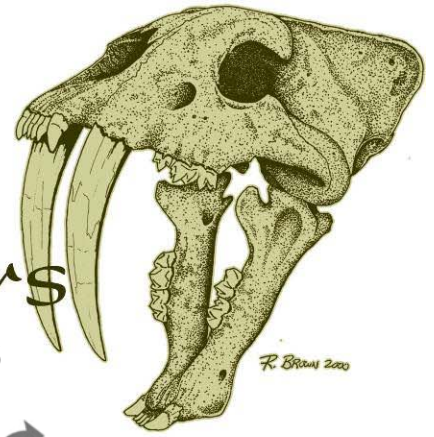


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 26, Number 10

December 2016

From the President.....

Welcome everyone to the season of cooler weather. The year is almost gone, **Peace River is down**, and fossil hunting is hot.

I really need to start this newsletter by saying **THANK YOU** to all members who volunteered to make the club's Fossil Fair a huge success. Believe me (or check with any older member), anything and everything you as a member do, helps our club/family thrive. We receive a lot of emails and feedback from people saying how friendly and helpful our members are, not just at the Fossil Fair, but at all our events. **You folks are great!**

Thanks also goes out to the vendors at the Fair and the staff at the Fairgrounds for making this an enjoyable event.

And a special thanks to Richard Hulbert from the Florida Museum of Natural History for taking the time to join us at the Fair to talk about fossil permits, the Montbrook Dig, and to answer our endless "What's this?" as we bought bone after bone to his table.

And who let that big dinosaur in? I want one for Xmas! Had to be one of the coolest things I've seen in a while.

Speaking of dinosaurs, Bonnie's Kids' Fossil Blast in November was a sure hit (who doesn't like dinos?) Dr. Michal Kowalewski from UF shared his research on developing tools to assess recent and fossil ecologies, titled : Silence of the Clams. His explanations were delivered at just the right level for us semi-professionals.

We've been a bit busy since the Fair, between work, a teach-in, unpacking and re-packing the collection, and working on some great stuff for the Fossil Bucks auction and dinner on December 9th at the Golden Corral. Everyone who comes will go home with something. And the club will reimburse members for kids' dinners and \$10 for the adults.

See you in December.
Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



p.s. Yes, Bonnie & I did get a day of restfulness. It was spent digging at the Montbrook site with the other volunteers and professionals. Anyone over the age of 15 is allowed. This is a great opportunity to learn from and dig side by side with the Paleontologists from the Florida Museum of Natural History; i.e. Richard Hulbert, Jonathon Bloch... who knows who will show up. You can check out the cool things being found there on the Facebook Montbrook page.

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

**Friday, December 9th
7:00pm**

Holiday Meeting/Party
& Fossil Bucks auction
Golden Corral

Saturday, January 21st

2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting & Speaker,
Lee Williams

*More events listed on back page
For more info...
www.floridafossilhunters.com*

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

FFH Holiday Party & Auction

Friday, Dec. 9th, 7 to 9 pm
Golden Corral, 897 West Town Pkwy,
Altamonte Spr, FL 32714.

The club has a large room reserved at the Golden Corral. Everyone must buy dinner (that's how the group "rents" the room. The club will reimburse members for the kids' meals and \$10 for the adult meals. You will pay the cashier and Sara will give you cash in the dining room.

Adults - \$13.99 + drink + tax

Kids (9-12) - \$7.99 + drink + tax

(4-8) - \$6.99 + drink + tax

3 and under eat for free

Please email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call her at 352-429-1058 and let us know how many will be there for your family. We need to have a count so we have enough cash.

Directions: From the intersection of Rte 434 and Rte 436, go south on 434. Turn left onto West Towne Pkwy., then left into the parking lot for Golden Corral. If you get to Maitland Blvd., you've gone too far south.

Neanderthal Ball: The Extinction

On Saturday, Nov. 5th (our Fossil Fair weekend), OSC held their 10th and last Neanderthal Ball. Lee and Nancy Williams joined Bonnie and I for some fine swinging entertainment and hobnobbing with the guests.

The club has participated in this annual fundraiser since almost the beginning and helped raise money for the Orlando Science Center. We've seen a lot of cave-men/women through the years but with attendance dropping... mainly because of so much going on at that time of year in Orlando... it's getting harder to make the numbers.

Next year OSC will be trying a new approach to fundraising called the "Innovation Gala". And as always, Florida Fossil Hunters will help out where they can. Meanwhile check out the new Kids' Town. There is also a major renovation of Nature Works in the planning stage.

And thank you, Orlando Science Center:

Thanks to our partners at OSC for donating a family annual membership to our club for the Fossil Fair. I haven't talked with this year's winner but last year's winner was absolutely thrilled. It's nice to spread science learning opportunities. And we are very grateful to have such a wonderful place to hold our meetings and events

Russell

Kids' Fossil Blast

Some of the earliest life on Earth left mysterious fossils. Scientists still aren't sure what some looked like or how they lived. So bring your imagination and curiosity with you on **Saturday, January 21st at 2 pm at the Orlando Science Center**. We will examine those fossils and see what body plans we can come up with using some arts and crafts materials.

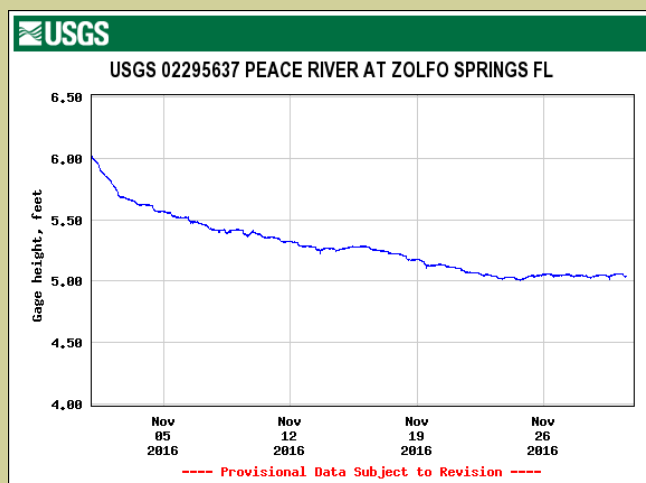
Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 to 14. We meet for an hour before the regular meeting.

Piece on the Peace River

The water level is down to 5 ft. at the Zolfo gauge station. Now is a great time to go look for fossils. The water may be a bit cold (a wetsuit is good - although you can use tights or hose to keep you a bit warmer).

Want to go with a group? Email me and I'll pass along your email/ph # to club members to contact you.

Make a trip to the Peace a gift to yourself. Happy hunting!



Pop-up Museum: Florida Fossils

Dec 02nd 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
FL Museum of Natural History

Join us as we venture outside our walls and bring the Museum to you! This themed event features hands-on activities and natural science exploration. Enjoy a unique, participatory experience between the Florida Museum and the community. We need YOU to make it happen. All ages are welcome. Come prepared for an adventure you will never forget!

When: Dec. 2, 3-6 p.m.

Location: Depot Park,
200 SE Depot Ave,
Gainesville, FL 32601

Topic: Florida Fossils

Cost: FREE



Partner: [Florida Museum Vertebrate Paleontology](#), [UF Department of Geological Sciences](#), [Florida Program for Shark Research](#), [Florida Paleontological Society](#), [University of Georgia](#), [Fossilsawfish.com](#)

Be sure to keep an eye out for future Pop-up Museum events each month, coming soon to a location near you!

For more information, contact Tina Choe at tchoe@flmnh.ufl.edu or call [352-273-2079](tel:352-273-2079).

Dec. 2-4—HUDSON, FLORIDA:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Annual show

Veterans Memorial Park Gymnasium; 14333 Hicks Road; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Adults/ Seniors \$3, Teens \$1, Children 12 and under free; *42nd Annual Show. All indoors in large air-conditioned facility. Demonstrations of various lapidary arts, plus the ancient art of flintknapping, lapidary equipment, gem and mineral auction, famous diamonds of the world, fluorescent minerals, replica of Aaron's Breastplate, educational displays, and more.; contact Ralph Barber, Brooksville, FL, [1-352-200-6852](tel:1-352-200-6852); e-mail: barbersbloomers@hotmail.com; Web site: www.WithlacoocheeRockhounds.com

Jan. 21-22—DELAND, FLORIDA:

Annual show; **Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society**, Volusia County Fairgrounds; 3150 E. New York Ave; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$4, Children under 12 free; 46th Annual Tomoka Gem and Mineral Show, Jewelry, gems and minerals, children's table.; contact Susan Morris, 5193 Rogers Ave, Port Orange, FL 32127, [\(386\)-843-0152](tel:386-843-0152); e-mail: tqmsshow@gmail.com; Web site: tomokagms.org

Fossil Bucks Auction

December 9th, 2016

The items will not be necessarily auctioned in this order.

1. 4" sliced ammonite
 2. Orlando Science Center "fold-up" backpack
 3. Amber necklace
 4. Large amethyst crystal
 5. "Gainesville Shark Tooth Guide" book and Meg from Gainesville
 6. Trilobite - Cambriopalis sp., Morocco, 6 in.
 7. Sand stromatolite, Texas
 8. Megalodon, Cooper River, 3 in.
 9. "Gainesville Shark Tooth Guide" book with collection of Gainesville teeth
 10. Alligator collection case
 11. Tapir vertebrae - 2
 12. Agatized coral
 13. Necklace with Dino coprolite beads
 14. Ear bones case: whale, manatee, dolphin (8)
 15. Knapped agate knife with deer antler handle
- and more.....*

Kids' Auction Items

1. Megalodon teeth
2. Amethyst crystal
3. Glass earth globe
- 4 Duck-billed dinosaur teeth plate (replica)
5. Alligator head
6. Croc skull replica
7. Dino sticker book
8. Triceratops fossil case

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Go Play in the Dirt

The FL Museum of Natural History is currently working at a large-scale, extensive excavation at the Montbrook fossil site. The **Hemphillian Montbrook Site** is about a 40-minute drive south of Gainesville, near the town of Williston in Levy County.

The **Montbrook Site** is very productive and almost all volunteers will find some fossil specimens on their first day. The most commonly found fossils are bones from the shell of freshwater turtles and vertebrae, spines, scales, and skull bones of fish, including gar, catfish, snook, and drum. Fossils of alligator, birds, and mammals are also found, but less frequently. For more information about the Montbrook fossil site, visit: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/museum-voices/montbrook/>

We will be working at the site from January 14 to May 21, 2017. Work at the site will occur from Tuesday through Sunday, with a few exceptions for some weeks. Volunteers from 15 to 17 years of age will be accepted but must be accompanied by an adult sibling (18+ years old), or a parent or guardian. **Otherwise, volunteers must be at least 18 years old.** Volunteers must be physically fit enough to work outdoors for several hours and be able to walk up and down irregular slopes. Volunteers can work just a single day, a few days, or a regular schedule one or more times a week. There is no limit to the number of times a volunteer can work at the site.

To volunteer for the Montbrook Fossil Dig, download an application form with more information (including which days we are digging at the site) <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/files/2314/7984/0017/Montbrookdigapplication2016-2017.pdf>. Send in the filled-out form using the directions on the back or second page of the form. If you have any questions about volunteering at the site, please email Rachel Narducci or Richard Hulbert.

You can also pick up the application form at our club meetings or contact Bonnie and she can mail the forms to you.

Montbrook Fossil Dig 2017 dates

January 2017: 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31

February 2017: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28

March 2017: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31

April 2017: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30

May 2017: To be decided



carnivore jaw



Cindy aka the Swan Whisperer with yet another Cygnus sp. bone



Jonathon Bloch finds the jaw with the tusk still attached!

Florida Fossil Hunters News

New Species of Dinosaur Discovered in China

An artistic reconstruction, showing the last-ditch struggle of *Tongtianlong limosus* as it was mired in mud (Zhao Chuang)

Researchers found new fossils from a strange, bird-like dinosaur species in Gangzhou, China, and recently published their findings about it in *Scientific Reports*.

Previous evidence of the *tongtianlong limosus* dates it to the Cretaceous Period, roughly 15 million years before dinosaurs became extinct. Also known as “oviraptorosaurs” or “mud dragons,” they are known for their peculiar appearance, which includes a pug-nosed skull, a crest, and feathers. Dr. Stephen L. Brusatte, one of the authors of the paper, told *The New York Times* that “they just look weird,” adding that the dinosaur looked like an alien.



This particular specimen was discovered four years ago by workmen who accidentally unearthed it while building a school. Unlike previous specimens, this one is a more complete skeletal structure. Upon discovery, it was sent to paleontologist Junchang Lü, who had worked with similar fossils from that region. After examining the specimen’s posture, Dr. Lü suggests that the mud dragon died while trying to pull itself out of a swamp. The whole skeleton of the holotype *Tongtianlong limosus* (Junchang Lu/*Scientific Reports*)

However it died, the specimen connects previous oviraptorosaur fossils to one another, and establishes yet another link between dinosaurs and birds. The specimen may also help revitalize scientific interest in the Cretaceous Period, a brief but critical era of prehistory. Other questions—like what these specific dinosaurs ate—cannot be answered conclusively at this point.

The dinosaur specimen adds another layer of complexity to a current paleontological question as well: Were the dinosaurs thriving when they went extinct, or slowly dying off? Mud dragon fossils show enough variance to suggest that dinosaurs were still evolving when they were wiped out. But other research suggests that dinosaur body types and diversity were both thinning in their final years.

Visit <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep35780#description> to read Lü and Brusatte’s paper in *Scientific Reports*.



Florida Fossil Hunters News

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

FIELD TRIP LEADER

Saturday, December 10th

If you did not sign up at the meeting, please call or email:

Trip Leader: Bonnie Cronin

Call or email Bonnie to sign up for the field trip

Email: bonnierussell62@gmail.com | Cell: [321-279-2592](tel:321-279-2592)

Please email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com

or call her at [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058) to volunteer.

Cell ph. for the day of the trip only. Do not text or leave a message. Wait for answer. (yes, I am technology-challenged)

This is one of the few places where kids are allowed in to fossil hunt. Be sure to stay with them since there are steep cliffs, sharp rocks, and small sinkholes.

Meet on the driveway loop near the entrance to the Mine by 8:30 am to sign releases before we are escorted into the mine around 9 am. We get to drive our vehicles in so you can have your coolers, snacks, and equipment handy while you hunt. They usually allow us to dig until noon and sometimes people can stay till 2 pm.

All participants **MUST**

be escorted into and out of the mine. Do not leave on your own since it is easy to become lost.

THERE ARE NO RESTROOM FACILITIES AT VULCAN MINE, other than the boulders and the hills.

Directions: The trip will take approximately 2 hours from Orlando to Vulcan Mine. Be sure to allow for extra time to stop at a restroom before you get there.

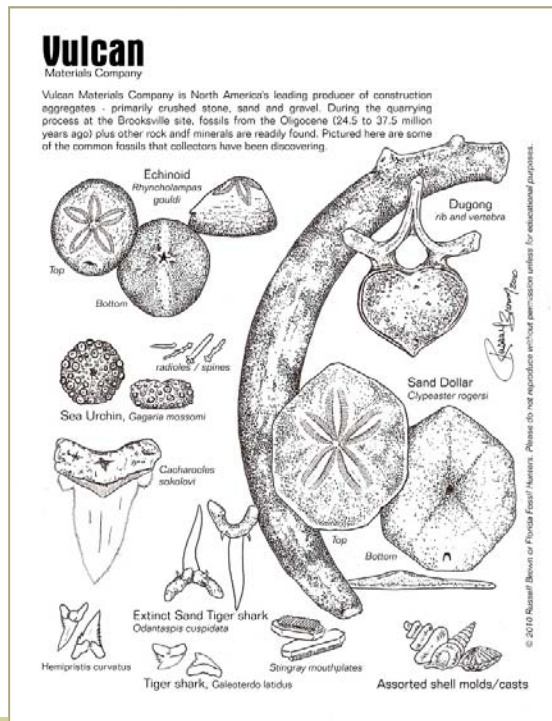
From Orlando take Hwy. 50 west (or the 408 west to the FL Turnpike, take exit 272 and then continue west on Hwy. 50) to Brooksville. Follow 50A/98 North through Brooksville and turn right on Ponce De Leon Blvd. (Hwy 98 North). Go approximately 10 miles. Vulcan/Cemex will be on your left. The address is 16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Brooksville, for those of you who want to download a map.

If you follow the truck route for Hwy. 50, you have to turn right onto 41, and then take the fork to the left to hook up with Ponce De Leon Blvd/98. There are several fast food places on 41 where you can take advantage of the bathroom facilities. Be sure NOT to keep following 41 north. You want to take 98 north from Brooksville.

This is mostly surface collecting with occasionally a little digging to pry out a specimen. Bring a small trowel or screwdriver or rock hammer, and a bucket to put your fossils and rocks into. You may want to bring small containers and tissue for fragile fossils.

Wear a hat, sturdy shoes, long pants (some of the rocks are sharp), and sunscreen. Bring lots of water and/or drinks and some snacks or lunch to eat.

We find mostly echinoids and sometimes sea urchins, pieces of bone, or other fossils are found. We also find chert rocks. This is the material that the Indians used to make their arrowheads and tools.



ALSO JOIN US
Jan 14th

ID Sheet above is available on the field trip and website.
floridafossilhunters.com/Field_Trips.htm

You MUST be a member of the club for insurance purposes to participate in this field trip.

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@liseydreams.com	

Board of Directors:

Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
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

2016

December 2nd to 4th
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
Mineral & Gem Show, Hudson, FL

Friday, December 9th, 7-9 pm
Holiday Dinner & Silent Auction
Golden Corral, Altamonte Spr

Saturday, December 10th
Vulcan Mine

Saturday, December 10th
Mosaic Mine (booked full)

2017

Saturday, January 14th
Vulcan Mine

Saturday, January 21st
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting & Speaker, Lee Williams

January 21st & 22nd
Tomoka Gem & Mineral Show
Deland, FL

January to May
FLMNH Montbrook Dig

See inside for more information on events.

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
[Florida Fossil Hunters](#)



Be Green

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



Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

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

Florida Fossil Hunters

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Florida Fossil Hunters News