



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 12, Number 9

September 2017

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Here we are again. It's show season. We have outreach events in September; Gem Capers in October; and, finally, Fossil Fest in November.

We have volunteers lined up for Identification Day at Texas Memorial Museum and Founders Day in Dripping Springs this month, but we need folks for the AGMS show Gem Capers in October and then we jump right to our main event for the year, Fossil Fest, in November.

There are many opportunities to volunteer, and the Club needs your help. Our show chair, Emelia, will have sign-up sheets both at the meetings and online to make it easier to do your part.

Now, volunteering isn't everything, and I hope you all find time for exploring, field trips, museums or however else you like to enjoy paleontology in these coming months. Cooler weather is here and we should have some great field trips lined up to enjoy.

PSoA Webmaster Earns National Recognition

The Club's webmaster, Gordon Galligher, took 8th place in the American Federation of Mineral Societies 2016 Web Site contest. Congratulations, Gordon! The website is the best place to find current information on Club field trips and meetings. Visit today at www.austinpaleo.org.

Next Field Trip

Saturday, September 30
Clifton Quarry (Lhoist North America)
2861 FM 2602 Clifton, Texas 76634
Release Required (see last page)

Upcoming Presentation

Impressions from Fossils for Teachers Workshop

David Lindberg
PSoA Member

On August 2 through 5, thirty teachers and fossil club members met in Gainesville Florida to develop paleontology-based lesson plans. This workshop provided a group of teachers with fossils and expertise to develop lesson plans to take back to their classrooms.

Attendees covered a lot of ground at the meeting, and David will present on a wide array of topics from the workshop. Topics will include an overview of the workshop, a little about the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), trips to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Paleontology Lab, the story of a fossil hunter extraordinaire, and how to identify top jaw shark teeth from bottom jaw shark teeth.

David is a long time club member, and currently puts together teacher kits to give away at Fossil Fest. He also handles the computers and projectors for the club. Based on his experiences with the workshop, David is thinking about ways to improve the teacher kits.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 19 – 7 p.m.
Bag stuffing at 6 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

On Saturday, **September 30**, we will be headed 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

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

We met at the Dairy Queen in Startzville for the first time in many years. The members with me were Paul Hammerschmidt, Dave Hoppes, Andrew Dunham, Robert Saxelby, John Hinte, Joe Watkins, Mike Zimmer, and Emelia and Erich Rose.

Our first stop is designated as the Echinoid Marker Bed at the bottom of Unit 2 of the Lower Member of the Glen Rose Formation, Trinity Group. We can be that specific thanks to the Smith and Rader paper on Glen Rose echinoids from a few years back. Nearly everything found here is small – millimeters small. Several people found echinoids, mostly *Hyposalenia phillipsae*. I did hear that Paul and Mike found *Leptosalenia sp.* and someone found a *Pygopyrina hancockensis*. Most picked column pieces of the crinoid *Pentacrinus texanus*. I found a free floating crinoid. Several of us picked up crab claws of the hermit crab *Paleopagurus banderaensis*. Erich picked up a nice claw that none of us had seen before.

After several hours we went on to the second site near U.S. 281 and TX 46. This is a small *Salenia (Leptosalenia)* Zone and is near the top of Unit 2 of the Lower Member of the Glen Rose. Some *Leptosalenia texana* were found, as well as spines, bivalves and crab claws. After about an hour, we took lunch at Wendy's. From there, Erich led us to a site 8 to 10 miles further west. This site has produced some rare echinoids such as *Pygorhynchus stephensoni* and *Plagiochasma texanum*. The presence of *Plagiochasma* would indicate that it is Unit 3 of the Upper Member of the Glen Rose. John thinks he may have found a damaged *Pygorhynchus*, but cleaning needs to be done to be sure. Most of us found some nice *Heteraster obliquatus* and a few *Loriolia rosana*. We found lots of bivalves, in particular some nice examples of the scallop *Chlamys stantoni*. We stayed until our sweat sizzled when it hit the rocks. Hot or not, it was a good day collecting the lower Cretaceous. The club needs to head southwest more often. See you at the next one.

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.

Fossil Fest & Other Outreach Update

Emelia Rose
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

Pre-meeting Stuffing Party, 6 p.m., Tuesday, September 19

Before the September meeting starts, we will be stuffing 700 sandwich-sized bags with a Fossil Fest flyer and a fossil. We need 700 clean and recognizable fossils.

Fossil Fest Update

Fossil Fest is coming up soon on Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5. Show hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The theme is 'Dinosaurs' with the emphasis on their beginnings and ends.

The sign-up sheets have time slots of 3 hours, but please sign up for multiple shifts in a day. To make Fossil Fest a success, it is important to have help from as many members as possible.

Flyers: I have spoken to each of the locations at which we will post flyers, and have delivered flyers and tear pads to the ones that will allow us to post information more than one month in advance. At the September meeting, I would like volunteers to drive them to the remaining locations. If you have any other ideas of outreach locations please email showchair@austinpaleo.org.

I will also bring flyers to this month's meeting, so please grab a few and ask permission to place them on community bulletin boards in the Austin area. Consider delivering some to schools, coffee houses, gyms, restaurants, etc.

Needed: Dinosaur-themed fossils for display cases. Please email showchair@austinpaleo.org or contact Erich or Mike at the upcoming meeting if you have fossils 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

At Tuesday's meeting, I will also be presenting the final design and color options for our Fossil Fest t-shirts. To get the shirts by our October meeting, the deadline to order is October 6. The image on the back will be a Triceratops, similar to the one shown here, but with small changes. The logo on the front will say "Fossil Fest" on the top and "Austin, Texas" on the bottom with a footprint in between. The shirts will most likely come in a shade of blue, pink, yellow and gray. Pricing will be: \$10 for volunteers, \$12 for members, \$14 for the public. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please email me at: showchair@austinpaleo.org to pre-order! Thank you!



Paleontological Society of Austin

Other Outreach

We have two large events that we are going to be at before Fossil Fest. Pioneer Day and Gem Capers are great venues to help us get the word out about Fossil Fest. All members are encouraged to volunteer, as it's a great way to give back to the Club. New members have the added advantage of learning new things about fossils at a fun event. All of our activities, such as the dig pit and spinning wheel, will have one veteran member, so please don't think that you may not know enough to volunteer. I have created sign-up sheets, and will be bringing a spreadsheet to the next meeting if you prefer to sign up that way. Thank you!

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

Gem Capers is **October 20-22** at the Palmer Event Center in Austin. Please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/cfjdeRU>. We will be needing volunteers Friday through Sunday, as well as setup on Thursday. For more information go to: <http://agms-tx.org/gem-capers/>.

Our **27th Annual Fossil Fest** is early this year on **November 4 and 5** at Old Settler's Heritage Center in Round Rock. Sign up to volunteer at <http://signup.com/go/yeiQVCz>. For more information, go to: <http://austinpaleo.org/fest.html>.

Odds and Ends

Exploring Alberta's Dinosaur Locales While Funding Dinosaur Research

Dinotour 2018, sponsored by the Dinosaur Research Institute and scheduled to be held August 3-6, 2018, is a unique opportunity to discover Alberta's palaeontological treasures with world-renowned scientists Dr. Philip Currie, Dr. David Eberth, Dr. David Evans, Dr. Eva Koppelhus, Dr. Michael Ryan, and Darren Tanke.

The four-day, family-oriented tour allows visitors to:

- Learn about the dinosaurs of Alberta
- Explore several dinosaur locales in Manyberries, Dinosaur Provincial Park (DPP) and along the Oldman River
- Hike and tour various sites in Dinosaur Provincial Park and Drumheller areas
- Tour the Royal Tyrrell Museum and the Field Station at DPP
- Tour the Devil's Coulee Dinosaur Heritage Museum and dinosaur egg site
- See how Alberta's gemstone Ammolite (fossilized ammonite shell) is excavated

Proceeds generated from this tour support the work of the Dinosaur Research Institute (DRI), a non-profit charitable organization that finances dinosaur research in western Canada. Each participant will receive a Canadian charitable tax donation receipt for a portion of the fees. DRI uses the funds raised to support:

- Graduate Student Projects
- Dinosaur fieldwork in western Canada
- Neoceratopsian Research Award
- Rene Vandervelde Award to cover travel expenses to present at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Conference
- Travel Grant for Canadian Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (CSVP) Meeting

Adult registration costs around \$1,200 (\$1,495 CDN), but it does sound like a unique opportunity and covers food, tour transportation, museum admissions, and lodging. For more information, contact Mona Marsovsky at dinotour@dinosaurresearch.com or visit <http://dinosaurresearch.com/5%20Dinotour.htm>.

Dallas Club to Host Rock Swap

The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society is holding a rock swap from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on September 23 in the DGMS parking lot located at 10205 Plano Rd. in Dallas (75238). You can take any rocks, minerals, or fossils that you'd like to trade or sell, or just peruse others' rocks.

Smithsonian Story on Paleoart

Smithsonian Magazine ran a story about a new book examining two centuries of dinosaur art. It turns out there's a name for the genre of the old Dinosaur images with which you may have grown up: Paleoart. In this new book [Paleoart: Visions of the Prehistoric Past](#), writer and art historian Zoë Lescaze explores the history of the art form, which began about 200 years ago and has developed into a critical part of the paleontological world. [Read more.](#)

Meeting Minutes

Dale Vargo

August 15, 2017 – Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Erich opened the meeting, noting that the usual diehards were present. Then Paul introduced tonight's speaker, University of Texas Ph.D. candidate Will Gelnow. Will focused his presentation on the intersection of paleontology and technology, outlining the growing applications of tech and information systems to help explore fossil localities and create new, effective ways of fossil examination and information access. Drones are already being used to cover inaccessible tracts, for fossil exploration. Ground penetration radar has limited use so far, but could produce better results in the future. High definition satellite image data is producing good info for examining remote regions too. Will also covered using CT scans to analyze matrix-embedded fossils. And 3D printing makes useful replicas of specimens. And he noted that the growth of fossil databases has allowed development of computer programs to analyze, identify specimens at high speed. Will finished with questions from the audience. We then took our break.

After the break, the meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report was given. No new outreach events were presented. Then Show Chair Emelia Rose discussed our upcoming event participation at Gem Capers and then she covered some details of our annual show, Fossil Fest. Next, the field trip destination was hashed out and the Startzville boat ramp site on Canyon Lake was chosen. Meet up details for the field trip were given. Dr. Sprinkle then announced the publication of a new research paper on Cyclocystoids and offered copies to read.

Erich Rose and Emelia went over various details for Gem Capers and Fossil Fest. We are asked to come an hour early to the next regular meeting to stuff teacher/student bags for Gem Capers and Fossil Fest. Emelia announced a show committee meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on September 7. Paul Hammerschmidt confirmed that we have new tablecloths for fossil fest and will work on obtaining some iron-on labels. The door prizes were won by Emelia, Dale, Max, Melinda, Clark, Mary, and Merrily. Then we adjourned the meeting, having a final visit together while cleaning and before departing.

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.

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COUNTY OF _____ §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the ____ day of _____ by

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_____ Type and # of ID

Given under my hand and seal of office this ____ day of _____, 2008.

Notary Public, State of Texas

Notary Seal

Name of Notary Typed, Stamped, or Printed

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.

PSoA Web Site: www.austinpaleo.org
Webmaster: Gordon Galligher, webmaster@austinpaleo.org

2017 Officers:

President
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Erich Rose
Emelia Rose
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Ed Elliott
Paul Hammerschmidt
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Gordon Galligher
Emelia Rose

president@austinpaleo.org
vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
treasurer@austinpaleo.org
secretary@austinpaleo.org
fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
programchair@austinpaleo.org
editor@austinpaleo.org
webmaster@austinpaleo.org
showchair@austinpaleo.org

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.

annm@mail.utexas.edu
powen@mail.utexas.edu
echino@mail.utexas.edu

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Dax Gonzalez, Editor
7802 Mullen Dr.
Austin, TX 78757

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