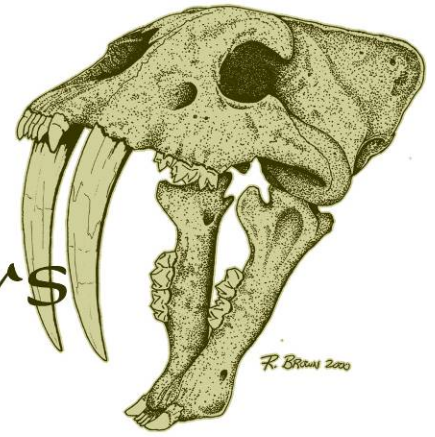


# NEWS

## Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters  
Volume 22, Number 10

November 2012

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

Greetings everyone and welcome to Florida Fossil Hunters' Fall Edition. The year is winding down. Hopefully Peace River will do the same to make it possible for some fossil hunting during the Holidays.

I could write an entire newsletter just thanking everyone who helped out at the Fossil Fair and making it a success..... from the beautiful "Peace River Fossil Case" that Dave Cass put together and donated, to Sara's kitchen, to all my old dependable members, to the new members who stepped up to the plate, I thank you.

More on the Fossil Fair inside this newsletter.

This month, with the Thanksgiving holiday, the meeting has been moved to **Saturday, November 10th**. Mark your calendars! We'll have a Kids' Blast at 2:00 pm and at 3:00, after a little business, we'll have our guest speaker from the University of Florida, Adiel Klompmaker.

We'll be having a Board meeting soon to go over next year's calendar of events. If you have anything you would like bring up as far as suggestions, comments, etc., contact any board member or me. We'd love to hear from you.

Don't forget to bring in all the treasures you got at the Fossil Fair to show off, plus anything you've dug up.

Sincerely,  
Russell Brown  
President

**November 10th MTG**

2pm Kids'  
3pm Meeting

**December  
15, 2012**

Christmas at  
the Fort

## Coming Events

### UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

#### **November 10th**

2pm Kids' Fossil Blast  
3pm Meeting

#### **December 15th**

Christmas at the Fort

*More events listed on back page*

*For more info...*

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

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# Florida Fossil Hunters News

# Fragments

## **Club Meeting - November 10th (Not the 17th)**

We will have our club meeting in the Clubhouse at the Orlando Science Center on Saturday, the 10th. The Clubhouse is on the First Level.... if you park in the garage, you enter on the Second Level. Go down the stairs and turn left. The Clubhouse will be on the right side across from the entrance to the Cinedome.

Of course, look for signs directing you since they have been known to switch rooms on us.

The Kids' Fossil Blast will start at 2 pm and the General Meeting will begin around 3 pm.

For you first timers... the Orlando Science Center is located at 777 East Princeton St., Orlando, 32803. For more info on the Center go to [www.osc.org](http://www.osc.org) Parking in the garage will cost \$5 if you are not a member of OSC. There is free parking around the Science Center and at the medical bldg across the street.

## **November's Speaker**

Adiel Klomp maker will be giving a presentation about fossil evidence of predation on shelled creatures. He is currently a Post-Doctorate Fellow at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He received his Masters from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and got his PHD at Kent State in Ohio.

We encourage you to bring in any fossil shells you have with drill holes, etc.

## **Fossil & Mineral Shows**

Spring Hill - Withlacoochee Rockhounds

38th Annual Gem Show with minerals, fossils, jewelry, too. Friday, Nov. 30th through Sunday, Dec. 2nd, from 9 am to 5 pm at Slovene American Club, 13383 County Line Road, Spring Hill, FL

Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 teens, 12 & under get in free  
Need more info? Try [info@withlacoocheeroackhounds.com](mailto:info@withlacoocheeroackhounds.com)

## **Ft. Myers - Fossil Club of Lee County**

Fossil Show 2012 featuring shark teeth, fossils, minerals, artifacts, bottles, gemstones, kids' dig pit and more on Saturday, Dec. 1st. Fossil talks at 11 am and 2:30 pm by Dr. Charles Connor. Held at the Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Ave., Ft. Myers. Directions: I-75 to exit 136 (Ft. Myers). Go west at 1st light, turn right. Entrance on the left.

Admission: \$3 adults, kids under 12 get in free.  
For more info go to [www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)

## **Deland - Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society**

39th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show on Saturday, Jan. 12th from 10 am to 6 pm, and on Sunday, Jan. 13th from 10 am to 5 pm. Held at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Bldg., SR 44, Deland. (1/2 mile east of I-4, exit 118)

For more info, go to [www.tomokagms.org](http://www.tomokagms.org)

## **FOSSIL FAIR THANK YOU**

### **Big Thanks to:**

All volunteers at the 2012 Fossil Fair -

Joe & Ryan Andrusko, Nicole, Philip, Sienna & Jeshua Barr, Russell Brown, Dave Cass, Steve Chambers, Melissa Cole, the Cronin tribe: Bonnie, Jeanette, Britt, Joey, Sam, Mitchell, Brandon, Zach, & Elise, Kathy DeRouin, Dave Dunaway, Marge Fantozzi, Duane Hartley, John Heinsen, Kim Jackson, Cindy Lockner, Ed Metrin, Sara Morey, Kathy Munroe, Bill & Pat Purcell, Joe, Lenny, Jocelyn, Brandon & Aiden Rossi, Karen, Jaime, Andre & Aspen Tovar, Marcia Wright ...

...and Art Dreves & Roy Singer... we know you were with us in spirit even though you couldn't make it to this Fair.

If I have omitted anyone, I apologize and please let me know.

### **Thanks for all your time and your smiles.**

A specially big Thanks

to Valerie First for all the work she put in throughout the year on the advertising and with the vendors for the Fair.

to the Titus family: Terry, Jackie, Terri Lynn, & Sydney for taking care of security at night and volunteering at the Fair. We all slept better because of you.

And thanks to the vendors who participated:

Matt Ameika - Jussara Azeveda - Don Baty - Dave Cass & Shelley Zimmerman - Robert Chapman & Henrik Allanson - Al & Paula Coffey - Henry & Rita Crowley - Chris & Lindsey DeLorey & Wayne Simmons - George Diaz - David Dreher - Bill Eberlein - Andy Garrison - Ray & Jeri Glave - Tom & Kathy Granata - Grant Groves - James Huss - Mike Jackson - Bob & Juying Janowsky - Kelly & Laura Johnson - Greg Kirkpatrick - Herbert & Barbara Knodel - John McIntosh - Roy McKey, Glenda Pope, Mark Clark - Don Painter - John, Anne, Pete, & April Piziak - Terry Sellari - Rick & Cindy Speckler - Jim Tatum - Alex Traugott & Laurel Cohen

We appreciate all the valuable knowledge you shared with the guests to the Fossil Fair as well as your donations to the event.

**Piece on the Piece**

In the last 3 weeks the Peace River level has dropped 7.5 ft. As of Oct. 29th, it was at 6.5 ft. at the Zolfo Station Woo-hoo! It's low enough for some serious fossil hunting for all of us who have been impatiently waiting. Hope you get down there soon.

December 15, 2012

**Christmas at the Fort**

This year instead of going to Golden Corral like we have the past 2 years, we will have our meeting, auction, Holiday Party, etc. at Dave Dunaways' house.

Weather permitting, we'll light up the fire for marshmallows, share desserts folks bring, and celebrate.

More details will be in the December newsletter.

**National Fossil Day, Oct. 17, 2012  
St. Augustine**

FPS members joined in the "Fossils at the Fort" program at the Castillo de San Marcos. Groups of enthusiastic children from the local schools plus visitors to the Fort got more than an eyeful and earful from the Florida Paleontological Society. Bonnie and I brought a little fossil material. (and any of you that know Russell, know that means I barely had room to turn my head in the vehicle)

Roger Portell, and Alex Kittle from the Fl. Museum of Natural History, as well as Paul Roth of the Florida Geological Foundation who spearheaded this educational event, were there with invertebrate fossils. Sara Morey, Marge Fantozzi, Marcia Wright, and Tammy Means also helped out. Harley Means, Asst. State Geologist, shared his knowledge of the formation of coquina, the building material of the Fort. He was also kind enough to donate a piece of petrified wood for us to use in a "hands-on" exhibit at OSC.

A special thanks to Paul Roth of the Florida Geological Foundation and FPS for all his hard work planning and executing the event. Everyone left with new fossil perspectives, sharks teeth, and coquina pieces.

Start planning now for next year. Be part of the experience..... National Fossil Day.

**Kids' Fossil Blast**

For November's Blast we'll look at those elusive trace fossils called footprints. We'll delve into all that they can tell us about the animals and their lives and even make some of our own.

We'll meet in the Clubhouse at OSC at 2 pm on Saturday, November 10th.

*The winner of the free raffle at our 2012 Fossil Fair was Jaime Kruger of Altamonte Springs. He was very happy to get the wonderful Peace River fossil case that Dave Cass had made.*

*Dave Cass with the case*



# Lulu Creek - Part 7: A Man, Alone, in the Woods

As time went by, Jeremy was busy finishing up in high school and started taking dive classes. Mike... he was swept up in grandparenting and on a short leash. Me... I was still hot with shark tooth fever and, as much as I don't recommend it, I went fossil hunting on my own.

Going into the woods by yourself gives you a keen sense of awareness of your surroundings. You notice more detail, smells, sounds... a lot of things the busier world misses.

I could hear the sound of voices approaching and the thrashing through vegetation. They didn't see me until they were about 20 feet away. One held a long pole he used to hack down the undergrowth. The other just glared. A lot of people you can "read" or smell trouble on. Well, these guys were ripe with it. I had my shovel laying at my feet; pack on my back. We eyed each other.

"What's in the backpack?" the one asked, pointing the pole at me.

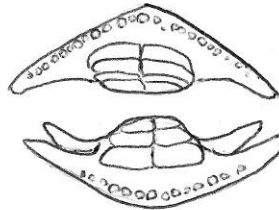
As I stood up, I reached behind me and eased my 1-1/2 ft. long machete over my head. "Nothing", I replied.

They turned heel, disappearing into the woods, and briefly looking back where I stood with machete in hand.

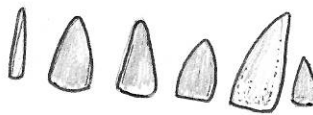
I'm not the first to explore Lulu Creek, nor the last. I can only imagine what it was like through time. Early Native Americans surely would have hunted and fished nearby, then later settlers would have used it, too.

Gary Morgan from the Florida Museum of Natural History came here years ago and dated the Lulu Creek fossils to be early to mid-Pliocene. Dr. Gordon Hubbell himself has collected shark teeth here and I'm sure many others have waded through the waters of Lulu.

## Fish Fossils, Lulu Creek



Pufferfish mouthplates



Barracuda teeth



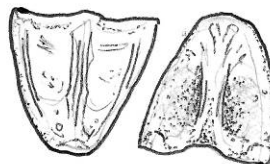
Preopercule



Ventral postcleithra



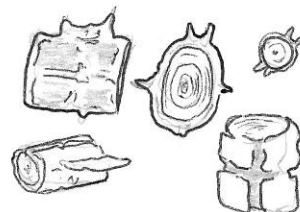
Subopercule



Fish snout



Drumfish teeth



Vertebrae

I took people out with me every now and again. Took my Dad on Father's Day and even had a few club field trips down to the creek.

It's always more fun to have someone to share the excitement with, but sometimes being alone gives the mind time to sort things out.

There's been more than a few times at Lulu that I came across homeless people. Most were friendly folks.... just down on their luck. In our early days at Lulu, we had to pass a small "camp". This feller had dragged a mattress up into the trees to sleep on. When we came back from digging, we'd offer him extra things we'd brought: bug spray, blankets, tarps, etc. He'd keep an eye on our vehicles while we dug. Later in time, he'd do me a favor..... but that's another story.

Back at the creek, things were slowing down. All the fill that was used in the front sections was being washed downstream, covering a lot of areas with a foot or more of sand. That made it harder to find gravel, much less shark teeth.

Time would move this "overburden" but for now, it didn't look like much would turn up.

I was poking around after most had called it a day. We were about to climb out when I found a small area no more than a couple feet long with shark teeth, fish mouthplates, a piece of gomphothere. Down on my hands and knees, I looked the hole over. I ran my hand over it, feeling something.... it was gigantic! Oh, my God..... I'm gonna need help.

**Next time: It Came from Winter Garden**

# Fossils of First Feathered Dinosaurs from North America Discovered: Clues On Early Wing Uses



This is an artistic reconstruction of feathered ornithomimid dinosaurs found in Alberta. (Credit: Julius Csotonyi)

*ScienceDaily (Oct. 25, 2012) — The ostrich-like dinosaurs in the original Jurassic Park movie were portrayed as a herd of scaly, fleet-footed animals being chased by a ferocious Tyrannosaurus rex. New research published in the journal Science reveals this depiction of these bird-mimic dinosaurs is not entirely accurate -- the ornithomimids, as they are scientifically known, should have had feathers and wings.*

The new study, led by paleontologists Darla Zelenitsky from the University of Calgary and François Therrien from the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, describes the first ornithomimid specimens preserved with feathers, recovered from 75 million-year-old rocks in the badlands of Alberta, Canada.

"This is a really exciting discovery as it represents the first feathered dinosaur specimens found in the Western Hemisphere," says Zelenitsky, assistant professor at the University of Calgary and lead author of the study. "Furthermore, despite the many ornithomimid skeletons known, these specimens are also the first to reveal that ornithomimids were covered in feathers, like several other groups of theropod dinosaurs."

The researchers found evidence of feathers preserved with a juvenile and two adults skeletons of *Ornithomimus*, a dinosaur that belongs to the group known as ornithomimids. This discovery suggests that all ornithomimid dinosaurs would have had feathers.

The specimens reveal an interesting pattern of change in feathery plumage during the life of *Ornithomimus*. "This dinosaur was covered in down-like feathers throughout life, but only older individuals developed larger feathers on the arms, forming wing-like structures," says Zelenitsky. "This pattern differs from that seen in birds, where the wings generally develop very young, soon after hatching."

This discovery of early wings in dinosaurs too big to fly indicates the initial use of these structures was not for flight.

"The fact that wing-like forelimbs developed in more mature individuals suggests they were used only later in life, perhaps associated with reproductive behaviors like display or egg brooding," says Therrien, curator at the Royal Tyrrell Museum and co-author of the study.

Until now feathered dinosaur skeletons had been recovered almost exclusively from fine-grained rocks in China and Germany. "It was previously thought that feathered dinosaurs could only fossilize in muddy sediment deposited in quiet waters, such as the bottom of lakes and lagoons," says Therrien. "But the discovery of these ornithomimids in sandstone shows that feathered dinosaurs can also be preserved in rocks deposited by ancient flowing rivers."

Because sandstone is the type of rock that most commonly preserves dinosaur skeletons, the Canadian discoveries reveal great new potential for the recovery of feathered dinosaurs worldwide.

The fossils will be on display this fall at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta.

# VULCAN MINE

There will be a field trip to Vulcan Mine near Brooksville on Saturday, December 8th and the Trip Leader contact is:

Trip Leader - Dave Dunaway,  
home ph. 407-786-8844.  
Cell phone for the day of the trip ONLY  
is 407-493-4253.

Sign up sheet will be at the Nov. 10th meeting or you can call Dave Dunaway.

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.

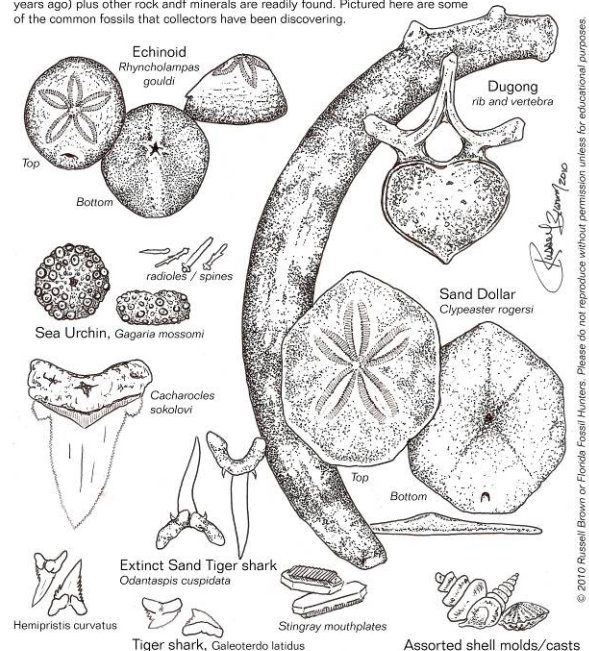
Wear a hat, sturdy shoes, long pants (some of the rocks are sharp), and sunscreen. Bring lots of water and/or drinks and some snacks or lunch to eat.

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.

*Handout below is available on the field trip.*

## Vulcan Materials Company

Vulcan Materials Company is North America's leading producer of construction aggregates - primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel. During the quarrying process at the Brooksville site, fossils from the Oligocene (24.5 to 37.5 million years ago) plus other rock and minerals are readily found. Pictured here are some of the common fossils that collectors have been discovering.



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# 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	(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: 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.

**November 3rd**  
OSC Neanderthal Ball

**November 10th**  
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast  
3 pm Meeting, Meeting  
and Adiel Klompaker, speaker

**November 16-18th**  
FPS Fall Meeting

**December 8th**  
Vulcan Mine Field Trip

**November 30 to December 2**  
Springhill Annual Show

**December 1**  
Lee County Fossil Show

**December 15th**  
Christmas at the Fort

**January 12th & 13th**  
Tomoka Gem & Mineral Show

## 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