



# Paleo Footnotes

Volume 13, Number 3

March 2018

## Important Update

IMPORTANT - FIELD TRIP DATE CHANGED TO MARCH 31

As many of you know, Ann Molineaux of the Non-vertebrate Lab passed away recently. Ann was one of our Science Advisors and a good friend of the Society for many years. There will be a memorial remembrance for Ann on March 24th at 2 pm in the Holland Family Student Center in the Jackson School of Geosciences Building at the University of Texas at Austin main campus <https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/about/holland-family-student-center/>

That date conflicts with the scheduled East Texas field trip. Given the desire of many members to attend, we are moving the field trip forward a week to March 31.

All other details of the trip remain the same. We will meet March 31 at 8 a.m. at the O'Reilly Auto Parts located at 614 N. University Dr. in Nacogdoches.

Ed Elliot, Field Trip Chair.

## President's Note

**Erich Rose**  
PSoA President

We are getting into the best part of the year. Spring time in Texas comes early. Spring break is next week and things are blooming left and right. If you are a fan of our spectacular flora then you will enjoy the East Texas field trip. Each trip Ed often sends me more pictures of flowers than fossils with his follow up report. Look for details in the newsletter.

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## Next Meeting

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

## Next Field Trip

Saturday, March 31 – 8 a.m.  
East Texas – Meet in Nacogdoches, Texas  
See directions in upcoming field trip report.

## Upcoming Field Trip

**Ed Elliott**  
PSoA Field Trip Chair

This month the Club will be heading out to East Texas in search of a wide variety of Eocene fossils. We will meet at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 31 in Nacogdoches, Texas.

We will be collecting Eocene marine invertebrates in the San Augustine area on Saturday and back in the Nacogdoches area on Sunday. Most – but not all – of our finds will be small, so sectional boxes will be useful.

We will meet at the O'Reilly Auto Parts located at 614 N. University Dr. in Nacogdoches. If you get there early enough, you can collect a bit behind the store along the cliff wall. The caravan will leave from this spot to our first location.

Bring lunch, water and the usual collecting materials. Watch the weather and dress accordingly.

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## February Meeting Minutes

**Gary Vliet**  
PSoA Secretary

February 20, 2018–Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building  
The February meeting was opened by President Erich Rose at 7:10 pm. Erich introduced our speaker, Josh Lively (Doctoral student at UT), who spoke on Diversification of Mosasaurs during the Cretaceous, a very interesting presentation.

Meeting broke at 8:00 and business meeting resumed at 8:20 pm.

Erich reported (as many already knew) that Anne Molineux had passed away on Feb 12 of cancer and that there will be a memorial service for Anne on Feb. 24. Anne contributed so much and will be sorely missed.

Finances: There was no report, but little has changed since last report.

Field Trip: The field trip scheduled for Feb 24 & 25 will be to Jacksboro. However, the forecast is for rain through at least Sat evening. Erich suggested that the trip might be limited to just Sunday and that a communication would be sent out before the trip. (It turned out that the trip was limited to just Sunday.)

Goodies: Melvin reminded us that he still needs volunteers for snacks and drinks for upcoming meetings.

(Continued on next page)

# February Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Future Field Trips: The anticipated schedule is available in the February newsletter.

Door Prizes: Several door prizes were given out.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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## Field Trip Report

### Jacksboro & Other Pennsylvanian Sites of North Central Texas, February 2018 (Erich Rose)

Although the original plan was for everyone to meet Saturday morning in Jacksboro the weather didn't fully cooperate. Rain was forecast to end around noon that day and then the forecast was for sunny and warm skies thru Sunday. We made a change of plans Thursday evening and pushed the Jacksboro part to Sunday. We sent an email blast out with the revised day and suggested some sites others could visit Saturday afternoon if they drove in advance. I'll get back to that later. Let's start with Sunday morning...

By 7:45 we already had the majority of attendees at the town square. Not a huge crowd but still a good showing (my apologies for misplacing the sign-in list). It was cold and gray to start, but by the time we got our park passes and were parked at the spillway the sun was coming thru and all of us were realizing it would be a spectacular day. Have I mentioned mud yet? Well it was muddy. The lake was up and the entire flat area between the fence and the embankment was like an English moor. I was afraid we were gonna lose a few members not to be seen until the next paleo club found there peat dogged bones. But then all that water also meant completely fresh matrix and it was good. When I arrived at the first exposure of the black Finis Shale the very first thing my eyes came upon was a pretty good goniatite. This site is known for it's great variety of cephalopods, including both straight and coiled nautiloids and ammonoids. While my fingers will still free of mud I took the only picture I popped that day of my find and then went on to fill my pockets and trays with way to many fossils. We all scattered about and as I checked in on different members and families everyone was doing well and finding good stuff. For me it turned out the first and last fossils I picked up were my two best with another nice complete nautiloid as I was stepping down off the slope.



As Mike Smith and I headed out at around 4 we were being slowly followed by the last few diehards. We saved a little energy for a small back road detour and hit a tiny exposure of the Winchell Limestone before getting back on 281 for the long motor home. It was an old site still with potential and we will return again.

Now back to Saturday: As many of you know from years past this trip is often two days starting with Lake Jacksboro Saturday and then continuing to other sites Sunday, often in the Mineral Wells area. Well some of did manage to visit those other sites but in smaller groups on our own Saturday afternoon. Mike Smith and I hit both TX Hwy 377 and Union Hill Road. Gary and Cathy showed us some great stuff from the Mineral Wells Fossil Park including one fairly complete crinoid calyx. I know a few others were also going to hit the park Sunday on the way back. Pretty sure a few other sites were visited but we will have to await reports at the next meeting.

*Blue Skies Over Lake Jacksboro*



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# Outreach News

David Lindberg

On March 5th, Ed Elliott and I represented the club at the Pflugerville Middle School STEM Night & Science Fair. We answered a lot of questions and showed students, parents, and teachers a collection of fossils, including those from around the central Texas area. The STEM night had a fairly good turnout, and we did hand out a couple of flyers and membership applications. Who knows, we may see some new faces at our next meeting from this event.

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## Odds and Ends



### Very creepy crawlies: 'proto-spiders' with long tails discovered in amber

Fossil hunters find preserved remains in amber of 100-million-year-old arachnids with tails longer than their bodies.

Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/feb/05/very-creepy-crawlies-prehistoric-proto-spiders-with-long-tails-chimerarachne-yingi> .

### Rare Mammoth Tracks Reveal an Intimate Portrait of Herd Life

First spotted in the dust of a dry lakebed, paleontologist Gregory J. Retallack and his students didn't think much. But upon closer inspection, what looked like four or five prints partially covered in sand turned out to be a winding section of 117 tracks. These tracks, they would later learn, were left 43,000 years ago by six Columbian mammoths: four adults, a youngster and an infant on a curious journey.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/rare-mammoth-tracks-paint-intimate-portrait-pachyderm-group-life-180968256/#rBP4RAKz5DgZgoPM.03> .



### America's Petrified Forests

Here are some of the best petrified forests in America

- Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
- Calistoga Petrified Forest, California
- Gallatin Petrified Forest, Montana
- Escalante Petrified Forest State Park, Utah
- Wolverine Petrified Wood Area, Utah
- Zion National Park Petrified Forest, Utah
- Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park, Washington
- Yellowstone Petrified Forest, Wyoming

Read more at <https://www.topozone.com/petrified-forests/> .

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# Special Note

Ann Molineux, Director of Museum Operations for the Non-vertebrate Paleo Lab, passed away February 12, 2018. A memorial service will be held on March 24th at 2 pm in the Holland Family Student Center in the Jackson School of Geosciences Bldg at the University of Texas at Austin main campus <https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/about/holland-family-student-center/>. For directions and parking options go to <https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/about/directions-maps/>.

## A Remembrance of Anne Molineux

*By Linda McCall, President, North Carolina Fossil Club, 2012 – 2017; Research Fellow - University of Texas at Austin*

Lee asked me to write something about Ann. I thought it would be easy. It has been anything but.

I first met Ann about two decades ago, when after a divorce, I went back to UT to see about finishing my long stalled degree and took Geology 101 again – which Ann was teaching. I was enchanted by her British accent and loved her many colloquialisms – my favorite one being where she related how when she was first teaching in the US, she had asked a male student to “...knock her up in the morning”, CLEARLY not what she thought she was asking him to do, but we all got a good groan and laugh out of it. I was the Hermione Granger of the class – so excited that my brain still worked at my advanced age (I could have practically been the mother of everyone else in class), that my hand would shoot up at every question because I was so proud that I knew the answer. Eventually Ann had to say to me, “Yes, Linda – we know you know the answer, but perhaps someone else might be able to tell me?”

We met again some 5 years later when the Paleontological Society of Austin, of which I was a member, went to the Non-Vertebrate Paleo Lab for a field trip in the summer. Ann was always very keen on partnering with the amateur community and often did outreach like this. It took me a bit to remember where I knew her from – but then it clicked and I asked her if she remembered me, and thanks to the above – she did... which was all very fortuitous, because I had a collection of fossils from Pilot Knob that I thought should be written up, but didn't have the first clue about how to go about doing it. I planned to nurture this reconnection and learn from it.

So here is another thing about Ann – she was a fantastic mentor, and she would mentor anyone who would let her. She was passionate about paleontology and sharing what she knew. In 2008 she and Jim Sprinkle helped me publish and present my first paper – on the fossils of the Edwards Formation of Georgetown, TX. They gave me an outline and then let me write the whole paper (in layman language), then helped me upscale it into something scientific – teaching me the terminology, etc. as we went. We've gone on to do 3 more technical papers together since (including the one on Pilot Knob) and I am who I am today because of the time and effort she shared with a nerdy neophyte who happened to share her passion for paleontology. I spent many, many hours at the lab and we became quite close.

It's been rather like losing your mother, big sister, role model and mentor all at the same time.

Ann never liked to show weakness, always putting on a good front and a brave face. Not many in her circle knew the cancer she had been fighting for years. She had an even harder time telling people “No.” She kept pushing herself to do things, perhaps harder than she should have – but that was Ann. She loved the collections at UT and worked tirelessly to promote and preserve them. Her goal was to help make the collections more accessible to everyone – for research, education and bring them to the world digitally. I hope this work will continue.

Her husband Ian has asked that rather than sending flowers, any donations be made to help establish an Ann Molineux Excellence fund for the nonvertebrate collections or to MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The official title of the fellowship is: The Ann Molineux Excellence Fund for Student Research and Curation at the NPL collections, UT Austin. The fund is for undergrad through postdoc positions.

All donations, whatever size, are deeply appreciated. Please send donations to:

Sharon Mosher, Dean

Jackson School of Geosciences

2305 Speedway Stop C1160

Austin, TX 78712-1692

RIP Ann – I'll see you in the field my friend.

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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](http://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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