

PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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OCTOBER 2023



President's Note

Cool weather has finally arrived!

Time to get back on the outcrops....if it would only rain more.

We have a lot going on this month. Fossil Fest prep, a great speaker presentation and a classic field trip.

Heather will be having the annual fossil stuffing event prior to the meeting. Come early at 6:30 and help get the fossil give away bags ready for Gem Capers. It's a great chance to help out and talk with members.

Next up will be a presentation by David
(continued on page 2)

This Month's Talk

The Fossils of Terravista by David Lindberg - PSOA Member

About 15 years ago, the Terravista subdivision was under construction. There were vacant lots and spoil piles all over the site affording a chance to sample a wide range of marine Cretaceous fossils. A good variety of fossils were found on this site - but it was known for its sharks teeth, especially ptychodus. During my talk I will present a slide show of the different kinds of fossils found, along with a brief description of the site's geology.

October 2023

Regular October Meeting

Fossil Stuffing Party
Tuesday October 17th - 6:30pm
(Meeting to follow at 7pm)
AGMS Clubhouse 6719 Burnet Lane

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83243390292?pwd=cXlUTEI2dE1Sc1lUZXtdNSXc1VFpEUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 4339 0292
Passcode: 130102

October Field Trip (change of date)

Saturday October 28th - 8am
Brady + Santa Anna
(see page 2)

President's Note

(continued from page 1)

Lindbergh on what was a fabulous site many of us collected from years ago. The Terra Vista golfing community in Round Rock exposed the Eagle Ford Group and the bottom of the Atco Formation. As many of you know the Eagle Ford can be elusive. But as they cleared for new homes they exposed the formations and fossils galore. Rich in shark teeth and other vertebrate material. The exposures produced a great variety of material. In addition to the verts there was a wealth of inverts including great ammonites and other mollusks and ichnofossils. David's presentation will certainly be a great chance to see the wealth of fossils this spot produced.

Our field trip is scheduled to be Brady and Santa Anna. These are spots 2-1/2 to 3 hours north west of us in the Pennsylvanian and lowest most Permian. The brady site keeps producing interesting stuff while the best thing at Santa Anna is the possibility of nice trilobites.

One last thing will be the need for volunteers at Gem Capers. This the rock and gem show that AGMS puts on every year. It is always fun and a great opportunity for us to promote our show. In addition you will have a great chance to see the show for free!

See ya Tuesday!

Erich Rose

PSoA President



Float on to Lake Texoma on pages 4-6!

Fossil Fest 2023 Update

Volunteers are needed for Fossil Fest 2023 (November 3-5)!

You do not need any experience to work any of the tables. Please sign up to help out with our event. The event will not function without member participation! Please sign up [here](#)

Planning updates:

- Facebook event, Do512 event, and webpage have been updated with speaker and event details. We may have one additional speaker on both days at 10:00 am, but waiting on confirmation.
- AGMS has approved the use of their trailer for Fossil Fest. Paul Hammerschmidt will be towing the trailer. Additional volunteers are requested to meet at AGMS on Friday to help with this.
- A Facebook ad for Fossil Fest began running on October 2nd.
- Mike has ordered additional hats to sell at Fossil Fest.

October 2023 Field Trip

Brady and Santa Anna Sites

Our field trip will be to the road exposur north of Brady at 8am a week from Saturday. This location includes the Adams Branch limestone of the Canyon Group and beneath this are shale and mud stones mapped as the Strawn Group undivided. Both units offer pennsylvanian period fossils, including a variety of brachiopods, bivalves, bryozoans, coral, some gastropods, nautilods and lots of crinoid material. Wood fragments have also been found. We will then go to another site, Lower Permian site afterwards. On occasion trilobites have been found at this location and a nice brachiopod called Wellerla. 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, a hat, and food for lunch or snacks as we may not be near and stores or restaurants. Watch the weather in Brownwood for the appropriate clothing. It could be hot or cold this time of year. It is a long way back to town and there are no facilities, so be prepared. Hope to see you there. **Directions:** Take Hwy 71 west out of Austin and drive to Brady. From Brady, take Hwy 377 north and turn right (east) onto FM 765. After a short distance, you will cross CR 450 and see the collecting site. Hint: If you are driving on 377 and cross the Colorado River – you went too far. OR Take Hwy 183 north to Lometa. On the south side of Lometa take Hwy 190 to Richland Springs. From Richland Springs go north on Hwy 45 and turn left (west) onto FM 765. You will get to the collecting site just before you cross CR 450. **Please note the change of date - we have moved the trip to October 28th to allow folks to attend Gem Capers on the 21st.**

For more info contact me at: fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org

Melvin Noble

Field Trip Co-Chair

- PSoA stickers will be available to purchase at Fossil Fest (\$1 members/\$2.50 public).
- Kitchen items have been purchased.

I will be out of cell service range (in the Grand Canyon) on 10/26-10/31. If you have any questions or concerns about our event, please try to contact me before then.

Please arrive at the October meeting at 6:30 pm to stuff bags for handing out at AGMS Gem Capers.

Additionally, we still need volunteers to hand these out and man our table. You will have free access to the show if you volunteer! You can sign up [here](#)!

Heather Aziz

Vice President + Show Chair



Outreach:

Doral School - Buda, TX

I did a short paleo presentation and then touch table for 3 classes at the Doral School in Buda. There were 2 classes of 3rd graders (35 kids total) and one of middle schoolers (14 kids). It was fun. I left Moroccan shark teeth with the teachers to give out to the kids. Each included a label that had our website and Fossil Fest dates on the back.

Mike Smith

Treasurer

Outreach:

Texas Memorial Musuem Re-opening Texas Science and Natural History Museum

After a long wait, the Texas Memorial Museum is open once again and operating as the Texas Science and Natural History Museum on UT Austin Campus.

On Saturday September 23rd the museum reopened to a tremendous crowd of folks who came out to see the newly refurbished exterior and main level. The old dark lobby has been completely restored, the old curtains removed, and the geology exhibit moved to the School of Geosciences. The result is a stunning brightly lit gallery with new bespoke displays and an awesome new Trex skeleton to threaten the Pteranodon skeleton that still floats overhead. Paul Hammerschmidt, Erich Rose and Mike Smith were onsite to man our PSoA touch table and talk to museum goers both young and old.



An exciting new addition is the refurbishment of a gallery off the main lobby that had been used as an admin space for years. It houses a new exhibit that tells the story of Texas through a variety of time periods and definitely worth a visit. The other floors of the museum have been cleaned up and given a new shine as well - stay tuned as they are due for even better upgrades in the future.

The crowd was truly stunning and was a testament to how enthusiastic folks are about the natural wonders around us and how important an institution like this is in our community. Do plan to stop by on a day soon to check it out!

Brian Bedrosian

Editor



Field Trip Report: **Lake Texoma**

Fig. 1 ammonite chopped out of the matix (Gary Rylander)

On Friday Ed and I set out a little early to try to find some new collecting spots. Unfortunately the best looking spot was gated and now in the hands of a private club. In the other spots we found a few little items but sadly there was not enough material to take the club there. On Saturday morning Gary and Cathy Rylander, Frederick and Melinda Faulk, Will Jo, Bob McDonald, Kevin Bills, Ed Elliot, Jean Higgins and me, Melvin Noble, met at the entrance to Eisenhower State Park.

I noticed that there were Ammonites in the little rock wall by the ranger station, kinda cool. We carpoled from there to the Weno site at the lake. As we went down to the water some people went to the left and some to the right. The lake was low which made for nice walking. It was cool in the morning and most of the day there was a cool breeze from the water till about 3:00 in the evening when the temps started to climb. While collecting some people looked among the rocks and



Fig. 2 ammonite (Will Jo)



Fig. 3 *Metoicoceras* sp. Ammonite (Ed Elliot)

some people looked in the finer gravel that can produce small fossils. I found a beautiful echinoid spine (fig. 5) in the gravel as did Ed and several other people. There were lots of cidarid plates, *Peilinia Quadruplicata* Oysters, *Rastellum Carinatum* Denture clams and shark teeth also. Further down, Ed found a beautiful *Metoicoceras* sp. Ammonite that was nature cleaned and in great condition (fig. 3). I kept heading on down the lake to where Gary and Jean lookin. Gary headed back as I and Jean went to the end of the collecting area looking for Trigonias. We did not find any but I believe some were found by other people. I know that Ed, Gary, and Will found some *Macraster* sp. Echinoids, *Holasters* sp. Echinoids and Ammonites.

I made it back to the truck about 3:00 with just barely any water left. I did not have the heart to go back due to the heat but about that time Gary and Cathy came up. Gary found some bits of ammonite that still had the original shell (fig. 8), a rare find. Gary also found a beautiful crystalline gastropod (fig. 7). Cathy found three great fish vertebrae (fig. 4). Jean finally made it back then Ed not to far behind. It was so hot we decided to call it a day.

That evening a few of us went to Hucks catfish for a great meal. The next day we went to the other site. Gary chopped out some Ammonites that, once cleaned up, will be really nice (fig. 1). Ed found some *Holasters* that were in pristine condition, nature cleaned. Will found a pretty good size ammonite (fig. 2) while spending time learning how to find echinoids and other fossils from Ed. I found a few nice Ammonites but the prize went to Jean. She found what Ed thinks is a regular echinoid called *Tetragramma Dentonensis* (fig. 6). This fossil can be found in Bill Thompsons book, *Fossil Echinoids of Texas*. Ed said there's only two of those have been found by Ed himself so this makes possibly the third. Ed did not have time to exam it very well. Regular urchins are rarely found here by the lake. The trip turned out to be a nice one although it looks like some of it's been picked over we still found some nice fossils. I look forward to next year's trip because you never know what you're going to find at Lake Texoma.

Melvin Noble
Field Trip Co-chair



Fig. 4 fish vertebra (Cathy Rylander)



Fig. 5 echinoid spine (Melvin Noble)



Fig. 6 Tetragramma Dentonensis (Jean Higgins)



Fig. 7 gastropod (Gary Rylander)



Fig. 8 ammonite with original shell (Gary Rylander)



Side Trip: Pilot Knob

On the news from a friend of a friend, I went down to southeast Austin to look for some oysters. I found a location where there were good sized *Exogyra ponderosa*, and one ammonite. The site was a housing development, with level ground but no houses on it.

The site is near to the pilot knob volcano. During the cretaceous about 79 million years ago, the pilot knob volcano erupted and spewed volcanic rock. The *E. ponderosa* were found in sedimentary rock, but the close proximity to pilot knob seems to indicate some interaction.

David Lindberg
PSOA Member





Tailings...

In The News

This ‘Weird,’ Bird-Like Dinosaur Had Really Long Legs
Paleontologists discovered the 150-million-year-old creature in southeast China

Sarah Kuta, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 7th 2023

New ‘Giant’ Species of Long-Necked Dinosaur Discovered in Spain

The prehistoric creature, named *Garumbatitan morellensis*, may help paleontologists unravel the evolution of the plant-eating sauropods

Sarah Kuta, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), October 5th 2023

Researchers find fossils of rare mammal relatives from 180 million years ago in Utah

A group of researchers in Utah discovered rare fossils of herbivorous mammal relatives that lived in the area about 180 million years ago, according to the National Park Service.

Zoe Wells, [USA Today](#), October 11th 2023

Our Ancestors Ate a Paleo Diet, With Carbs

A modern hunter-gatherer group known as the Hadza has taught researchers surprising things about the highly variable menu consumed by humans past

Diana Kwon, [Knowable Magaziine](#), October 11th 2023

During the Age of Dinosaurs, Some Birds Sported Toothy Grins

The often overlooked animals thrived for millions of years

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), October 12th 2023

How Pterosaurs Might Inform the Next Generation of Flight

After paleontologists cracked the secrets of the ancient flying reptiles, researchers are thinking about how to harness their methods

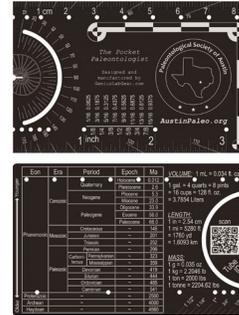
Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 19th 2023

2023 Field Trip Schedule

October	Brady + Santa Anna
November	Brownwood
December	White Mammoth and Pot Luck

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. Please note that dates and locations are subject to change - check the monthly newsletter or come to our monthly meetings for updates.

New Austin Paleo Gear!



The Pocket Paleontologist

Eric Jones, on behalf of the PSoA, produced this awesome laser etched card that includes handy scales and other information for use in the field. The size of a credit card, it fits neatly in you wallet so you always have it with you. Available for sale at our meetings or by contacting Mike Smith. Makes a great gift!

WhatsApp for PSoA Members

This would be handy for folks to have on their phones for Fossil Fest - or just an easy way for the board to communicate with you when email is not practical.

We are not setting this up for random interactions, like “anyone know what this fossil is”. The goal is to have something we can use to broadcast last minute field trip changes, emergency notifications (like “we are locked out of AGMS, meeting cancelled”), pleas for help at Fossil Fest, etc.

To start you need WhatsApp installed on your phone. If you don’t already know, WhatsApp is an app similar to normal texting and will show up as a text message on your mobile devices. If you want to get real-time information without having to check the app, then make sure to allow push notifications when you set it up. Then just scan the QR code and an Admin will approve your joining the group.



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 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 for more information.

Please note, our monthly meetings are currently held in a hybrid format, with in person gatherings at the AGMS Clubhouse which can also be attended virtually via Zoom. Please see information provided on page one of this newsletter each month. While we are not currently requiring masks at any in person gatherings, we ask that you maintain a safe distance from others when socializing. 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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo>

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

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