

# PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 6

JUNE 2021



## President's Note

Well it's almost summer. Monsoon's are keeping us waiting but don't worry it will be really summer soon enough.

All this crazy rain and storms has been good for exposing more fossils but we just need a few dry breaks between to get out. Soon enough.

Not much to report or say as far as the club goes. Things are rolling right along.

The Fossil Fest committee is getting organized and also much more optimistic about this coming fall.

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## This Month's Talk

### **Paleovirology**

Presented by: David Lindberg

The presentation is about paleovirology, the study of ancient viruses. An introduction to viruses will begin this talk, pointing out the way viruses reproduce inside cells. Most of the talk will focus on retroviruses, about how they dominate what we know in paleovirology. The talk will cover what and how we can detect about old viruses, including some hints about how viruses shaped evolution.

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JUNE 2021

### **PSoA Regular June Meeting**

Tuesday June 15 - 7pm

Meeting will be held on Zoom

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81060424253?pwd=WERidW9jaVVnVG14L1h0Ym1GUVUvdz09>

Meeting ID: 810 6042 4253

Passcode: 071011

### **PSoA June Field Trip**

Saturday June 19th

8am in Walnut Creek

(see page 2)

### **Show Committe Meeting**

Tuesday June 22nd - 7:30pm

on Zoom (see page 2)

## President's Note

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In two weeks (after Memorial Day) we will see if the pandemic is truly on the decline. I'm more optimistic than ever.

Take care, stay safe!

**Erich Rose**  
PSoA President

## Minutes from May's Meeting

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The June meeting was well attended, we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

**Emelia Rose**  
PSoA Secretary

## Fossil Fest Update

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The next Show Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 22nd at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

Please email Heather at [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org) for the Zoom link. Here are the notes from the May Meeting:

**Vendors:** vendors are being finalized and social distancing is put in place with the floor plan being finalized.

**Activities:** there will not be a dig pit this year, but there may be an additional spinning wheel. There will still be the Paleo Passport based on the TEKS for pre-k through high school.

**Fossils Talk:** this educational aspect is still in the finalization processes. Online pre-recorded talks for different age groups may be available instead of talks throughout the day to help with social distancing.

**Social Distance Policy:** we have plans on how to host a safe show. Final details on what will be enforced and/or recommended will be finalized closer to the date and based off state and local recommendation.

**Concessions:** this year we will not be having concessions. However water for vendors and volunteers will be provided in the kitchen as usual.

**T-Shirts:** the t-shirt design has been created for the theme of dinosaurs. Stay tuned for updates in meetings and the newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

**Emelia Rose**  
PSoA Secretary

## This Month's Talk

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(continued from page 1)

This month's speaker: **David Lindberg**

David Lindberg has been a member of PSoA for over a decade. He received a degree in physics from UT Austin in 1988. He currently works at NXP semiconductor as a performance verification engineer on automotive chips, although he plans to retire later this year. In addition to his interest in paleontology, David is also fascinated with viruses, which led him to the topic of paleovirology.

## June 2021 Field Trip: Little Walnut Creek

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**DATE: Saturday June 19th - 8am**  
Little Walnut Creek - Austin Chalk

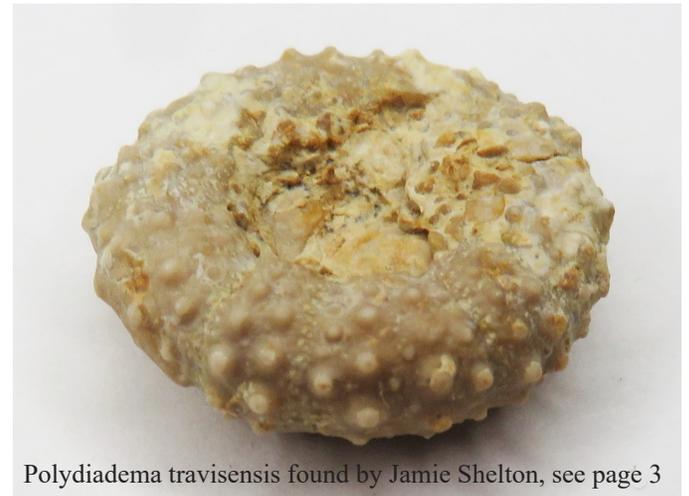
June's field trip will be in Austin Texas at Little Walnut creek. To avoid the heat and since it is in town plus close we will meet at 8am. Bring lots of water. Watch out for poison ivy as you go in but there is a clear path and it can be avoided.

This is mostly an oyster site but Ammonites have been found and some types of other fossils. Exogyra Tigrina oysters are abundant and they have some nice striped coloration's on them. A rock hammer and/or chisel is recommended, but the matrix is very soft and sometimes fossils pop off the surface.

Directions: From I 35 take 290 or frontage road toward Manor. If you are on 290 get off on frontage road ASAP and go east till you cross little walnut creek and immediately turn right on Geneva Dr. We will meet at the corner of the 290 frontage rd and Geneva Dr.

Look for Jamie's dark blue Scion with turquoise wheels or Melvin's blue Toyota truck. Even though many of us have been vaccinated, we ask to be respectful to others that may have any immunodeficiency disorder or may be susceptible to the virus. Please keep a mask with you to wear around others. We ask that people please maintain social distancing procedures and please respect others by wearing a mask if getting close to others. Although it's outdoors, this is an area where people are a little closer in proximity to one another.

**Melvin Noble**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



Polydiadema travisensis found by Jamie Shelton, see page 3

# May 2021 Field Trip Report: Canyon Lake Area

## The Rain in Texas- Bless its Heart.

We need it. Yes we do, but maybe not all at one time? Our “normal” weekend got completely rained out and when I woke up at 6am to check the weather I thought our “rain date” weekend would be too! Fortunately, Melvin has much more experience with the clubs more.....dedicated members.... and he said Don’t worry, they’ll want to go hunt! And sure enough, they were there at 8am, in the light rain, with boots and hats and hammers, ready to get muddy!

This was a new site and after a little confusion of timing and place, (sorry about that, y’all!!) we got everyone onsite: Alan Keith, Joshua Leach, Yoli and Will Lins, Paul Hammerschmidt, Rick Goldgar, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Mike Smith, Dave, Caroline and Zane Hoppes, Gene Wu, Leslie Riddel, Melvin Noble, and myself were prepared for the mud. Mostly. Mike Smith seemed to attract the mud, while somehow Cathy Rylander managed to stay almost Mud Free! We think she floats.....

This site is BIG – flat grounds and then cliff walls that have been quarried in the past. It seems that much of the quarried material had been spread out along the flat grounds because you’d find echinoids and other marine invertebrates just randomly scattered around. It was like an Easter Egg hunt..... lots of rocks and then the unmistakable round ornamented surface of a *Leptosalenia texana* or the heart shape of a *Heteraster*. Dave Hoppes brought his granddaughter Caroline out to hunt this trip and we took some time showing her what to look for and of course, within just a few minutes, she found a lovely *Leptosalenia*! (fig. 1) And then another....and another....

Much of the group headed straight for the cliff walls. I had been out previously and you had to hammer out anything good. But with all the rain, the fossils were MUCH more accessible! Both Paul and Mike found REALLY nice full claws of the hermit crab *Pagurus banderensis* (fig. 2) and Yoli found a giant bivalve (fig. 3)! Melvin found a lovely big *Coenholectypus* echinoid and I think all of us walked away with at least one *Leptosalenia*.



**Heteraster and Leptosalenia** echinoids in situ. Photo by Jamie Shelton

After a couple of hours, the rain ceased and it turned into an absolutely beautiful day. We wrapped up our hunting at the first site and drove a bit down 46 to the second site. This one was also Glen Rose Formation but has a variety of things that are not your “typical” Glen Rose finds: Bivalve *Rudist Toucasias*, Echinoids *Goniopygus whitneyi* and *Polydiadema travisensis* as well as the typical *Loriolias* and heart urchins. Leslie and Joshua both found some nice examples of the *Rudists* and I found a small *Polydiadema* and a very nice tiny little *Coenholectypus* (fig. 4), one of the nicest I’ve found. All in all, the Glen Rose Formation never disappoints. It is so rich in various marine fauna that you are guaranteed to find some really lovely fossils! Even in the mud!

**Jamie Shelton**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig.1 **Leptosalenia Echinoid**  
found by Caroline



Fig. 2 **Pagurus banderensis claw**  
found by Mike Smith



Fig. 3 **Bivalve internal mold**  
found by Yoli Lins



Fig. 4 **Coenholectypus**  
found by Jamie Shelton



## Tailings...

### In The News

#### Dinosaurs Evolved Flight Three Times

A new study finds that many feathered dinosaurs were more aerodynamic than previously thought<sup>1</sup>

Riley Black, *Smithsonian Magazine*, June 7th 2021

#### Did ancient primates walk alongside T. rex? New evidence backs up theory.

The oldest known primate fossils were dated to just after the extinction event 66 million years ago—suggesting some primate ancestors lived even longer ago.<sup>2</sup>

Amy McKeever, *National Geographic*, March 25th 2021

#### Last day of the dinosaurs’ reign captured in stunning detail

Rocks from deep inside the Chicxulub impact crater show what happened in the minutes to hours after one of our planet’s most catastrophic events.<sup>3</sup>

Maya Wei-Haas, *National Geographic*, September 9th 2019

#### Park Ranger Stumbles Upon Treasure Trove of Several-Million-Year-Old Fossils in Northern California

Paleontologists found hundreds of Miocene fossils, including an 8-million-year-old mastodon, at an undisclosed location in the Sierra Nevada foothills<sup>4</sup>

Elizabeth Gamillo, *Smithsonian Magazine*, May 24th 2021

#### What Fossil Plants Reveal About Climate Change

Fossil plants reveal information about the temperature and precipitation of past climates.<sup>5</sup>

Emily Leclerc, *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 29th 2021

### 2021 Field Trip Schedule

July:	<b>Bandera</b> – Glen Rose
August:	<b>Mammoth Museum</b> <b>Waco Pit</b> - Del Rio
September:	<b>Brady Road Cut</b> - Pennsylvanian <b>Santa Anna</b> - Pennsylvanian
October:	<b>Moody Road Cut</b> - Comanche Peak <b>Evant Road Cut</b> – Comanche Peak
November:	<b>Brownwood or Jacksboro</b> - Pennsylvanian
December:	TBD

### SCFMS Convention 2021

This year’s convention will be held during the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society’s Annual Show and Sale in Lubbock, TX.

Date:	September 25th -26th, 2021
Location:	Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Lane, Lubbock TX
Admission:	Adults \$4 Seniors \$3 Children 6-12 \$2 Children 5 and under Free! Scouts, Military, and Peace Officers in uniform are also Free!

Tickets will be available at the door the day of the event, hourly door prizes. Two Grand Prizes - one for kids and one for adults. Vendors will be selling rough slabs, loose stones, spheres, geodes, fossils, gemstones, mineral specimens, jewelry, and lapidary tools.

Nurmerous display cases and rock specimens that kids can touch. Kids area with games and grab bags for kids as well as the flourescent tent with rocks that “glow in the dark”.

Visit their website for information:

[www.lubbockgemandmineral.org](http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org)

## LUBBOCK GEM



## MINERAL SOCIETY

1. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaurs-evolved-flight-least-three-times-180977883/>  
2. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/did-ancient-primates-walk-alongside-dinosaurs-new-evidence-backs-up-theory>  
3. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/last-day-dinosaurs-reign-captured-stunning-detail>  
4. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/treasure-trove-fossils-uneearthed-california-watershed-180977796/>  
5. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2021/04/29/what-fossil-plants-reveal-about-climate-change/>

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](http://austinpaleo.org) for more information.

*Please note, due to COVID 19, in person meetings have been temporarily paused, and monthly meetings are instead being held on Zoom. Please see instructions above to attend the meetings virtually. 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**

**2021 Officers**

Annual Dues:	<b>\$18/individual</b> <b>\$24/family</b> <b>\$12/associate</b> (non-voting, receiving newsletter)	President	<b>Erich Rose</b>	<a href="mailto:president@austinpaleo.org">president@austinpaleo.org</a>
Pay on-line at:	<a href="https://www.austinpaleo.org/newMembership.html">https://www.austinpaleo.org/newMembership.html</a>	Vice President	<b>Heather Radford</b>	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@austinpaleo.org">vicepresident@austinpaleo.org</a>
Send payment to:	<b>Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin,</b> <b>P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791</b>	Treasurer	<b>Mike Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:treasurer@austinpaleo.org">treasurer@austinpaleo.org</a>
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