



Paleo Footnotes

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President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Cooler weather is here. I am taking advantage and heading out to a friend's home near Utopia, TX for a few days of fresh air. I'll also get a chance to collect some new locations. Hope y'all get a chance to get out as well.

This month we are gearing up for Gem Capers and then Fossil Fest in November – fun events for which we need your help. Look for the volunteer sign-up info in the newsletter or at the meeting.

We also need to be thinking about next year's officers. Suzanne is looking to step down from VP/show chair and we need a replacement. In fact all of the positions: president, treasurer, secretary and the various chairs are possibly open. Just let me know if you are interested. We will be voting in December.

I believe the field trip is early this month to clear the weekend of Gem Capers, so pay attention to Ed's announcement and date.

See you next Tuesday!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 18 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16 – 8 a.m.
Lake Texoma and Vicinity
Meet at Eisenhower State Park
50 Park Road 20
Denison, Texas 75020-4878

Volunteer Today

We're in demand, but we need your help!

Suzanne Galligher
PSoA Vice President and Show Chair

Volunteerism is the gift of time and talent. I am extremely grateful to all of our volunteers – whether you volunteer on a committee, in an administrative support capacity, as part of the Board, or at public or educational outreach events. Volunteering is the gift that gives back. When you volunteer, everybody – the Club, the public, and you – benefit.

How do you benefit? For one thing, it allows you to meet other Club members who can give you deeper insights into the Club and build your knowledge of fossils and paleontology. Meeting fellow members may also enhance your professional connections and personal friendships. In many cases, serving others or doing good deeds increases your own sense of well-being. Ultimately, volunteering is an expression of your interest in and commitment to our Club's mission: advancing the state of the science, educating the public, and collecting and identifying fossil specimens.

We have many upcoming opportunities to volunteer, such as Fossil Fest, our booth at the AGMS Gem Capers show, and numerous public outreach events. Won't you support your Club and join us?

Thank you to everyone who helped with the annual stuffing of zipper bags with Fossil Fest flyers and small fossil giveaways before last month's meeting!

National Fossil Day, Wednesday, Oct. 12, is a celebration organized by the National Park Service to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational values. The **Texas Memorial Museum** (2400 Trinity St., Austin 78705) will be free to the public and will be hosting events throughout the day. Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. [Learn more.](#)

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

We'll be collecting along the shores of Lake Texoma. Meet at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, Oct. 15** at the entrance to Eisenhower State Park. The earlier-than-usual date is because of our participation in the Austin Gem and Mineral Society Gem Capers show. Unless you want to leave at three in the morning, you will need to drive up the night before. Plan to stay overnight in the Sherman area, as we will also be collecting Sunday morning. We will visit a variety of sites. Some of these include large ammonites, so be prepared. You will definitely want to bring your hammers and chisels to remove specimens and backpacks to carry those specimens a fair distance along the lake shoreline. It goes without saying that you will need lots of water, sunscreen, a good hat, food, sturdy shoes, etc. If you need more information, contact Ed Elliott (fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org or 512-657-7581).

Field Trip Report

Sifting through Clifton Quarry.

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

It was a great day for a fossil hunt and there were at least twenty members present at the meeting place at Clifton Chemical Lime Quarry. We started off with a safety meeting that ended with us wearing vests and hard hats this time. We were then led into the quarry to the same spot as last year, but, as usual, it was much different. The large slope we hunted last year had been bladed to a very smooth surface, and the barren quarry floor that yielded so many *Goniopygus* echinoids and rudists was covered with large endless piles of mostly Kiamichi Formation. A lot of the piles had weathered little. Each time we go is a new experience. This time, instead of staying until after 3 p.m., we left about 12:30 p.m. What I saw collected was only a small portion. I didn't go back to the vehicles until it was time to go. I know that Gary Rylander found four *Goniopygus* and Lee Schnelle found a beautiful small one. The only other echinoids I saw were *Heterasters*. Several people collected some of the large *Eopachydiscus* ammonites, I know that Melvin Noble brought back several. I picked up three plate sized *Oxytropidoceras* and I saw that John Hinte and Mike Zimmer had nicer ones. There were many oysters, large gastropods, scallops and other bivalves.

When we got back to the parking lot, I pulled in and got out to wave down members to ask where we should go next. Unfortunately, most drove on. The eight of us that were left decided to go on to Meridian and look for rudists. We all found some nice *Eoradiolites* and Cathy Rylander also found a *Goniopygus*. That is a spot that just needs to weather for a long time between visits. Twenty people might have been too many this time.

I'm sorry that I didn't get around to telling everyone to stop in the parking lot. I was standing there with my hands over my head waving while car after car went by ten feet away. All the people I saw at the quarry as we were loading up seemed to be smiling, so I hope they all had a good time.

Fossil Fest Update

Suzanne Galligher
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

It is only one month 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!

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! For more information, visit www.austingemandmineral.org/gemcapers/index.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.

Meeting Minutes

Dale Vargo
PSoA Secretary

September 20, 2016

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Erich greeted everyone and called the meeting to order, noting all the nice recent rain. He announced Dr. Sprinkle's upcoming talk tonight. The Treasurer's report was given. Erich reported that our participation in Fossil I.D. Day went well, with Ed, Melvin, John and Jamie assisting the effort. He said that the Texas Memorial Museum has offered our club space to have a table at the upcoming Fossil Day there. Mike recommended having some Paleo Society membership forms available to hand out. Erich noted that the Dripping Springs event is coming soon. And Suzanne announced an upcoming fossil event at a school in Round Rock. Erich reminded us that our next big event is AGMS'

Gem Capers, an important outreach for us and a good time for each of us to volunteer over three days. The field trip for October is set for a week earlier than customary to clear the way for our participation in Gem Capers. Ed then gave details of this month's field trip to the quarry near Clifton, emphasized being there on time, and having your release form notarized. Dale confirmed that the minutes were in the newsletter. Andrew was acknowledged as a visitor. Scott asked about the weather for the field trip, and Erich said, 'Great!' David gave the temperature forecast. The meeting minutes were approved. Erich asked if there is any other business, and Suzanne fielded a question about the t-shirt design for Fossil Fest. Then we took the break for snacks and conversation.

After the break, Paul introduced Dr. Jim Sprinkle of The University of Texas, who stated that tonight's talk is similar to the presentation he will be giving to an upcoming GSA meeting. Dr. Sprinkle stated that much long-term extensive paleontological work has taken place in the Bromide Formation of Oklahoma, and that work has produced a large monograph of many species. His talk tonight focuses upon a newly-described early echinoid species from shales in the Bromide Formation of southern Oklahoma. He gave the background and analysis of the physical characteristics of these early creatures, he showed many visuals of these fossils and hypothesized the environmental niche and feeding behaviors of these animals and its effect on their morphology. At the end of the talk, he took questions from Scott, Paul and Erich, and from Suzanne who wondered how the differing views of his colleagues were settled regarding a previous presentation that he gave. And he smilingly stated that they were still "duking it out," so to speak. The door prizes were won by Cathy, Angie, Avery, Kathleen and Suzanne. Ed informed us that Melvin had been in a traffic accident driving to tonight's meeting and that he was in good condition. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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:

- Excavating Fossils with Dava Butler on Oct. 19
- Fossil Prep Basics with Rachel Narducci on Nov. 30

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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