

QUICK COLLECTING REPORT 042604

No pix necessary for this report. I was off Friday and tooled around SA to knock a few sites off my "must explore" list. At a roadcut south of town in the Wilcox fm I was looking for fossilized leaves and found none, but encountered a most serendipitous find...a 90% perfect Ensor dart point. It isn't often that one finds Indian artifacts in road cuts. Not bad.

I moved through a number of dead sites before returning to the creekbed where I recently found the cool Pachyrhizodus jaw with 17 intact teeth. Lots of crawling and flipping rocks produced a nice Squalicorax tooth in matrix, 3 Cretolamna roots with broken off cusps, 3 Ptychodus teeth, one serrated fish tooth, and one curious little conical, peg-like tooth with attached root.

On Sunday Farley and I ranged north and pretty much struck out at 3 lakes, where spillways were either inaccessible due to snooty neighborhoods with security guards present, or flooded roadways due to recent rains. We picked though some roadcuts and claimed a couple small Engonoceras ammonites, Heteraster, Hemiaster, and Phymosoma echinoids from the Walnut and Comanche Peak fms, and one small bone shard from the Glen Rose.

But the real thrill came in the death defying adversity. Recent rains made the Hwy 67 roadcuts drip like tropical grottos. While moving along an undercut layer of marl, my head snapped to attention at the loud sliding and crashing sound to my right. 100+ pounds of rock had slid off the top of the exposure and crashed where I had just been standing (with no hard hat) just 2 minutes before! At the next road cut I flipped a rock to reveal a coiled snake. At the next cut while crawling around I called Farley over to examine the Black Widow spider I almost put my hand on! Needless to say, my wife and parents are not on this distribution list!