



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 15, Number 8

August 2020

President's Note

Erich Rose

PSoA President

Hello everyone, hope you are all doing well and staying safe. These days that can mean a many different things, but for those of us who like to collect fossils this time of year it mostly means be prepared for triple digit temperatures. Go out early, try and stay in the shade and wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen. But most of all stay hydrated. Take plenty of water and if needed make use of sports drinks to keep minerals balanced.

I see we have an interesting speaker lined up this month. Matthew Harrell will be talking about Oreodonts and other ancient mammals.

I was sorry to miss the July field trip. I heard it was well attended. It has been many years since I last visited that site on Walnut Creek. My introduction to fossils in Texas was a crazy rich exposure of the Austin Chalk. I flew back to New York City with two grocery bags full of fossils and couldn't wait to get back for more. Every trip to visit my wife's family thereafter included hours of collecting. Little did I know then that I would end up moving here and making Austin my home as well. I look forward to this month's trip wherever it will be.

I want to encourage more members to join the PSA "members only" Facebook group. And I understand that if you are not a big fan of Facebook you might be loath to sign up, but we will be using the FB page to get information about meetings and field trips to the membership during this period of time before we get back to actual meetings and other group events. Things like last minute field trip changes will not always be relayed in email blasts as in the past. But we can and will post them on

Next Meeting (ONLINE)

8/18 – 7 p.m.

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Building
6719 Burnet Lane Austin, Texas

Next Field Trip

Saturday, August 22 – 8 a.m.

Field trip to Blanco Yett Park

See directions in Upcoming Field Trip Report section.

President's Note - cont'd

the Facebook page.

So I'll see some of you online on the 18th and hopefully the following Saturday for the field trip wherever that will be.

Stay cool and stay safe,

Erich Rose

Upcoming Meeting Program

Paul Hammerschmidt

Programs Chair

'Oreodonts & the Oligocene of North America' -
Matthew Harrell

Speaker Bio: Matthew Harrell is a second generation Texas fossil hunter and curator of the Texas Through Time fossil museum in Hillsboro, TX. Matt pursued a B.S. in Geology at South Dakota School of Mines. He mainly focuses his collecting on Albian invertebrates of Texas and Tertiary mammals of North America, but also works in the Aguja formation and Permian Red Beds.

Synopsis: Presentation on oreodonts and other mammal faunas of the Brule formation during the Oligocene in North America.

July Meeting Minutes

Emelia Rose

PSoA Secretary

- Monthly meetings continue to be held on Zoom. This past month Sinjini Sinha presented on Taphonomy of the Early Jurassic Strawberry Bank Lagerstätte. Sinjini's presentation was very informative and the Zoom meeting had excellent attendance.
- Club funds continue to be the same. We look forward to seeing you all on Zoom!

PSoA Virtual August Meeting Information

Topic: **Paleontological Society of Austin August Meeting**

Time: **Aug 18, 2020 06:45 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

Hey everyone, I have scheduled a zoom meeting. See below. I will post that to the PSA Members only Facebook Page this coming Tuesday, one week before the meeting.

Meeting and presentation at 7pm and business meeting at 8pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81782202161>

Meeting ID: 817 8220 2161

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,81782202161# US (Houston).

Upcoming Field Trip

Jamie Shelton

PSoA Field Trip Leader

August 22, 2020 – 8:00 am

Field trip to Blanco Yett Park, Blanco, TX

Directions:

We will meet at the Blanco Yett Park which has plenty of parking and a long cut of Upper Glen Rose Formation. It is right on 281 on the South West side of town. The entry is not very obvious, but look for two rock pillars with an iron archway that says Yett Memorial Park. Drive toward the back left (the road kind of winds around) and you will see the long cut where we will be. There are a couple of service stations nearby for facilities.

Please do wear your masks! Otherwise, this is easy collecting. The cut is long but not high and easy access.

Blanco State Park is open for afterward if you want to go jump in the river! I am also waiting to hear back about some Dino Prints that are apparently in the Blanco River near there. Hopefully will have more on that by the day of the field trip.

July Field Trip Report

Little Walnut Creek – Austin Chalk (Jamie Shelton)

July in Texas is usually hot, as we all know quite well! So what better way to stay, at least a little bit, cool than fossil hunting in Little Walnut Creek! It was pleasant for at least a couple of hours! We met at 8am to beat the heat and had a great turn out! Melvin Noble had scouted out the creek the week before to make sure it was safe and accessible (do bear in mind, this is not a great place to go on your own, solo....lots of homeless camps nearby. In a large group it was just fine, we didn't see anyone). Members Kathleen Howard, Loudes and Ken Hassoa, Bob and Diane Vassik, Loren Ledger, Ron DiPronio, Melinda and Frederick Fulk, Rose Farmer, Joe Watkins, Leslie Ridell, Gary and Kathy Rylander, Fhi Bhuian, Ed Elliot Melvin and me all got a good look at some great fossils that Ed Elliot brought to show us what to expect to find.

We all trekked into the creek to hunt down some classic Austin Chalk formation fossils. Ed gave us good directions on where to look for specific species of *Exogyra* oysters. In addition to the *Exogyras*, lots of other great things were found! The Fulks found a lovely nautiloid, Leslie found a nice little baculite and I happily found an unidentified coral and a section of ammonite. I was also excited to collect some of the *Exogyra tigrinas*, a new species for me to find! All in all, it turned out to be good, if warm, hunting in Little Walnut Creek!



Bivalve *Exogyra tigrena C*



Coral Austin Chalk



exogyra ponderosa (partially cleaned)



Nautiloid



baculite



Odds and Ends

How Dinosaurs Raised Their Young

New research into eggshells and nesting sites help paleontologists unravel the family lives of the Mesozoic.

Read more at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaurs-parents-new-egg-discovery-180975361/>

'Jurassic Park' got almost everything wrong about this iconic dinosaur

New fossil discoveries and the most detailed analysis yet of Dilophosaurus have produced the first clear picture of what the crested dinosaur really looked like.

Read more at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/07/jurassic-park-got-almost-everything-wrong-about-iconic-dinosaur-dilophosaurus/>

Meet the pint-size ancient ancestor of dinosaurs

A pint-size predator to bugs may provide scientists clues about the ancient ancestors of dinosaurs and pterosaurs.

Read more at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/07/07/kongonaphon-kely-ancient-dinosaur-ancestor-tiny-had-fuzzy-skin/5389075002/>

Dinosaurs Laid Blue Eggs—And That's a Big Deal

A fossil nest found in China shows that colored eggshells were not just for the birds.

Read more at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/09/dinosaurs-eggs-blue-fossils-china-paleontology-science/>

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 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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