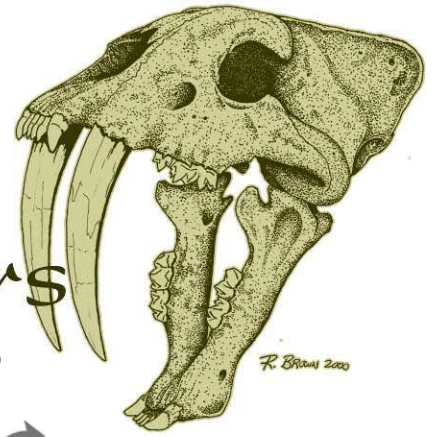


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 25, Number 7

August 2015

From the President.....

Hope all is well and everyone is keeping cool during this hot summer and had a good Father's Day, 4th of July, & Shark Week. Don't worry, Christmas and cooler weather will be here before we know it.

There is a lot to cover since our last meeting and plenty coming up this Fall.

The Florida Fossil Hunters had a fantastic **"Women in Paleontology"** in May. For me, it was one of the greatest programs we've ever had. Thanks to all of you who helped. This may be going nationwide (I like to dream big.) Much more on this in an article inside this issue.

Peace River may be hit or miss, but I've seen and heard of a lot of fossiling still going on. Don't miss your chance.

We participated in June's Science Nite Live event at OSC. Many interested folks were turned onto Florida's past through our outreach with OSC. Valerie First is back at doing her outreach at the Central Florida Zoo, too.

Inside this issue, I have written about a very hot topic that went into effect this summer across the nation regarding fossil hunting...

The Paleontological Resource Preservation Act. This covers new laws/regulations about hunting fossils in the National Forest System Lands. There will be a few follow-up articles on this in our newsletters, plus more info online.

Now for something that's always popular. Our annual **Fossil Fair** is approaching fast. Valerie First, our Fair Chairperson, has lined up for Nov. 7th and 8th. Like always, we need volunteers to help make this event fun and smooth-running. Please look for the sign-up sheets at the meetings. Last year we had a great turnout and one of our most enjoyable.

August's meeting is on **Saturday, August 15th** at the Orlando Science Center at **3 pm**. John McIntosh of Ancient Artifacts, will give a presentation on the Santana Formation.

See you soon.
Russell Brown

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Saturday, August 15th

3 pm Meeting &

John McIntosh, speaker

Saturday, September 19th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast

3 pm meeting

Saturday, October 17th

2 pm - Kids Fossil Blast

3 pm - Meeting

More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Daytona Museum of Arts & Sciences

MOAS is having their annual Natural History Day on **Saturday, Sept. 19th**. Zach Zacharias has asked for FFH to come up with displays and participate. This is the same day as our club meeting. I'm asking for a few volunteers to go and represent our club. Please sign up at the August meeting and/or contact Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com We will help with display material.

National Fossil Day

This year's celebration will be on Saturday, Oct. 3rd from 10 am to 4 pm. at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton. Last year's event was a lot of fun and there was so much to see. Not only do the local fossil clubs participate (FFH will be there!), but lots of other organizations display fossils, etc. :Florida Paleontological Society, FL Museum of Natural History, and more...

Plan on attending or even volunteering. Sign up sheets will be at the August & September meetings, or email Bonnie.

SAVE THE DATE
Fossil Fair 2015:
Nov. 7th & 8th

Kids' Fossil Blast

The next Kids' program will be on Saturday, **Sept. 19th at 2 pm** at the Orlando Science Center.

I'm looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces.

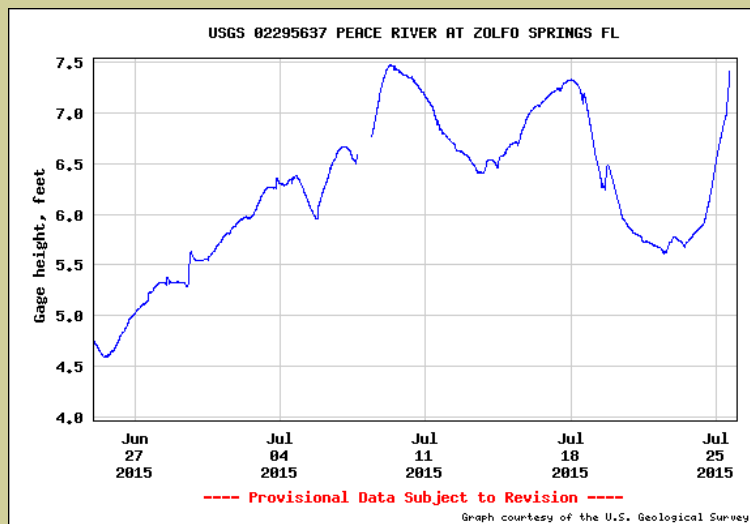
Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, etc., aimed at kids ages 5 to 14.

Piece on the Peace River

Many of you have been down this year to the Peace River while it was low enough to hunt for fossils... some on club trips, some in small groups, and some with their families. Now that the "rainy" season has kicked in, the river has gone up. I've seen some nice finds on our Facebook page.

Bring in your fossils to the meeting to "show & tell" your fellow members. We all love to see your treasures. Plus remember to fill out a page for your year-end fossil permit report.

Hopefully the river will provide good conditions for hunting before 2015 ends. Invite someone to join you. I've spoken to a lot of folks who'd like to go but have no one to go with. Share the thrill, make new friends, and have fun. - Russell



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Paleontological Resource Preservation Regulations

Those of you who have not been members of our fossil club for very long, or haven't heard me say, "The day will come that collecting fossils here in Florida will be coming to an end." There's been a lot of buzz here in Florida and the rest of the U.S., that the Federal Government has taken a giant step to do just that. This will be a hot topic discussed at many fossil clubs.

Is this the asteroid that will make fossil clubs go extinct? I think not. But I do believe that the new regulations need to be shared with all concerned. I've read through the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's final rule on the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, dated April 17, 2015. It's comprises about 200 pages of summaries of the issues and discussions. Like all government Acts of Law, there is a lot of information to digest.

A lot of clubs are up in arms... and some may need to be... But overall I see no need to grab up my pitchfork and torch just yet.

The PRPA, Paleontological Resource Preservation Act, is intended for the implementation of regulations to provide preservation and protection of paleontolog-

ical resources on National Forest System Lands. The National Parks were always places to take pictures and nothing else. The National Forest Lands were a grey area where regulations were concerned and some fossil collecting has been done there. These regulations address that grey area by requiring permits to collect on those Lands and limit the amount of invertebrate material. The vertebrate fossils were already covered by regulations. The Forest Service sees fossils as a non-renewable resource and a part of America's natural heritage.

The big worry, I guess, is that this will now expand to all State Lands, etc. leaving even fewer places for amateur paleontologists (classified in the document as "casual collectors". Yes, it is worrisome to have more restrictions on the hobby that a lot of us love. But without regulations to protect these resources, there would not be much for anyone to collect.... especially for the generations to come.

If you would like to read the document in it's entirety, go to: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/04/17/2015-08483/paleontological-resources-preservation>

Archaeology Workshop: Bones Oct 11th

Bones in an archaeology dig can show what people had for dinner thousands of years ago. Learn to identify different types of fish and animal bones and discover how archaeologists use these clues to study people in the past. Join the Florida Public Archaeology Network for a family-friendly workshop for all ages. Pre-registration is required for this free workshop.

For more information, call 352-273-2062.

- See more at: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/bones/?eID=1710#sthash.AKacV7ru.dpuf>



Archaeology Workshop: Bones Oct 11th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Florida Museum - 3215 Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611
SW 34th Street and Hull Road

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Four-legged Snake Fossil Found



The snake has small 'hands' that are approx 1cm long.

Credit: Image courtesy of University of Portsmouth

The snake, named *Tetrapodophis amplexus* by the team, is a juvenile and very small, measuring just 20cm from head to toe, although it may have grown much larger. The head is the size of an adult fingernail, and the smallest tail bone is only a quarter of a millimetre long. But the most remarkable thing about it is the presence of two sets of legs, or a

An "absolutely exquisite" fossil of a snake that had four legs has been discovered by a team of scientists and may help show how snakes made the transition from lizards to serpents. It is the first known fossil of a four-legged snake, and the team -- led by Dr Dave Martill from the University of Portsmouth -- say that this discovery could help scientists to understand how snakes lost their legs. The findings were published in the journal *Science*. Dr Martill said: "It is generally accepted that snakes evolved from lizards at some point in the distant past. What scientists don't know yet is when they evolved, why they evolved, and what type of lizard they evolved from. This fossil answers some very important questions, for example it now seems clear to us that snakes evolved from burrowing lizards, not from marine lizards." The fossil, from Brazil, dates from the Cretaceous period and is 110 million years old, making it the oldest definitive snake. Dr Martill discovered the fossil as part of a routine field trip with students to Museum Solnhofen, Germany, a museum that is well-known for its prestige with regard to fossils. Dr Martill said: "The fossil was part of a larger exhibition of fossils from the Cretaceous period."

pair of hands and a pair of feet. The front legs are very small, about 1cm long, but have little elbows and wrists and hands that are just 5mm in length. The back legs are slightly longer and the feet are larger than the hands and could have been used to grasp its prey. Dr Longrich said: "It is a perfect little snake, except it has these little arms and legs, and they have these strange long fingers and toes. "The hands and feet are very specialised for grasping. So when snakes stopped walking and started slithering, the legs didn't just become useless little vestiges -- they started using them for something else. We're not entirely sure what that would be, but they may have been used for grasping prey, or perhaps mates."

Interestingly, the fossilised snake also has the remains of its last meal in its guts, including some fragments of bone. The prey was probably a salamander, showing that snakes were carnivorous much earlier in evolutionary history than previously believed.

Tetrapodophis has been categorised as a snake, rather than a lizard, by the team due to a number of features:

Continued on page 5

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Continued from page 4

The skeleton has a lengthened body, not a long tail.

The tooth implantation, the direction of the teeth, and the pattern of the teeth and the bones of the lower jaw are all snake-like.

The fossil displays hints of a single row of belly scales, a sure fire way to differentiate a snake from a lizard.

Tetrapodophis would have lived on the bank of a salt lake, in an arid scrub environment, surrounded by

succulent plants. It would probably have lived on a diet of small amphibians and lizards, trying to avoid the dinosaurs and pterosaurs that lived there. At the time, South America was united with Africa as part of a supercontinent known as Gondwana. The presence of the oldest definitive snake fossil in Gondwana suggests that snakes may originally have evolved on the ancient supercontinent, and only became widespread much more recently.

For the complete article go to www.sciencedaily.com

Mummies of the World Orlando Science Center limited time engagement

Inside every mummy is a story waiting to be told.

Mummies of the World portrays a once-in-a-lifetime collection of real mummies and artifacts from across the globe. This compelling collection, presented with reverence and dignity, includes ancient mummies dating back as far as 4,500 years. A fascinating mix of old and new, this captivating collection bridges the gap between past and present with contributions from 10 world-renowned Institutions and two private collectors.

Embark on a journey into the extraordinary world of mummies and mummification. Through modern science, engaging interactive and multi-media exhibits featuring 3-D animation, explore how mummies are created, where they come from and who they were. Using state-of-the-art scientific methodology, discover how modern science enables researchers to study mummies through innovative and non-invasive ways, offering unprecedented insights into past cultures and civilizations.

What secrets do mummies hold about the past? What clues do they bring us for the future? A journey awaits as we unravel their mysteries

Skeletons

During the summer break, we checked out "Skeletons, Animals Unveiled" down at the Orlando Eye complex. It was a great experience with over 400 skeletons of different animals from a gigantic whale skull over 10 ft. in length to small shrews at just a few inches. This new place is one of the most educational natural science attractions that I've seen. In addition, it's probably the only place where you can see replicas of ALL the hominid skulls.

They have tour guides or you can go in and take your time going around the many displays of articulated skeletons mounted throughout the building. The displays will answer a lot of your questions on animal osteology. Differences in the various limb bones: tibia, fibia, humerus, etc. can easily be seen and compared, leaving you with a better understanding of how the many species adapted to different environmental changes throughout the world. Skulls Unlimited International has created a one of a kind experience for the public. They have a large selection of skulls and replicas in their gift shop as well. And, yes, we will be lining up a club trip there this Fall.

If you can't wait for the club trip or if you are just curious, check it out when you are in the International Drive area or go to www.skeletonmuseum.com for more info.

Russell Brown
President

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Women in Paleontology

The Women in Paleontology program on May 16th was great - lots of information on Paleontology and some very inspiring women to talk with people about how they got started in their various fields and what they are working on. Thanks to all who participated!



Florida Museum of Natural History *A T. rex Named Sue*

Tyrannosaurus rex has long commanded respect and sparked curiosity in the mind of the public, and Sue is the most famous *T. rex* of all. At 42 feet long and 13 feet tall at the hips, her skeleton inspires as much awe today as she did 67 million years ago. In the featured exhibit "A T. rex Named Sue," explore how this remarkable creature interacted with its world and what we can learn from studying its bones. Revel in the sheer magnitude of a fully articulated, life-size skeleton cast while learning about Sue's movement, vision and sense of smell. Enjoy family-friendly interactives, climb into the dig pit to uncover fossils and learn about dinosaurs through touchable bone replicas and other hands-on activities. Follow Sue's sensational journey from the Cretaceous period and sedimentary rocks of South Dakota to the U.S. courts and finally the world. Come to the Florida Museum to experience the largest, most complete and best-preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever discovered!

through Sept. 13, 2015

**\$7.50 adults, \$6.50 Fla. residents and seniors,
\$4.50 ages 3-17 and free for Museum members
and UF students with a valid Gator 1 card**

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters

Membership Application

is a fun and educational group whose goal is to further our understanding of the prehistory of Florida. We encourage family participation and welcome explorers of all ages.

Membership is \$17 per year. Other household members may be included at no charge.

Meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of the month but may vary with club activities. Check the website for the date and location of the next meeting or call one of the officers.

Officers:

President	Russell Brown	(352) 429-1058
Vice President	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Secretary	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
Treasurer	Sara Morey	(619) 302-4863

Chairs:

Education	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
Field Trips	OPEN	
Fossil Fair	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Fossil Auctions	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Bucks	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Lotto	Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Membership	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
Newsletter	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
	Elise Cronin-Hurley	(407) 929-6297
Photography	John Heinsen	(407) 291-7672
Webmaster	Elise Cronin-Hurley	(407) 929-6297
	elise@lisedreams.com	

Board of Directors:

Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	

Names: _____

Associate Members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

____ New ____ Renewal

Please list any interests, experience, talents or just plain enthusiasm, which you would like to offer to the club:

Membership is \$17 per year. Our membership year runs from January to December. All renewals are done in December and January.

Please make your checks payable to:

Florida Fossil Hunters
Post Office Box 540404
Orlando, Florida 32854-0404

Associate members are people in the same household, included at no extra charge, 2 adult votes per household.

Newsletter Policy

Articles must be submitted by the first of the month to be included in that month's newsletter. These can be mailed to the above Post Office Box or e-mailed to: bonnierussell62@gmail.com . Articles can be sent as text in the e-mail or in Microsoft Word files (.doc or .docx).

Please note in subject of email 'FFH'.

**Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc.
dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters**

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

Saturday, August 15th

3 pm Meeting &
John McIntosh, speaker

through Sept. 13, 2015 -
A *T. rex* Named Sue exhibit
at FLMNH

Saturday, October 3rd

National Fossil Day
South Florida Museum

Saturday, September 19th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm meeting

Saturday, September 19th

Natural History Day, 11 am - 3 pm
Daytona Beach Museum of Arts & Sciences

Saturday, October 3rd

10 am - 4 pm
National Fossil Day celebration
South Florida Museum, Bradenton

Saturday, October 10th

Vulcan Mine Field Trip

Saturday, October 17th

2 pm - Kids Fossil Blast
3 pm - Meeting

November 7 & 8th

Fossil Fair

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com
to receive the newsletter via email.



Join Our Facebook group, Search:

[Florida Fossil Hunters](#)

facebook

Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

Articles and comments should be sent to: bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Florida Fossil Hunters

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