



# Paleo Footnotes

Volume 14, Number 11

November 2019

## President's Note

### Erich Rose

PSOA President

Hey we made it through another Fossil Fest! Our attendance was about the same as last year. Both days certainly seemed busy. We also made a few more bucks this year. Mostly because we didn't have any big expenses like new table covers or big graphics. The show went smoothly as usual, even without quite as many volunteers as we would have liked. Hint, hint, nudge, nudge. And if you will bear with me being a dad for a moment, I want to thank my daughter Emelia Rose for taking on the role of Show Chair for these last two years. I think she did an excellent job. And just as she learned by shadowing Suzanne Galigher, Lisa Izzy has stepped up and shadowed Emelia this year in preparation of taking on the Show Chair role next year. We all need to support and encourage her to the best of our abilities.

I also want to thank the young paleontologists from the University of Austin who came out and both ran their booth and gave two really great special presentations. There was rarely a moment when there wasn't a handful of guests gathered around the UT booth.

Our upcoming meeting will include a more in-depth recap by Emelia and Mike Smith, with attendance and budget/profit reports.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 19 – 7 p.m.  
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building  
6719 Burnet Lane Austin, Texas

### Next Field Trip

Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – 8 a.m.  
Brady and/or Santa Anna, TX  
tbd at Monthly Meeting

Not yet sure where we are headed this month to collect. For a change the meeting and subsequent field trip will be before Thanksgiving. Looking forward to see what Ed has in mind.

See you at the meeting,

Erich

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## Upcoming Meeting Program

### Paul Hammerschmidt

Programs Chair

'How Quaternary herpetofaunas have responded to environmental changes through time', **David Ledesma**

Bio: I was born and raised in Richmond, TX. As a kid, I would often explore nature while catching ribbon snakes, earth snakes, anoles, geckos, and other herpetofauna. These experiences, along with my visits to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, instilled in me a fascination for reptiles and amphibians as well as the history of life on earth. I began my graduate studies at the University of Texas in the Fall of 2018. I am interested in studying how Quaternary herpetofaunas have responded to environmental changes through time.

Synopsis: The study of Quaternary fossils represents an important bridge to the recent past and represents a valuable source of information for understanding how species will respond to future environmental changes. I will present preliminary abundance data from fossil herpetofauna from Hall's Cave and contextualize this information in terms of previous Texas paleoclimate reconstructions. I will also present data related to the identification of *Ambystoma* salamander fossils and discuss potential limitations in using osteological information for determining salamander life stage. Lastly, I will present some preliminary data on morphological diversity in fossil lizards from the California Channel Islands and talk about some future projects that I have planned.

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# September Meeting Minutes

**Lisa Izzi**

PSoA Secretary

Topic: Fossil Collecting 101

Speaker: Erich Rose

Check out the website: <https://www.myfossil.org/>

Business part of the meeting:

-Funds are still good

-We need volunteers for Fossil Fest (50% of the spots are already filled), Please contact Amelia to volunteer or sign up online

-Discussed the upcoming field trip

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## Upcoming Field Trip

**Ed Elliott**

PSoA Field Trip Chair

tbd

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## October Field Trip Report

**Lake Texoma, TX**

Not available yet.

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## Special Notices

**Emelia Rose**

PSoA VP/Show Chair

### Gem Capers Recap

Gem Capers went very well, we had a good turnout of volunteers, especially on Friday with the large school group crowds. Attendance at the AGMS show was great and we passed out almost 500 stuffed baggies with fossils. Thank you to everyone who helped with setup, volunteered at a shift, clean up, and to the Show Committee Board who stuffed all the fossils!

### Fossil Fest Recap

Fossil Fest was a great success this year! This year we saw 1,210 people, which is a slight increase from last year. While the attendance practically matched 2018 attendance, we have seen a slight increase in adult attendance and children above age 6, and we saw a relatively significant decrease in children under 6.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered this year, especially to newer members and those who spent all day at our show! The display cases put together are always a big draw and were wonderfully done. The set-up and clean-up crew are always greatly appreciated and it ensures our vendors have a smooth and successful show! Special thanks to Paul for presenting our "Fossils Talk" which is a huge draw to our show, and kids and adults absolutely love how much fun is had on stage! We also had two special guest speakers, Sarah D. and Ingrid L. from the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT Austin. UT has always been a wonderful addition to our show and we are so grateful they are to participate. Thank you to the Brandt's who host our delicious vendor and volunteer BBQ on Saturday evening as well as hosting the AGMS booth on Sunday afternoon. Behind the scenes, thank you to Gordon for being our webmaster! Each year data is collected and Gordon sends out emails reminding teachers and past attendees that Fossil Fest is approaching, this has the most significant impact on attendance (over 50% are returning attendees). Thank you all so much for volunteering this year, it is what makes Fossil Fest a success!

Lastly, save the date for Fossil Fest 2020! It will be on November 7th and 8th, 2020 and the show theme is 'Dinosaurs'. I am also excited to announce that Lisa Izzi will be the new Show Chair! Her expertise in event planning and coordination along with social media will be a great asset to our Club and I am very confident Fossil Fest will continue to be very successful!



Photo of the third grand door prize winner.

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## **Odds and Ends**

### **Fossil find shows fast recovery after extinction**

Fossils from Colorado show details of how life rebounded after the meteorite crash that killed off the dinosaurs.

See the video at: <https://www.usatoday.com/videos/news/nation/2019/10/24/fossil-find-shows-fast-recovery-after-extinction/4088614002/>

### **Newly Discovered Dinosaur Was a Giant 'Shark Tooth' Carnivore**

A new species named *Siamraptor suwati* was found in the Early Cretaceous rock outcrops of Thailand.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/newly-discovered-dinosaur-was-giant-shark-tooth-predator-rival-tyrannosaurs-180973304/>

### **Trove of 66-million-year-old fossils discovered from post-dinosaur era**

Scientists have known little about the mammals that survived and flourished in the years after the asteroid impact.

Read more at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/10/24/rise-mammals-trove-66-million-year-old-fossils-discovered/4082963002/>

### **This Ancient Shark Looked Like an Eel and Swallowed Its Prey Whole**

Almost everything paleontologists know about ancient sharks comes from their teeth. That's because the animals had skeletons made of cartilage, which does not fossilize as easily as bone. So researchers were surprised to find several shark skulls and an almost complete skeleton of 360-million-year-old primitive shark in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/ancient-shark-looked-eel-and-swallowed-its-prey-whole-180973272/>

### **Trilobite Fossil Shows Animals Have Stood in Line for Hundreds of Millions of Years**

A line of 480-million-year-old trilobites found in Morocco may be the earliest evidence of collective animal behavior

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/trilobite-fossil-shows-animals-have-lined-hundreds-millions-years-180973383/>

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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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