



# Paleo Footnotes

Volume 13, Number 4

April 2018

## President's Note

### Erich Rose

PSoA President

Spring time and the living is good. Hope you all are enjoying the great weather. I have been dying to get out and collect. Especially some of the sites that require that yearly washing over by hard rains. Unfortunately, things like a garden, home repairs, a job, just keep getting in the way. Well that's OK. One thing I know for sure there will always be fossils out there, as sure as there is an Earth below our feet.

So, one way we celebrate spring each year is holding our annual auction and potluck picnic. This year we moved it up a week to the Saturday before the third Tuesday. Mark your calendars now for Saturday April 14th, 12 noon to 3pm at Westcave Preserve. The club will provide the BBQ and you all bring the sides and/or a desert. Oh, and most importantly, bring a great fossil or two, or something fossil-related you think others would be willing to bid good money on and your check book, cash or plastic. We have two big fund raisers every year (what you thought your dues covered it all?) and this one is as important as Fossil Fest.

The following weekend we will be off to Oklahoma for two days of awesome Paleozoic collecting. The sites are numerous, the fossils are plentiful and we always have fun. See details in the newsletter.

See you at Westcave or maybe in Ada.

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## Next Meeting & Auction (see page 2 for info)

Saturday, April 14 – Noon  
Westcave Preserve  
24814 Hamilton Pool Road  
Round Mountain, Texas 78663

## Next Field Trip

Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22 – 8 a.m.  
Ada & environs, OK – Meet in Ada, Oklahoma  
See directions in Upcoming Field Trip Report section.

## Upcoming Field Trip

### Ed Elliott

PSoA Field Trip Chair

The Club's next field trip will be to Ada, OK for some Devonian, Silurian and Ordovician collecting. We'll meet on the East Central University Campus on the corner of E. Main St. and N. Francis Ave. near the petrified Callixylon tree at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 21. Park near Francis Ave. and East 12th St.

This is a two-day trip and we will visit numerous sites. Facilities will be scarce, so be prepared. Bring at least a gallon of water a day for each person, food, hats, long-sleeve shirts, sunblock, knee-pads, etc. Bug spray is also recommended for chiggers and ticks. Some of the locations will require a short hike. Depending on the site, you may need a hammer and chisel. Bring lots of containers, zipper bags, soda flats, newspaper, etc. and something to label your finds.

Ada is a college town with a number of motels and restaurants. We usually gather for a group dinner on Saturday night. More information will be provided at the auction, but call me at 512.657.7581 (during the evening) if you need more details.

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## March Meeting Minutes

### Gary Vliet

PSoA Secretary

Field trip: Oklahoma field trip is confirmed for April 21st and 22nd.

A vote to donate funds to the Ann Molineux Excellence Fund had been passed. A letter was sent to UT Austin on behalf of the Society ahead of her Memorial.

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# Field Trip Report

## Eocene hunting in East Texas, March 2018 (Ed Elliott)

With a slight chill in the air and the promise of a beautiful day, nine of us met on University Dr. in Nacogdoches. With me were Marilyn and Tom Bowers, Dave Hoppes, Andrew Dunham, Melvin Noble, Linda McCall, Kevin Bills and Gary Vliet. We caravanned to our first stop on the east side of San Augustine. This private quarry and all of our stops this time were Weches Formation, Clairborne Group, Eocene. This site is a shadow of what it was when we first were lucky enough to collect it, but still a great location. We were able to collect lots of sand dollars (*Protoscutella mississippiensis mississippiensis*) and as many "BBs" (*Fibularia texana*) as you could wish to pick up. Also found were bivalves, gastropods, bryozoans, colonial corals and shrimp claws (*Callianassa* sp). After an excellent morning collecting, we caravanned to a working quarry further east to hunt their spoils piles. This was also fun, though with fewer echinoids. Lots of pretty gastropods, some really nice *Flabellum* corals and several other corals both solitary and colonial, bivalves, *Belosaepia*, and many other nice things. While I was lucky enough to pick up a nice heart urchin (*Maretia arguta*), that has been done here quite a few times. Tom stole the show by finding a *Schizaster susana*, which was written up as a new species less than a decade ago. None of us had seen one. Kudos.

Sunday was as nice as Saturday and we again headed towards San Augustine. We had two roadside outcrops to hunt for sand dollars, and like everywhere else we hunt in East Texas, they have become very overgrown. We were very successful and had a good time despite the shrinking outcrop. Andrew and I both kept finding pieces of the echinoid *Eupatagus*. It certainly kept us looking at every square inch of outcrop. It was a wonderful trip and I can't wait to go back. We are losing outcrops to vegetation quickly and over the next year I will continue to look for new sites so that we can keep enjoying the beautiful Piney Woods trip. See you at the next one.

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## PSoA Annual Auction

Join us for the PSoA Annual Auction and Potluck Picnic on Sunday, April 14 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Westcave Preserve. The main dish and soft drinks will be provided, just bring your favorite picnic side dish or dessert.

Please consider donating a fossil or fossil-related item for the auction, as all proceeds go toward furthering our mission of education. In addition to fossils, books, maps, tools, hand-made cards and art have been popular items in the past – consider anything on which folks might competitively bid. Remember, this is one of our two money-raising events for the year, and it often makes up a substantial portion of the next year's budget. You'll need cash or check to pay for your goodies, so plan accordingly.

Come early or stay after the auction to take a guided tour of Westcave Preserve at 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. Tour rates are \$15 per adult, \$7 per child (4–17 years). Westcave Preserve is located on Hamilton Pool Road in western Travis County. From Austin, travel west on Highway 71 and turn left at Ranch Road 3238 (Hamilton Pool Road). Westcave Preserve is the first gate on your right after crossing the Pedernales River.

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## Show committee notes

### Emelia Rose

Show Chair & PSoA Vice President

The meeting will be on April 24th at 7:00PM at the AGMS clubhouse. If you are interested in being part of the show committee please email: [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org). Thanks!

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# Special Notices

Via Mike Smith:

Email from Lisa Boucher (Assistant Curator | Non-vertebrate Paleontology | Jackson School of Geosciences | The University of Texas at Austin) regarding the need for volunteers at the Non-vertebrate Lab once the build out of the NW Cage is complete - Update on PRC 33 construction

I am very pleased to share with you that the construction project for the Stenzel Room (NW cage) is currently scheduled to finish in May. We are excited for this new climate-controlled space! With its completion, we will need extra help as we move into the space and transition specimens into the new cabinets. As the time approaches, we will provide more details regarding dates and times. I have attached a couple of photos so those of you who have not been to PRC in a while can see the progress (images are the outside wall to main corridor/entrance, inside walls on northeast, and new heating/cooling units). We very much look forward to reconnecting with everyone, and reviving and expanding our volunteer group.



## FORT WORTH GEM & MINERAL CLUB Show - MAY 26-27

**FORT WORTH GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

67<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

**GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL,  
BEAD & JEWELRY  
SHOW & SALE**

MAY 26-27

SAT 10-6

SUN 10-5

Will Rogers Memorial Center  
301 W. Lancaster  
Fort Worth, TX

Fun and educational for the whole family!

**ADMISSION:**

Adults	\$5
Seniors, Students, Military	\$4
Children 10 & under	FREE

For more information:  
fwgmc.info@gmail.com

Rollin' Rock Club meets Sunday @ 9:00 am

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## Odds and Ends

Video- Volunteer paleontologists needed to help with rare dinosaur find: see <https://usat.ly/2FBxpvj>

Video & Article- Study proves Archaeopteryx could fly: see <https://usat.ly/2Gq9MpZ>

## 127-Million-Year-Old Baby Bird Fossil Offers Peek Into Ancient Avian Development



See <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/127-million-year-old-fossil-shows-how-prehistoric-baby-birds-developed-180968369/#sovF39iBM6ctMg5U.03>

## What's a "Missing Link"?

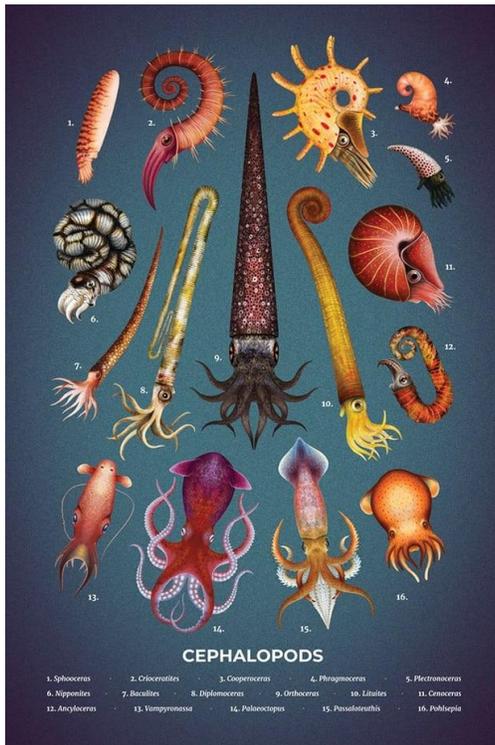
"To me, the idea of a 'missing link' implies a linear chain of one species evolving into another, evolving into another, and so on," says Smithsonian Human Origins Program anthropologist Briana Pobiner. That isn't the pattern we see. Instead, evolution "produces a tree-like branching pattern with multiple descendants of an ancestor species existing at the same time, and sometimes even alongside that ancestor species."

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/whats-missing-link-180968327/#5E2L7R6FlzbLsxOM.03>

## Artist resurrects obscure fossils in gorgeous living colour

Normally depicted as lunch for other animals, illustrator Franz Anthony brings a diverse range of fossil cephalopods to life.

See [https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/feb/28/artist-resurrects-obscure-fossils-in-gorgeous-living-colour-franzanthony?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/feb/28/artist-resurrects-obscure-fossils-in-gorgeous-living-colour-franzanthony?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)



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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 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.

Annual Dues: \$18/individual, \$24/family and \$12/associate (non-voting, receiving newsletter) Send to: Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin, P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791.

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