



PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 4

APRIL 2021



President's Note

Hey everyone, hope you are all doing well and keeping busy. I know many of you are getting your vaccines and with that maybe we can all get back to some semblance of normal. In the mean-time we are continuing are monthly virtual meetings. And this month we are also having our very first online auction. Hopefully you have already received the email blast with instructions on how to both submit and bid on items. No barbecue and potluck picnic but it should still be fun and we need a way to raise funds for the year. I encourage everyone who can take part to do so.

(continued on page 2)

This Month's Talk

Fossil Collecting 101: Introduction to the hobby and science of amateur paleontology

Part 2 - MAKING A COLLECTION
Presented by **Erich Rose**

We will look at how to go about identifying the fossils you have collected as well as numbering and cataloging them. And then great ways to organize, store and display what you find.

Bring your questions and suggestions.

(continued on page 2)

APRIL 2021

PSoA Regular April Meeting
Tuesday April 20 - 7pm

Meeting will be held on Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81555662628?pwd=ZVdabFhhU2xEdHRjSDJCamJoa1h6UT09>

Meeting ID: 815 5566 2628
Passcode: 066328

PSoA April Field Trip
Saturday April 24 - 9am
Harker Heights
(see page 2)

PSoA Online Auction
Sunday April 25 - noon till 5pm
on Facebook (see page 2)

President's Note

(continued from page 1)

We have been lucky so far with our in-person field trips. This month will be Harker Heights for good collecting in the Lower Cretaceous Walnut Formation. The sites we visit are best known for good echinoids, aka sea urchins, but they can also produce some rare bits like shark teeth and even the extra rare belemnite.

This month's meeting we will also be a return to Fossil Collecting 101. I'll be talking about how we take the stuff we find and turn it into an actual collection.

Hope to see y'all on the 20th for the meeting and maybe again on the 24th in Harker Heights.

Erich Rose

PSoA President

This Month's Talk

(continued from page 1)

This Month's Speaker: **Erich Rose**

Erich has been collecting fossils since he was eight years old back in Ohio. Fifty-four years later he is still as fascinated by those remnants of ancient life as when he first turned over a rock and noticed the obvious outline of a coral in Dayton, Ohio of all places. Erich has been involved with various paleontological societies over the years as field guide editor, newsletter editor and currently as the president of the Paleontological Society of Austin. His favorite thing is telling new people about the wonders of the ancient earth and how they can enjoy them as well.

April 2021 Field Trip: Harker Heights Sites

Saturday April 25th 9am
Harker Heights - Walnut Formation

Meet in the HEB Parking lot on Indian Trail Drive off of 190 as you come into Harker Heights. The Site is easily accessible, facilities are within driving distance and a sack lunch is a good idea.

Lots of good finds here – gastropods, echinoids, the occasional ammonite. Some finds can be tiny, so small containers are a good idea. No digging required, but a screwdriver or some other implement is always useful.

Also, please wear masks when gathering initially, once we get to the site it is at your discretion, but we do ask that if you are interacting with another club member (to show off something you found or see what someone else has found) do please put that mask on! We want to make sure all our members are safe!

Minutes from March's Meetings

The March meeting was well attended.

Christopher Flis gave a great talk on fossils found in Baylor County.

FOSSIL FEST 2021 Show Committee Notes

Great news, we will be hosting the show this year!

During the show committee meeting we went over the floor plan, distancing scenarios, volunteer capabilities as well as projected revenue. We anticipate a majority of the vendors to attend and will continue to finalize plans during monthly show committee meetings.

If you would attend these meetings please reach out to Heather for future Zoom links. We look forward to seeing you at Fossil Fest!

Emelia Rose

PSoA Secretary



PSOA Online Auction

The PSoA Auction will be on Sunday April 25th from Noon till 5pm. It will be held on our Facebook Group page, so if you have not joined the group, please do so and we will "accept your request" to join asap!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/153405801141>

If you are not on Facebook, we have a plan! Heather and I will be your proxy bidders. If you see an item in the Preview Photo Album: www.flickr.com/photos/touchstonearts/albums/72157718970701806 that you are interested in, you can email me your maximum bid and we will bid on your behalf up to your maximum bid. It is the best solution we have at this time for those unable to join the Facebook Group. Please note that the Preview Photo Album will not be complete until April 18th as it will take me some time to process the incoming auction items.

We are still accepting auction items until Tuesday April 15th. Send images and info to fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
Thanks! Happy Bidding!

Jamie Shelton

Field Trip Co-Chair

March 2021 Field Trip Report: Brownwood Spillway Wilson Clay Pit

Bumps in the Road, Snakes in the Boulders

March in Texas can be tricky, weatherwise, but we had a beautiful day for fossil hunting for our March Field Trip! After a few “bumps in the road” (fortunately Gary and Cathy Rylander and Mike Zimmer had both been to the locale before and helped us get our bearings!) we made it to the Lake Brownwood spillway- a very dramatic series of cliffs and overhangs and washouts below the dam.

Gene Wu, Leslie Riddel, Alan Keith, Eric, Jack and Lily Jones, Yoli and Will Lins, Brian and Emerson Bedrosian, Ron DePronio, Rick Goldgar, Becki Smith, Don Denzin, Melvin Noble, and myself, Jamie Shelton followed the Rylanders and Mike Zimmer – we all spent a fair amount of time trying to figure out how to negotiate the steep drop offs, to get to the “good stuff”. This is an important site, being a Pennsylvanian “Lagerstätten” site (very well preserved fossils – including Archeocidarid Echinoids) which Dr Sprinkle has explored extensively and written up in scientific journals. And Dr Sprinkle did indeed show up a little later in the day! He had already been of great help by calling the Lake Authorities to secure permission for us to be there and he brought handouts for the Society.

So we got LOTS of info on both spots because Erich Rose also brought handouts! If you don’t learn something worthwhile on our field trips, well, it’s not for lack of info provided! One of the things I most appreciate about the PSoA is all the time and work that has gone on and the willingness to share this information. Thanks, y’all!

While the Spillway was dramatic and interesting and I’m glad I got to go, the hunting was a little more sparse than I expected. A few people found some REALLY great stuff – Brian and Don found hash plates with some Archeocidarid spines, and I think Alan did too (I know Alan found some nice hash plates with lots of Bryozoans and such because he kindly gave me one....because I found a grand total of ONE BRACHIOPOD.....hahahha!) Leslie found a gorgeous Neospirifer brachiopod that was entirely embedded in the limestone, but never underestimate a fossil hunter! Alan brought his drill and they managed to get it out for her! But



Exploring the spillway at Lake Brownwood Photo by Jamie Shelton

the find of the day from Brownwood spillway was a big *Petalodus* shark tooth found by Eric Jones (fig. 1).

So after a bit, some of us headed over the meet up with Erich Rose and Garry Vliet who had opted to go just out to Wilson’s Quarry. Melvin stayed at the Spillway with the others until they were done and eventually most everyone ended up at Wilson’s. Erich was on the hunt for his “dream” crinoid – a full crown. Which he did indeed find! Even if it is a tiny little thing, it’s a perfectly preserved full crown (fig. 2). A very lucky find indeed! I was super happy to find my first trilobite pydidium (fig. 3) at Wilson’s (and so did Lily) and a weird seed called a *Hexaloba finisensia* (fig. 4). Alan also found a partial crinoid crown and Gary Rylander found a nice partial *Petalodus* tooth. Oh, and I found a rattlesnake. Well, rather, I heard a rattlesnake and didn’t stick around to see it properly. I’m pretty sure it had found the best fossil of the day, but that’s okay.....he can keep it.

Jamie Shelton
Field Trip Co-Chair



fig 1: *Petalodus* Tooth crown found by Eric at Brownwood Spillway



fig 2: Erich Rose’s complete crinoid cup from Wilson Clay Pit



fig 3: Trilobite Pydidium found by Jamie Shelton at Wilson Clay Pit



fig 4: *Hexaloba finisensia* seed pod found by Jamie Shelton at Wilson



Odds and Ends

In The News

How the Dinosaur Killing Asteroid Spurred the Evolution of the Modern Rainforest

New Evidence from fossil plants shows today’s South American rainforests arose in the wake of Earth’s fifth mass extinction.¹

The Prehistoric Sharks Had Jaws Shaped Like Circular Saws and Saw Toothed Scissors

CT scans and visualization tools are now allowing scientists to recreate the weird cartilaginous structures of ancient predators.²

The One Who Causes Fear

Newly discovered species of dinosaur was a terrifying beast.³

Reaper of Death Tyrannosaurus discovered in Canada

The scar-faced dinosaur illuminates how T. rex and its relatives became top predators.⁴

A Prehistoric Flying Creature Nicknamed ‘Monkeydactyl’ May Have Climbed Trees Using Opposable Thumbs

The newly discovered Jurassic pterosaur may be the oldest animal known to possess opposable thumbs.⁵

2021 Field Trip Schedule

April:	Harker Heights - Walnut
May:	Canyon Lake - Glen Rose Johnson City Road Cut – Glen Rose
June:	Little Walnut Creek – Austin Chalk
July:	Bandera – Glen Rose
August:	Mammoth Museum Waco Pit - Del Rio
September:	Brady Road Cut - Pennsylvanian Santa Anna - Pennsylvanian
October:	Moody Road Cut - Comanche Peak Evant Road Cut – Comanche Peak
November:	Brownwood or Jacksboro - Pennsylvanian
December:	TBD

1. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-dinosaur-killing-asteroid-spurred-evolution-modern-rainforest-180977390/>
 2. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/new-technologies-reveal-strange-jaws-prehistoric-sharks-180977396/>
 3. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/03/31/dinosaur-discovery-new-species-the-one-who-causes-fear/4823612001/>
 4. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/new-reaper-of-death-tyrannosaurus-discovered-canada>
 5. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/monkeydactyl-may-have-climbed-using-opposable-thumbs-180977531/>

Paying Dues Online

You can now pay for memberships and renewals on line with a credit card!

The **Membership** tab on the website now has two buttons off to the right: **Membership Form** and **Membership Renewal**

Membership Renewal takes you to a simple form, where you just need to enter your name and phone and/or email.

Membership Renewal

We do not share your information with anyone. We need a phone number or email to make sure we update you uniquely in the database.

Name :

Phone :

Email :

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Hitting **Submit** takes you to a page where you can select the membership type you are paying for, or make a donation.

Pay your dues with a Credit Card or make a Donation.

- Family Membership
- Individual Membership
- Donate

Payment by Check

Mail your printed membership form with a check in the appropriate amount to:

Treasurer
Paleontological Society of Austin
PO Box 98792
Austin, TX 78749-0792

Selecting one of those takes you to a **Square** page where you can pay by credit card.

Paleontological Society of Austin

Family Membership
\$24.00

Email

+1 Phone number

Full name

Card number MMYY CVV ZIP

Save my information for a faster checkout

Add a note (optional)

Once you hit the pay button at **Square**, the following will happen:

- you will receive a receipt from Square
- The Treasurer gets an email from **Square** with the name, amount, phone and/or email of the payee
- the Treasurer gets an email with the data from the renewal form you filled out on the website

Hitting the Submit button on the Membership form results in a similar set of steps

Please reach out to treasurer@austinpaleo.org with any questions or issues you might have.

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 normally 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.

Please note, due to COVID 19, in person meetings have been temporarily paused, and monthly meetings are instead being held on Zoom. Please see instructions above to attend the meetings virtually. Please note all virtual meetings are recorded and the Society may elect to publish the video of these meetings, in part or in total, to the Society's website or another publically accessible venue as benefits the goals of the club listed above.

Membership Information

2021 Officers

Annual Dues:	\$18/individual \$24/family \$12/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter)	President	Erich Rose	president@austinpaleo.org
		Vice President	Heather Radford	vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
		Treasurer	Mike Smith	treasurer@austinpaleo.org
		Secretary	Emelia Rose	secretary@austinpaleo.org
Send payment to:	Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791	Field Trips	Melvin Noble & Jamie Shelton	fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
		Programs	Paul Hammerschmidt	programchair@austinpaleo.org
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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

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