



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 15, Number 12

December 2020

President's Note

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Wow, could one year have ever felt so long? Of course many of us cannot wait for it to be finally over. And despite how serious things are right now with the pandemic there are vaccines on the horizon and a light at the end of the tunnel. All that will still take many months to play out but maybe by the second half of 2021 we will all be meeting again in person and there will be a Fossil Fest.

I hope you are all doing well and can join us either for the early field trip that we are sneaking in this month or at least poke your heads into the virtual meeting on the 15th. We will be doing a little business electing new officers and otherwise just catching up.

Wish I had more to offer but for now that is all.

Erich

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt
Programs Chair

No Program is scheduled for the December meeting.

Next Meeting (ONLINE)

12/15 – 7 p.m.
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, December 12 – 9:00 a.m.
Field trip to Wilson Clay Pit, near Brownwood, TX
See details online at our PSoA facebook group!

November Meeting Minutes

Emelia Rose
PSoA Secretary

- Paul gave a great talk, and we had great attendance in the meeting. Join us on Zoom monthly!
- In the business portion we have talked about open positions. Currently, both editor and vp/show chair are positions that need to be filled, please email President@AustinPaleo.org if you are interested in any current positions or ones that are vacant, we will be voting in December.

PSoA Virtual December Meeting Information

Topic: **Paleontological Society of Austin Meeting**

Time: **Dec 15, 2020 06:45 PM Central Time**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87583898555>

Meeting ID: 875 8389 8555

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,87583898555# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdSNFOH36Y>

Upcoming Field Trip

Erich Rose

PSoA Field Trip Leader

December Field Trip Saturday 12th – 9:00 am

December field trip to Wilson Quarry

So this year since we will not be able to get together for our annual holiday pot luck and white mammoth gift exchange* we are doing a rare December field trip. The site will be the Wilson Clay Pit just north of Brownwood, Texas. This is a Late Pennsylvanian Period site well known for ancient shark teeth and crinoids.

This will be a single site trip but it will easily keep you busy all day.
We are also pushing the meeting time back to 9AM to make for an easier drive up.

Directions from Austin:

Take 183 north all the way to Early, Texas (right next to Brownwood). The meeting site is at the Heartland Mall in Early at 9:00AM Saturday morning. Early (essentially part of Brownwood) is north of Austin on Highway 183 about 2 ½ hours from central Austin. As you approach Brownwood, 183 makes a left turn at a light. The mall will be about a mile ahead on your right. Look for a group of cars in the parking lot. Please be on time as we have about a 30 minute drive from there to get to the site. Note that cellphone reception up that way can be spotty so be on time.

We will be looking for upper Pennsylvanian marine fossils. Crinoid material abounds here, as well as brachiopods, bryozoans, sponges, clams, gastropods and the rare Paleozoic shark tooth. Trilobites have been found also but are very rare here. Most material will be small to hand size but there are larger blocks with nice things in them. And some in large boulders with things you might want to remove. Bring containers of various sizes, hammer and chisels, eye protection and something to wrap fragile things in. Bring bags for the larger items. Bring lots of water, sturdy footwear, food for lunch or snacks, and watch the weather for Brownwood for appropriate clothing. It can be colder there than here. It is a long way back to town and there are no facilities, so be prepared. Given the quantity and quality of fossils, it's always a good trip to Wilson Quarry.

* There will be a virtual meeting on Tuesday the 15th.

November Field Trip Report

Mother Neff site & Environs

(Melvin Noble)

On a fine fall day we met by the gas station in Moody Texas. Eric and Jessica Jones and their daughter Lilly, Rose, Yoli and William Lins, Robert and Diane Vlasik Fredrick and Melinda Faulk, Gary Vliet, Grady Parks, Allen Keith, Lori Magennus, Paul Hammerschmidt, Leslie Riddel, Brian and Max, Ron DiPronio, Nadia Dapp, Becky, Vaughn Nelson, John Hinte and co-trip leader Jamie Shelton. We all caravanned from Moody several miles to the first collecting site. I do apologize for stopping too soon at the wrong spot for the first time we stopped. It has been several years since I have been here, but we did arrive at the proper site and quickly spread out upon the hillside.

Lilly Jones found a beautiful *Goniopygus* echinoid in good shape. One of the nicer finds, kudos to Lilly. Leslie Ridell found a nice fully crystallized gastropod, a *Turitella*. Nadia found a *Heteraster* that was partially crystallized and Jamie found a nice ammonite *Oxytropidoceras*. Also Jamie said Paul found a very interesting smooth ammonite that did not look like an *egonoceras*? Everyone came away with something.

A couple came up that lived nearby and asked what we were collecting. I explained how this part of Texas was shallow ocean during the Cretaceous period and we were collecting fossils from that time period. Jamie showed them

her ammonite and they decided to collect also with their young son. Next new caravan of cars showed up that turned out to be a field trip from Baylor university. I chatted with the leader for awhile and Jamie suggested we collect a few minutes more and go to the other site.

Jamie led us to the other site past Gatesville several miles. The new site that Jamie took us to was real interesting. Two neat hills out in the beautiful Texas country side, Comanche peak formation. We quickly spread out and started to find fossils. I found a nice bivalve *Modiolus* clam right away of a species I don't believe I have collected before. Fredrick Faulk found a nice steinkern clam mold that had the muscle attachments with a lot of detail. Everyone had a good time and it was nice day to collect. Thank you Jamie for taking us to this site. Hope to see you all on the next trip

- Melvin Noble

Odds and Ends

How massive long-necked dinosaurs rose to rule the Jurassic herbivores

Volcanic activity may have altered plant life and ushered in rise of dinosaur giants.

Read more at <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/long-necked-dinosaurs-sauropod-jurassic-herbivores>

'Dueling dinosaurs' of Hell Creek find home in North Carolina museum

T rex and Triceratops horridus buried together 67m years ago

Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/nov/17/dueling-dinosaurs-hell-creek-north-carolina-museum>

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

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Erich Rose
Lisa Izzi
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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

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