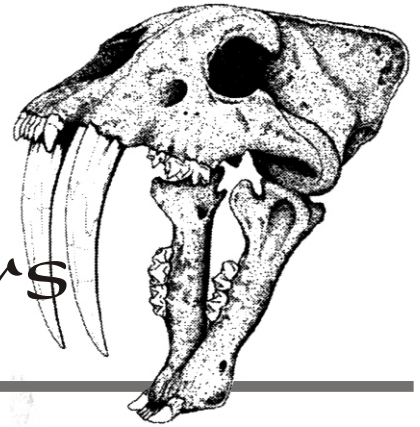


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Volume 15, Number 8

September 2005

Prez Sez.....

Thanks to all of you that brought fossils to look at for the August meeting. We all love to see what people have found during their expeditions.

September's meeting will be a "Get Ready for the Fossil Fair" session. There will be volunteer sign up sheets, T-shirt order forms (bring your money) and lists to submit estimates on donations to the Kids' Dig Pit.

Please bring your sloth, armadillo and glyptodont fossils to the meeting for all to enjoy and so Sharon can see what is available for educational displays for the fair. Even if all you have is a skute or two, we'd love to see them and hear the stories of your discoveries. Half the fun of finding fossils is sharing it with people who are interested in them.

Be sure to pick up enough flyers while you're at the meeting to share with all your friends, relatives and co-workers.

See you there.

Dave Dunaway.

September Meeting will be back at
Robert E. Lee Middle School

Coming Events

September 21st
7:00pm Meeting

October 1st
Black Bear Festival

**Florida Fossil Hunters
2005 Fossil Fair**
October 15th & 16th
Central Florida Fairgrounds
*(See the flyer on page 3 for
more details)*

October 19th
6:00pm Kid's Fossil Blast
7:00pm Meeting

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Fragments

Fossil Online Classes

Scott Marlowe of the Pangea Institute in Winter Haven has a course online on the fossil record in Florida. It began August 22nd but we hope there will be additional courses offered as time goes on.

This course is open to teenagers on up and so is accessible to all of us amateurs.

For more information go to pangeainstitute.us



Orange County Library Information Fair

The Main Library is having an information fair regarding Central Florida history and Geology on Saturday, October 22 from 12 noon to 2 pm. They have invited us to have a table at this event. If you can volunteer to man the table, please let me know. I will be out of town on this date or I would do it.

Bonnie Cronin
352-429-1058
email: bjrb48@netzero.com

7th Annual Black bear Festival

The Florida Black Bear Festival at Umatilla is fun for the whole family. It is also educational. There are even field trips to the Ocala National Forest. There will be entertainment, vendors, a children's arts and crafts pavilion, musicians and storytellers. It is a one day event. Saturday October 1st, from 9am till 4pm.

Florida Fossil Hunters will have a booth there as we have had for several years now. Wiley and myself will be there and we would welcome anyone else to help. Don't forget 100 fossil bucks per hour that you help. And you will have a great time as well, can't beat that!!!!!!!

Hope to see ya at the festival

Sincerely, ben
Cadwell Park, Umatilla, FL
407-679-1426
<http://www.flblackbearfest.org>

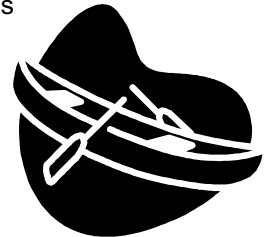
The Florida Museum of Natural History is conducting a major fossil dig this fall at a new site, and is actively seeking volunteers to assist us. Fossil enthusiasts age 16 and older can dig alongside professionals and learn field techniques such as making plaster jackets. The dig will run between October 11 and December 17. It is also very likely that a second dig will be held at the same site next spring, assuming the new site is productive. Information about the dig can be found at the web site http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/2005_dig.htm

We will begin to accept applications on September 15 from individuals. If a club or organization wishes to reserve a number of places for its members on a day or weekend, they should contact me before Sept. 15.

Richard Hulbert, Vertebrate Paleontology Collections Manager, Florida Museum of Natural History
Dickinson Hall, University of Florida
Post Office Box 117800
Gainesville FL 32611-7800 USA
Phone: (352) 392-1721 ext 259 or 392-1721 ext. 252

A Piece on the Peace

Yeah, it's summer aka "monsoon season" so the river is STILL too high. It's been hovering around 11 ft. at the Zolfo Springs gauge for a couple of weeks now. The only good news is it's not above flood stage. All we can do is make sure our equipment is in good shape and keep an eye on the weather.



Kids' Fossil Blast

We had a great turn out for the August Kids' Blast. Thanks to all of you for coming even though you must have been busy with the start of the school year. We had fun checking out the reptile fossils and everyone got to go home with a fossil alligator tooth.

Our next meeting will be Wed., October 19th.

Be sure to go to the Fossil Fair on October 15th and 16th so you can find more fossils to take home in the Kids' Dig Pit.

Have fun at the Fair!

Bonnie Cronin

Fossil Fair 2005

This month's meeting we will be focusing on our theme for the fair. I've prepared some educational displays on Xenarthra. We will preview the materials and talk about them, so that if you get asked questions at the fair, you will know the answers. Valerie and I welcome any suggestions. We want to show you what we have in mind and see what you think. We also have some small projects to work on. If you have any items that show armadillos, sloths or anteaters, please bring them. Hopefully, this will spark some ideas. Does anybody have a labeling machine we could use? - the new kind with clear or white tape where you type in the words. For you long term members - do you know who has the PVC pipes we used to use as seperators for the fair? I'm wanting to see if we could use them for the educational displays I'm planning.

Please let us know approximately how much kid's pit materials you have - JUST TELL US - DON'T BRING IT. We are trying to estimate what we have available. With the river being so high this year, we want to make sure we have enough. Remember you get fossil bucks for your donations. You can bring your saved bags to the meeting.

We need some volunteers to guard the fossils on Friday and Saturday night. Also to help retrieve the display cases and set-up on Friday afternoon. There will be pizza Friday evening for the volunteers who set-up. I'm also looking for an announcer for the silent auction, etc. Roy Singer will be working the front desk.

Dave Cass has graciously agreed once again to set-up the kid's pit and fill it with sand.

Something new we are going to try this year is a Potluck luncheon on both days. The club will provide cups, plates, utensils, coffee and soft drinks and would like everyone to bring a dish of some kind (like we usually do at the picnic and Holiday meeting), or meats, cheese, bread etc. for sandwich fixings. There is only an ice machine in the building, but we can use some large coolers to store perishables. We are planning on putting out a donation jar for the dealers to contribute to the meal. Since most of the dealers are from out of town, it is very hard for them to carry food. There are not many food places close to the fairgrounds and the food at the fairgrounds is only greasy spoon type.

We have all but six tables, either reserved or already paid. We are on track and it looks like we will have a good fair. Hopefully, the magazine article will bring new people to the fair. Don't forget it's the October 4th issue of Florida Travel and Life.

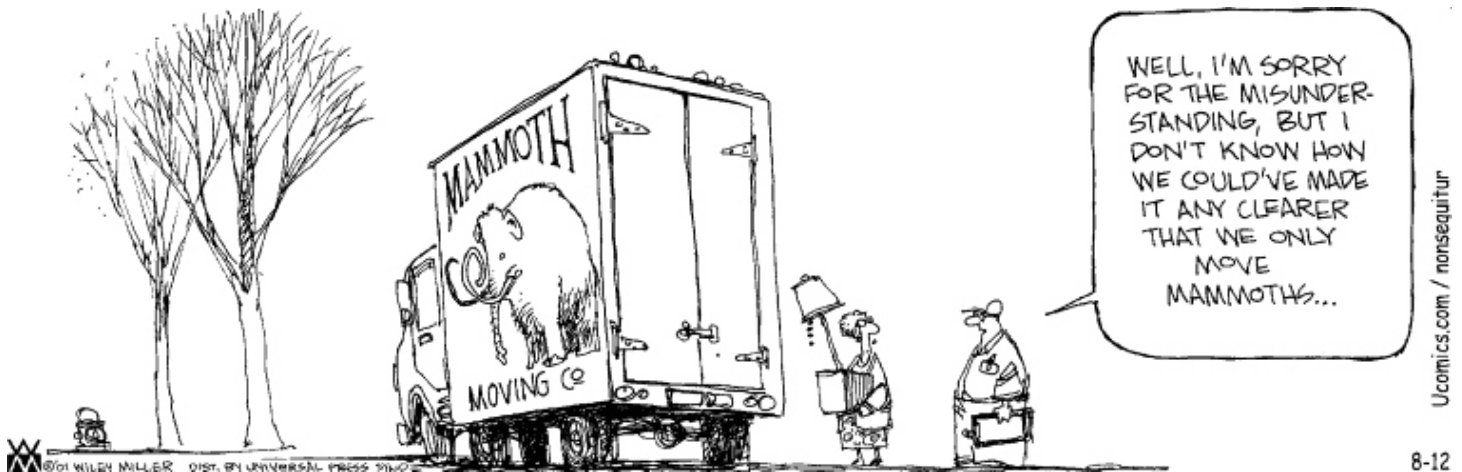
Sharon and Valerie

Fossil Fair T-Shirts

As of this printing - the design is in the works. We anticipate that the price will be the same as last year \$10.00 for regular shiorts and \$12 for shirts with pockets. We'll have order forms at the September Meeting.

Silent Auction Donations

Start collecting your donations for the silent auction: fossils, shells, minerals, toys, books, pictures, etc... You can bring them to the September Meeting or when you come to the fair.





2005 Annual Fossil Fair



Presented by Florida Fossil Hunters

Focusing on the Xenarthra group – Giant Ground Sloths, Armadillos, & Anteaters.



Learn about these amazing prehistoric creatures!
Educational Displays,
Dealers selling fossils, artifacts, gems & minerals, Raffles & Silent Auctions

Kids Dig Pit \$.50
Find your own fossils!

Free Raffle Ticket! Code 963
 Code: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____

 City, ST, Zip Code: _____

 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Oct. 15th & 16th
Central Florida Fairgrounds
Exhibit Building A

Sat—9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sun—10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For Only \$3.00 adult & \$ 1.00 child

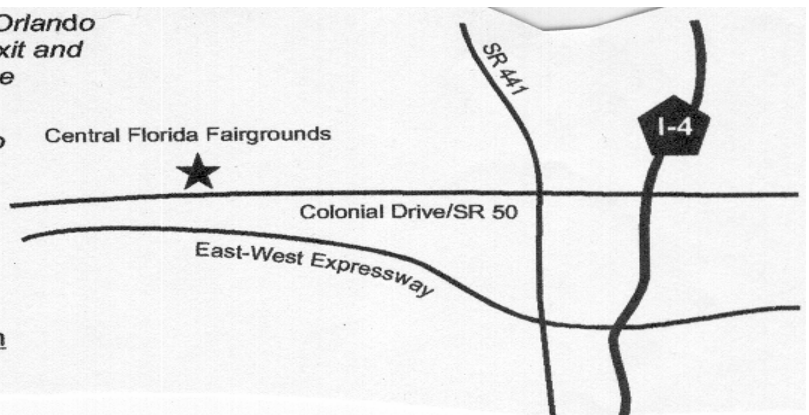
For more information visit:

www.floridafossilhunters.com

From Tampa (I-4) - Take I-4 all the way into Orlando and then take the Colonial Drive (Hwy. 50) exit and go westbound. The fair grounds will be on the right side just past Mercy Drive.

From Daytona (I-4) - Take I-4 all the way into Orlando and then take the Colonial Drive (Hwy. 50) exit and go westbound. The fair grounds will be on the right side just past Mercy Drive.

For more information visit online at www.floridafossilhunters.com or e-mail us at info@floridafossilhunters.com



India's Smoking Gun: Dino-Killing Eruptions



New discoveries about the timing and speed of gigantic, 6500-foot (2-km) thick lava flows that poured out of the ground 65 million years ago could shift the blame for killing the dinosaurs.

The Deccan Traps of India are one of Earth's largest lava flows ever, with the potential of having wreaked havoc with the climate of the Earth - if they erupted and released climate-changing gases quickly enough. French and Indian geologists have now identified a 600-meter

(2000-foot) thick portion of the lava that may have piled up in as little as 30,000 years - fast enough to have possibly caused a deadly global climate shift.

"Our working hypothesis is that the majority of the total volume of lava might have been erupted in only a few major events spread over only a small fraction of millennia," said Anne-Lise Chenet of the Laboratoire de Paleomagnetisme, Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP).

To test that hypothesis, the researchers have combined already known ages of the traps gathered from radiometric dating with magnetic fields frozen in the rocks. Volcanic rocks record information about the Earth's magnetic field with magnetic minerals that align with Earth's field like millions of tiny compasses before the lava cools. When the lava solidifies, the compasses are locked in place.

Lava layers that erupted within two or three centuries of each other will record similar magnetic fields, explains Chenet. Longer than that and the natural changes in Earth's magnetic field start to show up. The team also incorporated information about the lava's chemistry, the way it flowed and piled up and the red weathered soils between lava layers to estimate the timing and number of major volcanic pulses.

All that information points to the 600 meters (2000 feet) of lava pouring out in as little as 30,000 years. This is enough to have possibly released a climate-altering amount of sulfur gases, says Chenet. An estimate of just how much gas is still being worked out.

Chenet is scheduled to present the latest results of the team's work on Wednesday, 10 August, at Earth System Processes 2, a meeting co-convened by the Geological

Society of America and Geological Association of Canada this week in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Chenet and her colleagues' new work on the Deccan Traps is just the latest in a series of discoveries which appear to weaken the case implicating the Chicxulub impact as the primary player in the Cretaceous-Tertiary (K-T) mass extinction.

"As originally proposed by Vincent Courtillot in 1986, the volcanism might be a key player in mass extinctions," said Chenet.

"Research in India has shown the remnants of the impact - iridium in sediments - sandwiched between lava flows, implying that volcanism started before the impact."

In fact, most mass extinctions over the past 300 million years have coincided with large volcanic events, said Chenet. The general rule is that massive volcanism like the Deccan Traps correlates with all major mass extinctions in Earth's history, she said.

"In only one case is there evidence for both volcanism and impact," she said. And that is the K-T mass extinction that ended the reign of the dinosaurs. "Our view is that impact added to the stress already generated by an ongoing massive eruption, enhancing significantly the extent of the extinction, which would however have taken place even if the impact had not occurred."

Wiped out in the K-T mass extinction were 80-90% of marine species and about 85% of land species. All land animals larger than 25 kg (55 lbs) were obliterated.

The Deccan Traps are a huge pile of basaltic lava extending over more than 500,000 square kilometers. Its original volume likely exceeded 2 to 3 million cubic kilometers, says Chenet. The entire volcanic episode that created the traps took place over about one million years. The source of the massive lava flows is thought to have been the surfacing of a plume of hot material from deep in the Earth's mantle.

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, Lee Middle School Cafeteria (Maury Road, two blocks West of Edgewater Drive, Orlando).

Officers:

President	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Vice President	Paul Bordenkircher	(407) 687-3843
Secretary		
Treasurer	Sara Morey	(407) 834-0281

Chairs:

Education	Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
Field Trips	Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Fossil Fair	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
	Sharon Reagan	(407) 246-8848
Fossil Auctions	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Bucks	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil ID Table	Andreas Kerner:	intlfoossils@msn.com
Fossil Lotto	Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Auctioneer	Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Historian	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Librarian	Bob Angell	(407) 277-8978
Membership		
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:

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

Florida Fossil Hunters
Membership Application

Names: _____

Associate Members: _____

Associate members are people in the same household, included at no extra charge, 2 adult votes per household.

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

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 messages in the e-mail or in Microsoft Word files (*.doc).

Where the Bones Are

Thomas R. Holtz, Jr. :: University of Maryland paleontologist

Tom Holtz made his first dino discovery while in grad school. Relaxing on a mound near a dig, he realized the ground was littered with fossilized eggshells, "I was sitting on a nest!" he says. He still loves fieldwork, but notes, "New insights can come from old finds I museum drawers too." Here are his picks for seven places to really bone up on your dinosaurs.

1 Liaoning Province, China As long as 130 million years ago, lots of little dinosaurs lived around a lake here and that lake is key. Rushing rivers tend to break up smaller skeletons, but here even some of the creatures' soft tissue was preserved so well that we now have evidence of feathers and other body coverings.

2 Bahariya Oasis, Egypt The beginning of the late Cretaceous 97 million years ago was an extreme time hot, with high seas for extreme animals. Giants roamed the steamy mangrove swamps: bipedal, sailbacked Spinosaurus and the enormous quadrupedal Paralititan.

3 Alberta, Canada Dinosaur Provincial Park has the highest overall species diversity of any dinosaur site in the world. Bone beds containing hundreds of individuals tell us that late Cretaceous horned and duck-billed dinosaurs were herd animals.

4 San Juan Province, Argentina The late Triassic was the dawn of the age of dinosaurs, and Argentina's Ischigualasto formation offers a window on where they came from 230 million years ago. Some of the oldest dino remains were found here.

5 Ukhaa Tolgod, Mongolia Dinosaur bones can be dark due to groundwater minerals added during fossilization, but in Mongolia's Gobi desert, fossils stayed pale all the better to show off the spectacular preservation of a huge number and variety of late Cretaceous species.

6 Isle of Wight, Great Britain After 176 years of paleontological study, the site is still yielding surprises. It was home to early Cretaceous dinosaurs including Iguanodon. One of the earliest tyrannosaurs was also discovered here.

7 Western US One of the best fossil sites in the United States is the Morrison formation at Dinosaur National Monument, which spans the border between Colorado and Utah. About 150 million years ago, watering holes here attracted big late Jurassic species like Stegosaurus and Apatosaurus.

Mark Your Calendar

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7:00pm Meeting

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Orlando, Florida 32854-040



Florida Fossil Hunters News