



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 15, Number 11

November 2020

President's Note

Erich Rose

PSoA President

Once again, we are coming up on the end of another year. Of course this year has been like no other any of us have known. Hard times here and abroad. But as the dinosaurs would tell us, the earth has seen worse. We are missing Fossil Fest and we will be skipping the holiday party.

Best thing right now has been the weather. Cool dry days that are perfect for collecting. We have a great field trip lined up this month. The site near Mother Neff State Park can produce some great fossils and I am looking forward to Jamie's new Comanche Peak site.

Our speaker this month will be our very own Paul Hammerschmidt. He is going to tell us all about the geology and fossils to be found around Creede, Colorado. This is a place the club has visited in the past. Long before I joined the Austin clubs I visited Creede and came away with a nice collection of ancient plants and stuff. I'm looking forward to learning more.

With the end of the year coming up we do have some club business to take care of. Most importantly election of officers and chairs. In particular we will need a new Show Chair and a new Editor for the newsletter. Emelia has stepped in to help with Fossil Fest and will guide whoever is interested through the process. It is one of the most important positions we have but it is also one for which we can offer tons of help and advice. The Editor is responsible for the monthly newsletter and we always look forward to a new editor as they have the freedom to design and format as they like and can make it their own unique thing. In addition,

Next Meeting (ONLINE)

11/17 – 7 p.m.

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

Next Field Trip

Saturday, November 21 – 8:30 a.m.

Field trip to Moody, TX

See details online at our PSoA facebook group!

President's Note cont'd

anyone who wants to run for any of the other officer and chair positions is welcome. Just let me know sooner than later so we can get it into the next newsletter and be ready for the vote at the December meeting. That meeting will also be a virtual meeting and we will try our best to make it fun and festive.

So, enjoy the weather, and enjoy life,
Erich

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt

Programs Chair

Speaker: Paul Hammerschmidt

Topic: Fossil Hunting in the Creede Formation in Colorado

Speaker Bio: I have been collecting fossils since I was about 10. Most fossils of the Southern California coastal area where I grew up were typically marine, and generally less than 5 million years old. But since moving to Texas, my fossil hunting horizons broadened tremendously, especially since I joined the PSA

Synopsis: I have been collecting fossils from the Creede Formation in Colorado on and off for many years. Not only are the San Juan Mountains beautiful to visit, but their geological history was anything but beautiful. Twenty-eight million years ago, where the town of Creede now resides, the greatest supervolcano eruption ever on earth occurred.

My talk will review the most current information about the volcanic history of the area, and present a few fossils I have collected from the Creede Formation.

PSoA Virtual November Meeting Information

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

Time: **Nov 17, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84496338051>

Meeting ID: 844 9633 8051

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,84496338051# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 844 9633 8051

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/knb2A3oAR>

October Meeting Minutes

Emelia Rose

PSoA Secretary

- Monthly meetings continue to be held on Zoom, with a great turnout.
- We look forward to seeing you all on zoom!
- If you are interested in any officer positions, please email board@austinpaleo.org for more details, we will be voting on board members in December. Thank you.

Upcoming Field Trip

Melvin Noble

PSoA Field Trip Leader

November Field Trip Saturday 21st – 8:30 am

November field trip to Mother Neff site and others

November field trip will be to the Mother Neff site and a new one that Jamie will show us. This is close to Moody Texas, off I 35, between Temple and Waco.

We will meet at 8:30 am at gas station in Moody, Texas

Directions:

1. Take I-35 north to FM 107 north of temple, exit 314, Moody.
2. Exit west on to FM 107.
3. Then go west on Fm 107 a few miles to Moody. After you go over the RR tracks, turn left on main st (317) , you will see gas station on right. you can park at several places close by, please do not park so that people can not get to store or pumps to get gas. Hint: Moody is a small town.

Wear sturdy shoes as some of these cliffs are steep, but you can also collect at the bottom.

The time period is Cretaceous, Edwards formation is at top of the cliff, then a layer of Comanche Peak and then Walnut formations below.

The site Jamie is taking us to is Comanche Peak. There are lots of oysters, gastropods (sometimes crystalline), Scallops such as *Neithia*, *Pecten*, sometimes a nice *Lima*, Echinoids (usually heart urchins) & very rarely a small ammonite.

Bring water, snacks, food for lunch and plastic bags or boxes for collecting. Please wear a mask when near people or talking close to them. Driving time is usually about 1 hr 45 minutes, sometimes construction is bad.

My phone number is 512 468 8914 Melvin (freedomnoble@yahoo.com)

October Field Trip Report

Harker Heights

(Jamie Shelton)

The October Field Trip to Harker Heights started out a bit chilly! Waiting in the parking lot for everyone to gather had us all wondering if it was going to warm up to a perfect day (which it did, fortunately!) or be a day for gloves and hats! A great big group included: Rose Parmer, Lee Schnelle, Brian Bedrosian, Ron DiPronio, Ken Robinson, Nadia Dapp, Erik and Evan Encarnacion, Joe Watkins, Guadalupe Ozuna Gamez, Yoli and Will Lins, Larry and Sandy McBee, Gene Wu, Gary Vliet, Vaughn Nelson, Alan Keith, Lorne Ledger, Erich Rose, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Mike Zimmer, Leslie Riddel, and myself (Jamie Shelton).

The Walnut Formation exposure did not disappoint. It was starting to get a little grown over but there was still plenty of exposed limestone that yielded some great finds. Lots of Echinoids: *Phymosomas*, *Heterasters* and a few nice *Pliotoxasters*, and a lucky few finding some *Leptosalenia mexicanas*, including a lovely one found by Gary with touches of pyrite! Erich found a shark vertebra (too small for a decent photo, sadly) and the find of the day went to Larry McBee who found a lovely big *Engonoceras* ammonite.

We tried out another road cut further down the road, but it wasn't as productive as I had hoped. A few nice things were found (including ANOTHER *Leptosalenia mexicana* for Gary!). By that time, it was starting to warm up nicely and most people were fossiled out. We are lucky to have Harker Heights so close by!



Odds and Ends

Fossil amphibian hints at earliest evidence of 'slingshot' tongue

Albanerpetontids, originating possibly 250m years ago, snatched prey with ballistic tongue, say scientists.

Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/nov/05/fossilised-amphibian-hints-at-earliest-evidence-of-slingshot-tongue>

First winged reptiles were clumsy flyers, research suggests

Analysis of early Pterosaurs fossils shows they are likely to have been ungainly in flight.

Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/oct/28/first-winged-reptiles-were-clumsy-flyers-research-suggests>

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	Erich Rose	president@austinpaleo.org
Vice President	Lisa Izzi	vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
Treasurer	Mike Smith	treasurer@austinpaleo.org
Secretary	Emelia Rose	secretary@austinpaleo.org
Field Trips	Ed Elliott	fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
Programs	Paul Hammerschmidt	programchair@austinpaleo.org
Editor	Ron DiPronio	editor@austinpaleo.org
Webmaster	Gordon Galligher	webmaster@austinpaleo.org
Show Chair	Lisa Izzi	showchair@austinpaleo.org

Science Advisors:

Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	powen@mail.utexas.edu
James T. Sprinkle, PhD.	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