

PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 07

JULY 2023



President's Note

How the days fly by!

Here we are halfway through the year. June went quick. Unfortunately last month's meeting did not happen. Power went off at the AGMS club house and we only found out at the very last minute. I certainly hope some of you got the message before heading there. If not, I hope it wasn't too much of an inconvenience. In the future we should have better communications with AGMS when things like this happen and get a heads up sooner than later.

I look forward to hearing about the field trip and the one for July.
(continued on page 2)

This Month's Speaker

Fossil Collecting 101- A Brief Introduction to the Hobby of Fossil Collecting

By Erich Rose

A few years back I presented a number of pre-meeting sessions on amateur paleontology and they were fun to do. Since then the club has picked up a number of new members and many are new to the hobby. And amongst them I often hear the same "how did you, how do you and how would I's that suggest we need to offer some basics on what for many of us has now become old hat. I hope to briefly cover the following topics and the
(continued on page 2)

JULY 2023

Regular July Meeting
Tuesday July 18th - 7pm
AGMS Clubhouse
6719 Burnet Lane

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88460113203>

Meeting ID: 884 6011 3203

July Field Trip
Saturday July 22nd
Johnson City Sites
(see page 2)

President's Note

(continued from page 1)

We had a board meeting and discussed some financial items that needed attention. Details are in this newsletter and we will review the high points at the meeting. Don't worry we did not raise dues!

Hope to see you all soon! Stay safe out there!

Erich Rose

PSoA President

This Month's Speaker

(continued from page 1)

open the meeting up to questions and maybe even some demonstrations.

- Where to look for fossils
- What tools do I need?
- How to clean or preserve fossils
- How do we identify them?
- How to catalog your collection
- Why is all of this important?

I will use examples from my own collection and experiences but we will count on also hearing the collected wisdom of many of our other members as we answer questions and give advice to those who ask.

This month's speaker: **Erich Rose**, President, Paleontological Society of Austin

Erich has been collecting fossils since he was 10 growing up in Southwest Ohio. His collection includes Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic material from Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado and of course Texas. He has written field guides for the NYPS as well as many articles on collecting in various newsletters. Currently he is busy reworking major parts of his collection making sure they are properly stored and copying paper catalogs into computer data bases.



Site Trip to Jurassic Fest! - see page 6

July 2023 Field Trip

Johnson City Sites

This month's field trip, Saturday July 22nd: Meet at 8am at Mountain Top Road on 281 just south of Johnson City. Google for directions to Lighthouse Hill Ranch and that should get you to the right place. This is Upper Glen Rose Formation with echinoids, gastropods, bivalves and if you are super lucky, some vertebrate material! Fossils are typically small, so little containers, a screwdriver or other implement are all that's needed. It will be HOT and there are NO facilities. Johnson City is the closest place for restrooms and snacks. BRING LOTS OF WATER and something to protect you from the sun. Look forward to seeing everyone there!

Jamie Shelton

Field Trip Co-Chair



Hunting on Loop 360 - see report on page 4!

Fossil Fest 2023 Update

Date: November 4th & 5th

Theme: Prehistoric Life Underwater

Flyers

We have been providing Fossil Fest flyers and tear pads 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 will be available for purchase at the July meeting and are \$12 each for PSoA members.

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://do512.com) and Facebook!

Games

Paul Hammerschmidt will be bringing a game to test out to the meeting. Please give it a go and let me know your thoughts at the meeting or later via email.

Heather Aziz

Vice President + Show Chair

Minutes of the PSoA Board Meeting

July 3rd, 2023

Board Members present comprising a quorum:

- **Erich Rose**, President
- **Heather Aziz**, Vice President
- **Mike Smith**, Treasurer
- **Brian Bedrosian**, Board Member
- **Melvin Noble**, Board Member

The meeting opened via Zoom at 7:00 pm, the meeting was recorded.

1. Mike Smith updated the Board on the transfer of a portion of our funds into CD, which should earn \$570 over the next year. In the last 3 years our assets in checking have not dropped to a point where we might need the savings funds.

2. Mike Smith reported that we are now, again, members of MAPS (Mid-America Paleontology Society), as required by our Bylaws. The cost is only \$25/year.

3. Mike Smith noted that we need to update signatories on the bank account. Currently that includes Rose, Smith, and Galligher. Need to delete Galligher and add Heather Aziz.

Motion 1

The Board of Directors approves the following changes to the signatories on the Austin Paleontological Society Amplify bank accounts, including checking, savings, and CD:

1. Keep Erich Rose and Michael Smith as signatories.
2. Remove Suzanne Galligher as a signatory
3. Add Heather Aziz as a signatory

The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Mike Smith proposed the purchase of a new laptop. The primary motivation for a new machine is the unreliability of the existing one. It is 7.5 years old. The plan is that one of us will have the old one as a backup and the President will have the new one. Both will be brought to meetings, with the expectation that at least one will make it. We are looking at laptops running Windows 11 with expected cost to range between \$700 and \$1000. Best guess is that with tax it will be around \$820. Critical elements are memory (16 GB vs. the current 4) and Windows 11 (vs current 10).

Motion 2

The Board of Directors approves the purchase of a new laptop running Windows 11 with expected cost to range between \$750 and \$900.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Mike Smith discussed documenting roles and responsibilities, ensuring shared knowledge of needed passwords, and a compilation of documents describing how to perform needed activities. He will share a draft with the Board

6. Heather Aziz proposed the following increase in advertising for Fossil Fest:

Motion 3

Requested a doubling of Facebook advertising expenditure for Fossil Fest to \$100.

Motion was approved unanimously.

7. We discussed Grand Door Prizes. We have an abundance of possible candidates. Eric Jones has 3d-printed an Iberospinus natarioi vertebrae. Heather has donated an Edmontasaurus chevron. And we have several other saved specimens, including a very nice block of Florida pleistocene material. We are also looking into framing a 9 inch Green River fish kindly donated by Miriam Hall. And we have a signed copy of Locked in Time: Animal Behavior Unearthed in 50 Extraordinary Fossils by Dean Lomax. Once we get a chance to look at these together a decision will be made.

8. Paul Hammerschmidt has built a dart game as a possible Fossil Fest activity. He is going to bring it to the next meeting so members can see what they think. We also discussed look into an additional and/or replacement spinning wheel.

9. Heather has a T-mobile tower. We plan to try it at the next meeting to see if we can simplify our Internet connectivity.

10. We discussed posting recorded Zoom meetings to YouTube.

11. Brian Bedrosian brought up the idea of creating bound volumes of each year's newsletters at the end of each year. They would be in color and much nicer than what folks get in the mail. That way people who want physical copies to save could have a nice manageable volume per year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Mike Smith

Treasurer

Hope you had a wonderful Fourth of July!





Field Trip Report: Loop 360 Sites

Fig. 1 *Loriolia* (Brian Bedrosian)

On a nice warm June morning with beautiful blue skies overhead, several faithful members of the Paleo Society of Austin met at the 360 collecting site bluff. In attendance were Jamie Shelton, Will Joe, Eric Jones, Gary and Cathy Rylander, William Wehling, Andy Peters, the Oliver family, Corey and his son Alex Smith, Ash Dubin, Kevin Bills, Bob McDonald, Brian Bedrosian and his son Anders, and me, Melvin Noble. If I missed anybody on the list of people, my apologies. It was a good idea to collect in this area while we could as we noticed that they are cutting the cliffs back to widen the road on 360, so it's possibility we may lose this site. The weather, although warm, was cooler early in the morning but proceeded to get down right hot as the day wore on, so we did not collect for too long. Still it was good to be out in the field and there were some good finds for the day. I did not get with everybody about what they found but will report on the few items I did talk to people about. Gary Rylander found two *Leptosalenia* sp. (fig.2) and two *Coenholectypus* sp., several *Loriolas* sp. and a cool bi-valve called called *Inoperna concentricecostellata*. (fig. 4) I mentioned to Gary how cool that bi-valve was and he commented how he just likes them. I really do too and I have found them before only not this nice. This was Corey's and his son Alex first time collecting with us. Alex found several cool fossils and a real cool floating algae ball called *Globularis Porocystis*. Nice find Alex! I spent some time talking to people and taking pictures of the area. There was some cool flowers on the cliff that were purple. My phone



Fig. 2 *Leptosalenia* (Gary Rylander)



ID app said it was a common centaury, but I am not so sure. It was still pretty and added a little color to our collecting trip. Eric Jones found some Echinoids (fig 5) and a nice Gastropod. I talked to the Oliver family and they said that they were having a good time Manuel found the best *Coenholectypus* of the day. (fig. 3) It was truly a nice specimen and this was his birthday so it was a great birthday present for him! Later in the morning Kevin Bill showed up but by that time folks had started leaving so I stayed around for a little while till I decided to go home to beat the heat. It was good to get out of the house for at least a little while to do some collecting!

Melvin Noble
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 4 *Inoperna concentricostellata* (Gary Rylander)



Fig. 3 *Coenholectypus* (Manuel Oliver)



Fig. 5 *Loriolia* (Eric Jones)



Side Trip: Jurassic Fest

Fig. 1 Jimbo the Supersaurus real mounted skeleton!

Towards the end of June, I attended the first (hopefully annual) Jurassic Fest at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis, WY. While I was only there for the first day of the two-day event, I can attest that it was jam-packed with all things dinosaur and an immense number of dinosaur loving kids, big and small.

There were multiple digs that you could sign up for ahead of time that included digging at both established dig sites and exploration digs where you could search for new dig sites. I attended one dig during which I was able to work alongside Dr. Dean Lomax at an established site. Dr. Lomax is an internationally recognized paleontologist, author, television presenter, and science communicator. While he has made many scientific discoveries, Dr. Lomax is credited with identifying and naming the Ichthyosaur *Ichthyosaurus anningae* (named so to honor Mary Anning) which had been in museum collections for decades prior to being examined by Dr. Lomax. This was a ton of fun, was 3 hours in duration, and was kid friendly/accessible. A brief history of the site was also provided prior to the dig as well. (fig. 2)

After the dig I toured the museum which was loaded with skeletons, casts, and additional information about the sites. Jimbo the Supersaurus dominated the room, not a cast! (fig. 2) Later in the afternoon I attended a screening of “Why Dinosaurs?”, a documentary (in progress) that covers just what it says: why people love dinosaurs as much as they do. It was followed with a panel discussion of the creators and others involved. In the evening I attended talks by Dr. Dean Lomax, Elaine Howard (author of *Passion in the Bones*, a motivational



Fig. 2 Sauropod Vertebra from dig site

book about finding your passion), and Jimmy Waldron (founder of *Dinosaurs Will Always Be Awesome*, a nonprofit with an emphasis on dinosaurs and STEM education).

Overall it was a very full day of meeting new friends (and friends in person for the first time) and immersing myself in a new museum, fossils, formation, and atmosphere. I highly recommend this event and if not the event, the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in general.

Heather Aziz
Vice President + Show Chair



Tailings...

In The News

Eight Menacing Saber-Toothed Creatures That Stalked the Earth Long Ago

From before the dinosaurs to the Ice Age, several mammals and their forerunners sported the iconic, curved teeth

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 29 June 2023

These ‘Grinning’ Triassic Reptiles Likely Died of Starvation

Sheep-sized rhynchosaurs had an unusual way of chewing plants that wore down their teeth over time

Sarah Kuta, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 21 June 2023

These Long-Necked Marine Reptiles Were Decapitated

Tanystropheus fossils reveal how predators may have snapped the creatures’ necks with a powerful, swift bite from above

Sarah Kuta, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 20 June 2023

500-million-year-old fossil reveals new secrets

Discovery of rare tunicate fossil offers surprising insights on marine animals’ evolution

Wendy Heywood, [Harvard Gazette](#), 06 July 2023

Fossil study challenges long-held theory on Fibonacci spirals found in nature

A 3D model of a 407-million-year-old plant fossil has overturned thinking on the evolution of leaves. The research has also led to fresh insights about spectacular patterns found in plants.

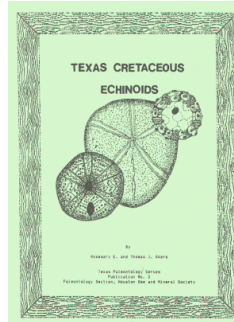
[University College Cork](#), 15 June 2023

2023 Field Trip Schedule

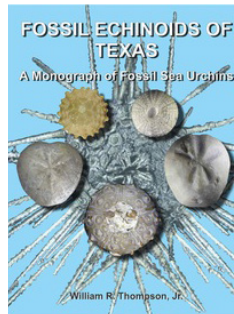
July	Johnson City
August	Witte Museum - San Antonio
September	Texoma (Moody / Evant)
October	Brady + Santa Anna
November	Brownwood
December	White Mammoth and Pot Luck

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.

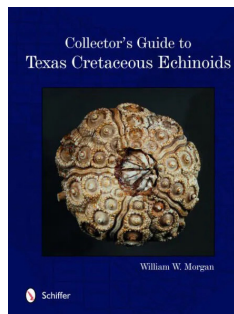
Cretaceous Echinoid Resources



Texas Cretaceous Echinoids by Rosemary E Akers and Thomas J Akers - published by the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, 1987. HGMS produces a whole series on the cretaceous fossils of Texas and they are available in print as well as PDF - you can purchase them on their [website](#).

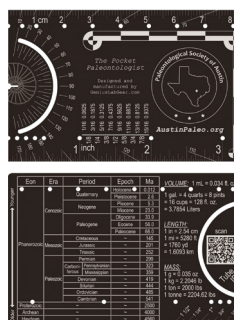


Fossil Echinoids of Texas by William R Thompson, Jr - self published and available at his website: [echinoids.com](#). There is a now a 2020 Addendum which adds a new 34 species to the already significant survey of the fossil echinoids in our state.



Collector's Guide to Texas Cretaceous Echinoids by William W Morgan - published by Schiffer, 2016. Featuring high quality color plates, this more recent publication is a wonderful resource. Written by a professor of Cellular and Structural Biology at UT-SA and an amateur collector who has published another similar book on the Crawfordville Crinoids. Both are available from [Amazon](#).

New Austin Paleo Gear!



The Pocket Paleontologist
Eric Jones, on behalf of the PSoA, produced this awesome laser etched card that includes handy scales and other information for use in the field. The size of a credit card, it fits neatly in you wallet so you always have it with you. Available for sale at our meetings or by contacting Mike Smith. Makes a great gift!

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**

2021 Officers

President	Erich Rose	president@austinpaleo.org
Vice President	Heather Aziz	vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
Treasurer	Mike Smith	treasurer@austinpaleo.org
Secretary	Gary Vliet	secretary@austinpaleo.org
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