



# Paleo Footnotes

Volume 15, Number 4

April 2020

## President's Note

**Erich Rose**  
PSoA President

First let me wish all of our members the best of health. So far the virus has been evaded by most of my family and friends. But the odds are that someone closer to home will end up with this illness. Right now I am taking all the suggested precautions and for the most part hunkering down at home. This is something we must all take seriously at least until the world gets a better handle on the course it has yet to take and when we can return to some sort of normal.

The hardest thing these last few days has been knowing how some of my favorite collecting spots have finally had substantial rain and I can't get to them. As much as I want to disregard the stay-at-home orders I also know that our first responders and health care workers don't need any extra work. "Sorry officer, I didn't expect to need assistance after smacking my hand with that rock pick." Don't be dumb, stay at home.

So here I am sitting at my desk surrounded by specimens from the last few years that need sorting, high grading and cataloging. I'm definitely getting into it. Finding cool stuff I completely forgot about after dragging it home. I am also finding older stuff that needs revision since I originally "identified" and cataloged it. One cool item that has me stoked is

## Next Meeting

tbd – 7 p.m.  
Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building  
6719 Burnet Lane Austin, Texas

## Next Field Trip

tbd  
Texas  
See directions in Upcoming Field Trip Report section.

## President's Note (cont'd)

what I believe to be a specimen of the echinoid *Coenholectypus ovatus* from the lower part of the Walnut Formation. This species has been reported in the older Glen Rose Formation only up until now. My task now is to see if I can find more examples. Although the specimen in hand is fairly distinct I will need to find more examples from the Walnut Fm. to rule out it just being an odd *Coenholectypus planatus*, the common species. These are the fun projects that will get me thru this crazy time.

Well as you have probably already surmised all meetings and field trips are on hold until further notice. We hope to reschedule the auction and picnic. Maybe a late summer date. For now we will continue to move ahead toward a fall that includes Fossil Fest and all that it entails. But it is safe to say that "Oklahoma" will not happen as planned this month. I know this will be very disappointing to many, including myself. Luckily the fossils aren't going anywhere.

So now let's all stay safe and healthy and cross our fingers on how quickly this will pass. If we are lucky we may be back on schedule by May or June.

Take good care,

Erich

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## Upcoming Meeting Program

**Paul Hammerschmidt**  
Programs Chair

PSoA meeting is cancelled for April.

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## March Meeting Minutes

**Emelia Rose**  
PSoA Secretary

The March meeting was cancelled.

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# Upcoming Field Trip

**Ed Elliott**

PSoA Field Trip Chair

No Field Trip is planned for April.

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## Odds and Ends

### Smallest dinosaur found trapped in 100-million-year old amber

A new species of dinosaur is described for the first time from an exquisitely preserved (and incredibly small) skull.

Read more at <https://www.cnet.com/news/smallest-dinosaur-found-trapped-in-100-million-year-old-amber/>

### Scientists discover three new species of pterosaurs in the Sahara

Reptiles inhabited prehistoric Morocco 100m years ago

Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/mar/28/scientists-discover-three-new-species-of-pterosaurs-in-the-sahara/>

### Scientists digitally reconstruct skulls of dinosaurs in fossilised eggs

Research on *Massospondylus carinatus* embryos sheds new light on animals' development.

Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/09/scientists-digitally-reconstruct-skulls-of-dinosaurs-in-fossilised-eggs>

### New Feathered Carnivorous Dinosaur Found in New Mexico

Dineobellator was a formidable predator and boasts the battle scars to prove it.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dineobellator-dinosaur-new-mexico-18097451/>

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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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