

# PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2022



## President's Note

**Yay for Fossil Fest! Yay for Heather!  
Yay for everyone who volunteered!**

After a two-year hiatus we put on a pretty decent comeback. We had a few less vendors and a few more activities and it all went pretty smoothly. Look for Heather's report to read about what a great job she did making it happen this year. I know I had a good time (despite Saturday's encounter with my hatchback) and look forward to us being back up and running.

We are finally seeing some fall weather. Days are still warm, but we are getting rain and cool nights. I'm looking  
(continued on page 2)

## This Month's Speaker

**Cretaceous floras in southern Laramidia**

Presenter: **Lisa Boucher**

This presentation will summarize Cretaceous macrofloras known from terrestrial environments west of the Western Interior Seaway. Plant fossils from New Mexico, Texas, as well as other locations provide snapshots of floral assemblages at a key time when flowering plants were becoming more diverse prior to the Cretaceous - Paleocene boundary event.

(continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 2022

**PSoA Hybrid Meeting**  
Tuesday November 15th - 7pm

AGMS Clubhouse 6719 Burnet Lane  
Remote on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89051955885?pwd=azF4Z3gvN1I4NUlmTldsTkpEYVhuQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 5195 5885  
Passcode: 460931

**PSoA November Field Trip**

Saturday November 19th  
Brownwood

(see page 2 for more details)



Reporting from Lake Texoma, see page 5!



## President's Note

(continued from page 1)

forward to the upcoming field trip to Wilson's Clay Pit. If you want to look for weird Pennsylvanian aged shark teeth or crinoid crowns this is the trip to go on. Hope to see many of you there.

See you all at the next meeting,

**Erich Rose**  
PSOA President

## This Month's Speaker

(continued from page 1)

Lisa Boucher is currently Director and Curator of the Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab at UT-Austin. She is a paleobotanist specializing in Cretaceous macrofloras and has collected fossils in several regions in the U.S. as well as conducting field research in Antarctica and Madagascar. Prior to her position at NPL, Lisa served as a Research Fellow and Lecturer with the College of Natural Sciences at UT-Austin and was an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a postdoc with the Smithsonian Institution. She earned a doctorate in plant biology from the Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in biology from Cornell University.

## November 2022 Field Trip Brownwood - Wilson's Quarry

We will meet on Market Place Blvd (parking lot of strip mall just past the Abundant Life Church) off of 279 at 8am, Saturday Nov 19th. Look for Melvin's blue Tacoma truck or Ed's white Dodge truck. This is a newer meeting place so please take note. Please be on time as we have about a 30 minute drive to get to the site and its out in the country.

This site is in the Harpersville Formation, Cisco group, Virgilian series ~ 297 million years (MYA) and we will be hunting for upper Pennsylvanian marine fossils. Crinoid material abounds here as well as brachiopods, bryozoans, bivalves, sponges, corals, gastropods and rare paleozoic shark teeth, such as *Petalodus*, *Orodus* or *Deltodus*. Trilobites have also been found here but are very rare. Most material will be small to hand size but there are larger boulders around the site with nice things in them you may want to hammer away at. Consider bringing containers of various sizes, bags for larger items, hammer and chisels, eye protection and something to wrap fragile things in. We are very much out in it, so 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.

Need more info contact, Melvin Noble [fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org)

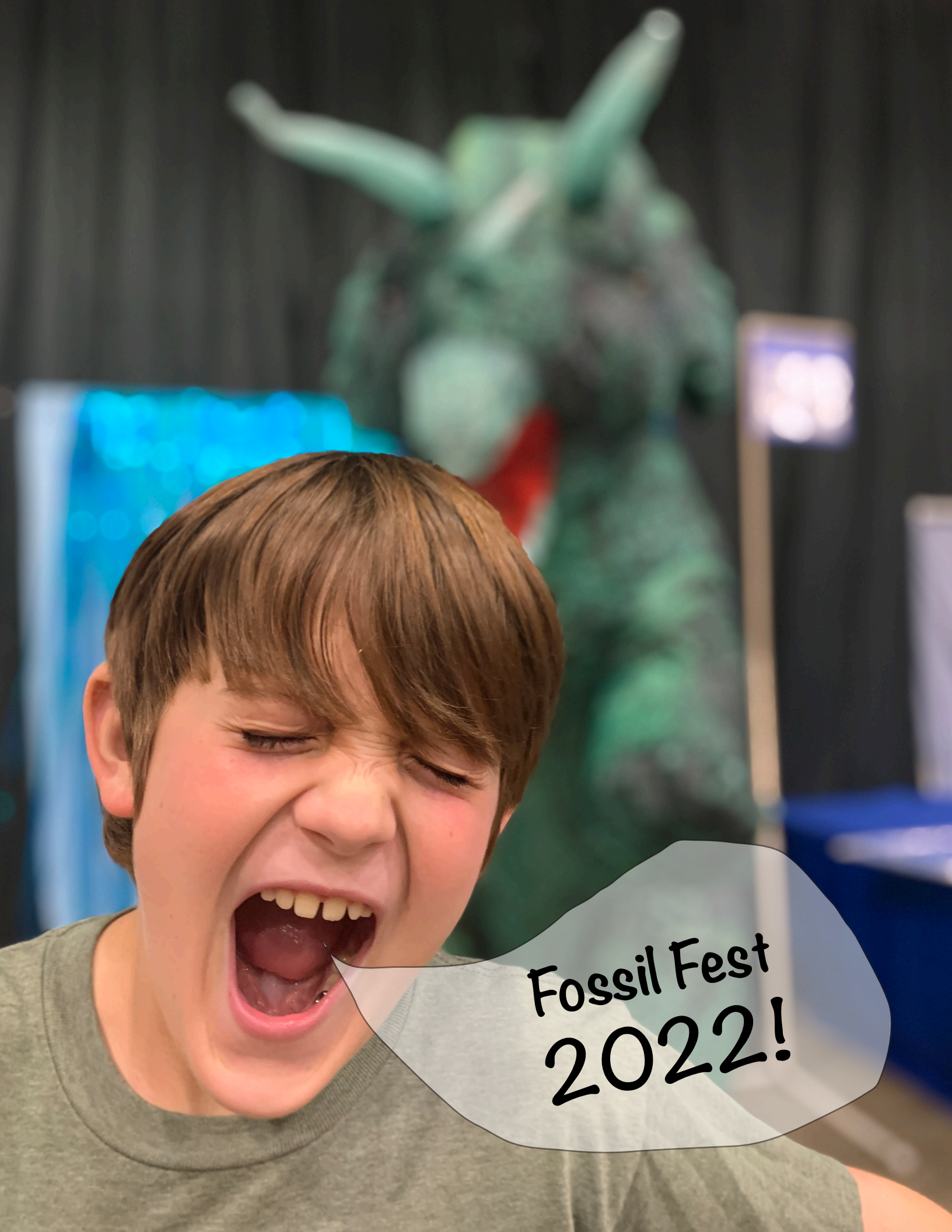
From Austin take 183 to Early Texas, right next to Brownwood. As you approach Brownwood, you leave 183 and make a left turn at a light onto 84/377. Go thru town on 84 to 279 then take a right and look for a church.

**Melvin Noble**  
Field Trip Co-Chair

Next trip: Wilson Clay Pit, see above!







Fossil Fest  
2022!



# Fossil Fest 2022 Wrap-up!

## Thank You!

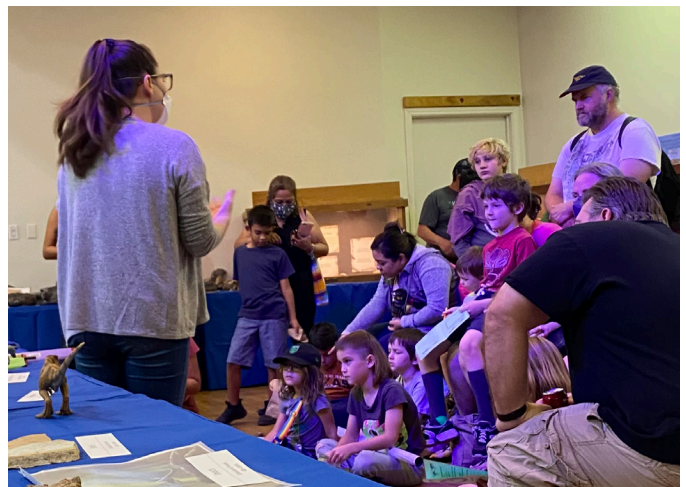
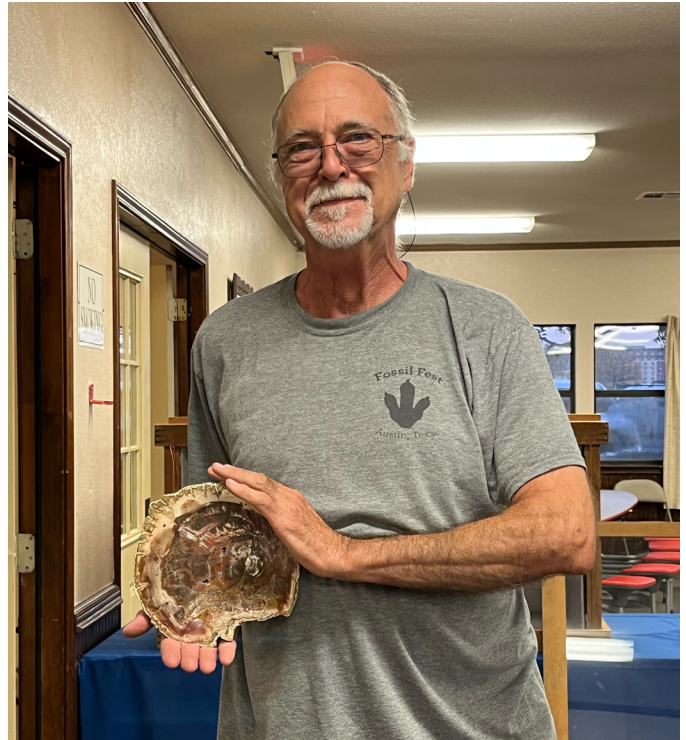
I would like to start by thanking each of our volunteers for the time that they devoted to ensuring that this year's Fossil Fest was a success. Your long hours and heavy lifting did not go unnoticed! Additionally, I would like to thank Paul Hammerschmidt and Sarah Davis for supplying multiple engaging and educational talks on Saturday and Sunday. Last but certainly not least I'd like to give a huge thank you to our vendors and nonprofits that were present at Fossil Fest.

We had a recorded total of 1,358 attendees this year, 131 more attendees than in 2018 and 148 more than in 2019!

Overall, attendees were vocal about their excitement that Fossil Fest was back after the COVID hiatus. We boosted our social media presence for Fossil Fest this year by posting on Instagram and Facebook and I believe that this helped to increase our attendance. Additionally, the turn out Saturday morning was large and can be partially (if not fully) attributed to the offering of free doughnuts which were generously donated by Voodoo doughnuts. PSoA's book sale table brought in significant added income. While the ping pong toss and dig pit were successful, the wheel still reigns supreme bringing in the largest amount of all three interactive tables.

We will talk further at the November meeting about what worked and what didn't at this year's event. For now, I would like to remind all our members of one thing: Fossil Fest is a large event, and we cannot be successful without club participation. The majority of our volunteers were at the event for 8+ hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I would deeply appreciate seeing an increase in the number of members volunteering at Fossil Fest next year.

**Heather Aziz**  
VP + Show Chair







## November Field Trip Report: Lake Texoma

I was a little depressed Saturday morning when we woke up because it was still raining and it had rained hard the day before (but that can be good for fossil collecting). It was still sprinkling pretty good when we all meet at Eisenhower State Park but being the hardcore fossil collecting troopers we are, we headed out to the first site.

Ed Elliott, Paul Hammerschmidt, John Hinti, Eric Jones, Jean Higgins, Leia Plaff and me, Melvin Noble drove to the Weno site but when we got there the lake seemed a little high and it was raining steady. When we got out of our vehicles it was just misting then the rain dissipated. It turned out to be a good day for there was plenty of beach for us to collect on. As we moseyed along, I spent some time showing and explaining about different fossils that could be found on the beach or gravel to the people new to Lake Texoma.

Fig. 1 *Neitheia wrighti* (Eric Jones) Top view above, bottom view inset below





It wasn't long before we were finding cidarid plates, cidarid urchin spines and the ever present *Peilinia Quadruplicata* oysters. A very common fossil but I still just love them and pick them up, so many shapes and colors. Eric Jones found a nice *Phyllacanthus Cidaris* echinoid chunk with eight plates on it (fig. 3). A specimen with that many intact plates is a rare find. As we wandered on down to the beach, Jean found a real nice ammonite that resembles a species of *Metoicoceras* cf (fig. 4). Soon we got into the area to find *Holasters* sp. and *Macrasters* sp. echinoids. Ed, myself, and several other members found some nice ones along with several ammonites. My pack was starting to get heavy when I realized I had done a Hayduke and was carrying petrified wood from the last trip I was on. Your backpack is not a good place to keep a past fossil collection. I continued on down the beach to get to the end where the wild *Trigonias* are, but I never found any, but Jean found two on the trip that were pretty nice. I noted that the *Rastellum Carinatum* (denture clams) on rock plates seemed to be all picked up except for some too heavy to carry, although there were the occasional piece of one. As we started back it started to mist a little bit, then it was full on raining as we came out bringing mud with us. Some of us went out to Hucks Catfish, a favorite haunt, that evening for a great meal.

When we met up the next day the sun came out and no sign of rain. We went to the marina to hike on the beach around other side. It's not long till we started finding *Holasters* sp. plus an occasional *Macraster* sp echinoid (fig. 2). I found a couple that were really beautiful. Paul went around the corner and found some sharks teeth, a crab claw and a really tiny ammonite (fig. 5). Eric Jones found a *Grodes* sp. gastropod but then Eric come up with something extremely rare: a *Neithea wrighti* bi-valve with both valves in the gravel, in great shape (fig.1). Very very rare. Ed said he's found some in the Georgetown area, but never with both valves and never as nice as what Eric found. I have never seen one. I'm so jealous. As a consolation prize, we all found several ammonites at this location.

The weather was quite pleasant, the blue sky was greatly appreciated, but as the evening wore on it was time for us to slowly head back. Eric left and went over to the other side of the marina to look for ammonites. He went down by the dam the next day and found a small *Scaphites* sp. ammonite. A good time was had by all and everybody found something nice. Texoma trips are always wonderful.

**Melvin Noble**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 5 micro ammonite (Paul Hammerschmidt)



Fig. 2 *Macraster* sp. (Eric Jones)



Fig. 3 *Phyllacanthus cidarid* (plates) (Eric Jones)



Fig. 4 *Metoicoceras* cf. (Jean Higgins)





## Tailings...

### In The News

**Just Like Us, Jurassic Mammals Cared for Their Young**  
Clues from bones reveal multituberculates looked after their offspring for lengthy periods during the Age of Dinosaurs  
Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), October 26th 2022

**Giant Ostrich-Like Dinosaurs Once Roamed North America**  
Rare finds in Mississippi paint a picture of these creatures' lost world  
Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), October 19th 2022

**Haul of Fossil Fish Pushes Back the Origin of Teeth and Jaws**  
The unexpected finds illustrate life during a critical and little-understood time period  
Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 28th 2022

**How a Giant Eagle Once Came to Dominate New Zealand**  
Before the formidable bird went extinct, scientists say it likely hunted the flightless moa  
Boyce Upholt, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 12th 2022

**What New Tech Is Revealing About Squishy, Prehistoric Cephalopods**  
Researchers have adopted innovative means, from cutting-edge scans to swimming robots, to reveal more about how the creatures lived  
Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), August 22nd 2022

**Tooth from mysterious human relative adds new wrinkles to their story**  
Discovered thousands of miles south of the only other known Denisovan fossils, the molar provides fresh evidence of the enigmatic humans' spread across ancient Asia  
Maya Wei-Haas and Michael Greshko, [National Geographic](#), May 17th 2022

### 2022 Field Trip Schedule

November: **Brownwood**  
December: **Christmas Party!**

**Important Note:** Please refrain from visiting sites the club is scheduled to access as part of a scheduled field trip. Doing so can clear a site of quality fossils and negatively impact the experience folks will have, especially new members, if the site suddenly feels "picked over". We do our best to carefully space out trips to allow them to recover, so please be respectful of the club and stay off these sites within 3 months of a planned trip.

### Paleo Posters

The paleo posters we had on display at fossil fest, along with many others, are available as pdfs on the [LINKS](#) page on our website. These might be useful resources for teachers. Or maybe you just need dinosaurs posters for your wall!

#### Geological Formations

Geological Mapping Tools to identify formations in Texas.

#### Prehistoric Sharks

Overview  
Megalodon  
Shark Teeth

#### Prehistoric Monster Reptiles

Overview  
Ichthyosaurs  
Plesiosaurs  
Mosasaurs

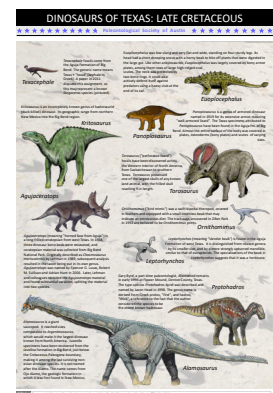
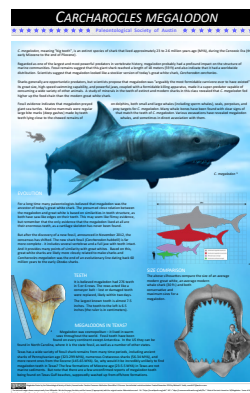
#### Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs Found in Texas - Lower Cretaceous  
Dinosaurs Found in Texas - Upper Cretaceous  
How our images of dinosaurs have changed over time. Retro vs. Modern

They are free to use and are available under Creative Commons licenses. Some are only available for non-profit uses, others are under CC BY-SA, the share-alike license. Both just require attribution.

I used Office Depot to print them poster-sized. I also had them mounted on foam core which brought the total to around \$50 each.

**Mike Smith**  
Treasurer





## Good Field Trip Etiquette

1. Arrive on time or early. At the prescribed meeting time (often 8AM) you should be out of your car standing with the field trip leader, signed in and ready to hear the day's schedule, directions and helpful pointers.
2. Do your homework. Use one of the online mapping programs to determine travel time and directions from your home the day before. Take the map with you and leave at least 15-30 minutes early. This is critical when we are going to quarries, private property or if the first stop is a meeting-point, not the collecting site. The field trip leader will not wait more than 15 minutes beyond the scheduled time.
3. Make sure you have the field trip leader's phone number. Their number will appear in the field trip notice. Bring a copy of the notice from the newsletter or e-mail blast so you have the information. That is the best way to find the group if you do get delayed or lost. But do not count on it. Some of our remote sites have poor cell reception. We have no way to guarantee you will get there if you miss the meeting spot.
4. The first stop is not breakfast. Please do not expect the rest of the group to wait while you order food or take care of business. If you need to do that, arrive 30 minutes early and then be ready to go at 8:00AM sharp!
5. The field trip leader sets the schedule. Gather near the leader at the beginning of every trip and listen carefully. The leader will describe where and when things will happen. That will include directions, plans for breaks and everything else you need to know about how the day will unfold. If you are not sure about directions or the schedule speak directly with the field trip leader. Do not count on hearsay.
6. Do not ask the entire group to stop for unscheduled breaks. If you need to take a break during the day, do it after you know where the collecting site is located. The field trip leader will usually schedule a break around lunch but not between every stop. Follow the group to the site and then circle back for food or facilities. This is why we suggest bringing your own food and beverages. Also being prepared with TP, or whatever else, for "emergencies".
7. Sign in and don't forget to report to the leader when you leave. This is not critical, but he or she will greatly appreciate those two things. Having everyone's name let's him know how well attended the trip was and we like to list everyone in the follow up reports. Secondly, getting a chance to hear and see what you found that day and being able to keep track of who is on site at the very end is just a good thing.
8. Be prepared. Make sure you have the materials you need to collect safely. In particular, water, hat, sunscreen and food.

9. Don't crowd the next guy. Please be courteous of your fellow collectors space. If someone says "Hey I found a good one!" don't come rushing over and crowd into their collecting zone. Let them offer to share the space. You can ask them where they found it and then move off to one side or the other, but don't just flop down next to them.

10. Be safe. If someone is working an area on a slope do your best not to pass above them. If you need to do so, please let them know you are passing and do your best not to send any debris down on top of them. If someone is working above you and you must pass below, please alert them for the same reasons. Generally speaking, if someone is working a spot respect that they "own" that area and your passage through or around that location should only be done with their permission and/or invitation.



### Editor's Note:

I would like to extend an invitation to all members to submit stories of their own travels for publish in future episodes of SIDE TRIPS. 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](mailto:editor@austinpaleo.org) and I will do my best to include your stories in future issues.

**Brian Bedrosian**  
Newsletter Editor

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 Societie'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](http://www.austinpaleo.org)

Webmaster: **Gordon Galligher, [webmaster@austinpaleo.org](mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org)**

Facebook: [@austinpaleo](https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo)

Twitter: [@Austin\\_Paleo](https://twitter.com/Austin_Paleo)

#### 2021 Officers

President	<b>Erich Rose</b>	<a href="mailto:president@austinpaleo.org">president@austinpaleo.org</a>
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Treasurer	<b>Mike Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:treasurer@austinpaleo.org">treasurer@austinpaleo.org</a>
Secretary	<b>Gary Vliet</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@austinpaleo.org">secretary@austinpaleo.org</a>
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