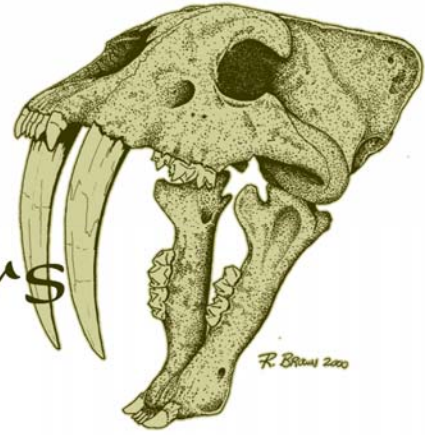


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 21, Number 10

November 2011

20th Annual Fossil Fair Was a Success

It was rainy...record rain, in fact...but that didn't keep us from pulling off another Fossil Fair. Thanks for all the hard work from club volunteers who gave up their time to support the Fair. I hope everyone got to walk around to see all the wonderful things (and to buy a few) that the dealers brought in.

This month, Chris DeLorey will be our guest speaker. Chris is the Director of Education at Brevard Zoo and President of Educational Biofacts, Inc. He's a wealth of info on anything animal and it's always a treat to have come to our meetings.

Bonnie's Kids' Blast program is geared to reptiles and we'll be bringing in some material for show & tell, but I always ask everyone who has found anything to bring it in for us to see.

See you at the meeting, *Russell Brown, President*



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

November 19th, 2011

2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting and Chris DeLorey, speaker
Founders Room, 3rd Floor

December 15th, 2011

6 pm Holiday Party & Auction

More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunter.com

Table of Contents

Fragments	2
Kids Fossil Blast	2
2011 Fossil Fair Thank You	3
2011 Fossil Fair Pictures.....	4
Giant 'Kraken' Lair Discovered: Cunning Sea Monster That Preyed On Ichthyosaurs	5
Thomas Farm Dig Trip	6
November Vulcan Mine Trip	6
Contacts and Membership Info	7
Calendar	8

Fragments

Mineral & Gem Show

The Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society will have their annual show at the Central Florida Fairgrounds Nov. 11th - 13th. The hours are: Friday, 1-6 pm; Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students.

The vendors will have an assortment of rough minerals as well as polished specimens and gems and jewelry. There are activities for kids, too. For more info check out their website: www.cfmgs.org

Artifact & Fossil Show

The Pioneer Florida Museum & Village in Dade City, will be holding their show on Saturday, November 19th from 8 am to 4 pm. Dade City is on Rte. 301 south of Hwy 50, in Pasco County. For more info, you can contact Ken Brooker at 813-689-8056 or Shawn Novak at 352-523-2193.

Fossil Show

The Fossil Club of Lee County will hold its annual show on Saturday, December 3rd from 9 am to 5 pm, at the Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Ave., Ft. Myers. There will be vendors of fossils, minerals, and artifacts, a kids' dig pit, silent auctions and more. Admission is \$3 for those 13 and older. Kids younger than that get in free. For more info, go to www.fcolc.com

Florida Paleontological Society

Hope you had a chance to stop by the FPS table at our Fossil Fair and talk to Alex Kittle and Paul Roth about FPS and the Florida Museum of Natural History. Thank you, Alex and Paul for being there and answering all of our questions.

For any of you that are interested, the Fall FPS meeting and field trip is being held Dec. 9th - 11th, 2011. The field trip is going to be to Branford Quarry which has Eocene and Oligocene marine exposures and occasional terrestrial vertebrates from sinkhole features.

For more info on membership and the Fall meeting, go to www.floridapaleosociety.com

Kids' Fossil Blast

This month we'll be looking at reptiles and their evolution. Not only will you get to check out the usual stuff Russell & I bring in, but Chris DeLorey from the Brevard Zoo is adding his expertise and bringing some reptile stuff from their closets.

Be sure to join us at 2 pm on Saturday, November 19th at the Orlando Science Center before our regular meeting for this fun session.

Piece on the Peace

Keep those sifters handy. As Oct. 30th, the water level was slowly dropping down from being over flood level on Oct. 12th. Looks like it might be low enough to venture into in a couple weeks for fossil hunting.... if we don't get any more big rain events.

December Party and Auction

Our December Holiday Party and fossil buck auction will be held on Thursday, December 15th, from 6 pm to 9 pm, at the Golden Corral, 897 W. Town Pkwy., Altamonte Springs. We'll have a bigger area to spread out than we had last year. Just remember, everyone who attends must purchase a meal.

We'll be enjoying their incredible selection of food beginning at 6 pm and we'll start the meeting/auction around 7:30 pm. Be sure to arrive early so we can get all our fun stuff done by 9 pm. Check out the preview of some of the auction items at our November meeting.

The costs of the meal, including, tax & gratuity are:

Adult (those 13 yr & older)	\$12.80
Child 3-6	\$ 6.09
Child 7-12	\$ 7.31

This does not include beverages. There is no discount for seniors but they do get a free beverage.

AND, it includes the new "**Chocolate Waterfall**", where you can coat many kinds of yummy things with chocolate!

Directions: From the intersection of 436 and 434, go South on 434 and turn left onto West Town Pkwy. The Golden Corral is on the Northeast corner of 434 and West Town Pkwy.

Auction Items for December...and how to get them

For our December dinner/auction, I've been working on some fossil species display cases like the ones Bonnie & I use for our educational talks and club activities. If you would like to bring home one of these species cases, you can get one with your fossil bucks (that's the money we use for our auctions). The catch is that the club members that volunteer the most time get the most bucks. So start planning now to get more involved and help us out at the meetings, field trips, and events. Check the June 2011 newsletter for info on activities to earn fossil bucks.

Here's a list of the fossil cases for the December auction:

Alligator | Croc | Peccary | Tapir | Giant Armadillo
Glyptodont | 3-toed Horse | Equus Horse | Manatee
Pecten | Stingray

Other items that might be in this auction are: petoskey stone bracelet, opalized yellow/orange wood, "bucket of whale"

2011 FOSSIL FAIR *Thank You*

A BIG thank you to all the dealers at our 2011 Fossil Fair.
Not only did you provide lots of interesting things for us to look at and buy,
but your patience and knowledge made this event even more enjoyable.

Rick and Cindy Spechler	Terry Sellari
Robert Chapman and Henrik Allansen	Tom and Kathy Granata
John McIntosh and Patti Jo Stevens	Urszula Tomasik
Kelly and Laura Johnson	Bob and Juying Janowsky
Jussara Azevedo	Nate and Nicole Curtis
Frank Gravina	Shawn Novak
Mike and Diane Jackson	Laton Bare
Mike Moran and Jason Jolin	Greg Kirkpatrick and David Erwin
Jim Tatum	Kim Gromoll
Bill Eberlein	Axel Traugott and Laurel Cohen
Grant Groves	David Dreher
Craig, Susan, and Bryce and Sierra Nesbit	Roy McKey
Don Painter	John and Pete and Anne Piziak
Herbert and Barbara Knodel	Ray and Jerri Glave
Ralph and Barbara Green	Shelley Zimmerman and David Cass
Henry Crowley and Terry Lee	Allan and Paula Coffey
George Diaz and Jeanette McNicol	Chris DeLorey and Wayne Simmons

Special thanks to Rick Spechler, Bob Chapman, Greg Kirkpatrick, Grant Groves, Roy McKey, Dave Cass, Juying Janowsky, Ray Glave, and Terry Sellari for giving us items for the Silent Auction, Kids Pit, and the Fair Raffle.

2011 Fossil Fair



One of the kids' drawings based on claw core fossil at the Fair

Giant 'Kraken' Lair Discovered: Cunning Sea Monster That Preyed On Ichthyosaurs

ScienceDaily (Oct. 10, 2011) — Long before whales, the oceans of Earth were roamed by a very different kind of air-breathing leviathan. Snaggle-toothed ichthyosaurs larger than school buses swam at the top of the Triassic Period ocean food chain, or so it seemed before Mount Holyoke College paleontologist Mark McMenemy took a look at some of their remains in Nevada. Now he thinks there was an even larger and more cunning sea monster that preyed on ichthyosaurs: a 'kraken' of such mythological proportions it would have sent Captain Nemo running for dry land.

McMenemy is presenting the results of his work on Oct. 10 at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Minneapolis.

The evidence is at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park in Nevada, where McMenemy and his daughter spent a few days this summer. It's a site where the remains of nine 45-foot (14-meter) ichthyosaurs, of the species *Shonisaurus popularis* can be found. These were the Triassic's counterpart to today's predatory giant squid-eating sperm whales. But the fossils at the Nevada site have a long history of perplexing researchers, including the world's expert on the site: the late Charles Lewis Camp of U.C. Berkeley.

"Charles Camp puzzled over these fossils in the 1950s," said McMenemy. "In his papers he keeps referring to how peculiar this site is. We agree, it *is* peculiar."

Camp's interpretation was that the fossils probably represented death by an accidental stranding or from a toxic plankton bloom. But no one had ever been able to prove that the beasts died in shallow water. In fact more recent work on the rocks around the fossils suggest it was a deep water environment, which makes neatly arranged carcasses even more mysterious.

This question -- shallow or deep ocean death -- is what attracted McMenemy to the site.

"I was aware that anytime there is controversy about depth, there is probably something interesting going on," McMenemy said. And when they arrived at the remote state park and started looking at the fossils, McMenemy was struck by their strangeness.

"It became very clear that something very odd was going on there," said McMenemy. "It was a very odd configuration of bones."



Photo shows shonisaur vertebral disks arranged in curious linear patterns with almost geometric regularity. The arranged vertebrae resemble the pattern of sucker discs on a cephalopod tentacle, with each vertebra strongly resembling a coleoid sucker. (Credit: Mark McMenemy.)

First of all, the different degrees of etching on the bones suggested that the shonisaur were not all killed and buried at the same time. It also looked like the bones had been purposefully rearranged. That got him thinking about a particular modern predator that is known for just this sort of intelligent manipulation of bones.

"Modern octopus will do this," McMenemy said. What if there was an ancient, very large sort of octopus, like the kraken of mythology. "I think that these things were captured by the kraken and taken to the midden and the cephalopod would take them apart."

In the fossil bed, some of the shonisaur vertebral disks are arranged in curious linear patterns with almost geometric regularity, McMenemy explained. The proposed Triassic kraken, which could have been the most intelligent invertebrate ever, arranged the vertebral discs in double line patterns, with individual pieces nesting in a fitted fashion as if they were part of a puzzle.

Even more creepy: The arranged vertebrae resemble the pattern of sucker discs on a cephalopod tentacle, with each vertebra strongly resembling a coleoid sucker. In

Continued page 6

Giant 'Kraken' Lair Discovered continued from page 5

other words, the vertebral disc "pavement" seen at the state park may represent the earliest known self portrait.

But could an octopus really have taken out such huge swimming predatory reptiles? No one would have believed such a tale until the staff of the Seattle Aquarium set up a video camera at night a few years ago to find out what was killing the sharks in one of their large tanks. What they were shocked to discover was that a large octopus they had in the same tank was the culprit. The video of one of these attacks is available on the web to anyone who uses the search terms "shark vs octopus."

"We think that this cephalopod in the Triassic was doing the same thing," said McMenamin. Among the evidences of the kraken attacks are many more ribs broken in the shonisaur fossils than would seem accidental and the twisted necks of the ichthyosaurs. "It was either drowning them or breaking their necks."

Of course, it's the perfect Triassic crime because octopuses are mostly soft-bodied and don't fossilize well. Only their beaks, or mouth parts, are hard and the chances of those being preserved nearby are very low. That means the evidence for the murderous Kraken is circumstantial, which may leave some scientists rather skeptical. But McMenamin is not worried.

"We're ready for this," he said. "We have a very good case."

Thomas Farm Volunteer Dig, Fall 2011

The Div. of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Fl. Museum of Natural History is seeking volunteers to work with Museum staff & students at a fossil dig at the famous Thomas Farm site in Gilcrest County. There will be two 10-day-long sessions: the first from Oct. 21st - 30th; and the second from Nov. 11th - 20th. Digging hours are from 9 am to 5 pm. Volunteers are expected to work a minimum of 3 hours per day and can sign up for multiple days. In addition to digging, volunteers are also expected to spend time screen-washing sediment to recover bones and teeth of small animals.

No previous experience is necessary; they will train you.

Volunteers must be at least 15 yr. old, be in good enough physical condition to walk up & down stairs, and spend at least 3 hrs outdoors working. Camping is available on site for a fee.

All fossil specimens collected become the property of the Fl. Museum of Natural History.

This is a great way to experience the fine art of fossil excavating and to share in the thrill of discovery. For more information and to submit your application, go to www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo and click on the link on the page for the 2011 Fossil Dig.

Vulcan Field Trip

There will be a field trip to Vulcan Mine near Brooksville on Saturday, November 12th and the Trip Leader contact is Dave Dunaway, PH# 407-786-8844 before 8pm. Cell phone number for the day of the trip ONLY is 407-493-4253. 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.

**Next Trip December 10th
Trip Leader Needed! (Earn Fossil Bucks)**

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) 493-4253
Fossil Bucks	Dave Dunaway	(407) 493-4253
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@lisedreams.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	

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

Newsletter Policy

Associate members are people in the same household, included at no extra charge, 2 adult votes per household.

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@lisedreams.com. Articles can be sent as text in the e-mail or in Microsoft Word files (.doc or .docx).

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

November 5th, 2011
Neanderthal Ball

November 11, 12, & 13, 2011
Central FL Mineral & Gem Show

November 12, 2011
Vulcan Mine Field Trip

November 11 thru 20, 2011
Thomas Farm Dig

November 19, 2011
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting & Chris DeLorey, speaker

November 19, 2011
Dade City Artifact & Fossil Show

December 3, 2011
Lee Co. Fossil Club Show

December 9, 10 & 11, 2011
FPS Fall Meeting & Field Trip

December 10, 2011
Vulcan Mine Field Trip

December 15, 2011
6 pm Holiday Party & Auction

Be Green

Email Bonnie at 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

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

Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404

Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



Florida Fossil Hunters News