went and did my best to have a good time. We can't go everywhere in March and October.

I just received the OK on the Clifton trip, finally. I spent at least a week calling our former host only to find out that he'd moved to Arizona. A long story... we're good to go on the 20th and should be there at 8:00 and probably leave by 12:30 or 1:00. It will be hot so bring lots of cold water. We'll be in the quarry the whole time so bring whatever you need with you. The vehicles will be parked near where we hunt. I won't be there due to physical problems, but in situations like this, I've already done what is needed - the quarry people will be leading you from the front office. Hot or not it should be fun! Good luck! Ed

Next Meeting – Tuesday June 16, 2009

Pleistocene Marine Fauna of Gibson Blvd, California

By Linda McCall

Expect a great presentation by Linda from her new stomping grounds.

Next Field Trip

Clifton Chemical Lime Quarry, Clifton, TX

June 20, 2009

Meet at 8AM

The quarry mines the Edwards Limestone. We will collect from exposed layers of the overlying blue-gray Kiamichi Clay and the yellow-buff Duck Creek Limestone that the quarry leaves behind. The Duck Creek produces nice large ammonites. The Kiamichi has a larger variety of fossils with ammonites as well. Some of the ammonites can be large and you should bring some of your larger tools with protective eyewear. You will be scrambling over piles of heavy rock so sturdy shoes and boots are suggested. As mentioned in the President's Note, we will be driving into the quarry and parking near where we collect. This means two things: First, there will be no leaving for lunch or restrooms so be prepared and pack everything with you. Second, it will be easy to get those big ol' ammonites home!

The quarry is west of Waco. Exit I-35 onto highway 6 and go west. Go through Valley Mills towards Clifton. 3.3 miles before Clifton you will see a cattle facility with pens on the left. Shortly after that you will hit 2602. Turn left. Go 1-2 miles and enter the quarry on the right. Go to the entry building and park. Try to be there a little before 8:00. Do bring tools, water, snacks, hat, personal portable air conditioner, all the usual stuff. Good luck!

Field Trip Report Oklahoma May 23 & 24th

Fourteen of us met at the Callixylon tree in Ada for our annual Oklahoma trip. Paul Hammerschmidt, Melvin Noble, Mike Smith, Jeff and Jonathan Doerzbacher, Jinna McLaurin, Diana Fry, Tom Bowers, John Hinte, Tom and Beverly Trunick, Linda McCall, and Jim Sprinkle. It was a very nice morning for a 45 minute caravan through the lovely east Oklahoma countryside to the community of Clarita and Bob Carrolls' quarry. Finally meeting Bob after all these years of hearing about him was certainly a pleasure. We're all grateful for his hospitality in allowing us to hunt his quarry as well as tour his shop.

Bobs' quarry contains both Haragan and Bois d'Arc Formations (both Devonian) though I had a hard time telling exactly which I was in as I went around the quarry. Bob has quarried several different areas so there was an abundance of rocks and outcrops to look at. While I'm certain that the recent visits by both the Dallas and Houston clubs removed a lot of material, I'm equally certain that we picked up our share of trilobites. Being a neophyte where trilobites are concerned, I won't attempt to name what I saw picked up. Reading George Hansens' book has shown me how little I know about those neat little bugs. There is always a lot more to learn. There were also many brachiopods, some gastropods, a few straight nautiloids and the occasional bivalve picked up.

Around four, Dr. Sprinkle took most of the group to a spot just west of Bromide. This was Bromide Formation, mid-Ordovician. Five of us elected to stay at Bobs' until we couldn't see. I've spent a good bit of effort, in years past, trying to get us into Bobs' place. I'm glad that he is again allowing groups in. It was worth the wait.

We met again at the tree Sunday morning and caravanned to "Yellow Bluff". This lovely spot is Bois d'Arc Formation, Devonian. A good number of trilobites were found, an incredible variety of brachiopods, four or five kinds of coral, gastropods, lots of crinoids and crinoid material and several kinds of bryozoans.

By early afternoon a few people were heading home. The rest of us went on to a new site for the club, Lake Holdenville. The first site at Lake Holdenville that we looked at was rather barren. A few brachiopods and a hand full of conularids were found. The second site had a more diverse fauna: brachiopods, gastropods, straight nautiloids and bivalves. This was a very pretty area and a few interesting specimens were found but I doubt we'll go back. Both sites were Wewoka Formation, middle Pennsylvanian.

While that ended the official trip, five of us stayed over on Monday. We really didn't do any more collecting in Oklahoma, but we found out a few things. The site we knew as the Ada brick pit no longer exists; another new housing development is there instead. A strange thing was discovered. Back in 2004 (2005?) I led us to a site where we all trespassed and still had a good time. I've been trying unsuccessfully to get us back in there ever since. We had permission to go to Hollands' Hill -- when we arrived we simply parked and hunted. We did not bother the people in the house. This year I found that the phone number had been changed - so I couldn't even ask. On that Monday we decided to find the place again and knock on the door and ask in person. We carefully followed directions - when we arrived we all agreed that this place - the CORRECT place - wasn't where we had been years before. Five years ago we drove to someone's house and hunted on their property. I can only say I'm glad they weren't home so that we didn't get arrested. The really funny part is that what we found was what we were looking for. Oh, yeah. The people at Holland's Hill no longer allow collecting, thanks to some trespassers in the past.

See you next time. Ed

The World's Largest Brachiosaurus at The World's Largest Children's Museum

New Expansion at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis Features Permanent Dinosaur Sculptures

They lived 145 million years ago, walked on four legs, were three times as tall as giraffes, were as long as humpback whales and weighed up to 88 tons. They were so large that they probably had no predators, so they ruled the late Jurassic world and they are sure to rule The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. When you visit the museum in June, two life-sized Brachiosaurus sculptures will greet you. An approximately 50-foot-tall, 75-foot-long mother dinosaur will appear to lift the roof of the New Welcome Center, allowing her 30-foot-long child to enter the

building. The gentle plant-eaters are among the most widely known dinosaurs in the world — will you recognize them when you come face-to-face with them?

In 2004 The Children's Museum opened the \$25 million Dinosphere: Now You're in Their World®, a one-of-a-kind immersive dinosaur experience for children and families. It is one of the largest displays of real juvenile and family dinosaur fossils in the United States. The installation of the Brachiosaurs is timed to coincide with the five-year anniversary of the popular Dinosphere exhibit.

"The three giant Alamosaurs bursting from Dinosphere's exterior help get children excited about entering the world of dinosaurs. It is our hope that the addition of the Brachiosaurus to the new expansion will continue to compel children and their families to explore the world of science," said Dr. Jeffrey H. Patchen, president and CEO of The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Gary Staab of Staab Studios, located in Kearney, Mo. sculpted the two giant Brachiosaurs. They are the largest dinosaur sculptures that his studio has ever created. Staab Studios has permanent displays at museums around the world including the National Geographic Explorers Hall in Washington D.C., Denver's Museum of Nature and Science, Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Gunma Natural History Museum in Japan. The six-month creation process began with sketches of the Brachiosaurs, and then a team from the museum worked closely with Staab to create small, highly detailed models. The models were posed and scanned, and then the life-sized sculptures were carved in foam supported by an internal steel armature. A structural coating of polyurea was added to the foam pieces. Then the skin was sculpted and painted so that it would appear to be highly realistic, a hallmark of Staab Studios since it began in 1989.

Gary Staab's love of realistic, natural forms has been part of his life since childhood. He says, "I was at my happiest when I was surrounded by nature. I spent a lot of my time watching reptiles and other animals." In college he decided that natural science was the area that most interested him and he spent time visiting natural science museums. After taking a drawing class as a freshman, he recognized that he had artistic talent and began to explore how he could combine his interest in nature with his artistic talent in drawing and sculpture. He realized that he could use his talents to build exhibits.

The world's largest Brachiosaurs are the museum's newest icons, and they will greet millions of visitors at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis for generations to come.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is a nonprofit institution committed to creating extraordinary family learning experiences that have the power to transform the lives of children and families. The 433,000 square-foot facility houses 11 major galleries. Visitors can explore the physical and natural sciences, history, world cultures, the arts, see how dinosaurs lived 65 million years ago in Dinosphere: Now You're in Their World®, experience Dale Chihuly's Fireworks of Glass and examine children's impact in shaping history in The Power of Children: Making a Difference. The Children's Museum, situated on 19 acres of land in Indianapolis, presents hundreds of programs and activities each year. For more information about The Children's Museum in English and Spanish, visit www.childrensmuseum.org

PSoA April Meeting Minutes Tuesday , May 19, 2009

SPEAKER

Hugh Downs and Wally Downs gave a very engaging talk titled "Acceptance of New Ideas in Science."
The presentation is available at
<http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/papers.html>.

MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:35pm by President Ed Elliot.

OLD BUSINESS

The meeting minutes from April were approved.

Accounts: Treasurer David Lindberg reported \$4725.55 in the checking account. Joan Crane noted there is approximately \$8655 in the old APS account.

Mineral Wells Dump: David Lindberg reported that Mineral Wells Town Council will announce results of the dump's future in June. The Mineral Wells park project now has a Facebook page -
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=111955749008&ref=mf>.

NEW BUSINESS

Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society show: John Hinte received a letter from the Tri-City club requesting fossil displays for their show October 10 - 11. (The show location is the Frank Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple, TX). PSoA should put in a case for this show. Ed Elliot requested volunteers for the display (please contact Ed if you would like to volunteer). The display case can be entered for competition or non-competition. **YOU MUST SUPPLY YOUR OWN CASE** (or borrow one from PSoA/AGMS). This is an excellent venue to highlight both Fossilmania and Fossil Fest.

Non-Profit Federal and State Filings: Mike Smith noted that David Lindberg filed a 990 N online with the IRS. Mike filed Form 802 Periodic Report of a Nonprofit Corporation with the State of Texas. Joan Crane will give David Lindberg the PSoA income from last year.

In the News: Linda McCall discovered an interesting Yahoo News article today. The article is about dinosaurs that survived and have been found past the K-T boundary. (Erich - I found this research paper online. I don't know if this is the basis of the Yahoo

article Linda read or not... The research was submitted in 2007 and just accepted in April of 2009. Use it if you think it is useful. http://www.palaeo-electronica.org/2009_1/149/index.html)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Field Trip: Ed Elliot mentioned that the May Field Trip will be conducted May 23 - 24 (Sat. - Sun.) in Oklahoma. Field Trippers should meet at 8am at the Callixylon Tree (petrified wood tree) just off Main Street in Ada, OK. Some fossil hunting sites will be Pennsylvanian but most will be from the Devonian period this weekend. It will cost \$5 to get into the "Yellow Bluff" site. Bring a rock and/or sledge hammer (for "Yellow Bluff" and Bob's), jeans, boots and snake guards. Also, bring water and food with you since there are very few locations to buy it in Clarita.

Fossil Fest: Linda McCall requested members to please collect extra fossils - wherever you go - for teacher kits and Fossil Fest.

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)

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DATED MATERIAL – MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS MAIL