



PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 07

JULY 2022



President's Note

Someone please turn the thermostat down!

And let's all do a little rain dance. I can generally deal quite well with the heat but this is nuts. And the drought is scary. And for us collectors the lack of rainfall means a lack of fresh fossils being exposed. I wasn't surprised that the Bandera trip did not prove as productive for some as it can be. I have seen a few good finds that were snagged immediately after some of the few scattered showers we have had. But here, close to where I live, the roadcuts are still less productive.

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This Month's Speaker

We are working on securing a speaker for this month.

If we cannot find anyone, we recommend that folks bring in any special fossils to share or bring in fossils they would like help identifying - stay tuned!

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JULY 2022

PSoA Hybrid July Meeting
Tuesday July 19th - 7pm
In Person @ AGMS Clubhouse
6719 Burnet Lane

OR Remote on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88256553839?pwd=T3g2dklMcGtadDNmTVgzMFZPd1ZSZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 5655 3839
Passcode: 212012

PSoA July Field Trip
Saturday July 23rd
8:00am Loop 360 + Pascal Ln
(see page 2 for more details)

President's Note

(continued from page 1)

We are looking to either visit the local 360 cuts or possibly float the Brazos this month. I've been staying off the cuts saving them for the club. And we even had a good shower or two. The Brazos is still only good if the water is at the right level. I'm sure Melvin will have more to say on that.

We are going to attempt another meeting at the club house. And if all works correctly we will have a presentation there via Zoom on the projection screen.

So I hope to see you next Tuesday at the meeting or on Zoom and then again for the field trip.

Stay cool,

Erich Rose
PSoA President

This Month's Speaker

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Fossil Fest 2022 Update

Here is a brief update before the July in person PSoA meeting:

- We have nine vendors participating this year.
- The University of Texas has confirmed participating this year.
- We will have the Dig Pit, Touch Table, and Wheel.
- We will have pre-packaged snacks available in the kitchen.
- Jamie Shelton has graciously offered to put together the Paleo Passports.

Adult and youth size Fossil Fest T-shirts will be available to purchase at the July PSoA meeting. Cost of shirts for PSoA members = \$10.00

A friendly reminder to indicate your interest in volunteering at Fossil Fest by following the link below. Briefly, in the evening on Friday November 4th is setup. Saturday November 5th and Sunday November 6th are event days. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F49AFAD2AA3F49-fossil>

Heather Aziz
Show Chair

July 2022 Field Trip Loop 360 Road Cuts

We will stay close to home this month, and start at 8am because it's going to be quite warm! We'll meet at the Austin Loop 360 Roadcut which is Walnut Formation. We will park on the Northbound side of Loop 360 directly across from Pascal Lane. Make sure you pull completely off the shoulder when you park. The roadcut is easily accessible but it is fairly high up, so be safety conscious at all times! The area we hunt can be steep so wear good shoes. Fossils will include gastropods, echinoids, corals, bivalves and sometimes crab material. Small collection boxes are a good idea as well as small digging implements. This is primarily surface collecting, so no major digging.

Jamie Shelton
Field Trip Co-Chair



Outreach Event Report

I gave a presentation to 32 kids at the Ladybird Montessori School in Buda on July 11. They ranged from 6-12 years old and were a typical group - there were two or three who were dinosaur fanatics and the rest didn't have much background.

It was a lot of fun and they were remarkably well behaved. I did a touch table at the end - they came up in groups of 8 and the other kids waited patiently for their turn. Maybe it helped that I bribed them with a Moroccan Miocene shark tooth each. I left a teacher kit and a poster showing how the online Texas Geology map could zoom in to their school address. It called out the three formations immediately surrounding them.

If anyone wants a copy, I have a rough script for these talks, but I try to adapt on the fly, based on what they show interest in. My goal is to emulate Alan Peters, but I'm not quite theatrical enough!

Mike Smith
Treasurer / Webmaster

June Field Trip: **Bandera**

Heat won't hold back a dedicated fossil club!

Let's hot in Texas. No doubt about that. But that does not deter our PSoA fossil hunters! We met early and headed to the Bandera site. There weren't a lot of us this trip, but just enough to make it a nice outing. Leslie Riddel, Gary Vliet, Dave Hoppes, Bob Boehmer, The Kendricks, Dave and Bodie Nash, Leia Pfaff and Sean Carradine all showed up.

The site is nice and large for us all to spread out and we went to work looking for those fossils! I found a couple of decent *Heteraster* and *Pliotoxaster* heart urchins to show some of the new people to the site. The Kendrick boys got busy looking for those urchins!

Leslie and I were trying really hard to find some of the floating crinoids that are, if not very common, at least often found at the site. However, despite our best efforts and the eyes of another 8 people, not a single one was found this trip! With no rain in the area, there was just no refreshing of the fossils. But some other nice things were found! Leia found a really great *Leptosalenia texana* (fig. 4), the best I've seen from this site. I was happy to find a small chunk of an ammonite which I am pretty sure is a *Dufrenoyia dufrenoyi* (fig. 3). I've never found one of these before, so seeing it there was quite exciting.

Bob found some nice crab claws, an unknown one and *Pagurus banderensis* and the Kendrick boys found a nice variety of fossils including a Gastropod *Anchura* (fig. 2). One of my favorite finds was a very large echinoid spine (fig. 1). But I have to admit, I completely ran out of steam by 11 and headed home. A few members stayed to continue the hunt. I hope they managed to find one of those floating crinoids!

Jamie Shelton

Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 1 Echinoid Spine and test in situ (Jamie Shelton)



Fig. 2 gastropod *Anchura*
Found by the Kendricks Boys



Fig. 3 *Dufrenoyia dufrenoyi*
Found by Jamie Shelton



Fig. 4 *Leptosalenia texana*
Found by Leia Pfaff



Tailings...

In The News

A Gorgosaurus Skeleton Will Be Privately Auctioned Off for the First Time

The specimen is expected to sell for \$5 million to \$8 million
Margaret Osborne, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), July 7th 2022

Paleontologists Uncover New Dinosaur With Tiny Arms Like T. Rex

The predator is among the most complete of its kind ever found

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), July 7th 2022

Paleontologists Are Still Puzzling Over Why Dinosaurs Ran Hot

New evidence reveals details about the physiology of animals that have been extinct for over 66 million years

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

Whale-Sized Marine Reptiles Once Ruled the Seas

Paleontologists are beginning to learn how and why ichthyosaurs evolved into giants

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), June 24th 2022

Great White Sharks May Have Driven Megalodons into Extinction

Scientists analyzed zinc isotopes in fossilized teeth and found both sharks may have competed for the same food

Elizabeth Gamillo, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), June 1st 2022

2022 Field Trip Schedule

July:	Austin Loop 360 (or Brazos backup)
August:	Houston Museum of Natural Sciences
September:	Brady / Santa Ana Sites
October:	Texoma (Moody/Evant as backup)
November:	Brownwood
December:	Christmas Party!

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.

May Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Austin Paleontological Society May 17, 2022

1. The Meeting was opened by Erich Rose at 7:05 PM via Zoom. The number of Zoom attendees was not noted.
2. There was no presentation, as the expected speaker had an illness in his family.
3. Mike Smith reported our PSA bank balance to be \$25,608.69, which includes the net from the April auction.
4. Auction/Picnic: Mike Smith reported that the April auction was more successful than expected, with a 'net' intake of \$1081.
5. Newsletter: Brian Bedrosian reported that he planned to initiate a 'Side Trips' section in the newsletter, where members can report on individual trips they have taken and interesting fossils they have found.
6. June 21 PSA Meeting: Erich proposed that, starting with the next PSA meeting (June 21) and for subsequent meetings, they be in-person. Whether upcoming meetings will include Zoom or possibly be recorded, will be worked out. He also suggested that the next meeting be a 'show and tell' instead of having a speaker. Erich also strongly suggested that for future in-person meetings, attendees show proof of a 'negative Covid test' prior to attending. It was suggested that individuals bring their own snacks ... possibly drinks will be provided.
7. 'Fossil Swap': Rebecca Bend suggested that at one of our next meetings ... or possibly as a separate event, we hold a 'Fossil Swap' in the AGM parking area. This will be looked into.
8. Fossil Fest: Heath reported that she needs help with this event. Nobody showed up at the last planning meeting!!
9. Outreach: We have been invited to have a staffed exhibit on Friday, May 27 at 7 pm at the Blue Hole in Wimberley. Volunteers were solicited. Bring 'bug spray'!
10. The Oklahoma trip was discussed at length. Attendees are to meet at 8am at 12th and North Francis in Ada. Expected to work Yellow Bluff on Saturday and Black Cat Mtn on Sunday, but other sites may also be visited.

Gary Vliet
Secretary

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 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 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

Webmaster: **Gordon Galligher, webmaster@austinpaleo.org**

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

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

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