

# PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 05

MAY 2022



## President's Note

### Oklahoma here we come!

Wasn't the auction fun? Did you get enough to eat? It was so great to see so many old faces and a bunch of new ones for the bonus. AND we did well. We raised over a thousand dollars after expenses which made it one of our good years. And what a beautiful day to boot.

It also was a good trial run for the return to in person meetings. This month will be our last Zoom meeting before we return to the AGMS clubhouse in June. Covid isn't over quite yet, there seems to be an uptick in (continued on page 2)

## This Month's Speaker

### What's New at the Texas Through Time Museum

Presented by: Andre Lujan

Andre will give us a tour through this wonderful museum and show us what is new in their prep labs!

For those of you who have not visited the museum before (and you really should), Texas Through Time is a nonprofit museum of paleontology with fossils ranging from the Ediacaran Period all the way up to the Holocene Epoch. Museum director Andre Lujan officially opened Texas Through Time on June 22, 2018, in the Fred O. (continued on page 2)

MAY 2022

### PSoA Regular May Meeting

Tuesday May 17th - 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83186144388?pwd=TIRVMWlqTGRnYWdlSVNuaTdrUDVhZz09>

[NuaTdrUDVhZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83186144388?pwd=TIRVMWlqTGRnYWdlSVNuaTdrUDVhZz09)

Meeting ID: 831 8614 4388

Passcode: 890330

### PSoA May Field Trip

Saturday March 21st

8:00am Ada, OK

(see page 2 for more details)

### Fossil Fest Planning Meeting

Tuesday May 24th at 6:30pm - Zoom

(see page 2 for more details)

## President's Note

(continued from page 1)

cases in the last few weeks but hospitalizations are way down and folks are learning to test themselves before events and take precautions. It's no longer about being vaccinated, it's about not being contagious, vaccinated or not. I think we will make a serious request that folks test themselves before the meeting. Especially if you think there has been any chance of exposure. And I will suggest that you wear a good mask if you, like me, are someone with a health condition that requires a higher level of vigilance. The clubhouse is small and it will be impossible to keep any distance so folks just need to be smart about it. Test yourself beforehand and wear a good mask if you need to. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Now before we return to actual live meetings we are also returning to OKLAHOMA! As some of you know this was an annual pilgrimage for many. A chance to hunt in the lower Paleozoic. We will be going to the town of Ada and from there visiting a variety of sites all located in the Arbuckle Mountains. Jamie and Melvin have lined up some great locations, and there are some GREAT locations up that-a-way. Unfortunately some of these sites will not be kid-friendly and we have to request that no one under 12 attends. The field trip leaders have also requested that you give them a heads up if you plan on going. They need a head count to better plan the final details. Look for info in this newsletter and keep an eye out for email blasts.

We will also be doing one of our first outreach events in oh so many years. PSA will have a table or two set up at The Blue Hole Regional Park in Wimberly, Texas at 7pm on Friday May 27th. So far there are a few of us planning to attend but other volunteers are welcome. We will be there along with some other paleo folks and then they will be screening Jurassic Park on the lawn. And of course if it's hot there will be swimming! Well with all that said. I am going to do some prep for Oklahoma.

See yall online one more time on the 16th. And then hopefully all in person in June.

**Erich Rose**  
PSoA President



## This Month's Speaker

(continued from page 1)

Grimes building in downtown Hillsboro, Texas. Their focus is on the display of real specimens showcasing the diversity of fossil flora and fauna of Texas - though their collection is much more expansive than that.

Andre also runs PaleoTex, a full service commercial paleontology company focused on providing professional services and research specimens to museums and institutions around the world as well as a vocational paleontologists and collectors. We hope to see some of his most recent work in the lab!

## Fossil Fest 2022 Update

In order to have a successful event we need member participation. The April meeting was sadly unattended. Please remember the meetings are open to ALL members and we would love for you to partake in planning Fossil Fest. The May meeting will be held on Tuesday the 24th @ 6:30 pm via Zoom (link and password below).

Volunteers are what make Fossil Fest possible. Below is a link to access a sign-up and where you should indicate your interest in volunteering at the event. Briefly, Friday November 4th is setup day, Saturday November 5th and Sunday November 6th are event days. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F49AFAD2AA3F49-fossil>

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://utexas.zoom.us/j/96002642376?pwd=eEJMWWtFTU1pdThpNU1DbjIVY2VJUT09>

Meeting ID: 960 0264 2376

Passcode: 416238

### Heather Aziz

Show Chair

## May 2022 Field Trip

### Ada OK - Arbuckle Mountains

The Club's next field trip will be to Ada, OK for some Devonian, Silurian and Ordovician collecting. We'll meet on the East Central University Campus on the corner of E. 12th. and N. Francis Ave. near the petrified Callixylon tree (1 block over by East Main St) at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 21. This is a two-day trip and we will visit numerous sites. Facilities will be scarce, so be prepared. Bring at least a gallon of water a day for each person, food, hats, long-sleeve shirts, sunblock, knee-pads, etc. Bug spray is also recommended for chiggers and ticks. Also watch out for snakes. Some of the locations will require a short hike. Depending on the site, you may need a hammer and chisel. Bring lots of containers, zipper bags, soda flats, newspaper, etc. and something to label your finds. Ada is a college town with a number of motels and restaurants. Call Melvin at (512) 468-8914 (during the evening after 6 pm ) if you need more details.

### Melvin Noble

Field Trip Co-Chair

Please note that some of the sites will have limitations on the number of folks who are able to enter so please call or text Melvin (512) 468-8914 and/or Jamie (512) 214-2589 and let them know if you plan to attend. An email blast was sent out on May 5th to all members and many of the spots may already have been filled. These are unfortunately not kid friendly environments...so we are going to request no kids under 12 attend. This is a very exciting trip but also a long drive - so we want to make sure you are aware of the opportunities before you make plans and leave Austin.



## April 2022 - Picnic and Auction!

**Come for the fossils, stay for the friends!**

After a two-year hiatus the Austin Paleo Society Annual Picnic and Auction returned in person on a beautiful spring day. There was a good turnout of people. A lot of fossil and related material was brought to be auctioned off also. The weather was perfect and the food was great. I personally really enjoyed the chicken. When it was over many people went home with some real nice fossil goodies. Everyone had a good time and it was just good to get together in person to socialize and to raise money for the club. This is was also a good time to get fossils that you may not be able to get or collect. Sometimes there's material from other countries or areas that are closed to collecting. Also some of the proceeds go to scholarships and the research students will be very appreciative. Thank you to everyone who attended and especially those who worked to help set it up.



**Melvin Noble**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



## Side Trip: High Island

---

### Brids, Bones, and a walk on the beach!

For years I've been planning a trip to go bird-watching at High Island when the The warblers come in and had secluded a trip in advance. But another great secret about High Island is that pleistocene fossil material washes up on the beach.

High Island sits on top of a salt dome and the land is higher than most of the adjacent coastal areas. There are a lot of oak trees on the island which makes it great for bird watching, but offshore of the beach there is a pleistocene clay deposit that fossils wash out of.

Since I was in the area I took some time to go collecting. Most of what I found were modern-day shells but as luck would have it I found a tooth and a couple of really nice pieces of fossilized bone. I also found some fossilized mud balls with bryozoans and coral on them. Sometimes you can find them with little holes in them where teredo clams had borrowed down in them, similar to petrified teredo wood. I found some off those during a previous trip. I do know that mammoth teeth have been found and also camel teeth, horse teeth, giant ground sloth bones, giant armadillo bones, etc etc.

High Island is always hit or miss so you may or may not find something. I got lucky this time though, and found stuff right were you first go out on the beach so I did not have to drive real far. The road is best suited for four-wheel drive and is in real rough shape. If you go a ways down the beach it is best to go with two people so you all help each other dig out of the sand if you get stuck.

I'm very happy that I was lucky to find something at High Island and hope to go again some time.

**Melvin Noble**  
Field Trip Co-Chair



## Side Trip: Whiskey Bridge

### Family adventure in fossil country

Since our trip to Nacogdoches last month meant we would miss out on a site that is a favorite for my boys, and with my mom visiting from Chicago, we decided to head out to Whiskey Bridge before the weather got too hot. We had a wonderful day collecting in the shade and everyone came home with some specimens that were new to their collections. With trains flying overhead, a black widow spider haunting our spot on the bluff, and the boys "fishing" with some string and sticks in the river, there were plenty of memories to bring home with our fossils. One of my favorite things about this site is the weeks of meditative fossil cleaning that follows - carefully revealing the beauty of these very fragile fossils from the soft dark matrix. Always a great trip!

**Brian Bedrosian**  
Newsletter Editor





## Tailings...

### In The News

#### Glowing spider fossils prompt breakthrough study of how they were preserved at Aix-en-Provence

A geologic formation near Aix-en-Provence, France, is famed as one of the world's chief treasure troves of fossil species from the Cenozoic Era. Since the late 1700s, scientists there have been unearthing amazingly well-preserved fossilized plants and animals.

Brendan M. Lynch, [University of Kansas News](#), April 21st 2022

#### Should the Skeleton of a Dinosaur That Helped Inspire 'Jurassic Park' Be Sold to the Highest Bidder?

The rare fossil could sell for \$6 million at auction  
Sarah Kuta, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), May 4th 2022

#### The Last Day of a Doomed Dinosaur

The young, eighteen-foot-long Edmontosaurus had no idea about his fate as he grazed in a forest  
Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), April 26th 2022

#### Pterosaurs May Have Had Vibrant Feathers Like Modern Birds

Researchers say different colors on the flying reptiles were a possible means of communication, and may indicate a common ancestor with dinosaurs

Elizabeth Gamillo, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), April 21st 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

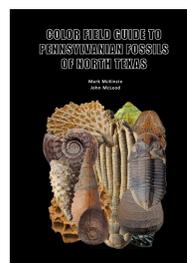
May:	<b>Oklahoma Trip</b>
June:	<b>Brazos Float Trip</b> (Bandera as backup)
July:	<b>Austin Loop 360</b> (or Brazos backup)
August:	<b>Houston Museum of Natural Sciences</b>
September:	<b>Brady / Santa Ana Sites</b>
October:	<b>Texoma</b> (Moody/Evant as backup)
November:	<b>Brownwood</b>
December:	<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.

## Publications on Recent Sites

Below are some publications that provide information and identification on recent sites the club has visited. We encourage you to visit the Houston Gem and Mineral Society's Website as they have MANY more publications on fossils in our area.

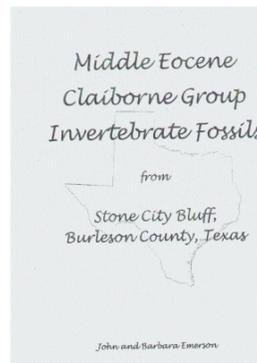
### New Pennsylvanian Publication!



#### Color Field Guide to Pennsylvanian Fossils of North Texas by Mark

McKinzie and John McLeod 2021 This is a spiral bound field ready version of their seminal volume available for \$22 from Lulu.com. The book includes descriptions of the exposures at Lake Bridgeport, Wilson Claypit, Jacksboro and other Texas Pennsylvanian sites frequented by PSA members with color images of specimens.

## Whiskey Bridge / Eocene Resources



#### Middle Eocene Claiborne Group Invertebrate Fossils from Stone City Bluff, Burtleson 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, Burtleson 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 your 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**

