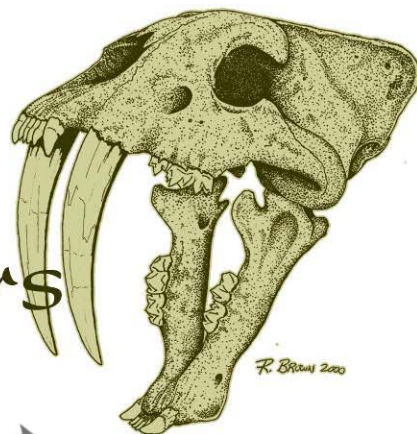


# NEWS

## Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters  
Volume 26, Number 7

September 2016



### From the President.....

We had a good turn-out at last month's meeting. Bonnie and her owl pellets were a hit. Young and old enjoyed tearing through them and even I was surprised at the amount of small skulls and bones were in them.

We had a special guest attend the meeting. Paul Roth, President of the Florida Paleontological Society, came all the way from Waldo, FL just to present a plaque from the National Park Service to Bonnie and me for the contributions we make to the National Fossil Day events. We are humbled. All great things are not the work of one or two but are due to the efforts of many. Thanks to all of you that have volunteered at the National Fossil Days.

We've had the first tropical storm come and drop a lot of water just when things had started looking good for digging. I think its name was @#!#!. Anyway the day when the river gets low enough, I recommend that you go down to the Peace and do some fossil hunting.

**Fossil Fest 2016** at the Orlando Science Center is fast approaching, along with the club's Fossil Fair, and many other events all over. Come join in the fun. There is plenty to do, see, and learn. Dave, Ed, Valerie, & Sandy will be at Daytona Beach Art & Science Museum for **Natural History Day**. Bonnie, Steve, and I will be at **National Fossil Day** at the South Florida Museum. There is a complete listing of events in the newsletter.

At the **September meeting**, please keep your cats at home. I'm bringing in all things fish, and ask you to do the same. I've been working on a complete new set of educational fossil cases on fish.... about 24, so far. If you have fish fossils, bring them in. We'll try to identify what we can. I'm even going to eat fish before the meeting (Bonnie permitting), so my breath will be in keeping with the theme.

*Hope you can join us.*

Russell Brown  
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:  
**Florida Fossil Hunters**



### Coming Events

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

**September 17th**  
3 pm Meeting

**October 15th**  
2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast  
3 pm Meeting

**November 5th & 6th**  
Fossil Fair  
Central Florida Fairgrounds

*More events listed on back page*  
*For more info...*  
[www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

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# Florida Fossil Hunters News

# Fragments

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

Orlando Science Center

Saturday, Sept. 17th, 8 - 11:30 pm

An evening reserved only for adults, enjoy everything you love about Orlando Science Center with grown-up-inspired programming. ***Don't miss these experiences at Science Night Live! This event promises to be out of this world!***

- Hear from shuttle commander and three-time spaceflight veteran Andrew M. Allen during his presentation Journey to Mars: An Astronaut's Perspective
- Meet Dr. Humberto Campins and discover the latest news on NASA's OSIRIS-REx Asteroid Sample Return Mission then hear him speak on the revolutionary study
- Speak with Exploration in Space Exhibitors from NASA, Kennedy Space Center, UCF and more
- Dance the night away with both a SubWAVE silent disco and live DJ dance party available
- View stars and planets through the giant refractor telescope in the Crosby Observatory and enjoy telescopes on the terrace presented by the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium
- Experience giant-screen films in the Dr. Phillips CineDome
- Conduct lab experiments in Dr. Dare's Laboratory
- Enjoy the latest exhibition on display in *Fusion: A STEAM Gallery*
- Experience the hands-on exhibit Kinetic Zone
- Participate in science trivia to win prizes!
- Delight in food and adult beverages available for purchase
- Experience the Science Center in a whole new way... without kids!

This event proves there is no age limit on curiosity. You're never too old to learn something new! It's social, it's science, it's 21 & up and tickets are going fast! (It was sold-out last month) ***Must be 21 and older.*** For more information, call **407.514.2000**.

*If you volunteer with the Florida Fossil Hunters, you get in free! Email Bonnie at [bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com)*

## Annual Fall gem, mineral, and bead show Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society

Oct. 7, 8 & 9th at the National Guard Armory; 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave. Orlando; Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$5, Grade School Students \$2; Annual Fall gem, mineral, and bead show. There will be demonstrations, 30 minute auctions, kids table, sluice mining for gems, and hourly door prizes. See and buy gems, minerals, beads, metaphysical stones, fossils and much more from all over the world. Scouts can earn merit badges from a mineral gemologist to assist with identification and requirements.

Contact Paul Hayes, 1400 Sawyerwood Ave,  
Orlando, FL 32800, (407)-816-1220;  
[phayes3@cfl.rr.com](mailto:phayes3@cfl.rr.com); [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org)

## Kids' Fossil Blast

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

***Next Kids' Fossil Blast will Be Oct 15th, at 2pm***

## Vulcan Mine, Fall Schedule

We will resume our monthly trips to Vulcan Mine in October. Hopefully it will be cool enough then.

**We need Trip Leaders for the following dates: Oct. 8th, Nov. 12th, and Dec. 10th.**

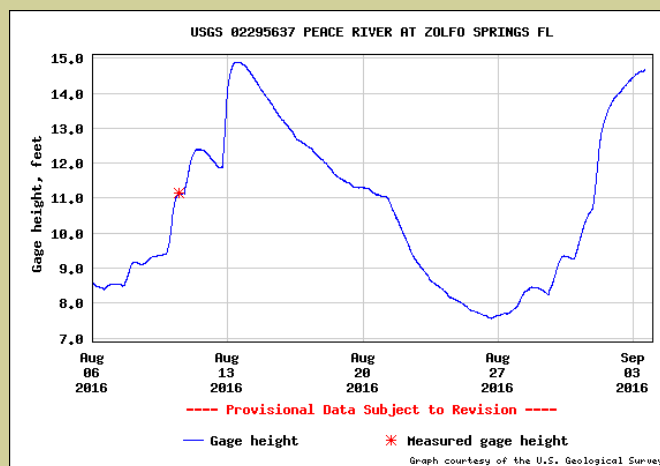
Please email Bonnie at [bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com) if you are interested. You get extra fossil bucks.

## Valerie First, Outreach Superhero

Valerie First has been featured in the latest issue of the Oviedo Winter Springs Life magazine. She is a tireless volunteer at the Orlando Science Center and the Central Florida Zoo, as well as displaying her fossils at various community events throughout the year. You can read the entire article at: [www.owslife.com/oviedo-winter-springs-life-magazine-archive/](http://www.owslife.com/oviedo-winter-springs-life-magazine-archive/)

## Piece on the Peace River

You can see on the graph when Hermine came to Florida. You can also see that it takes longer for the water level to go down than it does to rise. So we will be waiting a bit longer to get into the Peace for fossil hunting.



# Florida Fossil Hunters News

# 2016 FOSSIL FAIR

Fossil Fair - Date has  
Changed to Nov. 5th & 6th

The dates have changed but not the fun of  
discovery and sharing. Mark your calendars  
and sign up to volunteer.

## **WE NEED:**

**Food for Fossil Fair  
Donations for Kids' Dig Pit  
& Silent Auction  
and, volunteers!**

See August Newsletter for more information.

## **Montbrook Fossil Dig Fall 2016**

The Florida Museum of Natural History Fall is asking for volunteers to help in the fossil dig at Montbrook near Williston, FL. Experience is not necessary... they offer on-the-job training and supply the tools. This is a great opportunity to learn how the professionals do it and help discover the treasures from Florida's past. The site is dated at approx. 40 million years ago!

This season's volunteer coordinator is Rachel Narducci, [rnarducci@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:rnarducci@flmnh.ufl.edu)

To volunteer, go to [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/volunteering/field](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/volunteering/field)

## **Fossil Fest at OSC**

**Saturday, Sept. 10th, 10 am - 4 pm**

Florida Fossil Hunters will have a fossil extravaganza at the Orlando Science Center. There will be fossils from the dawn of life to the Pleistocene to look at and learn about. Russell & Bonnie will bring some of their stuff but we urge all members to bring their fossils and share their experiences with the guests at this event. It will be fun and you'll get Fossil Bucks for volunteering.

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

Look forward to seeing you there.  
Bonnie, Florida Fossil Hunters



## **NFD Partnership Award**

FPS is happy to announce that Russell Brown & Bonnie Cronin have been presented with the 2015 National Fossil Day Partnership Award for their many years of support of National Fossil Day activities in Florida. They have made significant contributions to the Junior Paleontologist Educational Kits that have been donated to the National Park Service for use in their Junior Paleontologist Ranger Programs. Thanks to works by members like Bonnie & Russell, FPS is helping to inspire future generations of aspiring scientists and paleontologists, through education and public outreach. Thank you Bonnie & Russell!

## **National Fossil Day, South FL Museum**

Florida Fossil Hunters will have fossils on display at this event and we'll get the opportunity to talk to LOTS of people about fossils, fossil hunting, and our Fossil Fair.

South Florida Museum has fantastic fossil exhibits and the best Indian pottery I have ever seen. In addition to those wonders, they have arranged to have the "Dinosaur Discoveries, Ancient Fossils, New Ideas" exhibit from the American Museum of Natural History. (If you would like the Educators' Guide, contact me at [bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com) and I will send the PDF to you)

There are plenty of activities:

- Presentations
- Junior Paleontologist Program with the De Soto National Park Service Rangers
- "Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure" movie
- Meteorite display
- Stone knapping demo
- Kids' Dig Pit sponsored by Mosaic
- and lots of fossils to see and experts to learn from.

Some of you have already signed up but we can always use more volunteers (you get free admission and FFH Fossil Bucks!)

# Florida Fossil Hunters News



# The Cave Bear: A Vegan Gone Extinct

Today's Brown Bears are omnivores. Depending on the time of year, they devour plants, mushrooms, berries and small to larger mammals, but they will also take fish and insects. "The Cave Bear is a very different story," says Professor Dr. Hervé Bocherens of the Senckenberg Center for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment (HEP) at the University of Tübingen, and he continues to explain, "According to our newest findings, these extinct relatives of the Brown Bear lived on a strictly vegan diet."

Cave Bears (*Ursus spelaeus*) lived in Europe during the most recent glacial period, approximately 400,000 years ago, until they became extinct about 25,000 years ago. With a length of 3.5 meters and a height of 1.7 meters at the shoulder, these bears, which ranged from Northern Spain to the Urals, were noticeably larger than their modern-day relatives. Despite their name, they did not actually live in caves but only used them for hibernation. Nevertheless, the occasional death of animals in various European caves over several tens of thousands of years eventually led to enormous accumulations of bones and teeth from these large fur-bearing animals.

Several of these bones from the "Goyet Cave" in Belgium have now been examined by the international team around Prof. Bocherens, with a special focus on the Cave Bear's diet. "We were particularly interested in what exactly the Cave Bears ate, and whether there is a connection between their diet and their extinction," explains the biogeologist from Tübingen.

To this end, scientists from Japan, Canada, Belgium and Germany conducted isotope studies on the collagen from the bears' bones. Collagen is an essential organic component of the connective tissue in bones, teeth, cartilage, tendons, ligaments and the skin. The examination of the isotope composition of individual amino acids in the collagen shows that the bears lived on a strictly vegan diet. "Similar to today's Giant Panda, the Cave Bears were therefore extremely inflexible in regard to their food," adds Bocherens, and he continues, "We assume that this unbalanced diet, in combination with the reduced supply of plants during the last ice age, ultimately led to the Cave Bear's extinction."

From [www.sciencedaily.com](http://www.sciencedaily.com)

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## Red Tide, Blue Algae

Red tides are a result of algae blooms. They occur in Florida and around the world although not all "Red Tides" are toxic.

But when a toxic variety, such as "*Karenia brevis*" blooms out of control, the toxin it releases paralyze the nervous system of fish, killing thousands to hundreds of thousands. As they die, along with other marine animals, their decomposition depletes oxygen from the water which magnifies the dead zones. It is unknown what combination of factors trigger this natural phenomenon... warm waters, sunlight, nutrients washed in from the land, etc.

Outbreaks of Blue algae are less frequent and are known to be triggered by extra nitrogen from fertilizers in run-offs during rains or excessive watering. Both have the same effect - massive fish kills like many that have been reported by the news media.

Walk any beach or coastal waterway during a Red

Tide and the smell will burn your nose and bring tears to your eyes in addition to the gagging odor of rotting fish. (actually, DON'T walk on the beach. The toxins are very harmful)

So what has this got to do with fossil hunting?

Imagine walking down that same beach millions of years from now. What fossil evidence could have been left by that event? Add to that one incident, the numerous fish kills that have happened in the past. Conditions are ripe for a lot of those animals to be covered up and fossilize. Scavengers and time will scatter associated bones, but layer by layer, the hardest parts, like teeth, earbones, and vertebrae, will form deposits rich in fossils. Florida's fluctuating shorelines, lagoons, rivers, and swamps have made our State a key to understanding past events.

Next time you go down into the "Bone Valley" of Florida, or over to Venice Beach, you'll have something to think about as you gather the sharks' teeth and other marine fossils and wonder why they are so abundant.

Russell Brown

## Florida Fossil Hunters News

# 2016 FOSSIL FAIR

Florida Fossil Hunters

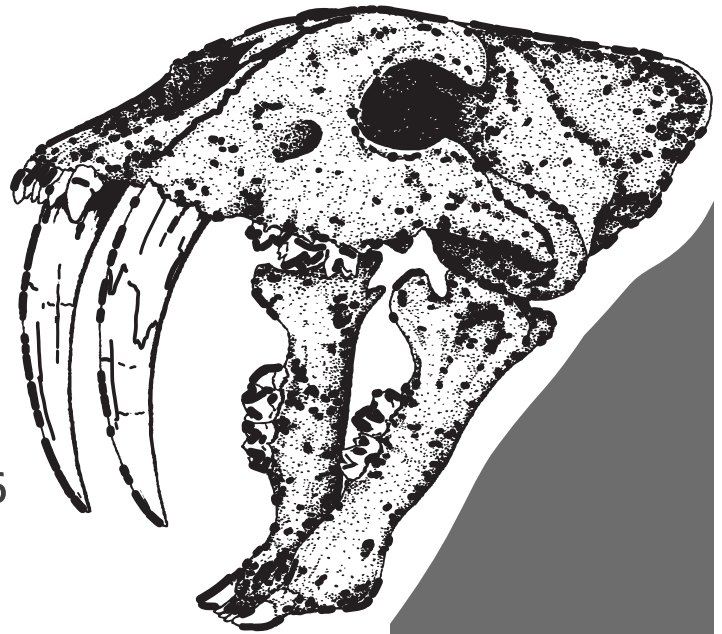
Twenty-fifth Annual  
**Fossils, Rocks,  
Gems & Minerals**

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

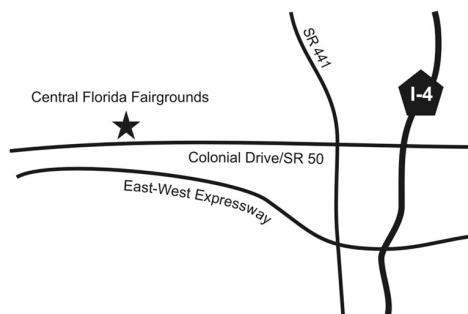
\$4.00 Adults | \$1.00 Children

**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](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

**Raffles**

**Vendors**

**Silent  
Auctions**

**Kids \$1  
Dig Pit**

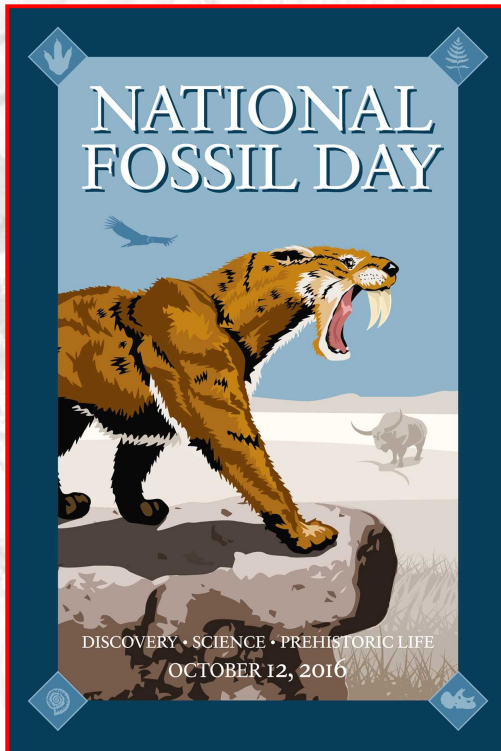
**Educational  
Displays**

**Airconditioned!  
INDOORS!**

# Mark Your Calendar!

Please Join us in Celebrating National Fossil Day 2016!!!

## *"Fossil's & Dino's at Play"*



## National Fossil Day Celebration!

**Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

South Florida Museum  
Bradenton, Florida



Come join us in celebrating this year's [National Fossil Day](#). The South Florida Museum is excited to be a host institution this year and to partner with local and state agencies, organizations and clubs. Guests can come and meet real paleontologists and geologists who work everyday to uncover the secrets fossils reveal about our ancient Earth.

**Location:** South Florida Museum, 201 - 10th St. West, Bradenton, FL 34205

**Time:** Museum hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Special Family Night Event extended hours.

Fossil Clubs and Vendor Displays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special 1/2 price admission to museum all day! \$9 adults, \$8 Seniors 65+, \$7 children, kids under 3 FREE. Fossil Display Tables & and a Free Kids Dig Pit Sponsored by Mosaic.

**Activities:** Fossil Displays, Fossil Giveaways, Fossil Vendors, Kids Fossil Dig Pit, Speakers, Florida Paleo Authors & Book Signing, Junior Paleontologist Badge Program presented by the De Soto National Memorial Park Rangers, Special exhibit from the American Museum of Natural History: *"Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas"*. Special Screening of *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure* in the Bishop Planetarium, Meteorite Display, Stone Knapping Demonstrations, and so much more!

Updates at: [NFD.FLGEO.COM](http://NFD.FLGEO.COM)

### *National Fossil Day Sponsors*





# 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
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.

**Saturday, September 10th 10 am - 4 pm**  
Orlando Science Center's Fossil Fest

**Saturday, September 17th**  
3 pm Meeting

**Saturday, September 17th 10 am - 3 pm**  
Daytona Beach Museum of Arts & Sciences  
Natural History Festival

**Saturday, September 17th 7:30 - 11:30 pm**  
Orlando Science Center's Science Night Live!

**Saturday, October 1st 10 am - 4 pm**  
National Fossil Day  
South Florida Museum, Bradenton

**October 7, 8, & 9th**  
Central FL Mineral & Gem Show  
National Guard Armory, Orlando

**VULCAN MINE**  
Oct 8th, Nov 12th, and Dec 10th

**Saturday, October 15th**  
2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast  
3 pm Meeting

**October 15 & 16th**  
Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club  
Gem & Mineral Show, Plant City

**Saturday, October 15th, 8 to 11:30 pm**  
Science Night Live, OSC

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

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

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

**facebook**

## Be Green

Email Bonnie at [bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com)  
to receive the newsletter via email.



Visit us online at [www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

Articles and comments should be sent to: [bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com)

## Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404  
Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



## Florida Fossil Hunters News