

# PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 04

APRIL 2022



## President's Note

### The Auction is Back!

Yes, we are going to have an in person actual live auction and potluck picnic this month. We will be going back to Westcave Preserve and it should be fabulous! The club will provide BBQ and beverages and you bring your favorite side dish or desert (and you are also welcome to bring an adult beverage as well). For new members the auction is one of two events that bring us income. This one is just for us and this year I am hoping it functions more as a chance for us all to truly catch up. Other than field trips we have not had a chance to all gather together (continued on page 2)

## Auction and Potluck!

Join us for the return of the PSoA Annual Auction and Potluck Picnic Saturday, April 23rd from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Westcave Preserve.

The main dish and beverages will be provided, just bring your favorite picnic side dish or dessert. Please bring a fossil or fossil-related item for the auction to donate, 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 donating anything on which folks might competitively bid. Remember, this is one of our two (continued on page 2)

APRIL 2022

(No Meeting or Field Trip this Month)

### PSoA Potluck and Auction

Saturday April 23rd  
12:00pm - 3:00pm CDT  
Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center  
24814 Hamilton Pool Rd  
Round Mountain, TX 78663  
(see details this page)

### Fossil Fest Meeting

Tuesday April 26th at 7:00 pm.  
(see details page 2)

### Oklahoma Field Trip - Ada, OK

Saturday May 21st  
(more details next month)

## President's Note

(continued from page 1)

since who knows when. Last year's online auction run by Heather and Jamie was a huge success and we may not make as much money. But gosh darn we need have a real face to face event. I really really hope you all can make it.

My daughter Emelia is getting married this Saturday the 9th. She has been an active member of the club since we moved here in 2005 and I'm pretty sure I can convince her fiancé that field trips are fun. I look forward to introducing you to my soon-to-be son in law Andrew sometime soon. In the mean time I have A HUNDRED things to do.....

With that, over and out.

### Erich Rose

PSoA President

## Fossil Fest 2022 Update

We held our first show chair meeting in March. Contracts have been sent to the vendors that had committed to participating last year. Volunteers are what make Fossil Fest happen. Please consider joining in on the planning fun. These meetings are open to all members! Our April meeting will be on Tuesday April 26th at 7:00 pm on Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://utexas.zoom.us/j/92840145441?pwd=VG9uWUdjV0hObDdTaHl0VGY1ZmJUUT09>

Meeting ID: 928 4014 5441

Passcode: 210029

### Heather Radford

Show Chair

## Auction and Potluck!

(continued from page 1)

money-raising events for the year, and it often makes up a substantial portion of the next year's budget. You'll need cash, check or card to pay for your goodies, so plan accordingly.

We will be inside the Visitor Center this year as Westcave has changed up things since last we were there (2019!). Masks will be optional, hopefully between then and now we will not see any further surge in Covid. Do what you feel makes you safe and comfortable. If you can test before-hand that would also be greatly appreciated.

Westcave is a pretty cool place to visit and if you can swing the time I suggest looking into and signing up for one of the morning tours. The grotto is an amazing piece of Hill Country geology. Hope to see you all there!

### Erich Rose

PSoA President

## March 2022 Field Trip Report #1: East Texas - Nacogdoches

### Collecting with Friends!

What started out as a cold East Texas early spring morning turn into a pleasant day by 8 am as we met at the meeting place. By the time we got there some people had already been behind the building and collected some sand dollars out of the very hard rock. It's pretty well grown over but apparently there was an area to find something. Gary and Cathy Rylander, Linda and Bruce, Alan Keith, Yoli and Will Lins, Edward Elliot, Kevin Bills, Brian and his sons Emerson and Anders, and me, Melvin, headed out to the first location on some private land that we have permission to collect on.

After parking their vehicles, people immediately started finding Mississippensis sand dollars in the exposure on the ground (fig. 3). I myself immediately picked up an exposed sand dollar and with a little cleaning it'll be a nice specimen! I showed the new people how to dig around the sand dollars and come up under then to pull them out. You want to get away from the sand dollar or any fossil for that matter, then when you pull it out, leave it in the matrix till you get home to clean it. Of course a few of them got broken, and many were already broken, but there were quite a few nice whole ones still to be found.



Linda went over to the raised flat area to find *Fibularia Texana* (fig. 4). They are tiny little egg-shaped echinoids, about the size of a bb, that are so cute and fairly rare to find. It is not often you get to collect Eocene echinoids. The area by the oil tanks that used to have all the wonderful sand dollars is just totally overgrown now with wild rose and sadly just impossible to collect. But it was still good to be in East Texas again with old friends on a wonderful spring day collecting with the sun shining.



After three hours and making sure someone would close the gate, Ed lead us to the next quarry. He had just talked to the owner, who wanted to ask some questions about the stratigraphy of the quarry and had said to go down into the quarry so could he would meet us there. We noticed the old spoil piles above were really overgrown, so we were excited to hunt a new spot. We asked that everybody kind of stay close by the truck till the owner came but as time went on nobody ever showed up so we started fanning out and combing the hills. Sadly some of the areas when we had found stuff before was just not as productive. There were a lot of gastropods, bivalves and a crab carapace or two found (fig. 3). Gary found a nice, hard to find *Maretia Arguta* echinod (fig.1). A few people decided to leave early as it was getting late but someone left the gate open so I shut it. (If you go through a closed gate, always make sure you close it behind you, we have to be good stewards of the land we are allowed to collect on or we may not be invited back - a loss for the whole club). We did find some new spoil piles up above and checked them out but did not find much.

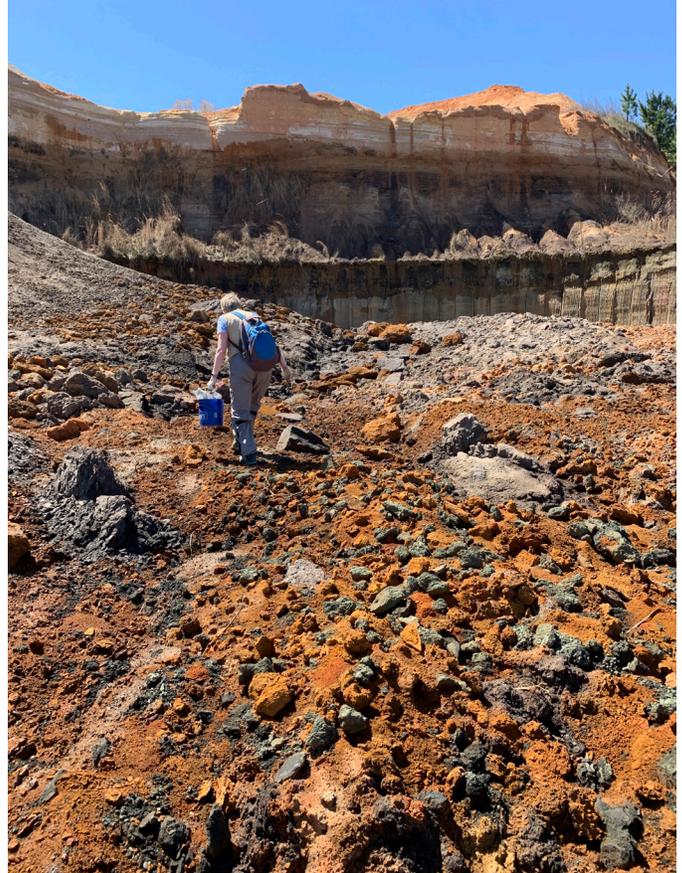


Fig. 1 *Maretia arguta*  
Found by Gary Rylander

As we left several people went to the old spoil piles and confirmed that they are to overgrown. With a couple years of erosion, this quarry might start producing well again - for now it just varies from year to year and you have to take what you get. Later that evening a few of us went to another small site, were we were able to dig some more mississippiensis sand dollars out of the ground.

On Sunday we decided decided to check out an area on the other side of College Station for petrified wood in a creek. The next me and Ed met Linda and Bruce at a gas station to head out for the new location. We found the area and came to a bridge. We went down into the creek that was nearly dry

and found out that the bottom of it was lignite. Ed found us both some lignite wood pieces which are kind of nice to have as a specimen (fig.5). As we went down the creek we started finding bits of petrified wood, none of them really large but as we got further down around the bend we did find some pieces that had some color, chunks with red, black, yellow and there were a few small chalcedony pieces.

It was nice to be collecting with old friends Ed and Linda again and we had a great time on a beautiful day on the creek with butterflies flying around but lots of mud that we mucked through. It was too late in the evening to stop at Whiskey Bridge as we headed back to Austin, but as a consolation prize we at least know of a small new collecting place for petrified wood. It was nice to be collecting in East Texas again with old friends and some of the newer people got to find some cool Eocene sand dollars.

**Melvin Noble**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 2 *Fibularia texana*  
Found by Linda McCall



Fig. 3 Crab Carapace  
Found by Ed Elliot



Fig. 4 *Protocutela mississippiensis*  
Found by Melvin Noble



Fig. 5 Lignite petrified wood  
Found by Ed Elliot

# March 2022 Field Trip Report #2: Whiskey Bridge

## Big Conus Adventure!

While Melvin took the main group off into the Piney Woods of East Texas, I stuck close to home and went to Whiskey Bridge in Burlison County. I was a bit surprised that I was only joined by Heather and Adam Aziz! But the three of us had a GREAT time with the whole place to ourselves except for a couple of fishermen!

We started the morning by walking WAY up the river- the water was so low that we could walk all the way up around the first bend upriver. We didn't find much except a few Pleistocene turtle pieces (fig. 1). Adam found the best ones. But it was a beautiful walk on a beautiful day.

We headed back to the main cliff area and concentrated on a spot that is usually not accessible when the water is higher. It's a shelf past the main bridge that often has larger gastropods than the main area we usually hunt. And we did find a LOT of big stuff! Each of us found at least three big Conus of different species (fig. 2). I got a nice Conus tortilis and C. sauridens (fig. 4). Plus a lot of nice sized gastros (fig. 3). I found a small crab claw which was a first find for me at Whiskey



Bridge (fig. 5). I looked up online and apparently there is some really nice crustacean stuff that comes from the Stone City Formation.

So the East Texas might have found more “exciting” things with echinoids and such, we still had a successful hunt at Whiskey Bridge!

**Jamie Shelton**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 1 **Turtle shell fragment**  
Found by Adam Aziz



Fig. 2 **Conus tortilis**  
Found by Adam Aziz



Fig. 3 **Architectonica scrobiculata** Fig. 4 **Conus sauridens** Fig. 5 **Crab claw**  
Fig 3-5 found by Jamie Shelton





## Tailings...

### In The News

#### Heavy Bones Helped Some Spinosaurus Swim

The crock-snouted dinosaurs were just as capable in the water as on land.

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), March 23rd 2022

#### This Ancient Owl Hunted in the Daytime

The fossil evidence fills a gap in these birds' evolutionary history

Margaret Osborne, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), April 4th 2022

#### Many of These Plants Older Than Dinosaurs Face Extinction

Cycads have changed a great deal since they first appeared around 280 million years ago, and habitat loss and illegal trade are now threats.

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), April 5th 2022

#### How Did Climate Change Affect Ancient Humans?

Sophisticated climate models were paired with evidence from the archaeological record to reveal where ancient humans may have lived and evolved

Brian Handwerk, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), April 13th 2022

#### Paleontologists Find Fossilized Remains of a Dinosaur Possibly Killed in Earth's Fifth Mass Extinction Event

The leg bone is one of many other specimens uncovered at the North Dakota site.

Elizabeth Gamillo, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), April 13th 2022

### 2022 Field Trip Schedule

April:	<b>PSoA Auction and Potluck Picnic</b>
May:	<b>Oklahoma Trip</b>
June:	<b>Brazos Float Trip</b> (Bandera as backup)
July:	<b>Austin Loop 360</b> (or Brazos backup)
August:	<b>Houston Museum of Natural Sciences</b>
September:	<b>Brady / Santa Ana Sites</b>
October:	<b>Texoma</b> (Moody/Evant as backup)
November:	<b>Brownwood</b>
December:	<b>Christmas Party!</b>

**Important Note:** Please refrain from visiting sites the club is scheduled to access as part of a scheduled field trip. Doing so can clear a site of quality fossils and negatively impact the experience folks will have, especially new members, if the site suddenly feels "picked over". We do our best to carefully space out trips to allow them to recover, so please be respectful of the club and stay off these sites within 3 months of a planned trip.

## Minutes of the PSoA - March 2022

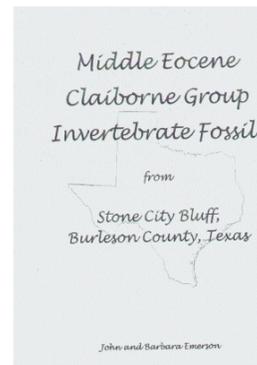
The meeting was opened by Erich Rose at 7:00 pm on Zoom - attendance was about 20.

- **Presentation:** The presentation for the evening was "Evolution of Late Triassic Aetosaurs" by Will Reyes, a Doctoral student at the UT Jackson School of Geological Resources. The emphasis for the talk was on the 'Pseudosuchia'.
- **Financial Report:** Mike Smith reported our PSA bank balance is \$23,674.
- **Auction-Picnic:** Erich reported that PSA will resume holding a Picnic-Auction. It is set for Saturday, April 23, at West Cave Preserve as in the past. The main course and drinks will be provided and attendees are to bring a side dish. Also please bring some 'good' specimens for the auction.
- **Fossil Fest:** There will be an organizational meeting for Fossil Fest on next Tues (March 22nd) at 7 pm.
- **Field Trips:** There will be two field trips this weekend. (a) Melvin will be organizing a weekend trip to East Texas. Attendees are to meet at 8:00am on Saturday at the usual place on University Drive. (b) For those who can't make a two-day trip, Jamie will be a leading single day to rip to Whiskey Bridge. Attendees should meet at Whiskey Bridge on the Brazos at 9:00 am Saturday

**Gary Vliet**

Secretary

### Whiskey Bridge / Eocene Resources



#### Middle Eocene Claiborne Group Invertebrate Fossils from Stone City Bluff, Burleson County Texas

by John and Barbara Emerson. This self published volume catalogs over 200 species known to come from this exposure. All specimens are described in detail and shown in black and white photographs. It is available from the [Houston Gem and Mineral Society](#) website for \$20 (paperback copy) or \$10 (digital download).

Stone City Member, Middle Eocene, Clairborne Group, Stone City Bluff, Burleson Co., Texas Main Glauconite Bed (MGB) Study Guide by James E. Flis and Christopher J. Flis (2015 Rights Reserved v. 1.1) This study guide available on the [Houston Geological Society](#) website is great primer on the exposure and provides a faunal menu with full color photographs.

## Good Field Trip Etiquette

1. Arrive on time or early. At the prescribed meeting time (often 8AM) you should be out of your car standing with the field trip leader, signed in and ready to hear the day's schedule, directions and helpful pointers.
2. Do your homework. Use one of the online mapping programs to determine travel time and directions from your home the day before. Take the map with you and leave at least 15-30 minutes early. This is critical when we are going to quarries, private property or if the first stop is a meeting-point, not the collecting site. The field trip leader will not wait more than 15 minutes beyond the scheduled time.
3. Make sure you have the field trip leader's phone number. Their number will appear in the field trip notice. Bring a copy of the notice from the newsletter or e-mail blast so you have the information. That is the best way to find the group if you do get delayed or lost. But do not count on it. Some of our remote sites have poor cell reception. We have no way to guarantee you will get there if you miss the meeting spot.
4. The first stop is not breakfast. Please do not expect the rest of the group to wait while you order food or take care of business. If you need to do that, arrive 30 minutes early and then be ready to go at 8:00AM sharp!
5. The field trip leader sets the schedule. Gather near the leader at the beginning of every trip and listen carefully. The leader will describe where and when things will happen. That will include directions, plans for breaks and everything else you need to know about how the day will unfold. If you are not sure about directions or the schedule speak directly with the field trip leader. Do not count on hearsay.
6. Do not ask the entire group to stop for unscheduled breaks. If you need to take a break during the day, do it after you know where the collecting site is located. The field trip leader will usually schedule a break around lunch but not between every stop. Follow the group to the site and then circle back for food or facilities. This is why we suggest bringing your own food and beverages. Also being prepared with TP, or whatever else, for "emergencies".
7. Sign in and don't forget to report to the leader when you leave. This is not critical, but he or she will greatly appreciate those two things. Having everyone's name let's him know how well attended the trip was and we like to list everyone in the follow up reports. Secondly, getting a chance to hear and see what you found that day and being able to keep track of who is on site at the very end is just a good thing.
8. Be prepared. Make sure you have the materials you need to collect safely. In particular, water, hat, sunscreen and food.

9. Don't crowd the next guy. Please be courteous of your fellow collectors space. If someone says "Hey I found a good one!" don't come rushing over and crowd into their collecting zone. Let them offer to share the space. You can ask them where they found it and then move off to one side or the other, but don't just flop down next to them.

10. Be safe. If someone is working an area on a slope do you best not to pass above them. If you need to do so, please let them know you are passing and do your best not to send any debris down on top of them. If someone is working above you and you must pass below, please alert them for the same reasons. Generally speaking, if someone is working a spot respect that they "own" that area and your passage through or around that location should only be done with their permission and/or invitation.



### Editor's Note:

I would like to extend an invitation to all members to submit stories of their own travels for publish in future episodes of SIDE TRIPS. All I need is a short write up (and I can assist with this) as well as some photos of your trip (iPhone or Android photos are perfect - just make sure to send me the full resolution version). Fossil hunting trips are always welcome, but so are trips to museums, fossil/mineral shows, and other adventures that explore the world around us. You can reach me at [editor@austinpaleo.org](mailto:editor@austinpaleo.org) and I will do my best to include your stories in future issues.

**Brian Bedrosian**  
Newsletter Editor

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 Societie's website or another publically accessible venue as benefits the goals of the club listed above.*

#### Membership Information

Annual Dues: **\$18/individual**  
**\$24/family**  
**\$12/associate** (non-voting, receiving newsletter)

Pay on-line at: <https://www.austinpaleo.org/newMembership.html>

Send payment to: **Treasurer, Paleontological Society of Austin,**  
**P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78749-0791**

PSOA Web Site: [www.austinpaleo.org](http://www.austinpaleo.org)

Webmaster: **Gordon Galligher, [webmaster@austinpaleo.org](mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org)**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo>

Twitter: [@Austin\\_Paleo](https://twitter.com/Austin_Paleo)

#### 2021 Officers

President	<b>Erich Rose</b>	<a href="mailto:president@austinpaleo.org">president@austinpaleo.org</a>
Vice President	<b>Heather Radford</b>	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@austinpaleo.org">vicepresident@austinpaleo.org</a>
Treasurer	<b>Mike Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:treasurer@austinpaleo.org">treasurer@austinpaleo.org</a>
Secretary	<b>Emelia Rose</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@austinpaleo.org">secretary@austinpaleo.org</a>
Field Trips Programs	<b>Melvin Noble &amp; Jamie Shelton</b>	<a href="mailto:fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org">fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org</a>
Editor	<b>Paul Hammerschmidt</b>	<a href="mailto:programchair@austinpaleo.org">programchair@austinpaleo.org</a>
Webmaster	<b>Brian Bedrosian</b>	<a href="mailto:editor@austinpaleo.org">editor@austinpaleo.org</a>
Show Chair	<b>Gordon Galligher</b>	<a href="mailto:webmaster@austinpaleo.org">webmaster@austinpaleo.org</a>
	<b>Heather Radford</b>	<a href="mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org">showchair@austinpaleo.org</a>
Science Advisors:	<b>Pamela R. Owen, PhD.</b>	<a href="mailto:powen@mail.utexas.edu">powen@mail.utexas.edu</a>
	<b>James T. Sprinkle, PhD.</b>	<a href="mailto:echino@mail.utexas.edu">echino@mail.utexas.edu</a>

Permission to copy material printed herein is granted provided proper credit is given to the author and source.  
The Paleontological Society of Austin is a member of and affiliated with:

**South Central Federation of Mineral Societies & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

