**POST OAK CREEK WRAP-UP**

**Saturday, July 16, 2022**

**By Roger Farish**

It was only the 38th day of >100F this summer AND the 43rd consecutive day without rain (9.1” below normal) AND BA.5 more infectious Covid strain, BUT out they came to look for Cretaceous shark teeth. Thirty-two hardy souls signed hold harmless agreements and attacked the creek at the Travis Street access. Fortunately, there was an expanse of shaded gravel bars to collect. Some families brought their ‘cheaters’ – kids. This group is closer to the ground AND with keener eyesight and find most of the treasures, though many measured in the millimeters.

I stopped counting after 82 the times I heard, ‘Is this one?’ – most were teeth or pieces of them. Attached is a shot of Derek Frye who found the most significant tooth (IMHO), a cool little *Scapanorynchus raphiodon* **symphysial tooth**. There are usually a few very compressed teeth found at the jaw symphysis – where the left and right jaw halves meet in the front of the mouth. Of course, many people found the usual *Ptychodus* (most *whipplei)*, *Cretalamna, Cretodus* and many *Squalicorax,* mostly small (those kids again).

Most people stayed near where the entry path led onto the creek where hundreds collect, BUT people kept finding teeth. As Laura Peterson said though, “the creek’s pretty yucky” upstream and down. Even though the creek was flowing a bit, most pools were pretty stagnant. Persistence paid off for most with the Schoen party of 5 screening right up until we blew the whistle for lunch producing dozens of teeth. The tag team of Chris Rehfuss and Amy Schultz accumulated the most teeth I saw with at least half dozen *whipplei* but I didn’t get the full record of their finds.

The Dickies BBQ lunch and trip out to Ron Bassermann’s home went according to plan as his collections continue to WOW visitors. Seven cars then proceeded to a site on Post Oak Creek where we spent another several hours – until Dana Baggett finally found a *whipplei!* (Her exclamation does echo).

Already on the creek was MeLissa Eason, administrator of the Sherman Library system. She has been working with city officials to develop an extensive park system along Post Oak Creek with displays showing the shark teeth and other fossils to be found there. She also arranged for Ron Basserman’s collections to be displayed at the library. Member Jenny Song is also interested in his teeth for the Plano Library system.

Thanks to Butch Halberstadt and others who helped with the coolers of drinks and water and to Beth Schoen for helping the leader keep up with his tools.