



Paleo Footnotes

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President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

I've been following an e-mail thread from Club Field Trip Chair Ed Elliott regarding water levels on the Brazos River. We're still a week or two away, but hopefully zeroing in on the best level for hunting Pleistocene fossils on the river. If not, he will have a plan B, for sure.

Hard to believe the year is getting ready to turn the bend already. But, days are long and that means more hours for hunting fossils.

Take care and see you Tuesday.

PSoA Member Off to FL

Lindberg to represent Club at Fossil Project workshop.

David Lindberg
PSoA Member

The Fossil Project (myfossil.org) is hosting a K-12 workshop on August 2-5, 2017 in Gainesville, FL. This workshop is designed to bring teachers, professionals and amateur fossil club members together to create fossil kits and lesson plans for education. This will be a great opportunity to learn how other clubs operate and meet other paleo-enthusiasts, as well.

I applied to go as a representative of our Club, and was selected to participate. I plan to take a selection of fossils from Texas that several members of our club have collected and donated over the years. I'm looking forward to going and learning more about how fossil clubs can engage with the teachers in our community.

Next Field Trip

Location: To be announced Tuesday at the meeting and e-mailed to Club members.
Saturday, June 24

Whiskey Bridge Report

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

Joining me at Whiskey Bridge were Cathy and Gary Rylander, Dave Hoppes, Ron DiPronio, Melvin Noble, Ann Skowronski and Vlad Medrano, Vaughan Nelson, and Zaib and Asas Husain. It had rained somewhat recently, making some of the ground muddy. The outcrop wasn't too wet, so we could collect with no problems. The only thing that was unusual, someone had gotten a car all the way down to the outcrop cliff and left it. Maybe they were trying to put it in the river? The police came and hauled it away. We spread out from the bridge to 100 yards upstream and didn't do much but collect, so I didn't see what most of our members found.

The collecting was good, and I completely filled a sectional box and started on another. There are so many species that are common, finding the rare ones just doesn't happen that often for most of us. I did find some exceptional examples of things I already had. I was closest to Melvin, so I know that he got into a hash zone and picked up at least 50 otoliths. He also picked up a nice *Belosaepia veatchi* and several shark teeth. Dave showed me a couple, as well. I found an octocoral holdfast on an *Anomia* and a coral I think is *Madracis*. The find of the day also goes to Melvin: a 3½ inch conus. May not be a record – but it was huge.

The afternoon was wearing away. We talked about going to the Little Brazos, but the road leading down to it was really torn up with very deep ruts. Not interested in calling a tow truck at the end of the day, we called it a day. Whiskey Bridge was a great trip, and we all had fun. See you at the next one.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 20 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Oklahoma Field Trip Report

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

We had a small crew for this trip. I think the weather liars had scared everyone off with their tales of impending disaster. Just as on the East Texas trip, most of the rain came Friday night and not quite where we were. The dedicated collectors were Gary Vliet, Vaughn Nelson, Bob McDonald, Dr. James Sprinkle, Ron DiPirono and Melvin Noble.

It was sprinkling at the meeting place and continued to rain for the caravan. We gave the weather a chance to clear out and spent some time at the Silurian cut P-7. After about an hour, we were all getting impatient to see if the creek had risen below the bluff. After a short drive, we found it no higher than normal. We crossed the creek and walked up the bluff finding it to be as nice as it always is: lots of brachiopods, a few good trilobites, some crinoid material – mostly the usual small cups and lots of corals and bryozoans. Gary found a decent large straight nautiloid. I found a couple, but they were very weathered. Bob found what he declared to be his best ever trilobite. It had a heavy layer of matrix over it, but looked to be excellent. My best was a nice small enrolled one. Melvin picked up a really nice brachiopod that I haven't seen before. If I missed anything, it was because I stayed up on the hill and didn't see it. It did rain around 11 a.m., and everyone decided to call it a day when it rained again around 2:30 p.m. That was it for the Bois d' Arc Formation, Devonian this trip. Melvin and I finished out the day picking up a little Pennsylvanian plant material in Fittstown. That "outcrop" is pretty much gone. Both boulders are just remnants.

Our Sunday trip started with Dr. Sprinkle's Wigley Quarry. This is the McLish and Bromide Formations of the Ordovician. As is usual, we spent most of our time in the lower echinoderm zone of the Bromide. Instead of going to the bottom of the quarry and climbing up, we left the parking area and walked around. So easy – a thought for future trips. The rain was gone but the wind was blowing like crazy. Being up on top put us right in its path. Made the cool morning cold. We spent the day talking bad about it. We spent several hours going through the piles finding bryozoans and a large number of plates from many different echinoderms. I did manage to find my first *Hyboocrinus* that wasn't just a cup. We then looked at the Bromide outcrop, finding that poison ivy has claimed a good bit of it. Gary and Vaughn had gone down to look at the McLish for gastropods and nautiloids and even found a spot with bivalves. From here we went to Bromide and the McLish Ranch ditch. This is Bromide Formation and the lower echinoderm zone. Dr. Sprinkle showed me two "new" bryozoans they've found there. One is almost slick and the other has raised bumps all over it. Both seem to be incrusting. Other than some echinoderm plates and a small bivalve, bryozoans are what I found. So ended another good trip to the Paleozoic of Oklahoma. Had a great time and can't wait to go back. See you at the next one.

Meeting Minutes

Gary Vliet
PSoA Secretary

May 15, 2017 – Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building

The May meeting was opened by President Erich Rose at 7:05 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. William Foster gave a very interesting presentation on "Permian Extinctions and Climate Change." Dr. Foster is a distinguished postdoctoral fellow at The University of Texas at Austin.

Auction: Mike Smith gave a brief report on the Auction held at West Cave Preserve on April 23. The attendance was somewhat less than for previous annual auctions, presumably due to being held on Sunday and because an 'Evite' had not been sent out. Mike reported that the gross income was about \$1400 and the expenses about \$400, for a net of \$865. It was noted that a large reason for the income from the auction was the major contribution of specimens by the Cranes.

Treasurer Report: Mike Smith reported that the bank balance for PSA was \$26,011.

Meeting Snacks and Drinks: Melvin Noble noted that there were still a few slots for people to volunteer for snacks and drinks at future meetings.

Fossil Fest: There will be a planning meeting for this fall's Fossil Fest at the clubhouse next Tuesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. Those interested are invited to join the organizing committee Tuesday evening.

Field Trips: Dr. Sprinkle gave a brief report of the two-day field trip to Oklahoma. There were about 8 attendees for the first day. In spite of rain on Saturday, it was a good outing.

Melvin Noble reported for Ed that the field trip this Saturday (May 20) will be to Whiskey Bridge. Those interested should meet at the bridge at 8 a.m.

Passing: It was noted that long-time member Joan Crane passed away recently. She and her husband Frank were among the founders of PSoA. As noted above, the Cranes made a major contribution of fossils to PSA. These fossils represented a large portion of the auctioned items, and some will serve as future 'Fossil Fest' door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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.

PSoA Web Site: www.austinpaleo.org
Webmaster: Gordon Galligher, webmaster@austinpaleo.org

2017 Officers:

President	Erich Rose	president@austinpaleo.org
Vice President	Emelia Rose	vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
Treasurer	Mike Smith	treasurer@austinpaleo.org
Secretary	Gary Vliet	secretary@austinpaleo.org
Field Trips	Ed Elliott	fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
Programs	Paul Hammerschmidt	programchair@austinpaleo.org
Editor	Dax Gonzalez	editor@austinpaleo.org
Webmaster	Gordon Galligher	webmaster@austinpaleo.org
Show Chair	Emelia Rose	showchair@austinpaleo.org

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.	annm@mail.utexas.edu
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	powen@mail.utexas.edu
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.	echino@mail.utexas.edu

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