



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 11, Number 1

January 2016

Upcoming Speaker

Everyday Geology: Tricks of the Trade

Ron Root
PSoA Program Chair

The Club is delighted to have Alan Peters as our speaker for Tuesday's meeting. A retired middle school science teacher and 15-year member of the Club, Alan is going to share with us how knowing the basics of geology allows us to appreciate our surroundings and gather insight into the world around us.

"As collectors of the things nature has to offer, it may surprise some to realize that we are actually the 'scum of the earth' ourselves," Alan says. "But, being so is a good quality."

Alan will discuss elements and symbols, layers of the earth, minerals, the rock cycle, geological stresses, crustal features, plate-tectonics, dating rocks, and reading geologic and highway maps.

"Sometimes, how we learn is as valuable as what we learn," says Alan. "Spread out. Questions, comments, and suggestions are encouraged. Expect to participate!"

Next Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 19 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, Jan. 23 – 8 a.m.
Lake Jacksboro

Meet-up:
Jack County Extension Office
100 N. Main St.
Jacksboro, Texas 76458

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

Join us for one of the group's favorite hunting spots: Lake Jacksboro. This Upper Carboniferous site is replete with fossils from the Upper Pennsylvanian Period. Most fossils will be marine in origin, including brachiopods, trilobites, corals, bryozoans, molluscs, crinoids, echinoids and teeth. Fossils will generally be small and loose, so bring plenty of small containers.

The drive back into downtown Jacksboro is not far, but it will waste valuable collecting time – bring food and plenty of water to maximize your time. If you stick around for more collecting on Sunday, some members will visit various road cuts and possibly the Mineral Wells Fossil Park.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Jack County Extension Office located at 100 N. Main St. in Jacksboro. This is the heart of the Jacksboro town square. To get there, take 183 North from Austin and, in Lampasas, turn onto 281 North, which will take you straight to Jacksboro. When you get into town, look for a group of fossil hunters huddled near the sign proclaiming the Jacksboro Tigers "State AA Football Champs" from 1962 to 1971...what a feat! There is a gas station one block up, which is a good pit stop for coffee and other necessities prior to heading out to the site.

Remember that Jacksboro is about four hours from Austin, so either drive up the night before or be prepared to leave early Saturday. We will caravan as a group to the first site, so please be on time. There will be a small admission fee to cover admission to the state park we must cross to get to the collecting site. Bring \$3 cash for each adult in your vehicle (children are free). The weather forecasts look good, but check before you prepare to leave just in case.

Meeting Minutes

Dec. 15, 2015

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Dale Vargo
PSoA Secretary

On Tuesday, Dec. 15, the Club gathered for our annual Christmas party: The White Mammoth Christmas Dinner Potluck and Gift Exchange. Over 50 attendees enjoyed good food and good company as we ate together and visited with each other. After the meal, Erich and Mike hosted the gift exchange, having participants take a number from the hat as we started the festivities. Our customary option of each selecting from the more than forty gifts was merry even as there was faux drama over losing a prized gift to someone else. It was all in fun and taken in stride. Erich Rose got up and wished us all a joyous Holiday season and called for consideration from the many in attendance that they step up and place themselves in service to the Club by volunteering as an officer/board member for 2016. He announced that Paul will be appointed Programs Chair for this coming year, replacing Ron. Dale offered to relinquish his board position as secretary if someone is interested in taking it. The treasurer's position on the board is also available for someone new to perform its duties. Erich stated that the next regular meeting in January will include the approval of the 2016 board and officer positions. We ended the party by cleaning up and saying our Christmas wishes and farewells.

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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