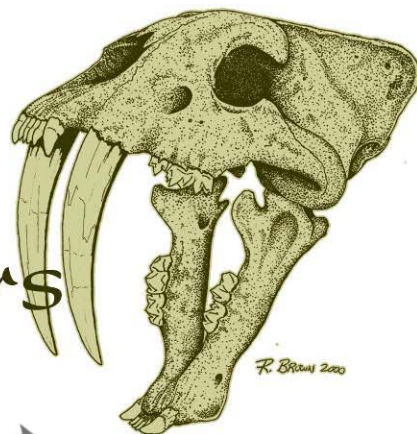


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 26, Number 2

February 2016



From the President.....

Hope everyone is surviving this "harsh" winter weather... harsh, as in the river levels are high and we have to wait for the water to drop for fossil digging in the Peace.

If you need a fix, check out the Florida Museum of Natural History for volunteer opportunities to work on projects with grad students and the experts.

Last month, 30 members took in the Skeletons: Animals Unveiled museum near the Orlando Eye. Everyone was wowed at the marvelous exhibits. President Jay Villemarette was there to talk with members as they toured and took pictures. Most said they'd go back because it is so mind-blowing. We thank the folks at Skeletons and look forward to working with them on future events. If you didn't make the club trip, take the family down there for a day. There's plenty to see and do.

I'd like to take a day trip to Yankeetown Island to collect echinoids and enjoy the natural scenery of the area. Interested? On Saturday, March 5th (weather permitting), meet at the boat ramp at the end of Hwy. 40. You'll need a boat, canoe, or kayak to get over to the islands. Bring some food and drinks (no alcohol) and whatever you need for collecting. We'll have more info at the February meeting. Call or email me with any questions.

Science Night Live is 8 to 11pm at OSC on Feb. 20th. looking for some of you young bucks and night owls to help out and talk to the guests at the club's display tables that evening and at future night events.

Bonnie's Kids' Fossil Blast is on a "reptile to bird" theme, so bring in anything you have in your collections for all to see and learn from.

See you soon.
Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

February 20th

2 pm Kids Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting

Saturday, March 19th

2 pm Kids Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting

More events listed on back page

For more info...
www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Fossil & Mineral Shows

Fossil Club of Lee County will hold their show on Feb. 13th, 9am - 5pm, at the Shell Factory, 2787 N. Tamiami Tr., Fort Myers, FL. Fossils and minerals for sale, a Kids' Dig, exhibits. Admission is free. www.fcolc.com

Can You Dig It? Mar 12th 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Dig into geology and discover the Earth at your feet! Enjoy hands-on activities and watch demonstrations of volcanic eruptions. Explore the Museum and check out displays and activities on geology, fossils, gems, minerals and much more from Florida and around the world! A free, fun event for all ages!

Can You Dig It? is presented by the UF Dept of Geological Sciences and the Florida Museum in collaboration with the Gainesville Gem and Mineral Society.



Onsite food vendor:
High Springs Orchard and Bakery

For more info, call 352-273-2064 or www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/can-you-dig-it/#sthash.QiDhvfH.dpuf

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: Fossil Fest on Mar 12th & 13th. Sat 9am - 6pm, Sun 10am - 4pm. Admission is \$7. Kids 12 & under get in free. Florida State Fairgrounds, intersection of I-4 and Hwy. 301, just east of Tampa. There is a charge for parking. (I think it's \$7). Fossils, minerals, exhibits, etc. www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Venice Shark's Tooth Festival Apr. 8th - 10th, at the Venice Airport Festival Grounds, 610 E. airport Ave, Venice, FL. Admission is \$4. Kids 12 & under get in free.

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 2016 at Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 South Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1 pm to 6 pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, custom jewelry, fossils, artifacts, metaphysical stones, etc. Silent Auction and Door Prizes. Demonstrations: faceting stones, cabochons and wire wrapping. Family Activities. Contact: phayes3@cfl.rr.com. Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$2. Website: www.cfmgs.org.

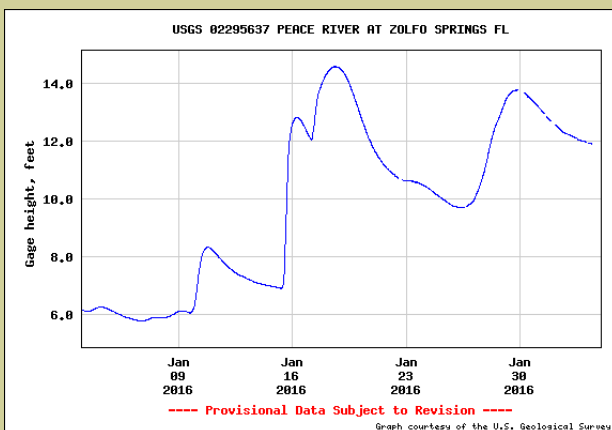
Kids' Fossil Blast

We're going to explore the dinosaurs and their cousins, the birds this month. Bring your curiosity and join us on Saturday, February 20th at 2pm, at the Orlando Science Center.

Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, models, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 to 14.

Piece on the Peace River

The graph of the Peace's water level could easily be described as the "El Nino Roller Coaster". Just as it goes down a few feet, along comes another rain event. Be patient fellow fossil fanatics. Meanwhile, enjoy some museums and other venues..... Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville (lots of neat Florida fossils), South Florida Museum in Bradenton (Florida fossils & an amazing Indian pottery display), Orlando Science Center (dinosaur & Florida fossils), Skeletons: Animals Unveiled in Orlando (over 400 skeletons), etc.



VULCAN MINE

FEB 13th | MAR 12th

See page 6 for more details.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Women in Paleontology 2016

Mark your calendars
this year's program will be on
Saturday, May 7th,
at the Orlando Science Center.

Cindy Lockner is spearheading the event,
so contact her at clockner@comcast.net to
sign-up to volunteer, or you can email Bonnie
at bonnierussell62@gmail.com

We hope to make this event as
fantastic as last year's.

Reminder: Check your
Florida Fossil permit
expiration date.

2016 Membership Renewal
still a bargain at only
\$17 per household

South Florida Museum Think + Drink (Science)

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:00 PM

Hydrogeology 101

An Overview of Florida's Water Resources

With Guy "Harley" Means

*(The Florida Paleontological Society,
Former President)*



With 7800 fresh water lakes, 1700 rivers and streams, more than 1000 springs, the Everglades, and one of the most productive aquifer systems in the country Florida is well endowed with water resources. Join Assistant State Geologist Guy "Harley" Means for a meaningful discussion on the state of Florida's prized water resources. This lecture kicks starts a season of water conversations inspired and partly funded through the Florida Humanities Council's 2016 *Think Florida, Think Water* project initiative. For more info, go to www.southfloridamuseum.org

South Florida Museum

201 10th Street West, Bradenton FL 34205 [\(941\) 746-4131](tel:9417464131)

Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville

Archaeology Workshop Shells

Feb 28th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Discover how archaeologists use shells to study prehistoric cultures and diets, and learn to identify different shell types from Florida's Gulf Coast. Join the Florida Public Archaeology Network during this free workshop for all ages. Pre-registration is required.

For more information,
call 352-273-2064.

[www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/
workshop1/#sthash.2sUy2zru.dpuf](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/workshop1/#sthash.2sUy2zru.dpuf)



Ask a Scientist Geology

Mar 06th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Science is all around you! Take advantage of this opportunity to talk one-on-one with researchers from UF's Department of Geological Sciences and ask those questions you have been wondering about. Bring your specimens and find answers during an afternoon of discovery and learning.

For more information,
call 352-273-2064.

[www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/
ask-scientist-geology/
#sthash.CTQFO7ck.dpuf](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/ask-scientist-geology/#sthash.CTQFO7ck.dpuf)

Florida Fossil Hunters News



Skeletons Report

Our club's trip to Skeletons: Animals Unveiled was a wonderful experience. We marveled at the unique adaptations of each animal... how the shells of the turtles were attached to the vertebrae, how some seals have teeth like archeocete whales (I checked but they did not evolve from the same ancestor), how similar early human skulls are to modern ones, how tiny shrews have just as many bones as a large mammal, and so on. We compared reptiles to mammals to birds. We delighted in the variety and beauty of the different horns. We looked in awe at the baleen whale skull. With over 400 different skeletons to look at, we had plenty to entertain and stimulate our minds. I highly recommend this attraction to anyone interested in fossils, evolution, or just animals in general.

Orlando Science Center Live from Orlando, it's Science Night Live!

Saturday, February 20, 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.
It's Social. It's Science. It's 21+.

It's an "adult swim" of the science variety! An evening reserved only for adults, enjoy everything you love about Orlando Science Center with grown-up-inspired programming:

- Special guest presentations about Our Sky, Our Universe featuring Derek Demeter
- View stars and planets through the giant refractor telescope in the Crosby Observatory
- Experience giant screen films in the Dr. Phillips CineDome
- Conduct lab experiments in Dr. Dare's Laboratory
- Participate in Science Trivia
- Delight in food and adult beverages available for purchase from Hard Rock Cafe

Must be 21 and older.

For more information, call [407.514.2000](tel:407.514.2000).

General admission is \$15.

Members always enjoy Science Night Live for FREE.



FFH Morgan Award

The Florida Fossil Hunters has donated \$1,000.00 to Kristopher M. Kusnerik, the 2015 co-recipient of the Gary S. Morgan Award, which is sponsored by the Florida Paleontological Society. Kristopher is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences with a minor in Wildlife Ecology and Restoration at the University of Florida.

This is the description of his proposed study:

The modern ecosystems of Florida's freshwater spring and river systems have been the focus of widespread biological and ecological study. However, very little research has been done on historical faunal communities and how abundances, taxa size, distributions, and community composition has changed over time. The majority of modern work has focused on the identification and biodiversity inventorying of modern communities, with historical records rarely dating back further than 50 years. Death assemblages, the fossil and subfossil material representing a collection of previous faunal communities, can provide greater data from deeper in time. A robust, quantitative analysis of the death assemblages at strategically selected localities could readily be compared to the widespread modern studies. He will use the money to dive in the springs and rivers to collect the fossils.

We look forward to learning about the findings of his study.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Rare dinosaur from Appalachia identified

Florida State University. ScienceDaily. Jan 25, 2016.

An international team of researchers has identified and named a new species of dinosaur that is the most complete, primitive duck-billed dinosaur to ever be discovered in the eastern United States.

This new discovery also shows that duck-billed dinosaurs originated in the eastern United States, what was then broadly referred to as Appalachia, before dispersing to other parts of the world. The research team outlined its findings in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

"This is a really important animal in telling us how they came to be and how they spread all over the world," said Florida State University Professor of Biological Science Gregory Erickson, one of the researchers on the team.

They named the new dinosaur *Eotrachodon orientalis*, which means "dawn rough tooth from the east." The name pays homage to "Trachodon," which was the first duck-billed dinosaur named in 1856.

This duck-billed dinosaur -- also known as a Hadrosaurid -- was probably 20 to 30 feet long as an adult, mostly walked on its hind legs though it could come down on all four to graze on plants with its grinding teeth, and had a scaly exterior. But what set it apart is that it had a large crest on its nose.

"This thing had a big ugly nose," Erickson said.

That large crest on the nose, plus indentations found in the skull and its unique teeth alerted Erickson and his colleagues from McWane Science Center in Birmingham, Ala., and the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom that the skeleton they had was something special.

The skeletal remains of this 83-million-year-old dinosaur were originally found by a team of amateur fossil enthusiasts alongside a creek in Montgomery County, Alabama in marine sediment. Dinosaurs from the South are extremely rare. A set with a complete skull is an even more extraordinary find. The dinosaur likely was washed out to sea by river or stream sediments after it died. When the group realized they had potentially discovered something of scientific importance, they contacted McWane Science Center in Birmingham, which dispatched a team to the site to carefully remove the remains from the surrounding rock.

After the bones were prepared and cleaned at McWane Science Center and the University of West Alabama, they were studied by a team of paleontologists including Erickson, former FSU doctoral student Albert Prieto-Marquez who is now at the University of Bristol, and Jun Ebersole,



director of collections at McWane Science Center. Among the recovered remains of this new dinosaur are a complete skull, dozens of backbones, a partial hip bone and a few bones from the limbs.

It is one of the most complete dinosaur skeletons ever to be found in the eastern United States. Its teeth, which show this dinosaur's remarkable ability to grind up plants in a manner like cows or horses, were present in early hadrosaurids, allowing them to consume a wide variety of plants as the group radiated around the world.

During the late Cretaceous Period, roughly 85 million years ago, North America was divided in half by a 1,000 mile ocean that connected the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. This body of water created two North American landmasses, Laramidia to the west and Appalachia to the east.

The area of what was considered Appalachia is a bit wider than what we call Appalachia today. It began roughly in Georgia and Alabama and stretched all the way north into Canada.

"For roughly 100 million years, the dinosaurs were not able to cross this barrier," Ebersole said. "The discovery of *Eotrachodon* suggests that duck-billed dinosaurs originated in Appalachia and dispersed to other parts of the world at some point after the seaway lowered, opening a land corridor to western North America."

Added Erickson: "They just needed to get off the island. From there, they became the cows of the Cretaceous."

Erickson brought some bone samples and teeth back to his lab at Florida State for further analysis. He found it difficult to pinpoint the exact age of the dinosaur because no growth lines appeared in the bone samples. However, the discovery of this dinosaur suggests that it is one of the most complete dinosaur skeletons ever to be found in the eastern United States.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

*If you did not sign up at the meeting,
please call or email the trip leader at:*

Saturday, February 13th

Trip Leader: Jen Archer .

jen.archer@gmail.com | cell : 203-258-4507 (no text)

OR text & cell: 407-504-7815

FIELD TRIP LEADER NEEDED FOR MAR 12th

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.

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

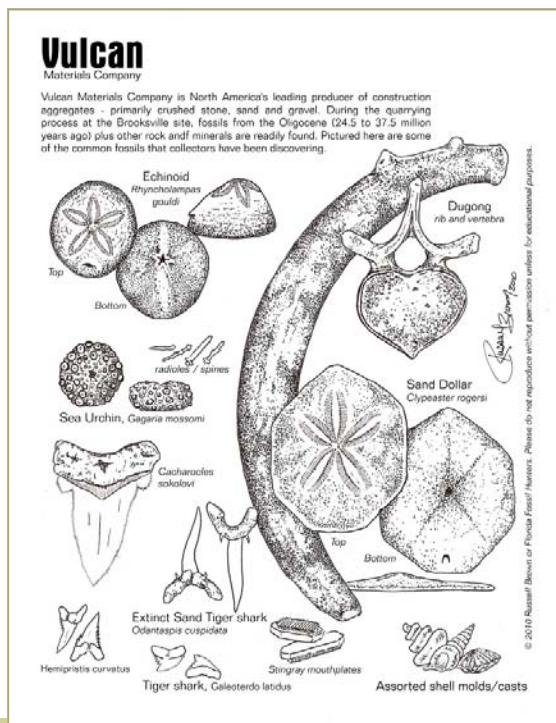
into and out of the mine. Do not leave on your own since it is easy to become lost.

**THERE ARE
NO RESTROOM
FACILITIES AT
VULCAN MINE,**
other than the boulders
and the hills.

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.

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.

**JOIN US
FEB 13th
& MAR 12th**

*ID Sheet above is available on
the field trip and website.
floridafossilhunters.com/Field_Trips.htm*

***You MUST be a member of the
club for insurance purposes
to participate in this field trip.***

Florida Fossil Hunters News

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
Membership	Bonnie Cronin	(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	
Cindy Lockner	

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.

Saturday, February 13th

Vulcan Mine: **Need trip leader**

Saturday, February 13th

Lee County Fossil Club Show, Fort Myers

Saturday, February 20th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast & 3 pm - Meeting

Saturday, February 20th

Orlando Science Center
Science Night Live, Adults only, 8 to 11 pm

Sunday, February 28th

FLMNH-Archaeology Workshop: Shells, 2 to 4 pm

Saturday, March 12th

Vulcan Mine: **Need trip leader**

March 12th & 13th

Tampa Bay Fossil Fest, Tampa

Saturday, March 19th

2 pm - Kids Fossil Blast & 3 pm - Meeting

Sunday, March 6th

FLMNH-Ask a Scientist: Geology, 1 to 4 pm

Saturday, March 12th

FLMNH-Can You Dig It? 10 am to 3pm

March 12th & 13th

Tampa Bay Fossil Fest, Tampa

Saturday, March 19th

2 pm - Kids Fossil Blast & 3 pm - Meeting

April 22nd to 24th

Venice Shark's Tooth Festival

May 7th

Women in Paleontology

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
[Florida Fossil Hunters](#)

facebook

Be Green

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



Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

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

Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404

Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



Florida Fossil Hunters News