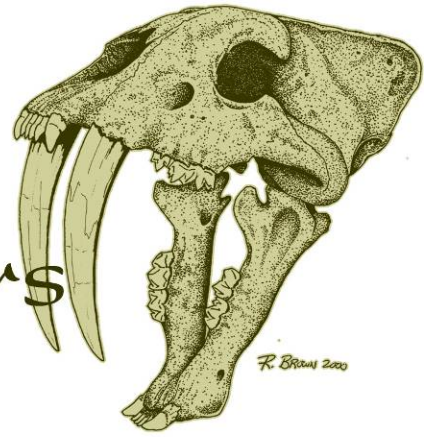


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 23, Number 11

December 2013

From the President.....

Christmas is almost here..... yea!... and before you know it, the New Year. Love your family - time flies. And go fossil hunting - enjoy life.

I'd like to thank all of you who came out to last month's "Shark" meeting. We had a lot of ooooo's and aaaah's from the Science Center's guests. Had a portion of my collection out - not enough room for everything. A good time was had by all. I discovered that you can't do "sharks" in a few hours. Maybe we'll come back for Shark Week.

December's meeting will be held at Dave Dunaway's house and fort. Trying to tell you about Dave's place would be like me putting out all of my shark stuff..... there's just not enough room in these pages.

So see the details inside this issue - there will be food (the club is providing sliced ham). Bring a dish to share.... salad, veggie, fruit, or dessert, and come and join the fun. There will be the club's Fossil Bucks Auction around 3:30 pm (list of items inside), give-aways for the kids, fireworks, etc.

The club has had another great year, thanks to all who participated. As always, I ask that if you have any ideas or would be interested in becoming a board member, just let us know.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

Russell Brown
President

2014

Stay tuned to the newsletters and the websites for upcoming events

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

December 14th
Christmas at the Fort
3 pm to 7 pm

January 11th
2 pm Kids Fossil Blast
3 pm meeting

More events listed on back page

For more info...
www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Piece on the Peace

Except for one spike due to a heavy rain, the Peace River has been at a great level for digging and sifting for fossils. I've seen pictures on Florida Fossil Hunters Facebook page of what people have found lately. Some good stuff is coming out of the River.

A trip to the Peace would be a great present to give yourself and your family this holiday.



Kids' Fossil Blast

The next meeting for the kids will be on Saturday, January 11th at 2 pm at the Orlando Science Center. In our trip down the evolution of life, we'll look at Fish in all their shapes, sizes, and habitats.

Kids' Fossil Blast is aimed at kids ages 5 to 13, using graphics, replicas, and real fossils to learn about various subjects. We meet approximately every other month.

December Holiday Party and Auction

Fun, food, and fossils are on the agenda for our December get-together. It will be from 3 pm to 7 pm on Saturday, December 14th, at Dave Dunaway's house. (600 Ferne Dr., Longwood, 32750)

The Fossil Bucks' Auction will be held at 3:30 pm so it will be light enough to see the items up for bid. Be sure to get there early enough to get the Fossil Bucks you have earned from Dave Dunaway.

The Club will provide sliced ham. We ask that everyone who comes brings a dish to share: veggies, fruits, desserts, etc. Bring your own drinks but remember NO ALCOHOL.

Dave always decorates his house with the most incredible lights and ornaments. His backyard features a replica of Fort Reid that you can explore. And there will be fireworks!

Directions: Exit I-4 at State Road 434 and head west. Turn right and go north on Markham Woods Rd. Turn right at the light (EE Williamson) and then turn right at the first road, Ferne Dr. Dave's house is on the left, almost at the end of the road. 600 Ferne Dr. Longwood, 32750 Ph: 407-786-8844

TIME TO RENEW 2014 MEMBERSHIPS

It's time to renew your
Florida Fossil Hunters membership.

At \$17 per household, it's one of the true bargains.....
and where else can you find folks as crazy
about digging in the dirt as you are?

Just fill out the form in the newsletter or download the one on the website (I like to make sure the contact info we have is up to date) Then make the check out to Florida Fossil Hunters and mail it to P.O. Box 540404, Orlando, FL 32854-0404 - or bring it to the meeting.

Fossil & Mineral Shows

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society, Jan. 18 & 19

43rd Annual jewelry, gem, mineral, & fossil show at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Bldg., State Road 44, DeLand, FL (1/2 mi East of I-4, Exit 118) There will be silent auctions, exhibits, door prizes, and lots of minerals and fossils for sale.

- Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm
- Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm

Admission is \$4. Children under 12 get in free.

For more info: Rosemary
van Wandelen at rrborzoi@yahoo.com

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society

Annual show is on Saturday, February 22nd from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, at 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801

They'll have over 30 dealers of minerals and fossils as well as door prizes, auctions, kids' treasure dig, displays and demonstrations.

For more information contact:
Kim Price 863-412-9156 or ibvgmfs@gmail.com

Looking for a few good women.....

There has been a good response to Russell's request for us ladies to have a meeting in March featuring "Women in Paleontology".

Stephanie at the Orlando Science Center would like to expand the concept throughout March and celebrate ".Women in Science". Our club would concentrate on arranging for a speaker(s) in the field of Paleontology/ Archaeology for the day our club has its meeting in March.

December 2014 Fossil Bucks Auction

1. Giant Beardog jaw replica
- K 2. Dinosaur figures and fossils: bone and eggshell pieces
3. Chinese Landscape stone
4. Mastodon tooth, Rainbow River (some restoration)
5. Amethyst crystals
- K 6. Dinosaur fossil kit
7. Amber ring and pendant
- N 8. Mosasaur tooth, Late Cretaceous, Morocco
9. Petrified Laurel wood, Alabama
10. Modern raccoon skull
- K 11. Prehistoric Birds book
12. Two matching fossil manatee vertebrae
13. Fossil display case - made by Dave Cass
14. Quartz and Calcite crystal specimen
15. Modern deer antlers
16. Trilobite
17. Wood carving: Dino hatching from egg
18. Polished mineral - Scolecite
19. Saber cat tooth replica
20. Fossil coral - 400 mya, Morocco

Rules: Only one successful bid per family. Kids' items do not count towards the one family bid. If no one bids on an item, it will be offered at the next auction and the bidding will be open to all.

Near-complete dinosaur baby a rare find



U of A paleontologist Philip Currie displays the pristine, near-complete skeleton of a baby Chasmosaurus, a relative of the Triceratops, he found in Alberta's badlands.

Philip Currie has made some spectacular and rare fossil finds while dino hunting in Alberta's badlands, so when he says a discovery ranks among the best of his career, it's significant.

The internationally renowned University of Alberta paleontologist unearthed a remarkably preserved, near-complete skeleton of a baby *Chasmosaurus belli*. It's the first time anyone has found a baby of this species intact in 150 years of digs at Dinosaur Provincial Park—or anywhere for that matter.

That makes Currie one proud papa.

"It's pretty exciting. It's a super specimen and I'm very lucky to be the guy that found it," said Currie, Canada Research Chair in Dinosaur Paleobiology in the Department of Biological

Sciences. "There's no question this is one of the very best ones I've ever found."

The *Chasmosaurus* was a horned dinosaur once commonly found in Alberta's badlands, a relative of the Triceratops. Currie estimates the 1.5-metre-long fossilized baby was about three years old when it died, possibly from drowning, 72 million years ago.

He found the specimen in 2010, high up on a steep hillside after spotting a piece of skull protruding from the Earth. At first he wasn't sure if it was the horned 'frill' of a dino skull or a turtle, but a day's worth of digging confirmed the specimen's significance. It took another three years of painstaking work before it was ready to showcase to the world.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

The skeleton is fully intact minus the arms, which Currie says were likely eroded away by a sinkhole several thousand years ago, making it even more remarkable the rest was so well preserved.

The dino immediately becomes "one of the top three star pieces" of the U of A's Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology, a collection that includes more than 50,000 specimens ranging in age from 450 million to 10,000 years old. The collection is actively used by researchers and students, and there's no shortage of potential studies that can be done on the Chasmosaurus, Currie said, from looking at how dino skin ages to weight changes over its lifespan.

"It's an opportunity to learn something about a dinosaur that has broader implications for the whole scientific community worldwide," he said. "There's almost an infinite number of projects when you have an invaluable specimen like this."

For more on the university's expertise in dinosaurs, stop by the Paleontology Museum at UAlberta.

Baby takes star turn in Dino 101

The public will get a chance to see a whole lot more of the baby Chasmosaurus in January, when a new round of classes begin for Dino 101, the wildly popular massive open online course led by Currie. The specimen will feature prominently in course material, providing a "sterling" example for teaching about dinosaur biology, including differences in appearance from juveniles to adults, he said.

"We'll use it as an example of how certain features like the frill in Ceratopsian dinosaurs are almost certainly developed as display structures," he added. "They are things that are not so important and much smaller in the babies, but in a large sexually mature animal develop into these very bizarre structures."

Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2013-12-near-complete-dinosaur-baby-rare.html#jCp>

**10th NORTH AMERICAN
PALEONTOLOGICAL CONVENTION****FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

*10th North American
Paleontological Convention*
February 15 - 18, 2014
Gainesville, FL

We are pleased to announce that the 10th North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) will be held in Gainesville, in February 2014. The meeting will be hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History (University of Florida) from February 15th through 18th (Saturday - Tuesday). Pre-conference and post-conference field trips are tentatively planned for February 13th -14th and 19 - 20th, respectively.

For more info go to:

[http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/napc/
symposia.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/napc/symposia.htm)

Gainesville #6

We were in Hatcher Creek we walked down to the gravel bars at first light to fossil hunt. It was the first warm day of Spring and I was feeling lucky. Time for some payback. Jeremy had been up the creek a few months before with Terry Angell who found a perfect, golden 4-inch Meg. But today was surely my turn.

After poking around for a few minutes, we found a few small sharks teeth. Then the mosquitoes started. There's always a few. Not to worry.... we've got bug spray. As the sun rose higher and things warmed up, so did the mosquitoes. As we hunted, the slapping of mosquitoes and cussing could be heard. By 10 am, the woods were alive with them..... hundreds, thousands of them. We were in the middle of a giant mosquito bloom brought on by the rains earlier that month. Bug spray did little to help. Any exposed skin, even our clothing, was furry with mosquitoes. They found the corners of our eyes, our noses, ears, lips.....you couldn't wipe them away quickly enough. We could even taste them. We were very close to going crazy.

As Florida Boys, we'd been to Mosquito Lagoon, aptly named. The mosquitoes there have fur and bite like fire. Sebastian Inlet has hordes of mosquitoes and no-see-ums. They could turn any fishing trip into a nightmare. It was like being shot repeatedly with hot pins. I've seen people there run screaming, cramming the gear into their vehicles, vowing never to return again.

As Jeremy and I headed up from the creek to our trucks, we looked just like the caribou herds in the North, surrounded by huge clouds of mosquitoes.

We had a few sharks teeth to show for our effort but shy of a killer day.

He ragged on about how he could out-hunt me in Gainesville. Lulu Creek was where I was king, but that was pretty much gone. I decided that I was going to have to change my strategy if I was to one-up on Jeremy.

That weekend the phone rang. It was Carl Darling. "Hey, Man.".... That was how Carl started every conversation..... "Hey, Man. call that nut friend Jeremy of yours and meet me at the corner of Highway 17 and Main Street in Wauchula. We are going to the Peace River.

Russell Brown

Next time.... The 1st Trip

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) 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	

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 Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

December 14th

3 to 7 pm - Christmas at the Fort

January 11th

2 pm Kids Fossil Blast
3 pm meeting

January 18th & 19th

Tomoka Mineral, Gem, & Fossil Show

February 15th - 18th

NAPC in Gainesville

February 22nd

Imperial Bone Valley
Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.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: bonnierussell62@gmail.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News