



Paleo Footnotes

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August 2017

Outreach Update

Emelia Rose
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

There are two opportunities coming up for members to help support the Club and share their love for fossils. Remember, you do not have to be an expert! You just have to bring your smile and willingness to talk about fossils and the Club. Families are definitely encouraged to participate together.

Pioneer Day is Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms in Dripping Springs. Paul H., Erich R., and I have volunteered to go, but anyone who would like to volunteer is encouraged to attend.

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society Gem Capers Show starts on Friday, Oct. 20. I have created a sign-up sheet (<https://www.volunteersignup.org/8XFDR>) for those who would like to participate. The shifts are all 3 hours except for Sunday's 3-5. Feel free to sign up for multiple shifts in a day. I have made it so a maximum of 5 people can attend per shift, but 3 people are needed per shift.

Thank you in advance for volunteering!

On Aug. 2, Erich R. and I participated in an outreach event at the Laura Bush Community Library. We did a 30 minute presentation to 47 people in attendance.

Next Field Trip

Saturday, August 19

Location to be determined during the next meeting with e-mail instructions to follow.

Upcoming Presenter

Paul Hammerschmidt
PSoA Programs Chair

Join us Tuesday, Aug. 15 for a presentation on how advanced technology is benefiting the field of paleontology. Ph.D. candidate Will Gelnow discuss how the use of technology is improving access to existing information, information gathering, and information analysis. He will explain how photogrammetry, remote sensing, GIS, and autonomous drones will soon have the power to prospect for fossils without a human present and how handheld laser scanners, MicroCT scanners, Neutron scanners, new iodine staining techniques, and ubiquitous digital cameras can capture morphology in detail never before possible.

Originally from California, Will earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and his master's degree at East Tennessee State University. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in Austin. His academic focus has been on the evolution of lizards and the interconnected nature of selection on different parts of the body. He has served as a paleontological monitor on construction sites and currently works with elementary school students in after-school programs designed to make science and technology fun.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 15 – 7 p.m.

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Teacher Development Workshop Report

David Lindberg
PSoA Member

Club Member David Lindberg traveled to Gainesville, Florida Aug. 2–5 to attend the 2017 Teachers Professional Development Workshop. Thirty teachers and fossil club members gathered to develop paleontology-based lesson plans. More than fifteen lesson plans were developed by the end of the workshop. The fossil club members in attendance brought a selection of fossils that the teachers will use to develop fossil kits for classroom use. Lindberg contributed several containers of fossils, mainly from Texas.

Most of the workshop was devoted to small teams of teachers and fossil club members brainstorming ideas and then developing lesson plans. The group also toured The University of Florida Natural History Museum, visited the Paleontology Lab, and spent an afternoon hunting for shark teeth in a local creek. In addition, we learned about the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) three dimensions of science learning (Crosscutting Concepts, Practices, and Core Ideas). Several lesson plans have been posted at the myFossil website (<https://www.myfossil.org/category/k-12>) for those interested in viewing them.

Meeting Minutes

Emelia Rose
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

July 18, 2017 – Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

The Club is confirmed for Pioneer Day located in Dripping Springs. Pioneer Day is Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Club Member Ron Root has recently suffered a stroke and is in recovering. He held a number of officer positions before moving to New Mexico. If you would like to send him a card or email, Mike Smith has his contact information.

The Club discussed the July field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Meeting time is 10 a.m.

AGMS will hold their auction on Saturday, Aug. 12. Please bring food if you plan to attend. There will be plenty of fossil material. The location is at the AGMS Clubhouse.

The Club then watched *Dinosaurs Unearthed* by National Geographic.

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