



PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2022



President's Note

An eventful and fossiliferous Autumn is upon us!

How are yall doing? The weather is about to finally break and we may yet get a little bit a "Fall" before winter sets in. And of course Fall means pumpkins and yellow leaves and hot chocolate and who am I kidding... it means FOSSIL FEST! Have you all signed up to volunteer? It's time to do so. Heather has sent links for both Fossil Fest and another event, Gem Capers. Fossil Fest is the really important one but Gem Capers can also use a few more bodies. If you don't have the original links for the sign-up (continued on page 2)

This Month's Speaker

This Month's talk is pending...

We are still waiting to secure a speaker for our meeting this month - please reach out if you would like to give a talk, know someone who would, or have a speaker you would like us to reach out to!

(continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 2022

PSoA Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday October 18th - 7pm

AGMS Clubhouse 6719 Burnet Lane

Remote on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89515268492?pwd=U042SngzMDd4VEw2UTJTY2tSREhvdz09>

Meeting ID: 895 1526 8492

Passcode: 963761

PSoA October Field Trip

Saturday October 29th

Lake Texoma

(see page 2 for more details)

Gem Capers

October 21st - 23rd

Palmer Events Center

Ammonites from Lake Texoma through the years



October 2022 Field Trip Lake Texoma

We'll be collecting along the shores of Lake Texoma. Meet at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29 at the entrance to Eisenhower State Park.

The later-than-usual date is because of our participation in the AGMS show. Unless you want to leave at three in the morning, you will need to drive up the night before. Plan to stay overnight in the Sherman/Denison area, as we will also be collecting Sunday morning. We will visit a variety of sites. Some of these include large ammonites, so be prepared. You will definitely want to bring your hammers and chisels to remove specimens and backpacks to carry those specimens a fair distance along the lake shoreline.

It goes without saying that you will need lots of water, sunscreen, a good hat, food, sturdy shoes, etc. Since the weather is turning cooler this year you might need a light jacket. This is a Cretaceous site, Washita group. You can find not just ammonites, but several species of echinoids such as (large) Macrasters, Holasters, different species of Hemiasters than around Austin area, the elusive Razor clam, Rastellum (often called denture clams but really an oyster), small shark teeth in the gravel and other fossils.

Need more info contact, Melvin Noble fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org

Melvin Noble
Field Trip Co-Chair

President's Note

(continued from page 1)

page I have posted them on the PSA members only Facebook page. Heather will also have sign ups at this month's meeting.

The next field trip will be annual pilgrimage to Lake Texoma. Last I heard the plan was to push it back a week to the end of the month. That will give you a chance to also volunteer for Gem Capers. But for all of you who have always wanted good ammonites, this is your chance. I always look forward to seeing what comes home from Lake Texoma. Look for details in the newsletter.

That's all I have for now. See you at the meeting next week, see you at Gem Capers, see you at Lake Texoma, and definitely see you at Fossil Fest!

Erich Rose
PSOA President

Starfish Hunters in Brady TX - see page 4!



The Paleontological Society of Austin's
30th Annual

FOSSIL FEST

FOSSILS

FUN

GIFTS

PRIZES

MORE

@ austinpaleo.org/fest



November 5th & 6th

9 am - 5 pm
Old Settler's Park
Round Rock, TX

Discover the
prehistoric
in your backyard!

Fossil Fest 2022 Update

Call for volunteers:

Gem Capers and Fossil Fest are rapidly approaching, and we need you to volunteer!

Gem Capers: This event is hosted by AGMS at the Palmer Events Center in Austin. It takes place October 21st – 23rd. During the event we hand out baggies to promote our BIG outreach and fundraising event: **Fossil Fest**. You do not need to be well versed in fossils or geology to volunteer and you get FREE access to the event. Sign-up here: [Gem Capers 2022 - PSoA Booth Volunteers](#)

Fossil Fest 2022: This is our BIG yearly fundraising and outreach event! This year it will take place November 5th – 6th at Old Settlers Association in Round Rock, TX. Our theme this year is Texas Dinosaurs! We are doing our best to make this a successful event, after a 2-year hiatus! There are many volunteer positions open that we need to fill. You can sign up here: [Fossil Fest 2022 Volunteers](#)

Heather Aziz
Show Chair

Other Upcoming Events

Hill Country Fossil & Mineral Expo

October 21st - 23rd

Historic City Hall
Hillsboro, TX

(see larger poster on page 9)



Gem Capers

October 21st-23rd

Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Palmer Events Center
Austin, TX

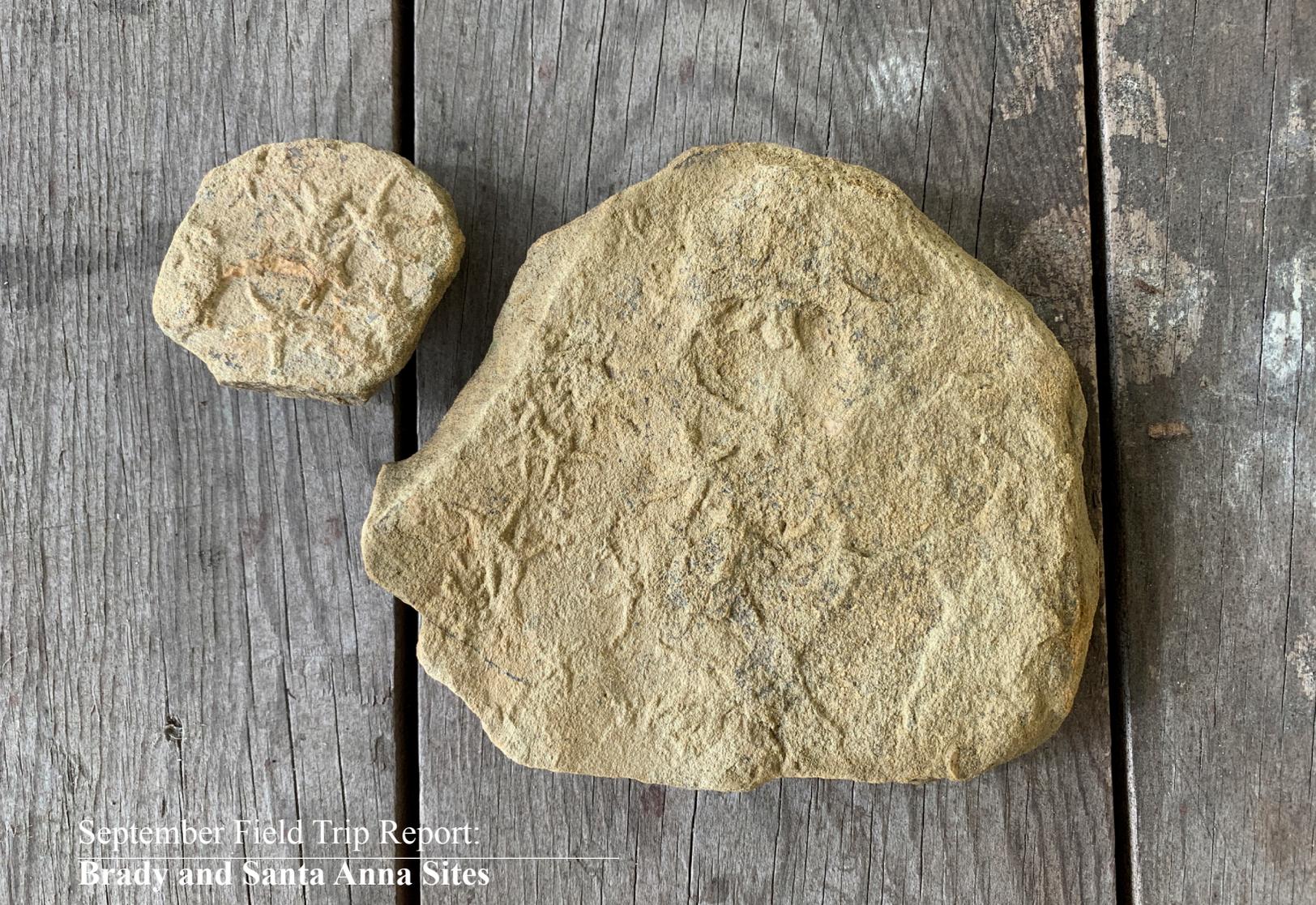
Fossilmania XL

October 28th - 30th

Dallas Paleontological Society
Somervell Co. Expo Center
Glen Rose, TX

(see larger poster on page 10)





September Field Trip Report: Brady and Santa Anna Sites

Fig. 1 Starfish impressions (Brian Bedrosian)

I got to the Brady road cut site a little early to check out the parking area. I did find a few mesquite thorns and threw them off the parking area. Some were 3 inches long! Soon people started to arrive on a beautiful September morning. Allen and Denise Keith, Ken Hasson and Miss Hasson, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Brian, Anders, Emerson and Diane Bedrosian, Benjamin (Tyler) Stovink, Helen Riggins, Guadalupe and Santiago Gamez, Bob McDonald and me, Melvin all spread out at the Brady area Road cut site to collect Pennsylvania fossils.

The morning started off nice and cool with a beautiful sunrise as we started searching. It was only a matter of time, of course, before Gary Rylander found a beautiful crinoid crown with the arms still attached (Fig. 2). Soon Tyler found a nice one also with the arms still attached. I believe there was also a third one found (I promise to take better notes next time). Meanwhile across the road up on the hill, Allen Keith was flipping over slabs to look for starfish impressions. There were a lot of slabs that had bits of wood and plant material embedded in them. There were also some small pieces of lose Pennsylvanian wood found at the main site. I was not having a ton of luck on this side, so I went back to the main site to see what folks were finding. Gary found a crinoid cup we believe with the stem attached? See the picture it, looks a little like a mushroom (Fig. 4). We need Dr sprinkle to show us exactly



Fig. 2 Crinoid crown (Gary Rylander)

how it was attached to the crinoid and explain some more about it. I went back over to the hill where Allen and now the Bedrosian family, along with Bob McDonald, were looking for starfish or plant material. I took a picture of the starfish hunters on the hill and just soon after that they started finding some. The Bedrosians found several smaller slabs that had some of the starfish impressions, and Brian shared one with me. While we are not exactly sure the origin of these fascinating shapes, they are a cool find and certainly are unique. Bob mentioned he had been coming here for decades and had never seen them before. Cheers to Allen who happened upon these last year after returning to the site to retrieve a lost backpack.

Around 11:30 we headed out to the other site and drove into Brownwood. After stopping at a convenience gas store for a break we headed out to Lake Santa Anna. I had called again to make sure we still have permission and they said no problem, but they were not going to give out the gate code. So we walked in the back way as it was better place to park. When we finally got to the gate which proved to be tougher climb than I remembered, but we all made it over (or under) just fine. When we got there and started collecting it was not too long till Helen Riggins found a nice enrolled trilobite, and Gary Rylander as well (Fig 6). These are Permian trilobites and some of the last species before they died out. Really nice finds. It would be nice to find out the exact species of these trilobites. I think they were about two to three found total. We collected for a couple hours but as it was heating up into the high 90s and the sun was intense, so most people were ready to go. I decided to leave myself because I had the long drive back, so I left Brian in charge. It was a very nice trip and for the most part the weather was fairly nice for a hot September. The countryside was a nice change of pace and has a primitive beauty all its own. I grew up in this area and we called it the big country. Hope to see you on the next trip to Texoma to look for ammonites and echinoids plus other little goodies.

Melvin Noble
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 3 *Welleria* (?) brachiopod (Brian Bedrosian)



Fig. 4 Crinoid with column (Gary Rylander)



Fig. 6 Trilobite - enrolled (Gary Rylander)



Fig. 5 Crinoid crown with arms (Tyler Stovink)



Side Trip: Witte Museum - San Antonio

I had the fortune last month to take my family to dinner at a restaurant my firm just completed at the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio. Using the dinner as an excuse to do some much needed exploring of San Antonio, we ventured out the next day to the Witte Museum - a small but wonderfully curated museum with a unique variety of exhibits.

The main hall contains some introductory displays but is largely dominated by their paleontological collection. Immediately upon entering you are greeted with a life sized replica of terradon hovering overhead, follow shortly thereafter by a standing skeleton of the same - both amazing for their scale. While consisting mostly of cast replicas, the exhibits are informative and allow you a more intimate experience than larger prestige museums. One can walk underneath the skull of an Acrocanthosaurus and look right up into the giant maw full of teeth. Emerson and Anders had a blast reading and listening to the interactive displays and playing in their Paleontology Lab which has activities for younger folks as well as drawers containing additional fossils that address specific themes.

The museum also houses a natural history collection quite creatively displayed by ecosystem, a wonderful exhibit on the native people who lived in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, many rooms in the older parts of the museum dedicated to Texas Heritage, as well as numerous temporary exhibits. Each area of the museum contains an interactive Lab which was great for the kids as well as the adults. A wonderful museum to add to your next San Antonio trip!

Brian Bedrosian
Newsletter Editor





Tailings...

In The News

Seven Million Years Ago, the Oldest Known Early Human Was Already Walking

Analysis of a femur fossil indicates that a key species could already move somewhat like us

Brian Handwerk, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), August 24th 2022

Scientists Discover Bug-Eating Reptile That Lived Among Dinosaurs

Delicate fossil reveals a cousin of the modern tuatara

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 15th 2022

World's Oldest Vertebrate Fossil Heart Found in Australia

The 380-million-year-old heart came from a prehistoric fish that is our earliest jawed ancestor

Margaret Osborne, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 16th 2022

Mysterious 'Alien Goldfish' May Have Been a Mollusk

The bizarre creature's anatomy had stumped scientists for decades

Margaret Osborne, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 23rd 2022

Seven Million Years Ago, the Oldest Known Early Human Was Already Walking

Analysis of a femur fossil indicates that a key species could already move somewhat like us

Brian Handwerk, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), August 24th 2022

The 50 Million-Year-Old Treasures of Fossil Lake

In a forbidding Wyoming desert, scientists and fortune hunters search for the surprisingly intact remains of horses and other creatures that lived long ago

Richard Conniff, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), September 2022

2022 Field Trip Schedule

October: **Lake Texoma**
 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.

Fossil Fest 2022 T-shirts!

Fossil Fest 2022 T-shirts are here! The designs are shown below and shirts are being offered in Sport Grey, Heather Maroon, Heather Military Green, and Heather Galapagos Blue. We are offering both adult and youth sizes - all shirts are \$10 for members. You can purchase these at our upcoming meeting at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society Club House (see page 1 for day and time)

Fossil Fest



Austin, TX

This pattern on left breast pocket

Texas Dinosaurs



Paleontological Society of Austin

This pattern on back

Hill County FOSSIL & MINERAL EXPO

AT HISTORIC CITY HALL
127/129 E. FRANKLIN ST., HILLSBORO, TX 76645

OCTOBER 21
10 AM - 6 PM

OCTOBER 22
10 AM - 6 PM

OCTOBER 23
1 PM - 5 PM

FEATURING MULTIPLE FOSSIL AND MINERAL
VENDORS FROM ACROSS TEXAS AND BEYOND!
AUCTION, RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES

THE TEXAS THROUGH TIME MUSEUM WILL HAVE AN EDUCATIONAL BOOTH
WITH ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, PREPARATION AND RESTORATION DEMOS,
AND MORE ACTIVITIES TO BE ANNOUNCED

*Free
Admission!*



Dallas Paleontological Society



FOSSILMANIA XL 40 years and Extra Large Somervell Co. Expo Center

202 E Gibbs Blvd, Glen Rose, TX 76043

October 28, 29, 30, 2022

Friday 8 am to 6 pm

Saturday 9 am to 6 pm

Sunday 9 am to 4 pm

Fossil Vendors
and
everything Paleontology

FREE Admission
FREE Parking

For schedule and more information:
dallaspaleo.org/FOSSILMANIA



FOSSILMANIA is one of Texas' longest running shows dedicated to fossils and everything paleontology. Not a gem and mineral show - FOSSILMANIA is a **fossil show**. Vendors have more than fossils. They have books, apparel, artwork, and other products related to fossils and paleontology.

FREE activities include fossil collecting field trips, a Kid's Corner with hands-on exercises, a guided tour of dinosaur tracks, and a badge workshop for Scouts. This is an educational and entertaining event for all ages.

A door prize awarded every hour. A raffle and a silent auction add excitement to this event. Look for pictures of the raffle items and other activities on the website at dallaspaleo.org/FOSSILMANIA.

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**

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