



Priscum

December 2023



Importance of Paleontology Op-Ed

In case you missed it, make sure you check out the [recently published opinion](#) by members of the Paleontological Society Committee on Employment (Roy E. Plotnick, Brendan M. Anderson, Sandra J. Carlson, Advait M. Jukar, Julien Kimmig and Elizabeth Petsios). They argue that **paleontologists are critically important in providing context for many of the environmental issues**—climate change, ocean acidification, mass extinctions and other perils, mainly manmade, facing the biosphere and humanity. Alarming, employment in the field is declining, just when we need it most.

Submit to Priscum!

We invite submissions of short items to be considered for Priscum! Please [send submissions](#) to our Paleo Society Communications team, due by the 1st of each month. We focus on sharing very brief announcements, key dates, and links to other pages with relevant resources.

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

UPCOMING DEADLINES



NPS-PS Spanish
Language
Paleontological
Outreach Assistant
positions are still open!



NAPC abstract
submissions
open through
Jan. 20!



12th NORTH AMERICAN
PALEONTOLOGICAL CONVENTION
University of Michigan 17-21 June 2024

- **Planning is underway for NAPC 2024!**
 - Please help us plan accurately by completing this [SURVEY](#). *Send it to any colleagues, students, and friends who might also attend!*
- **Abstract submissions are now open for the 2024 North American Paleontological Convention!** Abstracts for presentations are due by **January 20, 2024**, and there are tens of exciting topical symposia! The meeting will be held in Ann Arbor, MI on June 17-21, 2024. Have you followed [@NAPC2024](#) yet on [Instagram](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), or Facebook, featuring #FossilFridays and the latest conference news?!
- **Submit Your Proposals for GSA Connects 2024** in Anaheim, California!
 - **Short Course Deadline:** 1 Feb. 2024
 - **Technical Sessions Deadline:** 1 Feb. 2024
- Announcing the **2024 Stratigraphic Paleobiology Field Conference** on 1-14 July! Check out more information and apply by March 8 here: <http://stratigrafia.org/fieldconference/>

Stratigraphic Paleobiology Field Conference 2024
 July 1-14 July



learn to measure stratigraphic columns, make sequence-stratigraphic interpretations, build fossil occurrence data sets, and analyze them with multivariate methods
 study Paleozoic and Mesozoic marine and nonmarine settings in the Tobacco Root Mountains and the Upper Missouri River Breaks of Montana
 co-taught by Mark Patzkowsky, Steven Holland, Kristi Curry Rogers, and Ray Rogers
 open to all graduate students in paleontology internationally
 applications open 8 January – 8 March 2024

see stratigrafia.org/fieldconference for details and application
 Mark Patzkowsky: mep12@psu.edu Steven Holland: stratum@uga.edu



- Some **NPS-PS Paleontology in the Parks Fellowship opportunities are still open!** We are still recruiting applicants for the **Spanish Language Paleontological Outreach Assistant** position(s)! You can read about completed pilot projects and the development of this program [here](#). Please refer to the main [program page](#) for full details on eligibility and how to apply. Email the program chair, Christy Visaggi (cvisaggi@gsu.edu), with any questions.
- **GSA Section Meetings** are fast approaching. Be sure to get your abstracts in!
 - [Northeast](#): abstract deadline Dec. 12
 - [Southeast](#): abstract deadline Jan. 9
 - [Northcentral and Southcentral](#): joint meeting abstract deadline Jan. 16
 - [Cordilleran and Rocky Mountain](#): joint meeting abstract deadline Feb. 6
- **Would you like to organize a future Paleontological Society Short Course?**
 Each year the Paleontological Society hosts a free short course on the Saturday before the official start of the Annual Geological Society of America Connects meeting and we are recruiting for 2025 and beyond. (see <https://www.paleosoc.org/short-courses> for topics going back to 2010).
 PS Short Course proposals consist of:
 - A title
 - Half-page description of the topic and its interest to the PS membership
 - The names of the organizers
 - A list of proposed speakers
 Please send proposals to the PS Program Coordinator, John Huntley (huntleyj@missouri.edu), by March 31,

Remember to renew your PS Membership for 2024!

**2023 Paleontological Society
Student Poster Award winners**



Latest PS News

- Congratulations to our 2023 **Paleontological Society Student Poster Award** winners from GSA!
 - *Sofia Weinstein (Undergraduate, Hamilton College)*
 - *Clare Mate (Undergraduate, University of Missouri)*
 - *Matthew Butrim (Graduate student, University of Wyoming)*
 - *Alejandro Prieto (Graduate student, Vanderbilt University)*

- Remember March 2020? A frightening new respiratory disease was sweeping the globe. Colleges and universities shut their doors and sent their students home. As the days turned into weeks, educators—we—were asked to pivot to on-line teaching. How could we recreate specimen-rich teaching from our dining room tables? Like many of you, we turned to the **Paleontological Research Institution's** on-line resources. The **Digital Atlas of Ancient Life** provided high resolution images and descriptive text that was the next best thing to holding the fossils in our hands. While we were struggling to turn our lectures into video, the work of putting a robust teaching collection on line had already been done for us. And when we returned to our classrooms and collections, the Digital Atlas was still there to supplement and enrich our teaching.

As paleontologists and members of PRI's Board of Trustees, we hope you will join us in expressing gratitude for 90 years of work in support of paleontology and looking ahead to make the next, digital, century possible. ([Donate here.](#))

- *Nan Crystal Arens (Hobart & William Smith Colleges), Nigel Hughes (University of California, Riverside), Linda Ivany (Syracuse University), and Christopher McRoberts (SUNY Cortland)*

DIGITAL ATLAS OF ANCIENT LIFE



- The **Paleo Society Student Grants Committee needs volunteers to review student proposals for 2024!** The committee awards ~\$45,000 in student research grants each year, reviewing over 100 applications. Members with a PhD at any career stage can serve on the committee. Members serve for 2 to 3 years. Reviews are largely assigned by expertise - and we especially encourage vertebrate paleontology members to volunteer this year. Interested? Please contact the committee chair, Surangi Punyasena (spunya1@illinois.edu) for more information.
- **Interested in reviewing a book for Priscum and PS?** Reviewers receive a free review copy of newly published and forthcoming titles, in exchange writing informative and informal reviews for our membership. Check [HERE](#) for the **updated** list of available books and contact Book Reviews Editor Phil Novack-Gottshall (pnovack-gottshall@ben.edu) if interested in reviewing one or more.

Paleo Society would love to share your wonderful paleontology photos on the homepage of our website and on social media for #FossilFriday! **Please [submit your fossil photos early and often!](#)**

Follow Paleo Society social media accounts for the most up-to-date announcements, opportunities, event details, and more on our [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Blog](#).

[Submit your fossil photos here!](#)

USE YOUR PS MEMBER BENEFITS!



How is PS working for you?

- **Are you interested in serving PS**, or know someone who would be a great fit for one of these roles that will be open soon? Our nominations committee (j.b.bennington@hofstra.edu) would welcome hearing from you. *Check out our current PS Councilors [HERE](#).*
 - Roles that are opening Fall 2024 include Representative at Large late career, Program Director, Student Representative, Social Media Coordinator, Government Affairs, Chief Information Officer, and we are always on the lookout for a future fearless leader in the President Elect position.
- Did you know that ~85% of members typically give when they renew? We take this opportunity to thank **multi-year members** for your long-term commitment to the Paleontological Society and also ask you to consider donating to the Society in years when you are not up for membership renewal. Thanks to generous support from members of the Paleontological Society for helping to fund educational outreach, student and early career research grants, and internships, among other priorities. In 2023, the PS committed more than \$170,000 to programs that support our students and early career members! Complete information on our funds and a link to the donation page can be found at: <https://www.paleosoc.org/donate>.
- **Get ready for the 2024 PS grant and award season!**
 - Early career research grants due Feb. 1
 - Student research grants due Feb. 10
 - PS award nominations due Feb. 1. *The Paleontological Society awards celebrate members at all stages in their career. Be sure to check out how to [submit nominations](#).*
 - Nominations for PS Fellows are due Feb 28. See [HERE](#) for more information.
- The American Geophysical Institute (AGI), with support from the Paleontological Society, created this fabulous handbook, a **Paleo Field Guide for Funding**, as a foundation for exploring new funding areas within NSF and adjacent organizations.
- Have you taken advantage of this super opportunity yet?? The American Geosciences Institute, in partnership with the AAPG Foundation, is offering AGI Member Societies **FREE access to the [Geologize](#)**

online course “Practical Geocommunication.” It provides an excellent opportunity for geoscientists to become more effective and powerful public ambassadors for our field, something that is urgently needed.

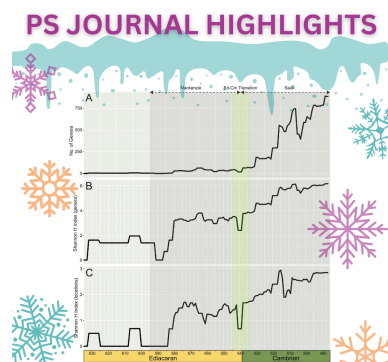
TO GET FREE ACCESS TO THE TRAINING:

- Go to the AGI society landing page [here](#).
- Click on the 'AGI Access' button.
- Register for the course (Free)
- Click on the link 'Have a coupon?'
- Enter the code '**ps-agi-pggz-2324**' to remove the price.
- Start learning! (Course counts as nine hours of Continuing Professional Development)

Please note that the number of uses for this coupon is limited to our membership. The free opportunity is available until March, so you are encouraged to take advantage soon!

- **Have you been awarded a PS grant anytime in the past?** Please take a couple minutes to fill out this [short survey](#) to help us understand who is benefiting from PS grants and how we can reach even more paleontologists in the future. We would love to share YOUR story!
- We really do love our amazing PS members, and want to showcase more of our community! Do you (or a student!) want to be featured in a **#MemberMonday** post? You can complete [this short survey](#), upload a photo, and our social media team will take it from there!

Donate to Paleo Society!



What's New in PS Journals?

Open Access Articles Alert!

Journal of Paleontology

Hydrozoans are rare in the fossil record as they require exceptional conditions in order to be preserved. Larson and Briggs describe *Bertratis ciurcae*, a new capitate hydrozoan genus and species from the Silurian of southern Ontario and upstate New York, which floated on the ocean surface and is the largest fossil capitate so far discovered. Open Access. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jpa.2023.62>

- [Latest issue](#) of *Journal of Paleontology*: Volume 97 - Supplement S93 - June 2023 (Keep up with the latest in [FirstView articles!](#))

Paleobiology

The Ediacaran period is the oldest known period of macroscopic life in the geologic record, but of the plentiful research on its origin and demise, few studies on the sedimentary rock record itself have been conducted. Segessenman and Peters present a quantitative analysis on the Ediacaran-Cambrian rock and fossil records from North America, finding starkly evident correlations between the two, and suggesting transgressive-regressive cycles and expanding marine shelf environments coincided with the diversification of animal life. Open Access. <https://doi.org/10.1017/pab.2023.31>

- [Latest issue](#) of *Paleobiology*: Volume 49 - Issue 4 - November 2023 (Keep up with the latest in [FirstView articles!](#))

Elements of Paleontology:

Molecular Paleobiology of the Echinoderm Skeleton by Jeffrey R. Thompson discusses how our knowledge of echinoderm development, genomes, and fossil record make them a model group for molecular paleobiological studies, providing a solid foundation for the vast biodiversity of echinoderms. Freely accessible for all PS members. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009179768>

As always, Elements are free to publish for authors. Please see additional benefits to publishing [HERE](#).

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Submit to Priscum!



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