



Paleo Footnotes

Volume 16, Number 1

January 2021

President's Note

Erich Rose

PSoA President

Welcome to the new year! Gotta be better, right?

Erich

Upcoming Meeting Program

Linda McCall has been a fossil fanatic from birth - well, maybe not quite that long, but she was lugging fossils home by age 6 and hasn't ever stopped. Loving nothing better than being in the field collecting, Linda has been a member of the Paleontological Society of Austin since the late 1970s and served as VP & Show Chair for 4 years. Linda and club advisors Dr. Jim Sprinkle and the late Dr. Ann Molinoux have published 5 peer reviewed papers together, 4 of which she was lead author on. A member of many fossil clubs and societies across the US, Linda is a fierce advocate for collaboration between professional and non-professional paleontologists and works hard to be a strong bridge between the two communities. Now living in North Carolina, she has a huge personal collection she loves to give tours of and has donated tens of thousands of specimens to various institutions over the years. Linda is currently the Avocational Liaison to the paleontological Society and the 2020 Paleontological Society Strimple Award winner, the highest award a non-professional paleontologist can receive and the first woman to win the award since it's founding almost 40 years ago. Her talk tonight is on the Pilot Knob paper she, Jim and Ann published in 2012, and is based on specimens she and club past president Don O'Neill collected back in the mid-1990s.

Linda McCall

<https://www.myfossil.org/amateur-spotlight-linda-mccall/>

January Presentation, the Fossils of Pilot Knob

By Linda McCall

December Meeting Minutes

Emelia Rose

PSoA Secretary

- Paul gave a great talk, and we had great attendance in the meeting. Join us on Zoom monthly!
- In the business portion we have talked about open positions. Currently, both editor and vp/show chair are positions that need to be filled, please email President@AustinPaleo.org if you are interested in any current positions or ones that are vacant, we will be voting in December.

PSoA Virtual January Meeting Information

Topic: Paleontological Society of Austin Meeting

Time: Jan 19, 2021 06:45 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81547491527?pwd=ODdjRlg3NEhmOVBKUp4Wi9GMmJMQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 4749 1527

Passcode: 027106

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,81547491527#,,,,*027106# US (Houston)

ID: 815 4749 1527

Passcode: 027106

Upcoming Field Trip

Melvin Noble - PsoA Feild Trip Chair

January 23 2021

Whiskey Bridge near Bryan TX. Middle Eocene - Stone City Bluffs

Directions:

Meet at the Bridge at 9am.

Whiskey Bridge is an extremely productive collecting spot with beautifully preserved mollusc shells, bryozoans, corals and many other things. They are fragile, so small containers with tissue or cotton packing is suggested. Small hand tools, screwdriver or pick is good for extracting...rock hammers are not really necessary but always a good idea to have on hand. Tweezers and a magnifying glass are a good idea too! Please note, the cliffs can be steep and sometimes muddy, so proper footwear is important! Also, poison ivy is found along the upper banks, so beware.

There are a couple of gas stations on the Bryan side of the river and both Caldwell and Bryan are about 15 minutes away, so facilities are close. Bring a lunch, bring water and enjoy a full day of hunting!

Whiskey Bridge is an old train bridge crossing the Brazos River at Texas State Highway 21. From Austin, take either US-290 or TX-71 east and turn left onto TX-21 heading north toward Caldwell. Eleven miles past Caldwell, just after FM-50 on the right and County Rd-221 on the left, you will see the rusty railroad bridge. SLOW DOWN and prepare to turn left across the highway and onto a small pull-off along the left side of the road just before the bridge. If you miss the turn, cross the bridge, make a U-turn, and come back to the pull off. DO NOT PARK near the railroad equipment, but instead park along the small road/grass above the river. We will be collecting along the west bank of the river just below the parking area, so if you get there late just walk down to the river and you will find us

SPECIAL REMINDER

We ask that people please maintain social distancing procedures and please respect others and wear a mask if getting close to others.

My phone number is 512 468 8914 Melvin

freedomnoble@yahoo.com

December Field Trip Report

Wilson Clap Pit

This has been such a weird year- we figured we'd just keep with the shake up and have a December field trip. Not something the Society usually does, but we figured since we weren't going to be able to gather for our annual White Mastodon Gift Exchange this year....let's do some more fossil hunting instead!

We decided to switch the date to the second Saturday (since the third was too close to the Holidays) and because of that, figured we'd probably have a smaller crowd for our trek out to Wilson's Pit near Brownwood. Turned out here were quite a few who were up for the hunt! Gene Wu, Mike Zimmer, Melinda and Frederick Falk, Alan Keith, Gary

and Cathy Rylander, Jessica, Eric and Jack Jones, Yoli and Will Lins and even an Ed Elliot sighting! And of course, Melvin Noble and me, Jamie Shelton.

It was a cold start to the day – we’d been watching the weather all week, wondering if the fickle Texas winter weather would hold for us (it having been in the 90s a couple of days just before) and although a cold front blew through, it was actually a very comfortable day (as it warmed up a bit). Standing around in the parking lot waiting was the coldest part! We all caravanned to the site without incident, got situated and then spread out to our selected hunting sites. That place is so big, I didn’t even see some of the other Society members for the rest of the trip! Fortunately, Melvin managed to get pics of some of the good finds which I never even saw....I guess I was too busy hunting...

Wilson’s Pit is one of the most amazing places to collect Pennsylvanian era fossils. They tend to be big, colorful and plentiful. But I have also learned, the closer you look, the more you find. My first time out there I was entranced by the variety of huge crinoid segments. This time, I looked closer and found Crinoid Calyx and arm segments, Echinoid plates and other amazing things. Frederick Falk found a really nice little Trilobite Pydigium (which when Melvin sent me the picture, autocorrect changed Pydigium to Pudgy Idiom which I think is what I shall call them from now on....). Gene Wu found a couple of excellent shark teeth – a partial petalodus and a peripristis. Ed Elliot collected some Brachiopod Spirifers in great condition. Melvin found a couple of nice little crinoid Calyxes. I’m sure everyone came away with some good stuff! Wilson’s never disappoints! We’ll head out there again probably in the Springtime, so those of you who didn’t get to go on this “atypical” December Field Trip can hunt it too!

--Jamie Shelton

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.

Currently all meetings are being held via Zoom at the usual time and day

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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|----------------|------------------------------|--|
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The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

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PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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