



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 14, Number 5

May 2019

President's Note

Erich Rose

PSoA President

Well, I've seen some photos from the Oklahoma trip and I am bummed. Bummed because I couldn't go and from what I saw there were some wonderful fossils collected. Starfish and trilobites and probably much more. I look forward to reading more in the field trip report and hearing more about the trip from those who went. Maybe next year...

For those who made it out to Westcave for the picnic and auction thank you so much. Despite the threatening weather all was fine. It wasn't our best auction but we still made a few bucks and we all had a good time.

It has been a beautiful spring so far. Plenty of rain and sunshine and, holy molly, what a year for wildflowers! Been hard to pay attention to the rocks for the abundance of blooms all around. I had the pleasure of visiting Big Bend in early April and we caught the tail end of the blue bonnets and the most amazing cacti. I didn't get to do any collecting (strictly verboten in the national park) but we did get to see the new Fossil Display pavilion. Worth the time if you visit the park to stop at this cool site. See my report and pictures in this newsletter.

We have a great outreach opportunity coming up this month. Wimberley is showing Jurassic Park at the Blue Hole Park Friday May 24th. PSA will be there along with the vertebrate paleo folks from UT before the movie to show guests what can be

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 21 – 7 p.m.

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

Next Field Trip

Saturday, May 25th – 8 a.m.

tbd, TX

Awaiting permissions

President's Note (cont'd)

found in Texas. Emelia and I will be there and we could use a few more volunteers to round out the crew. Hopefully we can all stick around for the film and maybe a cool dip in the spring fed waters of Cypress Creek. I'll have more details at the meeting.

One last fun item. Round Rock Storage has offered us some tickets to a baseball game at the Dell Diamond. We want to auction them off at the May meeting. If you are interested please attend the meeting. Again, see below for details.

Not 100% sure about the next field trip. We were hoping to get into one of the Midlothian Quarries. I'm sure Ed is making enquiries and we will know more soon.

That's it from me for now. See you all soon,

--Erich

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt

Programs Chair

"Reconstructing Forests: Landscape Paleocology and the Evolution of Late Cretaceous Floras" - Lisa Boucher, PhD

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.

April Meeting Minutes

Lisa Izzi

PSoA Secretary

PSoA Auction was held in April

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott

PSoA Field Trip Chair

The Club's May field trip will be discussed at the May meeting.

Field Trip Report

Devonian, Ada, OK, April 2019 (Ed Elliott)

I left Ada with a caravan containing Cathy and Gary Rylander, Scott and Erika Kala (?), Melvin Noble, John Hinte, Lisa I., Ron DiPronio, Dr. James Sprinkle, Jim Rath, Les S. (?), and Charles Strasser. We spent the day at the wonderful Yellow Bluff. I believe the Bluff to be Bois d' Arc Formation, Hunton Group, Devonian. I'm sure that the creek is Silurian, but I'm no longer sure exactly where the Silurian/ Devonian boundaries are. The weather was fine, the scenery beautiful and the hunting was great. We enjoyed the abundance and variety of brachiopods, a variety of corals, crinoid material – cups, holdfasts and more, gastropods, and bryozoans. The big ticket on this trip were trilobites. We always find some, but this trip it seemed that every time I turned around someone found another. I'm sure that between 15 and 20 were found complete. Also found were a couple of partial *Camarocrinus* (*Scyphocrinites*) bulbs, which is unusual. The icing on the cake was the fabulous starfish found by John Hinte. Everything stopped for a while as we all drooled over the nicest fossil I've seen in a long time. Jim and John spent time looking at that area for more. It could very well be a new species. I think we all enjoyed the hunt.

Our Sunday hunt started with a longer caravan to Clarita and Bob Carrols' quarry. Another place that just can't be bad. Maybe the weather or the road in, but the collecting is always good. The lower front part of the quarry where we parked is Upper Harrigan Formation, Hunton Group, Devonian. A handful of us spent the day in the back upper quarry which is lowest Bois d'Arc Formation, Hunton Group, Devonian. The people I spoke to later all said they did well up in front, but we didn't get back to the vehicles until late in the day. We found a great variety of brachiopods, many not found at the Bluff. Fewer varieties of coral and bryozoans but also bivalves – mostly scallops and clams. Orthocone cephalopod pieces were somewhat common. And a good collection of trilobites was found by each of us. Walking back to the truck with friends through fields of flowers and a gorgeous sky over our heads all I could think was "What a great trip." See you at the next one.



Special Notices

Big Bend National Park – Fossil Discovery Exhibit - Erich

First week of April Emelia, Gail and I had the pleasure of spending a week in the Big Bend region of Texas. We started the vacation in the national park and with some time to kill before our check in time at the Chisos Mountain lodge we stopped to check out the new Fossil Discovery Exhibit. This modern and fairly large exhibit replaces the former dilapidated display originally built in 1957. Located along the Persimmon Gap entrance road 8 miles north of Panther Junction it is easy to get to, especially if you are coming into the park from Marathon.

The building was designed by Lake Flato Architects and blends nicely into the terrain. In fact it is less of a building and more of an open shaded pavilion filled with cases of fossils, large casts of skulls and bones and first-class murals and graphics. Geology and paleontology are explained in easy to understand words and illustrations. The site includes a short nature trail up to a vista above the building, the main building and displays, outdoor explanatory graphic panels, a children's play scape and a covered picnic area.

If you visit the park make sure to make time to visit the display. For more check out the following link to the NPS web site and then follow the links to fossildiscoveryexhibit.com

<https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/fossil-discovery-exhibit.htm>.



Round Rock Express Ticket Auction!

Round Rock Mini Storage has graciously provided us with two tickets to a Round Rock Express game. We will auction them at the meeting. Includes two tickets and a parking pass. Price listed on each ticket is \$9.50.

Round Rock Express vs. Memphis Redbirds

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

7:05 at the Dell Diamond

Section 118, Row 4, Seats 1 & 2

Proceeds to the scholarship fund. Let the bidding begin!

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

<https://www.myfossil.org/amateur-spotlight-linda-mccall/>

From the Camps Director - Sternberg Museum Science Camps 2019 paleontology programs

The Sternberg Museum Science Camps are operating a field paleontology camp programs for middle and high school-aged students this summer in Kansas, Oregon, and Australia. I have included a link to the program webpage below. Our remaining two application review deadlines are April 20th and May 14th.

High school camps: <http://sternberg.fhsu.edu/active-learning/camps/high-school/>

Middle school camps: <http://sternberg.fhsu.edu/active-learning/camps/middleschool/>

If you could please pass on this information to your members, it would be immensely appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions about our 2019 science camp programs.

David Levering

Odds and Ends

Fossil of ancient four-legged whale with hooves discovered

An ancient four-legged whale with hooves has been discovered, providing new insights into how the ancestors of the Earth's largest mammals made the transition from land to sea. The giant 42.6m-year-old fossil, discovered in marine sediments along the coast of Peru, appears to have been adapted for a semi-aquatic lifestyle.

Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/apr/04/fossil-ancient-four-legged-whale-legs-hooves-discovered>

New Type of Arctic Dinosaur Discovered in Alaska

The duck-billed, crested lambeosaurine shows that a diverse array of dinos lived in the warmer but still harsh Arctic 70 million years ago

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-type-arctic-dinosaur-discovered-alaska-180971872/>

Millipede trapped in amber for 99 million years gets its moment to shine

The millipede is trapped in Cretaceous-era amber found in Myanmar.

Read more at <https://www.cnet.com/news/millipede-trapped-in-amber-for-99-million-years-gets-its-moment-to-shine/>



New Analysis of Depression-Era Fossil Hunt Shows Texas Coast Was Once a 'Serengeti'

Over 11 million years ago, the area was full of animals. 11 million to 12 million years ago, the area was full of animals: Rhinoceros, antelope and camels were common along with 12 species of horse-like animals and four rodents. They also found two bird species, seven reptiles, and five types of fish. The collection even included a new genus of an elephant-like animal called a gomphothere, an extinct relative of modern dogs, as well as the oldest alligator fossil unearthed in North America. The research appears in the journal *Palaeontologia Electronica*.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/depression-era-fossils-show-texas-coast-was-once-serengeti-180971965/>

When Tyrannosaurs Were Tiny

A new study describes an early T. rex relative that stood about three feet tall and weighed no more than 90 pounds

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/when-tyrannosaurs-were-tiny-180972122/>

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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