



Paleo Footnotes

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September 2016

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

A change in the weather. Yes, I am from the Midwest, and, yes, we are obsessed with the weather. But maybe that is also because the vast majority of my interests are focused on the outdoors. Then there is my job at the preserve, which is conducted mostly outdoors. So, a cool front that knocks it down from 95 degrees to 85 degrees is welcome.

With that said, we, the Paleontological Society of Austin, will be soon focusing our efforts indoors. In particular, two events: Gem Capers in October and Fossil Fest in November. Both are very important and only happen because we know we can count on you all to step up and volunteer some time. You will be hearing much more about both of these shortly.

We have a really interesting speaker this month who will be talking about some of North America's early primates.

See you there Tuesday!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 20 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, September 24 – 7:45 a.m.
Clifton Quarry (Lhoist North America)
2861 FM 2602
Clifton, Texas 76634
Release Required (see last page)

Upcoming Meeting

Some like it hot, hot, hot: When primates roamed Texas

Paul Hammerschmidt
PSoA Programs Chair

University of Texas Anthropology Professor Dr. Christopher Kirk will speak to the Club on Tuesday about a time when parts of Texas were covered by tropical rainforests that were home to curious primates.

Dr. Kirk is a biological anthropologist who studies primate adaptations and evolution. He completed his Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology and Anatomy at Duke University in 2003. Dr. Kirk is currently a Professor in the Department of Anthropology and a Research Associate of the Jackson School Museum of Earth Sciences.

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

Our field trip on Saturday will be to Clifton Quarry, which mines the Edwards Fm., the Kiamichi Fm. and the lower Washita – undifferentiated – the Duck Creek and Fort Worth fms. We don't know exactly where we'll be, but large and small ammonites are possible, as are fossils from these formations. We'll probably be hunting spoils piles for four hours and then go elsewhere.

The easiest route is to take I-35 north to Waco. On the south side of Waco, exit Hwy 6 N, which will take you northwest to Valley Mills. Seven miles past Valley Mills, turn left on FM 2602 and go two miles to the employee parking lot of the quarry. Arrive EARLY as we have to turn in our releases and caravan into the quarry. **IF YOU ARE LATE, YOU WON'T GET IN. The attached release must be filled out, signed and notarized.** Boots are preferred to tennis shoes. I would bring hammers and chisels, water and snacks. Not sure if there are facilities available, so be prepared, as we will be there until escorted out after four hours.

Field Trip Report

Eocene hunting along the Brazos River.

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

As of our meeting night, the Brownwood area had a small chance of rain. The morning of the trip I looked at the weather before I left home and saw that the area north of Lampasas was to get between four and six inches of rain. I knew that it was going to be an interesting trip. Meeting with me at the mall in Early were Mike Zimmer, Vaughn Nelson, Cathy and Gary Rylander, Bob McDonald, Melvin Noble, and Dave Hoppes.

During the caravan to Wilson, it did sprinkle some. We got to the quarry with no problem and gathered our stuff and went through the fence. After about fifteen minutes it started sprinkling, so what. After about ten minutes it was a light rain, so what. Then the bucket turned over.



Some of Ed's spoils.

After five minutes of torrential downpour, I thought about going to the truck. I turned around on the hill I was hunting and looked in that direction. Wilson was a mass of CREEKS all flowing together to form a RIVER right where we came in. From ten feet inside the fence to the road was deep water flowing fast. I just kept collecting. Moving around meant finding places to jump the creeks.

Everyone had gone their own way as soon as we got there, so I just said, "Oh, well," and hunted on through the rain. Seemed to last a couple of hours and the hunting was great! Wilson when wet is wonderful. All the fossils just jumped out of the rocks. The rain, while annoying, wasn't cold, and it was neat to see a totally different Wilson Quarry. I'd do it again without hesitation.

In the first hour of the rain I picked up a partial crown and a cup, both *Delocrinus*. Then I found a beautiful, small, extremely ornamented cup that I've never seen before. Not even in the literature. Then I picked up an extremely robust brachiopod (*Composita*) with a nice bryozoan covering half of it. Three crown pieces and one root from the "shark" *Petalodus ohioensis*. And a basal circlet from the crinoid *Ulocrinus convexus*. I had stayed on hillsides to avoid the water, when the rain stopped I moved across the flats to another hillside. The "creeks and rivers" went away almost as quickly as they rose.

I ran into Melvin and he had some nice *Delocrinus* cups and a basal circlet like mine. I saw Mike and he had a lovely *Delocrinus* cup and a good *Petalodus* tooth. I heard from Gary (by phone) as he was leaving. He said that he had seven cups – one a partial crown, and three teeth of three different species. As the day went on, we could walk across the areas that had been flooded. By the time we left, there were just areas here and there that were still deep mud – like by the road where we parked. My last find for the day was a partial crown, 6 mm tall. Won't try to guess the genus.

The last three of us left at around six. Of the five people that I spoke to, no one was anything but happy they had come.

Another great hunt in the Pennsylvanian, even if it was unusually wet. I recommend hunting Wilson when it's wet, though four inches in two hours is overkill.

Fossil Fest Update

Suzanne Galligher
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

Join us! Pre-meeting Fossil Stuffing Party, 6:15 p.m. on Sept. 20

It's time for the annual stuffing of 1,500 zipper bags with Fossil Fest flyers and small fossil giveaways. **Got Fossils? Bring them! We need 1,500 clean, (recognizable) fossils** that will fit in a sandwich-sized zipper bag. These will be given out at the numerous upcoming public outreach events, including the Austin Gem and Mineral Society Gem Capers show.

Fossil Fest Update

It is only two month's until the 26th Annual Fossil Fest! Join us **Saturday to Sunday, Nov. 19 – 20, 2016** (with set-up on Friday, Nov. 18) as we explore all the prehistoric sharks that roamed the Texas seaways.

The support and assistance of every PSoA member is essential in making Fossil Fest a success. There are many ways that members can help out – a few are listed below. Please stay tuned for upcoming opportunities!

Flyers: Last month, we asked volunteers to disperse **Fossil Fest tear pads/flyers**. Those flyers should all now be in place at designated public attractions and facilities around Austin. Please e-mail showchair@austinpaleo.org if you have ideas for other locations where we should advertise our annual show.

At this month's meeting, we're asking volunteers to **post Fossil Fest flyers to community bulletin boards all around town**. Grab a few flyers and post them at coffee houses, restaurants, libraries, gyms, schools, etc.

Wanted: Shark fossils for exhibit cases. We'd like to display your quality specimens at Fossil Fest in our show theme display cases. Please e-mail showchair@austinpaleo.org or reach out to Suzanne, Erich or Mike at the upcoming meeting if you have some to display.

Finish combing through your fossil collection and start pulling out the ones you want to use to **create an exhibit case at Fossil Fest** this year. We have a lot of display cases to fill in the Hall! If you're in need of exhibit case ideas, please consider:

- Collection of fossils from a specific locality around Texas and surrounding area
- Collection of a specific type of fossil from localities all around Texas and surrounding area
- Display of how a plant or animal becomes a fossil
- Examples and a brief description of changes to an organism over time
- Collection of a particular organism and their structures
- One organism - the characteristics used to identify it with samples and diagrams
- Fossil and display showing what we were able to learn about that fossil

If you have a fossil/paleontology skill that you'd like to demonstrate, please contact showchair@austinpaleo.org.

Outreach Opportunities

Suzanne Galligher
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

We have a number of outreach events coming up in the next two months. All are fantastic venues for spreading the word about Fossil Fest. This is a great way to give back to the club and learn more about fossils in the process. There's always a veteran member at these events. Don't be intimidated that you may not know enough to participate. I guarantee that you know much more than the general public just by listening to a few of our guest speakers. So come on out and have some fun with us! Please note that we had to decline the Williamson County Dino Day outreach as it was the same weekend as Gem Capers. E-mail outreach@austinpaleo.org and let us know for which events you'd like to sign up as a volunteer.

PSoA Booth at Gem Capers Show

One of our key outreach events, the Club booth at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society's Gem Capers show exposes scores of people to PSoA and what we do. Sign-up to volunteer at the Tuesday meeting or online at www.mysignup.com/agms (passcode: paleo) for the Paleontology Table at the AGMS Gem Capers show held Friday through Sunday, Oct. 21 - 23 (with set-up on Thursday, Oct. 20) at the Palmer Events Center. This is our largest educational outreach of the year and presents an enormous opportunity to spread the word about Fossil Fest. We have a lot of fun, so don't miss out! In the meantime, please start gathering up small, clean fossils for donation. We'll need those donations at a fossil stuffing party we'll hold before our regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 6:15 p.m. We'll be bagging 1,500 fossils along with our Fossil Fest show flyer to give away at public outreach events and the Gem Capers show. For more information, visit www.austingemandmineral.org/gemcapers/index.html.

Pioneer Day at the Dr. Pound Historic Farmstead in Dripping Springs on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.drpoundhistoricalfarmstead.org/pioneer-day.html.

Fossil Fest at Old Settlers Association in Round Rock on Saturday, Nov. 19 and Sunday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.austinpaleo.org/fest.

Free Fossil Webinars

The FOSSIL Project is hosting a free webinar series on the fundamentals of fossils. All are welcome to attend these free webinars. Just connect at <http://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/fossil-webinars/>. Connect time will begin at 5:45 p.m., and the programs will run from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. [Watch the first webinar](#) and other informational videos at <http://community.myfossil.org/video-tutorials/>. Upcoming episodes include:

- Field Notes 101 with Bruce MacFadden on Sept. 29
- Excavating Fossils with Dava Butler on Oct. 19
- Fossil Prep Basics with Rachel Narducci on Nov. 30

Meeting Minutes

Dale Vargo
PSoA Secretary

August 16, 2016

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Pres. Erich Rose welcomed all to the meeting at 7:09 p.m. The June meeting minutes were approved. Erich began the meeting by turning to the subject of our upcoming Fossil Fest. Our Show Chair Suzanne explained that we each need not be an expert in fossils to volunteer to help with Fossil Fest. She announced that we are in need of shark teeth and fossils to match up with the fossil shark theme of the show. Erich outlined the signup details. Scott inquired about our ability to process credit card transactions during the show. Mike noted iPhone has that ability potentially. Suzanne referred to Square as a possibility for use. Discussion took place regarding the need for processing cards during the show. Erich reminded us of our booth presence at Gem Capers, calling for volunteers during that show. Ed brought up that there is a conflict with the field trip for October and our booth at Gem Capers that same weekend. He mentioned the upcoming field trip to Clifton. Ed asked about the Pioneer days gig in Drippin' on 9/24. And we decided not to have a booth at Dino Day. Erich asked about other business outstanding, and Ed asked the group where we would like to go for the August field trip. He suggested that a return to Brownwood is a good choice and there was interest in his suggestion. Bob said he would scout it. There was mention of going to the UT vertebrate lab. It was decided that an email blast will be sent for Brownwood for the field trip. Kate and Mary won the door prizes. Then it was break time.

After the break, Erich described his daughter Emelia's recent collegiate study background, her study abroad in China, and his trip there to visit, and the museums that China has related to fossils and dinosaurs. He described his visit to the Zigong Dinosaur museum, a large center presenting varied aspects and media covering dinosaur discovery and

preservation, including an active dig, video theatres, etc. And Emelia covered her experience of the Shanghai Natural History Museum’s dinosaurs, the finds originating from ancient lake deposits, the “Mesozoic Pompeii” effect of even dinosaur feathers preserved in volcanic ash there, a very large museum, with lots of different fossils. Kathleen pointed out that there is a nice dinosaur display in Lafayette, LA. Once the Rose’s gave their talk, the meeting adjourned.

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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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Date: _____

I, _____, having been given the right to enter the premises owned by Chemical Lime, Ltd. ("CLC"), a Texas limited partnership, at Clifton, Texas, do hereby agree:

1. I assume all risks of loss, damage or injury to my person (including death) or to my property, and to the person or property of any agent, employee or representative of _____, while on the premises of CLC;

2. I do hereby fully release and discharge CLC, its officers, agents and employees of and from any and all liability for loss, damage or injury to my person (including death) or my property, or the person or property of any agent, employee or representative of _____, by reason of negligence, active or passive, or any other wrongful act or omission of CLC, its officers, agents or employees occurring, directly or indirectly, while I am upon the premises of CLC at Clifton, Texas, or arising therefrom or incident thereto, including but not limited to my activities on such Clifton property;

I acknowledge that the activities I intend to conduct on CLC's property at Clifton may be dangerous and I assume all risks.

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
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This instrument was acknowledged before me on the ___ day of _____ by

_____ Personally Known
_____ Produced Identification
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Given under my hand and seal of office this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Notary Public, State of Texas

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