



ROCK -N- ROSE



PAGE 1

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TYLER, TEXAS

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MAY 2008

Coming Shows, 2008

MAY 24-25

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

"Let's Rock"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Amon Carter Exhibit Bldg., Will Rogers Memorial Center e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com

MAY 30-JUNE 1

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Gem Faire; Expo Square/Exchange Center (503) 252-8300 e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

JUNE 13-15

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA: Retail and wholesale show; Shows of Integrity; Oklahoma City Fairgrounds

JUNE 20-22

HOUSTON, TEXAS

International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc.; Reliant Center at Reliant Park e-mail: laurie@intergem.net; Web site: www.InterGem.com

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Annual show; Palace of the Governors Museum; Museum Courtyard free admission (505) 476-5112 Web site: www.palaceofthegovernors.org

President's Message

Had a good meeting this month. Good participation, good food and people brought examples of what they found on the field trips to the North Sulfur River and the cement plant. Lots of pretty specimens !!!! Several more field trips planned for this year, with lots of opportunities for collecting specimens. Summer is coming and I know lots of folks have vacations planned. Please make an effort to come to the monthly meetings and bring examples of what you've found. Doesn't hurt to let others know of your experiences and tell them about good collecting sites. Any extra specimens you might pick up for donation to the club would also be appreciated.

Ran into a fellow at Wal-mart the other day and he asked if I was with the ETGMS. He said he'd gone to our show in January and recognized me. Told me that he'd never met a friendlier, nicer, more helpful bunch of folks. Said he'd really enjoyed himself and learned a lot. Told him that was no surprise to me because that's the way we Rockhounds are. Invited him to attend a meeting in Tyler and offered to give him a ride to it.

Please be thinking of any special lapidary skill or interest that you have and would be willing to present a program on. Doesn't have to be a long one because we can combine short programs. A group as large as ours is bound to have quite a mixture of interests and abilities. Feel free to share these with your fellow Rockhounds.

That's all I have for now. Stay safe and good luck collecting !!!!

Robert Criss

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. May Minutes/ Note
3. Field Trip Notes
4. Fossil Info Continued'
5. Fossil Info Continued'
6. Fossil Info Continued'
7. Fossil Info Continued'
8. Officers and Directions



MAY MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met May 5th, 2008. President Rip Criss called the meeting to order and welcomed guest Mary Ann Ashcraft. The minutes from the previous month as published were approved and under old business Laura Wilson reported on the field trip to the North Sulphur River. Our group cumulatively collected approximately 50 - 60 shark teeth as well as other treasures. President Rip reported that the trip to the cretaceous Ashgrove quarry at Midlothian was a very nice trip on a pleasant day that yielded lots of finds. Pete and Laura displayed samples of pyrite and marcasite collected, and some nice septarian pieces among other things. The trip was limited to 12 and the quarry is only open twice a year but our club has been invited back in October with a possible side trip to the TXI plant close by. The next trip will be to Lake Stanley Draper in Oklahoma and will be hosted by the San Antonio & Ft. Worth clubs and on June 6, 7 & 8. A bonus trip to the nearby Red Earth Pow Wow is also available.

There was no new business. Door prize drawings were held with winners Mattie, Laura, John Hargis, Darlene, Rip, Gene and Annette taking the winnings. We so appreciate the folks who take the time to generously donate pieces from their collections.

After a snack break, Don gave a program on geologic maps, part II. He explained the features and purposes of geologic maps, what sets them apart from other maps and the difference between surface maps as opposed to cross-section maps. Maps such as the ones Don displayed can be used to pinpoint good collection points and even mine sites. Don gave tips on where to purchase good maps (when he has a garage sale) and displayed a portion of his map collection. Thank you, Don, for another informative, interesting and entertaining presentation. You're an invaluable asset to our club.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, Secretary



JUNE MEETING PROGRAM

TBA at meeting



A NOTE FROM MARILYN AUSTIN

The Austin Paleo group has gone bonkers over the huge talus slope near our ranch, where I now am living, for cretaceous fossils. In particular, there are really fine regular echinoids to be found. I'm willing to host anyone from the club that would like to come out to hunt. We can accommodate up to a dozen people overnight if they don't object to hostel type arrangements. I know Becky would like to come again and new member, Pat Snell. Ask anyone interested to e-mail me and we can pick a date. Assume this will be in addition to the regular club trips since I know most people aren't interested in fossils.



**FIELD TRIP NOTES:
Ash Grove Cement Quarry
By: Laura Wilson**

Brrr.....it was downright cold getting out of the warm cocoon of our vehicle into the breeze! Did I really want to collect fossils in this weather? What was I thinking?

Okay, 9 from Tyler braved the elements, to Midlothian, Texas, (but first, our safety talk from Sean) at the Quarry, and off we went exploring! The Fort Worth Club how about the same amount of people we did, so it was a great group.

Yours truly found a mound of dirt to hide behind it until the wind died down, or the sun warmed up the earth...hey whichever came first! We walked up and down the quarry road, over, and around and down into the pits. Didn't see any snakes (boy that was a relief, since Sean said he killed a rattler the week before.)

We found lots of sharks teeth, a jawbone impression (well, really Peter Cornell found that), lots of pyrite, and unusual rock formations. Everyone came back with treasures, and FYI, we were told this quarry only allows two field trips per year at this location. PER YEAR! We have been invited back (from Sean) in September or October! How cool is that! We will also try to get into the TXI plant on Hwy 67 & 287 in Midlothian that afternoon. So mark you calendars tentatively for October 11-12. Let's see what we can find out!

Question for everybody. Do you know of a place that we haven't collected in awhile, and would like to go back to?

See you on the Rocks!

Laura



Article continued from April 2008:

FOSSIL FRAUD:

Only the most experienced fossil dealers who possess necessary test and preparation equipment and who are **EXTENSIVELY EXPERIENCED WITH ALL TECHNIQUES OF FOSSIL RESTORATION AND FABRICATION** should be trusted to know the difference when it comes to fake fossils of ANY source or type! Very, very few fossil dealers have any more knowledge in this than the very customers that rely on them! Do NOT be afraid to ask your fossil dealer about his or her **PERSONAL** and immediate experience in fossil preparation, restoration and fabrication. If they tell you they do not **PERSONALLY** possess **MANY YEARS OF EXTENSIVE first-hand** experience in artistic techniques and application in fossil fabrication and restoration, and that they are relying on **THEIR** sources, avoid these dealers at all costs!!! These fossil dealers likely have several specimen in their inventory that they have no clue as to their true authenticity regardless of any guarantee or assurances that they will provide you.

Ask any scientist or museum curator and they will tell you. Fake fossils have become such a problem in today's commercial fossil market. It is of utmost importance for both dealers and collectors to be able to determine if a fossil has been faked or parts of it fabricated. We have dedicated a separate section on this important topic beyond the introduction you see here. You can see the entire section by clicking the button below.

Since there are no fossil authentication services, no respected dealer guilds to support, and no books on the market explaining how to detect fake or restored fossils, the commercial fossil market requires the practice of **CAVEAT EMPTOR**, or "let the buyer beware". The fossil business is increasingly being plagued each year with better and more advanced fakes finding their way into the marketplace. This can be confirmed by anyone in the paleontological scientific community! Add to this the extensive knowledge a dealer **MUST** possess in order to properly identify their fossils and recognize fake specimens and you can see that the sale of fossils is not a task to be taken lightly.

A FOSSIL DEALER KNOWLEDGEABLE IN FOSSIL RESTORATION, REPAIR AND FABRICATION IS YOUR PRIMARY DEFENSE AND BEST INSURANCE POLICY when it comes to building a fine quality fossil collection of accurately identified and authentic fossils. What determines a "knowledgeable" dealer? The staff at Paleo Direct is fully experienced in fossil preparation, repair and restoration. To be clear - we don't just **KNOW** how it's done - **WE DO IT**. It's not enough to brag about what equipment you have if you really just show it off for promotional purposes and fire it up once in a while. We all **KNOW** how to use the fully equipped lab we operate on our premises. If we do not prepare a specimen that we sell, the extensive years of experience in fossil preparation allows us to confidently assess a fossil to determine and disclose to the customer what exactly has been done to it.

We feel that the only fossil dealer that can be relied on when it comes to this topic (assuming the dealer is honest to begin with!) is a dealer who **PERSONALLY** knows AND HAS CONSIDERABLE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE in actually preparing, repairing and



Page 4 Continued:

restoring fossils. This excludes some dealers but many of the techniques used today to forge and fabricate fossils have become so sophisticated that without this experience it becomes dangerous "guesswork". Many dealers have been sold forgeries by their suppliers who *they* thought were their "friends" only to find out the truth at the expense of their customers and reputation. Stay away from brokers and stick with a professional supplier who has the ACTUAL fossil preparation hours under their belt if you want peace of mind. Without this, you are trusting a stranger who is also trusting a stranger or "friend". Sure, most fossil dealers will offer unconditional guarantees and a refund if a fossil is found to be misrepresented but don't you want to KNOW what you have without the fear of uncertainty? It's good to check up and get second opinions on even dealers you know but you should NOT have to do that with EVERY purchase you make. We at Paleo Direct encourage our customers to acquire second opinions FROM THE SCIENTIFIC OR SCHOLASTIC COMMUNITY. Obviously, from the massive amount of information we provide on this website, we believe the more you know, the better position you will be in.

AN HONEST BUT UNINFORMED FOSSIL DEALER IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN A DISHONEST FOSSIL DEALER. The end result is the same - you will not get what you are told you are getting but worse yet, a seemingly honest dealer does not give you any "red flags" or negative vibe so you drop your guard and in their ignorance, they sell a fake or misrepresented fossil.

As the customer, your ultimate best defense will come with time. It is **EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION!!!!** Learn all you can about what you collect, why it is rare, what makes it rare, what it looks like, how to spot fakes or restoration and what is the proper identification of different specimens. If you actively purchase fossils from various sources and you do not possess this knowledge, you WILL get burned, guaranteed! It's only a matter of time and it will be a costly education! Remember, in the realm of collecting fossils or primitive human artifacts, **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.** Besides, you will gain enlightenment and a far greater appreciation for this hobby and your fossil collection if you know all about it.

If in doubt, the best unbiased advice you can seek for a second opinion is to ask a paleontologist or related scientist affiliated with a local museum. Some will be happy to help. Another valuable source is a professor within a university geology, biology or ideally, paleontology department. While they may not be fully aware of techniques for faking fossils, they WILL know what the real specimen should look like or what it may be if identification is an issue.

Where there are specific issues with specific types of specimens we offer, we try to point out what to look for in the individual listing or page on this website. We will be happy to help answer any questions on this topic BUT.... we will NOT point out bad dealers or appraise or identify your fossils for you. That was the responsibility of the dealer you bought them from. Go to them or have a member of the scientific or scholastic community help you.



Page 5 Continued:

WHY COLLECT FOSSILS?:

FOSSIL Collecting is a highly rewarding and educational passion. Unlike the mindless collecting mentality of "collecting just to collect", building a fine quality fossil collection will give a lifetime of pleasure and offers a depth of satisfaction that most other pursuits fail to fill. Each and every acquisition is a mini-education and whether you collect across the broad spectrum of prehistoric life or focus on a specific type, the end result will be the same - pride in the knowledge gained and a meaningful understanding and awareness that goes way beyond formal education.

A personal fossil collection can transport one back in time and impact those that might never have exposure to real fossils, up close and personal. If you share your collection for others to view, who knows who you may be influencing or exposing to the fascinating world of paleontology. Private fossil collections offer us an appreciation of prehistory in a way that museums have failed miserably to provide. The lack of fascinating and tangible museum exhibits showcasing genuine fossils has directly resulted in waning public interest and financial support for these institutions. Regardless of how small your private collection may be, showcasing your own genuine fossils or artifacts of primitive humans in either a home or office setting, would not only make for an impressive display but will offer a rare experience for most that come in contact with them.

WHY COLLECT PRIMITIVE HUMAN ARTIFACTS?:

PRIMITIVE HUMAN ARTIFACTS are unique in that while a fossil puts us in touch with prehistoric plant and animal life, artifacts from primitive humans add further depth to our experience with the past. We are talking about holding in our hand a stone tool that another man or woman made tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of years ago. You can hold the tool just they way they did, feel the tool in the exact way they designed it to feel. If it is comfortable or fits a certain way, it is because an early human designed it that way. You are experiencing the product of a human mind FROM LONG AGO! This is a transcending experience to many.

Human history on this earth is a speck compared to all other life-forms. While many tools were left behind from the existence of prehistoric humans, we refrain from selling the rarest specimens, reserving these acquisitions for a private museum collection we will exhibit in the future. Furthermore, we DO NOT sell, promote or encourage the sale of HUMAN FOSSILS. Please do not ask us for these. If you see any for sale elsewhere, consider them fake as they most certainly are. All human fossils ever discovered from PRIMITIVE HUMANS could fit in the bed of a pick-up truck.

LEGALITY OF FOSSILS FOR SALE and COLLECTING FOSSILS:

Many people are unaware they have the ability to purchase and own AUTHENTIC



Page 6 Continued:

FOSSILS. Aside from a few countries in the world, private ownership of genuine fossils and primitive man artifacts are completely legal. In some instances, specific countries address the difference of private ownership of VERTEBRATE FOSSILS and INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS in cases where the fossils originate from the country in which the collector resides. For instance, ALL FOSSILS from Italy are illegal to privately own if you reside in Italy. All VERTEBRATE FOSSILS from Canada are illegal to privately own, sell or collect.

Generally speaking, all fossils are LEGAL to privately own in the United States and most developed countries of the Free World provided they were legally collected if they are specimens originating in the country they are ultimately owned. In the United States, you cannot go out and privately collect and own DINOSAUR FOSSILS taken from federal land but if the land is privately owned and permission is given by the landowner, the same fossils are perfectly legal to own, collect or sell. This is where it is extremely important for buyers to KNOW and trust the reputability and professional standing of the dealer from which they acquire their specimens. The patronage of prominent and professional suppliers is of utmost importance to not only ensure you are getting accurately represented fossils with regards to authenticity and restoration but more importantly, that you are spending your hard-earned money on a specimen that was legally acquired from private land or not stolen from a museum or a private party.

Paleo Direct, Inc. only sells AUTHENTIC fossils and ones which are legal to own. Every fossil and primitive human artifact we sell is guaranteed for life to be authentic and as described. Every specimen purchased comes with our certificate of authenticity providing history about the specimen and where it was found.

SPECIAL NOTE: PALEO DIRECT, INC. DOES NOT OFFER ADVICE, OPINION OR VALUE ON FOSSILS OR ARTIFACTS FROM ANY OTHER SELLER OR SOURCE OTHER THAN OUR OWN MATERIAL. THE INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION IS TO EDUCATE YOU TO MAKE YOUR OWN INFORMED DECISIONS.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK US TO PROVIDE ANY OPINION OR ADVICE ON WHAT YOU HAVE ACQUIRED OR PLAN TO FROM OTHER SOURCES. IT IS BEST TO CONSULT YOUR LOCAL MUSEUM OR UNIVERSITY FOR SECOND OPINIONS.

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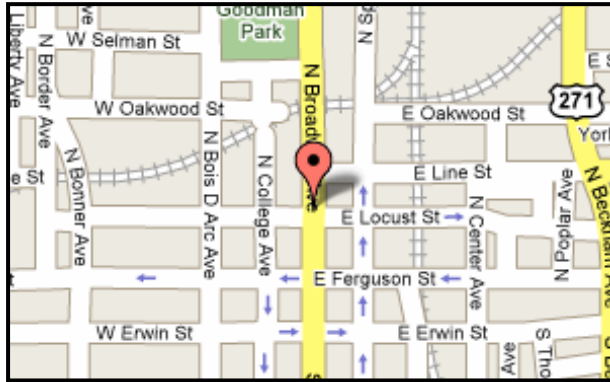
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Feel free to use contents and graphics for non-profit newsletters.

Give credit when and where due.

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts.

The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

Annual dues are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.50 for juniors.

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