



Paleo Footnotes

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November 2016

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Hopefully all of you received the e-mail blast concerning Fossil Fest and officer elections. If not here is what you need to know:

Fossil Fest is almost upon us, and we still need volunteers to fill out the two days. We also have quite a few display cases still available. Please step up and help us run the show. Remember you do not need to be an expert in paleontology to volunteer. In fact this is the best time for new members to meet others with greater knowledge of fossils and glean a little info. It is also always fun. So go to the online sign-up form and fill in some slots for us. If you are not sure about the described jobs but do know what time you can be there, just fill in ones open at that time. We will assess things on site and shuffle people if needed.

And consider setting up a display case (or two). There is no contest or judging. All we want is to see some of your fossils. On occasion some of the best cases have had only a single special specimen. Labels can be handwritten. We don't require anything fancy. Also, cases are lockable and secure. You will have all day Friday to the evening to set yours up. You could even show up early Saturday to do so. Again, go to the online sign up form.

Please keep in mind this show is how we earn most of our yearly budget. Your membership dues are kept low because we have this show and the spring auction. But Fossil Fest is what really makes the money we need. Can't do it without help. Sign up at www.mysignup.com/fossilfest (password: paleo).

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 15 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Now the other task at hand: we need to elect officers and board members. And to do that we need a few folks to step up - since you may be the only one who does so, "volunteering" may be the better term. Either way we need you! See in particular the open slot for Secretary.

Here is the current slate:

President: Erich Rose

Vice President/Show Chair: Emelia Rose

Treasurer: Mike Smith

Secretary: --OPEN--

Board Member (Editor): Dax Gonzalez

Board Member (Field Trip Chair): Ed Elliott

Board Member (Program Chair): Paul Hammerschmidt

All other chairs are willing to stay on, although Ed Elliott would like to find someone to replace him as Field Trip Chair.

So, between now and the November meeting we need to hear from you if you are willing to serve for one of these positions. We will add you to the slate at the meeting. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have questions about what each position entails or have other questions or suggestions about the election or Fossil Fest. Here is my contact information:

Mobile: 512.626.9930

Email: president@austinpaleo.org

Fossil Fest Update

Suzanne Galligher
PSoA Vice President & Show Chair

When: November 19 & 20, 2016 ~ Saturday & Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm
Where: Old Settlers Association, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, TX (on Hwy. 79, next to Dell Diamond)
Show Theme: Prehistoric Sharks!

T-shirts featuring the drawing of a shark tooth on the back will be available for sell at Fossil Fest until they're gone! Prices are \$8 for Fossil Fest volunteers, \$10 Paleo Society of Austin members and \$12 general public. (If you pre-ordered a shirt, you may pick it up at the monthly meeting.)

Volunteer Needs: We're in the home stretch and really need EVERY MEMBER to volunteer! If every member volunteered for at least one 2-hour shift, we'd have all the spots filled already! Seriously, we can't do this without you!

Sign-up online as a Fossil Fest Volunteer at www.mysignup.com/fossilfest - the passcode is paleo.

There are many different jobs to choose from - whether you prefer manning the Admissions Desk, magnifying fossils under the Microscope, helping out in the Kitchen, talking to kids about the Touch Table fossils, spinning the Wheel of Fossils, watching kids at the Dig Pit or handing out Paleo Passports - there's something for everyone! You can even donate bottled water for volunteers and vendors at the show. 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 email 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 austinpaleo.org/fest) and tack to community bulletin boards (at your local coffee shop, restaurant, library, office break room, book store, etc.).

Got Fossils? It's time! Bring all your fossil donations to the monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15 or to Fossil Fest Set Up at Old Settlers Association on Friday, Nov. 18 from 12noon to 8pm! We need lots and lots of CLEAN fossils for the DIG PIT (small) and SPINNING WHEEL (bring what you would want to take home). Please give thanks to David Lindberg! David has been diligently assembling the teacher kits this year.

Exhibit Cases: If you have any fossil shark teeth, vertebra, and etc to exhibit in our club show theme cases, please bring them to our monthly meeting or to Fossil Fest Set Up on Friday, Nov. 18! Please email showchair@austinpaleo.org if you have any we can borrow.

Dealers/Exhibitors: Please join me in welcoming our 2016 Fossil Fest Dealers & Exhibitors: Natural Selection Enterprise (Joe Bone), John Fox, Jack Grant, Miriam Hall, Red River Paleontology (Wayne Mandrell), George & Marian McNabb, The Dig (Jason Petersen), Nature's Treasures (Karen Richards), The Paleo Pelagica Museum of Natural Science (Anna Stanley) and Teredo's (Doug Vanderford)

Volunteerism

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our Paleo Booth during Austin Gem and Mineral Society's annual Gem Capers show - Kevin Bills, Ed Elliott, Rose Farmer, Galligher family (Gordon, Suzanne, Ryan, Riley & Avery), Dax and Cruz Gonzalez, Paul Hammerschmidt, Danny Harlow, James Hendricks, John Hinte, Kathleen, Melvin Noble, Alan Peters, Mike Smith, Dale Vargo and Gary Vliet. We couldn't have done it without you!

Meeting Minutes

Dale Vargo
PSOA Secretary

October 18, 2016
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

Erich gaveled the meeting to order, noting the good turnout tonight. He reminded everyone of the upcoming AGMS show Friday and that we will discuss this after the break. Paul then introduced tonight's speaker, Anna Weiss, whose topic is "Crustose Coralline Algae Increased Framework and Diversity on Ancient Coral Reefs", a presentation written by Ms. Weiss and Rowan Martindale, under the Department of Geological Sciences, UT Austin. Weiss began by noting that modern reefs are being damaged and proposed that science may gain insight into the causes of it by studying ancient reefs in the fossil record. She described CCA as red algae that encrust and reinforce reefs, contributing to the reefs' stability and diverse habitats. In addition to being an integral part of modern reefs, these scientists have confirmed evidence of the presence of CCA in fossil reefs. Weiss outlined characteristics of thriving reefs and credited the activity of this type of algae as a major positive health factor for them. Their research conclusion shows a similar positive correlation of this red algae and fossil reefs, and suggests a possible avenue toward strategies that promote the recovery of damaged modern reefs. She then took various questions on symbiosis, keystone species and reef decline. We then took the break and Erich urged us to return for discussion of pending issues.

After the break, we were reminded to sign in on tonight's attendance sheet and to sign up to volunteer at Gem Capers and Fossil Fest. Mike assured us that no great expertise is required to be involved in these events. Erich prodded us to just be enthusiastic and sign up to be a part of the upcoming shows. Mike reported that our booth at Pioneer Days went well, with lots of interesting things to see there. Ed gave a brief report on the field trip to Lake Texoma and beyond. Erich then brought up Fossil Fest and the upcoming election of our club's officers and Board. He noted that Suzanne will be stepping down from her position as Show Chair these past 4 years and that Emelia Rose may fill this post, using her skills as a project manager. Noting that Dale will be leaving the Board Secretary position, Erich called for someone to fill that vacancy, which is creating a written record of each meeting and submitting it for use in the monthly newsletter. Erich announced that Mike will be staying on as Treasurer, and that Paul will continue as Program Chair, and that he himself will continue as President. He asked Ed what his status is as Field Chair. Ed stated he would stay another year if no one steps up to fill that position. Then Dr. Sprinkle requested a correction to the wording of the meeting minutes related to his presentation last month. Erich brought up the need to order new t-shirts, which come in 4 different colors and that will be discounted for show volunteers. Then Bill gave the latest details on the publication of his new echinoid book, due out in early November. Suzanne and Erich described this year's Fossil Fest theme, "Ancient Sharks", and told about the show's Grand Prize, a large Megalodon Tooth. They requested that we lend fossil shark items from our own collections for the Fossil Fest display cases. Suzanne said that if you order a t-shirt now, you may pick it up at the November meeting. She repeated the request for us to sign up to volunteer at Gem Capers and Fossil Fest. Erich gave parking details for Gem Capers and noted that our November meeting is the Tuesday before Fossil Fest and expressed hope to have a full slate of candidates to announce at that time. Erich gave final encouragement to us to step up and fill a position, explaining that even Show Chair has its duties clearly spelled out. Ed said of the vacancies: 'Just take it.', meaning that you won't be in competition for the position from another person. The door prizes were won by Angie and Mary, Kathleen, Suzanne, Lee and Christine. Then the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

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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