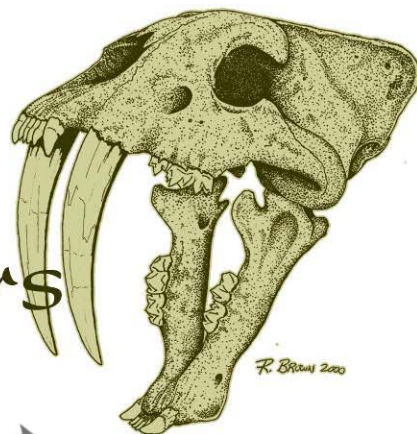


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 26, Number 9

November 2016



From the President.....

The Fossil Fair is here. Thanks to all of you that have signed up to volunteer. Even if you haven't, just show up and we'll find a place for you... no experience required. Or email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Not everything has gotten better, but every year our club's Fossil Fair has because of our members' participation in making this event one we look forward to. You can buy presents for Christmas or add to your collections, educate, eat, and have a good time with great people. Need that fossil identified? Richard Hulbert from the Florida Museum of Natural History will be there to answer questions and help with Florida Fossil Permits. Bonnie and I will bring in all of our collection. Come early and stay late.

The rainy season is over and **Peace River's** level is dropping. Get your digging gear ready because when it gets low enough all the fossil hunters in our State and out of State will be heading there to get their fix of river hunting. Since the water level has been high for most of the year, I expect something like the California Gold Rush scenario. If you want to lead a group, contact me at the Fair or email.

November weather should be good for the **Vulcan Mine** outing also.

I'm thinking about another club trip to Skeletons in January. On **December Meeting on the 9th** the club will be "tentatively" have our Xmas dinner and the Fossil Bucks auction at the Golden Corral in Altamonte Springs.
(Note: earn extra fossil bucks by volunteering at the Fair)

At the **November meeting**, Dr. Michal Kowalewski will give a presentation titled "Silence of the Clams"

See you at the Fossil Fair!
Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

November 5th & 6th Fossil Fair

Central Florida Fairgrounds

November 19th

2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting

Friday, December 9th

7pm (to be confirmed)
Holiday Meeting/Party
& Fossil Bucks auction
Golden Corral

*More events listed on back page
For more info...*

www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Celebrate our Evolution
and Dig into the Future!

Tenth Annual Neanderthal Ball

Saturday, November 5, 2016, 7:00 - 10:00

p.m.

*The most unique gala event
this side of the Stone Age!*

Join us for a night of Neanderthal-themed revelry. Our Neanderthal Ball offers a one-of-a-kind experience that blends an elegant cocktail party with a prehistoric mixer. Guests will enjoy the Science Center like they never have before as they experience a night of dancing, drinking, and eating with their fellow cavemen. Though one does not need to dress like a caveman to enjoy the Neanderthal Ball. While themed dress is acceptable, our designated dress code is cocktail attire with an optional pop of print, so go wild with the cheetah and leopard patterns, or not.

This event allows you to get in touch with your inner Neanderthal while also supporting the Orlando Science Center's mission to *inspire science learning for life*. Your support of the Neanderthal Ball enables the Science Center to provide hands-on educational programs to learners of all ages regardless of income or background.

We can't wait to enjoy this very special night of elegance and entertainment with you. Be sure to check out some of our featured offerings to make the most out of your experience:

- Forget that Paleo Diet for the evening and enjoy delectable creations from Puff 'n Stuff Event Catering
- Get primitive on the dance floor with live music from Running with Scissors
- Show off the latest in stone age chic at the Harriett Lake Caveman Couture Contest
- Enjoy a cocktail with your fellow Neanderthals provided by Tito's Vodka
- Resist the urge to grunt and smash your club during our silent auction featuring packages from the Arnold Palmer Invitational, the Kennedy Space Center, and other community members.

Presale tickets (before Oct 15): \$125
General Ticket Sales (after Oct 15):
\$150 | Couple: \$265 | Member: \$125

Kids' Fossil Blast

What kinds of teeth did dinosaurs have and what did they eat? What types of foods were available? How do they compare to mammals' teeth?

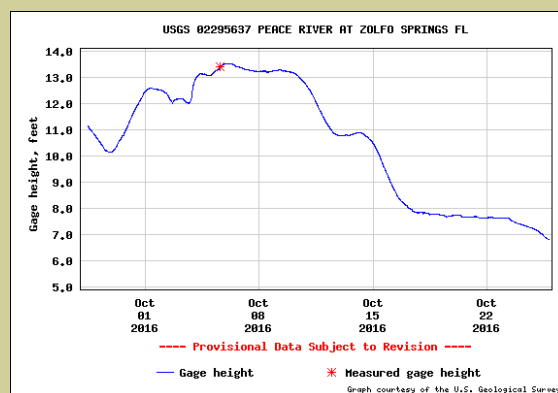
If you are curious about dinosaurs and how they stayed alive, join us on **Saturday, Nov. 19th, at 2 pm at the Orlando Science Center.**

Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 to 14. We meet an hour before the regular meeting.

Piece on the Peace River

Just a few weeks more and the river will be low enough to stand in and sift for fossils! The weather folks say a mild La Nina will develop soon. This means we will have warmer but drier weather for the beginning of winter.

Happy hunting!



Pop-up Museum: Florida Fossils

Dec 02nd 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
FL Museum of Natural History

Join us as we venture outside our walls and bring the Museum to you! This themed event features hands-on activities and natural science

exploration. Enjoy a unique, participatory experience between the Florida Museum and the community. We need YOU to make it happen. All ages are welcome. Come prepared for an adventure you will never forget!

When: Dec. 2, 3-6 p.m.

Location: Depot Park, 200 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Topic: Florida Fossils

Cost: FREE

Partner: [Florida Museum Vertebrate Paleontology](#), [UF Department of Geological Sciences](#), [Florida Program for Shark Research](#), [Florida Paleontological Society](#), [University of Georgia](#), [Fossilsawfish.com](#)

Be sure to keep an eye out for future Pop-up Museum events each month, coming soon to a location near you!

For more information, contact Tina Choe at tchoe@flmnh.ufl.edu or call [352-273-2079](tel:352-273-2079).



Florida Fossil Hunters News

2016 FOSSIL FAIR

Fossil Fair - Nov. 5th & 6th

Mark your calendars and sign up to volunteer.

We need folks at :

- the Admissions table to greet visitors and help them fill out the forms for the free raffle.
- the Silent Auction to organize donations, line up the auctions, and help bidders.
- the Membership table to answer questions about joining, fossil hunting, sell t-shirts, etc.
- the fossil display area to talk about fossils and answer questions.
- the Kids' Dig Pit to work in the pit, help kids, and ID the fossils they find.
- the Kitchen area to help with the food for the volunteers and vendors.

As always, no experience necessary. It's on the job training, just like fossil hunting. Just bring your smiles and your enthusiasm for fossils and the incredible story of life on earth.

Fossil T-Shirts

There will be a limited amount of 2016 Club T-shirts at the Fossil Fair. Be sure to get yours early if you didn't reserve yours at the October meeting.

Earn Mucho Fossil Bucks

Looking for someone to to volunteer to set out the Fossil Fair signs on Friday and pick them up on Sunday. You will get \$1,000 Fossil Bucks! Email us at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

Food for Fossil Fair

We ask that all members bring a dish or snack to share with the volunteers and vendors. It's one of the things that make our Fossil Fair so enjoyable. Salads, fruit, veggies, soups, casseroles, snack foods, etc. will be appreciated. The club provides lunch meats, breads, some drinks, condiments and plates, utensils, and cups. (No alcohol is permitted on site.)

Kids' Dig Pit & Silent Auction Donations

We all have fossils and minerals that we've found that sit packed away in boxes because we have lots of them or they aren't the greatest specimens. These make ideal items for the kids' pit and Silent Auction. Not only do they get be someone's precious possessions but they earn money for the club. Items like books, display boxes/shelves, books, toys modern bones, etc. are great for the Auction, too.

Webinar FOSSIL Series

Rachel Narducci will host the Nov. 30th webinar in this series. Her subject will be **"Fossil Prep Basics"** and it will be 7 to 8 pm.

Ways to participate:

There are a couple of different ways FFH members can get info and stay connected:

1. **The webinar schedule** and a forum devoted to questions people need answered about webinars is on the FOSSIL project website, here is the direct link to the forum: <http://community.myfossil.org/forums/topic/fossil-webinar-series/> Note that anyone can view this forum, but you need to be a member to post questions.
2. **Check FOSSIL's social media by visiting** www.facebook.com/TheFossilProject or follow us on Twitter, our handle is @projectFOSSIL We're posting about it fairly often on social media!

Some additional information:

Webinars will be broadcast live on Adobe Connect. Attendees should connect 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time to iron out any kinks with their connection and get familiar with the program. To connect, visit <https://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/a1130716096/fossil-webinars/> 15 minutes before the webinar is scheduled to start. Click the bubble that says "Enter as a guest" and then type in your FULL NAME in the box. We need people's full names, as it lets our funding agency know exactly how many people we are reaching. Click "Enter room" and you're in!

Additionally, webinar attendees can ask questions before, during or after the webinar by logging into the FOSSIL Project's community website (<http://community.myfossil.org/forums/topic/fossil-webinar-series/>). Webinar attendees may also receive CEUs (continuing education credits) for participation. If you have questions, please contact the FOSSIL Project's Coordinator, Eleanor Gardner at egardner@flmnh.ufl.edu

Note: All webinars will be available to download from the myfossil.org website, after they are broadcast.

Hope this helps—please let Eleanor or me know if you have additional questions.

Lisa Lundgren, M.S., Science Education PhD Candidate
University of Florida | The FOSSIL Project
303-524-4203 | lisa.lundgren@ufl.edu

FOSSIL'S FREE FALL WEBINAR SERIES MISS ONE?

WATCH AGAIN AT COMMUNITY.MYFOSSIL.ORG

- AUG 31: Finding Fossils with Jayson Kowinsky.
- SEPT 29: Field Notes 101 with Bruce MacFadden
- OCT 19: Excavating Fossils with Dava Butler
- NOV 30: Fossil Prep Basics with Rachel Narducci

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Paleontologists seek volunteers to dig fossils at new Levy County site

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida Museum of Natural History paleontologists are recruiting volunteers to help excavate a recently discovered site in eastern Levy County that has produced thousands of fossils, including more than 55 vertebrate species.

Researchers are enthusiastic about the 5- to 5.5 million-year-old fossils being recovered and say it is the first site of this particular age found in North Central Florida.

"No other fossil site of this age in the southeastern United States produces such a rich abundance of freshwater vertebrates," said Florida Museum curator of vertebrate paleontology Jonathan Bloch. "This is an important resource in understanding the evolutionary history of this ecosystem in the region."

Volunteers, who dig side-by-side with museum staff, must be at least 15 years old, and able to work outdoors and walk over uneven terrain. To volunteer, visit www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/volunteering/field/ to download an application and view the schedule. The excavation will continue into the spring.

Museum vertebrate paleontology collections manager Richard Hulbert, who is managing the dig with Bloch, said the fossils recovered range in size from small mice and salamanders to a multi-ton distant relative of present-day elephants.

"We are finding many fossils of extinct rhinos, llamas, horses and the elephant-like gomphotheres," Hulbert said.

Significant discoveries are often made by volunteers. One key specimen was found by museum volunteer and Gainesville resident Peter Roode. He uncovered a nearly complete lower jaw of *Borophagus hilli*, an extinct species belonging to the family Canidae, which includes today's wolves, foxes and the domestic dog. While about as large as a modern gray wolf, it was a specialized scavenger like a hyena with short, massive jaws and teeth that could break bones.



Gainesville resident and volunteer Peter Roode discovered this *Borophagus* jaw. Florida Museum photo by Jeff Gage

"Dr. Hulbert told me I had just found the first carnivore at this site," Roode said. "What I was seeing, of course, was the left mandible of *Borophagus*."

In August 2015, workers on a tract of private land near Williston excavated a small pit for clay to build dirt roads. A few months later, Florida Museum researchers were contacted after fossils were seen in the pit.

And much more has been found at the site. The discovery of new species is also possible.

Most of the fossils are from animals living in or near the river, such as alligators, fish, salamanders, turtles and water snakes. Workers have also recovered fossils of birds and mammals, including cormorants, ducks, loons, rails, swans and two species of otters.

"We really never know exactly what to expect when we dig in a new site like this," Bloch said. "Paleontologists are a bit like fisherman in that the excitement of the hunt is always there. We are always hoping that the next fossil from this ancient river will be the catch of a lifetime."

This season's volunteer coordinator is Rachel Narducci, rnarducci@flmnh.ufl.edu

To volunteer, go to www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/volunteering/field/



PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

3rd Annual Fossil EXPO

**Saturday, November 12, 2016
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

Punta Gorda Women's Club and Historical Society Building
118 Sullivan Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Admission for Adults \$3.00 Children under 12 years are Free!

This exciting event will have vendors from all over Florida selling magnificent Dinosaur fossils, minerals, Shark Teeth Books and Beautiful Custom made Fossil Jewelry

A portion of proceeds from the EXPO will be used to fund student scholarships & research grants

Many other activities including;

- Free Children's area to dig for fossils
- Refreshments and more!

- Silent auctions for great items will go on all day

VENDORS and COLLECTORS INTERESTED IN TABLES
SPACE SPACE SHOULD CONTACT:
CHUCK FERRARA at 941-769-2725 or JAY LEV at 941-575-9981

Presented by the Southwest Florida Fossil Society Inc.
A 501c (3) Non Profit Society

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Bizarre new species

of extinct reptile shows dinosaurs copied body, skull shapes of distant relatives

Iconic dinosaur shapes were present for at least a hundred million years on our planet in animals before those dinosaurs themselves actually appeared.

In a study in today's (Sept. 22) issue of *Current Biology*, a multi-institutional team of paleontologists including Virginia Tech College of Science researcher Michelle Stocker have identified and named a new species of extinct reptile estimated to be 230 million years old -- predating dinosaurs.

Called *Triopticus primus* -- meaning the "First of Three Eyes" because the large natural pit in the top of its head lends the appearance of an "extra" eye -- *Triopticus* bears an extremely thickened skull roof, just like the very distantly related pachycephalosaur dinosaurs that lived more than 100 million years later. And even more unexpected, many of the other extinct animals found with *Triopticus* resemble later dinosaurs as well.

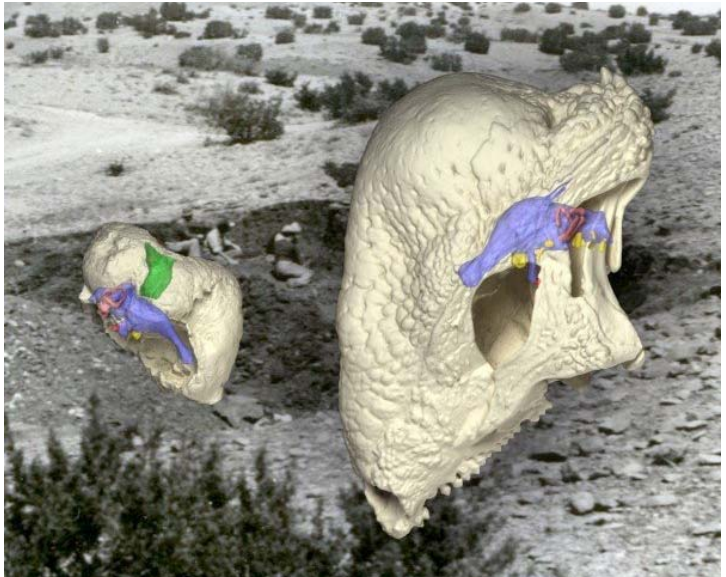
"*Triopticus* is an extraordinary example of evolutionary convergence between the relatives of dinosaurs and crocodylians and later dinosaurs that is much more common than anyone ever expected," Stocker said. "What we thought were unique body shapes in many dinosaurs actually evolved millions of years before in the Triassic Period, about 225 million years ago."

Convergence -- where distantly related animals evolve to look very similar to each other -- is a widely-recognized phenomenon in evolutionary biology. A classic example of this is a bird wing and a bat wing -- both animals use their wings for flight, but the inner details of those wings are different and evolved independently.

Many of the other Triassic reptiles buried with *Triopticus* in the Otis Chalk fauna display structures that are easily recognized in later dinosaurs as well, such as the long snouts of *Spinosaurus*, the toothless beaks of ornithomimids, and the armor plates of ankylosaurs. Researchers said it is extremely rare to have so many diverse species in a single ancient community be converged upon over a broad swath of later geologic time.

"The Otis Chalk fauna is an amazing single snapshot of geologic time where you have this extraordinary range of animal body plans all present at the same time living together," Stocker said. "Among the animals preserved in the Otis Chalk fauna, *Triopticus* exemplifies this phenomenon of body-shape convergence because its skull shape was repeated by very distantly-related dome-headed dinosaurs more than 100 million years later."

Dinosaurs, like these distant cousins from the Triassic Period, are all reptiles. Reptiles rapidly evolved in terms of numbers of species soon after the greatest mass extinction of all time on Earth, at the end of the Permian Period.



Credit: Virginia Tech

"After the enormous mass extinction 250 million years ago, reptiles exploded onto the scene and almost immediately diversified into many different sizes and shapes. These early body shapes were later mimicked by dinosaurs," said Sterling Nesbitt, an assistant professor of paleontology at Virginia Tech and co-author of the study. The mimicry in body shape appears to evolve only after the extinction of the first group of reptiles.

"CT scanning showed us that the similarity of *Triopticus* with the much later dome-headed pachycephalosaur dinosaurs was more than skin deep, extending to the structure of the bone and even the brain," Witmer said.

Complete details of what *Triopticus primus* looked like and how big it was are not yet known, though it was likely no bigger than an alligator. For now, researchers only have a fragment of skull. The remainder of the face and jaw, the vertebrae, and the rest of the skeleton is missing, either long lost to natural elements, waiting to be found in the field still, or inside a plaster jacket not yet opened at the lab at UT Austin.

Though many fossils are uncovered during long stints of dusty fieldwork in far-off places, the team's discovery of this specimen -- originally collected near Big Spring, Texas, by the Works Progress Administration in 1940 -- happened in the Texas Vertebrate Paleontology Collections in 2010, where it had been lying in plain sight for 70 years.

"We can gain new insights into the history of life because specimens like *Triopticus* have been curated into museum collections like the one at UT Austin," said Matthew Brown, co-author and director of the Texas Vertebrate Paleontology Collections at The University of Texas at Austin. "These collections are the foundation of natural history research, and this new animal illustrates how exciting discoveries are continually made thanks to the forethought and investment of past generations. It will be fascinating to see what the students of tomorrow find next."

For more info, go to www.sciencedaily.com

Florida Fossil Hunters News

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

FIELD TRIP LEADER

Saturday, November 12th

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

Trip Leader: Dave Granger

Call or email Paul to sign up for the field trip

Email: dgrange1@yahoo.com | Cell: 407-212-5257

We need a trip leader for **December 10th**.

Please email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call her at [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058) to volunteer.

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**

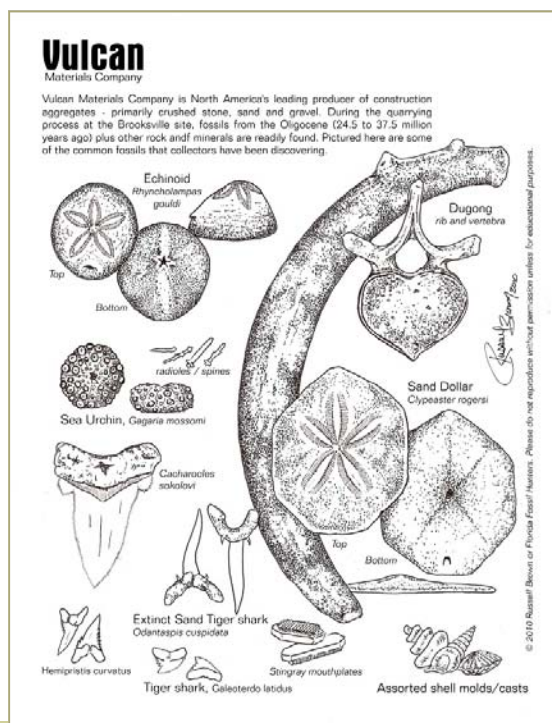
be escorted into and out of the mine. Do not leave on your own since it is easy to become lost.

**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.

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.

**ALSO JOIN US
Dec 10th**

*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@lisedreams.com	

Board of Directors:

Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	

Names: _____

Membership Application

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.

Articles must be submitted by the first of the month to be included in that month's newsletter. These can be mailed to

Newsletter Policy

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.

Nov 5th & 6th
Florida Fossil Hunters
Fossil Fair
Central FL Fairgrounds

Saturday, November 5th, 7 pm to 10 pm
Neanderthal Ball, OSC

Saturday, November 12th
VULCAN MINE

Saturday, November 19th
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting & Speaker

Friday, December 9th, 7pm *(to be confirmed)*
Holiday Meeting/Party
& Fossil Bucks auction
Golden Corral

Saturday, December 10th
VULCAN MINE (leader needed)

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

2016 FOSSIL FAIR

Florida Fossil Hunters

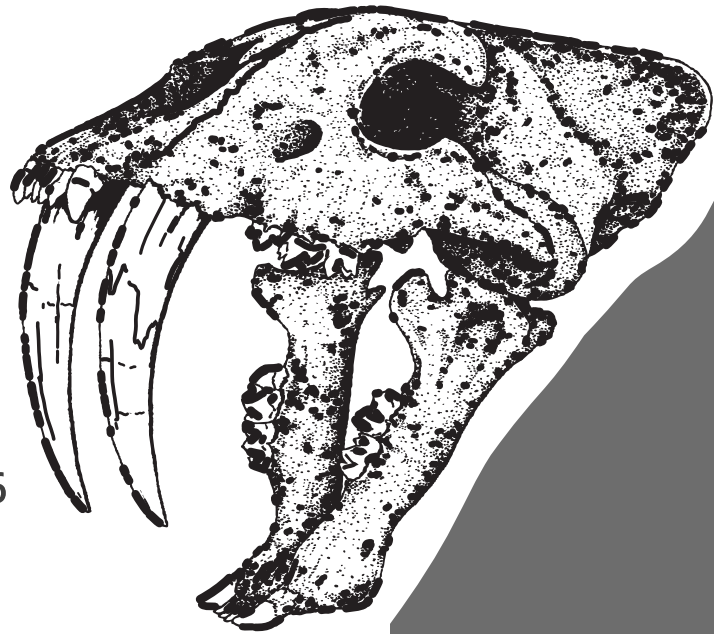
Twenty-fifth Annual
**Fossils, Rocks,
Gems & Minerals**

Saturday, November 5, 2016

9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, November 6, 2016

10:00am - 4:00pm



Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

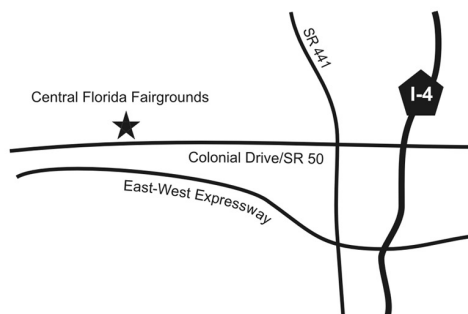
\$4.00 Adults | \$1.00 Children

**Learn to dig in Florida and
see what can be discovered!**

Directions:

I-4 to Orlando, Exit 84,
West Hwy 50/Colonial Drive
exit Westbound.

The fairgrounds will be
on the right side, just past
Mercy Drive.



For more information on the 2015 Fossil Fair contact us by email at
info@floridafossilhunters.com, call 407-699-9274, or check the website at

www.floridafossilhunters.com

Raffles

Vendors

**Silent
Auctions**

**Kids \$1
Dig Pit**

**Educational
Displays**

**Airconditioned!
INDOORS!**