

## Show Committee Field Trip Report--May 3, 2003

by Scott Singleton, HGMS Show Chairman

The HGMS Show Committee held another of its famous field trips on Saturday, May 3. These field trips are open to any and all members of the Show Committee. This field trip was the second this year, and there probably will be two more before the Show. Any other Club member is welcome on these field trips provided they agree to be a part of the team that's putting on our fabulous shows.



This field trip was to the Giddings area. We visited three different ranches, none of which is open to the public. (You'll recall that we also visited three ranches in March, two of which are private and also not open to the general public). We visited the Dobe Ranch outside of Giddings, the McCormack Ranch outside of Paige, and the Burcheson Ranch outside of Warda. Instead of going into detail on our findings as I did last month, this time I'll just show you some pictures from our first stop.

The first sequence (Figures 1 through 4) shows Paul McGarry's prize. This piece was promised to Paul by the ranch owner, and we can see why. It was so big, we had to use a tractor to pick it up (Figure 1), carry it over to his truck (Figure 2), and dump it in (Figure 3). The final result produced smiles all around (Figure 4). The ranch owner estimated that it weighed a ton. It was 1–2 ft across and about 6–7 feet long. It was a full-round with a nice bark-looking exterior (although it wasn't actually bark). The inside was well silicified and would make prime cutting material. The tree was an Eocene walnut called *Engelhardioxylon* from the Yegua Fm.

The second sequence (Figures 5-7) show the piece Rick and Elizabeth Sheehy were forced to take home. It also had to be loaded into Rick's truck with the tractor (Figure 5) and lovingly guided into place in the bed (Figure 6). This piece was many hundreds of pounds but was only a half-round (Figure 7). Darn! Imagine what that thing looked like when it was whole! The piece was an Eocene juniper called *Cupressinoxylon*.

The last shot is of the consolation prize the author was forced to be content with (Figure 8). This is an end-on shot showing a whole-round about 10" in diameter. What you can't see from this shot is that it was about six feet long and took up the whole back of the jeep. It also was several hundred pounds and looks to be very well silicified so that it may very possibly yield a good number of excellent, fully round slabs. It was from an Eocene Legume, possibly an *Acacia* or something similar.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

