



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 14, Number 12

December 2019

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Here we are, another year has rushed by, or at least it felt that way to me. I certainly enjoyed the time I spent with the club, meetings, field trips, Fossil Fest and other outreach events. I have always enjoyed talking to with people about fossils and the history of the earth and getting to do it with a great group like this is the best.

We have our one last event, the annual holiday party and that will finish out the year. Look forward to seeing many of you there. Always a fun party.

We will begin next year with a board meeting to discuss budget, calendar, scholarships and more. Hopefully that will include some new officers and chairs. In particular we need someone to step up and help with field trips. We realize this is a big responsibility and we may need to split the effort between a few different members. Ed Elliott has been doing it for ever and needs a break. He will work closely with whomever wants to help so you don't have to start cold. We will talk more about all this at future meetings.

Enough for now,
Erich

Next Meeting

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

Next Field Trip

January 2020 – 8 a.m.
tbd
tbd

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt
Programs Chair

PSoA White Mammoth Holiday Party

12/17/2019 (Tue.) 7:00pm - 9:30pm CST

Upcoming Field Trip

Ed Elliott
PSoA Field Trip Chair

No field trip is planned for this month.

November Meeting Minutes

Lisa Izzi
PSoA Secretary

At the November meeting we heard from David T. Ledesma on the topic of "Responses of fossil herpetofaunas to environmental changes during the late Quaternary". One of the areas he has studied is Hall's Cave in Kerr County, where there is a relatively continuous sequence spanning 17000 + years. The second part of his talk David discussed *ambystoma* projects.

After a break for snacks and networking we did a quick review of the budget. Everything was in good standings after Fossil Fest, as we did not have any major expenses this year. We are considering new signs for next years show, and possibly ordering some shirts in kids sizes.

Erich provided a quick recap of Fossil Fest and that we had a good turn out of visitors. A big thank you to Emelia for being the show chair, and many thank yous to all the volunteers who helped before, after, and throughout the show.

We plan to hold officer elections at the December Holiday party. We are looking for a new field trip chair for next year. The idea was proposed of perhaps a committee so it does not fall on one single person each month.

November Field Trip Report

Pennsylvanian Between Brady and Brownwood, Texas (Erich Rose)

We began the day at a large road cut along RR 765 north of Brady, Texas. It was a cool crisp morning but the sun came out and by 9am outer layers were being shed. In fact the entire day was bright and sunny and perfect for collecting fossils.

Paul Hammerschmid was already there when I arrived and we were fairly quickly joined by Kevin Bills, Gary Rylander, Adam and Heather Aziz, Ron DiPronio, Dave Hoppes, Ed Wiley, David Lindberg and Leslie Riddel.

The first location includes the Adams Branch Limestone of the Canyon Group and beneath shales and mudstones mapped as the Strawn Group undivided. Both are Missouri Series (Pennsylvanian Period).

Fossils included a variety of brachiopods, bivalves, bryozoans, corals, some gastropods and nautiloids and lots of crinoid material. We also picked up a lot of wood fragments.

By 11 we decided to head on to our second stop: the Wilson Clay Pit. Arriving right about noon members quickly spread out and, honestly, I didn't hear or see from everybody before they left. I was finding the usual variety of crinoid material and other invertebrates. Toward the end of the day my best find was a tooth of the ancient shark *Cleodus*, a new one for my collection. I heard tell of a few other teeth being found but will have to see what shows up at the next meeting.

Fossils there are coming out of the turned over layers of the Saddle Creek Limestone and Harpersville Formation, Cisco Group, Virgilian Series, Late(est) Pennsylvanian.

As I was heading out I was pleasantly surprised to see Erik and Evan Encarnacion and Jahanett Ramirez had managed to make their way to the pit and join us for the last hour of collecting. After a nice conversation with them and checking on some of the cool fossils Evan was finding I headed for home. It had been a beautiful and productive day in the late Paleozoic of Texas.



Odds and Ends

Video Game-Inspired Models Demonstrate How Ammonites Swam Through the Seas

Ammonoids are one of the world's greatest evolutionary success stories. From about 66 to 409 million years ago, thousands of species of these shelled cephalopods thrived in seas all over the planet.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/video-game-inspired-models-extinct-squid-relatives-swam-through-prehistoric-seas-180973654/>

New Fossils Unlock Evolutionary Secrets of Two-Legged Snakes

Scientists have known about the ancient snake group Najash for years, but were not able to gain a thorough understanding of its skull until now.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-fossils-unlock-evolutionary-secrets-two-legged-snakes-180973625/>

First Fossil Evidence of Feathered Polar Dinosaurs Found in Australia

The ten feathers are the first signs that fluffy dinosaurs lived near the South Pole more than 100 million years ago.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/first-fossil-evidence-feathered-polar-dinosaurs-found-australia-180973622/>

Flesh-Ripping Dinosaurs Replaced Their Teeth Multiple Times a Year

A high rate of tooth turnover gave these prehistoric carnivores an edge.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/flesh-ripping-dinosaurs-replaced-their-teeth-multiple-times-year-180973661/>

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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo> Twitter: @Austin_Paleo

2019 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:

Pamela R. Owen, PhD.
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.

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