

THE FOSSIL RECORD



DECEMBER MEETING: HOLIDAY PARTY & AUCTION

By Kate Fenton and Tom Dill



The Dallas Paleontological Society will meet Wednesday, December 14 at 7PM Central for the annual Holiday Party and Auction in the traditional meeting room at Brookhaven College, Bldg. H. Besides a festive dinner of ham, traditional green bean casserole and corn pudding, members are invited to bring their favorite holiday treats to share. Drinks and table wear will be provided. We encourage you to invite your fellow DPS friends for this festive celebration that will include a live and silent auction with dozens of fossils and paleontology-related items. Great gifts for the paleontology-buff, or for yourself!



The DPS would like to share special thanks to Bill and Wanda Lowe, who have donated about 100 books to the DPS that will be up for bids. The DPS would also like to recognize the family of Irene Stemple, who has donated many flats of fossils from Irene's collection. We deeply appreciate all donations that will help the DPS continue to improve and maintain resources in the New Year.

Are you interested in donating for the Holiday Auction?

Auction Opportunities: It's time to review your fossil stash, paleo equipment, and reference. Donate your duplicates. In addition, this year you are invited to donate **experiences** for your fellow DPS members to bid on and enjoy!

- Provide an opportunity for one or more members to bid for a tour of your collection!
- Share a favorite collection site with a lucky bidder and /or a small group of 2-6 for a mini or major field trip.
- Demonstrate prep techniques for a lucky bid winner!
- Host an artistic or esthetic activity that incorporates some of yours or the winner's fossil finds.
- Present a mini-session on fossil hunting as a hobby for a group of the winner's choosing such as your child or grandchild's class at school, a birthday party for kids or adults, scouts, after school groups, a special interest group or even his or her neighborhood.¹

Think "outside the rock"; think experiences! Paleo-related experiences are only limited by your imagination so think about the upcoming auction and create a unique on-of-a-kind experience for our DPS members to get excited about.

Volunteers are welcome. Come mingle with your DPS friends, make some fossil plans for the New Year, and support future DPS programming and outreach in the process. Contact Kate Fenton at VP@dallaspaleo.org to choose a volunteer activity you'd enjoy.

SAYING THANKS WITH THE PRESIDENT

by Estée Easley

I am honored to have been the DPS President these past two years. I think the Society is none the worse for wear than when I started, so I'll call that a success! With each vote, initiative, or Society action, I did mental double-check to confirm that it fits the DPS purpose and that we are staying true to Chuck Finsley's legacy. I was so excited to meet Suzi Finsley Gibbons and Rosa Finsley in person at FOSSILMANIA XL! Next year, I will be supporting the Executive Committee as an advisor and getting the unnamed DPS cleanup program firmly in place.



Estée Easley and Suzi Finsley Gibbons at FOSSILMANIA XL.

Please applaud our wonderful 2022 Executive Committee. I want to thank them all for their teamwork, insight, and collaboration to keep DPS running smoothly. I also sincerely thank our group of former DPS Presidents who have stayed on top of the action – Rocky Manning, Tom Dill, Philip Scoggins, Roger Farish, Lee Higginbotham. Our Fossilmania XL team was incredible, and I am so appreciative of everyone who has helped make the transition back from virtual to a hybrid meetings.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES FINSLY

By Suzi Finsley Gibbons



On May 14, 2015, the World of Paleontology lost an icon. Charles E. Finsley, my brother, will be remembered as a witty and compassionate man of character. He loved teaching, speaking, demonstrating, and interacting with all people. In his own words, he enjoyed analyzing "anything with dirt on it." Chuck was extremely proud of his Dallas Paleo Society!

I first met Chuck on Thanksgiving Day, 1945, and I bid him farewell on the Ides of May, 2014. I knew him longer than any other person in existence, yet I never tired of his presence. He was a unique individual for 75 years. It's been eight years since Chuck entered the gates of Heaven on the wings of a Pterosaur into the arms of God. I want to celebrate his many accomplishments for all to recall.

In his tenure at the Dallas Museum of Natural History, Chuck excavated many fossil specimens, a vast number of which are currently displayed at the Perot Museum of Science and Nature for all to enjoy. He directed the unearthing of the Trinity Mammoth, several large Cretaceous fish, and the Heath Mosasaur. He oversaw, with your help [pre-DPS], the preparation of the Wise County Tenontosaurus dinosaur and the Fate, Texas, giant sea turtle. Additionally, he organized, designed, and prepared the Texas Giants Exhibit, a major display of Texas geological and paleontological treasures at DMNH. Chuck obtained the Crane Fossil Collection, the Langston Texas Tectite Collection, the Humphries Mineral Collection, the McIver Agate Collection, and the Davis Fossil Collection for the museum.

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TRIBUTE TO CHARLES FINSLEY CONT'D

He organized the Summer Youth Program at the Dallas Museum of Natural History where he worked as Curator of Education, Curator of Botany, General Curator, Interim Director, and Curator of Earth Sciences for 34 years. The next time you go to Fair Park, look for his brick in the walkway near the Museum celebrating his decades of service! Chuck also supervised joint Field Ecology classes with DISD.

Chuck's influence on students and young adults while he was at the Museum of Natural History in Fair Park, Brookhaven College, and SMU cannot be measured. Because of his influence, over 100 former students have chosen to follow the fields of Natural History, Science, Paleontology, and related careers. According to Chuck himself, this was one of his proudest legacies.



One of Chuck's favorite endeavors was conducting tours with his wife, Rosa, to Big Bend and the Big Thicket of Texas for Brookhaven College and SMU. He also led numerous trips to west Texas for the DMNH where he focused on rocks, fossils, invertebrates, and Texas dinosaurs. If you ever accompanied him on one of his trips, you have memories for a lifetime!



Chuck loved "FOSSILMANIA!" You may remember his Friday Night presentations, which were informal, informative, and "In the Finsley Fashion!" Even when he was extremely ill, fewer than seven months prior to his passing, the Paleo Society asked Chuck to speak at Glen Rose for what (many knew) would be his farewell contribution to the annual event. Everyone laughed at his corny jokes for one last time.

Chuck was a regular guest on local news and children's programs for 30 years, both radio and tv, which we "oldies" remember – Mr. Peppermint, Bill Kelly's Children's Hour, and Round About on KERA. He was a frequent speaker in classrooms (my own included), social groups, nursing homes, city organizations, church gatherings, libraries, gem and mineral clubs, and National Fossil Day at the University of North Texas each year.

And...as you know...Chuck was an author. Chuck's "gold standard," A Field Guide to Fossils of Texas is a hard-to-find classic. Two additional literary contributions are Discover Texas Dinosaurs and Hannah's Letters – the Civil War Letters of Isaac E. Blauvelt, Friends and Other Suitors. He also wrote the "Bos and Bison" booklet for the DPS, which is available for sale.

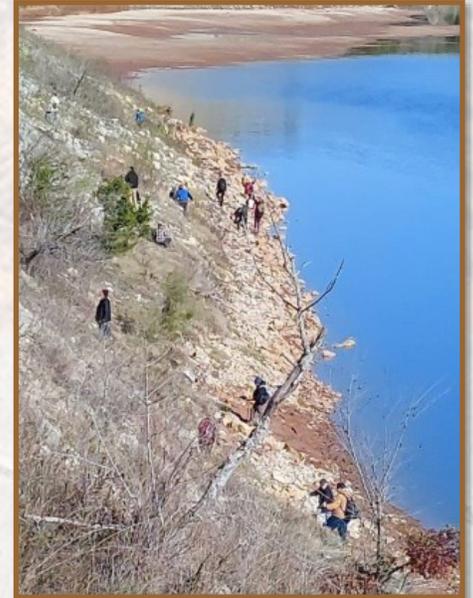
Finally, a tribute to Chuck wouldn't be complete without thanking Estée for maintaining Chuck's memory in every action. Our family appreciates the steps you always take to honor Chuck's intentions. And to the DPS Charter Members who are still active and true to Chuck's legacy – thank you for your willingness to ensure that the Dallas Paleontological Society prospers as Chuck intended. "The Charles Finsley Lecture Series" is one of the ways we celebrate Chuck's devotion to "things with dirt on them." Chuck may be gone, but our memory of him shall remain dynamic. RIP, Brother, we will never forget.



HORSESHOE BEND FIELD TRIP – WRAP-UP

By Roger Farish

Abnormally cool (low 40s) for the morning of Sunday, November 20 was the prediction. Nonetheless, 41 DPS members in 22 cars showed up to stalk the biggest ammonites of the Duck Creek Formation of the lower Cretaceous. They have been labeled 'hernia ammonites' for a very good reason as multiple attendees found out, but they were forewarned and prepared as you can see by the photos. After the Hold Harmless Agreements had been collected, preparatory remarks made, questions answered and buckets distributed, we were on our way from the Oklahoma Welcome Center on I-35.



We were met by landowner Gary Kirk and his trusty guard dog. He unlocked the gate and led us to a producing well head on the top of the first bluff. He welcomed us and took a photo of those who were ready to start collecting.

We had been monitoring the depth of the Red River at the upstream Gainesville gauging station hoping for less than an 8' river and it was 7.62 when we got there. This low level exposed the primary ammonite-producing beds along the river – just perfect. Lari and Cole Richins (recently relocated from home in Iceland) exited the long, rocky road down to the river and immediately found one of the largest *Eopachydiscus* ammonites of the entire trip. It seems that most of the decent finds happened in the first 100 yards of trail's end, on the west end of the bluff. Our band did hunt all the way across the first (of three) bluffs and some made it to the second bluff. The leading edge of each bluff seems to be the most productive because the river has cut into the bluffs at those points.

The trek along the base of the bluff was arduous due to its steepness, boulders, muddy/slippery areas and driftwood. This elevated our collecting risk but didn't deter our determined band from finding a wide variety of fossils. Virtually everyone found ammonite of some sort. See the photos for some of the prizes that were collected by Butch Halgerstadt, Charlie Pratt, Ron Dipronio (from Austin), Cole and Lari Richins and Aaron Slager. Phil Scoggins surprised us with a nice *Mortoniceras drakei* (formerly *Drakoceras*) found halfway up the bluff. There seem to be a number of species of *Mortoniceras* including two found by Sveta and Aleksandr Earnest – a *M. drakei* and a *M. nodosa*. Lari had the smallest complete ammonite while Zack Presley had 3 small ones in one 6" slab.

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Left: Aaron Slager uncovers an ammonite. Right: Camden Slager works to collect an ammonite.

HORSESHOE BEND FIELD TRIP – WRAP-UP CONT'D

Holaster simplex which were fairly common on previous trips were hiding today. This time it was Macrasters that were found by most with a pristine specimen being found by Asher Morrison and another good one by Lari Richins. Heteromorph ammonites were found by Liz Lummus and Jessica Martin. Keith Williams found a good echinoid that appears to be a Hemiaster calvani, but it shouldn't be here – still investigating.

The day was concluded by a dozen of us with lunch at the famous McGee's Catfish Restaurant overlooking the Red River. Thanks to Dana Baggott for securing us a table. Those who couldn't brave a cold morning of collecting really missed out. Now we have to wait for another high-rise cycle on the Red River to expose more ammonites for the next band of collectors.



Left: Lari holds a small ammonite . Right: Charlie Pratt displays an impressive ammonite find.

DECEMBER OFFICER ELECTION

Besides the auction and Christmas party, it is also time for officer elections for 2023. The DPS thanks our 2022 officers and looks forward to an exciting New Year with the newly-elected committee.

The nominating committee's slate of officers is:

- President: Michelle Kelly
- Vice President: Joe O'Neil
- Editor: William (Bill) Weaver
- Treasurer: Paul Lowers
- Secretary: Dana Baggott



DALLAS GEM AND MINERAL SHOW WRAP-UP

By Tom Dill

DPS exhibited at the Dallas Gem and Mineral Show at the Mesquite Rodeo Exhibition Center on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20. Volunteers for Saturday were Tom Dill, Roger and Linda Farish, Pam and Paul Lowers, and first-timers Susan O'Neal and Jennifer Gerring. For Sunday we had Tom Dill and new members Beverly Perrin and Arturo Mendirichaga.

The newbies got to see how one of our exhibitions works, and we all got to meet many people excited about fossils. We heard tales of fields filled with huge ammonites (many people seem to share this same memory), but had to dash one person's hope that a concretion was the skull of a dinosaur. But she accepted the bad news graciously.

Our cast of a mosasaur skull and fossil give-away bin were big attractions, as always. We also sold our publications. Popular items were our revised North Sulphur River guidebook (DPS Occasional Papers 4), Lone Star Dinosaurs by Dr. Louis Jacobs, and the Correlated Earth History chart.

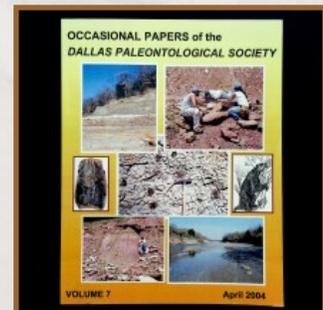
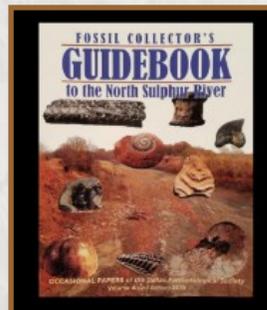
Thanks volunteers! The DPS exhibits at other shows of our local gem and mineral clubs, so watch the newsletter and website for future opportunities to help out and have fun.



Jennifer Gerring at the DPS booth at the Dallas Gem and Mineral Show at the Mesquite Rodeo Exhibition Center.

SHOP THE DPS WEBSITE FOR GREAT GIFTS!

Visit the DPS Online Store at <https://www.dallaspaleo.org/Store> to shop t-shirts, mugs, and books. Consider giving the gift of a DPS membership to a family member or friend!



DALLAS PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND ADVISORS

Elected Offices:

President	Estée Easley	president@dallaspaleo.org
Vice President	Kate Fenton	vp@dallaspaleo.org
Secretary	Genevieve Freix	secretary@dallaspaleo.org
Treasurer	Pam Lowers	treasurer@dallaspaleo.org
Editor	Laura Peterson	editor@dallaspaleo.org

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Field Trips Chair	Kim Pervis	fieldtrips@dallaspaleo.org
Historian Chair	Bob Williams	historian@dallaspaleo.org
Hospitality Chair	[Group Effort]	hospitality@dallaspaleo.org
Membership Chair	[Group Effort]	membership@dallaspaleo.org
Programs Chair	Tom Dill	programs@dallaspaleo.org
Promotions Chair	Roger Farish	promotions@dallaspaleo.org
Publications Chair	[Group Effort]	publications@dallaspaleo.org
Scholarships Chair	Roland Gooch	scholarships@dallaspaleo.org
Website Manager	Linda Farish	webmaster1@dallaspaleo.org
Social Media Coordinator	Diane N. Tran	

DPS Advisors:

Philip Scoggins, Rocky Manning, Tom Dill, Roger Farish

Professional Advisors:

Dr. Tony Fiorillo, SMU Shuler Museum
 Dr. Louis Jacobs, SMU Shuler Museum
 Dr. Merlynd Nestell, University of Texas at Arlington
 Dr. Ron Tykoski, Perot Museum of Nature and Science

The Dallas Paleontological Society was founded in 1984 for the purpose of promoting interest in and knowledge of the science of paleontology. It was intended by the founding members that the Society would be a network for the exchange of data between professionals and serious amateurs in this field.

dallaspaleo.org

The Dallas Paleontological Society meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at Brookhaven College, unless we have something special happening that month. Please [check our calendar](#) for exact dates. Original versions of minutes and treasury reports will be available upon requests. Come meet with us, hear a speaker, learn about paleontology, and bring your unidentified fossils and unique finds to share with the group. You will be welcome, and we will enjoy meeting you. For a map of our meeting location visit dallaspaleo.org/contact.

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A photo from the Horseshoe Bend Field Trip site by Roger Farish.

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