



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 12, Number 3

March 2017

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Spring time in Texas! Bluebonnets, rain, daylight saving time. Makes me want to get outdoors and go collecting – crawling amongst the flowers looking for the freshly exposed echinoids with that last extra hour of daylight. Hope you feel the same.

I will be presenting the final session in our series on Fossil Collecting 101 on Tuesday – how to start a collection. How to identify, label and catalog your specimens and, if time allows, cleaning, display and storage will be discussed, as well.

East Texas will be the field trip this month. Another opportunity to experience the glory of springtime!

See you at the meeting,

Fossil Collecting 101

Erich Rose
PSoA President

PSoA members will host the third in a three-part series of presentations on paleontology, collecting fossils and making a collection for beginners and seasoned collectors. The Club will hold the third session at 6 p.m. – prior to its regularly scheduled meeting – on March 21. The session, entitled “How do I start a collection,” will focus on cleaning, preparing, storing, displaying, identifying, labeling, numbering and cataloging your fossil finds.

Handouts will be provided, but you may want to bring a notebook and lots of questions. Note that these presentations will take place prior to the regular meetings, and we will be covering a great deal in each 45-minute session. Please be there on time or early so we can start at 6 p.m. sharp.

Upcoming Field Trip

Eocene hunting in East Texas

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

This month the Club will be heading out to East Texas in search of a wide variety of Eocene fossils. We will meet at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 25 in Nacogdoches, Texas.

We will be collecting Eocene marine invertebrates in the San Augustine area on Saturday and back in the Nacogdoches area on Sunday. Most – but not all – of our finds will be small, so sectional boxes will be useful.

We will meet at the O'Reilly Auto Parts located at 614 N. University Dr. in Nacogdoches. If you get there early enough, you can collect a bit behind the store along the cliff wall. The caravan will leave from this spot to our first location.

Bring lunch, water and the usual collecting materials. Watch the weather and dress accordingly.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 21 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, March 25 – 8 a.m.
O'Reilly Auto Parts
614 N. University Dr.
Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Field Trip Report

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

It was a chilly morning in Jacksboro, and a lot of excited members were ready to hunt: Dave Hoppes, Melvin Noble, Ron DiPronio, Gary and Cathy Rylander, David Lindberg, Bob McDonald, Ann Skowronski and Vlad Medrano, Mike Zimmer, John Hinte, and Paul Hammerschmidt. We spent the day at the Lost Creek Reservoir, hunting the Finis Shale. This is low in the Graham Formation in the Cisco Group and is Virgilian. Every year, the “flats” near the water is less and less available. Where we hunted for many years is nearly grassed over. We spent most of the day hunting the hill, which we used to think of as illegal, being private property. Things change.

We all had a great time and all came home with treasures. I had found a nice small *Liroceras liratum* as well as a pretty and larger *Liroceras sp.* as well as many large pieces of other nautiloids and ammonites. Then Gary showed me his. Huge. Really nice nautiloid. Dave, Gary and I also found a *Brachycycloceras* which is supposed to be rare. Dave also showed me a very large *Worthenia* gastropod he picked up. Melvin found several of the small coral *Paleacis* as well as some conularids. John said he had found the best spirifer he'd ever found. I also found a rostroconch, *Apotocardium lanterna*, and a couple of pectens. One was a small *Acanthopecten* and the other an *Aviculopecten vanvleeti*. Wish I could have seen into everyone's boxes, I know there were many more nice things found. You can't hunt the Finis and not have a good time.

On Sunday, we met in Mineral Wells. There were only five of us, so we decided where we wanted to go – which is where I wanted to go anyway. We went out on Highway 337 to a site that is Wynn Limestone above and Keechi Creek below. We hunted the Wynn, which is the lowest unit in the Graford Formation, which is in the Canyon Group and is Missourian. This is very different hunting from the Finis. If you “browse” you will find little. If you sit down and really look, there is a great deal there. Different gastropods, different corals and several different brachiopods than we find at most of our Pennsylvanian sites. Several of the gastropods and one of the corals I can't yet identify. It's hard (fun) work on a steep slope, but finding new things makes it worth it. Bob found a pygidium, which made his day. David found the best thing for the weekend, in my opinion. I believe to be an *Acanthopecten* but of a species I haven't seen. Really pretty.

As people left, I asked if they enjoyed the site, and all said, “Yes.” It's the third time the club has been there and won't be the last. All in all, a great weekend in the Pennsylvanian of North Texas. Next month will be in East Texas. See you there.

Donations Needed

Emelia Rose
PSoA Vice President and Show Chair

Paul Hammerschmidt will be facilitating the “Fossils Talk” presentations at Club outreach events and is in need of some items. If you have any extra specimens or replicas of the items below, please consider donating them to the Club. Just bring the items to the next meeting or contact Paul at: paulhammers75@yahoo.com.

Modern Heart Urchin	Various Mammal Eggs
Ammonite Replica	Modern Amphibian Replica
Whole Chambered Nautilus	Prehistoric Amphibian Replica
Sliced Chambered Nautilus	Dino Skull
Belemnite	Dino Models
Preserved Bat	Various Tracks

Meeting Minutes

Gary Vliet
PSoA Secretary

February 21, 2017 – Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Pre-Meeting Activity: Following the plan which began at the last January meeting, there was a short presentation by Erich Rose on Fossil Collecting 101 ... this evening on "Finding Fossils". The third topic in the series, "Starting a Collection" will be given at the March meeting. These three presentations will likely be repeated in the fall.

The meeting was opened by President Erich Rose at 7:10 pm.

The guest speaker for the evening was Prof. Rowan Martindale (UT Austin) who spoke on the new exceptional site for fossils from the Early Jurassic period at the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch north of Banff, Alberta.

Business meeting resumed at 8:15 pm.

Minutes: The minutes for the previous meeting of Jan. 17, 2017 were approved.

Finances: Mike Smith reported on the budget.

Outreach: Paul Hammerschmidt reported that he gave a presentation at Barton Creek Elementary School on Friday, Feb. 17, with about fifteen second and third graders attending.

Dallas Club: Bill Thompson reported that, in talking to members of the Dallas fossil group, it appears they would like to see more interaction between our clubs. Recall that we discontinued participating in Fossil Mania a couple years back.

Meeting 'Goodies': Melvin Noble AGAIN solicited volunteers to bring drinks and snacks for upcoming meetings.

April Auction: Because the "March for Science" is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, it was moved and approved that we delay the Auction to Sunday, March 23.

Projector: Since our projector decided to 'retire', there was discussion about acquiring another. David Lindberg and Mike Smith offered to look into acquiring one for the club, at a nominal cost of about \$400.

Field Trips: Ed reported a very good outing and a good turnout for the Harker Heights trip on Jan. 21. The Feb. 25 & 26 field trip is to Lake Jacksboro and Mineral Wells. Participants are to meet at the Jacksboro Courthouse at 8 a.m. on Feb. 25.

Visitors: There were three visitors attending the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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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