



Priscum

December 2025



Congratulations to our new **2025 Paleontological Society Fellows**! Fellows are members of the Paleontological Society who have made far-reaching contributions to paleontology through research, teaching, or service to the profession. Read more about Fellows **Matthew Clapham** (University of California, Santa Cruz), **Neil Landman** (American Museum of Natural History), **Jim Schiffbauer** (University of Missouri), and **Bruce Tiffney** (University of California, Santa Barbara) [HERE](#)!



Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- Make sure to submit your abstracts for **2026 GSA section meetings**! Abstracts for all are due Jan. 13, 2026, and there are multiple paleontology-related sessions!

- **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 2026 and beyond.

Recent topics include: *Open Science, Collaboration, and Reproducibility in Paleontology; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Paleontology; Ecological Models Applied to Fossil Data; and Pedagogy and Technology in the Modern Paleontology Classroom* (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

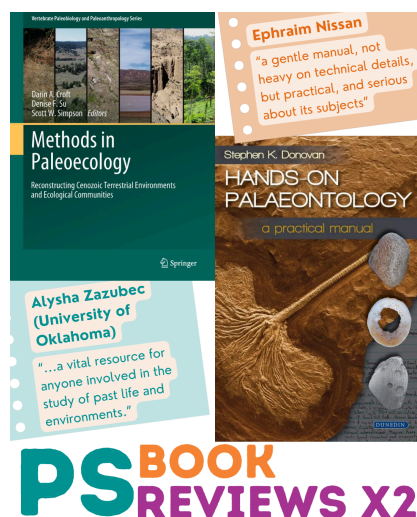
Short courses are intended to provide overviews of a topic and a description of the current state of the subject.

Please send proposals to the PS Program Coordinator, John Huntley (huntleyj@missouri.edu), by **January 15, 2026** for immediate consideration (but proposals are welcome at any time).

- The Paleontological Society supports research for early-career paleontologists, including [two early-career grants](#). Consider applying for either by **February 1**, or pass this along to colleagues who may be interested in applying!
 - The [Arthur James Boucot Research Grants](#) support early-career paleontologists in the fields of morphology, taxonomy, and biostratigraphy, working on any taxa, preferably with some combination of these approaches and a significant fieldwork component.
 - The [Norman Newell Grants](#) complement the Arthur Boucot grants, and preference is therefore given to research projects in areas not covered by the Arthur Boucot grant topical areas.
 - **New for the 2026 cycle**, each grant can award a total of \$30,000 across successful awardees, typically with \$5,000 per grant! Full info [HERE!](#)
- The [Analytical Paleobiology Summer School 2026](#) will take place from August 17 to September 4, 2026, at Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU) in Erlangen, Germany. This intensive 3-week course is designed for graduate students interested in quantitative approaches to paleobiology. Participants will receive hands-on training in statistical methods, data analysis, and modeling, taught by an international team of instructors. A limited number of travel grants are available to support attendees. Applications due **January 31, 2026**
- [GSA Connects 2026](#) is back in **Denver, Colorado, USA**, next October, and you're invited to **propose a short course, field trip, or technical session!** Help create a dynamic conference that elevates learning, sparks collaboration, and highlights the science happening across the Front Range and beyond. **PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 19 FEBRUARY 2026**
- The joint [Crossing the Palaeontological–Ecological Gap \(CPEG\) Meeting and Conservation Paleobiology Symposium \(CPS\)](#) will take place at University College London in early August 2027. The combined 4-day meeting aims to bridge spatial and temporal gradients between palaeontology, ecology, and conservation.
- Mark your calendar! The **7th International Palaeontological Congress (IPC7)** will be held in Cape Town, South Africa on Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2026.

Have you renewed your PS Membership for 2025?

Latest PS News



- Alysha Zazubec (University of Oklahoma) reviews the edited volume *Methods in Paleocology*, praising its comprehensive discussion of methods to reconstruct ancient environments. Filled with loads of practical advice and case studies, this is a foundational resource not only for Cenozoic terrestrial paleontologists but also for those studying older ages and other habitats.
- Ephraim Nissan reviews Stephen Donovan's *Hands-On Paleontology*, appreciating its charming and sensible advice for anyone with an interest in fossils, whether avocational or professional. Covering everything from fossil collecting and specimen curation to conferences and publications, including advice rarely put down in writing, there is something for everyone.
- **The PS stands with PRI!** Paleontological Research Institution (PRI)'s Museum of the Earth is getting closer to its fundraising goal to save the museum! If you'd like to learn more about PRI and the current situation or contribute, visit www.priweb.org/savethemuseum.
- **Interested in reviewing a book for *Priscum*?** Reviewers receive a free review copy of newly published and forthcoming titles, in exchange for writing informative and informal reviews for our membership. Check here for the list of available books and contact Book Reviews Editor Phil Novack-Gottshall (pnovack-gottshall@ben.edu) if interested in reviewing one or more.

Submit your #FossilFriday photos here!



WORK IN A NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION?

The PS Collections Committee is gathering responses about the state of funding for paleontological/geological collections in the US. Please fill out this 5-10 min survey to tell us about your collection:

<https://forms.gle/6CSE5GS4MZ58dqxUA>



How is PS working for you?

- In 2025, the Society committed more than \$258,000 to programs that support our students and early career members. Please consider making the **Paleontological Society** one of your beneficiaries at the end of this year by supporting these essential programs that benefit paleontologists throughout their careers. Complete information on our funds and a link to the donation page can be found at: <https://www.paleosoc.org/donate>. Thank

you for your support of the Paleontological Society!

- The **Sepkoski Grant Committee (PalSIRP)** needs volunteers to review proposals for 2026. Grant reviewers will read and evaluate about 25 grant proposals using a rubric to standardize the reviews. Interested? Please contact the committee chair, Carrie Schweitzer cschweit@kent.edu by February 15 to volunteer or for more information.
- **Congratulations to the 2025 PS Outreach & Education Grant awardees!** We look forward to seeing the exciting ways these projects will bring paleontology to the public!
 - **Aldo Marcelo Benites Palomino:** Fósiles Tropicales en 90 segundos (Tropical Fossils in 90 seconds)
 - **Julia Bradshaw:** The ABCs of Lake Tanganyika's Evolution and Ecology: A Young Reader's Guide to the Inhabitants and History of Africa's Oldest Lake
 - **Lauren Michael Kateland Hall:** 100 Years since the Scopes Monkey Trial; A Celebration of Paleontology in the State of Tennessee
 - **Matías Motta:** PaleoStream and digital communities. Outreach of Paleontology in new digital media
 - **Angela Reddick:** Dinosaur STEAM Camp
 - **Lizette Leon Rodriguez:** Touch a Fossil Workshop – Become a Paleontologist for a Day
 - **Mattison Shreero:** GeoSplore: A User-Friendly, Interactive, and Accessible Mobile Application for Geologic and Paleontologic Information
 - **Darrah Steffen:** Online Interactive Map for the South Dakota Mines Museum of Geology
- Do you know someone who has impacted the field of paleontology through their research, teaching, or service? Please consider nominating them as a 2026 PS fellow! **Fellow nominations** are due February 28, 2026. You can find more information about nominations at <https://www.paleosoc.org/fellows-of-the-paleontological-society>.
- The Paleo Society is exploring how we recruit and retain members and what membership benefits and programming most appeal to the broader paleontological community. Please share your experiences with us through the **2025 Membership & Participation survey!**
- The **PS Collections Committee** is gathering responses from those working in paleontological/geological collections about the status of funding for digitization and curatorial projects in the US. The **survey** can be finished in as little as 5-10 min and submitted anonymously as well. Thank you for your valuable input!
<https://forms.gle/6C5E5GS4MZ58dqxUA>
- **Have YOU been awarded a PS grant anytime in the past?** Please take a couple minutes to fill out this **short**

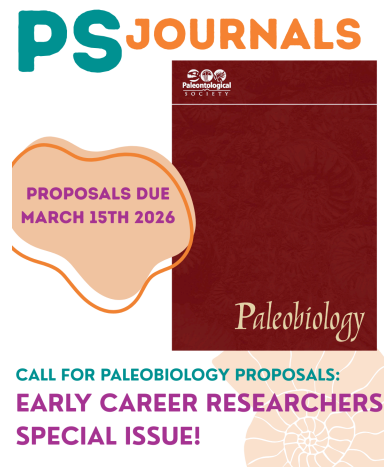
survey to help us understand who is benefiting from PS grants and how we can reach even more paleontologists in the future. We would love to share YOUR story!

- *To support paleontologists like those featured here and on our social media, please consider donating to the Paleontological Society:*

<https://www.paleosoc.org/donating-to-the-paleontological-society>

- **Attention Students! Are you interested in contributing to the Paleontological Society?** Consider running for the position of Student Representative! Student Representatives serve a 2-year term on PS Council, where they work in conjunction with another student representative. Please contact Jill Leonard-Pingel (cio@paleosociety.org) if you would like to learn more about this opportunity.

Donate to Paleo Society!



What's New in PS Journals?

Call for proposals! Early Career Researchers

- *Paleobiology* invites proposals for a special issue dedicated to **Early Career Researchers** (ECRs). All current **Paleontological Society** members within five years after completion of their degree program are eligible to submit a proposal. Papers may be co-authored, but the senior author (first author) must be an ECR.
- All authors wishing to publish an article in this special issue must submit a complete proposal by **March 15th 2026** to paleobiology@cambridge.org.
- Please direct inquiries and requests for information to eesaupe@gmail.com.
 - We welcome proposals on **all aspects of paleontology**, including paleoecology, paleobiogeography, taphonomy, and evolution. Submissions on all fossil organism groups and trace fossils are welcome.
 - **Proposal assessment process** Each proposal will be assessed by the editorial board of the journal for fit, timeliness, and relevance. Authors will be notified of the outcome of the assessment by May 2026. Invited manuscripts should be submitted by **January 2027**.
 - **Peer review** Articles submitted to the Special Issue will be subject to the usual rigorous peer review process of the journal. Associate Editors will recommend Accept pending revisions, Minor Revision, Major Revision, Reject and Resubmit or Decline decisions. Final decisions will be made by the handling Editor.
 - **Publication process** Articles will appear online incrementally (Early View) as soon as they are ready for publication and be included in the Special Issue.

- [Latest issue](#) of ***Journal of Paleontology***: Volume 99 - Supplement S99 - October 2025 (Keep up with the latest in [FirstView articles!](#))

Paleobiology

- [Latest issue](#) of ***Paleobiology***: Volume 51 - Issue 3 - August 2025 (Keep up with the latest in [FirstView articles!](#))
- ***Paleobiology is now a fully Gold Open Access journal!*** Find out [here](#) how it is free to publish!

Elements of Paleontology

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

Submit to Priscum!

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

Submit your fieldwork or museum [fossil and paleontologist photos for #FossilFriday!](#) Follow @PaleoSoc social media accounts for the most up-to-date announcements, opportunities, event details, and more on our [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Blog](#).

Submit to Priscum!



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