

FOSSIL COLLECTING REPORT

June 2013

Daniel A. Woehr and Friends

This report is dedicated to the memory of my dear, departed collecting buddy, Brent Dunn



June 1, 2013: Walnut Formation in Good Company

On a windy Saturday I joined forces in the Walnut Formation (106 MYA) of Central Texas with my good friend Richard Benefield from the DFW area. Our first site was intended to be the cornerstone of the day's festivities,

but the 3-4 hour hike took us to an exposure that had been worked by other collectors who left ammonite chunks in piles...not a welcome sight after a long haul to a somewhat obscure area... this disturbing trend is becoming all too frequent. We were glad to put this boondoggle behind us and try to make a productive outing out of the rest of the day.

We took the opportunity to peruse some construction sites in the area, and the first one panned out well. It was a hill with the side cut open, and fortunately appeared to have had plenty of time to weather. As we jumped out of our trucks, I told Richard that my experience would have us concentrate on the nodular limestone layer sandwiched between marls above and below. As it turned out, this prognostication was spot on.

Wishing I had brought along my steel cleats, I did my best to climb the steep face to the nodular limestone zone in tennis shoes. I was soon rewarded with the best ammonite of the day, a nice little 2.5 inch *Engonoceras* which I gave to Richard as he's a big ammonite aficionado. Interest piqued, Richard then made his way up the face, but gravity got the best of him, and hiney skin was rumored to have been left on the slope (unconfirmed).



FIG 1: Walnut Formation with productive nodular zone about 2/3 of way up exposure (Site 664)



FIGS 2-4: Walnut Formation ammonites *Engonoceras* sp. this and next 2 pages (Site 664)



This one will clean up very nicely



Second specimen



FIGS 5-9: Walnut Formation echinoids *Phymosoma texanum* this and next 4 pages (Site 664)









Phymosoma from sites 404 and 664



FIG 10: Walnut Formation echinoid *Hemiaster* sp. (Site 664)



FIGS 11-12: Walnut Formation echinoids *Heterasterc.f. texanusthis* and next page (Site 664)





FIGS 13-14: Walnut Formation bivalves *Neitheasp.* this page, *Protocardiasp.* next page (Site 664)





FIGS 15-18: Unidentified Walnut Formation bivalve this and next 3 pages (Site 664)







Toward the bottom of the nodular zone I then took 2 *Phymosoma texanum* echinoids within 2 feet of each other. Working our way around the hill, Richard then moved into the lead with a number of nice *Phymosoma* echinoids crossing his palm. We each grabbed a nice *Protocardia* bivalve and ignored the lion's share of the common *Heteraster texanum* echinoids. Upon taking an action photo of Richard finding the last of many *Phymosoma*, I backed into a fire ant mound and broke into a "hillbilly jig" as I hopped around slapping at my ankle.

Moving on to a graded lot, I mentioned to Richard that the gray, marly layers in the Walnut Formation, in my experience, often produce the better preserved echinoids than the more weathered tan layers, sometimes dusted with shiny pyrite. My reasoning (although I can't back it up with much chemistry offhand) is that the gray layers are unleached, while the tan layers are leached and exhibit rusty, broken down pyrite which affects fossil preservation. Our finds at this site were scant, save for the clutch of nice *Heteraster* echinoids I found eroding out of the dark blue/gray marl.



FIGS 19-22: Walnut Formation echinoids *Heteraster* cf. *texasus* this and next 3 pages (Site 665)







Our final site tag teamed that day was another incised, weathered hillside. It had become a hot and sweaty day, so I was especially displeased find dried footprints at the base of the exposure, implying that we had been preempted for the second time that day. Still, we pressed on, and I'm glad we did.

First I found a nice little *Phymosoma*, well preserved in the gray marl, then another, then another just inches from a nice *Engonoceras* ammonite. Richard showed me his *Engonoceras* ammonite, and I slapped still another high grade example of the same in his hand. On my way back to the truck I scored 2 more *Phymosoma* from the gray marl. A few well preserved *Heteraster texanus* echinoids dusted with pyrite kept the *Phymosoma* company in my catch bag.



FIGS 23-25: Walnut Formation ammonite *Engonoceras* sp. this and next 2 pages (Site 404)







FIGS 26-28: Walnut Formation echinoids *Phymosoma texanum* this and next 2 pages (Site 404)





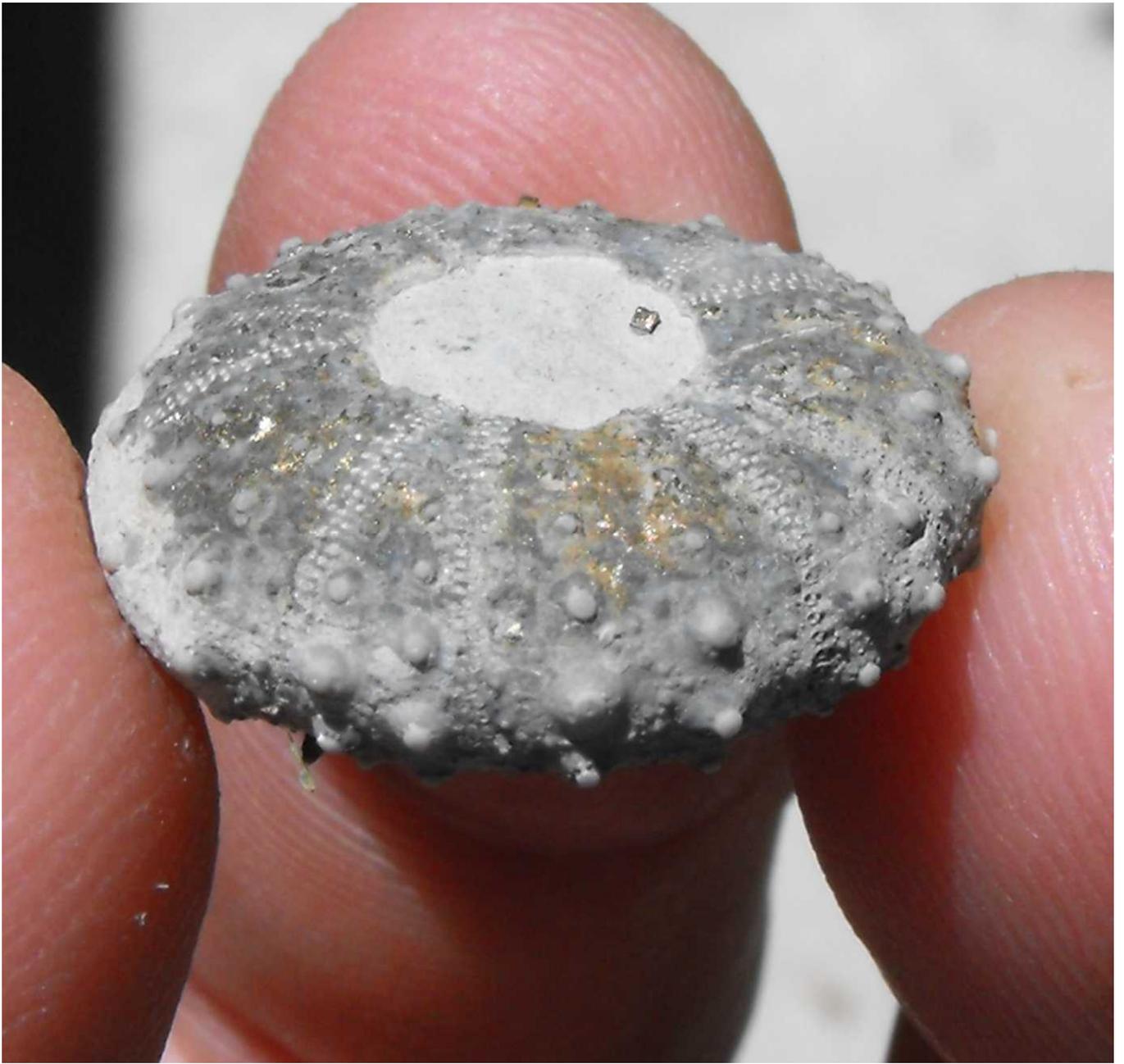


FIG 29: Walnut Formation echinoid *Phymosoma texanumas* found below ammonite *Ergonoceras* sp. (Site 404)



FIGS 30-32: Prized pyritized Walnut Formation echinoid *Phymosoma texanum* this and next 2 pages (Site 404)







FIGS 33-34: Pyritized Walnut Formation echinoid *Heteraster* c.f. *texanusthis* and next page (Site 404)



It felt good to throw down some food and suck up some A/C at a local establishment, then we decided to cut the day a little short and begin the trek home.

I took the opportunity to revisit a temporary exposure in the Georgetown Formation (100 MYA), the same site that months prior had kept Weston and me entertained with some cool pyritized fossils. Early in my search I found a nice shark tooth *Cretolamna appendiculata*—a great start and never common in this formation.



FIGS 35-37: Not exactly common in the Georgetown Formation, a nice shark tooth *Cretolamna appendiculata* this and next 2 pages (Site 628)







FIGS 38-39: Georgetown Formation ammonite *Mortoniceras* sp. this and next page (Site 628)





FIGS 40-42: Georgetown Formation ammonite *Mortoniceras drake* (this and next 2 pages), shown here with a squashed *Macraster* echinoid just below and right of the ammonite, and a pyritized scallop *Neitheasp.* farther below (Site 628)



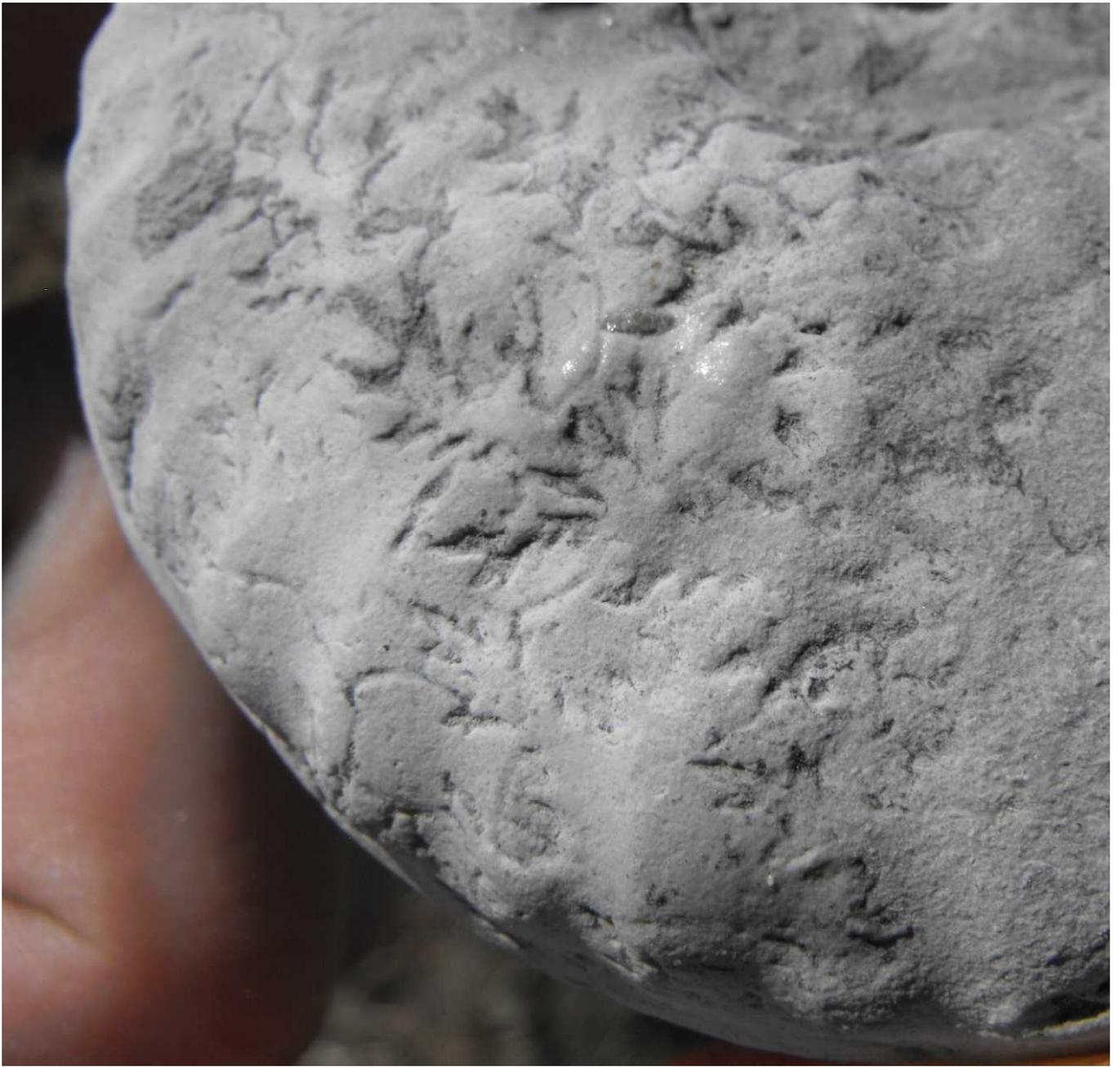




FIG 43: Peek-a-boo *Paracymatoceras texanum* nautiloid in the Georgetown Formation (Site 628)



FIGS 44-46: Pyritized Georgetown Formation *Neithea* sp. scallops this and next 2 pages (Site 628)



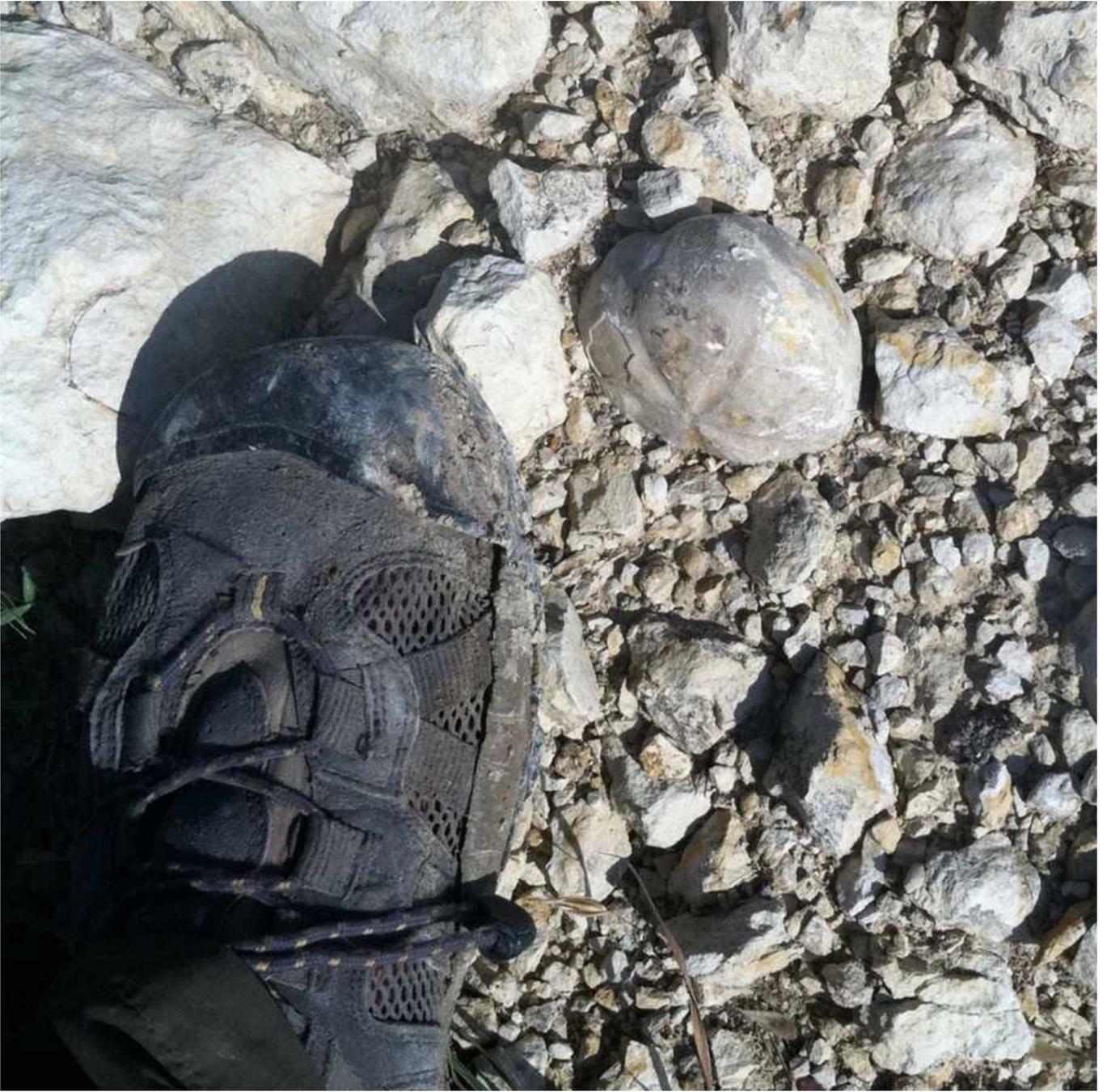




FIG 47: Georgetown Formation *Limabivalve* (Site 628)



FIGS 48-51: Georgetown Formation *Macraster* sp. echinoids this and next 3 pages (Site 628)







A good string of finds ensued, dominated by pyrite encrusted *Neitheas* scallops, and interspersed with a couple *Mortoniceras* ammonites. The final leg of my walk produced 3 *Macraster* echinoids a few feet apart – a photo finish.

June 11, 2013: Paying Respects to my Departed Friend and Mentor

We honored Brent Dunn's action packed 50 years on this day. He was a great friend and a mentor to me in my pursuit of avocational paleontology. 2 weeks ago he saluted our friendship by naming a new species of fossil after me, *Cacops woehri*. One week ago he slipped the shackles of this world suddenly, leaving behind two daughters and friends who called him a brother. Rest in peace, Big Boy! You will be missed, but never forgotten!



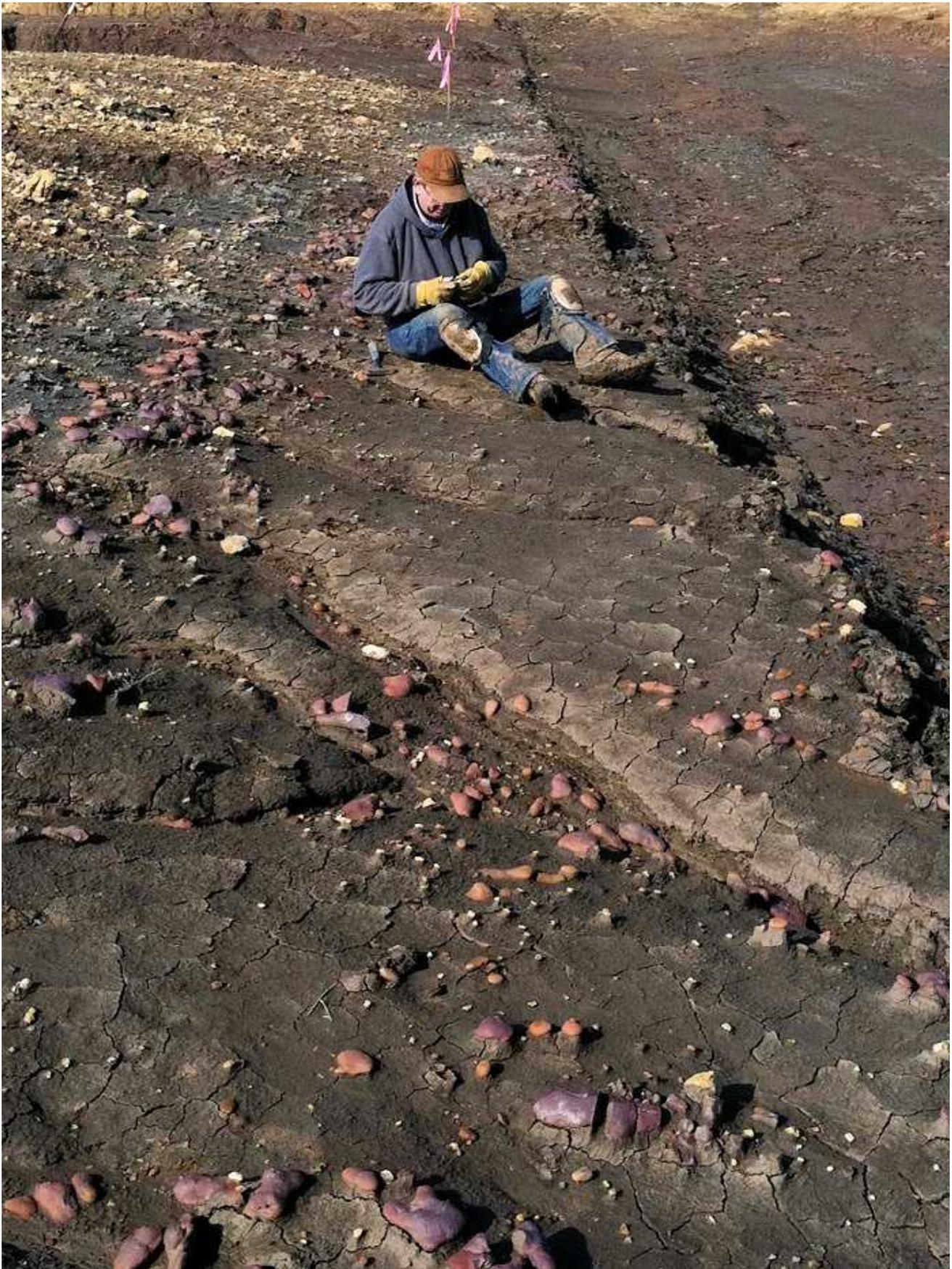
FIGS 52-61: Brent Dunn as I remember him, pictured here hunting ammonites and echinoids in an old quarry in Fort Worth, TX, February 2013



At lake Texoma when we rented a ski boat to run around finding fossils on the various shorelines



Goofing off while digging up shark teeth in the Kamp Ranch limestone



Getting serious about fossil crabs and shark teeth in the Pawpaw Formation near Fort Worth, December 2011



Working with Shawn Hamm on mosasaurs at Southern Methodist University, Spring 2013



Offshore Port Aransas catching his first Amberjack







Snapper fishing offshore Port Aransas



Hog hunting in South Texas



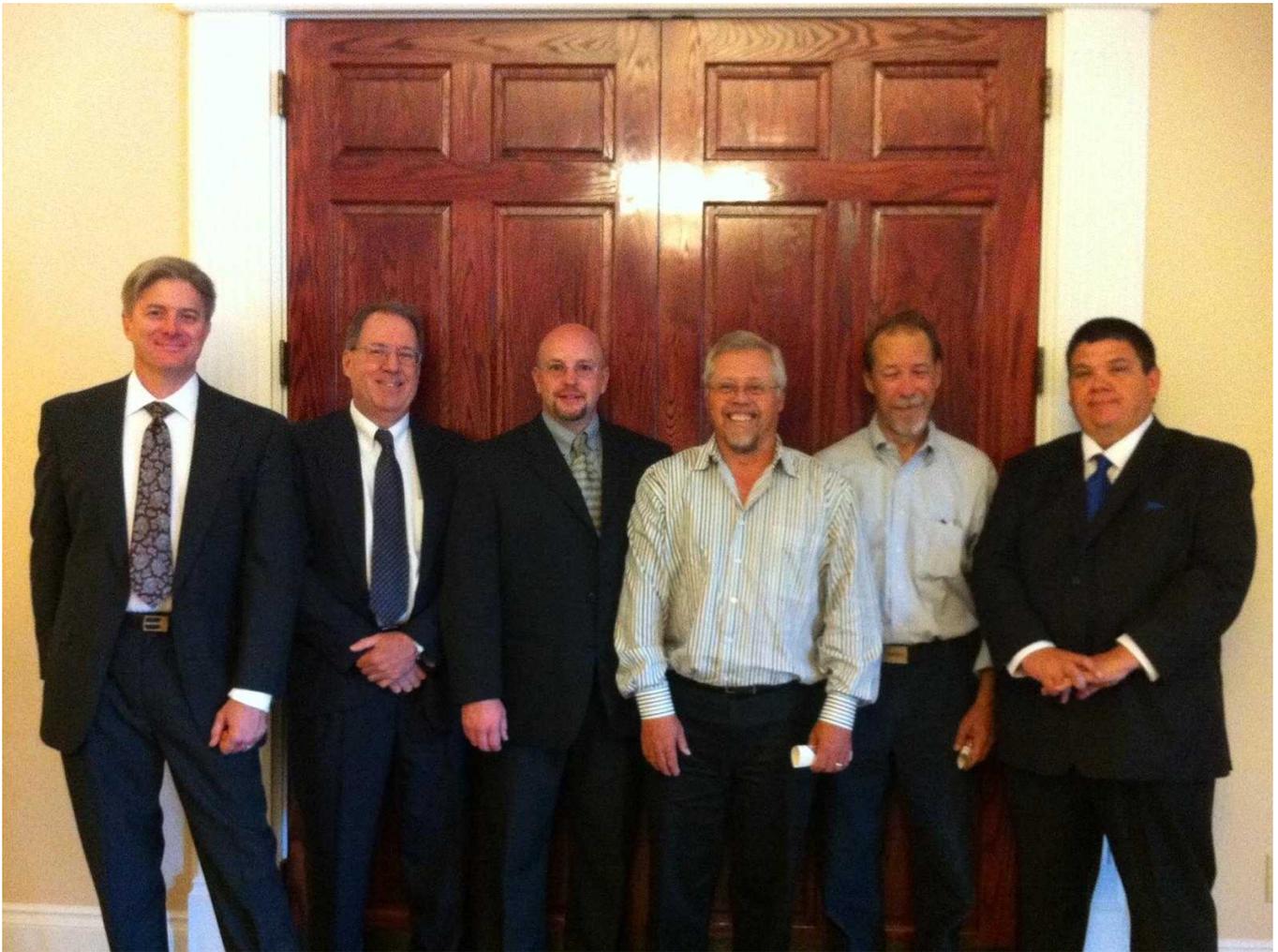
FIGS 62-67: A few scenes from Brent's memorial service, June 11, 2013. Shown here is his oldest daughter, his only grandson, and his prized, self found Western Kansas mosasaur skull







In Loving Memory



A few of Brent's fossiling buddies, left to right: the author, Frank Holterhoff, Shawn Hamm, Mark McKinzie, Chris Vencevich, Richard Benefield. Brent would laugh at seeing all of us dirt mongers in monkey suits!

June 12, 2013: Austin Chalk Lunch Hour

Steady rains this week freshened up a few little sites around town, so I opted to visit a certain seam of Austin Chalk (85 MYA) on my lunch hour. In a half hour I scored 3 decent *Hemiaster texanusechinoids*, some regular echinoid spines, and a partial ammonite. Then back to work for me.



FIG 68: Unidentified Austin Chalk ammonite fragment (Site 16)



FIGS 69-76: Austin Chalk echinoids *Hemasterc.f. texanus* in situ and as prepped, this and next 6 pages (Site 16)















June 13, 2013: Reflecting on a Departed Friend

More rain fell throughout the afternoon, so I made the snap decision while leaving work to sniff out some micro sized Glen Rose Formation (108 MYA) echinoids. I had taken my friend Brent Dunn there once or twice over the years, and felt like quietly reflecting on our various fossil trips of yore while I crawled around on hands and knees in the mud. This was the best form of therapy for me at the time.

I could see that the last big rain had resculpted the surface of the exposure. I saw no fresh sign of other collectors, and within seconds found my first echinoid, a *Pygopyrina hancockensis*, and a few minutes later, a *Hyposalenia*. The pace was pretty steady, and over about an hour or so, I grabbed 19 perfect echinoids. Most fell somewhere in the *Salenia* spectrum, but I landed another *P. hancockensis* and a *Paraorthopsis comalensis*, rounding out my echinoid take.



FIGS 77-78: Glen Rose Formation echinoids *Pygopyrina hancockensis* this and next page (Site 161)





FIGS 79-81: Glen Rose Formation echinoid, possibly *Tetragrammathis* and next 2 pages (Site 161)







FIGS 82-84: Glen Rose Formation echinoids *Hyposalenia* and *Leptosalenia* this and next 2 pages (Site 161)







FIG 85: Glen Rose Formation echinoid plates *Balanocidaris* and unidentified fish vertebra (Site 161)



FIG 86: Unidentified Glen Rose Formation crab claw fingers (Site 161)



FIGS 87-90: Glen Rose Formation crab claws *Paleopagurus banderensis* this and next 3 pages (Site 161)







Some really nice crab claws joined the echies in my catch bag, most notably 2 big *Paleopagurus banderensis* dactyls and one claw of the same species with both fingers intact. A fish vertebra added some variety.

Every time my mind drifted off of Brent I felt half normal, but each time reality returned, it was a fresh punch in the face. But overall the trip was good for the soul.

June 15, 2013: Attacking the Atco Formation

Through a friend I caught wind earlier in the week of a young construction superintendent in Central Texas, Tim, who had a thirst for knowledge surrounding the fossils he was finding at his 9 acre construction site which would eventually become a parking garage. Tim's own diligent research revealed to him that he was hunting the rarely exposed contact of the Eagle Ford and Austin Groups, an interval of roughly 85-90 MYA.

Our emails over several days revealed that he had found some ammonites just below the contact zone, some ribbed and some smooth, including large partial examples of the genus *Coilopoceras*. I urged Tim to keep his eyes open for bladed fossil shark teeth as well as *Ptychodus*, a genus of crusher shark tooth. When Tim said that he had found some *Ptychodus* teeth, then realized he had dismissed them as shell fragments and tossed them, I was quick to take him up on his offer of a guided Saturday visit with my wife, Brett.



FIG 91: Atco/Eagle Ford contact (Site 666)



FIG 92: Our guide Tim (Site 666)



FIGS 93-95: Atco/Eagle Ford contact this and next 2 pages (Site 666)





FIGS 96-97: Mrs. Woehr preparing to attack the Atco Formation this page; boarding the fossil buggy next page (Site 666)



We met Tim around 9 a.m. and he led us past a montage of NO TRESPASSING signs posted at regular intervals along the perimeter fence. I handed him a big *Mortoniceras equidistans* ammonite from the Fort Worth Formation and a nice *Eopachydiscus marcianus* ammonite from the Duck Creek Formation to kick off the festivities on the right note.

The Atco Formation lower contact was readily visible all the way around the 9 acre pit, and Tim was kind enough to haul us around in a golf cart the entire time, and even offer up the use of a Bobcat if any major excavation was required...Tim was easy to like!



FIGS 98-99: A closer look: Atco Formation above, Eagle Ford Group below, this and next page (Site 666)



Tim first showed us a zone in the Eagle Ford about a foot or less below the Atco contact where several ammonites were exposed, cut in section by construction efforts. I found a smaller ammonite with prominent ventral nodes, but it was already fractured into pieces in situ. This crumbly Eagle Ford wasn't doing us any favors in the preservation department.

Moving around to Tim's next best area, he was quick to find a couple partial ammonites and a nodule from a bentonite layer containing a *Mecaster batnensis* echinoid. Nearby I lay hands on a couple partial ammonites, one looking like *Prionocylus*, the other, *Scaphites* of some flavor.



FIG 100: Eagle Ford echinoid *Mecaster batnensis* found by Tim (Site 666)



FIGS 101-103: Eagle Ford ammonite *Scaphites* sp. this and next 2 pages (Site 666)







FIGS 104-105: Partial Eagle Ford ammonites *Scaphitesp.* and *Prionocyclussp.* this and next page (Site 666)



I worked the perimeter of the pit just above the contact, now focused on shark teeth. I was first rewarded by one *Ptychodus morton* tooth, then the cusp of another.



FIGS 106-107: Partial Eagle Ford crusher shark teeth *Ptychodus morton* this and next page (Site 666)



Moving back to the first ammonite wall, Tim began digging at one of the partials, and from under it out popped a pretty little fine ribbed, phosphatized *Scaphites* steinkern...very cool!

We finished off our morning sitting on the top of the pit wall, randomly smacking at a big slab of limestone from the Atco contact. While blabbing about who knows what, I popped a big flake of limestone away and when it flipped over, a perfect *P. mortoni* was revealed, my best find from the site.



FIGS 108-110: Tim's best Eagle Ford *Scaphites* sp. ammonite this and next 2 pages (Site 666)







FIG 111: Tim's best Eagle Ford *Pithchodus mortoni* tooth (Site 666)



FIGS 112-115: The author's best Eagle Ford *Pithchodus mortoni* tooth this and next 3 pages (Site 666)









FIG 116: Tim's Eagle Ford crow shark tooth *Squalicorax falcatus*(Site 666)



FIG 117: Happy hunters (Site 666)

The temperature was rising as fast as we ran out of steam. Mrs. Woehr had wandered off to do some girly shopping and returned just as the fossiling petered out. But a good shot of rain will totally rejuvenate this site and afford Tim some quality lunch hours on the job site. We shook hands and got on with our day.



FIGS 118-119: Mrs. Woehr and her outsized Glen Rose echinoid *Leptosalenia texanathis* and next page (Site 445)





FIGS 120-122: The author's best Glen Rose echinoid *Leptosalenia texana* of the day this and next 2 pages

(Site 445)





On the way home I took Brett to her favorite echinoid site in the Glen Rose Formation (108 MYA), a site off the beaten track, productive, yet not requiring much hiking to reach. I gave her the hottest zone and turned her loose. Before long she called me over to take note of her oversized and well preserved *Leptosalenia texana*, a beautiful regular echinoid. I grabbed a nice one as well, but not as large as hers. With a few more of the same in lesser condition, we called it a day.

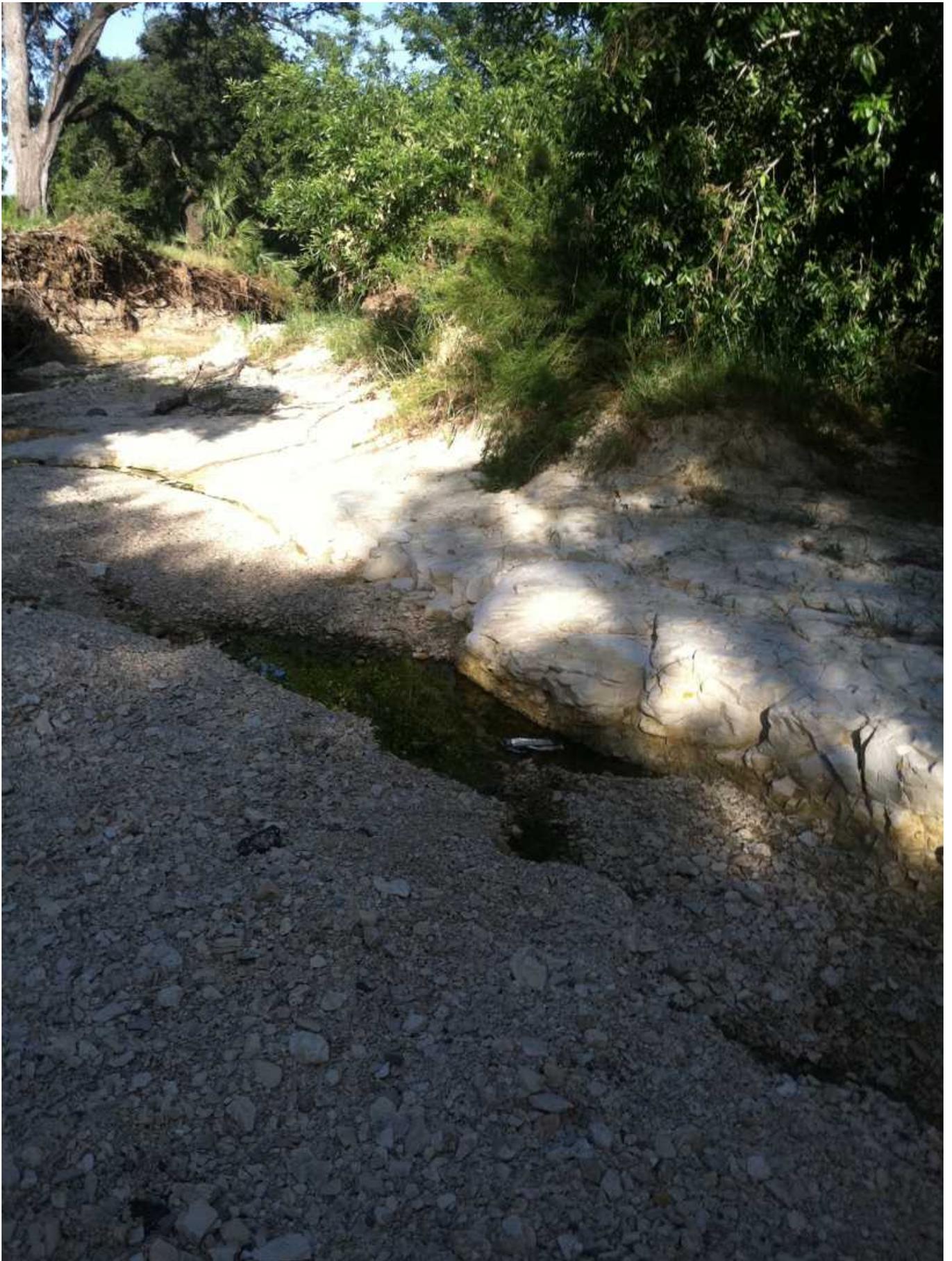
June 17, 2013: Pecan Gap Reconnaissance

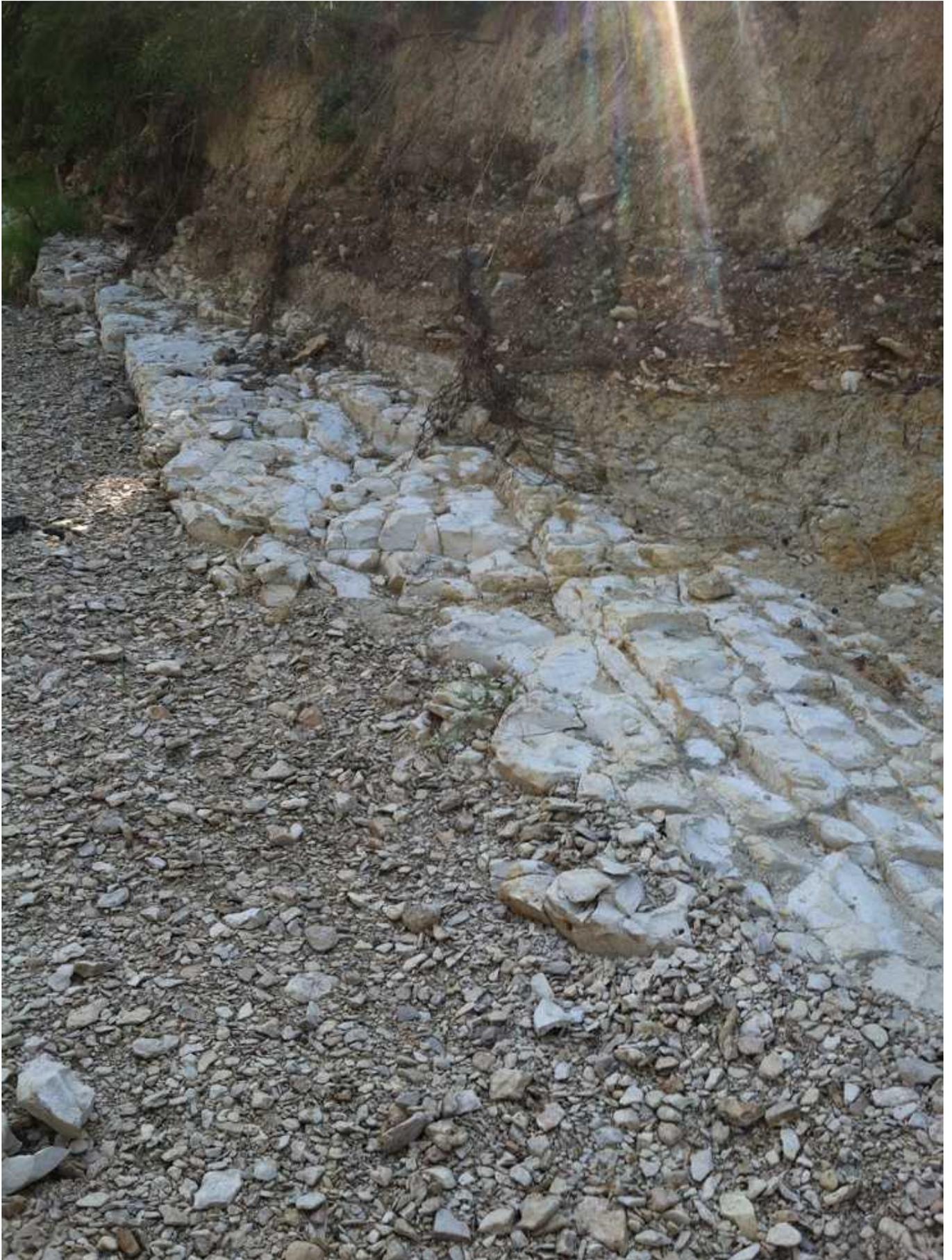
After a hiatus of many years I returned to a Pecan Gap stream exposure, freshly washed by many inches of rain within the last few weeks. The Pecan Gap Formation (72 MYA) is generally pretty sparse with fossils, but this exposure had enough to keep things interesting.

My first find was a partially crushed *Hemisterechinoid* in matrix, and small *Neitheas* scallops were common finds when I whacked fissures in the fine grained white blocks of chalk and examined the newly exposed planes. In fading light I spotted 2 or 3 partial *Pachydiscus travis* ammonites, one partial *Trachyscaphites sphinger* ammonite, and my best find was a small yellow *Eutrephoceras* ammonite.



FIGS 123-126: Pecan Gap Formation this and next 3 pages (Site 154)





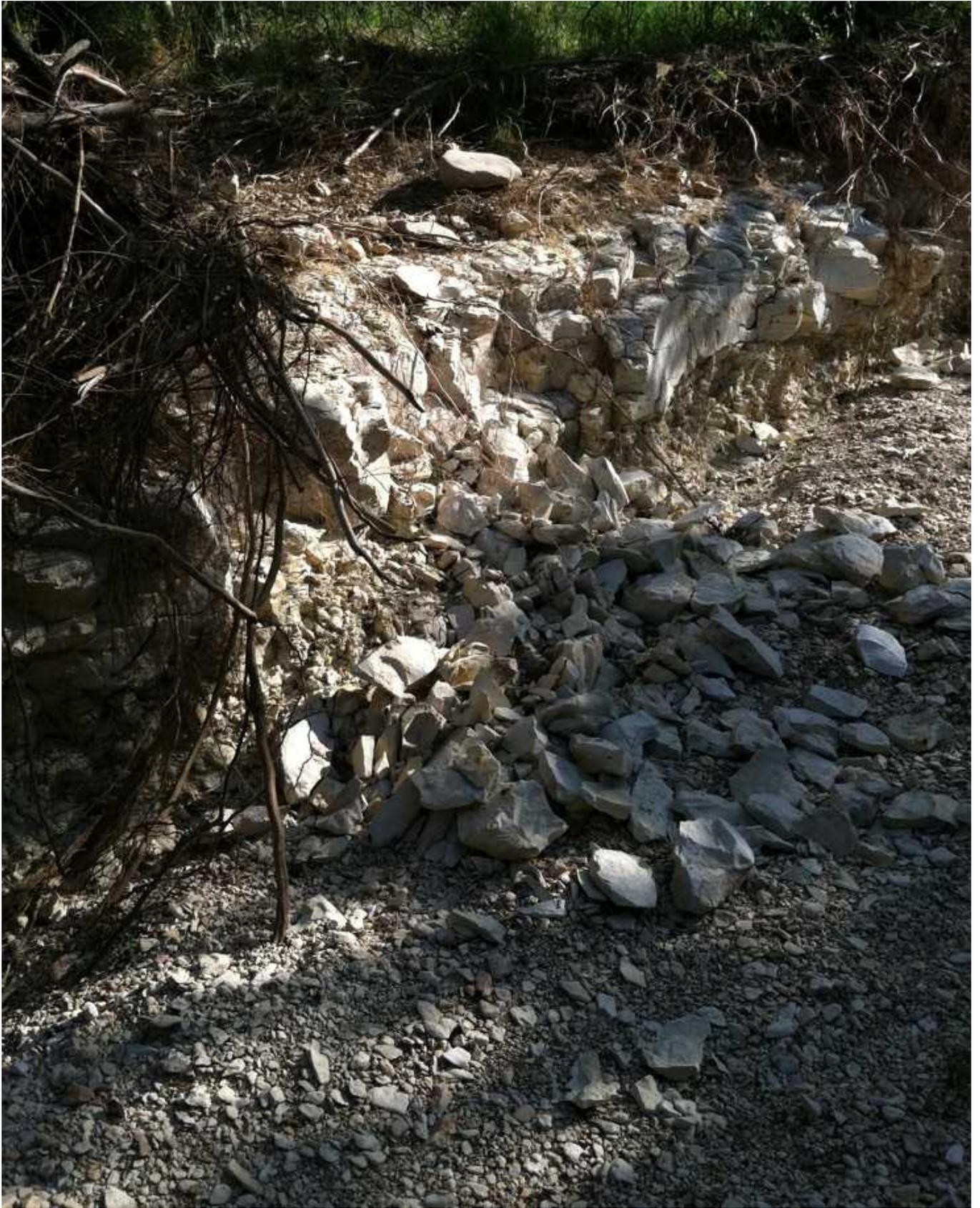




FIG 127: Pecan Gap Formation *Eutrephoceras* sp. nautiloid (Site 154)



FIG 128: Partial Pecan Gap Formation *Trachyscaphites spiniger porchi* ammonite (Site 154)



FIG 129: Baby face meets bird shot...creepy

I'll be back soon in good light, with hours to spend, and a 3-4 LB hand sledge a-swingin'. My goal will be one nice ammonite.

June 20, 2013: Ordovician Outtake

In Cincinnati a little early for both high school and family reunions on this particular weekend, my son with his grandparents, my wife not yet in town, I elected to give chase to some of the area's Ordovician (440 MYA) fossils before the schedule tightened up.

I spent most of my 3 hours scouting for new sites, mostly construction exposures observed using Google Earth satellite imagery. Most turned out to be duds. One site gave up an orthocone cephalopod and a large *Rafinesquina* brachiopod with flared hinge tips.



FIG 130: Ordovician construction piles (Site 667)

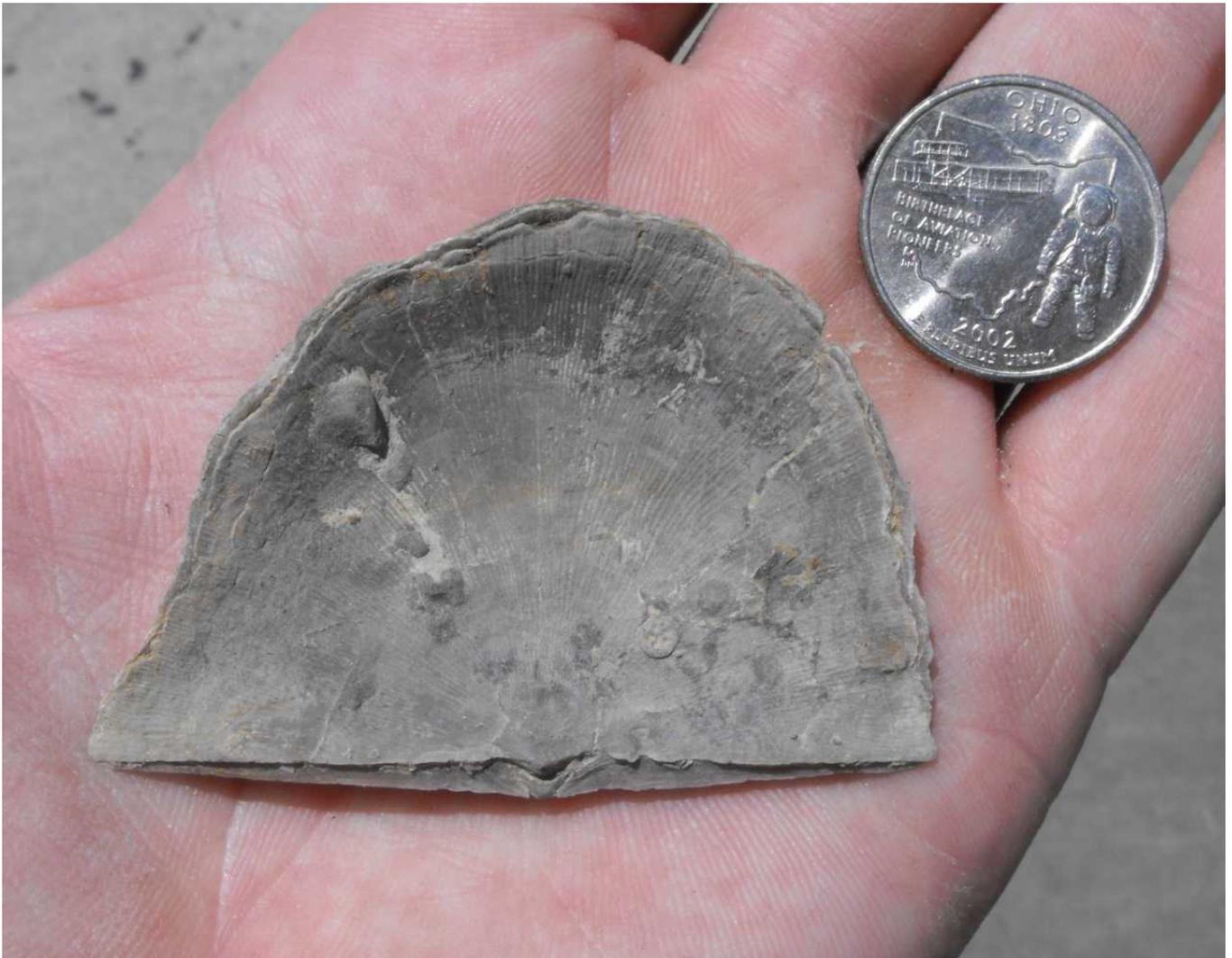


FIGS 131-132: Ordovician calcite filled orthocone cephalopod, possibly *Endoceras*, this and next page (Site 667)





FIGS 133-134: Ordovician brachiopod *Rafinesquina alternata* this and next page (Site 667)



Pressing on, I finished up with a proven site I found several years ago. I only gave the site a half hour, and finds were few. I ended up with a couple decent cephalopods, several *Rafinesquina* brachiopods, one of which had 2 (one and half, really) *Isorophus cincinnatiensis* edrioasteroids adhered to it. They weren't in the best shape, but I've only found one before, so no complaints. Best part....no police escort on the way out this time!



FIGS 135-137: Ordovician *Rafinesquina* cf. *ponderosa* brachiopod with 2 rough edrioasteroids *Isorophus cincinnatiensis* this and next 2 pages (Site 292)







FIGS 138-141: Ordovician c.f. *Endoceras* orthocone nautiloid this and next 3 pages (Site 292)









FIGS 142-143: Ordovician brachiopods *Rafinesquina ponderosa* this and next page (Site 292)





FIG 144: Ordovician brachiopods *Platystrophia clarksvillensis*(Site 292)

With my small but satisfying take in hand, I left the field and gave the rest of my stay to family, friends, and food.

June 28: Ladies and Gentlemen....THE PECAN GAP FORMATION!

Reflecting on my recent Pecan Gap Formation scouting trip, clearly I had dismissed this site prematurely after my initial visit there 8 years ago or so. At the time I had several other productive local sites available in the same formation...I was spoiled at the time and didn't realize it. Now that construction has reclaimed those other haunts, with a little more experience under my belt I decided to approach this site a bit more systematically.

I spent about 3 hours in this particular gully and the results were encouraging. It looks like I may get several hunts out of the place. While surface hunting produced a few echinoids and such, my go-to technique was blind mining, i.e. smacking chunks of rock along naturally occurring conchoidal fractures with the back side of my mason's hammer to see what might be hiding unweathered along preferred parting planes.

My main focus was ammonites, and I found several *Pachydiscus travisi* specimens worth keeping. While all ammonites at this locality appear to have some degree of compressive distortion, I find this presentation attractive, and some of these distorted ammonites stand out in relief against the matrix for an impressive display. I found a few heteromorphic ammonites *Trachyscaphites spinigeras* well. The best preserved one was inside my best *Pachydiscus*, found when the Pachy shattered. I should have taken a picture of the Trachy before reassembling the Pachy, but this just gives me the goal of a finding a decent Trachy.



FIGS 145-158: Pecan Gap Formation ammonites *Pachydisus trivialis* found and as prepped this and next 13 pages (Site 154)



Specimen 1





Specimen 2



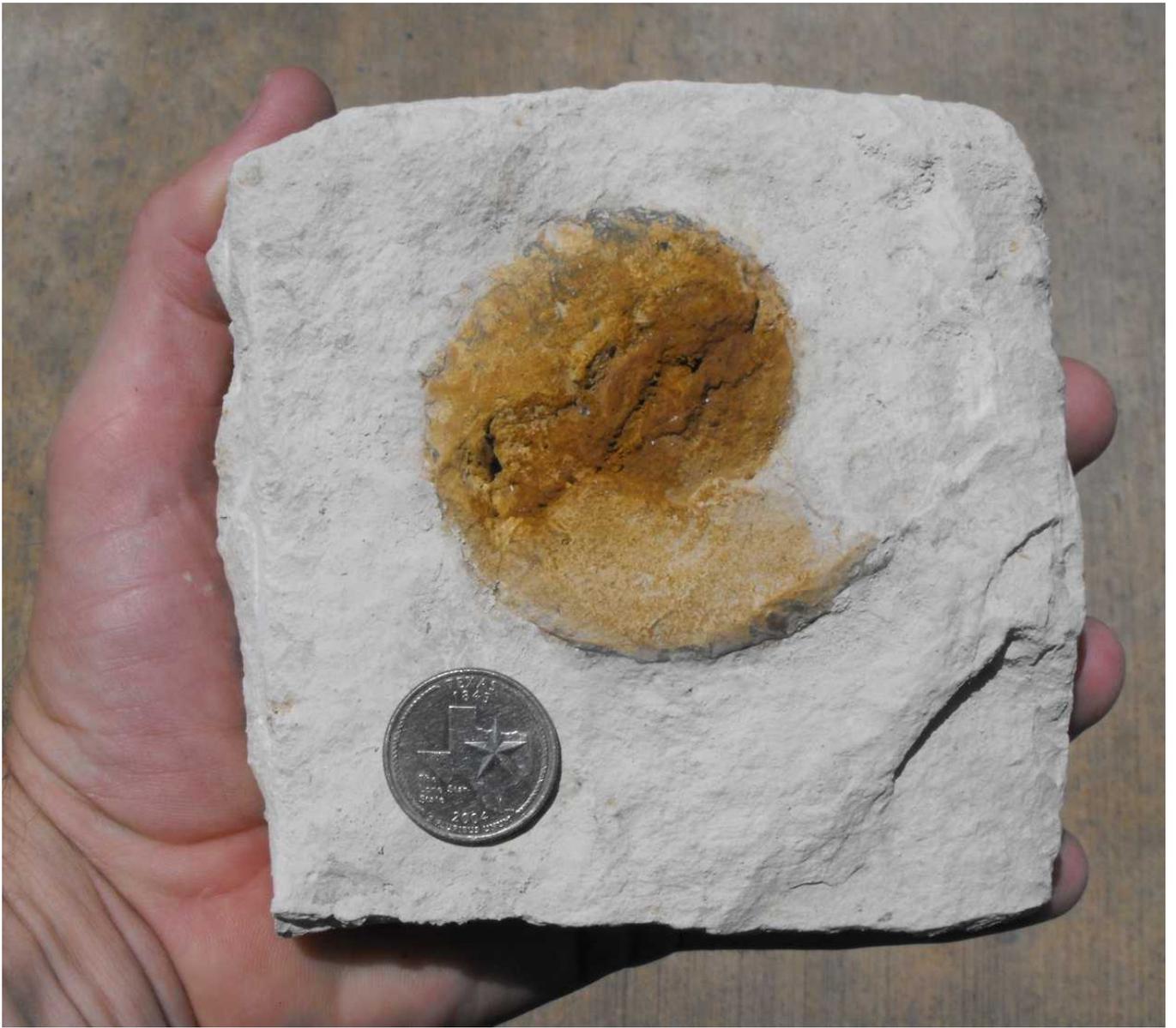


Specimen 3 – This one had a big void on one side that made it shatter during attempted prep. Extensive restoration required. Almost threw it out. Glad I didn't!





Specimen 4 positive and negative







Specimen 5 – pre and post restoration





Specimen 6



Specimen 7



FIGS 159-160: Pecan Gap Formation heteromorphic ammonites *Eubastrioceras reevesi* this and next page (Site 154)





FIG 161: Rare Pecan Gap Formation heteromorphic ammonite *Solenoceras* sp. (Site 154)

While reducing another slab in size I encountered the most rare ammonite of the bunch yet, a hairpin shaped heteromorph of the genus *Solenoceras*, only my second in 10 years. Still another coveted heteromorph, *Eubastrioceras reevesi*, made the scene as well with a couple nice partials.

The echinoids made a showing as well. There may be two genera present; I'm not sure, both spatangoids. One is consistently dime sized and appears to be a *Hemiaster*, the other consistently quarter to half dollar sized.



FIGS 162-165: Pecan Gap Formation echinoids, perhaps *Schizaster* sp. this and next 3 pages (Site 154)









FIGS 166-168: Pecan Gap Formation echinoids, perhaps *Hemiaster texanus* this and next 3 pages (Site 154)





Some of the *Anchura* and *Gyrodes* gastropods are preserved in splendid detail, as are the *Neithea*, *Lima* and other bivalves. Surprise finds included a large, unidentified crab claw and a shark tooth blade, possibly *Carcharias*.



FIGS 169-171: Pecan Gap Formation gastropods *Anchura* sp. this and next 2 pages (Site 154)







FIGS 172-173: Pecan Gap Formation *Gyrodes* gastropod and *Neithea* scallop this and next page (Site 154)





FIG 174: Pecan Gap Formation *Lima* bivalve (Site 154)



FIGS 175-179: Pecan Gap Formation *Neithes* scallops this and next 4 pages (Site 154)











FIGS 180-182: Pecan Gap Formation *Pecten* scallops this and next 2 pages (Site 154)







FIGS 183-184: Unidentified Pecan Gap Formation bivalves this and next page (Site 154)





FIGS 185-186: Unidentified Pecan Gap Formation crab claw this page and shark tooth blade next page (Site 154)



Prep work is completed primarily with an air scribe, which flies through the soft chalk rather quickly, allowing for rapid matrix shaping and reduction as well as fine detail work. Some of the fossils with preserved shell such as the echinoids and bivalves will benefit from a quick micro blast of baking soda. But the most important maxim to remember at all times is to take the fossils home in large chunks of matrix, as the chalk has a tendency to crack aggressively in undesirable directions when worked with a hammer in the field...and most of my cracked and repaired ammonites from this trip are testament to my violations of this rule.

More detail now on prep work...I worked out an effective method for filling cracks and reconstructing missing sections of these ammonites, improving some from wannabe throwaways to hands down keepers. First I Elmer's glued the pieces back together, then pulverized matrix to stonemeal with a sledge hammer, sifted it through a fine screen to accumulate only fine grained chalk dust, combine this dust with a little water and Elmer's glue to form a paste, then pooky up the cracks and voids with it and smooth it with a damp toothbrush. This mixture shrinks as it dries, so it is best to fill voids with successive thin layers, but with a little patience the results are first rate.

July will again find me at this site blind mining, and I hope at some point this summer to drag my friend Richard from Dallas down for a look.

June 29, 2013: Cruising the Texas Coast

My wife told me to get lost on Saturday so she could catch up on work, so I "dutifully complied" by getting up at 2 a.m. with the little old war beaten jon boat in the truck and headed for the Texas coast. With 50 live shrimp in the bucket I anchored up at an old favorite spot of mine and began lobbing baits for hopefully hungry takers.

Structure fishing an old rusty bulkhead panned out poorly, so I began throwing shrimp out the other direction into the channel. First bite...a hardhead which I quickly flipped off the hook with a pair of pliers. Second hookup gave me a decent run on my light action rod with 10 LB line, and soon the estimated 17 inch speckled trout was next to the boat. I fumbled with the net and lost him!

The procession of fish that followed comprised about everything that swam that I didn't want to catch...pin perch, whiting, croakers, more hardheads, etc. Then a big swirl on the surface like someone dropped a car battery out of the sky, with my hook flying back my direction....I'll never know the make or model of fish I encountered.

The wind was calm enough for me to run around the bay, then I noticed small whitecaps coming from behind. In 10 minutes they were big whitecaps, and I was 6 miles from my truck! I slammed my fillings out pounding through the waves back to the truck. 12 foot jon boats with small outboards simply aren't designed for this type of duty.

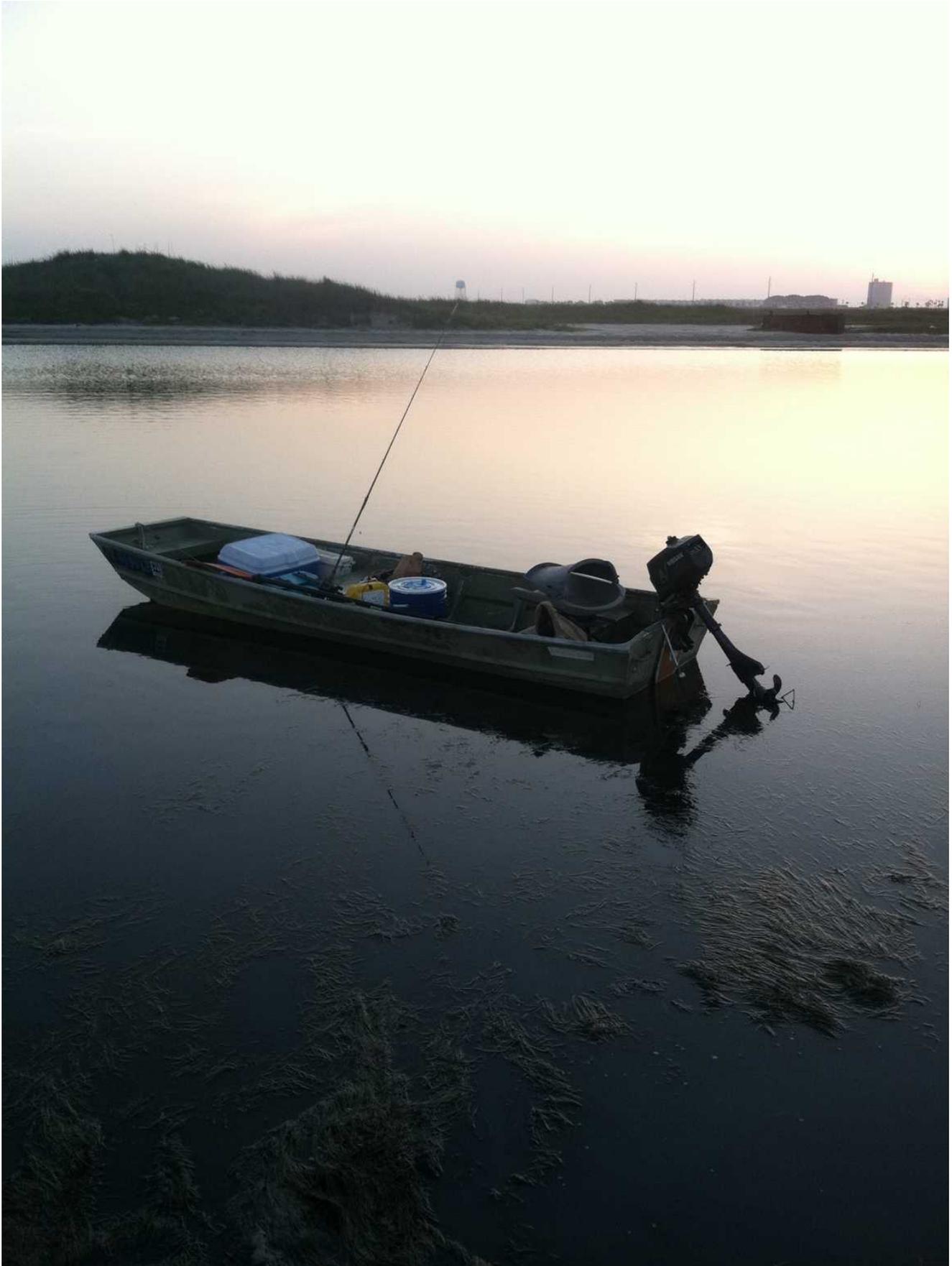


FIG 187: Trusty vessel ready for action



FIGS 188-189: Pleistocene sand dollars *Mellita quinquiesperforata* this and next page (Site 324)





FIGS 190-191: Pleistocene sand dollars *Mellita quinquiesperforata* and bivalves ~~XX~~this and next page (Site 324)





FIG 192: Pleistocene gastropod *XXX* and bivalve *XXX* (Site 324)

I stopped off at a nearly reclaimed sand pit which I used to visit in times past, talked to the landowner, and went for a walk. I found a couple Pleistocene sand dollars *Mellita quinquesperforata* that went home with me.



FIGS 193-195: Pleistocene gar scale this and next 2 pages (Site 350)







FIGS 196-202: Pleistocene *Mammuthus columbi* tooth fragments spotted in the distance this and next 6 pages (Site 350)



See white spot above



Viewed from above



Partially excavated









FIG 203: Pleistocene turtle fragments (Site 350)

With one last boat run I made my way to a little Pleistocene site I like to visit every now and then. I was hoping for numerous finds, but made only two worth noting. The first was a nice gar scale, and when I looked up I spotted something white in the opposite wall of the valley 40-50 yards away. It later proved to be a rattily preserved partial mammoth tooth *Mammuthus columbi*...it'll keep, but I'm still searching for a well preserved complete one...maybe Brent can put in a word with the Man Upstairs to assist me in this endeavor.