

The Purpose and Function of Fossil Clubs – a Personal Perspective

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North Carolina Fossil Club

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Paleontology as a Science



**Xenophanes – 5th century BC; Greek philosopher, theologian & poet
c. 570 – 475 BC**

**Georges Cuvier – early 19th century naturalist and zoologist
1769 - 1832**



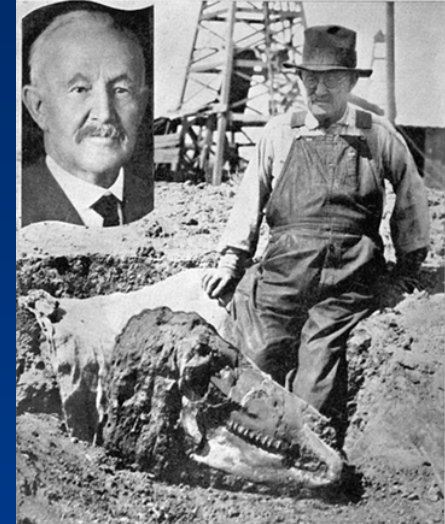
Early Avocational Paleontologists



**Elizabeth Philpot
(1780 – 1857)**



**Mary Anning
(1799 – 1847)**

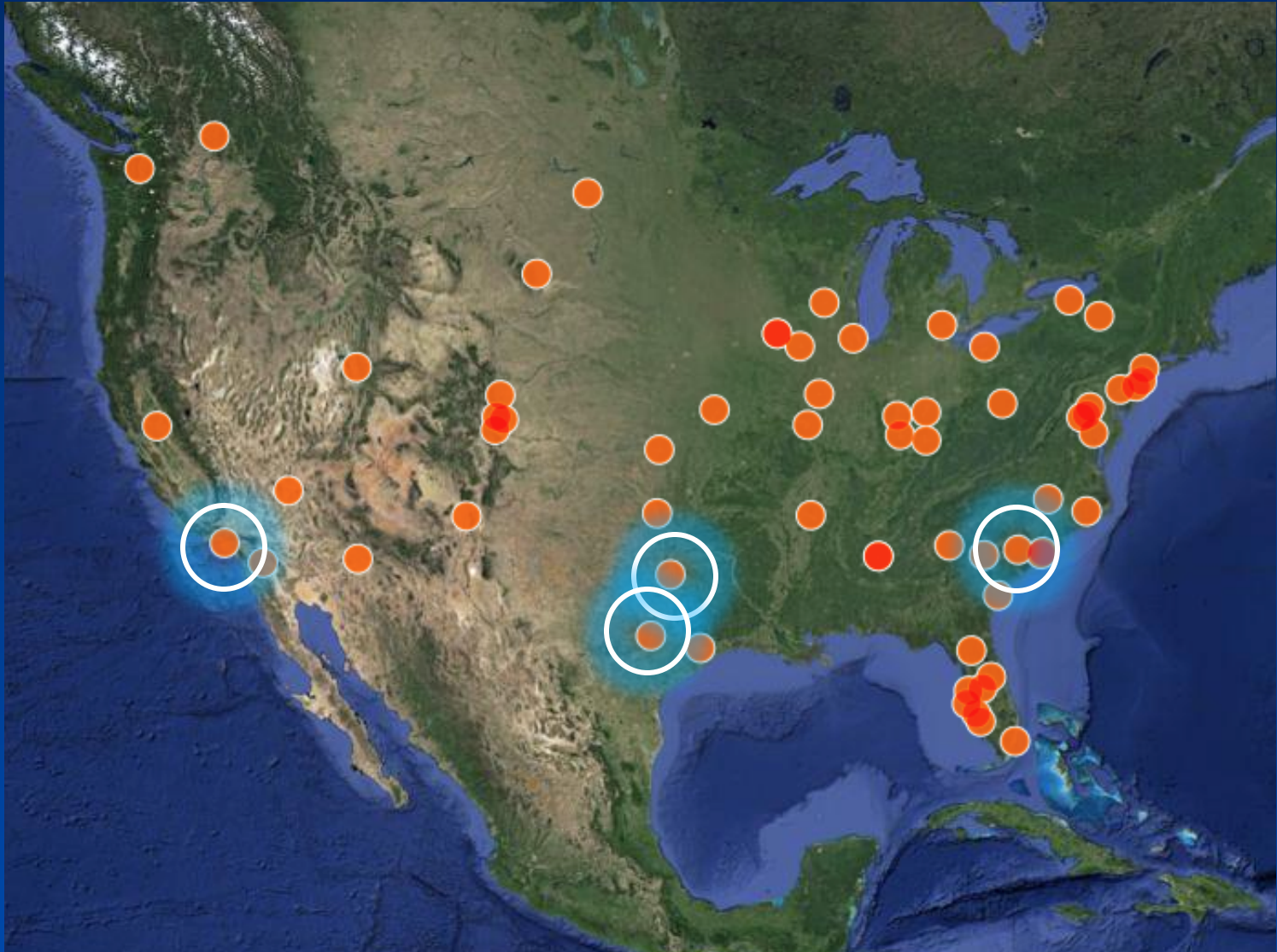


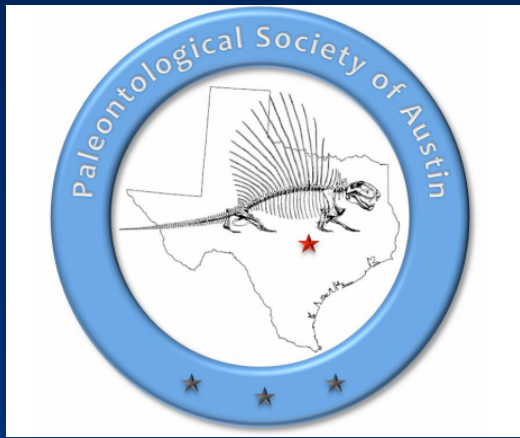
**Charles Hazelius Sternberg
(1850 – 1943)**



George Sternberg

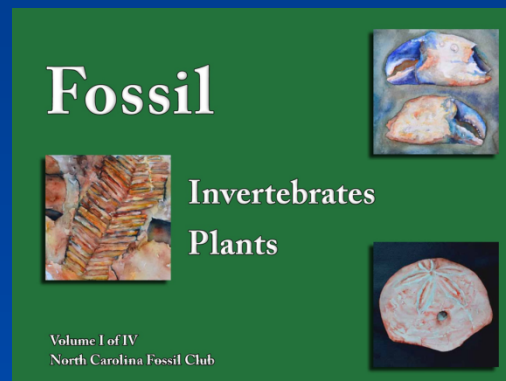
Today's Fossil Clubs





Today's Fossil Clubs

- Collect in the field - ethically
- Curate/Catalogue/Collections/Displays
- Research
- Publish – articles/papers/books
- Publish – peer-reviewed
- Public outreach
- Grants/scholarships/donations



Today's Fossil Clubs

- Volunteer time
- Communicate good sites/finds
- Donate exceptional specimens

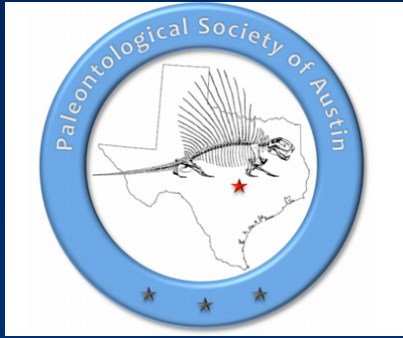


- Eclectic group of individuals
- Club hierarchy
- Love field collecting
- Some join just to collect / “bad apples”
- Members collections / research
- Share knowledge with each other / public



Club Structure Basics

- 501 (c) (3)
 - By-laws / Mission Statement
 - Ethics Policy
 - Liability Insurance
 - Elected Officers / Board of Directors
 - Professional Advisors
 - Website / Social Media
 - Grants / Scholarships / Donations
 - Affiliates



Paleontological Society of Austin

Founded in the late 1970s, 200 members
Member since 1976



Southern California Paleontological Society

Founded in 1960, 80+ members
Member since 2008



North Carolina Fossil Club

Founded in 1977, ~300 members
Member since 2010

Other Organizations



Special Friends Of the Aurora Fossil Museum

Founded in 2001, 70+ members



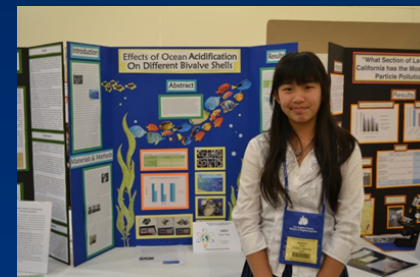
Aurora Fossil Museum

Founded in 1976 by members of PCS and the mayor of Aurora



Meetings/Speakers

- Meetings / guest lecturer forum
business meeting / show-n-tell / door prizes
 - Professional Paleontologists
 - Grad students
 - Avocational Paleontologists
 - Science Fair winner
 - Fellow club members
- Auction / Christmas Party / Picnic
 - Raise money
 - Speakers
 - Food, fun and fossils



Paleo Footnotes

Newsletter of the
Paleontological Society of Austin

Austin and Central Texas



Volume 8, Number 1
January 2013

Newsletters

- Presidents note
- Speaker topic & bio
- Fossil articles
- Field Trip reports
- Future Trip notices
- Calendar of Events
- Club officers contact
- Membership info

PALEONTOLOGICAL

SOCIETY

JULY - AUGUST 2013

VOL. 43 • NOS. 7 & 8

Pennsylvanian and
Permian Fossils
of Texas

Praying
Mantis
on the
Hunt

FOUNDED

1960

ISSN 0160-4937



JANUS

The Newsletter
of the
North Carolina
Fossil Club
www.ncfossilclub.org
2013 Number 4

2014 Spring Calendar

JANUARY
19 NCFC Meeting - NCNMS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, 1:30 pm, Level A conference room. Speaker: Dr. Gregg F. Gansel, Director, Division of Fossil Primates, Duke University Lemur Center, "Fossil Primates from Egypt and Madagascar - Origins and Extinctions"

FEBRUARY
15-18 NCFC Convention, Gainesville, FL (see right)
22 Schiele Museum Fossil Fair - 1300 East Clanton Blvd., Gastonia, 9:00 - 6:00 Saturday, General contact: See below.

MARCH
16 NCFC Meeting - NCNMS, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, 1:30 pm, Level A conference room. Volume 17 roll-out, more details in March, 2014 Janus.

APRIL
26 Norwood Arthur Day and Fossil Fair 10:00 - 4:00 (tentative) Contact: Ruffin Tucker at 704-784-1672 or fruffin77@gmail.com.

* Some hints, just in case you don't know what Volume 1 is: We've been working on it for almost 15 years and have accumulated 17,000 photographs for it and Volumes II, III, & IV. You need to put March 16 on your calendar NOW!

Our complete spring calendar will be in Janus 2014(1), out in March.

President's Column

2013 has come and gone and 2014 is finally here. Last year was filled with wonderful fossil finds, lots of friends and lots of fun. We all enjoyed the fine field trips we had and benefited from the closing of Rocky Point. Both the Aurora Fossil Festival and the November Fossil Fair were huge successes - as were the two Aurora cook-outs. Our bi-monthly meetings had some awesome speakers. We hope everyone in the club had a chance to participate in something they enjoyed.

Looking forward to 2014 we have the possibility of Onslow and Beaufort re-opening for collecting and with Jack Caille Hayne will let us in twice a season instead of just once. Add on Green's Mill Run and a couple Aurora picnics and we may once again have a full collecting schedule. We know you all love nothing better than to be in the field! (At least I do.) A. Exciting times ahead for our club with the return of the field of use new book series early in the year. This has been a labor of love for many years and it is thrilling to see it finally come to fruition. On a different note entirely, the NACPC convention in Gainesville, Florida in February will be having a companion specifically on integrating the professional world of paleontology with the public (which could impact us all in a very positive way) as well as a workshop specifically for different fossil clubs across the country to get together and share best practices, etc. Anyone wanting to attend the convention can - it's not limited to professionals. Let's hope 2014 is once again filled with fossils, friends and fun. See you in the field.

Linda



The Schiele

Museum

1300 East Clanton Blvd.

Gastonia, NC 28804

www.schielemuseum.org

The Aurora Fossil Friends Newsletter



Volume 11
Number 4 - December 2013
Whole Number 43

CURRENT HAPPENINGS AT THE AURORA FOSSIL MUSEUM

Hi Everyone,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our wonderful Friends of the Aurora Fossil Museum. The staff hopes that dreams of shark teeth and other fossils fill your nights. If you get a chance come by the Museum and see our tree, the new employee LeeAnna Robertson did a fantastic job making it feel more like the season around here. Our park has a brand new fence donated by Whitehurst Fencing of Washington and Cliff Williams, Mayor of Aurora. Our red bows dress the park up and as always there are surprises around to make our visitors feel welcomed.



So happy to say the museum is proud of the new tables, donated by the Friends, for our touch area of the learning center. I have brass tags ordered to be mounted on each and we have offered one of the tables to Potomac Corp of Aurora to do a display for

visitors that better explains their products. We have the video that shows a small part of the process but this will actually have samples of their products.

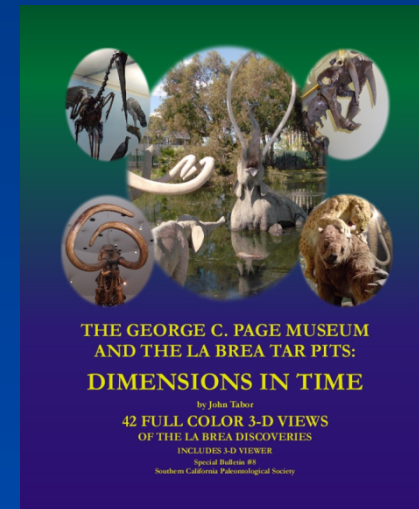
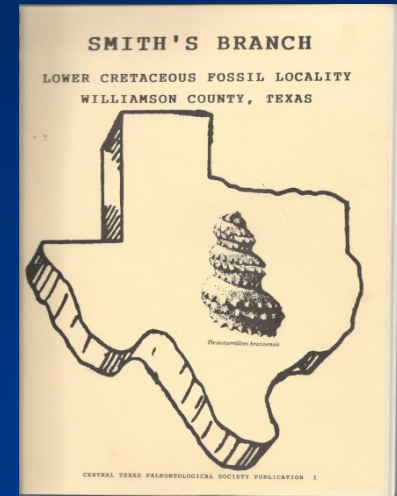
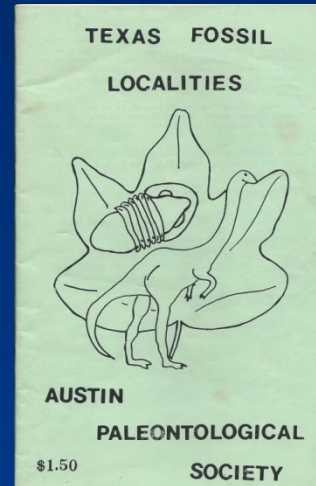
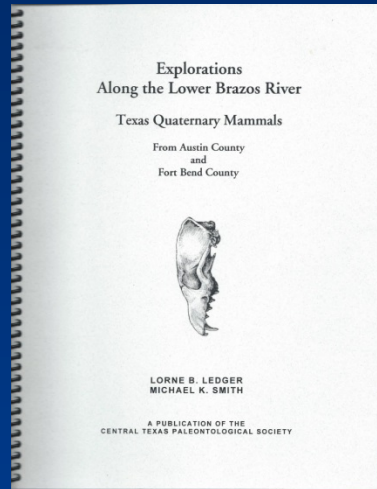
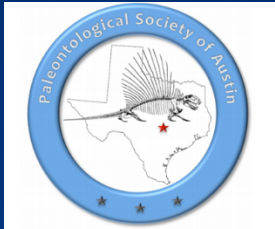


Our Outreach numbers this year are fantastic and a total of 49 different places had the pleasure of either George or me presenting a display from the Aurora Fossil Museum. We of the Aurora Fossil Museum would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the best New Year ever.

Andrea Salley - Director

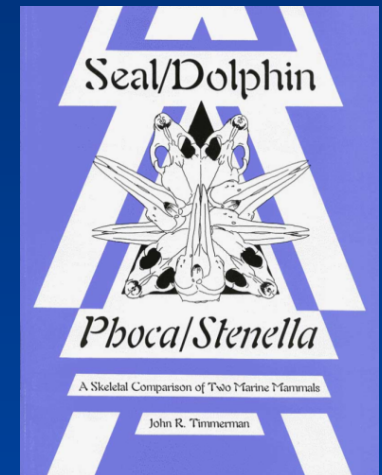
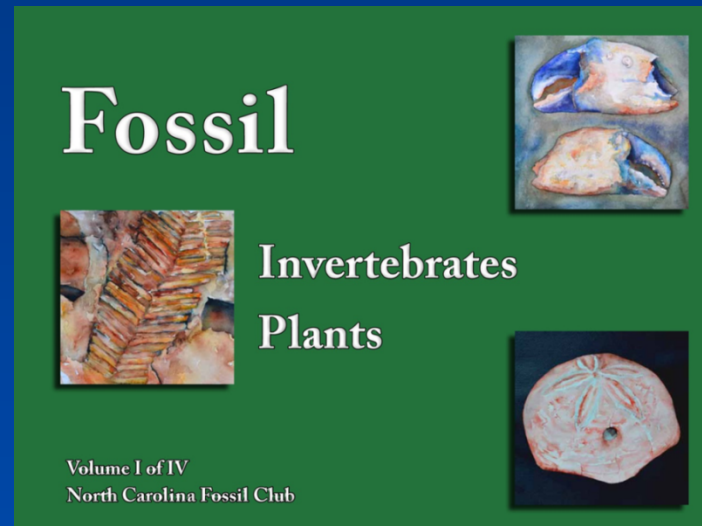
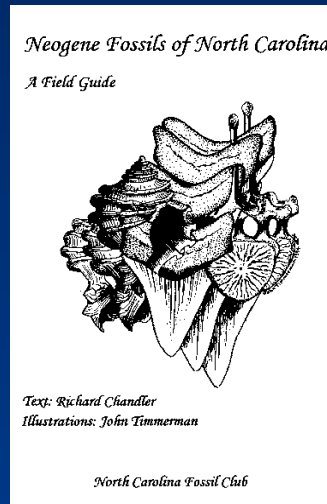
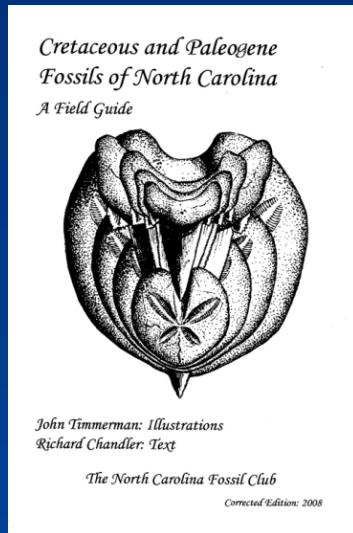
CONTENTS:	
PAGE 1 -	Director's Message
PAGE 2 -	President's Message
PAGE 3 -	North American Mosasaurs
PAGE 6 -	Andrewsarchus
PAGE 8 -	Editor's Column
PAGE 9 -	Membership changes
PAGE 12 -	Friends Application

Publications





Publications



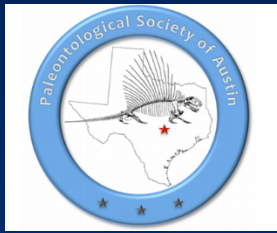
Field Trips



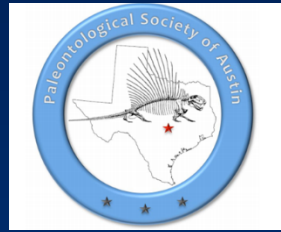
Public Outreach

- Schools / Museums / Libraries
- Can I grow up to be the Dallas Club??
- Paleontological Society of Austin
 - Fossil Fest – 24th year
 - Paleo Passport with TEKS correlations
 - UT support in identification and talks
 - Free teachers kits
 - Hands on Displays
 - Touch Table / Cabbing Station
 - Demos/Static Displays / Spinning Wheel
 - Dino man – Alan Peters



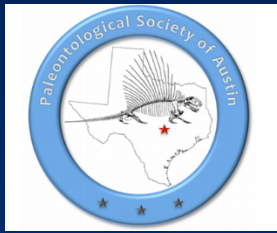


Fossil Fest

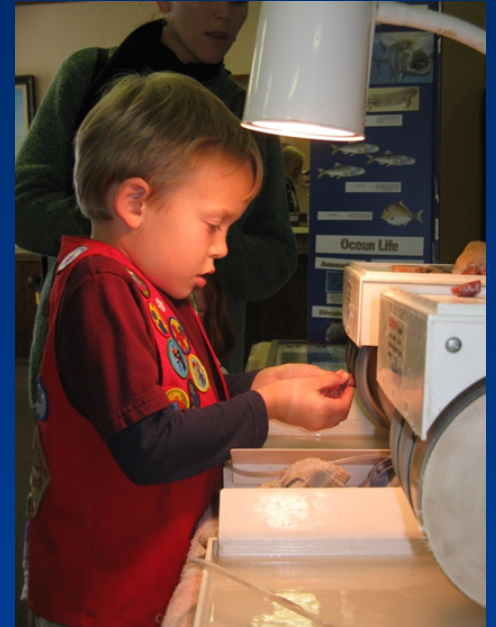
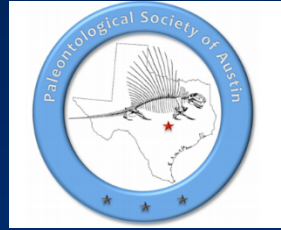


- ~1,000 general public
- Free teachers kits
- UT advisors ID / talks
- Paleo passports
- Emma the Ammonite



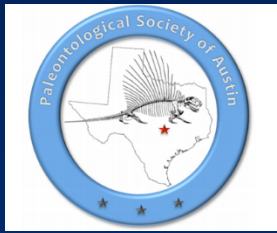


Fossil Fest



- Interactive Microscope
- Dino Rub
- Fossil Cabbaging





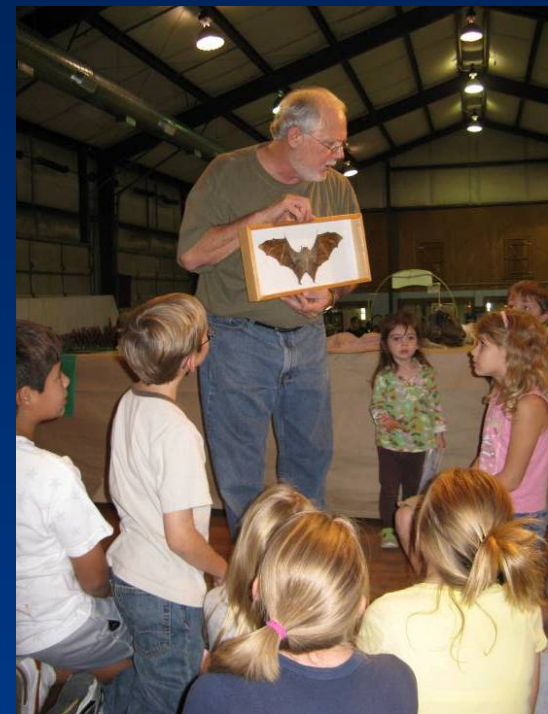
Fossil Fest



- Touch Table
- Dig Pit
- Spinning Wheel







**Alan Peters -
Kids learn how a
dinosaur walked,
talked, and what they
ate !**





Fossil Fair

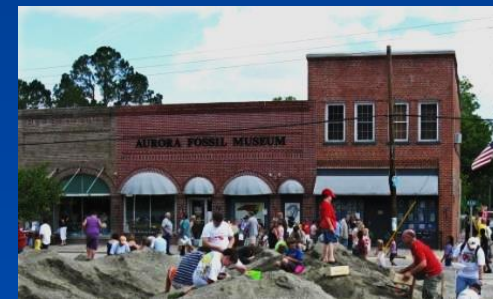


- Underserved areas
- Free
- No dealers
- Speakers
- Professionals to ID
- 6,000 general public





Community Interaction





Outreach Statewide

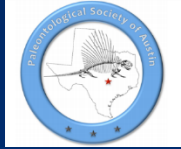


- 50 different venues
 - Schools / Clubs / Fairs, etc.
 - Classrooms / Libraries
 - 1,000 school children
- Aurora Fossil Festival
 - 10,000 fair / 2,000 museum
- 31,000 people impacted
- Support of The Friends



Outreach Results

Local Area

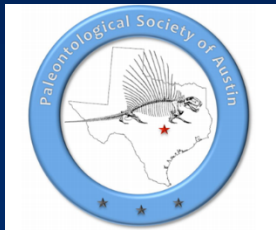


- Impact ~1,000 children annually “informal education”
 - School presentations / scout fieldtrips / museums
 - Fossil Fest
- Donate \$2,000 in grants / scholarships annually



Statewide

- Impact several thousand children annually “informal education”
 - Members donate hundreds of hours and drive thousands of miles
 - fossil tours at quarries / school presentations / museums
 - Fossil Fairs / Festivals
- Donate \$100s of dollars annually



Professional Interaction



- VP/ NPL labs
 - VP Lab tech demos
 - Numerous specimens donated
- UT Science Advisor support
 - Dr. Ann Molineux
 - Dr. James Sprinkle – 1985 UT/Club project
- Peer reviewed published members:
 - Kevin Durney – 4 papers
 - Linda McCall – 4 papers / 2 awards
 - Chris Garvie – 14 papers / 3 awards
 - 2006 Strimple Award

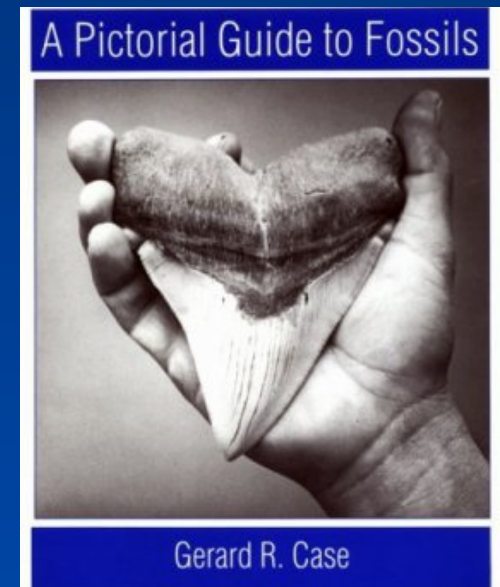




Professional Interaction

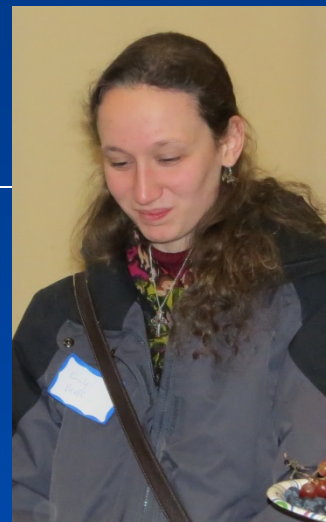


- Numerous specimens donated to the Smithsonian, etc.
- Professional help / specimen identification / publications
- Peer reviewed published members:
 - Eric Sadorf – 1 paper
 - Don Clements – 4 papers
 - Richard Chandler – 4 papers
 - George Powell – 1 paper
 - Gerard (Jerry) Case – 108 papers
 - Author of “A Pictorial Guide to Fossils”
- Strimple Award Winners
 - Jerry Case 1992
 - LeGrand Smith
 - Pete Harmatuk



Joining the Professionals

- Don Clements – Field Associate in Paleontology at NCSM (volunteer position) Day Job – graphic artist
 - Linda McCall – Research Fellow at UT, Austin (volunteer position) Day Job – none
-
- Scott Kelly – Manager of Geology/ XTO Energy
 - Emily Bruff – working on Ph.D. in Paleontology
-
- Cindy Crane – back to school for Masters



Today's Club Challenges

- Clubs were formed to go out in the field and collect
 - Too many people / too few sites / bad apples
- Lack access to research material
- Lack access to professional conventions
- Lack proper training in collecting techniques/prep/curation
- Teaching New / Reminding Old – Values
 - Donating specimens / ethical collecting rules
- Distrust from some in the professional community
 - Two way street
- Exposed Fossils have a finite life
 - Too few professionals



What Clubs have to offer


- Clubs have evolved over time
- Aurora Whale Project
- 75% scientifically relevant specimens found by amateurs
- 60 clubs / 100 – 200 members = 6,000 – 12,000 allies in the field
- Underutilized resource
- Synergistic partnership between us has exponential benefits



Can citizen scientists make a difference ?

Yes !

- 75% of all scientifically important specimens are found by amateurs (Rob Weems)
- 85% of all scientifically important elasmobranch specimens are found by amateurs (Brett Kent)



PALEO QUEST

The End



Acknowledgements/References

Personal Interviews with:

- PoSA members:
 - Ed Elliott, Suzanne Galligher, Chris Garvie, Kevin Durney, Mike Smith, Erich Rose, Scott Kelley
- SoCAL members;
 - Jennifer Morita, John Tabor
- NCFC members
 - Richard Chandler, Joy Herrington, James Bain, George Powell, Jerry Case, Eric Sadorf, Mike Bruff, Emily Bruff, Don Clements, Jonathan Fain, Diane Willis
- Friends of Aurora
 - Lee Cone
- Aurora Museum
 - Andrea Stilley
- Wikipedia
- FOSSIL Project website
- Photos: Linda McCall, Trish Kohler, Andrea Stilley, Wikipedia