



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 14, Number 9

September 2019

President's Note

Erich Rose

PSoA President

It's here! Fall is only a week or two away...well no not really. Labor Day is behind us but these dog days are lingering. But we can always hope.

And hot-or-not we have a bunch of fall activities on the calendar. Starting with the Fossil Fest show committee meeting on the 10th. Hope some of you get the memo and can make it. Then we will be helping identify fossils for the Texas Memorial Museum on Sunday the 22nd. And then we are right into October and Gem Capers (18th-20th) and Fossil Fest right away in November (2nd&3rd).

Bandera, Texas is tentatively on the calendar as this month's field trip. But maybe the Brazos is going to be finally at a proper level for Pleistocene collecting. Guess we will have to wait to hear what Ed has to say.

We had a great turnout with a handful of new members last month. I know we have a great lecture lined up so I hope we have another great meeting.

See you soon,

Erich

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 17 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, September 21st – 8 a.m.
Bandera, TX
Trip decision at Monthly Meeting

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt

Programs Chair

As of the publication time of the newsletter, we are still waiting for the speaker commit for Tuesday. It sounds like it would be a good one!

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott

PSoA Field Trip Chair

tbd - Fossils

Field trip details at the next PSoA meeting.

August Meeting Minutes

Erich for Lisa Izzi

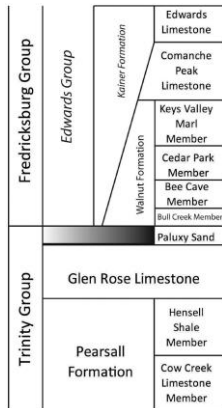
PSoA Secretary

- Two excellent presentations: Early primates of North America and Fossil Penguins.
- Dr. Sprinkle is looking for echinoderms and sand dollars for research purposes. A colleague is doing some research in Ireland and would like all types of echinoderms (Pennsylvanian, Cretaceous).
- There is a need for clean fossils for the Dig Pit and Spinning Wheel. Feel free to bring them to any of the meetings, Gem Capers, or Fossil Fest and we will make sure they make it up to the Round Rock storage unit. Smaller fossils are great for the dig pit, and medium to large fossils are great for the spinning wheel. If they are identifiable, they will work!
- On the business end, the treasurer reported funds that are about the same as last month.

August Field Trip Report

Walnut Formation along Loop 360, Austin, Texas, August 2019 (Erich Rose)

We had a great turn out for our latest hometown field trip. There were new and old members alike at one of my favorite places to collect. The cut we visited exposed a nice slice of the Walnut Formation, Fredericksburg Group. That was Lower Cretaceous (Albian Age) around 105 million years old. The entire cut is the Walnut Formation. The thick hard bench was the Bull Creek Member. The soft marly stuff above where we mostly collected was the Bee Cave Member and the slope above was the Cedar Park Member.



The day promised to get really hot but nature showed pity on us and just enough clouds lingered to keep things comfortable, at least until about noon.

Although I didn't see anything totally awesome collected that morning, I did see a great sampling of echinoids, molluscs, corals and a few other odd bits. The site always produces something for me. That morning it was a really nice little oyster that is not so common and rarely well preserved at this spot and a decent specimen of Panopea, a type of bivalve, I don't see so often in the Walnut as well.

I hope everyone had a great time. Definitely bring what you found to the next meeting and we can identify things for you if need be.

See you at the next road cut.

Special Notices

Emelia Rose
PSoA VP/Show Chair

Outreach Update

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!

Display Cases

If you are interested in putting a display case together for our theme of "New Discoveries," please let me know and we can help you create labels or pair you up with someone if you only want to showcase a small portion of your collection.

We have a lot of display cases to fill in the Hall! If you're in need of exhibit case ideas, please consider:

- Collection of fossils from a specific locality around Texas and surrounding area
- Collection of a specific type of fossil from localities all around Texas and surrounding area
- Display of how a plant or animal becomes a fossil
- Examples and a brief description of changes to an organism over time
- Collection of a particular organism and their structures
- One organism - the characteristics used to identify it with samples and diagrams
- Fossil and display showing what we were able to learn about that fossil

T-Shirts

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 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!

Odds and Ends

Scientists and Miners Team Up to Preserve Opalized Fossils

Opal is found commonly around the world, but precious opal is very rare and geologists say nothing compares to that produced in Central Australia.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/scientists-and-miners-team-up-preserve-opalized-fossils-180972734/>

Fossil Trees Reveal the Oldest Known Forest in Asia

The grove of lycopsid trees is 365 million years old and covers 2.7 million square feet.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/fossil-trees-reveal-oldest-known-forest-asia-180972877/>

Ancient Sea Life May Have Hitched Across Oceans on Giant Living Rafts

Enormous crinoids of the Jurassic era could have carried whole ecosystems around the world.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ancient-sea-life-may-have-hitched-rides-across-oceans-giant-living-rafts-180972876/>

Special Notices

Mike Smith

Bring Out Your Pinna!

When I was out at the Non-vertebrate lab last week, I met Tom Yancey, a paleontologist at A&M working on pinnids. He is interested in Carboniferous and Permian specimens. I think we have been calling what we find at Jacksboro and Wilson, *Aviculopinna*, based on McKinzie's *Guide to Pennsylvanian Fossils of North Texas*. I told him I would ping the club to see if anyone had specimens they would be willing to loan. Interesting note: he has seen specimens of a species from Texas that are large. If I remember how far apart his hands were, well over a foot.

I had to look up *prodissoconch*: A prodissoconch (meaning first or earliest or original shell) is an embryonic or larval shell which is present in the larva of a bivalve mollusk. The prodissoconch is often but not always smooth, and has no growth lines. It is sometimes still present and visible in the adult shell, if there has been no erosion of the shell in that area.

His note and contact info follows.

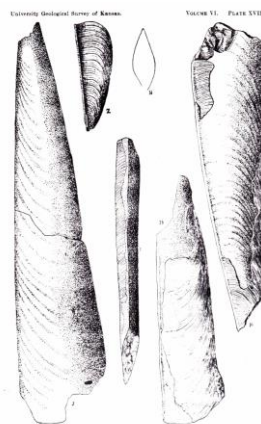
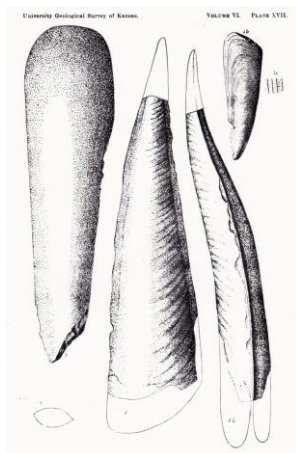
Mike

It was nice talking to you last week in the NVP collections building last week. I am attaching two images of the kind of pinnid bivalves I am studying that occur in Carboniferous and Permian strata. The small species (*americana*) is well represented in collections and well described, but the others are nearly all incomplete and are more variable. I am looking for specimens that preserve the beak of those species, including the prodissoconch, if available.

If you learn of the availability of any that have the beak preserved, please keep me in mind and let me know. Although reasonably common, they are almost always incomplete and without the beak.

The specimen I saw last week from the Harpersville Fm, Wilson quarry in Coleman County, Texas, is *americana*, a common pinnid in Texas Penn strata.

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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 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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