



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 11, Number 6

June 2016

Editor's Note

Dax Gonzalez

PSoA Newsletter Editor

The summer solstice is upon us, which means more time out in the field if you can bear the heat and humidity. The most recent few days have been brutal after a relatively mild spring – at least when it comes to Texas standards.

The field trip sites Ed had been hoping to hit are either under water or a muddy mess, so Club members will talk about options for this week's field trip and decide at the meeting. If you can't make the meeting, not to worry, we'll get the field trip information out to you via e-mail.

Paul has lined up a nice video for the group on Tuesday, and, hopefully, folks are going to bring some of their fabulous finds from the Wilson Clay Pit.

See you Tuesday!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 21 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Due to recent flooding in and around the scheduled location, the next field trip will be determined at the meeting. Details will be sent via e-mail to all members who have filed e-mail addresses with the Club.

Upcoming Meeting

Diving deep with prehistoric sea monsters

Paul Hammerschmidt

PSoA Program Chair

This month's meeting will include a video from National Geographic entitled, "Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure". In this 40-minute animated video, we will follow a dolichorhynchops as it travels through the oceans of the Cretaceous period.

Former Member Publishes Book on Echinoids

William Morgan, a former member of the Club, has published a new book, Collector's Guide to Texas Cretaceous Echinoids, which provides Texas Cretaceous Echinoid enthusiasts additional tools to identify and understand these abundant fossils.

Morgan hopes his new book will be of interest to both beginners and advanced collectors who seek detailed and up-to-date insight into the morphology, classification and identification of Cretaceous echinoids. He notes that the abundance, quality of preservation, and aesthetic ornamentation of these fossils make them widely sought after by collectors and paleontologists alike.

The book includes a brief description of the climatic events believed responsible for the formation of these marine deposits followed by an introduction to the morphology and biology of echinoids, including the unique features which separate regular from irregular forms.

Readers will find more than 350 high-quality color photographs, many featuring major profiles of each species, a glossary of key terms, and an extensive bibliography provided for those seeking deeper research.

William "Bill" Morgan holds a PhD in anatomy and physiology from Indiana University in Bloomington and was a neuroscientist and a teacher in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio for 40 years.

Field Trip Report

Ed Elliott

PSoA Field Trip Chair

On a beautiful Saturday morning in Early, I met with Joe Watkins, Rose and Mike Farmer, Vaughn Nelson, Kevin Bills, Melvin Noble, Jaime Hirtz, Mike Zimmer, Ron DiPronio, Melinda and Frederick Falk, Gary Vliet, Cathy and Gary Rylander. After standing around the appropriate amount of time, we started on the caravan ride to Wilson. I want to put in a little aside, partly to rail against technology and mostly to let those involved know what happened. When we came to Ned Creek, it was in flood, certainly too much for the cars following me. Not a problem as it wasn't the first time for me. This time I thought I'd let Google Maps take us around. It took us to a "road" that was barely wide enough to drive on. No problem. Then it said that I had passed up the turn off. No. There was no turn off. We turned around and sure enough, back 30 yards I could see 20 yards off the road we were on were a couple of ruts. A tractor path. Google Maps was calling that a road. We went back to the highway and I pulled out my old fashioned map and we went right to our destination. Sorry for the delay and waste of collecting time. The old ways work.

Wilson Quarry (Wilson Clay Pit) is of Harpersville Formation, Cisco Group, Virgilian Series. This is uppermost Pennsylvanian with the Permian Pueblo Formation accessible at the back wall of the quarry. I have recently read that this is the Saddle Creek Member. I started off looking for large bivalves (*Permophorus subcostatus*) in the back of the quarry. I ended up with a handful of others looking at all of the flowers in bloom due to the recent rains. Never saw Wilson so in bloom. Returning to the front section to my usual haunts, Jaime showed me a crinoid basal circlet (*Ulocrinis convexus*). Joe came by and had a really pretty cup that I believe to be *Delocrinus sp.* I think it was Rose that also had a nice cup. The only other things I have in my memory are the teeth found. Gary R. found a *Petalodus ohioensis*, as did I. But he also found four *Peripristis semicircularis*! And he and Jaime both picked up a strange one that I think is *Caseodus eatoni*. Gary also found a piece of petrified wood that he says has a palm like appearance. This along with all of the brachiopods, corals, bivalves, bryozoans and other nice things found.

Late in the day we decided to go to a couple of small sites closer to the lake. The first consists mostly of broken fossils, but has an abundance of *Archaeocidaris* secondary spines. Fun to pick up. And the second was a location with an abundance of the large horn coral *Caninia torquia* in the Home Creek Limestone. With that we called it a day. A really nice day. As usual with Wilson, I think everyone left happy. See you at the next one.

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2016

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Dale Vargo

PSoA Secretary

Our regular May meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Paul H, our Programs Chairman. Paul noted tonight's unusual number of absent Society officers and regulars. There is no record of April meeting minutes to approve since the Auction was held instead of a regular meeting. The Treasurer's report was read. Dale gave a quick Auction report. The recent field trip to Oklahoma was described by some who went on the trip. Paul called for any new items to talk about. Rebecca H. reported that there are new efforts by West Cave Preserve to establish sponsored partnerships for upcoming educational programs. The sponsorships will be purchased by interested parties. Rebecca will be providing more information about the collaboration between the Preserve and these sponsored programs soon. Paul then noted some of tonight's visitors: Nathan, Jamie, Mandy and Tara. Ed then offered some destinations for this month's field trip, and it was agreed that it will be to Wilson's clay pit near Brownwood. Ed then gave the details for participating in the field trip. We then took our refreshment break.

After the break, Chase Jennings, M.Ed. from Texas A&M gave his presentation on using fluorescent light products to find and analyze fossils. Chase began with an overview outline of luminescence, fluorescence and phosphorescence and what causes minerals and fossils to fluoresce. He talked about some of the available high-quality LED UV portable lights on the market and how these can be used in the field at night and in the dark to detect fossils. Chase gave some actual demonstrations of how his UV portable light can illuminate hard-to-see fossils in matrix and explained how UV light is helpful in detecting restoration work done on trilobites, which are often restored and can be difficult to assess for their value without UV light being applied to the fossil under consideration. Chase also offered a selection of quality fossils for sale after his presentation. The meeting was adjourned and people continued to talk with Chase, purchase fossils and socialize, clean up and depart.

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.

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