



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 15, Number 9

September 2020

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Greetings PSA members! Hope you are all enjoying this shift in the weather; rain and a drop from the 100s to the 80s. Still feels like summer but relief is now in sight. I celebrated with a few hours on one of local Walnut Formation road cuts and was rewarded with several great fossils. If you can get out, now is the time. Nothing like four inches of rain to knock a few good fossils loose.

I will be featuring a few really nice crab fossils from those road cuts in my presentation this month. Over the last fifteen years I have accumulated a variety of fossil crustacean bits and pieces and generally almost all of them were just labeled as "Crustacean" since very few were in any of the reference books I owned. But four years ago I was handed a paper that made it possible to start putting names on some of my material. Along with that reference and a few others I have now been able to identify what I believe are ten or more different decapods just from the Glen Rose and Walnut Formations. They include hermit crabs, lobsters, ghost shrimp and regular crabs. The material is all bits and pieces but it is identifiable. Hopefully you will see something that rings a bell with your own collection as well.

I look forward to seeing where we will go collecting this month as well. The August field trip started a bit soggy but turned into a great little hunt in Blanco once the thunder and lightning let up. Hopefully this recent rain will make wherever we go worthwhile.

See you all Tuesday,
Erich

Next Meeting (ONLINE)

9/15 – 7 p.m.

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

Next Field Trip

Saturday, September 19 – 8 a.m.

Field trip to Bandera

See details online at our PSoA facebook group!

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt
Programs Chair

'Crustaceans of the Glen Rose and Walnut Formations of Central Texas, as collected by Erich Rose'

Speaker Bio: I have been collecting fossils since I was 10 growing up in Southwest Ohio. My collection includes Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic material from Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado and of course Texas. I wrote field guides for the NYPS as well as many articles on collecting in various newsletters.

Synopsis: Erich will be presenting a review of the known fossil decapods (crabs, lobsters, shrimp, etc.) of the lower Albian (Lower Cretaceous) aged Glen Rose and Walnut Formations. Fossil crustaceans from these lower formations are not as spectacular as some of the larger and more complete Upper Cretaceous fossils that can be found, but there is in fact quite a variety that have been described over the years. These include several new species found in the last handful of years and one recently described by PSA member Chris Garvie. Along with the known material Erich will include several that do not yet fit into the known species as described. Maybe you have something similar in your collection.

The presentation will include images from various publications as well as specimens from Erich's own collection.



Newly described crab *Paleodromites xestos* Schweitzer, et al.,
2016 from the Walnut Formation

PSoA Virtual August Meeting Information

Topic: **Paleontological Society of Austin September Meeting**

Time: **Sep 15, 2020 06:45 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

Hey everyone, I have scheduled a zoom meeting. See below. I will post that to the PSA Members only Facebook Page this coming Tuesday, one week before the meeting.

Erich Rose is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83328787217>

Meeting ID: 833 2878 7217

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,83328787217# US (Houston)

Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

August Meeting Minutes

Emelia Rose

PSoA Secretary

Monthly meetings continue to be held on Zoom.

This past month Matthew Harrell presented on Oreodonts & the Oligocene of North America.

The meeting had excellent attendance and we look forward to seeing you all on zoom!

Upcoming Field Trip

Melvin Noble

PSoA Field Trip Leader

September 19, 2020 – 8:00 am

Field trip to Bandera, TX

Directions:

September's field trip will be to Bandera, TX. The directions will be posted to our PSoA facebook account. Please check there for details.

August Field Trip Report

Yett Park, Blanco (Melvin Noble)

The Saturday of the field trip started out with thunderstorms and a lot of rain. Jamie posted on Facebook for everyone to use their own discretion on coming out or getting there. After driving through a lot of rain I got there early and in just a little while people started slowly trickling in. It takes more than a little rain or storms to stop the Austin Paleo collectors from collecting, a very hardy bunch.

Lorne Ledger, Bob and Diane Vlasik, Joe Watkind, Leslie Riddel, Grady Parks, Jamie Shelton, Eric Rose, Paul Hammerschmidt, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Phi Nguyen with his kids Ellsworth and Thurgood, Erik with his children Jamett and Even, also me, Melvin. I believe also a couple and 2 children that I did not get the name of. I apologize to anyone I missed.

The weather started to turn bad again and we sit in our vehicles about 30 minutes till it stopped raining. But when we got

out the temperature was really cool and nice plus people started fighting a lot of nice stuff immediately. *Loriolia*, *Heteraster* heart urchins, lots of bivalves and gastropods were found as well as some ammonite pieces (*Hypacanthoplites Mayfieldensis*) found by Grady Parks and Jamie Shelton. Grady's had a little of the original shell in a small spot. Very cool. Jamie had found a *Polydiadema Travensis* echinoid here in a previous trip also. Very nice.

I really believe everyone had fun and it was just really good to get out of the house during these trying times. I know that there were a lot of kids there and I know they all had a great time also and the weather was nice temp.



Hypacanthoplites mayfieldensis



Hypacanthoplites mayfieldensis #2



Polydiadema travensis

Special Notices

Congratulations to Linda McCall, Research Fellow - University of Texas at Austin & PSoA Member for winning the Paleontological Societies' Strimple Award for 2020!

From Linda:

Hi Folks!

Well, I've been officially notified that I won the Paleontological Societies' Strimple Award for 2020. Wow.

They don't know exactly how it's going to be presented since the conference is all virtual, but they think it will be like a ZOOM meeting and anyone who wants to will be able to attend the ceremony - even if they are not registered for the conference or a GSA member. I'll keep ya'll in the loop.

Oh, and the 1st woman to get it in the awards 37 year history..... Wow.

Stay Safe!

Jackson School DeFord Lecture Series - Zoom open to the public

The DeFord (Technical Sessions) lecture series has been a requirement and a tradition for all graduate students since the late 1940s. Once the official venue for disseminating DGS graduate student research, the DeFord Lecture series is now the forum for lectures by distinguished visitors and members of our community. Faculty and researchers from the Jackson School have invited prestigious researchers from around the world to present a lecture in this series.

See their website for a schedule. <https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/events/de-ford-lecture-series/>

Odds and Ends

Ancient marine reptile ichthyosaur preyed on a large sea creature thalattosaur

A massive marine reptile ichthyosaur swallowed another, slightly less massive reptile and died shortly thereafter. The larger ichthyosaur then fossilized with the smaller animal in its belly.

Read more at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/08/ancient-marine-reptile-ichthyosaur-preyed-on-large-sea-creature-thalattosaur/>

College Students Unearth Massive Triceratops Skull

A group of undergraduates and their paleontology professor discovered a seven-foot, 3,000-pound Triceratops skull in the Badlands of South Dakota.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/undergraduates-unearth-massive-triceratops-skull-180975653/>

How Titanoboa, the 40-Foot-Long Snake, Was Found

In Colombia, the fossil of a gargantuan snake has stunned scientists, forcing them to rethink the nature of prehistoric life.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-titanoboa-the-40-foot-long-snake-was-found-115791429/>

World's biggest T. rex discovered

A fossil site in Canada has yielded the heaviest Tyrannosaurus rex specimen ever found—an animal that weighed an estimated 19,500 pounds in life, far heftier than most elephants alive today.

Read more at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/03/worlds-biggest-t-rex-found-in-canada-scotty-dinosaur/>

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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