



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 13, Number 7

July 2018

President's Note

Erich Rose

PSoA President

Here we are half way thru the year. Days are hot and long. Fall is our busy season with Gem Capers and then Fossil Fest. Keep your calendars handy and please pencil us in. Volunteers are needed.

As members of PSA we hope you enjoy the meetings and the field trips. We are a small club and rely on the goodwill and volunteer efforts of many of you to make things work. Some of us volunteer by holding a position as an officer or chairperson and some simply help out at one of our events or outreach efforts. It can be challenge some years getting enough folks to pitch in for all we need to accomplish. The reason I bring this up is that we are in need of someone to fill one of our most important officer positions: Vice President/Show Chair. Our current VP/Show Chair, Emelia Rose, has started grad school and needs to hand off the position. Of course the main job is being in charge of Fossil Fest. Emelia worked alongside the previous show chair to learn then job and we need to find someone willing to do the same this year. Amongst our current members I know we have folks quite capable who only need to step up. We have been putting on the show for many years and there is a collective wealth of knowledge and experience to draw on and support the next show chair so the chair gets loads of help. If you are interested in the position or just want to learn more about what is involved please give me a call (512-626-9930).

Our July field trip will be a visit to the Perot Museum. They have a new exhibit on dinosaurs in addition to their existing paleontology displays and hopefully it will be worth the trip up to Dallas. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 17 – 7 p.m.

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, July 21 – meet at 10:00am

Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Victory Park.

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott

PSoA Field Trip Chair

Our trip this month will be to the Perot Museum in Dallas with a special exhibit called Ultimate Dinosaurs.

Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Victory Park

2201 N. Field Street

Dallas, TX 75201

Ticket prices from their website (<https://www.perotmuseum.org>):

Non-Member Youth

Ages 2-12 (Children under 2 are free)

\$13 for general Admission; \$8 for Ultimate Dinosaurs exhibit

Non-Member Adult

Ages 13-64

\$20 for general Admission; \$10 for Ultimate Dinosaurs exhibit

Non-Member Senior

Ages 65+

\$14 for general Admission; \$9 for Ultimate Dinosaurs exhibit

June Meeting Minutes

Gary Vliet

PSoA Secretary

In Erich's absence, Mike Smith opened the meeting at 7:03. Paul introduced Ms. Ingrid Lundeen, PhD, at UT in anthropology. With her interest on primate mammals, Lundeen has focused on gaining knowledge of how elevation in environments affects living species, and she has looked into the deep past for evidence. She used the high-quality fossil record sequence within Wyoming basin deposits to note differences in animal populations related to the original height of the environment they existed in, seeing that the number of different species increased as the height up mountains increased. Lundeen reported that their field work also had to account for the difference between the original height of the studied locality and its present elevation. She related another important aspect of the field work: the presence of a living population of grizzly bears, for which the necessary precautions had to be taken to avoid them. She concluded her talk by taking questions from the members about the mean atmosphere, and types of fossil preservation,

and what plant fossils were represented in the evidence she found.

We then took a refreshment break, and upon resuming the meeting, Mike noted we would be discussing the upcoming field trip. It was announced that Gordon has received an award for our website, taking 2nd place honors from SCFMS. The Treasurer's report was given. Melinda and Frederick reported that they manned a touch table of fossils at a recent student event. Then Ed presented our options for the upcoming field trip, choosing to go to Whiskey Bridge instead of the Brazos float trip, due to high water levels. New members Scott, Erica, and Logan were in attendance.

Door prizes were won by Lindberg, Melinda, Angie-to-Mary, Frederick, Rose, and Logan.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Field Trip Report

Field Trip Report: Whiskey Bridge, June 2018 (Erich Rose)

We had a pretty good turnout for this classic and always productive site. Unfortunately I misplaced the sign in sheet we passed around. But the turn out included several new members and family as well as many of us old die hards. I would say a good dozen total including several folks who were just showing up at noon as I was leaving.

The marine deposits of the Stone City Formation (Eocene) at this locality produces an amazing variety and abundance of mollusks, corals and vertebrate material. From what I could see folks were finding some or all of the above. Gary Rylander did his usual walk about and got everyone excited with some good surface material including two larger shark teeth. I had found some tiny teeth (2-3mm) but these were more like 2-3 centimeters. As the morning progressed many in the group migrated to the downstream side of the bridge where the low water level was exposing productive layers.

Personally I didn't find anything rare or overly exciting, but I did get a few new gastropods, one new coral and large gastropod that will require some glue. The new coral alone made the four hours I spent worthwhile. I talked briefly with Ed after the trip and he said the day continued to be productive for all who stuck around. But then what else would we expect at this wonderful location.

See y'all next time.



Odds and Ends

Ancient Flying Predator Found in Transylvania

A fossil jaw from Romania is the largest pterosaur bone of its kind ever discovered, hinting that a giant species with a 29-foot wingspan once cast its shadow over what is today the region of Transylvania.

Read more at https://relay.nationalgeographic.com/proxy/distribution/public/amp/2018/05/new-species-pterosaur-fossil-transylvania-paleontology-science?__twitter_impression=true

This Prehistoric Sea Creature Had Fanged, Killer Babies

Around 500 million years ago, a fearsome arthropod known as *Lyrarapax unguispinus* glided through Earth's seas, searching for prey. *L. unguispinus*, which could grow to more than three feet long, had a claw-like appendage on its head for scooping up tasty critters. It would then devour its prey with the serrated teeth that lined its mouth.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/prehistoric-sea-creature-fanged-babies-180969301/#zYhqpzdcz35d0sP.03>

Many dinosaurs, including the T. rex, may have been unable to stick out their tongues

Most dinosaurs, in fact, may have had tongues that were rooted to the floors of their mouths. Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin and the Chinese Academy of Sciences examined more than 330 fossil specimens, including small bird-like dinosaurs, large plant-eating dinosaurs, flying pterosaurs and a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smartnews-science/many-dinosaurs-including-trex-may-have-been-unable-stick-out-their-tongues-180969429/#4v0xhD53oCuYc1Tg.03>

Is it true that dinosaurs had a role to play in the emergence of flowers?

During the era of the dinosaurs, plants changed drastically. Seed-protecting cones emerged then, as did flowers. Could the fauna have caused the flora to change?

Podcast at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/audio/2018/jul/06/did-dinosaurs-stop-to-smell-the-flowers-science-weekly-podcast>



Beijing fossil exhibition prompts rethink of mammal evolution

New public exhibition at Beijing's Museum of Natural History features scores of previously unseen fossils.

Read more at https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/jul/04/beijing-fossil-exhibition-prompts-rethink-of-mammal-evolution?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

The Most Massive of Dinos Evolved Earlier Than Previously Thought

A Triassic giant unearthed in Argentina suggests that dinosaurs took the path to greatness at least twice.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/most-massive-dinosaurs-evolved-earlier-previously-thought--180969577/#e5kgpvKM1SYHAJqo.03>

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:

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Erich Rose
Emelia Rose
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president@austinpaleo.org
vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
treasurer@austinpaleo.org
secretary@austinpaleo.org
fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
programchair@austinpaleo.org
editor@austinpaleo.org
webmaster@austinpaleo.org
showchair@austinpaleo.org

Science Advisors:

Ann M. Molineux, PhD.
Pamela R. Owen, PhD.
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.

annm@mail.utexas.edu
powen@mail.utexas.edu
echino@mail.utexas.edu

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