



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 14, Number 1

January 2019

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

We are once again into a new year. Thinking 2019 has potential. The board has to still meet up and go thru budget and schedules. We will post all of that in newsletters as well as discuss at the next meeting.

I spoke briefly with Ed Elliot about field trips and we decided to start the year with a trip to Jacksboro, Texas. The Pennsylvanian exposures of the Finis Shale at Lake Jacksboro are some of the richest fossil beds in Texas. It is excellent collecting and you will go home with a wide variety of ancient marine fossils. It is a bit of a drive and there is always potential for it to be really cold. A typical start at the spillway may include frost on the ground and then end with sunny skies and everyone in t-shirts. Read the directions and notes on what to expect in the newsletter.

So I am going to keep this short and sweet.

Later,

Erich

Next Meeting

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

Next Field Trip

Saturday, January 19 – 8 a.m.
Lake Jacksboro – Meet in Jacksboro, Texas
See directions in Upcoming Field Trip Report section

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt
Programs Chair

“Shell Games: Renovating Collection Space at the Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab” - Lisa Boucher, PhD

Synopsis:

The presentation will be an overview of the opportunities and challenges of renovating a research collection space. I will include background from Ann Molineux's vision to all the steps in between with updates on the current status of the project.

Speaker Bio:

Lisa Boucher is currently Interim Director of the Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab at UT-Austin. She is a paleobotanist specializing in Cretaceous macrofloras and has collected fossils in several regions in the U.S. as well as conducting field research in Antarctica and Madagascar. Prior to her position at NPL, Lisa served as a Research Fellow and Lecturer with the College of Natural Sciences at UT-Austin and was an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a postdoc with the Smithsonian Institution. She earned a doctorate in plant biology from the Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in biology from Cornell University.

December Meeting Minutes

Gary Vliet
PSoA Secretary

Meeting minutes courtesy of Emelia Rose

- 2019 officer positions:
 - President- Erich Rose
 - VP/ show chair- Emelia Rose
 - Treasurer- Mike Smith
 - Secretary- Lisa Izzi
 - Editor- Ron DiPronio
 - Program chair- Paul Hammerschmidt
 - Field trip chair- Ed Elliot
 - Hospitality- Melvin Noble
 - Webmaster- Transition from Gordon to Jim Rath
- White mammoth exchange had a great turnout, see you all next year!

Upcoming Field Trip

No Field Trip Is Planned For December

Ed Elliott

PSOA Field Trip Chair

Join us for one of the groups' favorite hunting spots – Lake Jacksboro. This Upper Pennsylvanian site is replete with fossils from the Finis Shale, Graham Formation of the Cisco Group. Most fossils will be marine in origin, including brachiopods, trilobites, corals, bryozoans, molluscs, crinoids, and teeth. Fossils will generally be small and loose, so bring plenty of small containers or sectional boxes. The drive back into downtown Jacksboro is not far, but coupled with the walk back across the spillway, it will waste valuable collecting time – bring food and plenty of water to maximize your time. If you stick around for more collecting on Sunday, we will visit various road cuts and possibly the Mineral Wells Fossil Park.

We will meet at 8:00 am in front of the Jack County Extension Office located at 100 N Main St. in Jacksboro (the town square). To get there, take 183 North from Austin and, in Lampasas, turn onto 281 North, which will take you straight to Jacksboro. Or, take I35 North to the EI35/ WI35 split just North of Hillsboro. Take WI35 to Ft Worth and take I20 West. On the West side of Ft Worth take the loop 820N and just North of Lake Worth exit for West 199 (the Jacksboro Highway). This will take you straight into Jacksboro. Saturday morning look for a group of fossil hunters huddled near the sign proclaiming the Jacksboro Tigers “State AA Football Champs” from 1962 to 1971.... what a feat. Remember that Jacksboro is about four hours from Austin, so either drive up the night before or be prepared to leave early Saturday. Jacksboro motels are somewhat bare-bones, so if you want top quality accommodations.... some people stay in Mineral Wells as we will be in that area for Sunday. We will caravan as a group to the first site, so please be on time. There will be a \$3 admission fee per person (children are free) to cover our parking in and crossing the spillway in the state park. Please have cash handy to put into envelopes at the pay station. Check the local weather before leaving so that you can dress appropriately. It is January in North Texas.

Odds and Ends

Jurassic giant: Huge new dinosaur species discovered in Africa

Fossils of a new, giant species of dinosaur have been discovered in South Africa, a study published Thursday reports. The creature, which lived some 200 million years ago, was about twice the size of a modern-day African elephant. It was also the largest land animal alive on the planet at that time, according to the study. The new dino is a close relative of other massive dinosaurs from Argentina that lived at about the same time, which reinforces the idea that the supercontinent Pangaea was still assembled at that time.

Read more at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/science/2018/09/28/giant-dinosaur-species-discovered-south-africa/1454983002/>



Trove of Well-Preserved Dinosaur Footprints Unearthed Along Sussex Coast

Researchers discovered more than 85 fossilized footprints left by at least seven prehistoric species including this *Iguanodon* footprint pictured here.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/trove-well-preserved-dinosaur-footprints-unearthed-along-sussex-coast-180971059/>

Early Mammals Were Thought to Be Small and Unseen in the Age of Dinosaurs. An Elephant-Sized Fossil Complicates That Story

During the age of the dinosaurs, the ancestors of mammals and other animals were thought to be tiny but the fossil of an African elephant-sized creature found in southern Poland upends that narrative, reports Gretchen Vogel at Science magazine. The creature is a dicynodont, one of the first groups of animals to eat plants. It's also part of a broader group of creatures called synapsids, which includes the direct ancestors of mammals, making it something of a cousin to the earliest mammal ancestors, or proto-mammals.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/elephant-size-mammal-cousin-mingled-dinosaurs-180970886/>

Ancient animals – even older than dinosaurs – had feathers, new study suggests

Newly discovered fossils show that pterosaurs – flying animals even older than dinosaurs – had a furry, feathery coat. The finding pushes back the origin of feathers by about 70 million years, according to a new study.

Read more at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/12/17/pterosaurs-had-feathers-new-study-says/2338451002/>

We Still Don't Know Why the Reign of the Dinosaurs Ended



The reason our planet lost the terrible lizards of eras long past may seem self-evident. About 66 million years ago, an asteroid came screaming out of the sky and smacked into what is now the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico. Paleontologists know this catastrophe as the K/Pg extinction event because it marks the transition from the Cretaceous into the Paleogene period of Earth's history. But even though it has been studied constantly, the details of this event still puzzle experts.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/we-still-dont-know-why-reign-dinosaurs-ended-180971040/>

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
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Field Trips
Programs
Editor
Webmaster
Show Chair

Erich Rose
Emelia Rose
Mike Smith
Lisa Izzi
Ed Elliott
Paul Hammerschmidt
Ron DiPronio
Gordon Galligher
Emelia Rose

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

Permission to copy material printed herein is granted provided proper credit is given to the author and source.
The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN
Ron DiPronio, Editor
1701 Spyglass Dr – Unit 8
Austin, TX 78746

FIRST CLASS MAIL