



Paleo Footnotes

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June 2015

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Get out and collect! What else can I say? We have had some serious rain and the road cuts, stream beds and open lots have been turned and churned. This can be primo collecting.

The meeting this month will be rather low key. We will be revisiting "A New History of Life," with Professor Stuart Sutherland. These videos have proven rather good and worth the time. Bring some popcorn.

Not much else to talk about this month. Ed will have field trip plans, and we will see what else bubbles up.

Take care and hope to see you all Tuesday.

Upcoming Presentation

Ron Root
PSoA Program Chair

We will be watching two lectures from "A New History of Life," by Professor Stuart Sutherland of The University of British Columbia: [The Interconnected Earth](#) and [The Vast Depths of Earth Time](#).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 16 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2015
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Dale Vargo
PSoA Secretary

The meeting started at 7:09 p.m., and Erich noted that there were no meeting minutes to approve since the Auction replaced the monthly meeting. Mike noted that the Auction netted \$1,054 and gave a recap of the Oklahoma trip, saying many fossils were collected and it was a great trip with some nice food provided by the host landowner. Erich noted that Ed would also have comments on the trip soon.

Erich announced an upcoming Campfire Scouts outreach opportunity where the Club will have a display and touch table. He requested volunteers and provided some details. Ron volunteered and asked others to attend. Erich then announced the upcoming field trip to the Brownwood area's Wilson clay pit and another big road cut toward Brady. He welcomed new members and guests: Monty and Mike Z., who spoke about needing our help identifying fossils he had brought from Missouri. Doris, Melinda, Kathleen, Mike Z, Dale and Monty won door prizes, donated by Ron and Kathleen.

After the break, Ron presented the details of the recent field trip to Lake Valley, NM. He showed slides of the trip and gave details about the old mining town. He told of the group's 20-minute climb up through a caprock formation on BLM land to access the fossil-bearing areas. Kathleen, pioneering into a lower area down the mountain, discovered an area containing many great coral and stromatolitic fossils, opening up a new, unforeseen collecting opportunity for the group, which had brought many of their best fossils from this trip to the meeting. There were many comments about this great trip from those who went. Ron then told of his stop in Van Horn on the way back in which he went to the tax appraiser's office to look up the landowners' of some potential collecting sites. Ron then proceeded to contact some the landowners about the possibility of bringing our members onto these lands to collect fossils in the future – he already has one positive response. The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

Upcoming Field Trip

Waco Pit and Hwy 107

Ed Elliott

PSoA Field Trip Chair

We will meet at the Waco Pit parking lot at 8 a.m. This parking lot is not huge so you are encouraged to car pool. The pit can be a morass when wet, so check the weather leading up to and on the day of our trip. Rubber boots will be necessary if it has rained. The collecting in the Pit is mostly small, so bring those knee pads and small containers. The formation is the Upper Cretaceous Del Rio. Fossils include a wide variety of marine invertebrates, various shark teeth and a fair variety of small pyritized material. Directions to the Pit:

1. From Austin take I-35 North to Waco.
2. On the north side of Waco, EXIT at 340/2491/Lake Shore Drive.
3. Turn LEFT (west) under the freeway onto Lake Shore Drive. Follow Lake Shore as it curves around and to the south past the intersection with Lake Brazos/Steinbeck Bend and go over the Bosque River.
4. Continue on Lake Shore to FM 1637/19th Street and turn RIGHT (west again.)
5. Proceed to Steinbeck Bend and turn LEFT. (Careful, there is an earlier intersection with Steinbeck. Do not confuse that one with this later turn off.)
6. At the intersection of Airport and Steinbeck Bend (a block or two past the last turn) there is a cement plant on the SE corner (across the intersection on the left.)
7. Just past the plant on the left is the parking area for the pit. There is a gate. If it is not open wait just off the road until someone arrives to open it.

From the Pit we will head back south and collect from the Walnut and Comanche Peak Formations along FM 107 west of Mother Neff State Park. Directions to the site:

1. Get back to I-35 and head south.
2. Exit west on to FM107 towards Moody.
3. From the exit head west on FM 107 approx. 20 miles and look for the large road cut on the right just above the Leon River Valley (about 6.5 miles past the sign for Mother Neff State Park at Rt 236).

Field Trip Report

Pennsylvanian hunting near Brownwood

Ed Elliott

PSoA Field Trip Chair

When Melvin Noble and I arrived in Early, the Oberhoff family was waiting for us: Scott, Stephanie and their two kids, Anna and Luke. Whether because of the holiday weekend or due to the supposed bad weather, we were all that chose to come. After a short wait, we went on to Wilson Quarry. This Pennsylvanian site is Harpersville Fm., Cisco Group, Virgilian. We encountered some mud along the road and passing through the fence was a little messy. After that, the quarry was fairly dry. The weather was great all day, mostly sunny with a little breeze. With all of the rain, we were naturally hoping for a real bonanza. Just another great day hunting at Wilson. We spent a little time with the Oberhoffs to make sure they got off to a good start.

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The Oberhoffs seemed to enjoy themselves and the quarry and stayed until around noon. The Anna (9) and Luke (6) both seemed to be having a great time every time I was around them. I occupied my time picking up lots of nice brachiopods, bryozoans, crinoid parts, corals and all the usual stuff. Melvin picked up two nice *Delocrinus* cups and a partial *Petalodus* tooth. I found two of the somewhat flat pentagonal circling of basal plates belonging to a large cup (*Hydreionocrinus* sp.?). We were having a great time and then it came time to go to the next stop. Looking at radar on my phone, I could tell that it was raining there and still dry where we were. We almost stayed at Wilson, but we both wanted to try a new site.

The McCulloch Co. site is one that I can say should never be hunted when wet. Everything was very slick. Getting up the hill was tough and staying there was harder. There was a constant feeling that you were about to descend rapidly onto one of the big rocks or onto that large cactus. Erich Rose has called this the Adams Branch Limestone of the Canyon Group overlying the Brownwood Shale of the Strawn Group. After an hour of fighting the footing and the light rain we still hadn't found much to brag about. Then the rain started in earnest and we said "Enough". It will have to wait for another day. The Oberhoffs said that they had a good time and Melvin and I were very glad we went so it was another good trip hunting the Pennsylvanian. Sorry for those that missed it, and we'll see you at the next one.

The purpose of the **Paleontological Society of Austin**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the scientific education of the public, the study and preservation of fossils and the fossil record, and assistance to individual, groups and institutions interested in various aspects of paleontology. Meetings of the **Paleontological Society of Austin** are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Austin Gem and Mineral Society building located at 6719 Burnet Ln. in Austin, Texas. The public is welcome to attend. Visit austinpaleo.org for more information.

Annual Dues: \$18/individual, \$24/family and \$12/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter) Send to: Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791.

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