

# PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 7

JULY 2021



## President's Note

Hey everyone!

Here we are half way through 2021 already. So far so good. We are looking forward to a great second half as well. Heather is off to the dino lands but when she returns we will be right back to Fossil Fest planning. Short of a massive late fall surge of the virus I think we are still on course for having a show this fall. And one of our biggest needs will be volunteers. Our current planning is all about making it safe, for the guests, the vendors and us. Sometime before the summer is out we will once again be asking for a head count of who will be available. No (continued on page 2)

## This Month's Talk

**Fossil talk of some sort**  
Presented by: Someone fantastic

Fingers crossed for a great talk!

(continued on page 2)

JULY 2021

**PSoA Regular July Meeting**  
Tuesday July 20th- 7pm

Meeting will be held on Zoom  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87915220576?pwd=STVMWGNxTGd2VGw5dC9WNk1ObGNXOT09>

Meeting ID: 879 1522 0576  
Passcode: 285828

**PSoA July Field Trip**  
Saturday July 24th  
8am in Bandera  
(see page 2)

**Show Committe Meeting**  
Monday July 26th - 7:00pm  
on Zoom (see page 2)

## President's Note

---

(continued from page 1)

rush and nothing is ever written in stone...Oh, I guess for us that isn't true...

Our field trip month is to Bandera. Last year that site produced some cool crinoids for a lucky handful. With all this rain maybe a bunch more will have washed out.

We have had some strange weather for summer. Lots of rain and cooler temps. That rain has certainly exposed some new stuff. Lets all get out there and grab it while we can. No doubt the second half of July and August are going to be hot as all get out.

So take care, stay safe and stay cool,

**Erich Rose**  
PSoA President

## Minutes from June's Meeting

---

The June meeting was well attended, we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

**Emelia Rose**  
PSoA Secretary

## Fossil Fest Update

---

The next Show Committe Meeting will be held on Monday July 26th at 7pm on Zoom. Please email Heather at [fossilfestchair@gmail.com](mailto:fossilfestchair@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

Here are the notes from the June Meeting:

**Vendors:** Vendors are still being finalized, we have a deadline so they will be confirmed this fall. Contracts have been sent out to those who have expressed interest

**T Shirts:** Shirts will be ordered after an order tally is taken from members. **If you are interested in t shirts, please go to page 5 for a link to the survey page to help us place the order!**

**Emelia Rose**  
PSoA Secretary

**Heather Radford**  
Show Chair



## This Month's Talk

---

(continued from page 1)

## July 2021 Field Trip: Bandera

---

**DATE: Saturday July 24th - 8am**  
Bandera - Glen Rose

July's field trip will be to Bandera, TX. We will meet at the post office in Pipe Creek. There is a field area to the side and it will be best to park there. Take highway 16 west and look for post office on right as you come into town. From Austin take I 35 to the 1604 loop in San Antonio and take a right. Go several miles till you get to highway 16 on right and follow that to Pipe Creek. Or from Borne take highway 46 southwest to highway 16 and take a right. Give it a minimum of one and a half hours drive from Austin.

Most specimens can be picked up by hand but if you have a flat screwdriver or rock hammer bring it and something to put specimens in. Hopefully some cool fossils will wash out due to the rains that we have had, Bring plenty of water and something to eat or snack on. A hat and sunscreen are recommended.

This area is the Cretaceous , lower Glen Rose formation. A large variety of fossils can be found in this area. Gastropods, Oysters, Bivalves, Forams, the round Porocystis algae fruits, crab claws on occasion and Heteraster Obliquatus heart urchins. Common urchins can be found such Coenholectypus and Leptosalenia ,but the real prize are 2 types of Crinoid , a oblong free floating Crinoid and the round, like a bottle cap Solanocrinites.

Look for Jamie's dark blue Scion with turquoise wheels or Melvin's blue Toyota truck. Even though many of us have been vaccinated, we ask to be respectable to others that may have any immunodeficiency disorder or may be susceptible to the virus. Please keep a mask with you to wear in close proximity of others. We ask that people please maintain social distancing procedures.

Hope to see you there.

**Melvin Noble**  
Field Trip Co-Chair

# June 2021 Field Trip Report: Walnut Creek

## Head in the ferns, feet in the creek!

It's a good thing we started early on Saturday June 19th for our monthly field trip because the humidity got the better of most of us pretty quickly! Central Texans are used to some humidity, but not like this! The wonderful rains have definitely exposed some good fossiling, but you have to really want them....

We met early so the weather was fairly pleasant. Not too hot... yet. Eric and Jack Jones, Alan Keith, Joseph Agudelo, Gene Wu, Yoli Lins, Preston and Cidd Hebert, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Joshua Leach, Heather Aziz, Vladimir, Medrano and Verde Skowronski, Joe Watkins, and the Oliver family all followed Melvin down the path to Little Walnut Creek.

There was a little water in the creek, and it actually felt really good to walk in the cool water. There were less gravel beds this time – most of it was scoured pretty clear, so we all trekked further up creek for our initial hunting. Lots of *Inoceramos* clams and *Exogyra* oysters were visible in the chalky matrix, and some people stopped to chisel and hammer them out, but most of us headed to the *Exogyra tigrina* beds. I was happy to find one with both valves this time! (fig.1) While there are lots of interesting oysters to be found in the Austin Chalk, the nautiloids and ammonites are always the big hit....mostly because of their rarity. Well, this hunt, the nautiloids were being found with some regularity! Gary was chipping away at one in matrix, Joshua and Alan were finding them left and right but Joe Watkins walked away with the best one. (fig. 3) He was the first upstream and found a nice big rockfall and extracted the best nautiloid of the day! A few ammonite chunks were found by Joshua, but no whole ones.

Cidd Hebert, a new field trip attendee, who impressed us with his knowledge of various Cretaceous information (that's one smart kiddo there) was finding some other interesting geological wonders – some really nice pyrite specimens! I hope he found a few fossils too!

Eric was the lucky fossil hunter of the day with his find of some associated *Pycnodont* fish teeth. He pulled the first one



Maidenhair fern over Glen Rose limestone. Photo by Jamie Shelton

out and we were all excited. He kept digging and found almost a dozen in total! *Pycnodont* are relatively rare so to find one tooth is cool, but a whole mess of them is extra special. (fig.2)

I personally didn't make it very long in the humidity. By 11:30 I was wiped out. I know when I have hit my limit when I start getting clumsy....and you do not want to be clumsy out fossil hunting! That can lead to major issues! So I headed back downstream. I knew a few others had already headed out so Joe and I walked back to the trail and then a little further downstream just to see what there was to see. Big wash outs, not much to see, except the beautiful ferns that grow all along the creek. But along one side, there was a giant mass of Mustang Grapevines with the grapes starting to ripen. It was a lovely spot. I talked to Cathy after and she said she had enjoyed just sitting next to the water enjoying the scenery. It is a lovely spot...plus some great fossils!

**Jamie Shelton**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig.1 *Exogyra tigrina*  
found by Jamie Shelton



Fig. 2 *Pycnodont* fish teeth  
found by Eric Jones



Fig. 3 Nautiloid  
found by Joe Watkins



## Tailings...

### In The News

#### Newly discovered giant rhino species was among largest mammals ever to walk Earth

A group of researchers found a new giant rhinoceros species from fossils dating back 26.5 million years in the Gansu Province of northwestern China.<sup>1</sup>

Sudiksha Kochi, USA Today, June 17th 2021

#### 23-Foot 'River Boss' Croc Fossil Found in Australia

Slender-nosed extinct reptile would have patrolled freshwater ecosystems between two and five million years ago.<sup>2</sup>

Alex Fox, Smithsonian Magazine, June 18th 2021

#### A 146,000-Year-Old Fossil Dubbed 'Dragon Man' Might Be One of Our Closest Relatives

A mysterious Middle Pleistocene skull from a Chinese well has inspired debate among paleoanthropologists.<sup>3</sup>

Brian Handwerk, Smithsonian Magazine, June 25th 2019

#### Dinosaurs Nested in the High Arctic

Tiny fossils of polar dinosaurs suggest that the reptiles stayed year-round<sup>4</sup>

Riley Black, Smithsonian Magazine, June 24th 2021

#### Other Mammals, Not Dinosaurs, Kept Our Ancestors Down

The asteroid impact that ended the Cretaceous gave our mammalian ancestors, the therians, an edge over their mammalian competitors.<sup>5</sup>

Riley Black, Smithsonian Magazine, July 13th 2021

### 2021 Field Trip Schedule

August:	<b>Mammoth Museum</b> <b>Waco Pit</b> - Del Rio
September:	<b>Brady Road Cut</b> - Pennsylvanian <b>Santa Anna</b> - Pennsylvanian
October:	<b>Moody Road Cut</b> - Comanche Peak <b>Evant Road Cut</b> – Comanche Peak
November:	<b>Brownwood or Jacksboro</b> - Pennsylvanian
December:	TBD

1. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2021/06/17/new-rhino-species-discovered-china-ranks-among-largest-mammals/5295576001/>

2. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/23-foot-river-boss-croc-fossil-found-australia-180978020/>

3. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/146000-year-old-fossil-dubbed-dragon-man-might-be-one-of-our-closest-relatives-180978062/>

4. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaurs-nested-high-arctic-180978050/>

5. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/other-mammals-not-dinosaurs-kept-our-ancestors-down-180978040/>

### Fossil Fest 2021 T-shirts!

Please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/uboeexbn2oaXMLei6> and respond to the questionnaire so that the show chair can finalize the number of Fossil Fest T-Shirts to order for members. Please note, the questionnaire does not appear to work from an iphone. The designs are shown below and shirts are being offered in Sport Grey, Heather Maroon, Heather Military Green, and Heather Galapagos Blue. Please complete this by July 30th so that we can proceed with finalizing quantities and ordering the Fossil Fest Shirts!

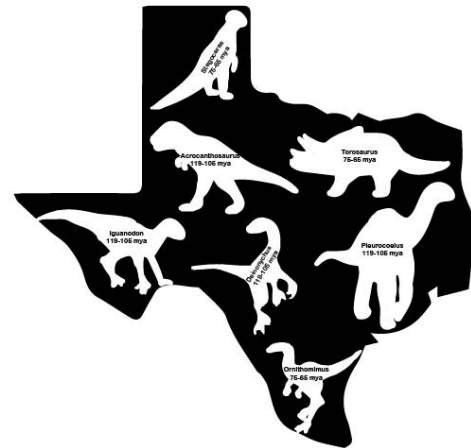
## Fossil Fest



## Austin, TX

This pattern on left breast pocket

## Texas Dinosaurs



## Paleontological Society of Austin

This pattern on back

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](http://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:	<b>\$18/individual</b> <b>\$24/family</b> <b>\$12/associate</b> (non-voting, receiving newsletter)	President	<b>Erich Rose</b>	<a href="mailto:president@austinpaleo.org">president@austinpaleo.org</a>
Pay on-line at:	<a href="https://www.austinpaleo.org/newMembership.html">https://www.austinpaleo.org/newMembership.html</a>	Vice President	<b>Heather Radford</b>	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@austinpaleo.org">vicepresident@austinpaleo.org</a>
Send payment to:	<b>Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin,</b> <b>P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791</b>	Treasurer	<b>Mike Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:treasurer@austinpaleo.org">treasurer@austinpaleo.org</a>
PSoA Web Site:	<a href="http://www.austinpaleo.org">www.austinpaleo.org</a>	Secretary	<b>Emelia Rose</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@austinpaleo.org">secretary@austinpaleo.org</a>
Webmaster:	<b>Gordon Galligher, <a href="mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org">webmaster@austinpaleo.org</a></b>	Field Trips	<b>Melvin Noble &amp; Jamie Shelton</b>	<a href="mailto:fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org">fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo">https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo</a>	Programs	<b>Paul Hammerschmidt</b>	<a href="mailto:programchair@austinpaleo.org">programchair@austinpaleo.org</a>
Twitter:	<b>@Austin_Paleo</b>	Editor	<b>Brian Bedrosian</b>	<a href="mailto:editor@austinpaleo.org">editor@austinpaleo.org</a>
		Webmaster	<b>Gordon Galligher</b>	<a href="mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org">webmaster@austinpaleo.org</a>
		Show Chair	<b>Heather Radford</b>	<a href="mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org">showchair@austinpaleo.org</a>
		Science Advisors:	<b>Pamela R. Owen, PhD.</b>	<a href="mailto:powen@mail.utexas.edu">powen@mail.utexas.edu</a>
			<b>James T. Sprinkle, PhD.</b>	<a href="mailto:echino@mail.utexas.edu">echino@mail.utexas.edu</a>

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**

