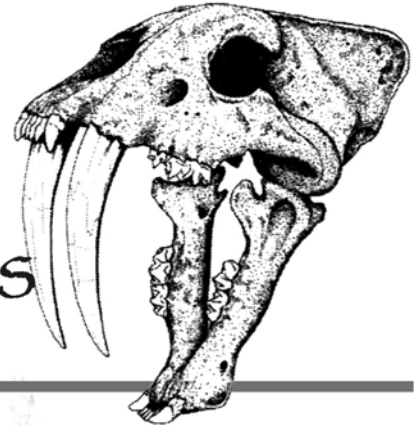


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Volume 18, Number 5

May 2008

Prez Sez:

Don Munroe gave us a good presentation last month on fossil collecting in Florida rivers, thanks!!! Our next speaker will be Craig Nesbit and the topic is the fossils of the Kansas Chalk Formations.

The camping trip was a great success due to Dave Dunaway's work on the site. We had flags, a signal light, a good fire and kitchen all compliments of Dave. It is beginning to look like a resort instead of primitive camping. He supplied many cool fireworks for our entertainment, too.

We enjoyed good company, food and drink along with new members that joined us. The best fossil found was by a new member and it was a full capybara tooth! We endured fire ants, no sleep, some had hangovers, sunburns, and a person that snores like a bear but great fun was had by all. The weather was great and the baby gators were out, too. I hope we are as lucky next year!

Don't forget to bring your fossil bucks to bid on auction items next month and tell Dave D. what field trips you went on.

July is the summer picnic so there will be no meeting. Bring a covered dish.

Field Trips-

3rd weekend is Vulcan Mine

May 17th is the Daytona Museum fossil fest

And possibly this Summer a trip to the Seminole Indian Museum and more — see the back page for more information on what we currently have planned.

Shelley Zimmerman
President

Coming Events

Meetings held at the Orlando Science Center

May 21, 2008

7:00pm Meeting

June 18th

6:00pm Kid's Blast and

7:00pm Meeting and Auction

No July Meeting, see page 3

For more information on the
July Club Picnic

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Fragments

Brevard Zoo Field Trip

Want to see some of the modern animals that the fossils have evolved into? Join us for the club trip to the Brevard Zoo to see their many animals. This is the last weekend for the dinosaur exhibit as well. Meet at the entrance at 9:30 am on Sunday, May 11th for this guided tour.

Directions: Go east to I-95. Take I-95 south to Melbourne and take exit 191. Go east on N Wickam Road approximately 1/2 mile to the Zoo entrance. Admission is \$11.50 for adults and \$8.50 for kids over 2 yr.

Gainesville Indian Artifact & Fossil Show

The Sunshine State Archaeological Society will have its annual show on Saturday, June 7th from 8 am to 4 pm. It will be held at the Clarion Inn (formerly the Holiday-Inn West) at 7417 Newberry Rd., Gainesville, Florida.

In addition, they have arranged for Robert J. Austin, Ph.D. to give a lecture Friday evening at 6:30 pm titled "Archaeology in the Suburbs: The Baysore Homes Project - Excavations at a Mound Complex, St. Petersburg, Florida".

There is no charge for the lecture. Admission to the artifact show is \$3 per person.

Directions: Take I-75 north to exit 387, Newberry Rd.

Kids' Fossil Blast

Our next meeting of the Kids Fossil Blast will be on Wednesday, June 18th, at 6:00 pm before our regular meeting.

The Kids' Fossil Blast is a fun, hands-on way to find out about fossils for kids mainly ages 4 to 14 yrs. Each meeting we focus on a different type of fossil using real fossils, replicas and printed materials. Sometimes the kids even get to take real fossils home. We meet every other month at 6:00 pm at the Orlando Science Center.

ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER

Display Update

We're currently working on the 3rd Club case at the Orlando Science Center. If you haven't seen them yet, the other two are in the hallway next to the "Dino Digs" on the 4th floor.

The first case contains fossils from Florida's marine animals. The second was based on the Mega-fauna that inhabited Florida until 10,000 years ago. The third case will feature Carnivores. I'll probably take the Smilodon and Terror Bird skulls from the second case for the carnivore case and replace them with Herbivore fossils at that time.

Some of the materials belong to the Club, some from mine & Bonnie's collection and a really big "THANK YOU" to Jeremy Smith for lending the really eye-popping fossils from his collection.

Jimmy and I have been discussing a separate case for fossil shark teeth and have been working on other ideas for future displays...focusing on specific sites, such as Pine Hills, Lulu Creek, etc.

We welcome your input on things you'd like to see included in displays and encourage you to lend some fossils for these displays as well. Be assured that you will retain ownership of all fossils you lend.

Russell Brown

P.S. We've been changing out the displays in the club's cases at the schools for about 10 years. We sure could use a break if anyone could help out with those. If your interested, let us know at the meeting or call or email us.

Summer Cook Out and Picnic



Dave Dunaway has graciously agreed to host the annual summer picnic again.

Saturday, July 19th from 1 pm to 5pm.

So be planning what yummy you will bring to share and join us for the delightful company and conversations.

NATURAL HISTORY FESTIVAL!

May 17, Start Time: 10:00 AM & End Time: 5:00 PM

On Saturday MAY 17, 2008 bring the family and join us for our huge Natural History Festival! This family event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will run to 4:00 p.m. There will be a cool Paleo Lab for kids, giveaways, kids activities, fossil and artifact identification, gallery tours and natural history displays. A variety of speakers will give talks throughout the day.

11:00 a.m. - join J. Zach Zacharias, Senior Curator of Education, for a kid-oriented fossil show.

1:00 p.m. - Roger Alexon co-discover of the Giant Ground Sloth, recounts finding the sloth and other discoveries that he's made around Florida.

2:00 p.m. - Mark Renz will speak about his fossil digs and nature photography.

3:00 p.m. - Dr. Acre Pitts, from the University of Florida, will present an Introduction to Florida Butterflies.

Many natural history clubs will have interesting displays, including The Florida Fossil Hunters, Central Florida Shell Club, Halifax Audubon Club, Tomoka Gem and Mineral Club. Don't miss this great event!
Free to members or with paid admission.

Admission is free for this event for all members of the Florida Fossil Hunters.

Directions: I-4 east to exit 260A. Go east on S.R. 400 (Beville Rd). Turn left and go north on Nova Road for one mile to the entrance which will be on the left. The Museum is at 352 S Nova Road, Daytona Beach.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Sun's Movement through Milky Way regularly sends Comets Hurling, Coinciding with Mass Life Extinctions



ScienceDaily (May 2, 2008) — The sun's movement through the Milky Way regularly sends comets hurtling into the inner solar system -- coinciding with mass life extinctions on earth, a new study claims. The study suggests a link between comet bombardment and the movement through the galaxy.

Scientists at the Cardiff Centre for Astrobiology built a computer model of our solar system's movement and found that it "bounces" up and down through the plane of the galaxy. As we pass through the densest part of the plane, gravitational forces from the surrounding giant gas and dust clouds dislodge comets from their paths. The comets plunge into the solar system, some of them colliding with the earth.

The Cardiff team found that we pass through the galactic plane every 35 to 40 million years, increasing the chances of a comet collision tenfold. Evidence from

craters on Earth also suggests we suffer more collisions approximately 36 million years. Professor William Napier, of the Cardiff Centre for Astrobiology, said: "It's a beautiful match between what we see on the ground and what is expected from the galactic record."

The periods of comet bombardment also coincide with mass extinctions, such as that of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Our present position in the galaxy suggests we are now very close to another such period.

While the "bounce" effect may have been bad news for dinosaurs, it may also have helped life to spread. The scientists suggest the impact may have thrown debris containing micro-organisms out into space and across the universe.

Centre director Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe said: "This is a seminal paper which places the comet-life interaction on a firm basis, and shows a mechanism by which life can be dispersed on a galactic scale."

The paper, by Professor Napier and Dr Janaki Wickramasinghe, is to be published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Adapted from materials provided by [Cardiff University](#), via [EurekAlert!](#), a service of AAAS.

A large body of scientific evidence now exists that support the hypothesis that a major asteroid or comet impact occurred in the Caribbean region at the boundary of the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods in Earth's geologic history. Such an impact is suspected to be responsible for the mass extinction of many floral and faunal species, including the large dinosaurs, that marked the end of the Cretaceous period. Credit: Art by Don Davis / Courtesy of NASA)

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 held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm, check the website for the location.

Officers:

President	Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Vice President	Paul Bordenkircher	(407) 687-3843
Secretary		
Treasurer	Sara Morey	(407) 353-8675

Chairs:

Education	Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
Field Trips	Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Fossil Fair	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Fossil Auctions	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Bucks	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil ID Table	Andreas Kerner, intlfossils@msn.com	
Fossil Lotto	Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Auctioneer	Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Historian	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Librarian	Kathy Munroe	(407) 846-7382
Membership	Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
	Joanne Maio	(407) 375-3635
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	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:

Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Jeremy Smith	(407) 293-9391
Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Tom Tomlinson	(407) 290-8474

Membership Application

Names: _____

Associate Members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: Zip: _____

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: elise@liseydreams.com. Articles can be sent as text in the e-mail or in Microsoft Word files (*.doc).

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, May 21st

7:00pm Meeting

Sunday, May 11th

Brevard Zoo Trip

Saturday & Sunday, May 17th & 18th

Vulcan Field Trip

Saturday, June 7th

Gainesville Artifact & Fossil Show

Wednesday, June 18th

6:00pm Kid's Blast and

7:00pm Meeting and fossil buck auction

Saturday, July 19th

Summer Picnic

Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

Articles and comments should be sent to: elise@liseydreams.com

Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404

Orlando, Florida 32854-040



Florida Fossil Hunters News