

FOSSIL COLLECTING REPORT

January 2013

Daniel A. Woehr and Family

January 6, 2013: Corsicana Kickoff

With major events and obligations on the horizon, I predicted January to be a light collecting month. Still, I found a little slack in my Sunday schedule to afford a quick peek at the drought parched Corsicana Formation (68 MYA). Lack of rain and ongoing development of the collecting area gave me little confidence of making great finds. But the Corsicana still shined in quality and rarity, just not in quantity this time.



FIGS 1-3: Corsicana Formation nautiloid *Eutrephoceras* f. *dekay* this and next 2 pages (Site 349)







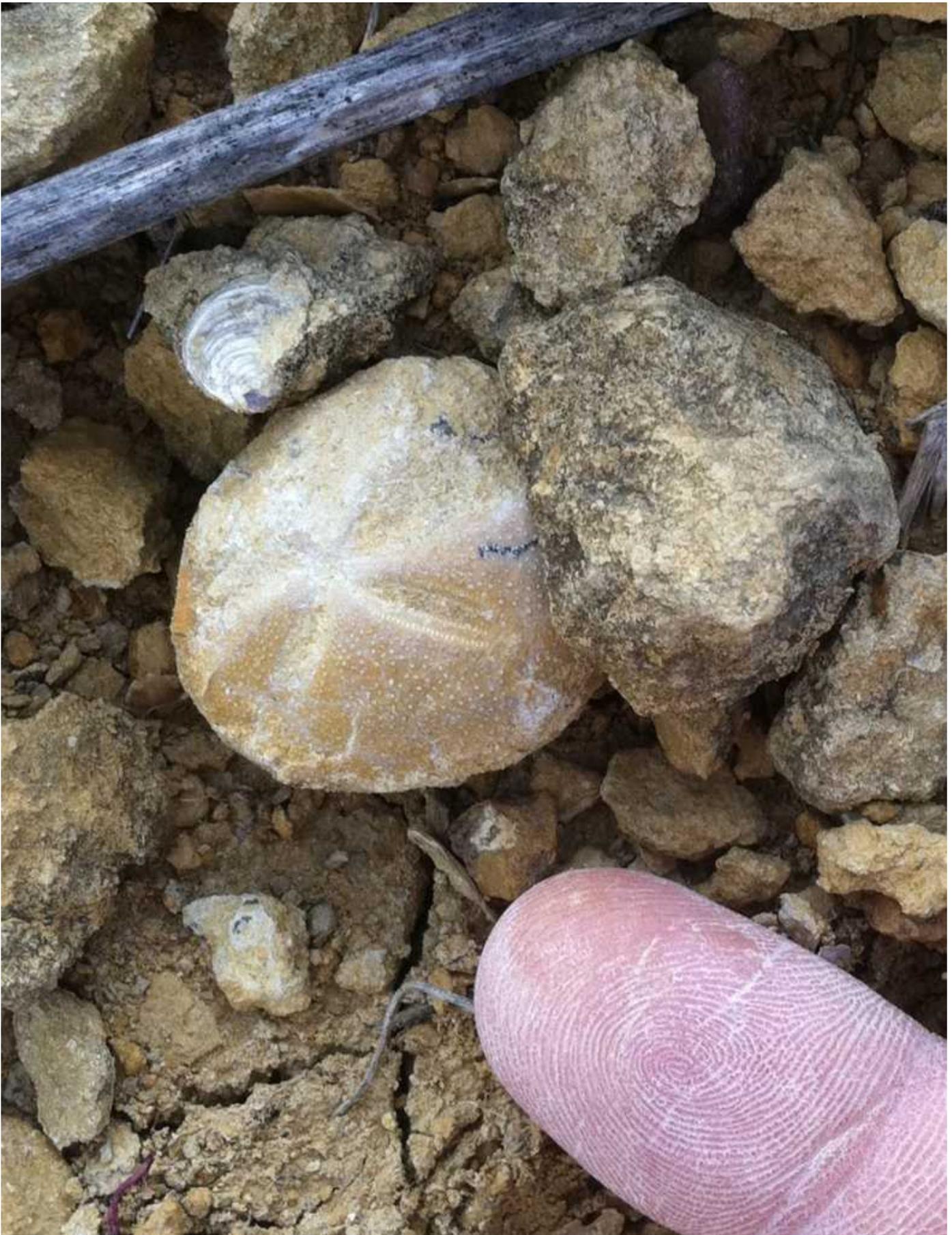
FIGS 4-6: Partial Corsicana Formation ammonite *Menuites stephensoni* this and next 2 pages (Site 349)







FIG 7: Partial Corsicana Formation heteromorphic ammonite *Baculites undatus*(Site 349)



FIGS 8-9: Corsicana Formation echinoid *Diplodetus americanus* this and next page (Site 349)





FIG 10: Corsicana Formation echinoids *Hemiaster bexari*(Site 349)



FIGS 11-13: Unidentified Corsicana Formation coral, possibly *Trochocyathus*; this and next 2 pages (Site 349)







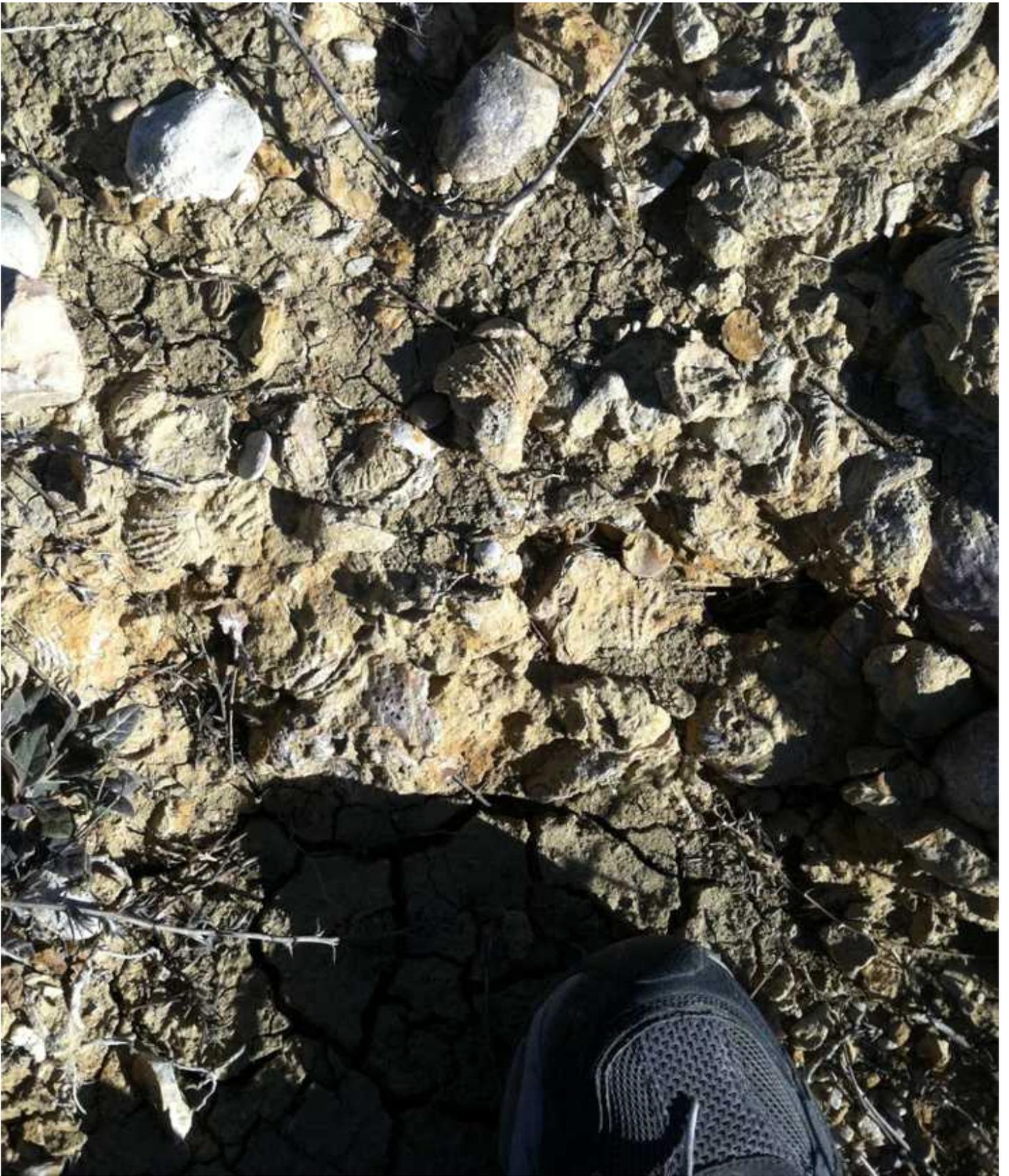
FIG 14: Corsicana Formation bivalve *Lima acutilineata*(Site 349)



FIG 15: Corsicana Formation bivalves *Lima guadalupensis* left and two *Neithea bexarensis* right (Site 349)



FIG 16: Corsicana Formation bivalves *Plicatula mullicaensis*(Site 349)



FIGS 17-18: Corsicana Formation bivalves *Pterotrigonia castrovillensis* this and next page (Site 349)





FIG 19: Corsicana Formation oysters *Plicatula mullicaensis* (Site 349)



FIG 20: Corsicana Formation juvenile oyster *Plicatula mullicaensis* left, *Serpula*(?) worm tube right (Site 349)



FIG 21: Corsicana Formation gastropods *Gyrodes* left, *Anchura*(?) right, and *Turritella vertebroides* right (Site 349)

Best finds during my hour long stay were a *Eutrephoceras* s.f. *dekayi* nautiloid with replaced shell tinted red, and a cute little solitary coral. Other finds included a ribbed section of *Baculites undatus*, some gastropods, oysters, and bivalves, both common and scarce varieties. A few echinoids *Hemiaster bexari* jumped in my bag as well as I was leaving, rounding out a relaxing but short visit.

January 12, 2013: Matrimony with Accents of Paleo

This particular Saturday brought our long awaited wedding day for now *MRS* Woehr and myself, and it was a small and intimate ceremony and dinner with family.

Low key accents of things paleontological weaved their way into the event, most notably my home made cufflinks derived from French Jurassic ammonites of probably the genus *Pleydellia*, gifts hailing from the Lyon/Belmont area from my good friend Jean-Louis Latil.



FIGS 22-24: A few shots from our wedding this and next 2 pages, starting with a group shot of Dan, Brett, and young Weston





Cufflinks made from *Pleydellia* ammonites from the Jurassic sediments near Belmont, France

I had also brought along a Texas *Mortonicer* ammonite to hold our Bible/guest book open for signing, and at the end of the ceremony I gave that ammonite to a very interested Pastor Shane.

Outside of that, believe or not, I opted to downplay my obsessive hobby, and a splendid time was had by one and all in attendance.

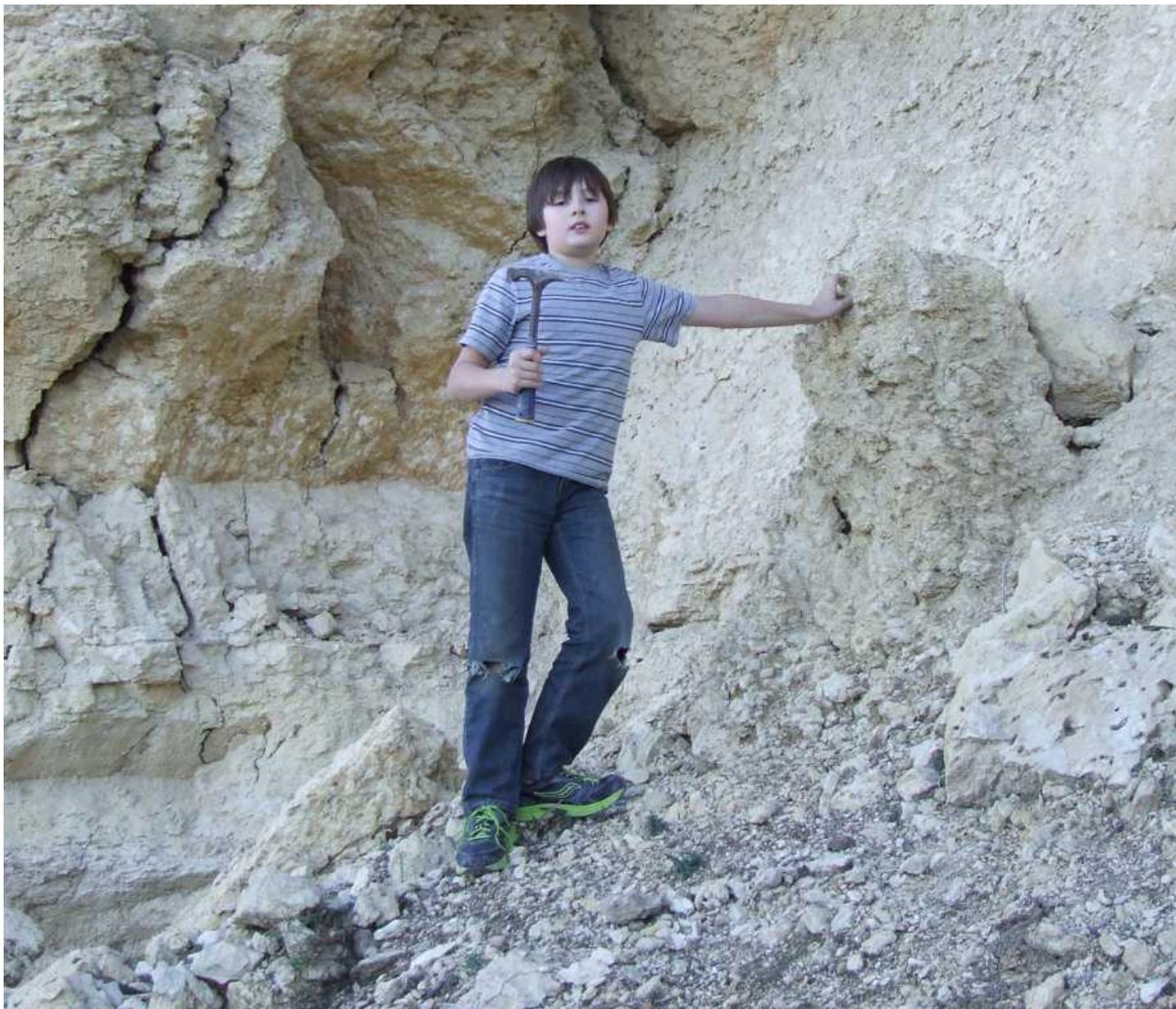
January 13, 2013: Glen Rose Afterparty

When a gap in the weekend food fest schedule came on Sunday, I gave my parents some options on how we might walk off some calories, and in a unified voice they expressed the desire to collect some fossils. Pleasantly surprised, I escorted them to the Glen Rose Formation (108 MYA) for some echinoid action with young Weston as co host.

3 inches of rain just a few days before had freshened things up a bit; in fact, newly eroded rivulets were still damp, creating color contrast that made it easier to spot *Loriolia rosana* echinoids. At 69 years of age, Pops Woehr was no slouch....he found the first 2 or 3 dime sized echinoids from standing level....not bad! Mama Woehr pooped out fast and headed for the car while 3 generations of Woehr men pressed on.



FIGS 25-28: Weston surveying the Upper Glen Rose Formation (Site 550)









FIGS 29-32: Weston made the best echinoid find of the group this day, a Glen Rose *Loriolia rosanathis* and next 3 pages (Site 550)

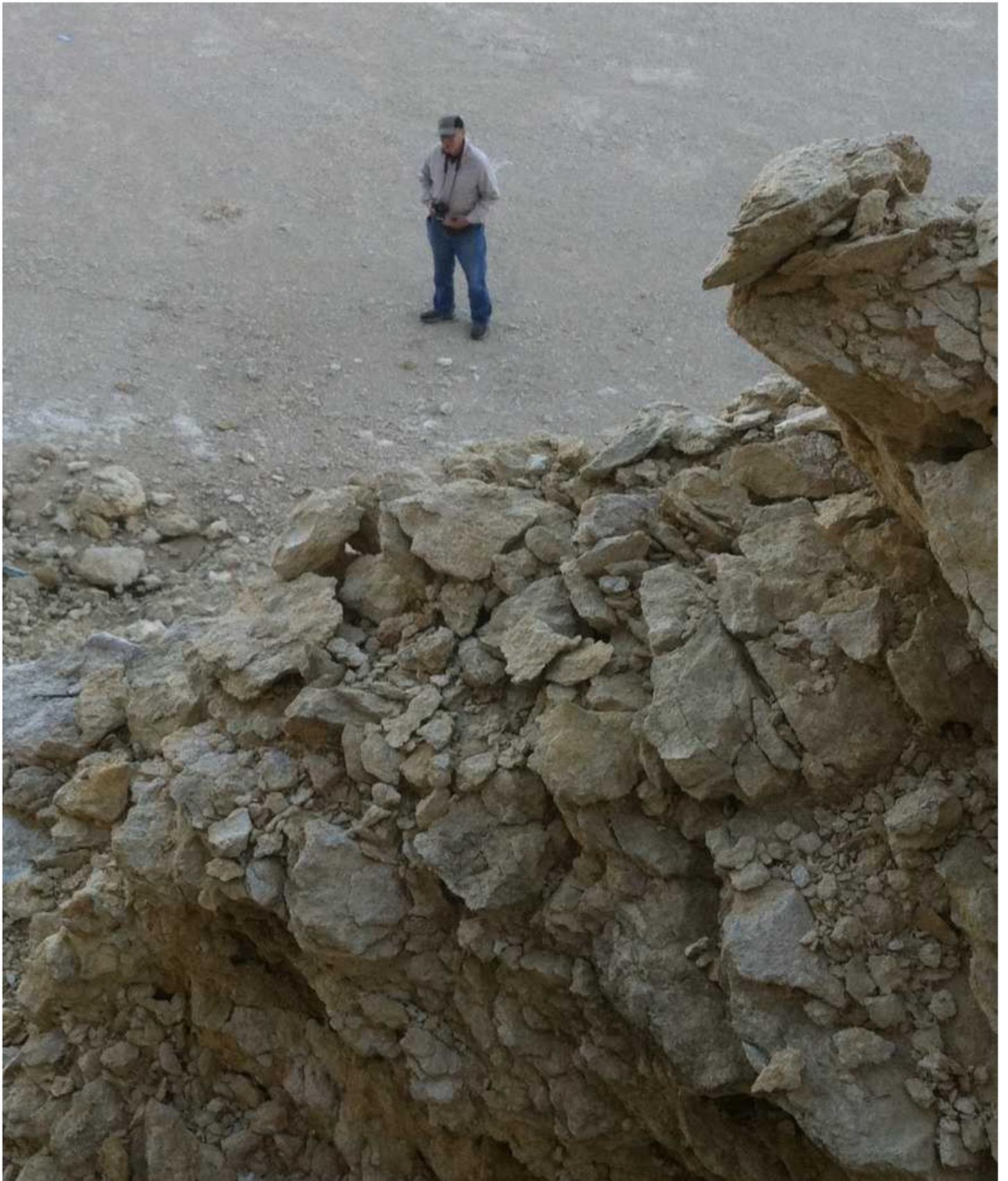








FIGS 33-34: Weston and his Grandpa Woehr this page, Grandpa alone afield next page (Site 550)





FIGS 35-40: The author and Weston working the Glen Rose this and next 5 pages (Site 550)



One *Loriolia* from up high







Steel cleats making a new area accessible



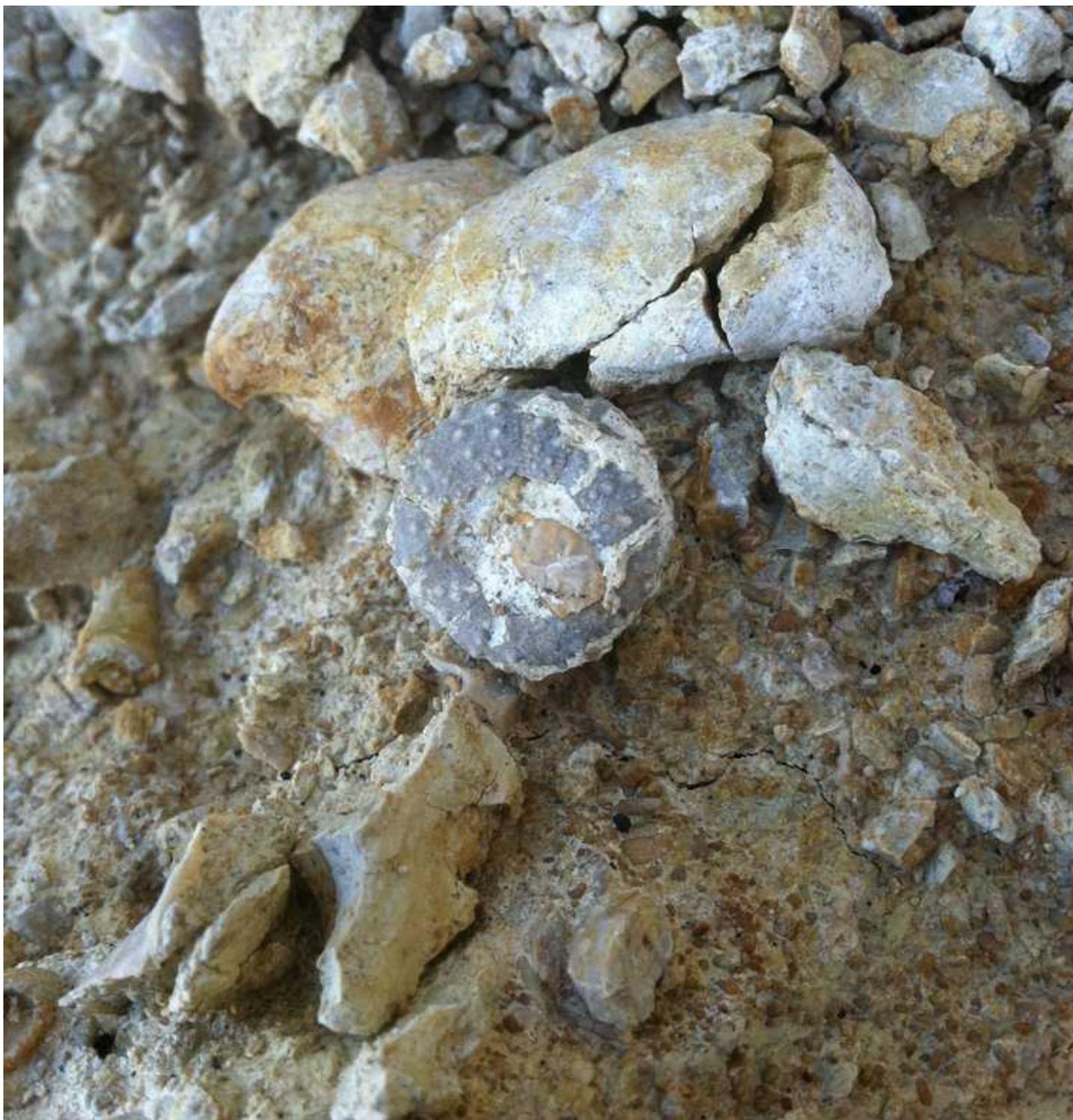


FIGS 41-49: Our combined take of *Loriolia rosana* from the Upper Glen Rose Formation this and next 8 pages (Site 550)



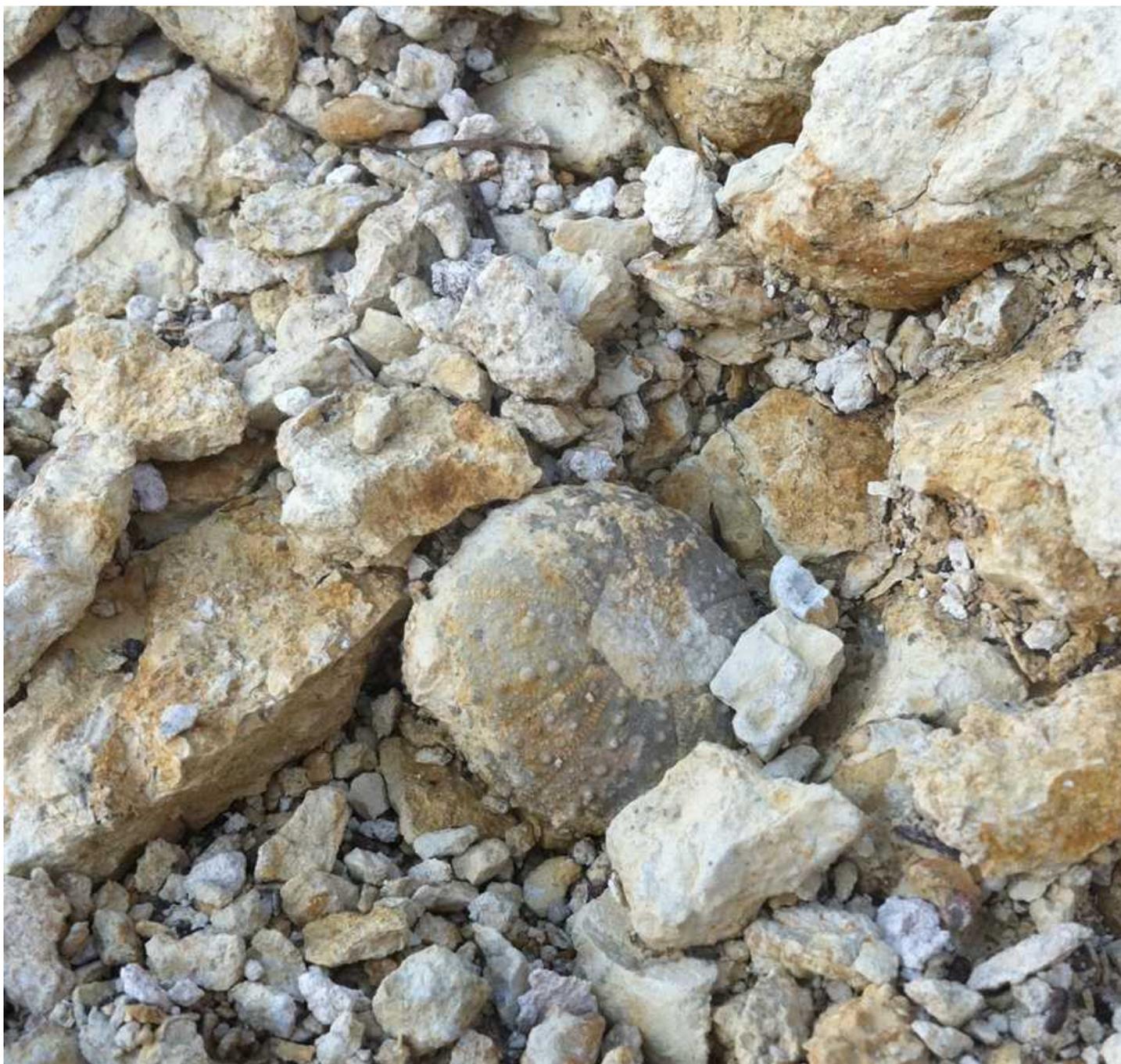
















FIGS 50-52: Unidentified colonial coral from the Upper Glen Rose Formation, this and next 2 pages (Site 550)





Weston scored the largest perfect *Loriolia* of the day, and wore that title with the pride that only a 10 year old can carry, supplementing his take with 3 more. Dad and I threw together a combined clutch of perhaps 25 more. During our hour long search in biting winds, I secured a rare personal find, a small colonial coral.

Scatterbrained from my wedding weekend, I drove off with my iPhone on the rear bumper, but fortunately found it later without tire tracks across it.....this was nothing compared to misplacing my keys, wallet, phone, AND sunglasses on my wedding day! Good times.....

January 19, 2013: Matrimony and Fossils

While Mrs. Woehr headed off to the gym Saturday morning, I headed to a construction site in the Corsicana Formation for a peek at what the previous week's rains had washed out. With 3 houses going up right on top of the best collecting area, I knew I'd soon have company...and by 8 a.m. I did. When the Hispanic construction crew came over to ask what I was doing, and possibly run me off, I played whatever cards I could and described my fossil hunting exploit to them in Spanish. They seemed OK with my presence at that point but when I was crawling within 20 feet of them swinging 20 foot 2 x 4s, I knew it would just be a matter of time before they ask me to leave...permanently. I grabbed a few more fossils then headed out before anyone ordered me to scram.



FIGS 53-57: Corsicana Formation crabs *Dakoticancer australisthis* and next 4 pages (Site 349)



Dakoticancer crab with *Anchuragastropod*









FIG 58: Corsicana Formation *Pachydisas*(?) ammonite (Site 349)



FIGS 59-61: Corsicana Formation *Sphenodiscus* sp. ammonite this and next 2 pages (Site 349)







FIGS 62-65: Corsicana Formation *Glyptoxoceras*(?) ammonite this and next 3 pages (Site 349)









FIGS 66-67: Crushed Corsicana Formation echinoid *Schizaster variabilis* covered with encrusting bryozoan *Coponeum* sp. this and next page (Site 349)





FIGS 68-69: Corsicana Formation echinoids *Schizaster variabilis* lower right, *Proraster dalli* upper right, and *Diplodetus americanus* left, this page, reverse of *D. americanus* next page (Site 349)





FIGS 70-75: Corsicana Formation echinoids *Hemaster bexarthis* and next 5 pages (Site 349)









Sometimes they are distorted



Quite often the echinoids are covered in marl as shown



FIG 76: Isolated plate from an unidentified Corsicana Formation cidarid echinoid (Site 349)



FIG 77: Corsicana Formation echinoids *Schizaster variabilis* left, two *Hemiaster bexar* center, cidarid plate right

(Site 349)



FIG 78: Unidentified Corsicana Formation crab claw fragment left, possible fish tooth *Protosphyraena permicos* right

(Site 349)

In my 2 hour crawl I was able to secure a few goodies for posterity before construction permanently overtakes the remaining exposure. I bagged 3 or 4 keeper albeit imperfect crabs *Dakoticancer australis*, maybe 20 *Hemiaster bexari* echinoids, a couple *Diplodetus americanus* echinoids, and a juvenile *Schizaster variabilis* echinoid. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a *Pachydiscus* ammonite and a large but fragmented *Sphenodiscus* ammonite jigsaw puzzle also hit the bottom of the catch bag. One partial fish tooth and the usual barrage of bivalves and gastropods made the scene as well, and I left pleased with my take.



FIGS 79-83: A unique cluster of Corsicana Formation gastropods *Volutoderma* and *Volutomorpha* this and next 4 pages (Site 349)



Two *Volutoderma*





Volutomorpha





FIG 84: Corsicana Formation gastropods *Anchura* sp. (Site 349)



FIGS 85-91: Unidentified Corsicana Formation gastropods (Site 349)















FIG 92: Corsicana Formation *Napulus* sp. gastropod (Site 349)



FIG 93: Corsicana Formation *Turritella vertebroides* gastropods, the right hand specimen with an attached oyster
(Site 349)



FIGS 94-96: Corsicana Formation *Exogyra costata* oysters this and next 2 pages (Site 349)







FIG 97: Corsicana Formation oyster *Exogyra costata* top left, bivalve *Plicatula mullicaensis* top center, two scallops *Neithea bexarensis* top right, *Liopistha protexta* second row center, *Lima* sp. second row far right, oyster *Plicatula mullicaensis* bottom center (Site 349)



FIGS 98-99: Corsicana Formation bivalves *Lima guadalupensis* this and next page (Site 349)





FIG 100: Corsicana Formation bivalve *Liopistha protexta* (Site 349)



FIG 101: Corsicana Formation bivalves unidentifield top left, *Liopistha protexta* top right, *Pterotrigonia castrovillensis* bottom left, *Crassatella* sp. bottom right (Site 349)



FIG 102: Corsicana Formation bivalves *Neithea bexarensis*(Site 349)

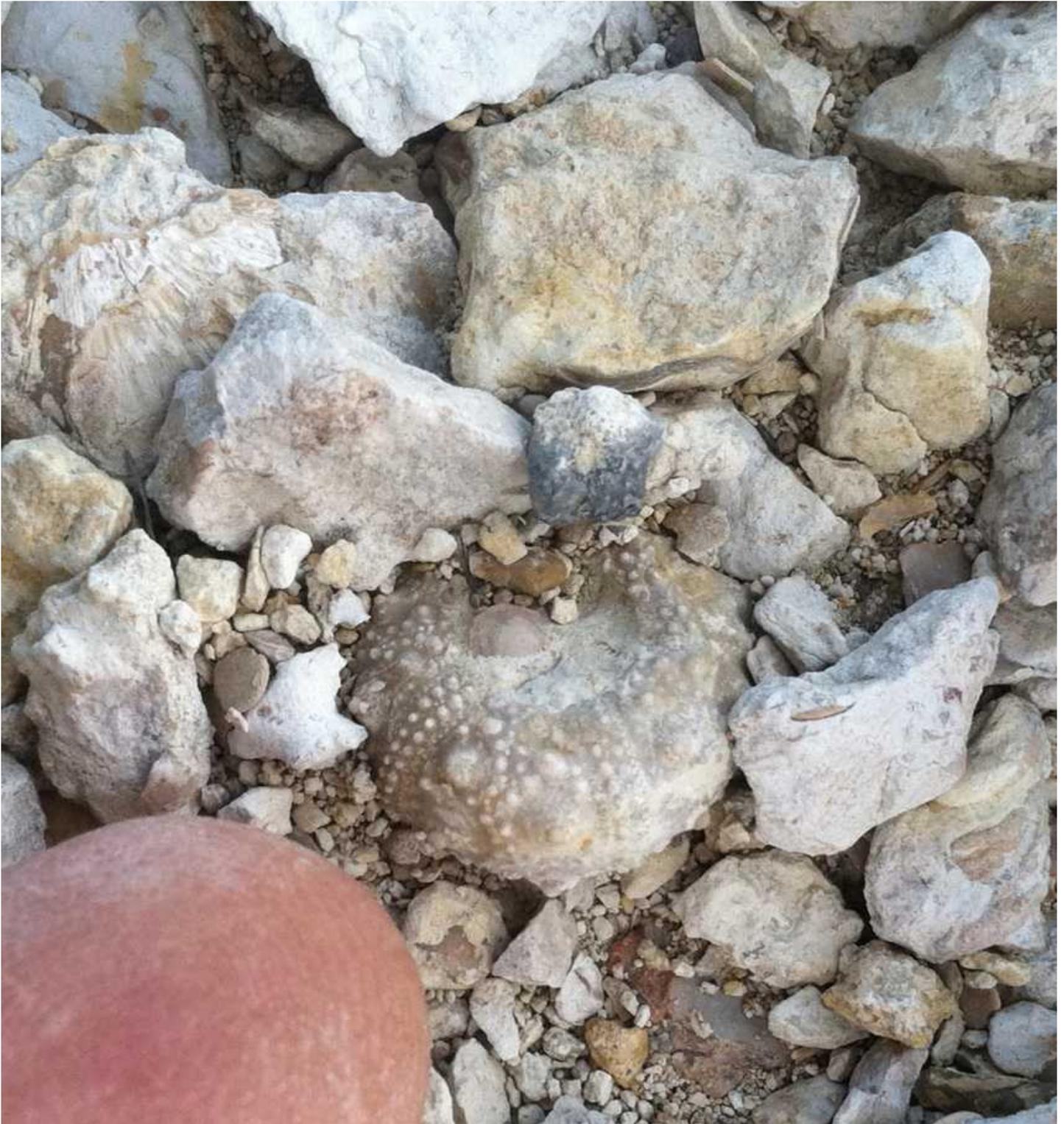


FIG 103: Corsicana Formation oyster *Plicatula mullicaensis* (Site 349)



FIG 104: Corsicana Formation bryozoans *Dysnoetopora celleporoides*(Site 349)

Catching up with Brett, we headed out of town again in search of artifacts, but she's still looking for her first point...maybe next time. We salvaged her outing by returning to the Glen Rose Formation for her first love, echinoids, and we each landed a nice *Leptosalenia texana* and a bunch of worn examples of the same. It was such beautiful weather out that we were just happy to be outside.



FIGS 105-108: Glen Rose Formation echinoid *Leptosalenia texana* this and next 3 pages (Site 445)







January 20, 2013: After Church Echinoids

Our Sunday drive took us out into the beautiful Texas Hill Country, this time in the Walnut Formation (105 MYA), another Cretaceous marine sequence with its own distinct fauna. Our first stop was one that I had never explored, and with steel baseball cleats to make me a little more sure footed, I ascended a cliff and was rewarded with a big *Phymosoma texanum* echinoid, rare in this outcrop area.



FIGS 109-110: Walnut Formation echinoids *Phymosoma texanum* this and next page (Site 637)



Catching up with Brett I saw that she had landed a *Coenholectypus planatus* echinoid, and I bagged 3 of the same en route, plus a *Loriolia whitneyi* echinoid. Good start.



FIGS 111-116: Walnut Formation echinoids *Coenholectypus planatus* this and next 5 pages (Site 637)











The second site was in the same zone but rather stingy in echies despite the rain. I gave Brett some echinoid field training and helped her spot *Coenholectypus* and *Loriolia* echs barely peeking out of the marl, and I believe our combined take was 4 keepers.



FIGS 117-118: Walnut Formation echinoids *Coenholectypus planatus* this and next page (Site 454)



The third site was again in the same zone, and my confidence was heightened here since the last rain had angled directly into the face of this bluff, so erosion should have been increased as compared to the last exposure. Not a bumper crop of echs, but we still landed several *Coenholectypus* and *Loriolia* specimens....plus I got a nice *Phymosoma* on the lower end of the size spectrum.



FIGS 119-121: Walnut Formation echinoids *Phymosoma texanum* this and next 2 pages (Site 454)







FIG 122: Walnut Formation echinoid *Loriolia* sp. (Site 454)



FIG 123: Walnut Formation echinoids *Loriolia whitneyi* left and *L. texana* center and right (Site 454)

Our final site was again in the same zone, but it was a small site. With a chuckle I bagged another squashed but complete *C. planatus*, and a wonderful *Phymosoma* in matrix. A fossil rich wife is a happy wife...and I try to always keep a few easy access, productive sites in my back pocket just for her, directing her to the highest potential yield portions of each exposure.



FIGS 124-125: Walnut Formation echinoids *Coenholectypus planatus* above and *Phymosoma texanum* below and next page (Site 637)



It was a great day afield for us together made better only by ribeye steaks on my grill. Good times. Marriage rocks!