

PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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AUGUST 2023



President's Note

Some tough news and some work to be done...

We have some sad news to report. One of our longtime members has died. Jimmy Hendricks was a member as long I can remember. He didn't go on many field trips but he was often at meetings and events. His contributions of paleo news items were the best. He was one of the few folks on Facebook who always posted something unique, beautiful and always interesting. He will be greatly missed.

Now something extremely important that our club needs to deal with. We (continued on page 2)

This Month's Speaker

Can fossils save the world? Combining paleontology with conservation to support a reef sanctuary in east Portland Jamaica

This month's presentation will highlight Claire Williams' PhD work leveraging the fossil record and combining it with conservation biology efforts to support reef sanctuary management. The site of the study is in northeast Jamaica in the East Portland Special Fishery Conservation Area (EPSFCA) which is managed by Alligator Head foundation. EPSFCA has a science and community based participatory management approach. (continued on page 2)

August 2023

Regular August Meeting
Tuesday August 15th - 7pm
AGMS Clubhouse
6719 Burnet Lane

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81111709049?pwd=Y29WV1Y5a1BPU2xSumpjTFNzaGZTdz09>

Meeting ID: 811 1170 9049
Passcode: 281386

August Field Trip
Saturday August 19th - 10am
Witte Museum
San Antonio
(see page 2)

President's Note

(continued from page 1)

need new officers, specifically a new president. I have been president forever it seems, and in the last few years almost by default. There will be no choice come end of the year. I will not continue and you can't make me! New blood and younger is what we would like to see. The job is relatively easy. Running meetings (showing up), arranging the odd board meeting, acting as a figure head, etc. Actually president is one of the easy positions. So please start to consider how you might get involved with the club. Attached is a link to something Mike Smith put together on the responsibilities of each position.

Our August field trip will be to The Witte Museum in San Antonio. Please check them out and plan to join us. San Antonio has some other great attractions as well. It should be easy to make a day out of it! www.wittemuseum.org

PS Nothing more to be said about this current heatwave, sigh....

Take care, stay cool,

Erich Rose

PSoA President



Johnson City Finds - see report on page 4!

This Month's Speaker

(continued from page 1)

This area is a "no take zone" as well as a fish and other marine life nursery. The goal of this PhD project is to add on to already existing monitoring projects of reef health and add in other scientific tools such as niche modeling and the fossil record. This research will support the management and create action plans to help with the restoration and conservation of this area.

About our Speaker: Claire Williams

Claire is a PhD Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois where she obtained both an Integrative Biology major and a Geology major as well as a minor in Chemistry. She has lived in Austin for three years, and is originally from Chicago, Illinois. Claire has done work in a variety of places and systems including ant ecology and behavior in Illinois and Madagascar, monkey behavior in Costa Rica, fossil reef ecology in Morocco and Jamaica, and modern reef biology in Bermuda and Jamaica.

August 2023 Field Trip

Witte Museum - San Antonio

This month we will be beating the heat and heading to San Antonio and the Witte Museum. We will meet at 10am, Saturday August 19th, at the museum. The museum has two special paleo exhibits this summer:

- **Tyrannosaurs: Meet the Family**
- **Antarctic Dinosaurs**

Both of these close in September so this is perfect opportunity to see these before they disappear. If you have never been, this is a wonderful, bite sized museum with permanent exhibits on Texas Paleontology, Biology, Archeology and History. Look forward to seeing you there!

Jamie Shelton

Field Trip Co-Chair

Fossil Fest 2023 Update

Date: November 4th & 5th

Theme: Prehistoric Life Underwater

Volunteers are needed for Fossil Fest 2023 - November 3-5!

You do not need any experience to work any of the tables. Please sign up [here](#).

Please email Heather at showchair@austinpaleo.org if you are able to do any of the following:

- You can commit to creating a fossil display at our event this year.
- Pull the AGMS trailer to Fossil Fest on Friday November 3rd around 11:00 am with your truck.
- Would like to give talks at our event on anything related to our show theme of "Prehistoric Life Underwater"

Permits: A temporary food permit and Insurance has been requested for the event.

Games: Games will include the "Wheel of Fossils" and Paul Hammerschmidt's "Dart Game." We will not have the Dig Pit at this year's event.

T-shirts: T-Shirts will be available to purchase at the monthly meeting and are \$12 for members.

Upcoming:

September Meeting - Tear pads and flyers will be distributed. Please take them to the drop off location to help advertise our event. Details for each location are on the envelopes.

October Meeting - Will be stuffing bags to hand out at AGMS's Gem Capers. Each bag will receive a fossil, ¼ sheet flyer, and sea life sticker.

Heather Aziz

Vice President + Show Chair



In Memoriam:

Jimmy Hendricks

We tragically lost our dear friend and fellow fossil collector Jimmy Hendricks this week. Jimmy was found on the side of a trail in Arches National Park while on a trip out west to scatter his fathers ashes. In a facebook post from his trip,

[See page 7 for more information](#)

Jimmy wrote “I cruised east today on the beautiful engineered Interstate 70, towards Moab, Utah. As I crested high mountain passes, and crossed harsh but beautiful deserts, I was put in mind of a certain line from Woody Guthrie’s song Pastures of Plenty - ‘And your deserts were hot and your mountains were cold.’ We will miss our wonderful club member...



Field Trip Report:
Johnson City Roadcuts

Fig. 1 *Nerinea* (Guadalupe Gamez)

Field Trip Report: Johnson City Roadcuts

Summertime in Texas is not a pleasant time for Fossil Hunting, to be honest. So July is typically our last fossil hunt for the summer (we'll go to a museum next month, so still fossil related field trip at least!). This July definitely reminded us of why we take a break in August! Meeting early helped, at 8am it is still somewhat pleasant, but it heated up fast and needless to say, we didn't stay more than a few hours. It was a small group, Grady Parks, Dave Hoppes, Will Jo, Andy Peters, Leia Pfaff, Santiago and Guadalupe Gamez and Alan Keith. But we enjoyed our hunt for a short time!

We started out at the big road cut near Johnson City and eventually moved down the road to another nearby roadcut that Alan had scouted out previously. Both are Upper Glen Rose formation but had interestingly different fauna from each other, even though only a few hundred yards apart. The first roadcut has an abundance of gastropod *Nerineas* (Guadalupe G. found the best one), the bivalve *Trigonia* (which look kind of like fortune cookies and often gets confused with ammonites because of their striations), quite a few echinoid *Loriolia rosanas* (not so much this time, but in the past they have been found), small crab claws and the "holy grail" of this site, some reptile fossil finds (Erich R found a cool little gator bone one time). No gator fossils were found this time, sadly, but hopefully someday some more will show up!

The Second site, while still Upper Glen Rose, was very different, we were immediately finding lots of porocystis globularis, heart urchin *Heterasters* and round *Coenholectypus*, large bivalves and a variety of gastropods. It was an interesting contrast of marine environments back in the Cretaceous.

While we didn't stay very long, I did get a bag of matrix to take home from the first site and Alan filled up a bag for me at the second site, so I got to extend my fossil hunting fun from the comfort of my home. And I am excited to say I found something pretty special....a not quite complete tiny tiny starfish! It is not quite a quarter inch but this is the first I've found aside from single bits and pieces. So while not a LOT of amazing finds were found this month...there's still good stuff out there. Sometimes, it's just REALLY REALLY TINY.

Jamie Shelton
Field Trip Co-Chair

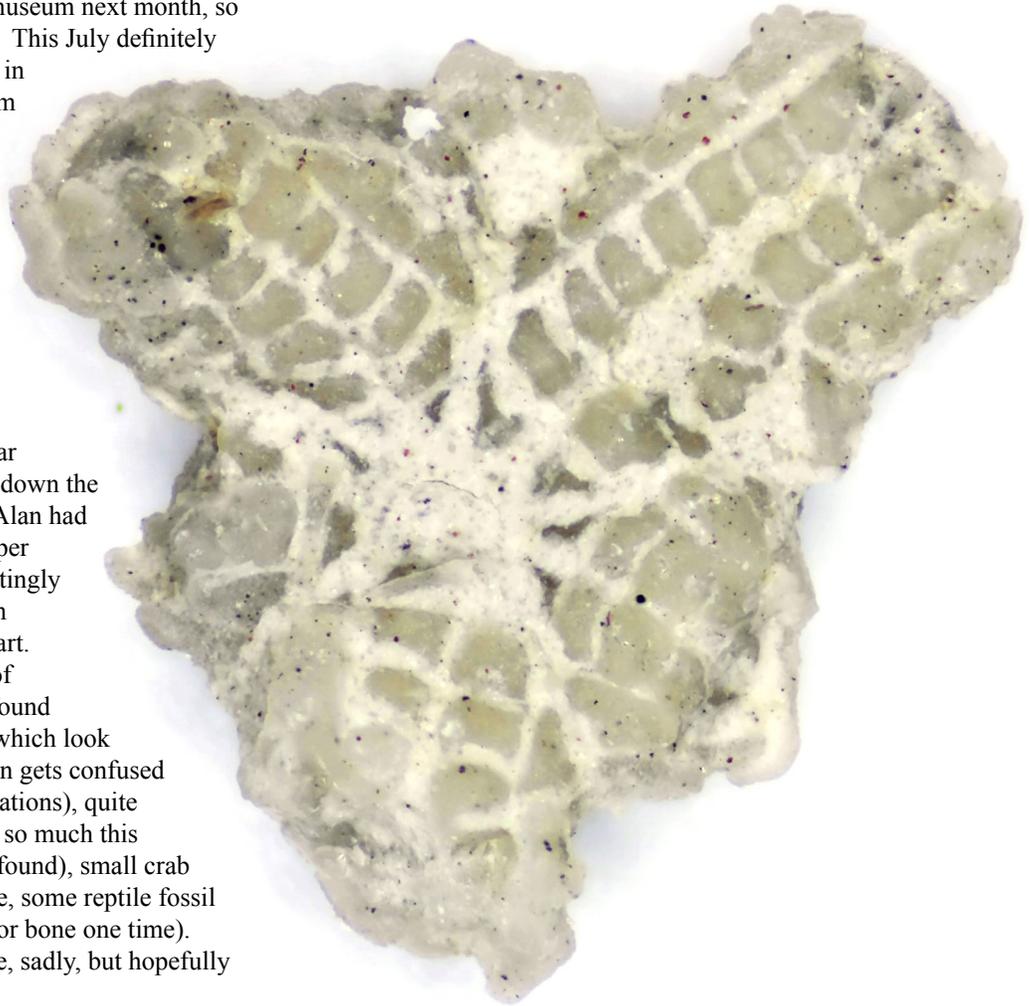


Fig. 2 starfish (Jamie Shelton)



Fig. 3 crab claw

Side Trip: Southern Illinois

Every year we escape the heat in Texas and head north to spend time with family on Lake Michigan. It has become a tradition for me to stop in southern Illinois at a roadcut in a mississippian outcrop to briefly hunt for fossils while my family waits “patiently” in the car. Last year the trip was notable for the nearly 200 chigger bites I suffered as a result - not to mention the healthy amount of ribbing from those who were stuck in the car for 30 minutes roadside :)

This year I bathed myself in Deep Woods Off and took another tact - instead of hunting on the exposed shelf rock I filled a 5 gallon bucket with matrix that had collected at the bottom of the exposure - carefully avoiding the tall grass and shrubs that had delivered the little terrors last time. When we got to the beach house I carried the bucket down to the lake and sifted the whole lot for fossils. This left me with about a gallon of tailings. Right off the bat I found several specimens of blastoids - all with quite different morphologies - the prize find from this site, along with a pile of the Archimedes fenestrata bryozoans - though in much smaller pieces than I have found here before.

I still have alot of tailings to sift through - a perfect activity for these scorching summer days. In the end it was a much more efficient way of collecting fossils, though I did miss the excitement of discovering finds in situ. The trip overall was wonderful and I sit here dreaming of those 75 degree days by the lakeshore building sand castles with the boys.

Brian Bedrosian
Editor



Fig. 1 blastoid



Fig. 2 blastoid



Fig. 3 blastoid



Fig. 4 Archimedes bryozoan



Tailings...

In The News

Fossil of Tiny, Extinct Whale Discovered in Egypt, Named for King Tut

The species was around the size of a bottlenose dolphin and thrived 41 million years ago

Shi En Kim, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 11 August 2023

Scientists stumble across 300-million-year-old spider that still has hair on its legs

Scientists have identified a fossilised spider that lived 310 million years ago.

Dean Murray, [METRO](#), 10 August 2023

'Large' creature - with 20 arms - found lurking in Antarctic sea. It's a new species.

Scientists aboard a research vessel near Antarctica pulled their nets out of the chilly ocean water. Among their catch, they found a 20-armed creature with a distinctive body shape. It's a new species.

Aspen Pflughoeft, [Miami Herald](#), 09 August 2023

These 508-Million-Year-Old Fossils May Be Earth's Oldest Swimming Jellyfish

Researchers found the rare remains in Canada

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 01 August 2023

How Many Dinosaurs Remain Undiscovered?

Paleontologists say more non-avian dinos are waiting to be uncovered than have previously been found

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), 21 July 2023

2023 Field Trip Schedule

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.

In Memoriam: Jimmy Hendricks

Jimmy was a sharp and thoughtful person and his passing is truly shocking for those that knew him well. In conversations with other club members, a friend noted that we should all count ourselves lucky to step out of life being in such a great outdoor space. He will truly be missed and our thoughts go out to his family and close friends, who mourn not only Jimmy's life, but also that of his father and brother. We do not yet have an obituary to share and his family has decided on a private ceremony. The following articles were writing about his passing and will provide you with a bit more information about his last day. Goodbye dear friend.

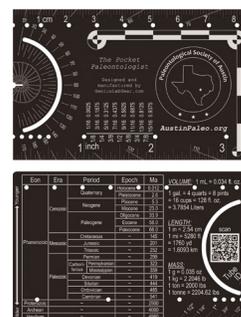
[The Guardian](#)
[Washington Post](#)

Dinosaur Quilts

Our own Vaughn Nelson produced a series of dinosaur quilts for his grandsons - and even gave one to Gary Vliet for his birthday! Nice work Vaughn - be careful, you might start getting orders from other members!



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

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

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

Current Club Officers

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