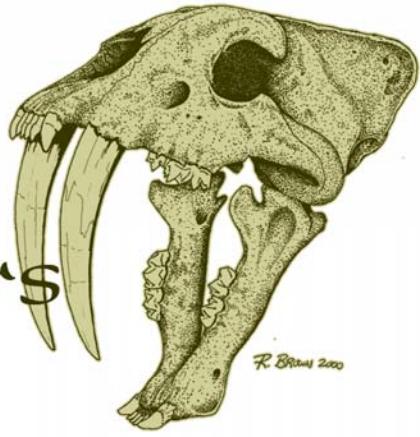


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 22, Number 5

May 2012



Desk of the President.....

Welcome to May. We have a club trip to the Peace River planned for the 5th and 6th. Once again, Thousand Trails Campground will be the site for our cookout and access to the river. Members may camp out overnight or come for just one day. River levels are at record lows and record numbers of fossil hunters are taking advantage. I hope you are one of them. Details of the Peace River event are inside this issue.

Vulcan Mine - open or closed? At our club cookout at Vulcan on the 14th, Alan Pagels said that the mining operations have stopped completely. However, as long as his boss will let him, he will lead groups into the Mine for fossil collecting. There will be no field trips into the Mine in June, July, and August as usual because it's just too darn hot. But we will check later will Alan to make sure that field trips can resume in the Fall.

The cookout at Vulcan was another club success story, thanks to everyone's help..... especially Dave Cass and Dave Dunaway. There was plenty of good food and good collecting. We had a great spot all to ourselves.

For our May 19th meeting, there will be a "kids only" fossil bucks auction at 2 pm for kids under 15. There will be 20 items for the kids to bid one so everyone will have a chance to go home with something. The adults' fossil auction will be at our June meeting as usual.

For our May meeting at 3 pm, we'll have a presentation by Dr. Bob Sinibaldi on "Cultural Modification of Vertebrate Fossils" (*from Chapter 7 of his latest book, "What Your Fossils Can Tell You"*).

See you on the river.
Russell Brown

May 5-6th
Peace River Fossil
Hunt and Cook Out
More info on Page 3

May 19th Speaker
Robert Sinibaldi,
author of "What Your
Fossils Can Tell You."

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

May 5th & 6th 2012
Peace River Trip - PG 3

May 19, 2012
2:00pm Kid's Fossil Auction
3:00pm Club Mtg & Speaker:
Robert Sinibaldi

June 16, 2012
2:00pm Kid's Fossil Blast
3:00pm Club Mtg and
Adult Auction

No July
Meeting or Newsletter
More events listed on back page
For more info...
www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Dr. Bob Sinibali Presentation

At our May 19th meeting, we'll get treated to a talk from Dr. Bob on the Cultural Modification of Vertebrate Fossils (Chapter 7) from his latest book: What Your Fossils Can Tell You.

He's a former president of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club as well as an author. His previous books, Fossil Diving: In Florida's Waters or Any Other Waters Containing Prehistoric Treasures and The Handbook of Paleontological Terms are valued resources. (I keep a copy of the Handbook on my desk for quick reference). Earlier this year, he was presented with the Howard Converse Award for his service to paleontology by the Florida Paleontological Society.

Dr. Bob works for the Pinellas County school district and with the University of South Florida in the field of exceptional student education. He was awarded the National PE Teacher of the Year in 2011 for those working with children with special needs. Fossils are just a hobby, or as his wife Mary says, "By the time you get to the third book, it's an obsession."

He'll have copies of his book at the meeting, so you can buy one and get it signed by the author!

Cruisin' the Fossil Highway

Florida Museum of Natural History

Feb. 4th to Sept. 3, 2012

Explore questions about evolution, extinction and early life on Earth through the fossil-inspired artwork of Ray Troll with insights from paleontologist Kirk Johnson. Watch Museum scientists prepare fossils from the field and see a giant ammonite and more.

Our own Russell Brown's artwork will be part of this display as well as that from other Florida paleo-artists.

.....and you get to go through the Hall of Fossils, too!

Admission is free to the Museum but there is a small charge for this traveling exhibit: \$4.50 for adults and \$4 for kids 3-17. For more info, go to www.flmnh.edu

Kids' Fossil Blast

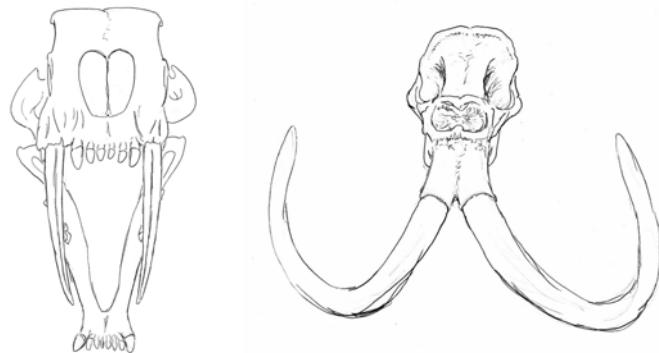
We had a good turnout for the April program about the time-line since the extinction of the dinosaurs. A big thanks to all of you that came and to Sara for helping.

There will be a special "Kids Only" fossil buck auction on Saturday, May 21st at 2 pm. There will be plenty of items up for bid. This is the time to spend those fossil bucks you have for coming to the meetings and volunteering.

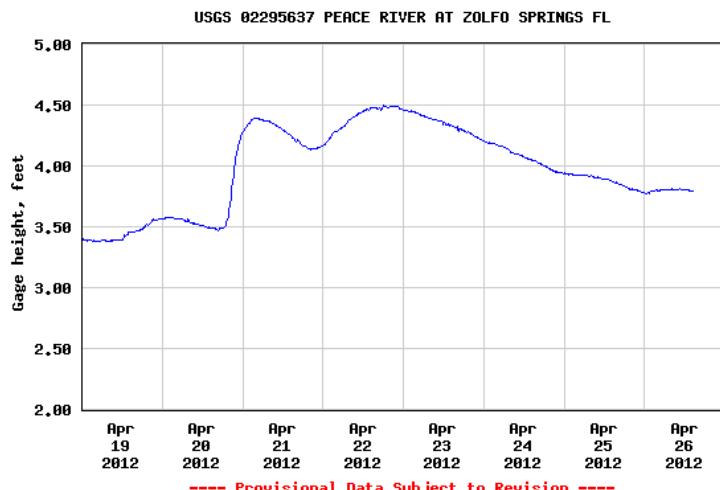
Rock Sale

Shelley Zimmerman and Dave Cass will be having a sale at 2100 Mikler Dr., Oviedo, 32765, on Saturday, May 26th from 9 am to 4 pm. There will be special deals for club members and LOTS of things for kids.

2012 Fossil Fair: Shirt Designs



Peace River Levels





Peace River Fossil Hunt and Cookout

Trip Leaders: (call only before 8:00pm)

Dave Cass [407-409-9095](tel:407-409-9095)

Dave Dunaway [407-786-8844](tel:407-786-8844) (home)

(cell-for weekend of trip only

[407-493-4253](tel:407-493-4253))

When: Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6

Time: 9 am at Thousand Trails' entrance gate. If you show up after 9:30am, you probably won't get in.

Cost: \$5.35 per vehicle for the day (Dave Cass or Dave Dunaway will collect the money from you. They will then give you the gate code to get into the campground)

Where: Thousand Trails Campground, 2555 US Hwy. 17 South, Wauchula, FL 33873 - about one mile south of Wauchula on the left (east) side. If you get to Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs, you've gone too far.

Note: We are limited to 20 people for each day besides those camping there. Unless you sign up ahead of time, there might not be room for you. You MUST sign up by calling Dave Cass or Dave Dunaway before Friday, May 4th unless you signed up at the April 21st meeting.

Don't call or email Bonnie to sign-up... she'll be in Ohio.

Since we are limited to the number of people we can have at the campsite, ONLY members of Florida Fossil Hunters will get to use our gate code to get into the campground. Of course, if you make your own reservations to camp at Thousand Trails ([863-735-8888](tel:863-735-8888)), you don't have to worry about getting in.

We'll have hot dogs and the fixin's along with the paper plates and eating utensils. Please bring a side dish to share at the cookout, as well as your own drinks. No alcohol, please.

What to Bring

Necessities:

- Shovel
- Sifter*
- Shoes that you can wear in the water- no sandals. Wear ones that will stay on your feet such as dive boots, water shoes or old gym shoes. I find socks that are tight around the ankles are good for keeping gravel out.
- Fanny pack for putting fossils in. A small backpack or a bag tied to you will also work.
- Containers to put your fossils in to take home. Some may be fragile; a bucket for large items.
- Dry clothes to change into and a towel.
- Drinks and snacks.
- Sunscreen and a hat- the sun is intense this time of year.
- Chairs for cookout
- Bug repellent

Options:

- Canoe or kayak - we will be at a place where we can walk into the river but you may want to find a place further from the "pack"
- Camera (waterproof)
- *sifter: anything that has 1/4" screen will do. The easiest to work with are approx. 1 ft x 2 ft wooden boxes fitted with screening with the fun-doodle floats attached to keep them from sinking while you fill them. It's important to have them tied to you with a length of rope as well so your finds don't float down the river. The alternative is to have a partner that holds the sifter while you shovel in gravel.

Do's and Don'ts

Do: Hunt for fossils (have your fossil permit), fish (make sure you have your license with you), swim, take pictures of the wildlife, check the water level via the link on our website before you go

Don't: Dig into the banks undermining trees, collect any Native American artifacts, throw trash into the river or on shore.

Area Resources

Canoe Outpost, 800-268-0083, www.canoeoutpost.com

Walmart and fast food places are in Wauchula.

Camping: Pioneer Park, Zolfo Springs, 863-735-0330 and Thousand Trails, 863-735-8889, just north of Zolfo.

If You Bring Your Kids...

This can be a wonderful family adventure and great opportunity for your kids to hunt and FIND real fossils. These are just some recommendations to make the experience enjoyable for all of you.

If you have young children (about 8 and under)

- there should be one adult for each child
- please be sure they have life jackets on while they are in the river
- they get hungry and tired quickly...bring snacks and something for them to rest on the shore with

For any children

- they must have shoes... there is broken glass in the river
- experienced members of the club will be there to help you get started and offer advice but your kids will probably still need your help in hunting

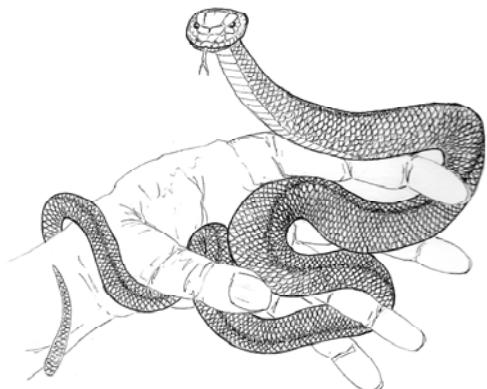
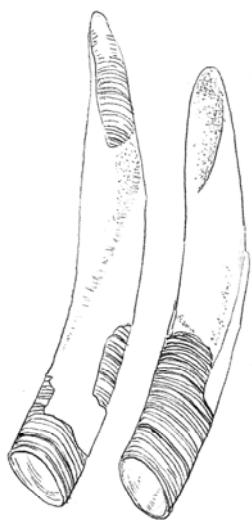
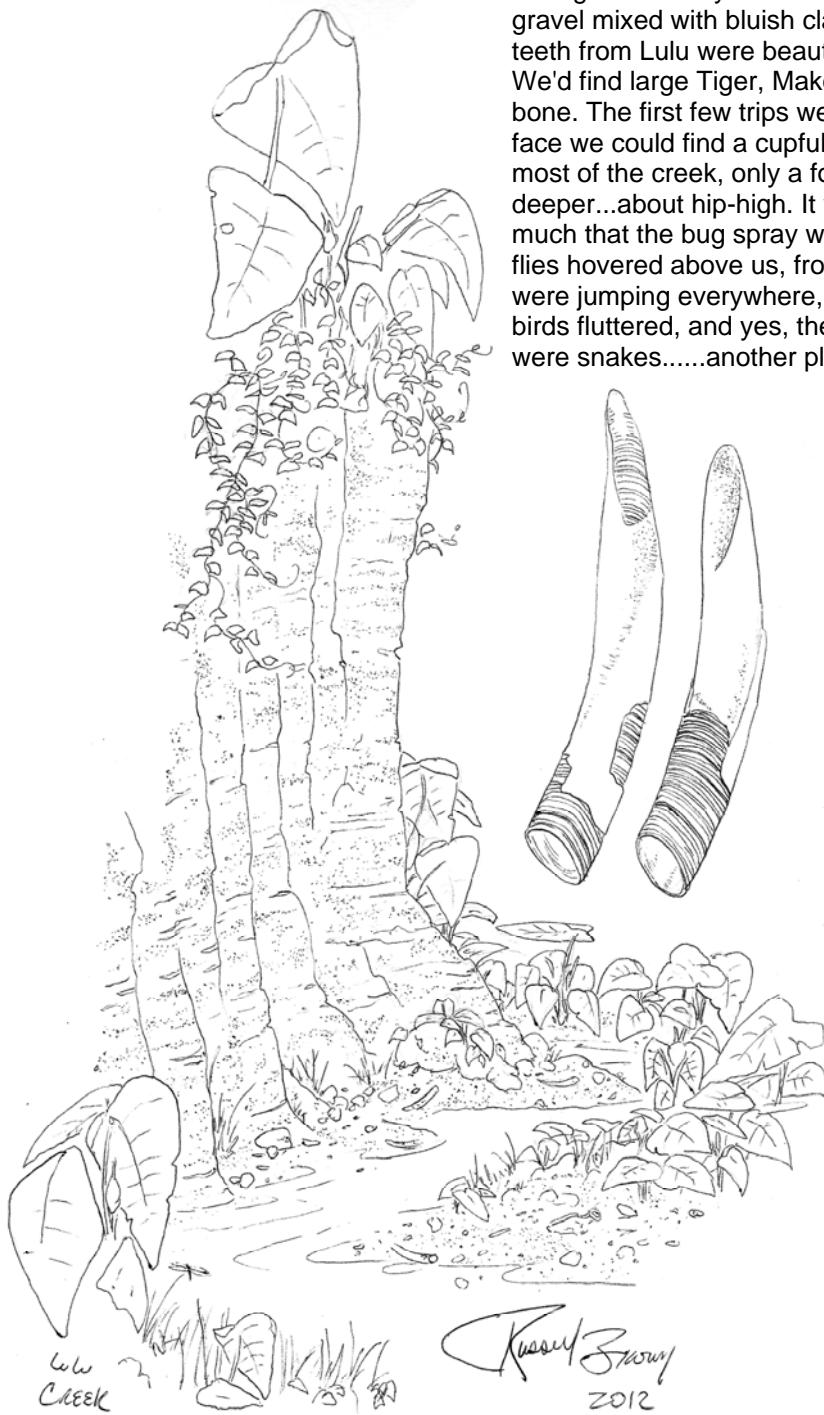
Florida Fossil Permit

Go to www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/vppermits.htm

The permit costs \$5 per person and takes about 3 weeks to process.

Lulu Creek: The Land That Time Forgot

A wall of thick green vegetation stood in front of Jeremy and me. Armed with shovels, seiners, and a machete, we pushed forward. In a lot of areas we crawled through the shallow water under 4 foot tall ferns, elephant ears that were taller than me, and vines making tangles we could hardly fight through..... everywhere looking very snaky. We'd look through the piles of gravel mixed with bluish clay and railroad stones, finding shark teeth. Shark teeth from Lulu were beautiful creams, blues, browns... about every color. We'd find large Tiger, Mako, and Requiem shark teeth and bits of whale bone. The first few trips we didn't really have to dig. Just looking on the surface we could find a cupful of fossils. The water was cold and clear and in most of the creek, only a foot deep. Bends in the creek washed deeper...about hip-high. It was the middle of the summer and we'd sweat so much that the bug spray wouldn't stick to us. Large dragon flies and damsel flies hovered above us, frogs were jumping everywhere, birds fluttered, and yes, there were snakes.....another plus.



To left:
Sperm Whale
Physeteridae sp.

On the early trips to Lulu Creek, Mike, Jeremy, and I would be almost delirious with anticipation. Parking across the street or down at an auto shop, we'd practically run to the railroad tracks and disappear into the trees. We'd tie a rope around a tree to help us climb down the steep cliff-like banks and jumping down into a flat area a few feet above the water. Carrying backpacks, shovels, etc. we'd head down the creek.... not too far, just 30 to 50 ft. Most of the creek was hidden by overgrown vegetation. Some areas were cut along cliff banks 20 to 30 ft. high. One day Mike Trapp found 5 to 6 whale teeth just laying on the surface near a cliff.....lucky dog. (Continued on page 5)

Lulu Creek: The Land That Time Forgot

(Continued from page 4)

Jeremy never had much luck at screen washing. He'd walk along and find his treasures. Rarely did he come back empty-handed. After digging all day we'd head back wet, tired, but happy. This is when the rope tied around the tree came in real handy. We needed it to get up the cliff bank. Climbing out one day, I discovered that the "paint bucket" that we had been kicking off of was a whale vertebra. It's now one of the largest in my collection.

After reading more on fossil hunting, I sent off for my State fossil permit. I always took notes on what fossils I found and where... even bringing back soil samples from different areas. Figured they would come in handy when it was time to make my yearly report as the fossil permit required. I also started showing up at the F.F.H. meetings at Robert E. Lee Middle School.

I'm not sure how many trips into Lulu we had made until I hit the jackpot. The three of us had pushed into the next section downstream from where we had been digging. Picking through the gravel in my screen, I saw it... a seven-gill shark tooth! "Coo-coo", I hollered. (this was our call to each other when we found something great). I held it up to show my buddies, feeling much like a proud new father. Then it fell my hand. I yelled at Mike to throw himself into the water to block the flow.. He just looked at me as if I was crazy. Frantically I searched around and found it again. Much relieved and sitting down to rest with my treasure, I chanced to look around me. I could not believe

it - there were two more perfect seven-gill teeth just lying there. So, we named this area "Seven-Gill Alley". In the next few trips there, we all found them... uppers and lowers. Most were perfect; some were broken. On a good day my container would have a dozen of these rare teeth, along with other treasures.

Fall was setting in and soon Lulu Creek would have a big surprise for us.

Russell Brown
Next Month - "In Hot Water"



Above:
7-gilled Cow Shark
Notorhynchus primigenius

Vulcan Field Trip

May 12th

There will be a field trip to Vulcan Mine near Brooksville on Saturday, May 12th and the Trip Leader contact is Ron Wittschene, email redbear@rwittschene.com, phone 407-637-5476. 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.

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

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.

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

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.

Egg-Laying Beginning of the End for Dinosaurs

ScienceDaily (Apr. 17, 2012) — Their reproductive strategy spelled the beginning of the end: The fact that dinosaurs laid eggs put them at a considerable disadvantage compared to viviparous mammals. Together with colleagues from the Zoological Society of London, Daryl Codron and Marcus Clauss from the University of Zurich investigated and published why and how this ultimately led to the extinction of the dinosaurs in the journal *Biology Letters*.

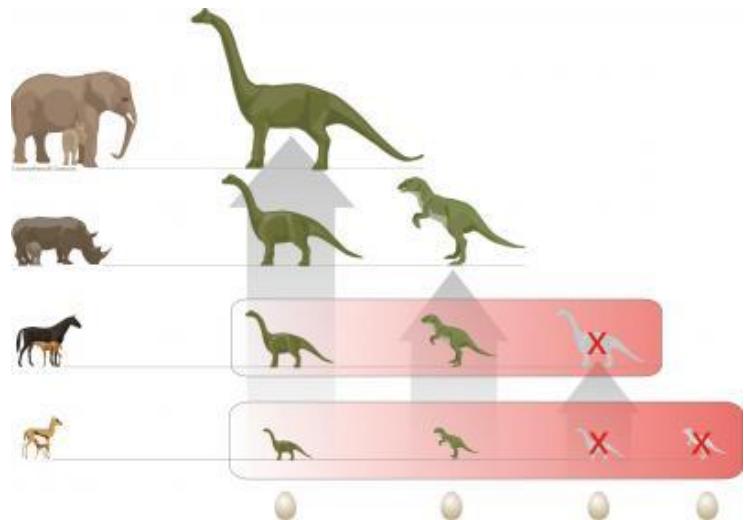
The dinosaur's egg and the tiny dino baby

Weighing in at four tons, the mother animal was 2,500 times heavier than its newly hatched dinosaur baby. By way of comparison, a mother elephant, which is just as heavy, only weighs 22 times as much as its new-born calf. In other words, neonates are already big in large mammal species. The staggering difference in size between newly hatched dinosaurs and their parents was down to the fact that there are limits to the size eggs can become: After all, larger eggs require a thicker shell and as the embryo also needs to be supplied with oxygen through this shell, eventually neither the shell nor the egg can grow any more. Consequently, newly hatched dinosaur babies cannot be larger in the same way as in larger species of mammal.

Many species occupy one niche each; one species occupies many niches

In addition, new-born mammals occupy the same ecological niche as their parents: As they are fed with milk directly by the mother, they do not take any niche away from smaller species. With large dinosaurs, however, it was an entirely different story: They did not only occupy the adults' one niche during their lifetime, but also had many of their own to pass through -- from niches for animals with a body size of a few kilos and those for ten, 100 and 1,000-kilo animals to those that were occupied by the fully grown forms of over 30,000 kilograms.

Daryl Codron explains what this means for biodiversity: "The consensus among researchers is that animals of particular body sizes occupy particular niches. In the case of the dinosaurs, this would mean that a single species occupied the majority of the ecological niches while mammals occupied these through numerous species of different sizes." Accordingly, the research results reveal that dinosaurs of a small and medium body size were represented with far fewer individual species than was the case in mammals -- because their niches were occupied by the young of larger species.



"An overview of the body sizes of all dinosaur species -- including those of birds, which are also dinosaurs after all -- reveals that few species existed with adults weighing between two and sixty kilograms," specifies Codron. And Marcus Clauss sums up the consequences of this demonstrated by the researchers using computer simulations: "Firstly, this absence of small and medium-sized species was due to the competition among the dinosaurs; in mammals, there was no such gap. Secondly, in the presence of large dinosaurs and the ubiquitous competition from their young, mammals did not develop large species themselves." The third insight that the computer simulation illustrates concerns small dinosaurs: They were in competition both among their own ranks and with small mammals. And this increased pressure brought the small dinosaurs either to the brink of extinction or forced them to conquer new niches. The latter enabled them to guarantee their survival up to the present day, as Codron concludes, since "back then, they had to take to the air as birds."

Catastrophe: Small dinosaurs take to the air and large ones die out

The dinosaurs' supremacy as the largest land animals remained intact for 150 million years. The mass extinction at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, however, spelled trouble as the species gap in the medium size range turned out to be disastrous for them. According to the current level of knowledge, all the larger animals with a body weight from approximately ten to 25 kilos died out. Mammals had many species below this threshold, from which larger species were able to develop after the calamity and occupy the empty niches again. The dinosaurs, however, lacked the species that would have been able to reoccupy the vacant niches. That was their undoing.

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	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
Auctioneer	Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Membership	Bonnie Cronin Nicole Barr	(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:

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

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: elise@liseydreams.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

See inside for more information on events.

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

May 5th & 6th 2012
Peace River Field Trip

MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR PEACE RIVER
See Page 3 for Registration Information.

May 12, 2012
Vulcan Mine

May 19, 2012
2:00pm Kid's Fossil Auction
3:00pm Club Mtg & Speaker: Robert Sinibaldi

June 16, 2012
2:00pm Kid's Fossil Blast
3:00pm Club Mtg and Adult Auction

No July Meeting or Newsletter
Check website and June Newsletter
for Summer Activities

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bjrb48@netzero.com to receive the newsletter via email.



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



Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

Articles and comments should be sent to: elise@liseydreams.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News