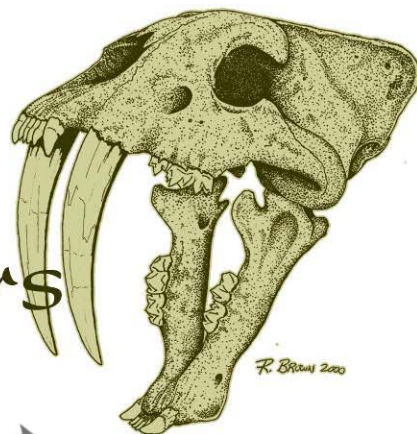


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 27, Number 9

November 2017



From the President.....

Hello, and welcome to everyone. I hope the cooler weather brings relief from the tropical craziness of the past summer.

Fall brings to our club's **annual Fossil Fair**. Once again Valerie & Sara have done their magic on the complicated tasks of scheduling and securing the venue. There will be plenty of room, vendors, food; everything we need to make this a party. There is always something new to add to your collection or for a special and unique Christmas gift. Just walking around the vendor tables you learn something new.

Our club gets rave reviews for our Fossil Fair/party, mostly because of our fantastic members who make this such a pleasant experience for everyone. Please volunteer some of your time and share the excitement. If you haven't contacted Bonnie, please mail her at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or just show up at the Fossil Fair.

The **National Fossil Day** celebration will be held at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 10 am to 3 pm. Clubs from all around the State (us included) will be part of the celebration with all the folks at FLMNH with displays, lectures, etc. plus all the wonders in the Museum... and it's free! It doesn't get better than that. Come up to Gainesville and enjoy the day.

At **November's meeting**, Cindy Lockner aka "the Swan-Whisperer" will give us an overview of the Montbrook Dig, including what they are finding and what volunteers do. I hope everyone in the club over the age of 16 takes advantage of this great opportunity to dig with the Paleontologists and Grad students at this remarkable site. More info on volunteering inside.

In December the club will be having the **Fossil Bucks Auction/Holiday Party** at the Orlando Science Center. Bonnie & I are putting together a great selection of items for the auction. Earn your Fossil Bucks by volunteering at the Fossil Fair. Dave Dunaway & Ed Metrin will be taking over the auction in 2018. Thanks, Guys.

In closing, I thank everyone who works hard to make this club great. We're always looking for more ideas and talent or time. Attend a Board meeting or email us to get involved.

Happy Digging.

Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Oct 28-29
2017 FFH
Fossil Fair

Nov 11
Vulcan Mine
Field Trip

Details
Inside

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

FFH Fossil Fair
October 28th & 29th

Saturday, November 18th
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

National Fossil Day Celebration at FLMNH

Saturday, Nov. 4th from 10 am to 3 pm

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 4th from 10 am to 3 pm, for a colossal fossil festival as we honor National Fossil Day in a big way!

Meet the paleontologists and geologists who work every day to uncover the secrets these ancient remains reveal about past life on Earth. Explore fossil displays and the dig pit. Bring your fossils for identification and talk to members of fossil clubs throughout Florida to learn what fossils can be found around the state!

Organizer

Name: Catherine Carey, Florida Museum

Phone: 352-273-2064

Email: ccarey@flmnh.ufl.edu

Florida Fossil Hunters will be displaying fossils and talking to the guests at this event. You can volunteer at the tables or just attend the celebration.

Florida Museum of Natural History

www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/visit/

3215 Hull Road

Gainesville, FL 32611

Phone: 352-846-2000

Piece on the Peace

The graph of the river level looks more promising than it did last month. It's gone down 6 feet in the last 4 weeks so maybe we can go fossil hunting in the Peace over the Thanksgiving holiday. Make sure all your gear is ready to roll.

Kids' Fossil Blast

Saturday, Nov 18th at 2-3 pm

How do animals and plants end up as fossils? Come join as we see how fossils form and make some of your own.

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

Brevard Zoo, Dinosaurs Are Back!

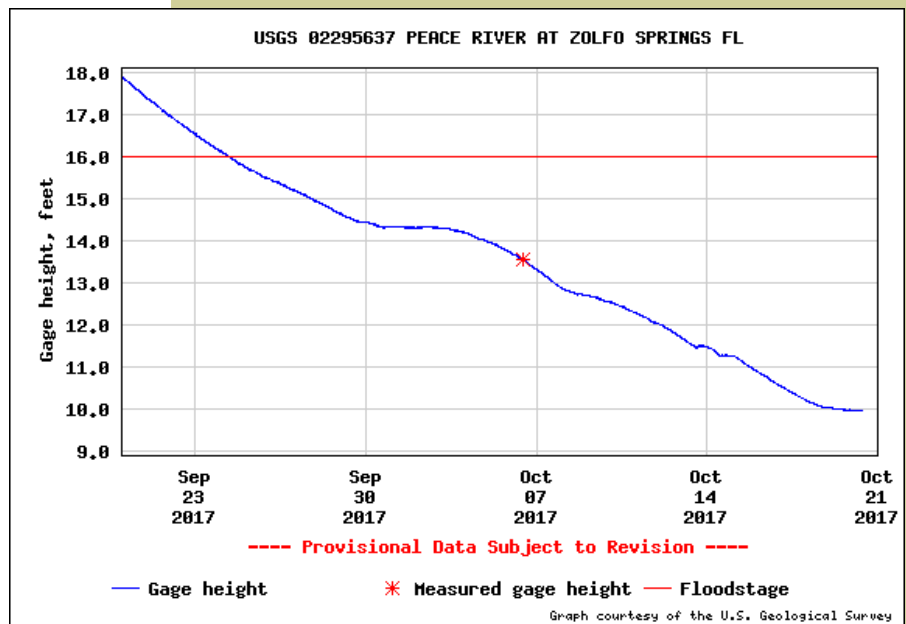
November 18 – April 30

Dinosaurs are returning to the Space Coast for the first time in five years!

Meet 16 advanced animatronic creatures modeled after the latest paleontological findings, uncover a giant

Tyrannosaurus skeleton and watch volunteers prepare real fossils in the Dinosaur Discovery Center.

Not included with Zoo admission.
For more info go to brevardzoo.org



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Rare, Beautiful & Fascinating: 100 Years @FloridaMuseum

In 2017, the Florida Museum marks its 100th anniversary as the state's official natural history museum. Join us for a celebration of our newest exhibit and explore the key role museum collections play in telling the story of life on Earth.

Enjoy this free, fun-for-all-ages event with hands-on activities and displays celebrating the opening of the Museum's newest featured exhibit.

Rare, Beautiful & Fascinating: until Jan. 7, 2018

From rare, ancient treasures to cutting-edge technologies, the exhibit showcases the Museum's 17 collections and research initiatives that address topics from extinction to biodiversity. Visitors may interact with scientists working in the lab from a different collection each week, explore the institution's rich history and learn how the Museum has affected the lives of students, volunteers, employees and donors.

Objects from the Museum's 40 million specimens also reveal the stories of everything from coral reefs to human health to prehistoric life. Discover ways science has changed over time, and how the Florida Museum remains committed to addressing future critical world issues, including biodiversity, climate change, invasive species and more.

Join us every week as we reveal more of the objects from this upcoming exhibit on our exhibit site!

Follow us on

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Pinterest for a preview of the most remarkable objects in our collections.

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/100years/>

FFH Fossil Fair 2017

When:

Sat, Oct. 28th,
9 am to 5 pm
Sun, Oct. 29th,
10 am to 4 pm

Where:

Central Florida
Fairgrounds
4603 W Colonial Dr.,
Orlando, FL

You can sign up by
emailing Bonnie @
bonnierussell62@gmail.com
or calling [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

All of you who volunteered last year made the Fair the most enjoyable one ever!

Please volunteer again this year... we can use your help and your smiles. You can stay a whole day (or 2) or just a few hours. Don't worry about lack of experience... we provide on the job training.

Please bring a yummy dish to share with the other volunteers and the vendors. (salads, fruits, veggies, snack foods, etc.) Sandwiches and the fixin's will be provided by the club. The vendors & volunteers are very appreciative.

Look around your house and garage for all those extra fossils that you don't use. Bring them in for the Kids' Fossil Pit and/or the Silent

Auction. You had the thrill of finding them once and you can pass along that feeling to others at the Fair. We also use donations of minerals, display materials, etc. at the Silent Auction.

VOLUNTEER

WIN

Win a Saber Toothed Cat Skull !!!

Jim Tatum donated a replica skull of *Smilodon fatalis* for our door prize at this year's Fossil Fair.
Be sure to fill out your form at the admissions table.

Florida Fossil Hunters is thankful for this donation and for all the support and knowledge he has shared with us over the years.

Florida Fossil Hunters News



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



**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



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

Montbrook Fossil Dig Get Involved

This is just a heads up to let you all know the **tentative** digging schedule for Fall 2017. This and the updated application are not yet available, but I will email everyone once they are finalized!

- Digging 5 days per week
- Thursdays thru Mondays
- Beginning Thursday, October 5th

More Information: <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/museum-voices/montbrook/get-involved/>

The Montbrook Site is very productive and almost all volunteers will find some fossil specimens on their first day. The most commonly found fossils are bones from the shell of freshwater turtles and vertebrae, spines, scales, and skull bones of fish, including gar, catfish, snook, and drum. Fossils of alligator, birds, and mammals are also found, but less frequently.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. Volunteers from age 15 to 17 will be accepted, but must be accompanied by an adult sibling (18+ years old), or a parent or guardian.

Volunteers must be physically fit enough to work outdoors for several hours and be able to walk up and down irregular slopes. Be aware that the site is in direct sunlight and sandy. We will have a porta-potty at the site.

Volunteers can work just a single day, a few days, or a regular schedule one or more times a week. There is no limit to the number of times a volunteer can work at the site.

Volunteers are more than welcome to drive themselves or carpool to meet us at the fossil site. We can sometimes drive about 5 volunteers in the museum van but we need to plan this in advance.

WORK SCHEDULE

Field work typically begins at **10:00 AM** and continues through the day until about 4:30 PM. Plan your arrival time so that you will not get there much earlier than 10:00 AM. You can begin work anytime of the day between 10 AM and 1:30 PM. You will be expected to work for at least 3 hours (not counting if you break for lunch).

RAINOUTS

We will contact you via email in the event of a "rainout" and to schedule a make-up day. This decision will normally be made the day before. If you do not receive an email from us, assume that we will be digging at the site, even if rain is forecasted for that day. If it begins to rain heavily while we are digging, we may have to stop for the day.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

The museum will provide all necessary digging tools, field equipment, and supplies for collecting fossils. Volunteers



A volunteer holds a plaster jacket with the dig site in the background. Photo by Jeff Gage/Florida Museum



Volunteers digging at the Montbrook fossil site last season

should bring their own water, hats, gloves, sunscreen, cushions or towels to sit/kneel on, any special medication items, and food. Wear comfortable clothing that corresponds to the weather forecast. Wear shoes instead of sandals or flip-flops. Cameras of all types are welcome at the site.

Volunteer In the Field

To volunteer for the Fall 2017 excavation, see top of article. If you have any questions about volunteering at the site, please email Rachel Narducci: marducci@flmnh.ufl.edu.

Volunteer In the Collection

If you are interested in preparing specimens out of plaster jackets, screen washing, gluing bone fragments back together, or helping with the cataloging process. You can volunteer to work with the fossils back at the lab. **Because of the time invested in training volunteers, we can only accept those who can work at least 3 hrs/week, for a min of 6 weeks.** Volunteers must be at least 18 yrs old (or full-time UF student). Normal work hours for volunteers are between 8:30am and 5pm, Monday - Friday. To volunteer in the collection, please contact the FLMNH vertebrate paleontology collections manager, Richard Hulbert rhulbert@flmnh.ufl.edu or call [352-273-1821](tel:352-273-1821).

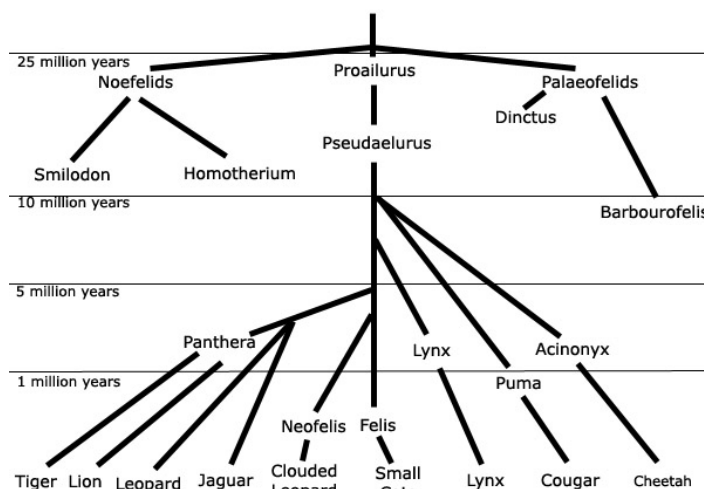
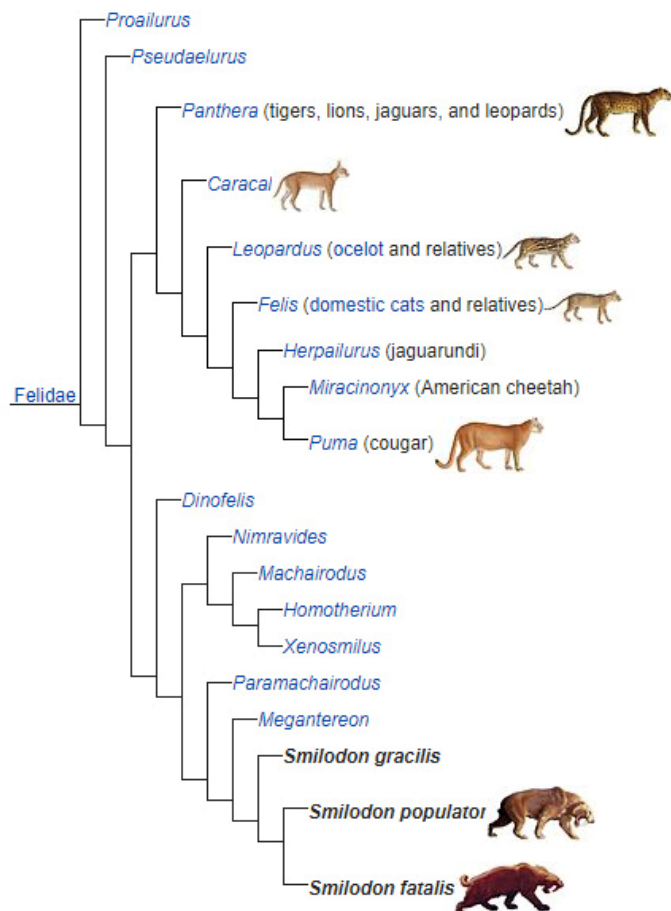
Florida Fossil Hunters News

Ancient DNA offers new view on saber-toothed cats' past

October 19, 2017
Cell Press

Researchers who've analyzed the complete mitochondrial genomes from ancient samples representing two species of saber-toothed cats have a new take on the animals' history over the last 50,000 years. The data suggest that the saber-toothed cats shared a common ancestor with all living cat-like species about 20 million years ago. The two saber-toothed cat species under study diverged from each other about 18 million years ago. (for the rest of the article go to www.sciencedaily.com)

This got me to wondering just how sabre-toothed cats were related to modern cats. Turns out they were closer to hyenas and civets than cats. Also the "sabers" were a result of convergent evolution in the different lineages.



Orlando Science Center

It's much more than just a great place to hold our club meetings. We are very lucky to be able to have our displays in Dino Digs so visitors can learn about Florida's prehistory. And several times a year we get to work with OSC at events like Fossil Fest, Women in Science (Paleontology, especially), etc. It's public outreach that costs us just a little time but is more than worth it.

Valerie First volunteers at OSC almost every week as well as at the Central Florida Zoo displaying fossils and encouraging independent thought.

Science Night Live for those who are over 21 is geared to mix a little night life with science. Salvatore Sansone has volunteered to help out on these events but we're always looking for more volunteers.

Spreading the word on how cool paleontology is and how anyone can do it is a wonderful thing to share..... like the curiosity and discovery of all science.

The Florida Fossil Hunters are grateful for our relationship with the Orlando Science Center and look forward to the future.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

FIELD TRIP LEADER

Saturday, November 11th

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

Trip Leader: Ashley Mason-Burns

You can sign up by emailing

amasonburns@knights.ucf.edu

or calling her cell phone: [407-310-5564](tel:407-310-5564)

Call or email Bonnie to volunteer for the Dec trip

bonnierussell62@gmail.com | [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058)

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.

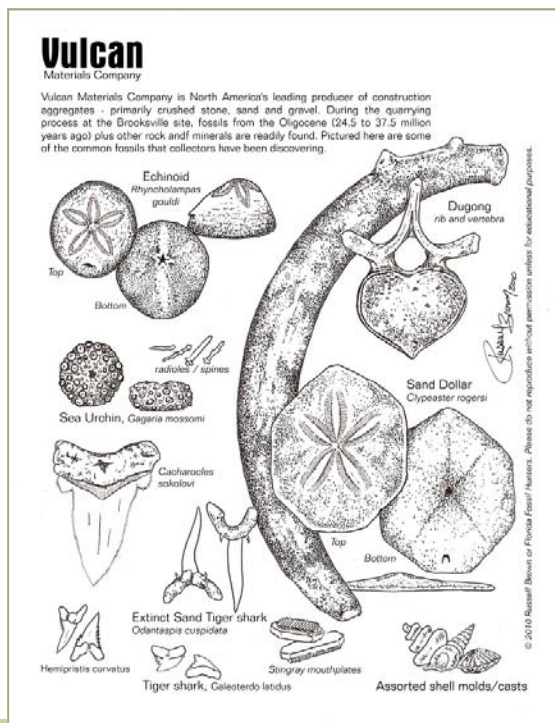
From Orlando take Hwy. 50 west (or the 408 west to the FL Turnpike, take exit 272 and then continue west on Hwy. 50) to Brooksville. Follow 50A/98 North through Brooksville and turn right on Ponce De Leon Blvd. (Hwy 98 North). Go approximately 10 miles. Vulcan/Cemex will be on your left. The address 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.



**TRIP LEADERS
ALSO NEEDED
DECEMBER**

*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	Steve Sharpe	(352) 552-2296
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:

Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	
Dave Dunaway	

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.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

FFH Fossil Fair

October 28th & 29th

Saturday, November 4th

National Fossil Day at FLMNH

Saturday, November 11th

Vulcan Mine Field Trip

Saturday, November 11th

9 am - 4 pm

SW Florida Fossil Society

Fossil Expo

Punta Gorda, FL

November 18th to April 30th

Dinosaurs Are Back!

Brevard Zoo

Saturday, November 18th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast

3 pm - Meeting

Saturday, December 9th

Vulcan Mine Field Trip, Need Leader

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