

PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 05

MAY 2023



President's Note

Rain rain rain! Wait, no rain?

I hope you are all doing well. May is here and the typical wet weather has been good for some and non-existent for others. Let's hope we break this drought before the month's out. My favorite road cuts need a good gully washer or two.

Weather north of us has been wetter and hopefully that will lead to some great stuff coming out of Oklahoma. I have to skip the trip this year, but my thoughts will be with yall.

(continued on page 2)

This Month's Speaker

Wildcat remains from Natural Bridge Caverns offer insights into the Quaternary diversity of felines in Texas

by John Moretti

John A. Moretti is a PhD Candidate in the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin. John is a paleontologist studying patterns of vertebrate diversity and distribution throughout the past 3-5 million years with a particular focus on the Quaternary and the natural history of extant species and associated communities.

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MAY 2023

Regular May Meeting
Tuesday May 16th - 7pm
AGMS Clubhouse
6719 Burnet Lane

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83665335723?pwd=eHFCVWRlOHFIYW42LlB3djBRSmlkOT09>

Meeting ID: 836 6533 5723
Passcode: 547969

May Field Trip
Saturday-Sunday May 20th + 21st
Ada, Oklahoma
(see page 2)

President's Note

(continued from page 1)

Last I heard we did well at the auction. The weather was fabulous and folks showed up. Let's keep the momentum up through the rest of the year.

Keeping it short this month,

Erich Rose

PSoA President

This Month's Speaker

(continued from page 1)

John is currently engaged in a number of projects examining the temporal distribution and climatic context of vertebrate taxa based on remains preserved in caves and karst across the Edwards Plateau of central Texas in the United States.



May 2023 Field Trip:

Ada, OK

DATE: Saturday + Sunday May 20th + 21st

Ada Oklahoma - Devonian, Silurian, Ordovician

The Club's next field trip will be to Ada, OK for some Devonian, Silurian and Ordovician collecting. We'll meet on the East Central University Campus on the corner of E. 12th. and N. Francis Ave. near the petrified Callixylon tree (1 block over by East Main St) at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 20. This is a two-day trip and we will visit numerous sites. Facilities will be scarce, so be prepared. Bring at least a gallon of water a day for each person, food, hats, long-sleeve shirts, sunblock, kneepads, etc. Bug spray is also recommended for chiggers and ticks. Also watch out for snakes. Some of the locations will require a short hike. Depending on the site, you may need a hammer and chisel. Bring lots of containers, zipper bags, soda flats, newspaper, etc. and something to label your finds. Ada is a college town with a number of motels and restaurants.

Please note that the Sunday we will visit some additional sites - to be determined based on number of folks and accessibility. These are unfortunately not kid friendly environments...so we are going to request no kids under 12 attend.

This is a very exciting trip but also a long drive - so we want to make sure you are aware of the opportunities before you make plans and leave Austin.

Jamie Shelton

Field Trip Co-Chair

Fossil Fest 2023 Update

Date: November 4th & 5th

Theme: Prehistoric Life Underwater

Flyers

We have been providing Fossil Fest flyers at outreach events to start spreading the word early. If you would like any for future events, please let me know via email showchair@austinpaleo.org and I will bring some to the next meeting.

T-Shirts

T-shirts have been ordered and should be here in time for the July meeting!

Vendors

We have 10 vendors that have verbally committed to our event and are still in the process of collecting contracts from all. Also, AGMS will be attending Fossil Fest this year!

Social Media

Fossil Fest is up on [Do512.com](https://www.do512.com) and Facebook!

Heather Aziz

Vice President + Show Chair



Side Trip: Whiskey Bridge, Post Oak, Ladonia

I headed out to Whiskey Bridge the weekend of the East Texas Trip and could not have asked for better weather! Spring flowers and gentle breeze. I arrived around 8am and was the only one there till some of the Houston Paleontology Club members started showing up around 9am. It was the usual finds, but someone from the Houston club did find a shark tooth. How cool!!

On Easter weekend my four legged sidekick Bentley and I went to Post Oak Creek in Sherman. The city has the bridge under construction where I'd usually enter the creek so I tried some other entry points people had been using. Nope! Both places were too steep for me! So I went back to the construction area and maneuvered my way down to the creek. Met some nice folks and once again had great weather. Always a blast finding Shark teeth, Clam shells and Gastropoda's along with other odds and ends.

Easter Sunday we made the trip to Ladonia Fossil Park - I'm still in Awe! What an overwhelming yet amazing place. Once again perfect weather and we where the only ones there for quite sometime. I had no idea what to look for (lots of gray river rocks) but with time I started to make some interesting finds. This is definitely a place I want to go back to before the Dam is completed!

Helen Riggins
PSoA Member



Fig. 1 Post Oak Creek finds!



Fig. 2 Baculite - Ladonia (found by Bentley)



Fig. 2 Gastropod - Ladonia



Tailings...

In The News

This Dinosaur Had a 50-Foot-Long Neck, Scientists Say
 They compared vertebrae discovered in 1987 to more complete remains to make this new estimate
 Will Sullivan, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 17th March 2023

Dinosaurs Were Evolutionary Copycats of These Long-Lost Look-Alikes
 Before T. rex and ankylosaurus ruled the Earth, a host of similar Triassic reptiles reigned
 Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 22nd March 2023

Paleontologists Uncover Fossil Impressions of Giant, Alligator-Like Amphibians
 The find reveals how the creatures swam and relaxed in prehistoric waterways
 Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 29th March 2023

After Dinosaurs Went Extinct, These Ten Giant Creatures Roamed the Earth
 Though we often think of the “terrible lizards” as behemoths, many later reptiles and mammals also grew to massive sizes
 Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 18th April 2023

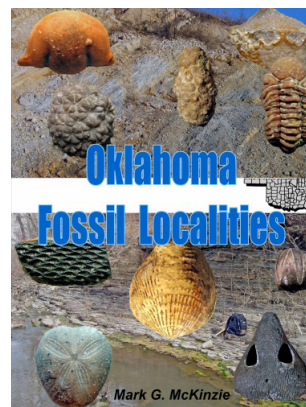
Rare 95-Million-Year-Old Dinosaur Skull Uncovered in Australia
 The first-of-its-kind find reveals how sauropods may have moved between Australia and South America during the mid-Cretaceous
 Margaret Osborne, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 19th April 2023

2023 Field Trip Schedule

May	Oklahoma
June	Austin Loop 360 (Lower Brazos)
July	Johnson City
August	Witte Museum - San Antonio
September	Texoma (Moody / Evant)
October	Brady + Santa Anna
November	Brownwood
December	White Mammoth and Pot Luck

Important Note: Please refrain from visiting sites the club is scheduled to access as part of a scheduled field trip. Doing so can clear a site of quality fossils and negatively impact the experience folks will have, especially new members, if the site suddenly feels “picked over”. We do our best to carefully space out trips to allow them to recover, so please be respectful of the club and stay off these sites within 3 months of a planned trip. Please note that dates and locations are subject to change - check the monthly newsletter or come to our monthly meetings for updates.

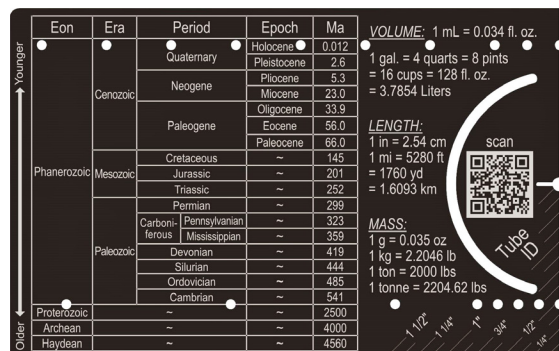
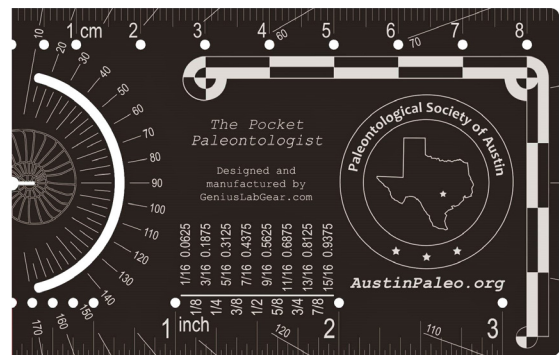
Oklahoma Resources



Oklahoma Fossil Localities
 by Mark G. McKinzie . A collector’s guidebook to the fossil riches to be had in the state of Oklahoma. Thirty-nine fossil localities described in detail, ranging in age from the Ordovician to the Cretaceous. Over 500 fossil species illustrated in full color. Revised edition updated in 2022. It is available to order on [Lulu.com](#). This is an online publisher who prints books to order, so expect a week or two for delivery. \$60 and worth every penny.

New Austin Paleo Gear!

Below are images of the new Pocket Paleontologist we are having produced and will be offered for sale. Eric Jones spearheaded this awesome new pocket sized gear and brought them to the April picnic for all to purchase. He will have them at the May meeting as well if you are interested!



Good Field Trip Etiquette

1. Arrive on time or early. At the prescribed meeting time (often 8AM) you should be out of your car standing with the field trip leader, signed in and ready to hear the day's schedule, directions and helpful pointers.
2. Do your homework. Use one of the online mapping programs to determine travel time and directions from your home the day before. Take the map with you and leave at least 15-30 minutes early. This is critical when we are going to quarries, private property or if the first stop is a meeting-point, not the collecting site. The field trip leader will not wait more than 15 minutes beyond the scheduled time.
3. Make sure you have the field trip leader's phone number. Their number will appear in the field trip notice. Bring a copy of the notice from the newsletter or e-mail blast so you have the information. That is the best way to find the group if you do get delayed or lost. But do not count on it. Some of our remote sites have poor cell reception. We have no way to guarantee you will get there if you miss the meeting spot.
4. The first stop is not breakfast. Please do not expect the rest of the group to wait while you order food or take care of business. If you need to do that, arrive 30 minutes early and then be ready to go at 8:00AM sharp!
5. The field trip leader sets the schedule. Gather near the leader at the beginning of every trip and listen carefully. The leader will describe where and when things will happen. That will include directions, plans for breaks and everything else you need to know about how the day will unfold. If you are not sure about directions or the schedule speak directly with the field trip leader. Do not count on hearsay.
6. Do not ask the entire group to stop for unscheduled breaks. If you need to take a break during the day, do it after you know where the collecting site is located. The field trip leader will usually schedule a break around lunch but not between every stop. Follow the group to the site and then circle back for food or facilities. This is why we suggest bringing your own food and beverages. Also being prepared with TP, or whatever else, for "emergencies".
7. Sign in and don't forget to report to the leader when you leave. This is not critical, but he or she will greatly appreciate those two things. Having everyone's name let's him know how well attended the trip was and we like to list everyone in the follow up reports. Secondly, getting a chance to hear and see what you found that day and being able to keep track of who is on site at the very end is just a good thing.
8. Be prepared. Make sure you have the materials you need to collect safely. In particular, water, hat, sunscreen and food.

9. Don't crowd the next guy. Please be courteous of your fellow collectors space. If someone says "Hey I found a good one!" don't come rushing over and crowd into their collecting zone. Let them offer to share the space. You can ask them where they found it and then move off to one side or the other, but don't just flop down next to them.

10. Be safe. If someone is working an area on a slope do your best not to pass above them. If you need to do so, please let them know you are passing and do your best not to send any debris down on top of them. If someone is working above you and you must pass below, please alert them for the same reasons. Generally speaking, if someone is working a spot respect that they "own" that area and your passage through or around that location should only be done with their permission and/or invitation.



Editor's Note:

I would like to extend an invitation to all members to submit stories of their own travels for publish in future episodes of SIDE TRIPS. All I need is a short write up (and I can assist with this) as well as some photos of your trip (iPhone or Android photos are perfect - just make sure to send me the full resolution version). Fossil hunting trips are always welcome, but so are trips to museums, fossil/mineral shows, and other adventures that explore the world around us. You can reach me at editor@austinpaleo.org and I will do my best to include your stories in future issues.

Brian Bedrosian Newsletter Editor

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 normally 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.

Please note, our monthly meetings are currently held in a hybrid format, with in person gatherings at the AGMS Clubhouse which can also be attended virtually via Zoom. Please see information provided on page one of this newsletter each month. While we are not currently requiring masks at any in person gatherings, we ask that you maintain a safe distance from others when socializing. Please note all virtual meetings are recorded and the Society may elect to publish the video of these meetings, in part or in total, to the Society's website or another publically accessible venue as benefits the goals of the club listed above.

Membership Information

Annual Dues: **\$18/individual**
\$24/family
\$12/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter)

Pay on-line at: <https://www.austinpaleo.org/newMembership.html>

Send payment 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**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo>

Twitter: [@Austin_Paleo](https://twitter.com/Austin_Paleo)

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