

THE FOSSIL RECORD



UPCOMING MEETING: TRACE FOSSILS

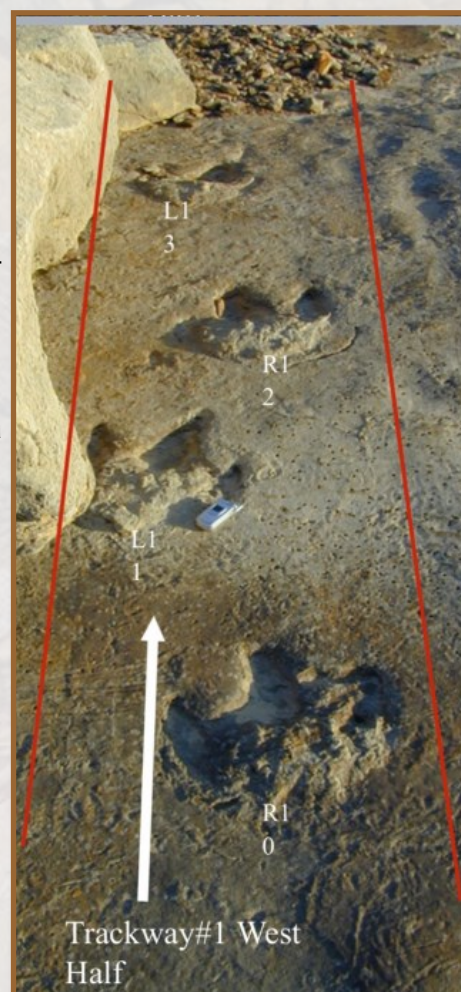
by Tom Dill

Welcome back in 2022! Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12th, at 7PM Central time at the Boonesville Auditorium in the Ellison Miles Building (Bldg H) at Brookhaven Campus of Dallas College (3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch). Same place as before COVID, just the names have changed a little. The college requires masks on campus. If you are feeling under the weather, you can also join us virtually over Zoom.

Bo Henk, adjunct professor at Texas Christian University, will speak on "An Introduction to Ichnology: What your parents failed to tell you about trace fossils." Bo Henk has been a hydrocarbon exploration geologist since he graduated with a MS degree in Geology from TCU in 1981. He has worked on conventional reservoirs in the US and international areas, including seven years in Indonesia. Beginning in 1997 he spent three years working on trace fossils in the research division of Arco, including a year in Edmonton with George Pemberton, one of the giants of ichnology. Since 2000 he has worked on shale exploration in the US with Matador and Pioneer. Bo enjoys getting out in the field, especially on the Woodbine outcrop of north central Texas. He is an adjunct professor at TCU and with Dr. Richard Denne is supervising three MS students on the Woodbine and Austin Chalk.

You can join our Zoom meeting by clicking on this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83968923306> or start the Zoom app and enter the **Meeting ID of 839 6892**

3306. You will then need to enter the **Passcode: 265509**. Please mute your audio until you are ready to speak, especially during the presentation. This is more important than before, as we will have attendees in the auditorium and online. Post questions in the chat box, starting with the uppercase 'QUESTION' so they are easy to spot. We hope to see you there, either in-person or online.



IN PERSON WITH THE DPS PRESIDENT

by Estée Easley

It's been a year of Zoom meetings, and I'm really glad we've stayed safe. Our DPS holiday auction gave us the nibble we needed to start meeting again in person. We will go back to having live meetings, fossil brags, and all that the our memories provide us. We will, however, all be wearing masks and social distancing. While the in person meeting takes place, we will have the Zoom component. I apologize in advance for any technological hiccups we might have during these first few meetings at Brookhaven. We will accommodate as best we can.

While our monthly meeting will be in person, our Leadership meetings will still be via Zoom the third Wednesday of each month with social time at 6:30 and official business starting at 7:00pm. The Leadership meeting Zoom ID is 882 2320 3521 and is open to all current DPS members. If you have an item for the business portion of the meeting, please email me in advance at president@dallaspaleo.org, so I can add you to the agenda.

I would like to applaud the 2021 DPS Officers, and I am proud to be working alongside Kate Fenton as VP, Pam Lowers as Treasurer, and Gen Freix as Secretary again! Additionally, I would like to welcome Laura Peterson as our new Editor.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year full of fossil hunts, safety, guest speakers, hand sanitizer, educational tables, and social distancing. See you all soon!



Left: President Estée Easley, Editor Laura Peterson, Vice President Kate Fenton, Treasurer Pam Lowers, Secretary Gen Freix

Right: Social Media Coordinator Diane N. Tran, President Estée Easley, Vice President Kate Fenton, Treasurer Pam Lowers, Secretary Gen Freix



DPS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES

The Executive Committee, with input from all of the DPS Advisors, proposes some changes in the DPS Constitution and Bylaws to reflect technological changes in the way we do business and to provide better documentation of Society processes. Please review the proposed changes prior to the January meeting. Substantive changes are highlighted in green text.

Using a three-step process, we will present the changes at the January meeting. In February, we will discuss each proposed change. If there is consensus, we will vote on a change. If there is apparent dissension regarding a proposed change, we will hold the vote on the item in March.

Each change will be voted on separately. A simple majority of voting members present is required to approve a change. Thank you for taking your time to strengthen the society for the future.

Changes are listed in the order they appear in the DPS Constitution and Bylaws. Only Sections with proposed changes are listed.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Existing:

SECTION 2: CLASSIFICATION

- A. **Family Membership:** for a maximum of two eligible adults and those people in the household under eighteen years of age who desire full access to all Society functions, privileges and voting rights. (voting will be limited to those sixteen years of age or older).
- B. **Single Membership:** for any eligible individual sixteen years of age or older, who desires full access to all Society functions, privileges and voting rights.
- C. **Honorary Membership:** may be conferred to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of paleontology. Nominations to this level of membership may be submitted to the Executive Committee by any member. The Committee will review the nominee and will present its recommendations to a simple majority vote of members present at a regular monthly meeting.
- D. **Newsletter Subscription:** for those individuals who are not able to participate in the activities of the Society but want to receive The Fossil Record.
- E. **Lifetime Membership:** For any eligible individual who desires full access to all society functions, privileges, and voting rights for their lifetime.

Proposed Change(s):

SECTION 2: CLASSIFICATION

A. Membership

1. **Individual Membership:** Annual membership for any eligible individual 16 sixteen years of age or older, who desires full access to all Society functions, privileges and voting rights.
2. **Family Membership:** Annual membership or a maximum of two eligible adults and those people in the household under 18 years of age who desire full access to all Society functions, privileges and voting rights. Voting will be limited to those 16 years of age or older.
3. **Lifetime Membership:** For any eligible individual 16 years of age or older who desires full access to all Society functions, privileges, and voting rights for their lifetime.
4. **Honorary Membership:** May be conferred to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of paleontology. Nominations to this level of membership may be submitted to the Executive Committee by any member. The Committee will review the nominee and will present its recommendations to a simple majority vote of members present at a regular monthly meeting. Honorary membership is a lifetime membership that includes full access to all Society functions, functions, privileges, and voting rights.
5. **Collaborative Groups:** Groups are recognized for the purpose of enabling the Society to extend program and event invitations to groups with similar interests, purposes, or activities. Participation of members of these collaborator groups is by invitation and does not bestow any voting rights to collaborators. Most collaborative relationships are reciprocal.

B. Paper Newsletter Subscription:

A paid subscription is not a Society membership. A newsletter subscription is for those individuals who want a monthly paper copy of The Fossil Record by mail. A newsletter subscription is not a membership and does not extend membership privileges.

DPS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES CONT'D

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IV FINANCES

Existing:

SECTION 1: DUES

Dues provide for membership in the Society for twelve months from the date of payment. The cost of each type of membership shall be specified in the Bylaws of the Society.

SECTION 2: EXPENSES AND COVERAGE

Dues and fund raising activities will be used to cover expenses of the Society as approved by the Executive Committee. No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of members, officers or other private persons except as compensation for services or goods or to promote the stated purpose of the Society.

Section 3: President's Discretion

The President shall have the discretion to spend up to \$200 dollars to cover various expenses of the Society. Any expense over \$200 should be agreed upon by a quorum of the Executive Committee. If the expense is of an urgent nature, and the President cannot reach the Committee in a reasonable amount of time, the expense may be allowed. All receipts for expenses must be turned into the Treasurer in accordance with the IRS 501 (c) 3 codes.

Proposed Change(s):

SECTION 1: DUES

Dues provide for membership in the Society for 12 months from the date of payment. The cost of each type of membership shall be reviewed annually and determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2: EXPENSES AND COVERAGE

Dues and funds will be used to cover expenses (services, goods, or promotion of the stated purpose of the society) as approved by the Executive Committee. All receipts for expenses must be turned into the Treasurer in accordance with the IRS 501 (c) 3 codes.

No part of the Society's available funds and/or real or projected earnings of the Society shall be used to personally benefit members, officers, or other private persons or businesses.

SECTION 3: PRESIDENT'S DISCRETION

The President shall have the discretion to spend up to \$200 dollars to cover various expenses of the Society. Any expense over \$200 should be agreed upon by a quorum of the Executive Committee. All receipts for expenses must be turned into the Treasurer in accordance with the IRS 501 (c) 3 codes.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Existing:

SECTION 2: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

D. **Treasurer** • the Treasurer shall care for all funds and financial papers of the Society, arrange for an annual audit, and assist in the preparation of the annual budget. The Treasurer shall be responsible with the President for disbursing funds belonging to the Society and shall prepare all annual corporate exhibits, reports, and tax returns required by Federal and local governments.

SECTION 4: DUAL OFFICES

No member shall be elected to more than one elective office at the same time.

SECTION 5: QUORUM

A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business. On any specific question, absentee officers may phone or mail their votes to the Secretary.

Proposed Change(s):

SECTION 2: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

D. **Treasurer** • The Treasurer shall care for all funds and financial papers of the Society, direct preparation of the annual budget, and arrange for an annual internal audit by at least two other non-related, non-Officer members. The Treasurer shall be responsible with the President for disbursing funds belonging to the Society and shall prepare all annual corporate exhibits, reports, and tax returns required by Federal and local governments, including publication of an annual financial report in the January Society newsletter.

A subcommittee led by the Treasurer and at least two other people should direct the Society's financial investments for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and generating scholarship and/or development monies. An investment status report will be made to the Executive Committee at the end of the 2nd and 4th quarter of each fiscal year.

SECTION 4: DUAL OFFICES

No member shall be elected to more than one Executive office at the same time. Former officers are eligible to be elected to any other office. A former officer cannot be re-elected to the same office for at least one calendar year.

SECTION 5: QUORUM

A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business. On any specific question or point of order, officers may submit their votes to the Executive Committee by any documented means, but not limited to, email, phone text message, or letter.

DPS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES CONT'D

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE VI REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

Existing:

SECTION I: REMOVAL

Any officer who fails to uphold the purpose of the Society or who can no longer properly fulfill assigned duties should resign that office. A non-functional officer can be removed by simple majority vote of the membership at any regular monthly meeting, following notification of membership in writing.

Proposed Change(s):

SECTION I: REMOVAL

Any officer who fails to uphold the purpose of the Society or who can no longer properly fulfill assigned duties should resign that office. A non-functional officer can be removed by simple majority vote of the **remaining Executive Committee and the previous past president**.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE VIII ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Existing:

SECTION 1: NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee shall announce their proposed slate of officers for the coming year at the November regular monthly meeting, and nominations can also be taken from the floor. Nominations can be made by any family or single member, but should have the permission of the nominee. Nominees will be published in the December newsletter.

SECTION 3: VOTING IN ABSENTIA

Family, single and honorary members may vote in absentia in writing.

Proposed Change(s):

SECTION 1: NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of two to five non-Officer members who will seek interested persons or encourage members to run for elected offices. The Nominating Committee shall determine whether prospective candidates are able and willing to support the purposes of the Society. The Nominating Committee is encouraged to consult with professionals in the field of paleontology before presenting nominees to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be consulted prior to announcement of the proposed slate of officers. The Nominating Committee will make the final decision regarding candidates.

The proposed slate of officer candidates for the coming year will be announced by the Nominating Committee at the November regular monthly meeting, and additional nominations may also be taken from the floor. Nominations may be made by any **current** member with permission of the nominee. Nominees will be published in the December newsletter.

SECTION 3: VOTING IN ABSENTIA

Current members may vote in absentia **by methods and means established in Article V, Section 5. Votes must be in possession or known to the Executive Committee by the first Executive Committee meeting following any election.**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IX ACTIVITIES

Existing:

SECTION 3: OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Society has the right to promote its purpose in any manner the Executive Committee deems necessary. Such activities include, but are not limited to, awarding scholarships and grants, publishing scientific papers, furnishing representatives and materials to public events, organizing field trips, and sponsoring various paleontological exchanges and investigations. Some activities may be restricted on the basis of age or physical ability at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Proposed Change(s):

SECTION 3: OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Society has the right to promote its purpose in any manner the Executive Committee deems necessary. Such activities include, but are not limited to, awarding scholarships and grants, publishing scientific papers, furnishing representatives and materials to public events, organizing field trips, and sponsoring various paleontological exchanges and investigations. Some activities may be restricted on the basis of age or physical ability at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be used for propagandizing or attempting to influence legislation or to intervene in any political campaign for public office.

DPS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES CONT'D

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XII DISSOLUTION

Existing:

Upon dissolution of the Society, remaining assets will be contributed to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. If at the time of dissolution, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is no longer in existence or is not recognized as tax exempt under section 501(c)3 of the internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Proposed Change(s):

Upon dissolution of the Society, remaining assets will be contributed to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. If at the time of dissolution, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is no longer in existence or is not recognized as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, **assets of the Society shall be distributed to any scientifically recognized paleontological repository such as a museum or university with a Department of Geology and/or Paleontology.**

CONSTITUTION ADOPTED JANUARY 12, 1985

Existing:

MOST RECENT AMENDMENTS RATIFIED December Meeting, 2015

Proposed Change(s):

MOST RECENT AMENDMENTS RATIFIED December Meeting, 2015

Proposed changes to be voted on by July 21, 2021

DPS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES CONT'D

BYLAWS

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Existing:

1. Family Membership provides twelve months of membership for a household. The yearly dues for a family membership shall be \$30.
2. Single Membership provides individuals twelve months of membership. The yearly dues for a single membership shall be \$25.
3. Honorary Membership the honorary member shall be entitled to receive, free of charge, the monthly newsletter, all journals of the Society, and shall be entitled to one vote in Society business and to hold any office.
4. Newsletter Subscription provides for a twelve-month subscription to the newsletter. The yearly dues for a newsletter subscription shall be \$20.

Proposed Change(s):

Dues for each type of membership will be set annually by the Executive Committee and published on the Society's website, newsletter, and other applicable platforms and media. Current members who are 16 years old or older are entitled to receive, free of additional charge, the digital monthly newsletter; all journals of the Society; access to members only portion of the Society website; full voting rights in Society business; and, eligibility to hold any Society office.

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIPS

Dues for an Individual membership provide individuals with 12 months of membership.

Dues for a Family membership provide 12 months of membership for a maximum of two eligible adults and those people in the household under 18 years of age who desire full access to all Society functions, privileges and voting rights. Voting will be limited to those 16 years of age or older.

Dues for a Lifetime membership provide full membership for the remaining lifetime of the individual and does not transfer to a beneficiary in the event of the Lifetime member's death.

Dues for an Honorary membership are exempt. An Honorary membership is conferred by the Executive Committee, effective for the remaining lifetime of the individual with full rights and privileges of a current member.

Dues for COLLABORATIVE GROUPS are exempt. Participation in Society-sponsored activities or events by collaborative group members is by Society invitation. Fees for participation in Society events will be established on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Committee, when appropriate.

SECTION 2: SUBSCRIPTIONS

Purchase of a Newsletter Paper Subscription does not constitute payment of dues and does not grant membership. A paid subscription provides for a mailed paper copy of the newsletter for 12 months. Any level of member may augment the membership with additional purchase of a newsletter subscription.

BYLAWS

ADOPTED JANUARY 12, 1985

Existing:

MOST RECENT AMENDMENTS RATIFIED December Meeting, 2015

Proposed Change(s):

MOST RECENT AMENDMENTS RATIFIED December Meeting, 2015

Proposed changes to be voted on by July 21, 2021

DPS HOLIDAY PARTY WRAP-UP

by Laura Peterson

Holiday sweaters and festive dinosaur-themed apparel were merry and bright at the annual DPS Holiday Auction.

The silent auction tables were full of paleontology related items including fossils, books, apparel and dinosaur-themed décor. The live auction showcased many high-demand items including dinosaur footprint casts, *T. rex* themed wine, and Perot Museum memberships.

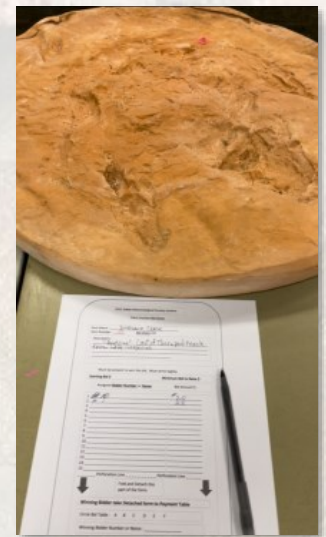
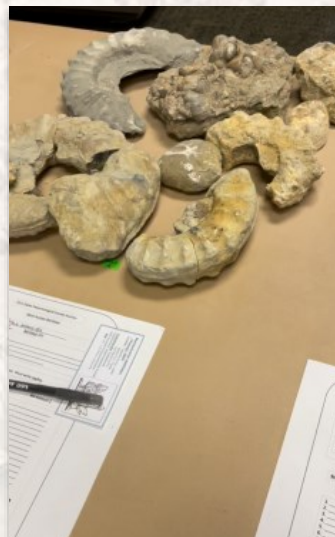
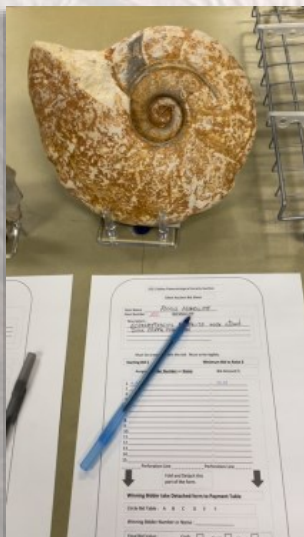
Congratulations to the 2021 Presidential Award recipient Fernando Correa-Corchado. Fernando's participation with DPS including his educational lecture at Fossilmania led to his selection, and DPS is proud to present him this award. Congratulations to Darlene Sumerfelt for the William Lowe Lifetime Achievement Award! This award was conceived to honor William Lowe, DPS founder, VP, President, and guiding force during the early years of the DPS. It was first awarded in the mid-90s. The Lifetime Achievement Award became the William Lowe Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020.



Alongside the awards, the officers for the 2022 year were selected. Two new positions were filled for 2022 including Laura Peterson as Editor and Diane N. Tran as Social Media Coordinator. Social Media Coordinator is a new position for DPS, and duties will include but are not limited to creating and curating content for social media outlets including Facebook and Instagram.

Special thanks to Field Trip Coordinator Kim Pervis for hosting the Zoom meeting and Social Media Coordinator Diane N. Tran for hosting the Facebook Live stream, allowing members to attend and enjoy the event virtually.

Thank you to all who attended, donated items and volunteered to make this annual event a success!



DPS HOLIDAY PARTY AND AUCTION SCRAPBOOK



Top Row: Diane N. Tran, Laura Peterson, Estee Easley, Joe O'Neil
Second Row: Stephan Gozdecki, Andrew Stück
Bottom Row: John, Kenny, Diane N. Tran, Art Sahlstein, Kate Fenton

THE HISTORY CORNER

by Bob Williams

We have many professional paleontologists in the area, and they have made significant contributions to this field of science and to the list of known fossil species. However, you don't have to be a professional to make a contribution. Many amateur DPS members have added to the fossil record with important finds. When something significant is found, a responsible collector will donate it to a museum or university where it can be researched and archived for future study. Otherwise it is lost to a shoe box in someone's closet forever. It can be hard to give up a prized find, but this is exactly what many DPS members have done. If you find something you cannot positively identify, please ask one of our experienced members for help just in case you might join this group of lucky collectors.

Sometimes it means a new species is named after you. Sometimes your name appears in a published journal. Sometimes your fossil is put on permanent display. But even if it is just housed in an accessible collection, the real reward is the knowledge that you made a contribution to science and no one can take that from you. I have made an attempt to list all of the most important contributions made by members or past members. I got most of this from the authors of a chapter dedicated to this story in our book Field Guide to Fossil Collecting which tells these stories far better than I can. Here I include a list of members from that work and others I have learned about but I am sure the list is far from complete.

Please email me at historian@dallaspaleo.org with information about your own contribution or those of any others you know of and I will include them with this list on the Society website. Quality photographs of the contributions would also be appreciated.

Fossils Donated for Research Include:

BONY FISH Kelley Irwin, Robert Reid III, Sam & Becky Liberato, Joseph Fritsch, Brad Carter

SHARKS AND RAYS Roger Farish, Mark McKinzie, Bob Williams

SEA TURTLES David Hill

ICHTHYOSAURARS Lee & Mindy Duchouquette, Kevin Bridges, Wes Kirpach

MOSASAURS and SISTER TAXA Brent Dunn, Jon Cartier, Jim Chaney, Don Fagerstrom, Linda & Roger Farish, Mac Glaess, Shawn Hamm, Gerry Hightower, Fred Hirschler, Bill Johnson, Lynn Jue, Wes & Kerry Kirpach, Mark McKinzie, Jihn Maurice, John Mc Graw, Ross & Jan McMillan, John Moody Jr., Jim Poepsil, Sandy Polcyn, John Saunders, Ken Smith, Lewis Smith, Joe Simpson, Ed Switovy, Richard Van Atta, Bruce Welton, Shauna Young, Shawn & Richard Zak, Lloyd Hill, Mark Cohen, Van Turner, Ken Barnes, Kelly Irwin

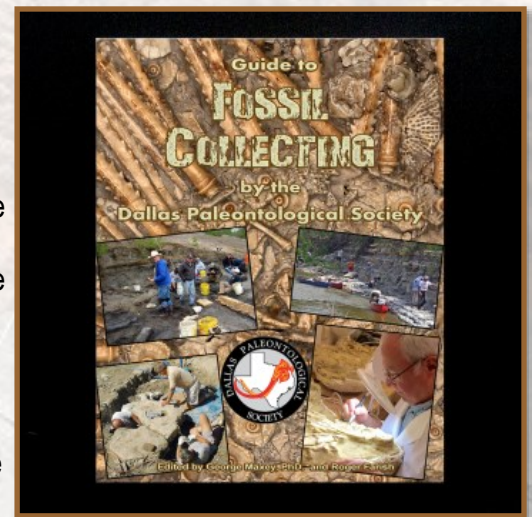
CROCODYLIANS Wes Kirpach, Kent Newman, John Maurice, John Byres, Brian Condon

PTEROSAURS Vernon Mils, Chris Wadleigh, Lance Hall, Brent Dunn, Gary Byrd, Kevin Knight

NON-AVIAN DINOSAURS Gary Spaulding, Cameron Campbell, Johnny Maurice, Richard & Shaun Zack, Gary Byrd, Dan Bittelman, Brad Carter, Tim Brys & son

BIRDS Kris Howe

TRACE FOSSILS Gary Echland, Bill Lowe, Lance Hall, Virginia Friedman **INVERTEBRATES** Mark McKinzie, John Maurice, Robert Reid III, Frank Holterhoff, Arlene Pike, Bob Williams, Linda Farish



WOMEN IN PALEONTOLOGY: MARGARET COUNTS JOHNSTON HARRIS

Tom Vance

While she was a student at Classen High School in Oklahoma City, Margaret Counts fell in love with one of her schoolteachers, Claud Stuart Johnston (born 1900 - died 1939). C. S. Johnston had an intense interest in archeology, geology, and paleontology, and Margaret had just graduated from high school. She was 19 years old, and Stuart Johnston was 31 years of age. These two people made very important paleontological discoveries in west Texas.

Margaret Counts (born 1913 - died 2008) was born in Cushing, Oklahoma, and was an adopted daughter of John Wesley Counts and Charley Etta Counts. Early in life she was taught piano and voice lessons. Eventually, she became an important team member with her husband in the field of vertebrate paleontology. She also supervised many of his field projects resulting in the discovery of various fossil beds and new vertebrate species. Yet, for reasons unknown, C. S. Johnston never included her as a coauthor and rarely as an acknowledgment in his publications.

The couple worked as archeologists at the Stamper archeological site in Texas County, Oklahoma. While at the Stamper site Margaret and Stuart worked summers of 1933 and 1934 while living in a primitive dugout shelter at the site. Stuart was a graduate student and Margaret assisted by the ongoing excavations.

They moved to Texas in 1934 when Stuart hired on as Curator of Paleontology and Archeology at the newly founded Panhandle-Plains Museum along with the position of Assistant Professor of Geology at West Texas State College (=West Texas A&M University), Canyon, Texas. Margaret aided in most of his research activities.

Margaret was a very capable, energetic, and enthusiastic explorer who spent much of her time in the field while her husband worked on campus and administered various other aspects of his job. She was only in her early 20's when she supervised the field and work crews hired by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) during the Great Depression. She was also only one of two women in the United States to supervise government work crews and oversaw as many as 25 men working at one time in the field collecting vertebrate fossils in Donley and Randall Counties. The other lady was Jewel Baker who worked with archeological crews.



Margaret and C. Stuart Johnston at the *Equus scotti* Quarry, Briscoe County, 1937.



Margaret holding a peccary jaw and fossil bone bed in Hemphill County on the Coffee Ranch. (Photo courtesy: Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Facebook)

Margaret has never received due credit for the Pliocene and Pleistocene discoveries which required extensive excavations of sites in Donley, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Randall, Briscoe, and Crosby Counties. Discoveries of new species were published by C. S. Johnston and included a tortoise (*Bismachelys canyonensis* = *Gopherus canyonensis*), a felid (*Felis studei* = *Miracinonyx studei*), three canids (*Canis lepophagus*, *Osteobotus hilli* and *Pliocyon walkerae* = *Ischyrocyon gidleyi*), and an equine (*Calippus regulus*). Other studies were carried out regarding anatomy of other Pliocene and Pleistocene mammals, and Miocene age tracks were also discovered. *cont.*

WOMEN IN PALEONTOLOGY CONT'D

The Johnstons worked the *Equus* Quarry in Briscoe County in 1937 and were involved with collecting fossil horse bones from the Clarendon and Hemphill beds dating back to the Miocene. Unfortunately, she was not given any credit in her husband's publications.

During the time the Johnstons were at Canyon, Margaret gave birth to two sons in 1937 and 1938. Both died tragically as young adults.

To continue with his career, Stuart was required to earn a Ph.D. by the administration of West Texas State College. He audited a summer class at Berkeley and completed a correspondence course from the University of Chicago, but the officials from the University of Oklahoma would not grant him credit toward his degree. Therefore, he was able to pick up six of the required nine credit hours at Harvard University in 1938.

Whether it was the strain of the job or a combination of life's pressures, Stuart developed an abdominal disorder requiring hospitalization. The next year, he was having to deal with everything including the job, his family, and deadline for his degree. His career appeared to be coming to a harrowing end. He drove to the University of Oklahoma for one last attempt to finish his Ph. D. while Margaret was left to deal with their two babies, the WPA crews and projects. What happened next has been an enigma wrapped in a mystery.

While in Oklahoma, Stuart suddenly and mysteriously left for Boston in such a hurry that he left a change of clothes behind and carried only a small amount of cash. After he checked into a cheap boarding house in Boston, he telegraphed his wife only to say that he failed to complete the summer course work to meet the deadline. Four days later, he was found mysteriously unconscious in the boarding house and was rushed to a Boston hospital where he died. The particulars regarding the autopsy were never revealed and his death has been a mystery. Margaret had no idea that he went to Boston and was under the impression that he was still in Oklahoma. She was informed of his death by the president of West Texas State College. Stuart was brought back to Canyon for burial in Dreamland Cemetery near the town.



Margaret and Scott's horse in the basement of PPHM in the 1930's (Photo courtesy: Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Facebook)

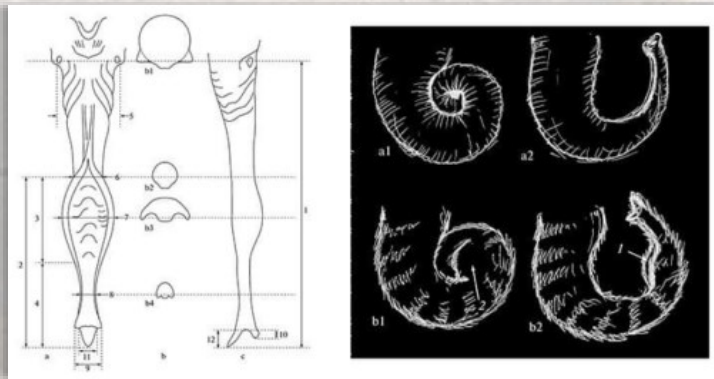
After the shock of Stuart's bizarre death in the summer of 1939, Margaret was asked to continue field operations. During 1941, she continued to oversee some of the excavations started by her husband, and, as a result, important collections were made by her work crews at Rotten Hill and other Potter County localities. She never published the results.

Margaret's federal funding, as well as the Great Depression, came to an end with the onset of World War II. In 1942, she donated the printed material belonging to Stuart to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. At this point, she seems to have vanished from the world she had enjoyed with her late husband. However, Margaret returned with her children to Oklahoma City and worked for a very short time at Tinker Air Force Base (known at the time as Oklahoma City Air Depot) as a "Rosie the Riveter". Also, in 1942, she began working at Oklahoma Typewriter Company and eventually married the owner, Roy Edmund Harris (born 1898 - died 1988). Margaret Harris outlived her second husband and both sons and died short of her 95th birthday. She is buried in Rose Hill Burial Park, Oklahoma City next to her second husband and two sons. Today, the work of the Johnstons is recognized as a very important contribution involving west Texas paleontology.

PALEONTOLOGY IN THE NEWS

Compiled by Andrew “Dino Dad” Stück

1. [Yuka the Baby Mammoth](#) (*Springer Link*) — A flurry of new papers have been released regarding the ~40k year old mummified woolly mammoth calf known as “Yuka.” Analysis confirmed her as a female no older than 5.5 years at the time of death. Injuries suggest she once narrowly escaped predators, only to later become stuck in a mud pit where she met her ultimate demise. Analysis of the trunk confirms previous suggestions that woolly mammoths had a structure halfway up its length analogous to a hand muff (think of a stereotypical “Dickens caroler”) into which they could curl their trunk. Furthermore, and perhaps most excitingly, Yuka preserves the first complete brain known from any animal of this time period, allowing for unprecedented look inside her head.



Left: A visual of a mammoth's trunk structure showing the confirmed findings that they could curl their trunk. Right: Yuka the baby mammoth. Yuka was discovered in Siberia in 2010.

2. [Oviraptorid Embryo](#) (*iScience*) — An exquisitely preserved embryo of a new species of oviraptorid has been given the name Yingliang, and displays evidence of avian-like in-ovo behavior. Specifically, it appears to have been in the process of what is referred to as “avian tucking behavior”, in which bird embryos tuck their necks into a position that allows for greater success in hatching. This behavior is not shared by reptiles and demonstrates its likely origin deep in the theropod lineage.



3. [Elasmotherium's Nub](#) (*RJT*) — The great “ice age unicorn” may not have been quite so impressive after all. Traditionally depicted with one of the most massive horns of any rhino living or extinct, Elasmotherium has never actually been found preserved with a horn, as rhino horns are made of compressed soft tissue. Their skulls, however, possess a huge, lumpy boss that many have assumed must have anchored a heavy ornament of some kind, but a Russian study of the surface texture of this boss has not revealed the stress marks on the bone that one would expect from such a feature. They thus conclude that this boss merely provided extra core strength to a much smaller horn or knob, rather than the massive spike of popular paleo media.

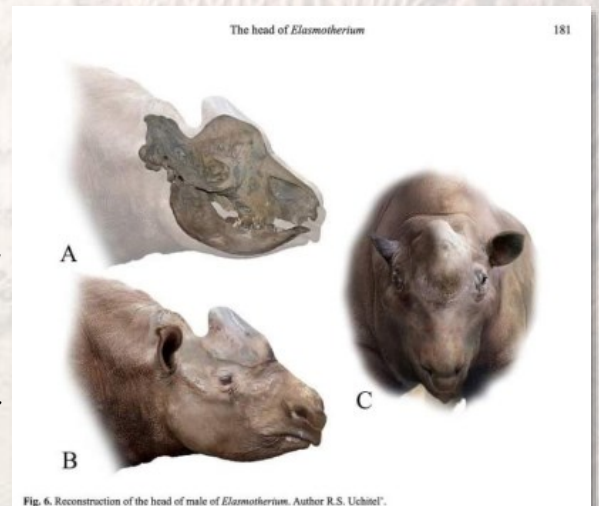


Fig. 6. Reconstruction of the head of male of *Elasmotherium*. Author R.S. Uchnei.

DINO-MITE COLORING PAGE

by Diane N. Tran

Found in the sandstone layer of the Campanian Judith River Formation of Montana, *Zuul crurivastator* is one of the most complete ankylosaurid specimen thus far recovered from North America, preserved in situ at an almost unheard of 99% completion, estimated to have been 20 feet long, with a weight of 5500 pounds. With its short snout, long horns behind the eyes and on the cheeks this ankylosaurine species got its namesake *Zuul* from the fictional "terror dog" in *Ghostbusters* (1984). The species name *crurivastator* means "destroyer of shins," a reference to its exquisitely preserved sledgehammer-like tail.

The original research paper can be read open access at The Royal Society Publishing (<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.161086>).



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Zuul crurivastator
"Zuul, destroyer of shins"

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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.

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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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Don't miss the *Dinosaurs Live!* exhibit at Heard Natural Science Museum in McKinney, Texas open through February 21, 2022.

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