

Famous Locality—Whiskey Bridge, Crockett Fm, Eocene

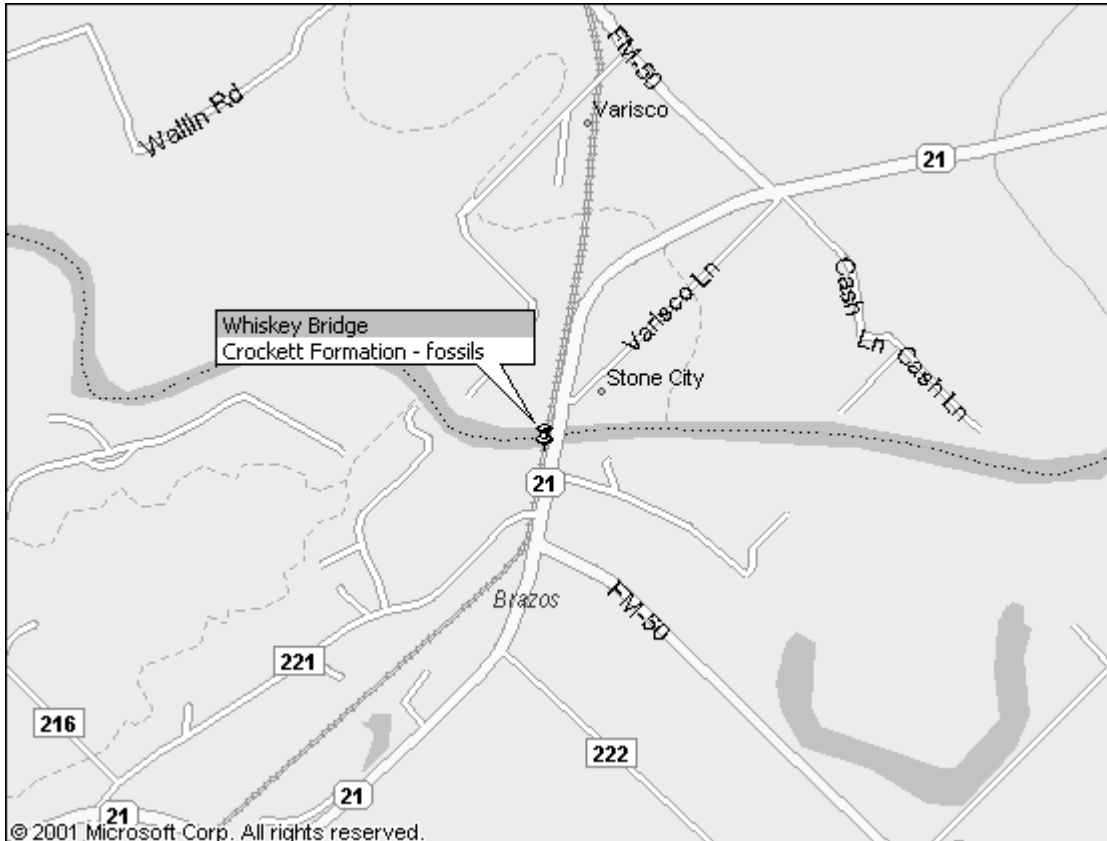
By Neal Immega

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Do you want to collect at the most fossiliferous locality in Texas? You can.

Whiskey Bridge is the Hwy 21 bridge over the Brazos River. It is called Whiskey Bridge because Aggies used to have to cross this bridge to get over the county line so they could buy a drink.

This site is public domain. You may visit it any time and collect anything.



You will find Eocene gastropods, pelecypods, squids, shark teeth, crabs, dentalium, and lots of other things.

Park on the southwest side of the bridge. TDOT has put in a paved pulloff! We have parked school buses here during wet weather with no problems. To get to the collecting area go straight down the bank of the river. You will find cliffs on the west side that are excellent collecting. If the water is low enough, the flats to the east of the bridge are even better. There is a band of vegetation between you and the river that is frequently full of poison ivy so beware. I have never seen a snake here, but the striped skinks are everywhere and almost friendly (or maybe just dumb).

Tools: gardening tools and a bucket are all that is required. Some of the fossils are fragile and I like to wrap those up in aluminum foil for protection.

For a brief guide to the 50 most common fossils found there see my field trip Web site for Whiskey Bridge at :

www.hgms.org/client_trips/index.htm

If you are serious, go to John Emerson's Web site and buy his wonderfully complete book on the site.

www.iftx.com

I suggest that you first pick out the fossils you can see and then wash the residue through a window screen to find the little stuff. The little coral *Turbinolia* is common but hard to see except in a washed sample.

One good classroom experiment is to divide the sample into 20 trays and have the students determine the number of species in each tray and then plot up the number of new species in a chart of species vs trays examined to see if your determination is good enough to approach the maximum number of species present.

How to get Stream Flow Data for the Brazos River

<http://tx.water.usgs.gov/nwis-bin/current>

Site 08108700 - <this is the Brazos river at Hwy 21 bridge>

Click on "08108700" you will get a new page

Select Gauge Height and 30 days and gif and click on SELECT

NOTE: you cannot get more than 31 days of data

A really low water level is 8 feet.

Neal Immega