



# Paleo Footnotes

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## President's Note

**Erich Rose**

PSoA President

How many of you have joined online paleo forums or groups? In the early years the chat groups were often unmoderated and poorly organized and generally a waste of time. But for a number of years now there have been a few that are honestly worth the time. The best one IMHO is the Fossil Forum (<http://www.thefossilforum.com>) it is well moderated, well organized and a great place to get something identified, ask a question, or just show off some cool stuff you found or an awesome field trip you took. And if you want a lighter version there is an offshoot Fossil Forum Facebook group. And of course Facebook has many paleontological group pages from our own to ones specific to echinoids or shark teeth or maybe another state. But my new favorite is myFossil (<https://www.myfossil.org>). This web site features some really great videos on everything from finding collecting sites to legal issues with private collecting sites. It also features a gallery of fossils posted by members.

So right now when it is literally so hot you might expire on that road cut. Take a break and do a little surfing. There is actually some worthwhile material to find and enjoy.

Take care,

Erich

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## Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 20 – 7 p.m.

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

## Next Field Trip

Saturday, August 24th – 8 a.m.

tbd  
tbd, TX

## Upcoming Meeting Program

**Paul Hammerschmidt**

Programs Chair

**“Early primate evolution in North America” -**

Benjamin Rodwell

### Speaker Bio:

I did my undergraduate study at Colorado State University where I became interested in the early evolution of primates and other mammals while doing fieldwork collecting fossil mammals in the earliest Eocene (~56-53 Ma) Willwood Formation in northwestern Wyoming. I am a second year PhD student in Anthropology at UT Austin, studying the evolution and ecology of primates and other mammals. My focus is fauna from the Middle Eocene of the Devil's Graveyard Formation in the Big Bend region.

### Synopsis:

Will discuss early primate evolution in North America, with a brief overview of the initial appearance of primates in the fossil record during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM). I will discuss West Texas primates and my current research on fossils recently collected from the Devils Graveyard Formation of the Big Bend region. A diverse assemblage of fossil primates from West Texas demonstrate that there is a notably different makeup to the primate community than what is found in the much more extensively researched Rocky Mountain interior, highlighting the significance that West Texas has in providing a better understanding of the dynamics of early primate evolution in North America.

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## Upcoming Field Trip

**Ed Elliott**

PSoA Field Trip Chair

**tbd - Fossils**

Field trip details at the next PSoA meeting.

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# June Meeting Minutes

**Lisa Izzi**

PSoA Secretary

- The meeting started off with the business portion at 7:15.
- We have not received any new outreach requests but please continue to collect fossils to donate for bag stuffing for outreach events.
- Fossil Fest shirts are being brought to every meeting, sign ups will start in August for Gem Capers and Fossil Fest.
- August field trip TBD.
- There was no speaker this month.

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# July Field Trip Report

**Whiskey Bridge, TX, July 2019 (Ed Elliott)**

Not available at publication time.

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# Special Notices

**Emelia Rose**

PSoA VP/Show Chair

## Outreach Update

There are two upcoming opportunities coming up for members to help support the Club and share their love for fossils. Remember, you do not have to be an expert! You just have to bring your smile and willingness to talk about fossils and the Club. Families are definitely encouraged to participate together. All members are encouraged to volunteer, as it's a great way to give back to the Club. New members have the added advantage of learning new things about fossils at a fun event. All of our activities, such as the dig pit and spinning wheel, will have one veteran member, so please don't think that you may not know enough to volunteer.

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society Gem Capers Show starts on Friday, Oct. 18. I have created a sign-up sheet (<https://signup.com/go/QMKggBE>) for those who would like to participate. The biggest need to have the booth fully staffed is Friday and mid-day on the weekends due to school groups (Friday) and peak times of attendance mid-day. I have made it so a maximum of 4 people can attend per shift, but 3 people are needed per shift.

Fossil Fest is our show and is on November 2nd and 3rd, with set up on Friday, November 1st. The sign up can be accessed at: <https://signup.com/go/XWxdEon>. For more information, go to: <http://austinpaleo.org/fest.html>.

Sign-up will be available at all meetings until the shows, and will be updated online after the meeting. Thank you!

## T-Shirts Reminder



The t-shirts are in, and will be sold at meetings starting in July, and at Gem Capers and Fossil Fest. 100 shirts were ordered in four colors, and the sizing is from adult XS-3XL. The back design is roughly 11"x15" and the front logo is 4"x4". All shirts are first come first serve, but if you would like to guarantee a size and color, please feel free to email me at [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org) and I will set them aside.

**Pricing will be \$8.00 for Fossil Fest Volunteers, \$10 for Members, and \$15 for the public. Please bring cash or a check. Thank you!**

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## Odds and Ends

### Hitchcock Ichneological Cabinet in Amherst, MA

This exhibit is one of the largest and most well-preserved collections of Jurassic-era trackways in the United States.

Read more at <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/hitchcock-ichneological-cabinet>

### Discovery of Raptor-Like Dinosaur Adds a New Wrinkle to the Origin of Birds

A small, 150 million-year-old dinosaur unearthed in Wyoming ran on the ground, but it may have been closely related to some of the first fliers.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/discovery-raptor-dinosaur-adds-new-wrinkle-origin-birds-180972588/>

### 140 Million Years Ago, a Bird-Like Dinosaur Swallowed a Lizard Whole

About 140 million years ago a microraptor—a bird-like dinosaur with four feathered wings—was zipping around in what is today northeastern China when it found a snack. The little dino grabbed a lizard and swallowed it whole, head first. Then, soon after, it died, likely on the edge of a mucky lake, which preserved the creature and its last meal for eons.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/bird-dinosaur-ate-lizard-and-revealed-entire-ecosystem-180972640/>

### Tiny Animals Trapped in Fossil Trees Help Reveal How Fauna Moved Onto Land

New ancient animals will likely be discovered in 310 million-year-old fossilized trees in Nova Scotia.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/tiny-animals-trapped-fossil-trees-reveal-how-fauna-moved-land-180972668/>

### Searching for the Key to Life's Beginnings

From exoplanets to chemical reactions, scientists inch closer to solving the great mystery of how life forms from inanimate matter.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/searching-key-lifes-beginnings-180972759/>

### Prehistoric Ocean Predator Resembles a Large and Vicious Horseshoe Crab

What had a head that looked like a spaceship, a mouth shaped like a camera shutter, and claws that resembled sharp fork hoes? It's *Cambroraster falcatus*, a 506 million-year-old invertebrate that was one of the top predators of the ancient seas.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ancient-ocean-predator-resembles-large-and-vicious-horseshoe-crab-180972768/>

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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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