

## FOSSIL COLLECTING REPORT

March 2010  
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### March 14, 2010: Springing Forward into the Glen Rose

My sleep schedule was thrown off a little by the time change but I was still able to get out for a couple hours before church Sunday morning. This time I chose a small exposure of Glen Rose Formation (108 MYA) north of San Antonio that I haven't visited in a few rain cycles. An up close and personal look afforded by gloves and knee pads failed to produce the spectacular finds of yore, but I was able to grab a few very nice *Salenia texana* echinoids, a couple barely keep *Heteraster obliquatus* echinoids, and from a nearby exposure a single finger of a hermit crab claw *Paleopagurus banderensis*. Again no scientifically significant finds, but the thrill of discovery was refreshed nonetheless.



**FIG 1:** Glen Rose echinoids *Heteraster obliquatus* and *Salenia texana* along with crab claw finger *Paleopagurus banderensis* (Site 445)

### March 21, 2010: Corsicana Quickie

With a modicum of rainfall I took an hour or so to make a cursory pass at the Corsicana Formation (68 MYA) site, now rapidly being reclaimed by vegetation. The collecting area continues to be reduced, however close scrutiny of remaining exposure resulted in a few goodies coming to hand. A broken crab claw on the surface piqued my interest; one never knows if it is a fragment of a *Dakoticancer australis* exploded and washed downhill, or more to my liking, just a little bit of a more complete crab barely peeking above the surface. Blind mining confirmed the latter, and I later supplemented the crab carapace with a few *Hemiaster bexari* echinoids and a small gaggle of gastropods along with a couple bivalves including *Neithea bexarensis*. Other duties beckoned and collecting conditions were far from optimum so I quit while I was ahead, packed it up and ran back to the house.



**FIGS 2-4:** Corsicana fm crab carapace *Dakoticancer australis* this and next 2 pages (Site 349)







**FIGS 5-6:** Corsicana fm echinoid *Hemiaster bexari* along with various bivalves and gastropods this and next page (Site 349)



March 24, 2010: Lunchtime Find

The weather was nice and a rolling flood had subsided in a creek near my office so I seized the opportunity to peruse the freshly washed Austin Chalk. The limestone itself, Dessau Formation I believe (84 MYA), is slow to weather, so much of my modest success on these excursions comes from shuffling of silt and gravel that exposes what I couldn't see prior to the flood. At any rate knobby whorls caught my eye on a certain limestone bench so I returned with the tools of the trade, namely a 4 LB hand sledge and chisel, and made quick work of the 3 inch diameter specimen. A little air scribe work later the outer whorl and its sutures came into view and made this specimen a keeper, possibly of the genus *Submortonicerias*, but I'm not certain of ID at this point.



**FIGS 7-9:** Unidentified Dessau fm ammonite this and next page (Site 14)



March 31, 2010: Lunchtime...Going for Seconds

Another stretch of the same creek held promise and got my attention a week later. This particular spot seemed to be much more rich in nautiloids, my best stab at ID being *Eutrephoceras campbelli*, also from the Dessau Formation. I selected 4 that appeared to be worth dealing with and beat them into submission with my trusty hand sledge. One is the size of a bowling ball and made its presence known in my backpack; another 5 inch diameter

specimen is pretty nice as well. The other two have good sutures but aren't complete enough to make it into my house or office....they'll be relegated to the flower garden.



**FIG 10:** Dessau fm nautiloids *Eutrephoceras campbelli* (Site 15)

A crude flint artifact came to hand as well. I don't know what to call this type of tool (or partially completed tool) but it is a coarsely flaked biface and was thusly annexed into the Woehr Collection, rounding out a leisurely month of collecting.



FIGS 11-12: Crude flint artifact (Site 15)