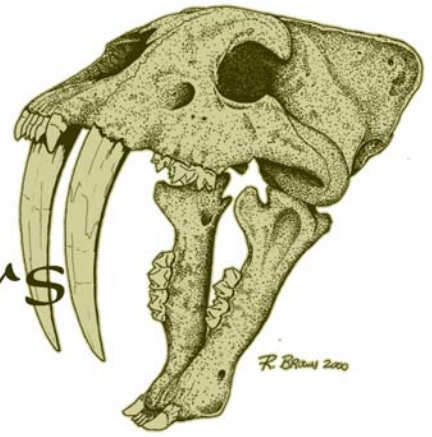


# NEWS

## Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters  
Volume 22, Number 7

August 2012

### Desk of the President.....

Hello everyone and welcome back. Hope summer has been hot enough for you. At least with the much needed rain the State has received, we don't have the severe drought issues like so many others. River levels are rising and falling depending on the local area. Be sure to check conditions before you go collecting.

Fall is fast approaching and our annual Fossil Fair is only two months away. We need the support of our members to pull this off. Please contact Bonnie or me, if you are willing to volunteer for it.

This month, our own Valerie First will be making a presentation on early hominids and the "e" word. She volunteers regularly at the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford and at the Orlando Science Center plus doing a lot for our fossil club including being Chairperson for the Fossil Fair each year.

Since the talk this month is about the tool-making animal, we'll be showcasing artifacts as well. So if you have any in your collection, please bring them in for display and ID. Plus, as always, please bring in any fossils you've found lately so all of us can see them. Work is calling me away, so Dave Dunaway, V.P., will be running the meeting.

During the July break Bonnie & I have been reworking the Florida fossil displays at OSC; taking out the Lulu Creek material and replacing it with fossils from different time periods. Plus I plan on updating a few other displays while I'm at it. This is the last goal on my "to-do" list as President. My term is up in December and elections will be held for new officers. If you get a chance, go up to the 4th floor and check out the new displays and let us know what you think of them.

In this newsletter, there will be info on how to order this year's Fossil Fair t-shirts. Please order early, so we can give the number to our t-shirt printer.

And now that school is starting, we've got to run to set up a couple school displays.....

See ya soon.  
Russell Brown  
President

**AUG 18 MTG Speaker**  
Valerie First

*in the Inspiration classroom on the 2nd floor at OSC. Look for directional signs when you enter the Science Center.*

**October 13 & 14**  
**2012 Fossil Fair**

*More information on pages 3 and 7*

## Coming Events

### UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

#### August 18th

2pm Kids' Fossil Blast  
3pm Meeting and speaker:  
Valerie First

#### September 15th

3pm Meeting

### October 13 & 14 2012 Fossil Fair

#### November 10th

2pm Kids' Fossil Blast  
3pm Meeting

*More events listed on back page*

*For more info...*

[www.floridafossilhunter.com](http://www.floridafossilhunter.com)

## Table of Contents

Fragments .....	2
Kids Fossil Blast .....	2
Fossil Fair Flyer .....	3
Lulu Creek - The 4-Tucked Elephant .....	4
Piece on the Peace .....	6
Fossil Fair .....	6
Contacts and Membership Info ....	7
Calendar .....	8

## Fragments

### **August Presentation**

Valerie First will be making a presentation on "Paleontology and Becoming Us" at this month's meeting on Saturday, Aug 17th at 3 pm.

It will be a multi-purpose discussion on Paleontology, including humans, which we can all relate to. It will also cover ideas on how to do presentations to the public for those of you that want to but don't know where to start. She'll also demonstrate some ideas in presenting biological facts in a way that is simple and to the point but very important to understanding what the bones show and how they morphed.

**Thanks..... June's Fossil Bucks auction** was fun and a success, thanks to Roy Singer, our auctioneer, and Ed Metrin who selected an enticing array of items.

### **Last chance to visit..... 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](http://www.flmnh.edu)

### **Natural History and Day of the Mastodon**

The Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences will debut their recent mastodon fossils as well as celebrate all things about nature on Saturday, September 29, from 11 am to 4 pm. One of their speakers will be the world's greatest authority on the Hope Diamond from the Smithsonian.

Russell and Bonnie will be setting up a Florida Fossil display for the event. Please contact them if you can help out. ph: 352-429-1058 or [bjrb48@netzero.com](mailto:bjrb48@netzero.com)

### **Flying Monsters, the Movie**

National Geographic has produced a film about the flying reptiles of the Mesozoic narrated by David Attenborough. It is now showing at MOSI (the Museum of Science and Industry) in Tampa. For those of you that want more information, go to [www.mosi.org](http://www.mosi.org) or call [813-987-6000](tel:813-987-6000).

## Kids' Fossil Blast

This month we'll talk about early humans, their art, and replicate one of the most common forms. Do NOT wear your good clothes.

### **National Fossil Day, October 17th**

Come join us for "Fossils in the Fort" at Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine to celebrate National Fossil Day. Learn about coquina, the "fossil" that built the fort. Hear guest lecturers talk about its use as a construction material and the fossils that are contained within it. See museum collections of Florida fossils and others from around the world..... Russell & Bonnie will represent the Florida Fossil Hunters with a display of fossils.

Location: Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, Florida

Time: 8:45 am to 3 pm (park is open until 5:15 pm)

Cost: Free with park entrance fee (Adults 16 & above \$7, children 15 & under free with adult)

Activities: Speakers, Giveaways, Fossil Displays, Junior Paleontological Program

Sponsored by: Florida Paleontological Society, National Park Service, Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Florida Geological Foundation.

### **Elections Notice**

Elections for new club officers will be held in December. Except for Sara Morey, our Treasurer (who unfailingly keeps us solvent and on a straight path), we've had over a dozen different Presidents/VP's and various other officers that our club needs to keep things running smoothly. Earlier in the club's history, the turnover was regular and people just served a couple years. But recently, it's been the same people trading around positions and/or holding multiple ones.

The plain fact is that we need some new people with fresh perspectives and ideas. Don't be daunted if you think you aren't enough of a "fossil expert" to be an officer. Most of us that hold positions now started when we knew hardly anything.....just that we were excited to find a group like this and we were eager to learn more. Being more involved with the club as an officer has opened up a lot of additional opportunities for learning and developing contacts with other clubs and museums.

In addition to a new President & Vice President, the positions that will be vacant are: Secretary, Field Trip Person, Membership, and a number of Board members. We will also need a back-up people for newsletters and the kids' program.

# FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTERS

# 2012 FOSSIL FAIR

FOSSILS, ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS, ARTIFACTS

Learn to dig Florida and see what can be discovered!

Educational displays, vendors,  
Silent auctions, raffles,  
KIDS DIG PIT. \$1

Oct 13 and 14

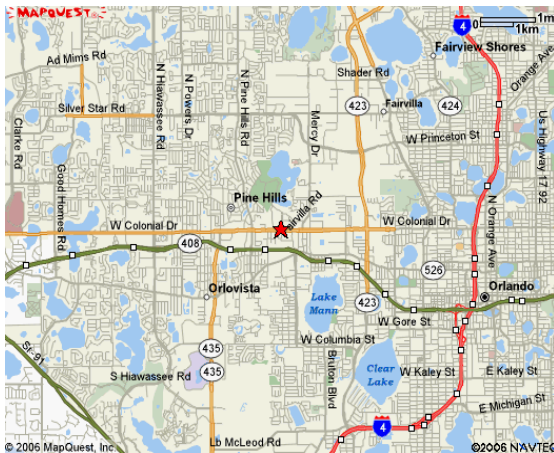
Central Florida Fairgrounds  
4603 W. Colonial Dr  
Orlando Florida 32808

Air Conditioned!: INDOORS!

Sat 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Sun 10:00AM to 4PM

\$4/ Adult & \$1/child



Directions: From Tampa: I-4 to Colonial Dr (Hwy 50) exit. Go west just past Mercy Dr. Fair is on the north side (on the right)

From Daytona: I-4 to Colonial Dr (Hwy 50) in Orlando. Go west on 50 just past Mercy Dr. Fair is on the north side (on the right).

[www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)  
407-699-9274

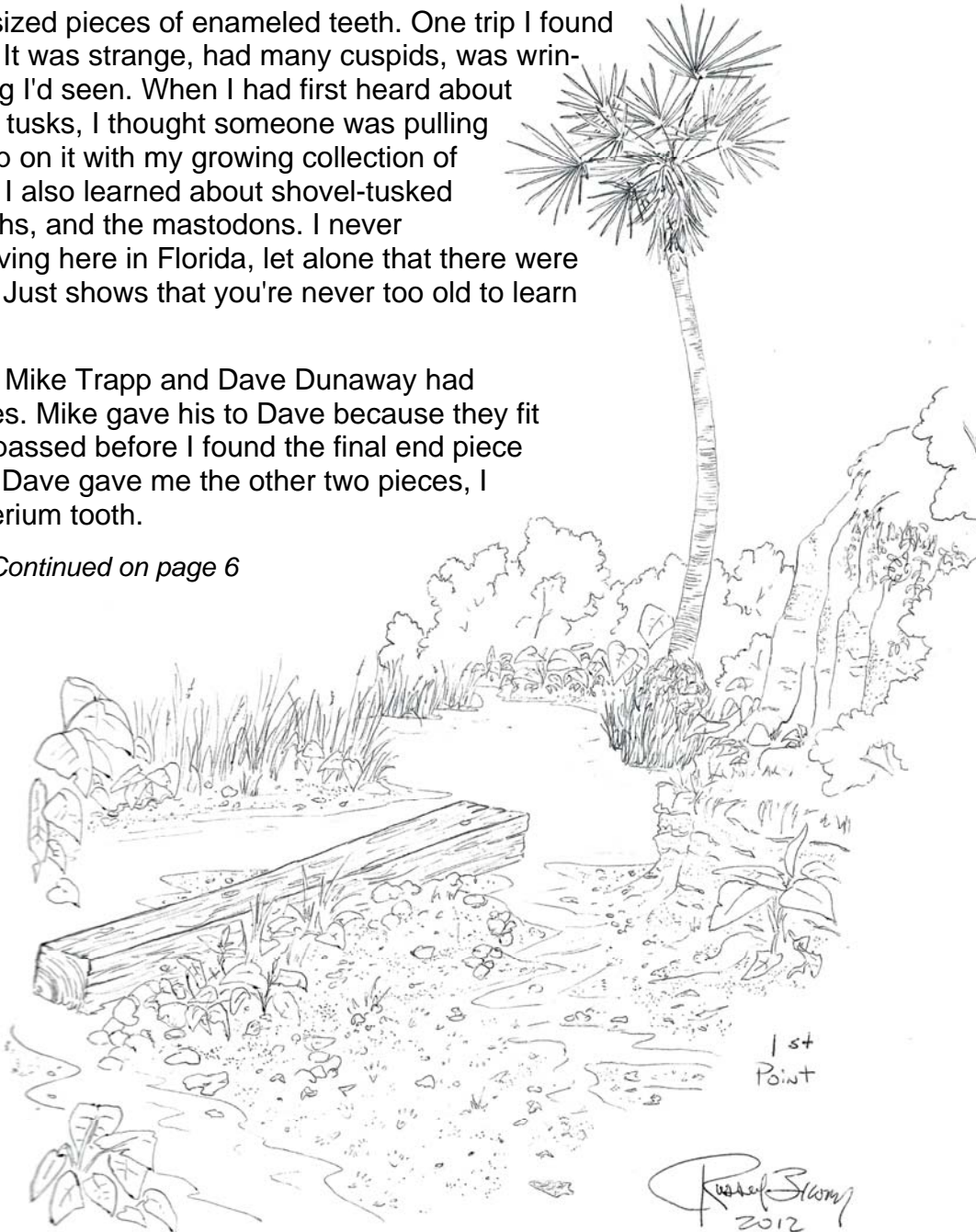
# Lulu Creek - The 4-Tusked Elephant

Through the first years of digging at Lulu Creek, I found mostly marine material: sharks teeth from various species, fish mouthplates, barracuda teeth, dolphin teeth, etc. Land mammal material was, and still is, very rare at Winter Garden. In fact, what I've found of land mammal would fit into a butter dish..... with one exception. Strangely, Proboscidean material showed up more often than anything else.

We'd find small thumb-sized pieces of enameled teeth. One trip I found a small fist-sized piece. It was strange, had many cusps, was wrinkled, and unlike anything I'd seen. When I had first heard about an elephant having four tusks, I thought someone was pulling my leg. After reading up on it with my growing collection of books on Paleontology, I also learned about shovel-tusked elephants, the mammoths, and the mastodons. I never dreamed of elephants living here in Florida, let alone that there were a dozen different kinds. Just shows that you're never too old to learn something new.

About a year later, both Mike Trapp and Dave Dunaway had found partial tooth pieces. Mike gave his to Dave because they fit together. Another year passed before I found the final end piece of that tooth. And when Dave gave me the other two pieces, I had my first Gomphotherium tooth.

*Continued on page 6*



Gomphothere was an elephant that lived in what would be Winter Garden millions of years ago. These mid-sized Proboscideans had two tusks in their upper jaw and two in the lower jaw. The teeth evolved for eating a variety of plants....mostly the softer kinds. These, along with the other species of elephant, went extinct here about 11,000 years ago.

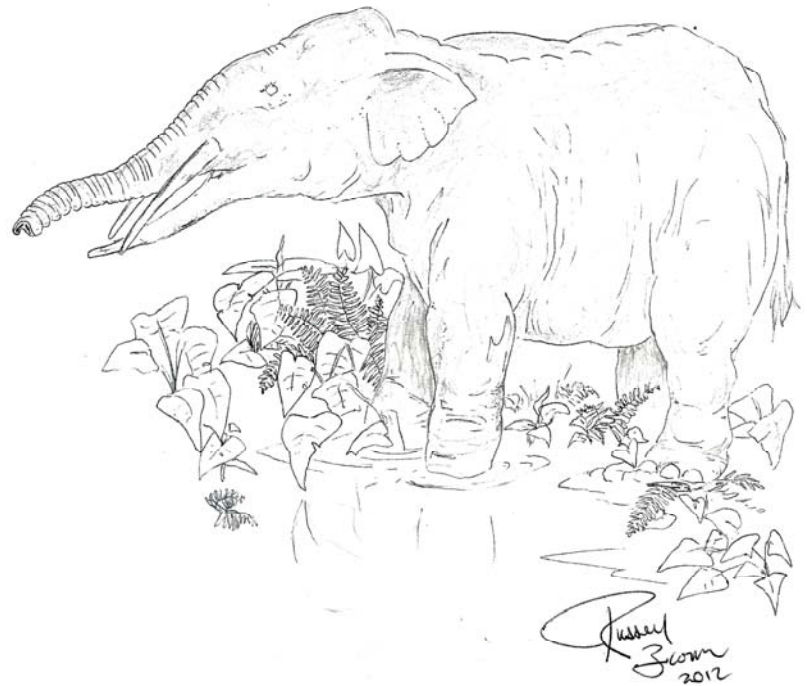
One morning, not long after Mike & I were down in Lulu, wading through a section about 50 ft. long and waist deep. Past that was a large gravel bar with a railroad beam laying in front of it. Last time we were there, Jeremy had found 17 big tiger shark teeth around the beam. Mike & I had set down our gear on some elephant ear leaves we had cut down. Picking up my shovel from where I had stuck it into the ground to hang my screen, I saw it. It was brownish in color and potato chip thin. I had found my first point or arrowhead. Like when I found my first shark tooth and only then realized that sharks swam where we walk, I just had never given much thought to where Indians had lived.... until I held that point.

Holding it up to the sun, I could see through it... like glass. As I've dug the years away, it is still my best point. Studying up on it, I discovered that the Timucua were a large group of Indians that lived throughout Mid-Florida as early as 7,000 years ago. Point styles plus pottery found, date this area from 4,000 to 500 years ago. Thousands of early Americans lived here for thousands of years until the arrival of the European explorers.

Thanks to Lulu Creek, my fossil collection was growing with each trip. And my shark jaw collection was spreading across a whole wall. I feverishly worked on my report to the State for my first fossil permit. Yes, sir, things were looking up until....

Russell Brown

*Note: If you'd like to know more about the Indians in your area, I recommend "Native Americans in Florida" by Kevin M. McCarthy*



**The Police, the Landowner,  
and the Permit (next month)**

# Fossil Fair 2012 is coming...

This year's fair will be on Saturday, October 13th, and Sunday, October 14th, and we need lots of volunteers! Dig out your day planners and calendars. There will be sign-up sheets at the August and September meetings as well as descriptions of the tasks for each station. Of course, you can always volunteer by emailing Bonnie at [bjrb48@netzero.com](mailto:bjrb48@netzero.com).

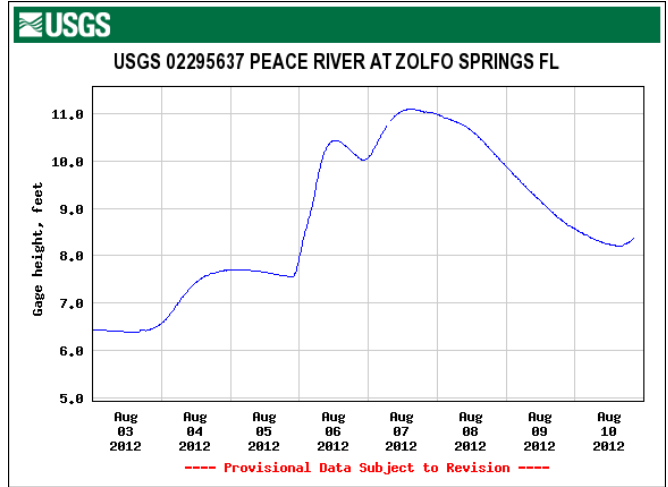
### Some of the positions that need volunteers:

- Front desk/admission
- Membership table
- Kids' Fossil Pit
- Silent Auction

We also desperately need volunteers for security for Friday night and Saturday night. This is one time that being big and/or scary is a real plus!

### Piece on the Peace

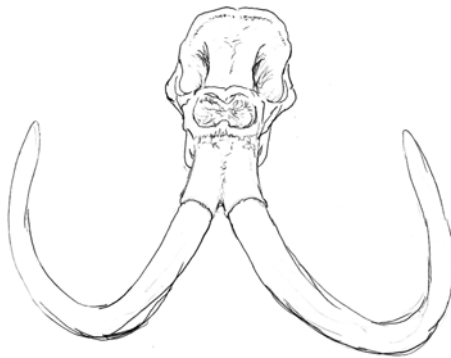
The past month has brought Florida some much needed rain. That means the water levels in the Peace have been up. At least some new fossils will be washed out so when we get to go back, there will be more to find!



## 2012 Fossil Fair: Shirt Designs



POCKET



BACK

We will only print shirts that are pre-ordered. You can order them at the meeting or by emailing Bonnie at [bjrb48@netzero.com](mailto:bjrb48@netzero.com)

Hoping to keep the prices the same but there might be a small increase. Will let everyone know as soon as possible.

**Regular t-shirts** \$10, sizes youth small, youth medium, adult small, medium, large, XL, 2X

**Pocket t-shirts** \$12, sizes adult small, medium, large, XL, 2X

## 2011 Fossil - 20th Anniversary - T-Shirt Order Form

**IF YOU WANT A SHIRT, WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR ORDER FORM BY SEPTEMBER 20TH.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email or phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark the number of shirts you want per size.**

**Kid** Small \_\_\_\_\_ Kid Med \_\_\_\_\_ **Adult** Small \_\_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2X \_\_\_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult w/Pocket-** Small \_\_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2X \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of shirts ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ Adult shirts & youth shirts: \$10 ea. Shirts with pockets: \$12.

EXPECTED PRICE

# 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	<b>OPEN</b>	
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 Elise Cronin-Hurley	(352) 429-1058 (407) 929-6297
Photography	John Heinsen	(407) 291-7672
Webmaster	Elise Cronin-Hurley elise@liseydreams.com	(407) 929-6297

### 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: 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

# Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

August 18th - 2pm Kids' Fossil Blast  
3pm Meeting and speaker: Valerie First  
*The August 18th meeting will be held in the  
Inspiration classroom on the 2nd floor at OSC.  
They do change it sometimes, so look for signs  
when you enter the Science Center.*

Sept. 15th - 3pm Meeting

Sept. 29th - Day of the Mastodon  
at Daytona Beach Museum

October 13th & 14th - Fossil Fair

October 17th - National Fossil Day

November 10th - 2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast  
3 pm Meeting

## Be Green

Email Bonnie at [bjrb48@netzero.com](mailto:bjrb48@netzero.com) to  
receive the newsletter via email.



Join Our Facebook group, Search:

[Florida Fossil Hunters](#)

facebook

Visit us online at [www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

Articles and comments should be sent to: [elise@liseydreams.com](mailto:elise@liseydreams.com)

## Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404

Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



## Florida Fossil Hunters News