

PALEO FOOTNOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2022



President's Note

December is upon us and it's time for some holiday cheer!

I hope some of you are planning to attend our party. The date and time will be the regular third Tuesday at 7pm at the AGMS club house. The party is potluck with the main course provided by us. So bring either your favorite side dish or a desert. And it's also BYOB (bring your own beverage). But the main event of the evening will be the White Mammoth Gift Exchange. If you are so inclined to participate bring a wrapped fossil-related gift. We also suggest nothing too valuable, maybe in the \$20 range, but that is up to you. (continued on page 2)

This Month's Speaker

This month's meeting will be a social event and holiday celebration.

We are always looking for new speakers to help broaden our understanding of Paleontology and this coming year we may see some visits from some folks at the UT Vertebrate Lab.

If there are other folks you would like to have come speak to us - please email our [Program Chair](#), or chat one of us up at the meeting!

DECEMBER 2022

White Mammoth + Holiday Potluck
Tuesday December 20th - 7pm

AGMS Clubhouse 6719 Burnet Lane

This is an in-person only event - please RSVP [here](#) if you plan to attend!

This is a potluck, so please feel free to bring your favorite desert or side dish.

No Field Trip this Month

But keep an eye out for the January issue - many exciting trips in 2023! If you go out hunting over the break, please consider writing up a SIDE TRIP to share with the club!



President's Note

(continued from page 1)

Rules will be explained at the party.

Now on a note of caution, as you may know the AGMS club house is a rather small space, and we still have the threat of Covid, and to make matters worse Flu and other bugs are making the rounds. I want to encourage everyone to take a Covid test before attending and if you are feeling ill or if you believe you may have been exposed to the flu please stay at home and take care of yourself. Better safe than sorry.

So we do need to get a head count for the party. Please keep an eye on your email and RSVP with yes, no, and if yes what side dish you might bring (12 potato salads might be much!)

PS there will NOT be a Zoom connection for this meeting/ party and there is NO field trip planned for December.

Hope to see you there!

Erich Rose
PSoA President

Editor's Note

Another year is shortly behind us and a new year full of new adventures and awesome fossil finds is ahead! This is the time of year I reach out to encourage our members to contribute to the newsletter and share your own SIDE TRIP with the club.

This past year we heard about wonderful trips to the Texas coast, the permian red beds, the Royal Tyrell Museum, the Brazos River and, in this month's issue, the Texas Triple Crown of Fossil Fests (see page 5). 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.

Have a wonderful holiday and Happy New Year!

Brian Bedrosian
Newsletter Editor



Fig. 1 *Petalodus Ohioensis* (Tyler Stoviak) In matix with rock hammer above, detail view inset below

November Field Trip Report: Wilson Clay Pit

On a cold November morning that turned out to be rainy as usual 18 Faithful and hardcore fossil collectors showed up at the meeting place in Brownwood. Four new members, Dawn and her son, Alex, Randy and Margaret, plus some old members Ed Elliott, Tyler Stoviak, Gary and Cathy Rylander, Leia Pfaff, Eric Rose, Mike Smith, Paul Hammerschmidt, Brian Bedrosian with his sons, Bob McDonald and me, Melvin, caravanned to the collecting site. As you can see by the group picture (page 2) the weather was a little bit nippy, but that did not dampen our spirits.

People started finding fossils immediately as we went through the gate. I found a *Pedalodus* tooth, just the tip of the point immediately and found them throughout the day, as did many other people. Alex found a nice cup, a real nice find for the start of his fossil collection (fig. 3). He is on his way to being a paleontologist! The weather started to clear up a little as many of us made our way to the right side. Tyler found a nice *Pedalodus Ohioensis* tooth in matrix (fig. 1). Later Mike found



a *Pedalodus Ohioensis* tooth by itself (fig. 4), both teeth were at least 90% there. The kids had a good time playing and I am glad it did not rain. We collected for most of the day and that evening there was about a seven of us left as we made our way towards the back end.

I collected a lot of Crinoid spines that were full length complete and continued to find chunks of *Petalodus* teeth. Paul Hammerschmidt found a Trilobite pygidium (fig. 6) and an interesting oyster in the matrix. On the hill to the left Margaret and Randy came up with either a *Peripristis Simicircularis* or a *Janassa*, I think its a *Peripristis* (fig. 2). Until I showed it to Ed I was a little stumped. Randy also found a real nice cup, perfect symmetry (fig. 5). Both of these were found on their 1st trip out collecting!

It was getting a little low on light as we all made it back to the cars to we look at one another's finds. Of course there were lots of horn Corals, Brachiopods and other assorted Pennsylvania material found that day but this seemed to be the day of the *Pedalodus* tooth. There seemed to be pieces and full ones everywhere. Next time we go back we may not find any, it always changes just like the Texas weather. On the way back me and Ed stopped at Underwoods restaurant to have a good meal but most everybody else decided to get back home. It was a great day collecting in the clay pit. The sun was also welcome in the evening as it warmed up. I Hope to come back soon after some good rain when maybe more material will be exposed.

Melvin Noble
Field Trip Co-Chair



Fig. 2 Unidentified shark tooth fragment (Margaret + Randy)



Fig. 3 Crinoid cup (Alex)



Fig. 5 Crinoid cup (Margaret + Randy)



Fig. 6 Trilobite (P Hammerschmidt)



Fig. 7 Crinoid cup (B Bedrosian)



Fig. 8 *Petalodus* sp. (B Bedrosian)



Fig. 4 *Petalodus Ohioensis* (Mike Smith)



Fig. 1 Triceratops Onesie at Fossil Mania!

Side Trip: The TX Festival Circuit!

Fossil Fest is the BEST! But Fossil Mania and Fossil Expo were pretty good too!

We can all agree that the PSoA Fossil Fest was fantastic! But I also got to be a part of two other Fossil Shows the weekends leading up to our Fossil Fest! I am calling it “The Triple Crown of Fossil Shows”. The Hill Country Fossil (and Mineral) Expo was October 22-24 and FossilMania was over Halloween weekend. And then, of course, our show. It was a whirlwind of three weekends of fossil, fossils, and more fossils!

The first show was in Hillsboro TX hosted by the Texas Through Time Museum – some of us visited there last summer. It was not at the Museum itself, but around the corner in the Historic City Hall, a lovely old building just off the square. Visitors were greeted by a life size dino sculpture out front. Inside was a large space with a variety of vendors with everything from gem/mineral sellers to amazing fossil set



Fig. 2 Mr. Farish and his remote control shark balloon

ups (fig. 3). Texas Through Time had a display of a variety of items from the Museum – heavy on their Permian collection but some new finds from West Texas too. There were a variety of speakers over the weekend and even a “Jurassic Park” car show.

My favorite part of the whole event was meeting a lovely young artist/paleo enthusiast who was set up selling her art and stuffed animal sculptures (fig. 4). It was her very first showing of her paleo art and she was thrilled that people were interested in her work. I immediately snagged a great little painting of a Chasmosaurus. We had a great talk about art school, the future of paleo art and where she might see her career go. I look forward to seeing where her art takes her!

The very next weekend was FossilMania, hosted by the Dallas Paleo Society. It is held in Glen Rose TX and brings in people from all over the state and beyond. They were celebrating their 40th year this year. It’s held over the Halloween Weekend, so there’s always some fun surprises from the staff and visitors! This year, the coordinator was sporting a Triceratops Onesie Pajama ensemble...I kid you not (fig. 1). And Mr. Farish (who wrote the Fossil Sharks Book) had his remote controlled helium shark balloon sailing around the space which is always a hoot to see kids chasing after and adults being surprised to find a 4 foot shark balloon sneaking up on them (fig. 2).

Friday is Kids Day and busloads of kids from the local schools come starting at 8am. It’s a bit hectic, but lots of great teaching moments and almost all the kids were very interested in learning about fossils and history. Kids came dressed up in Halloween costumes (mostly dinosaur themed!) and were excited to get freebie handouts of fossils and candy.

In addition to hourly door prizes, they also have a silent auction going on and there were some surprisingly nice fossils donated. Lectures were held throughout the weekend and a large display table with a lovely big mosasaur skull replica and lots of other displays were front and center for visitors to enjoy. There were many vendors with some of the most amazing fossils I’ve ever seen...including a baby mammoth jaw and a Canadian Ammolite ammonite which I might have actually drooled on.

So the next weekend, was, of course, Fossil Fest. Although I have been a part of the PSoA for a few years, this was actually the FIRST Fossil Fest I got to attend! And I have to say...it was THE BEST. But the rest were pretty good too...

Jamie Shelton
Field Trip Co-chair



Fig. 3 Hill Country Fossil and Mineral Expo Dino on display!

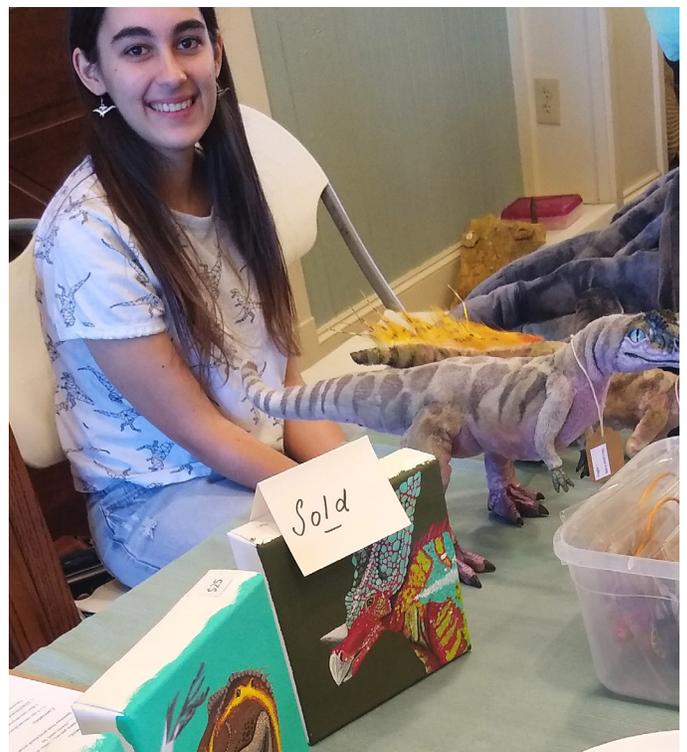


Fig. 4 My new paleoartist friend!



Tailings...

In The News

In Rare Find, Scientists Unearth Fossil of Large Marine Reptile With Both Head and Body

Skeletons of elasmosaurs are often found without their skull
Margaret Osborne, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), December 7th 2022

How a 67-Million-Year-Old Fossil Turned the Theory of Bird Evolution Upside-Down

A skull bone suggests prehistoric birds could move their upper beaks, much like most modern birds

Sarah Kuta, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), December 1st 2022

Soon After Dinosaur Decimation, Our Primate Ancestors Began Pouncing on Prey

Nails helped them climb trees quietly, and forward-facing eyes helped with depth perception to aid in precise leaping

Riley Black, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), November 14th 2022

Scientists Unearth a Prehistoric Marine Turtle the Size of a Car

Fragments of the creature's pelvis and shell were discovered in the Pyrenees

Margaret Osborne, [Smithsonian Magazine](#), November 18th 2022

Did tyrannosaurs live in groups? Experts discuss new fossil clues.

A new fossil site reveals a group of tyrannosaurs that died together, providing fresh evidence that these predators engaged in some form of social behavior.

Michael Greshko, [National Geographic Magazine](#), April 26th 2021

Paleontologists Uncover the Oldest Sabertoothed Predator

Fossil jaw shows earliest evidence of a specialized carnivore with scimitar-shaped fangs

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

2022 Field Trip Schedule

No Field trip this month but stay tuned for a list of the 2023 trips in January's newsletter!

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.

Paleo Posters

The paleo posters we had on display at fossil fest, along with many others, are available as pdfs on the [LINKS](#) page on our website. These might be useful resources for teachers. Or maybe you just need dinosaurs posters for your wall!

Geological Formations

Geological Mapping Tools to identify formations in Texas.

Prehistoric Sharks

Overview
Megalodon
Shark Teeth

Prehistoric Monster Reptiles

Overview
Ichthyosaurs
Plesiosaurs
Mosasaurs

Dinosaurs

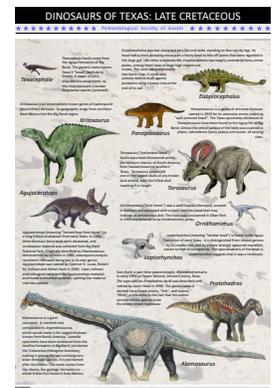
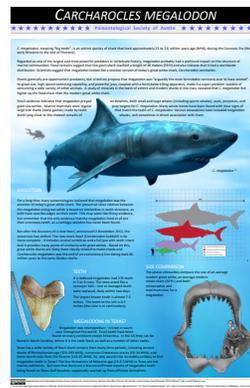
Dinosaurs Found in Texas - Lower Cretaceous
Dinosaurs Found in Texas - Upper Cretaceous
How our images of dinosaurs have changed over time. Retro vs. Modern

They are free to use and are available under Creative Commons licenses. Some are only available for non-profit uses, others are under CC BY-SA, the share-alike license. Both just require attribution.

I used Office Depot to print them poster-sized. I also had them mounted on foam core which brought the total to around \$50 each.

Mike Smith

Treasurer



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)

2021 Officers

President	Erich Rose	president@austinpaleo.org
Vice President	Heather Radford	vicepresident@austinpaleo.org
Treasurer	Mike Smith	treasurer@austinpaleo.org
Secretary	Gary Vliet	secretary@austinpaleo.org
Field Trips Programs	Melvin Noble & Jamie Shelton	fieldtripchair@austinpaleo.org
Editor	Paul Hammerschmidt	programchair@austinpaleo.org
Webmaster	Brian Bedrosian	editor@austinpaleo.org
Show Chair	Mike Smith	webmaster@austinpaleo.org
	Heather Radford	showchair@austinpaleo.org
Science Advisors:	Pamela R. Owen, PhD.	powen@mail.utexas.edu
	James T. Sprinkle, PhD.	echino@mail.utexas.edu

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

