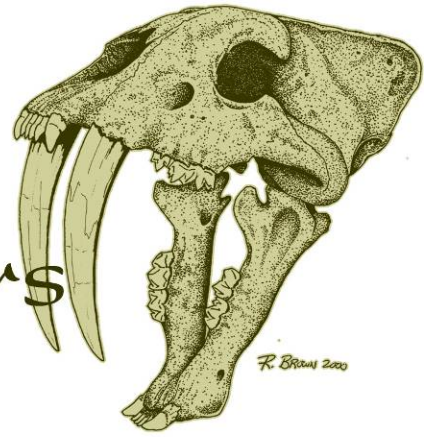


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 23, Number 5

May 2013

From the President.....

Yeah! Summer's here. Get out and enjoy it. Every fossil hunter in Florida will be searching their favorite spots. Peace River is one place on nearly everyone's list. If you don't make it to the **dig and cookout on May 11th**, you can always hook up on Florida Fossil Hunters Facebook page and plan your trip. I want to thank Dave Dunaway and Dave Cass for putting this year's Peace River dig together.

As some of you know, we've got a very talented new member who single-handedly arranged a club trip to Mosaic's Ft. Green Mine. Currently she has lined up at least one more field trip to another mine. (come to the **June meeting** for details and discussion on a date). Cindy Roll, I thank you and your club thanks you.

June's Kid's Blast will be a repeat of the April program because there's too much to miss on tusks, trees, stones, and bones.

In June we'll also have our **summer Fossil Bucks' Auction**. Inside this issue will be a partial list of items.

After our **July break** - no meeting or newsletter - the Fall schedule is filling up quickly.... Our **Fossil Fair: Oct 4th & 5th**, Vulcan Mine trips, Natural History Day at the Daytona Beach Museum, etc. Volunteering for these events earns you fossil bucks that you can spend at the auctions.

Happy hunting... be sure to bring your finds from the mines and Peace River and elsewhere to the meeting.

Russell Brown
President

**Peace River
Fossil Hunt
& Picnic
May 11, 2013**
More Info Page 3

June 15 Mtg
More Info Page 2
**NO MEETING
OR NEWSLETTER
IN JULY**

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

May 11th - Peace River fossil hunt & picnic. No regular mtg.

June 15th
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting & Fossil Bucks Auction

No July meeting or newsletter

August 17th
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting

Sept. 21st
3 pm Meeting

Oct. 4th & 5th: Fossil Fair

More events listed on back page

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www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Fragments

Kids' Fossil Blast

On Saturday, June 15th, at 2 pm, our Kids' Fossil Blast will be on "Tusks, Trees, Stones, or Bones".

My yard has lots of rocks that I mistook for fossils through the years..... still bring a couple home every trip. We'll have lots of fossils and rocks and such to look at and compare so you can learn some of the differences between pieces of bones, shells, petrified wood and rocks. Those of you who are new to fossil hunting are welcome, too.

We'll meet at 2 pm at the Science Center on Saturday, June 15th. The next one will be on August 17th.

Brevard Zoo Celebrates Mothers

On Mother's Day, May 12th, all mothers will be able to get into the Zoo free. For more info, go to www.brevardzoo.org or call [321-254-9453](tel:321-254-9453). They have great summer programs, too.

Just some of the items that will be in the June Fossil Bucks Auction.....

Sand stromatolite, modern fox skull, petrified wood, shark tooth necklace, sifting screen..... and MORE!

Report on Ft. Green Mine Trip

Since rain had been predicted for Saturday, April 13th, we all were prepared to slog through mud and get soaked. Nothing would keep this die-hard group from hunting for fossils in a real mine after years of not being able to get into one. The sky was overcast as we followed Mosaic's geologist into the hunting area. We were delightfully surprised to find that we could look for the fossils over acres of previously mined land and it was dry! By ones and twos, people headed out with heads pointed down. It wasn't long at all before everyone of us had found something. Soon we were scrambling over hills, investigating ditches, crawling on our hands and knees over piles of dirt picking up fossils. Then came the first squeals of glee as megas started being found.

We all came home with treasures and fossils for the kids' pit, too.

We all had a great time. We want to thank the folks at Mosaic for allowing us into the mine.

Thanks and more thanks to Cindy Roll who persevered in her efforts to gain access for our club to the mine. There is a chance our club can go back next year, too.

Meanwhile, Cindy is working on getting us into another mine.



Ft. Green Mine Trip Adventurers

Peace River Fossil Hunt and Cookout

Trip Leaders: Dave Cass: [407-409-9095](tel:407-409-9095)
 Dave Dunaway: [407-786-8844](tel:407-786-8844)

When: Saturday, May 11th

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

Cost: Approximately \$6 per vehicle. If you camp there overnight, you don't have to pay the fee.

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

We'll have hot dogs and the fixings, along with paper plates and utensils. Please bring a side dish- salad, chips, dessert, fruit - to share at the cookout. Please bring your own drinks as well. (NO alcohol)

Note: You must call one of the Dave's before Friday, the 10th so they will know to expect you.

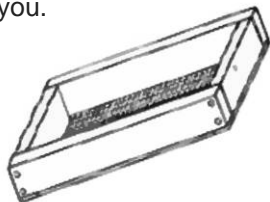
What to Bring

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)



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](tel:863-735-0330) and Thousand Trails, [863-735-8889](tel: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/vppermit.htm

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

*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. Tie "fun-doodle" floats to them to keep them from sinking while you fill them. It's important to have the screen tied to you with a length of rope 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.

See website for instructions on constructing one yourself!

Girl Discovers Dinosaur Fossils: New Species Vectidraco Daisymorrisae Named After 5-Year-Old Daisy Morris

March 22, 2013 11:18 AM EDT



In 2008, a little girl discovered dinosaur fossils during a family walk along the Atherfield Beach on the southern coast of the Isle of Wight. A remarkable event for young Daisy Morris, she was just 5 years old when she unearthed the newly discovered dinosaur species.

According to reports, Daisy was enjoying a family walk along the beach in England's Isle of Wight, also known as the "dinosaur capital of Great Britain," when she identified fossils specimens in the mud.

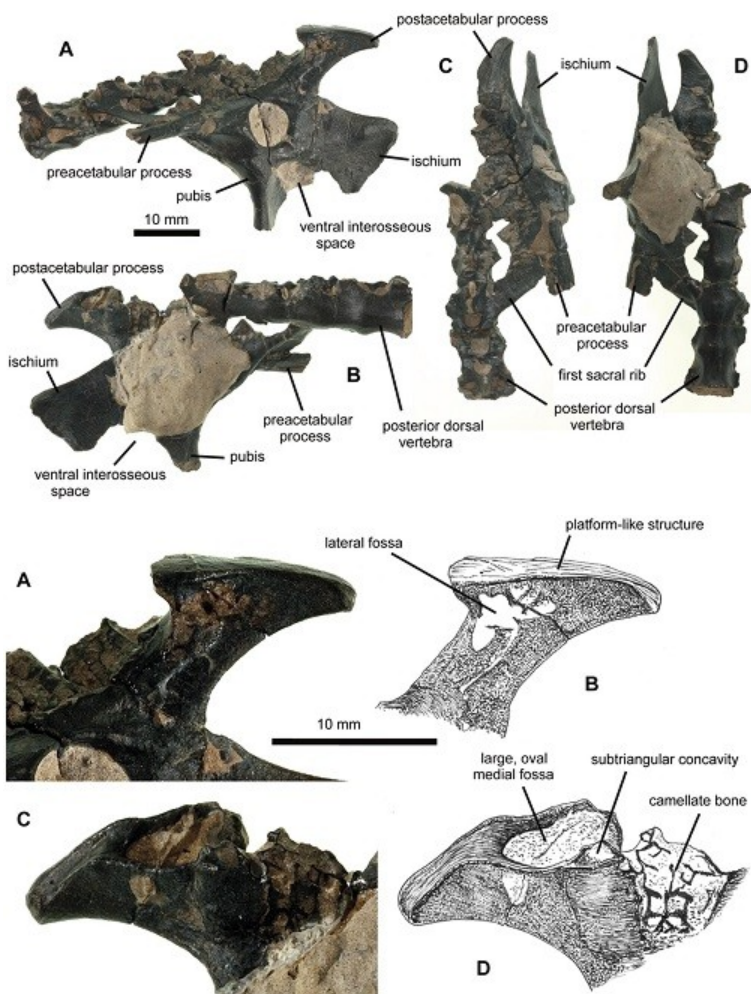
Like Us on Facebook

"She has a very good eye for tiny little fossils," her mother Sian Morris told BBC.

Daisy apparently first began fossil hunting at age 3.

"She found these tiny little black bones sticking out of the mud and decided to dig a bit further and scoop them all out," her mother said.

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Girl Discovers Dinosaur Fossils, continued

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Like Us on Facebook

"She has a very good eye for tiny little fossils," her mother Sian Morris told BBC.

Daisy apparently first began fossil hunting at age 3.

"She found these tiny little black bones sticking out of the mud and decided to dig a bit further and scoop them all out," her mother said.

Daisy Morris (Photo: PA handout)

The family brought the mysterious specimens to the attention of fossil expert Martin Simpson of Southampton University.

"When Daisy and her family brought the fossilized remains to me in April 2009, I knew I was looking at something very special," said Simpson.

After several years of thorough analysis by paleontologists Darren Naish and Gareth Dyke, the findings on the fossils were finally published on Monday. Daisy Morris is now 9 years old.

The specimen is a previously unknown genus and species of a small flying reptile called the pterosaur. Experts officially named the specimen *Vectidraco Daisymorrisae* after Daisy. About the size of a crow, the pterosaur fossil was dated back to the Lower Cretaceous period, or approximately 115 million years ago.

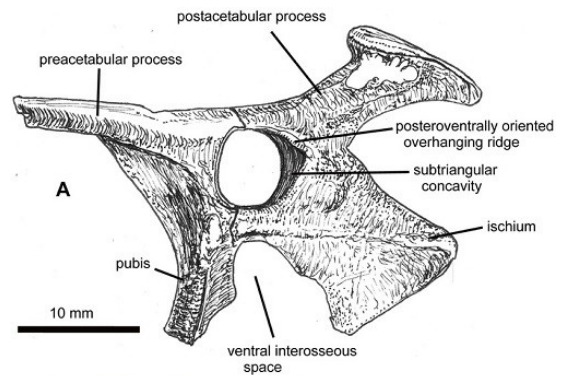


"It's likely that if she had not picked this up, it would have washed away that day and might never have been found," said fossil expert Martin Simpson.

"It shows how amateurs and academics can work together and make some really important discoveries.

"She is a fascinating and unique girl.

"The fossil turned out to be a completely new genus and species of small pterosaur, a flying reptile from 115 million years ago in the Lower Cretaceous period, which because of the island's eroding coastline, would without doubt have been washed away and destroyed if it had not been found by Daisy."



The Mammals

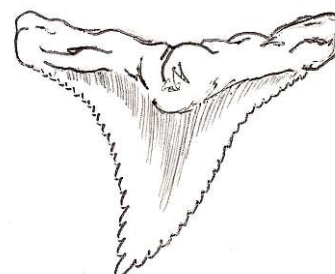
Lulu Creek - Part 13

While screen washing for for shark teeth at Lulu Creek through the years, I found a little mammal material. Modern animals that we have domesticated and forest animals familiar to us. Often jaws of Opossums and other medium-sized animals would turn up, as in any creek throughout the State. As animals are drawn to water to drink or find food, eventually some will die or fall prey to others. 90% of the mammals at Lulu fall into this category.

As we roll back time a little further, a few animals that we'd recognize would have lived there.... horse, bison, wolves, and camels, for example. Some of these could have come with the early settlers or been here when they arrived. The teeth are not fully mineralized. Many of these animals go back into Florida's rich past, even before Lulu Creek formed.

The strangest land animal found at Lulu was the four-tusked gomphotherium, an early elephant. What other early mammals are left to be found?

- Opossum
- Nine-banded armadillo
- Eastern cottontail
- Gray squirrel
- Coyote
- Raccoon
- Bobcat
- Feral hog
- White-tailed deer
- Bison/cow
- Camel
- Domesticated dog
- Domesticated cat
- Horse
- Glyptodont



Sharks are my thing.

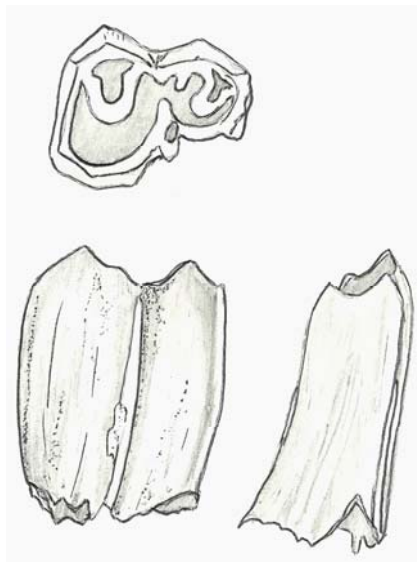
Most of the mammal material I found, I'd give to Jeremy in exchange for the sharks teeth he had found. (Jeremy's drawn to mammals like I am to shark teeth). Why, I'd crush a mammal fossil to get to a shark tooth.

Sadly, there were no megalodons to be found at Lulu Creek. We found them at Pine Hills, but these giants died out right before the Lulu Creek formation was laid down. Jeremy said he and his Dad had a place they'd found some, that we should go there.... I'll get my gear!

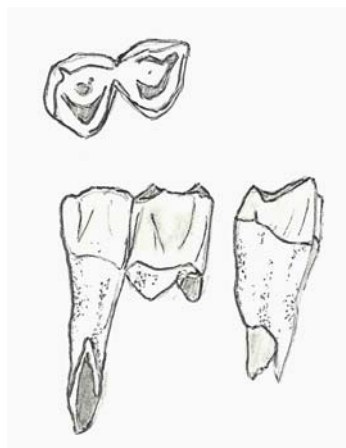
It was still dark when Jeremy and I pulled off on a back road to park. At first light, we climbed down into a deep ravine and stepped into the knee-deep cold, cold water. Wading downstream I could feel the sand give way as my feet sank into it. Coming around the bend, pushing through the bushes, we spied a huge gravel bar. There crouching in the dim light, the shapes of BIG things to come.

Russell Brown

Next step back: The Megalodons



Bison Molar (above)
Bison bison



Camel molar (below)
sp. unknown

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 Fantozi	
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: 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.

May 11th

Peace River fossil hunt and cookout.
No regular meeting in May.

June 15th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm - Meeting and Fossil Bucks Auction

No July meeting or newsletter

August 17th

2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting

September 21st

3 pm Meeting

September 28th

Daytona Beach Museum of Arts & Sciences
"Natural History Festival"

October 4th & 5th

FFH Fossil Fair

Be Green

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



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Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

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

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Florida Fossil Hunters News