



PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2021



Editor's Note

Another year comes to a close

As I sit and think about the last year working on these newsletters I am reminded of running to take a picture of the bluffs along 360 for the February newsletter - trying to capture the snow before it melted. What a crazy year! I hope you have been enjoying the newsletters so far and welcome any input or comments you might have.

I wanted to reach out to everyone about a new section that has shown up in the Tailings section the last few months: Side Trips. This is a new section that

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Holiday Picnic

**Saturday December 11, 2021
11am - 2pm at Westcave Preserve**

Come join with other members for a picnic lunch. This will be a chance for all members to meet up and enjoy each other's company before this year ends.

Bring your own food and drink and anything you want to show off or share or maybe get a second opinion on what you found.

The event will be outdoors so dress appropriately. Note we will *not* be doing this potluck, nor will we be doing a gift exchange for health reasons.
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DECEMBER 2021

PSoA Holiday Picnic

Saturday December 11th 11am-2pm
Westcave Preserve
(see this page, continues on page 2)

Please note, we will not be having a regular meeting or field trip this month. Hope everyone has a chance to get out to a favorite site of their own - or cozy up next to a fire with a pile of fossils that have yet to be sorted. Cheers!



Editor's Note

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will highlight the fossil excursions of our members that fall outside of our group trips and allows everyone to share the adventures they have on their own.

Our fearless Field Trip Co-Chair Jamie Shelton has provided wonderful write-ups about our trip to the Permian Red Beds and her weekend and Fossil Mania - thanks Jamie! I've recently heard rumors that we may hear about the exploits of Ed and Melvin in the January issue - looking forward to that

I would like to extend an invitation to all members to submit stories of their own travels for publish in future issues. All I need is a short write up (and I can assist with this) as well as some photos of your trip (iPhone or Android photos are perfect - just make sure to send me the full resolution version). Fossil hunting trips are always welcome, but so are trips to museums, fossil/mineral shows, and other adventures that explore the world around us. You can reach me at editor@austinpaleo.org and I will do my best to include your stories in future issues.

Hope this message finds everyone safe and healthy and look forward to more great hunting in 2022.

Have a wonderful holiday and Happy New Year!

Brian Bedrosian

Newsletter Editor



Crinoid Calyx from Wilson's Clay Pit - Found by Ed Elliot

Holiday Picnic

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Westcave Preserve is located at 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd. Round Mountain, TX 78663

Although the address says Round Mountain the preserve is actually located just across the Pedernales River going west. It is approximately 45 minutes from central Austin. Here is a link to the preserve: <https://westcave.org>

If you have never visited the preserve I encourage you to book a tour either before the picnic at 10:30 or after at 1:30 or 3. They have changed to ticketing process from when I worked there but a visit to the grotto is a magical experience and well worth the cost or effort. There will be no fee for our visit to the picnic area and visitor center but if you want to also hike the trails you will need to book tickets.

Please RSVP to president@austinpaleo.org if you plan on attending. We will need a head count to make sure there are enough picnic tables as well as to give the preserve a heads up on their limited parking.

Erich Rose

PSOA President

Minutes from November's Meeting

We had an excellent speaker at our meeting this month. Hope you have a wonderful New Year! We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Emelia Rose

PSOA Secretary

November 2021 Field Trip Report: Wilson's Clay Pit

Moody skies, fossil shows, and surprise finds!

It turned out to be a great day with perfect temperature for collecting at Wilson's Clay Pit. Allen Keith, Kevin Keys, Paul Hammerschmidt, Ed Elliot, Gary Kendrick, Don Denzin, Brian and Emerson Bedrosian, Chris Moratz, Benjamin Moratz, Kyle, Alexandra, Darby, Oliver, Kevin Bills and me Melvin, all showed up to spend the day collecting.

Kevin Bills found a really nice *Peripristis* shark tooth in the Matrix early on (fig. 1). Later on he found his first complete *Petalodus* shark tooth. One of our new members, Gary Kendrick, found his first nice complete *Petalodus* shark tooth also (fig. 2). Great find. And Ed and I had already scoured over that area! Great collecting and good job, congratulations Gary. Leslie Riddel and Ed Elliot found some nice *Spirifer* sp. Jamie found a nice Crinoid Calyx (fig. 3) and Paul Hammerschmidt found a nice Crinoid cup. Jamie found a *Deltodus* tooth. She said she almost did not pick it up, did not think it looked like much of anything. She thought it was a piece of *Petalodus* and a piece is better than nothing. When she got it home on closer inspection she found out it was a *Deltodus* shark tooth. A real cool find and something different. Collecting tip for beginners: this conforms that when you are collecting, if you see something that does not look like much or you do not know what it is, pick it up anyway. When you get home or show it to some one you might have found something real nice or something you have never found. It has happened to many of us. I found what I'm pretty sure is a scraper although somewhat primitive and not the best example. Someone also found a nice big Crinoid cup and Brian and Emerson found several Trilobite pygidiums.

All in all it was a very successful collecting trip and we had a great time. the owner came by when we were leaving and talked a little to Gary Kendrick and then came up and talked to me and Ed for a little while. She was real nice and asked if we found anything.



Spirifer in situ - photo by Brian Bedrosian

Let's always leave the place clean and never abuse our privilege to collect at this wonderful place. We are blessed to have such a spot.

Melvin Nobel
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 1 *Peripristis* shark tooth
Found by Kevin Bills



Fig. 2 *Petalodus* shark tooth
Found by Gary Kendrick



Fig. 3 Crinoid Calyx
Found by Jamie Shelton



Tailings...

In The News

New Species of Ankylosaur Unearthed in Chile Had a Flat, Weapon-Like Tail

About 80 percent of the skeleton was found intact and the specimen may reveal an early evolutionary split in the species
 Elizabeth Gamillo, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), December 2nd 2021

Fossil Hotbed Uncovered in Missouri Confirms New Species of Duck-Billed Dinosaur

After years of excavating, the team found a tail, two arms and a skull belonging to a dino that would have been 35 feet long
 Elizabeth Gamillo, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), December 2nd 2021

New Research Suggests Human-Like Footprints in Crete Date to 6.05 Million Years Ago

The findings could upend scientists' understanding of human evolution—but the paper has proven controversial
 David Kindy, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), October 18th 2021

Female Spiders' Maternal Instincts Captured in 99-Million-Year-Old Amber

Four amber pieces are the earliest evidence of maternal care in spiders
 Elizabeth Gamillo, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 17th 2021



Petalodus shark tooth - found by Kevin Bills at Wilson's Clay Pit

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

Annual Dues: **\$18/individual**
\$24/family
\$12/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter)

Pay on-line at: <https://www.austinpaleo.org/newMembership.html>
 Send payment to: **Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin,**
P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791

PSoA Web Site: www.austinpaleo.org
 Webmaster: [Gordon Gallagher, webmaster@austinpaleo.org](mailto:Gordon.Gallagher@austinpaleo.org)
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo>
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