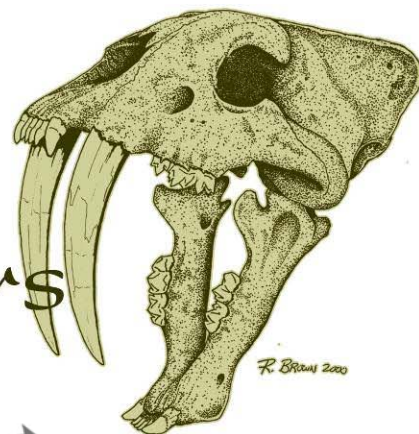


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 27, Number 7

September 2017



From the President.....

Hello and welcome, everyone.

The summer monsoon continues here in Florida. Keep an eye on the weather forecasts.... there are more tropical systems coming across the Atlantic. Hopefully they will just uncover more fossils. While the water is high, visit the Florida Museum of Natural History as it celebrates its 100th anniversary starting September 23rd. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see even more of the incredible collections there.... and it is free! (Of course, donations are always welcome).

Between writing this article, I've been trying finish the master drawing for this year's t-shirt. Some of you may have seen the rough version at a few of our events.

Speaking of events... there are plenty of events coming up. Check out the line-up: FL Fossil Hunters Fossil Fair, MOAS National History Day, National Fossil Day, etc. See all the details inside this issue. **Volunteers are more than welcome!**

See you around.

Russell Brown, President

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Saturday, September 16th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast

3 pm - Meeting

FFH Fossil Fair

October 28th & 29th

Saturday, November 18th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast

3 pm - Meeting

More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

National Fossil Day Celebration at FLMNH

Join us for a colossal fossil festival as we honor National Fossil Day in a big way! Meet the paleontologists and geologists who work every day to uncover the secrets these ancient remains reveal about past life on Earth. Explore fossil displays and the dig pit. Bring your fossils for identification and talk to members of fossil clubs throughout Florida to learn what fossils can be found around the state!

Florida Museum of Natural History

3215 Hull Road

Gainesville, FL 32611

Phone: 352-846-2000

www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/visit/

FFH Fossil Fair 2017

When: Sat, Oct. 28th, 9 am to 5 pm
Sun, Oct. 29th, 10 am to 4 pm

Where: Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL

Needed: Crazy people who get excited about old rocks and bones to volunteer at the admissions table, silent auction, kids' fossil pit & ID table, and at the fossil display area.

You can sign up for a few hours or a entire day. It really is a lot of fun interacting with people and seeing their smiles.

Please bring a yummy dish to share with the other volunteers and the vendors. Sandwiches and the fixin's will be provided by the club.

You can sign up at the meetings or by emailing Bonnie

@ bonnierussell62@gmail.com
or calling [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

VOLUNTEER

Kids' Fossil Blast

Saturday, Sept. 16th at 2 pm

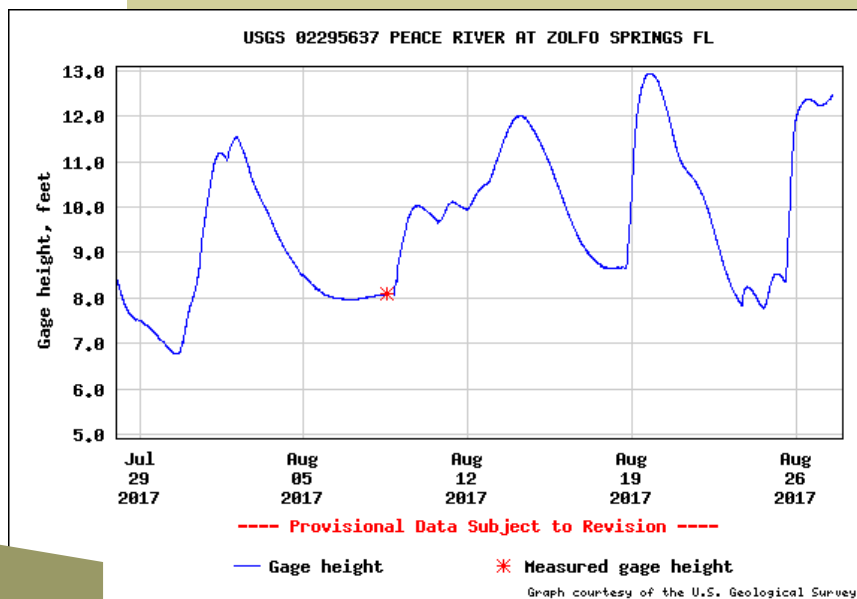
Are the ancient stories of strange creatures based on fossils? Join us as we explore legends and make a few of our own.

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 our regular meetings.

Piece on the Peace River

With all the "tropical" weather systems, we've had plenty of rain that drained into the Peace River. I guess we should be thankful that Harvey and 3 feet of additional rain didn't end up on our doorstep.

Keep waiting and hoping for lower levels.....



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida flood risk study identifies priorities for property buyouts

University of California - Santa Cruz

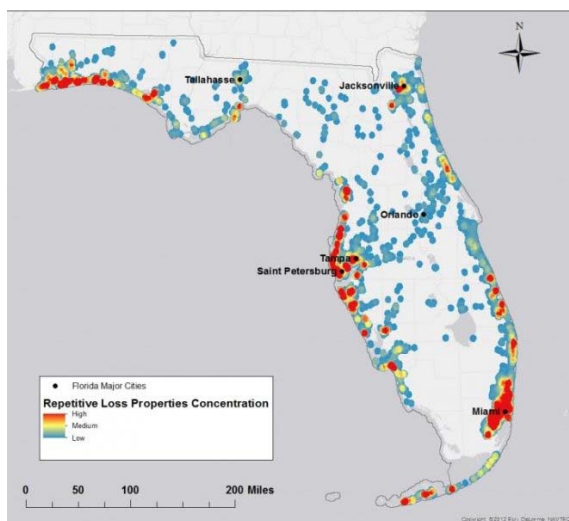
August 17, 2017

Scientists release timely report as an above-normal hurricane season is forecast for the Atlantic Ocean

A study of flood damage in Florida proposes prioritizing property buyouts based on flood risk, ecological value, and socioeconomic conditions. Forecasters say an above-normal hurricane season is likely in the Atlantic Ocean this year, while a rising sea level is making Florida increasingly vulnerable to dangerous flooding.

Concentrations of repetitive loss properties in Florida are shown in this map. Researchers identified sites where government buyouts and remediation projects can achieve social, environmental, and economic benefits.

Credit: J. Calil and S. Newkirk



Rare, Beautiful & Fascinating: 100 Years @FloridaMuseum

In 2017, the Florida Museum marks its 100th anniversary as the state's official natural history museum. Join us for a celebration of our newest exhibit and explore the key role museum collections play in telling the story of life on Earth.

Enjoy this free, fun-for-all-ages event with hands-on activities and displays celebrating the opening of the Museum's newest featured exhibit.

**Rare, Beautiful & Fascinating:
Sept. 23, 2017-Jan. 7, 2018**

From rare, ancient treasures to cutting-edge technologies, the exhibit showcases the Museum's 17 collections and research initiatives that address topics from extinction to biodiversity. Visitors may interact with scientists working in the lab from a different collection each week, explore the institution's rich history and learn how the Museum has affected the lives of students, volunteers, employees and donors.

Objects from the Museum's 40 million specimens also reveal the stories of everything from coral reefs to human health to prehistoric life. Discover ways science has changed over time, and how the Florida Museum remains committed to addressing future critical world issues, including biodiversity, climate change, invasive species and more.

Join us every week as we reveal more of the objects from this upcoming exhibit on our exhibit site!

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [Pinterest](#) for a preview of the most remarkable objects in our collections.

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/100years/>

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society
Presents the
Rock, Mineral, Gem and Jewelry Show

Unique Beads Minerals, Gems Custom Jewelry Fossils & Artifacts Metaphysical stones Door Prizes Silent Auction Children Activities Demonstrations Classes in wire wrap and Cabochon cutting	October 6th, 2017 1pm to 6pm October 7th, 2017 10am to 6pm October 8th, 2017 10am to 5pm Location: Florida National Guard Armory 2809 South Fern Creek Ave. Orlando, FL 32806 (just South of Michigan Ave) Open to the public	Family Friendly Kids Activities 16 yrs and Up \$5 6 to 15 yrs \$2. 5 and under free
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Free Parking
Present this coupon for \$1.00 off

For more Information go to www.cfmgss.org

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Montbrook Fossil Dig Get Involved

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.

The Montbrook excavation will resume around the end of September/beginning of October 2017. The Fall 2017 digging schedule is not yet finalized. Please check back in September for an updated calendar with available digging dates.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. Volunteers from age 15 to 17 will be accepted, but must be accompanied by an adult sibling (18+ years old), or a parent or guardian.

Volunteers must be physically fit enough to work outdoors for several hours and be able to walk up and down irregular slopes. Be aware that the site is in direct sunlight and sandy. We will have a porta-potty at the site.

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.

Volunteers are more than welcome to drive themselves or carpool to meet us at the fossil site. We can sometimes drive about 5 volunteers in the museum van but we need to plan this in advance.

WORK SCHEDULE

Field work typically begins at **10:00 AM** and continues through the day until about 4:30 PM. Plan your arrival time so that you will not get there much earlier than 10:00 AM. You can begin work anytime of the day between 10 AM and 1:30 PM. You will be expected to work for at least 3 hours (not counting if you break for lunch).

RAINOUTS

We will contact you via email in the event of a "rainout" and to schedule a make-up day. This decision will normally be made the day before. If you do not receive an email from us, assume that we will be digging at the site, even if rain is forecasted for that day. If it begins to rain heavily while we are digging, we may have to stop for the day.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

The museum will provide all necessary digging tools, field equipment, and supplies for collecting fossils. Volunteers should bring their own water, hats, gloves, sunscreen, cushions or towels to sit/kneel on, any special medication items, and food. Wear comfortable clothing that corresponds to the weather forecast. Wear shoes instead of sandals or flip-flops. Cameras of all types are welcome at the site.



A volunteer holds a plaster jacket with the dig site in the background. Photo by Jeff Gage/Florida Museum



Volunteers digging at the Montbrook fossil site last season

Volunteer In the Field

To volunteer for the Fall 2017 excavation, download an application form (including which days we are digging):

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/museum-voices/montbrook/get-involved/>

The application will be posted in September.

If you have any questions about volunteering at the site, please email Rachel Narducci: rnarducci@flmnh.ufl.edu.

Volunteer In the Collection

If you are interested in preparing specimens out of plaster jackets, screen washing, gluing bone fragments back together, or helping with the cataloging process. You can volunteer to work with the fossils back at the lab. **Because of the time invested in training volunteers, we can only accept those who can work at least 3 hrs/week, for a min of 6 weeks.** Volunteers must be at least 18 yrs old (or full-time UF student). Normal work hours for volunteers are between 8:30am and 5pm, Monday - Friday. To volunteer in the collection, please contact the FLMNH vertebrate paleontology collections manager, Richard Hulbert rhulbert@flmnh.ufl.edu or call [352-273-1821](tel:352-273-1821).

Florida Fossil Hunters News

2017 FOSSIL FAIR

Florida Fossil Hunters

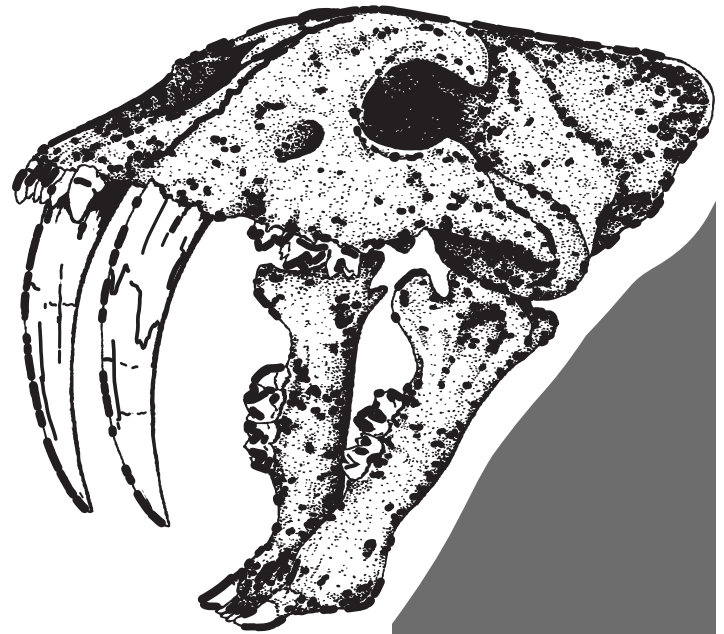
Twenty-sixth Annual
**Fossils, Rocks,
Gems & Minerals**

Saturday, October 28, 2017

9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, October 29, 2017

10:00am - 4:00pm



Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

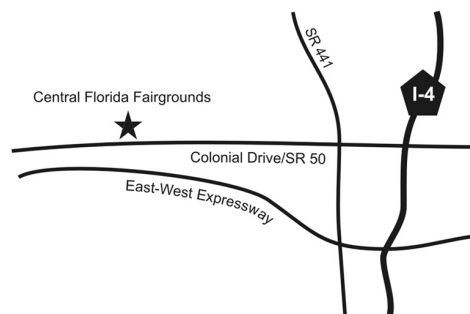
\$4.00 Adults | \$1.00 Children

**Learn to dig in Florida and
see what can be discovered!**

Directions:

I-4 to Orlando, Exit 84,
West Hwy 50/Colonial Drive
exit Westbound.

The fairgrounds will be
on the right side, just past
Mercy Drive.



For more information on the 2015 Fossil Fair contact us by email at
info@floridafossilhunters.com, call 407-699-9274, or check the website at

www.floridafossilhunters.com

Raffles

Vendors

**Silent
Auctions**

**Kids \$1
Dig Pit**

**Educational
Displays**

**Airconditioned!
INDOORS!**

Ice age era bones recovered from underwater caves in Mexico

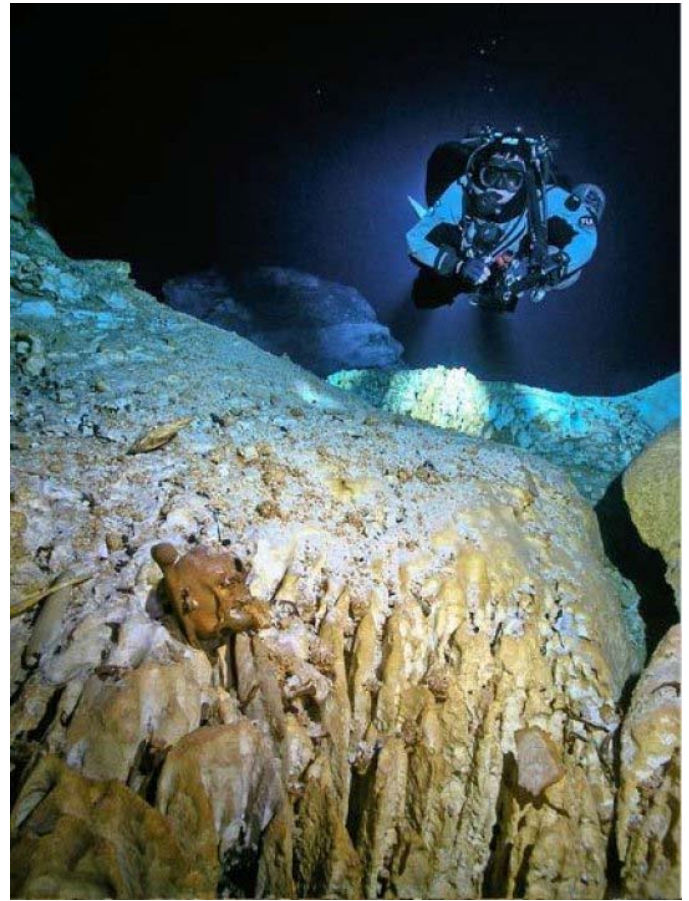
August 24, 2017

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

When the Panamanian land bridge formed around 3 million years ago, Southern Mexico was in the middle of a great biotic interchange of large animals from North and South America that crossed the continents in both directions. Ice age era bones recovered from underwater caves in Mexico include rare human remains alongside saber-tooth cats, giant sloths, short-faced bears and elephant-like beasts, report investigators.

When the Panamanian land bridge formed around 3 million years ago, Southern Mexico was in the middle of a great biotic interchange of large animals from North and South America that crossed the continents in both directions. However, fossil animals from this time have been rare for the in-between environments of Central America and southern Mexico. Recently, a team technical cave divers are helping fill in this gap by discovering remains of large animals that once roamed the Yucatán Peninsula, during the end of the last Ice Age (around 13,000 years ago). Lead author, Dr. Blaine Schubert will present the team's findings at this year's annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology held this year in Calgary, Alberta (Canada) on Saturday, Aug. 26th at 9:00am.

The team of divers descended into the flooded passageways to an underground pit known as "Hoyo Negro" (Spanish or "Black Hole"), reaching down 180 ft (55 m) into the darkness. During the last Ice Age, sea level was much lower, and the prehistoric animals were able to walk to Hoyo Negro through horizontal passageways, only to fall into the inescapable pit within the cave. Divers have been photo-documenting the material before extraction, using re-breathing SCUBA equipment to prevent bubbles from disturbing the site. Dr. Blaine Schubert of East Tennessee State University, one of the lead researchers on the project says, "preservation of the fossil material is extraordinary, and will allow us to reconstruct various aspects of anatomy, evolutionary relationships, and behavior. The diversity of the fauna gives us an exciting new picture of this region in the midst of rapid climatic and environmental change."



Thus far the crew has recovered remains of three different giant ground sloths (including an entirely new species), short-faced bears, mountain lions, sabertooth cats, a bizarre relative of elephants called a gomphotheres, tapirs, and even a human. "This represents the oldest and most complete early human skeleton in the Americas, and she co-existed with a variety of megafauna" says Schubert. "The remains of the short-faced bear *Arctotherium* are particularly significant, representing not only the most complete and abundant material from one location, but also the first evidence that they crossed from South America into North America." This fossil fauna is fleshing out a larger ecosystem for southern North America, which has typically been thought of as more of a bridge between landmasses than its own thriving community of local inhabitants. As the international collaboration of U.S. and Mexican researchers continues its work, the scientists hope to better understand the nature of this bridge and its own ecological complexities.

Story Source:

Materials provided by **Society of Vertebrate Paleontology**. Note: Content may be edited for style and length.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters

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	Steve Sharpe	(352) 552-2296
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:

Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	
Dave Dunaway	

Membership Application

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.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

Saturday, September 16th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm - Meeting

Saturday, September 16th

Natural History Day
10 am to 3 pm
Daytona Museum of Arts & Sciences

October 6th - 8th

Central Florida Gem & Mineral Show
Orlando, FL

Saturday, October 14th

Vulcan Mine Field Trip

FFH Fossil Fair

October 28th & 29th

Saturday, November 4th

National Fossil Day at FLMNH

Saturday, November 11th

Vulcan Mine Field Trip

Saturday, November 18th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm - Meeting

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

facebook

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

Post Office Box 540404

Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



Florida Fossil Hunters News