



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 12, Number 10

October 2017

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Oh my gosh, here we are again in the thick of show season. Volunteers are needed. First up is Gem Capers, the larger rock and gem show hosted by our friends at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. We will have a small booth within the hall, and this is a great opportunity for us to reach many people and promote our own show as well. Emelia has some spots filled but many that still need a body. Then following quickly will be our own show: Fossil Fest. This is how we raise both awareness of paleontology and money to keep us going. Emelia will have sign-up sheets at the meeting, as well as a link for doing so online.

Whether you are a new member or a long-time member, it is important that you volunteer at least a few hours for either of these events. If you can only help at one show, make it Fossil Fest. Our non-profit status is based on our educational outreach efforts and, as stated above, it is a major source of our operating budget. We have many tasks that need to be completed and positions to cover during the set-up and the show itself. Please come to the October meeting and sign up for one or both shows. Our Club counts on you as a member to volunteer as needed to make things happen.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 17 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, October 28 – 8 a.m.
Brady, Texas
See directions in upcoming field trip report.

Volunteer Today!

Emelia Rose
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

Volunteering is one of the most rewarding activities! You get to spend time with our awesome Club members, learn new facts about paleontology, and enjoy the excitement of Fossil Fest and Gem Capers!

Volunteering also expresses your dedication to our Club's mission: advancing the state of science, educating the public, and collecting and identifying fossil specimens.

Whether a new member or a seasoned volunteer, it is YOU who brings the life to all of our outreach events and makes them enjoyable for our members and the public! Please spend even just a few hours of your time with us at AGMS Gem Capers and Fossil Fest!

Fossil Fest Update

Date: Saturday, Nov. 4 & Sunday, Nov. 5

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Old Settlers Association

3300 Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock, TX (Hwy 79 near Dell Diamond)

Theme: Dinosaurs!



Paleontological Society of Austin

T-shirts will be at the upcoming meeting, if you pre-ordered a shirt and are unable to attend the meeting, please volunteer at Gem Capers or Fossil Fest and I'll have them there! Prices are \$8 for Fossil Fest volunteers, \$10 for members, and \$15 for the public.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 1)

VOLUNTEER: All the sign-up sheets have time slots of 3 hours. To make Fossil Fest a success it is important to have the assistance of EVERY MEMBER! We can't do it without your help! Please see Upcoming Outreach Opportunities for the links! Thank you to the members who have already signed up for Gem Capers and Fossil Fest!

Everyone on the Show Committee has worked hard to put Fossil Fest together. Gordon Galligher, Suzanne Galligher, Paul Hammerschmidt, Nordric Hofpauer (Dale Vargo), Merrily Jones, Erich Rose, and Mike Smith have each taken on some of the major responsibilities that are essential to Fossil Fest's success. Please thank them for going the extra mile! Contribute to the hard work everyone has done and please volunteer!

DISPLAY CASES: We need 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. The sign-up can be seen with the link to Fossil Fest sign-up.

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

GOT FOSSILS? Please bring clean, small fossils for the DIG PIT and clean, decent fossils for the SPINNING WHEEL. You can bring them to the meeting on Oct. 17 or to Fossil Fest during set-up on Nov. 3 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

GEM CAPERS is just around the corner! Gem Capers is Oct. 20-22. Being two weeks before Fossil Fest, this is one of our best opportunities to get the word out about Fossil Fest. Please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/cfjdeRU>. We will be needing volunteers Friday (Oct. 20) through Sunday (Oct. 22), as well as setup on Thursday (Oct. 19). Paul Hammerschmidt will be managing set-up on Thursday, set-up time is TBD. For more information go to: <http://agms-tx.org/gem-capers/>.

FOSSIL FEST is the first weekend in November (Nov. 4 and 5). There are a variety of jobs where you can help out at Fossil Fest. Volunteers can welcome people at the Admissions Desk, help out in the Kitchen, teach kids about fossils at the Touch Table, hand out Paleo Passports, or enjoy the excitement of the Spinning Wheel or Dig Pit! If you can't donate your time at Fossil Fest as a volunteer, please consider these other valuable options: donate funds to the Kitchen to offset food costs, purchase bottled water for volunteers/vendors, spread the word about Fossil Fest via e-mail or social media (friends, family, co-workers, teachers, Scout/Youth leaders), post our flyer to local nature clubs or other related online forums, print the Fossil Fest Show Flyer (on our website at www.austinpaleo.org/fest) and tack to community bulletin boards (at your local coffee shop, restaurant, library, office break room, book store, etc.).

Please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/yeiQVCz>. For more information go to: <http://austinpaleo.org/fest.html>.

Dealers/Exhibitors: Please join me in welcoming our 2017 Fossil Fest Dealers and Exhibitors: Natural Selection Enterprise (Joe Bone), John Fox, Jack Grant, Cold Creek Fossils (Danny Harlow), Bits of Nature Décor Co. (Meredith

Howse), Red River Paleontology (Wayne Mandrell), The Dig (Jason Petersen), Mark Randall, Anna Stanley, Nature's Treasures (Karen Richards), Teredo's Etc. (Doug Vanderford).

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

This month (October 28) we will be hunting the Pennsylvanian near Brady, Texas. I know of no place to meet, so we will just meet at the collecting site. There are two routes that can be taken:

Take Hwy 71 west out of Austin and drive to Brady. From Brady, take Hwy 377 north and turn right (east) onto FM 765. After a short distance, you will cross CR 450 and see the collecting site. Hint: If you are driving on 377 and cross the Colorado River – you went too far.

OR

Take Hwy 183 north to Lometa. On the south side of Lometa take Hwy 190 to Richland Springs. From Richland Springs go north on Hwy 45 and turn left (west) onto FM 765. You will get to the collecting site just before you cross CR 450.

Bring all of the usual things: food and water, appropriate clothing for the weather of the day, a screwdriver, butterknife or something with which to dig, maybe hammers and chisels, and collecting bags. This is a Pennsylvanian site, so most fossils won't be large. I will attempt to arrange another site that we haven't been to in a long while. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. and stay until we've exhausted the area, at least the morning. See you there.

Field Trip Report

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

It was a beautiful day and a great turn out at what has become our annual trip to Clifton Quarry. With me was Mike Smith, Andrew Dunham, Karen Cassidy, Chris Cooper, Mike Zimmer, Joe Watkins, Terry Czerwien, Dave Hoppes, Melinda and Frederick Falk, Erich Rose, Rose Farmer, Kevin Bills, and Cathy and Gary Rylander. After a short safety meeting we drove into the quarry. The quarry exposes the Edwards Formation and the Kiamichi Formation of the Fredericksburg Group and some Wasita Group (undifferentiated), the Duck Creek Formation and some of the Ft. Worth Formation.

Our host, Mr. Cosper, started off taking us to a waste site. Not collectable. Then he admitted that he was lost. We got some help and were led to a better site. Not the excellent sites that we've been lucky to get the past few years, but a mostly crystalline Edwards Fm. site. He told me he hadn't worked in the quarry for a long time, but stayed out front. He apologized for the less than wonderful area and promised that next year he would go in before we came and find us a more productive area. We can't complain, most quarries just say, "No." These people have bent over backwards for us for years and we have hauled away a lot of really nice fossils. This time we got all the *Eoradiolites davidsoni* rudists that we could carry. I know that I took home a big bag of nice ones. Several people also found the rudist *Toucasia texana*, which is somewhat coiled and usually has a brownish shell. Other things were found. Andrew picked up two *Goniopygus zitteli* and a nice *Salenia sp.* Echinoids are always nice. Mike Smith also picked up a pretty *Goniopygus*. Late in the day, Andrew and Mike Zimmer found a couple of piles of the Kiamichi Fm. and found a few shark teeth and a tiny *Salenia* (?) each. The other item found, usually broken, was a bivalve with radial ribs called *Chondrodonta munsoni*.

Mid afternoon we left the quarry and about eight of us went on to the Hwy 107 "Mother Neff" site. Most of the people with me had said that they couldn't stay long, but wanted to hunt. They left, and I don't know what they found. Mike Z. and I stayed for several hours and had a great time. I found two nice *Salenia mexicana* and Mike found one. I also picked up quite a few *Pliotoxaster whitei* and he did too. He also found half of what would have been a good *Tetragramma taffi*. I found at least five horn corals, three of which were the usual *Parasimilia*, but the other two looked like *Trochosmilia*

stainbrooki which is usually found in the Goodland Fm. We were hunting the Comanche Peak. Some pretty detailed gastropods, four crab claws, some interesting oysters all kept me smiling through the afternoon. Another good day hunting in Texas. See you at the next one.

Odds and Ends

Canadian team finds world's biggest trilobite

A team of Canadian paleontologists working along Hudson Bay in northern Manitoba has discovered the world's largest recorded complete fossil of a trilobite. The specimen is more than 28 inches long, 70 percent larger than the previous record holder.

"This is an important and amazing find," says Bob Elias, a professor in the department of geological sciences at the University of Manitoba. "It looks like a huge bug!"

Read more at http://www.umanitoba.ca/science/geological_sciences/stuff/geoaware/suletosi/.



Giant trilobite feasts on corn field



At least that's what one might think flying over this geologically themed corn maze in Wisconsin. Alan Treinen of Treinen Farms in Lodi, about 25 minutes north of Madison, told reporters the farm has come up with the idea for its annual maze for the past decade. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Geology Museum suggested this year that the farm create a science-themed maze starring the state's official fossil, the trilobite *Calymene celebra*. Read more at:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/check-out-awesome-trilobite-corn-maze-180964997>.

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
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Field Trips
Programs
Editor
Webmaster
Show Chair

Erich Rose
Emelia Rose
Mike Smith
Gary Vliet
Ed Elliott
Paul Hammerschmidt
Dax Gonzalez
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

Permission to copy material printed herein is granted provided proper credit is given to the author and source.
The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN