

Shark Cartilage in Wilsons Clay Pit  
By Neal Immega

In 2008, the Houston Gem and Mineral Soc found a number of pieces of shark cartilage in the Wilson Clay Pit near Lake Brownwood. This is a common collecting area but as far as I know, cartilage has not been found here.

The reason that I knew it was cartilage is that I have been sensitized to it by Dr. Bob Bakker on our digs in the Permian at Seymour, Tx. I have included a blog entry that I wrote for the Houston Museum paleoblog.

See <http://hmnpaleo.blogspot.com/>

for other things on Seymour including the Dimetrodons we are finding there.

These are two examples of what we found at the Clay Pit. The squares are 5 mm on a side.



Closer



Another piece



another view of the same piece



Shark Cartilage is easy to recognize when you have been shown the characteristic nodular characteristic. Look at the article on Seymour sharks for a thin section and TOOTH! I admit the tooth helps a bunch to make a believer out of you.

So, get out there and look. Find some more. Let me know what you find and maybe we can get some one interested in determining what kind of shark this is. The Houston Gem and Min Soc will be happy to pool our material with anyone who is interested.