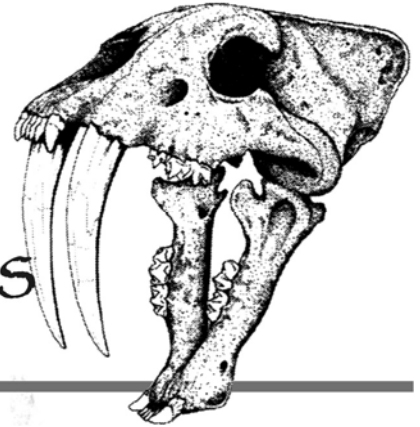


# NEWS

## Florida Fossil Hunters

Volume 17, Number 8

September 2007



### Prez Sez:

Monthly Topic- Bring your echinoids, sand dollars and sea urchins.  
Speaker- Our very own resident paleontologist: Dr. Glynn Hayes will discuss the Brooksville/Vulcan Mine fauna.

The meetings will be on the 2nd floor again in Learning Rooms A and B so park in the parking garage. Look for the signs directing you. We won't meet again in the cafeteria until maybe next summer.

I can't wait for our HOT summer to be over! I hope someone did some collecting. Bonnie will have a sign-up for an October 27th field trip to Vulcan.

Lets volunteer for those Fossil Fair jobs!!!! We will have a signup sheet for bringing food dishes for us at the fair so get cookin

See you at the meeting!  
Shelley Zimmerman

## FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTERS 2007 FOSSIL FAIR Fossils, Rocks, Gems, Minerals, Artifacts

### Oct 13 & 14

Central Florida Fairgrounds  
Sat 9:00AM to 5:00pm — Sun 10:00AM to 4PM

### Coming Events

**September 19, 2007**

7:00pm Meeting  
at the Orlando Science Center

**Florida Fossil Hunters**

**2007 Fossil Fair**

**October 13—14, 2007**

**October 17, 2007**

6:00pm Kids' Blast  
7:00pm Meeting  
at the Orlando Science Center

**November 2007**

Meeting date tba

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# Florida Fossil Hunters News

# Fragments

## **Florida Paleontological Society, Fall Meeting 2007**

The Society will hold its fall meeting the second weekend in November in Bradenton, Florida.

### Friday, Nov. 9th:

6:00 to 8:00 pm - South Florida Museum and Parker Aquarium, 201 - 10th Street West. Wine and cheese reception with museum tours and exhibits

### Saturday, Nov. 10th:

8:30 am to 1:30 pm - Field trip to nearby shell quarry (to participate you must be an FPS member in good standing and at least 18 yr. old)

3:00 pm Business meeting (location TBA)

6:00 to 9:00 pm - Mattison's Riverside, buffet style dinner, speaker (TBA), and auction

### Sunday, Nov. 11th:

"Child-friendly" field trip, (if possible) TBA

You can get more info on the Society at

[www.flmnh.ufl.edu](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu)

**Classifieds-** Ladies scuba wet suits and fins for sale size 5/6, fins size 7 call Shelley at (407) 891-1260.

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS-** Issue to be voted on Do we want to spend club funds on developing a fossil identification web page data base in conjunction with the other 3 fossil clubs in Florida? Approximately 100 bones per animal would be photographed and put on the web at a cost of \$20 per bone if we pay someone to do it. There will be a photography workshop at the Univ. of FL to teach us the set-up. Then all photos can be taken there with the same equipment for a uniform appearance, by a club member, to save costs. A member must volunteer their time and personal funds to go there and do the work. Our own personal skeletons can be used or we can retrieve bones from the University collection. The Lee County club came up with the idea and will be testing the system out by doing an alligator. You could go the web site and click on an animal and then each bone to try to identify your specimen.

**Field trips-** Stay tuned for a fall Venice dive boat trip for meg teeth and the FPS trip is scheduled for November.

### **Florida Fossil Permits**

There is now a link on our website to take you directly to the permit application on the Florida Museum of Natural History's website. Richard Hulbert, who now is in charge of the permit program, would like to remind everyone to submit a photocopy of your ID with your application.

## **Piece on the Peace**

Can you believe it? The Peace River is still below 5 ft. at the Zolfo Station. This means another month is available for all of us die-hard fossil hunters to find that elusive once-in-a-lifetime fossil that we've all dreamed of. Okay, even if you don't find something that makes the news headlines, it's still a lot of fun to dig in the Peace and find those relics from the distant past while enjoying the beauty of nature. *Get out and do it.*

## **Dinosaurs Could Stop and Smell the Flowers.....**

Well, at least orchids if not roses. There has been a long debate over how far back in time that orchids evolved from 26 mya to 112 mys. Proponents of the older age pointed to how widespread the orchids are around the world, their incredible diversity and their kinship with the ancient asparagus family.

Their arguments have been furthered by the discovery of a piece of amber with a bee inside that was found to have orchid pollen on its back. Using the molecular clock method analysis, researchers estimate that the orchid family was fairly young at the end of the Cretaceous, 65 mya.

The bee in its amber itself has been dated between 15 to 20 mya and was found in the Dominican Republic.

## **The Bigger They Are.....**

A recent study done recently by the Division of Basic Sciences at Midwestern University has concluded that insects were so much larger 300 million years ago because there was 31 to 35 percent more oxygen in the atmosphere.

Insects breathe through air filled tubes on their bodies, especially on their legs, that get oxygen directly to their cells. In modern insects the larger the insect, the larger the tubes. However on fossil insects from 300 mya, the tubes are not substantially larger and given their huge size this must mean there had to be more oxygen available.

## **Kids' Fossil Blast**

Join us October 17, 2007 for the next Kids Fossil Blast. 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 pm check the website for the location.

# FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTERS 2007 FOSSIL FAIR

## Fossils, Rocks, Gems, Minerals, Artifacts

Learn to dig Florida and see what can be discovered!

Educational displays, vendors,  
silent auctions, raffles, Kids Dig Pit \$1.00

## Oct 13 & 14

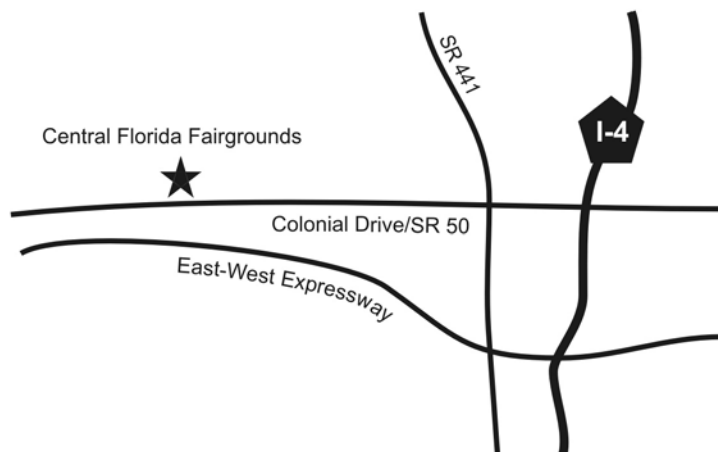
Central Florida Fairgrounds  
4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

Sat 9:00AM to 5:00pm - - Sun 10:00AM to 4PM  
\$3/ Adult & \$1/child

### Directions:

From Tampa: I-4 to Colonial Drive (Hwy 50) exit.  
Go west on 50 just past Mercy Drive. Central Florida  
Fairgrounds is on the north side (on the right).

From Daytona: I-4 to Colonial Dr (Hwy 50) in Orlando.  
Go west on 50 just past Mercy Drive. Central Florida  
Fairgrounds is on the north side (on the right).



## Member Fair Info

There will be more fossil and mineral dealers this year...*in fact, we've had to move the fair to one of the larger buildings at the Central Florida Fairgrounds.*

If you haven't signed up yet to volunteer, there will be sheets to **sign up at the September meeting** or you can email Valerie First (vjfirst@aol.com) or call her at 407-6999274. We'll need people at the admission table, kids' dig pit, silent auction, membership table and some folks to lead groups (such as boy scouts) around the fossil fair giving additional information about fossils, prehistoric animals, etc. We'll also need **help to set things up on Friday**, Oct. 12th and to pack things up on Sunday after the Fair closes.

Be sure you pass out fair flyers (they can be picked up at the meeting or downloaded from the website), tell all your friends, and post signs/flyers where you can.

We'll **need donated fossils** for the Kids' Dig Pit; fossils, minerals and related items for the Silent Auction; and some highly desirable fossils, minerals or replicas for the raffle.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting for food items to be brought to the fair as well.

*Don't miss out on the FUN!*

www.floridafossilhunters.com  
407-699-9274

# Florida Fossil Hunters News

# Sea urchins

The earliest known echinoids are found in the rock of the upper part of the Ordovician period, and they have survived to the present day, where they are a successful and diverse group of organisms. In well-preserved specimens the spines may be present, but usually only the test is found. Sometimes isolated spines are common as fossils. Some echinoids (such as *Tylocidaris clavigera*, which is found in the Cretaceous period Chalk Formation of England) had very heavy club-shaped spines that would be difficult for an attacking predator to break through and make the echinoid awkward to handle. Such spines are also good for walking on the soft sea-floor.



Complete fossil echinoids from the Paleozoic era are generally rare, usually consisting of isolated spines and small clusters of scattered plates from crushed individuals. Most specimens occur in rocks from the Devonian and Carboniferous periods. The shallow water limestones from the Ordovician and Silurian periods of Estonia are famous for the echinoids found there. The Paleozoic echinoids probably inhabited relatively quiet waters. Because of their thin test, they would certainly not have survived in the turbulent wave-battered coastal waters inhabited by many modern echinoids today. During the upper part of the Carboniferous period, there was a marked decline in echinoid diversity, and this trend continued into the Permian period. They neared extinction at the end of the Paleozoic era, with just six species known from the Permian period. Only two separate lineages survived the massive extinction of this period and into the Triassic: the genus *Miocidaris*, which gave rise to the modern cidaroids (pencil urchins), and the ancestor that gave rise to the euechinoids. By the upper part of the Triassic period, their numbers began to increase again. The

cidaroids have changed very little since their modern design was established in the Late Triassic and are today considered more or less as living fossils. The euechinoids, on the other hand, diversified into new lineages throughout the Jurassic period and into the Cretaceous period, and from them emerged the first irregular echinoids (superorder *Atelostomata*) during the early Jurassic, and when including the other superorder (*Gnathostomata*) or irregular urchins which evolved independently later, they now represent 47% of all present species of echinoids thanks to their adaptive breakthroughs in both habit and feeding

strategy, which allowed them to exploit habitats and food sources unavailable to regular echinoids. During the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras the echinoids flourished. While most echinoid fossils are restricted to certain localities and formations, where they do occur, they are quite often abundant. An example of this is *Enallaster*, which may be collected by the thousands in certain outcrops of limestone from the Cretaceous period in Texas. Many fossils of the Late Jurassic *Plesiocidaris* still have the spines attached.

Some echinoids, such as *Micraster* which is found in the Cretaceous period Chalk Formation of England and France, serve as zone or index fossils. Because they evolved rapidly over time, such fossils are useful in enabling geologists to date the rocks in which they are found. However, most echinoids are not abundant enough and may be too limited in their geographic distribution to serve as zone fossils.

The order of clypeasteroids arose in the early Tertiary and is the newest branch on the echinoid tree.

# Vulcan Mine Field Trip

When: Saturday, October 27th. Meet at the entrance near US 98 at 8:30 am to fill out and sign the releases before we go into the mine. We'll probably dig until around noon. No one is permitted to drive in or out of the mine without an employee of Vulcan escorting the group.

Directions: From Orlando take Hwy. 50 west into Brooksville. Turn right onto US 98 and go north approximately 10 miles. Vulcan Mine will be on your left. For those of you using a GPS, the address is 16301 Ponce De Leon Blvd.

What we find: echinoids, sea urchins, chert (the rock that the Indians used to make their stone tools), shell molds, and the occasional shark teeth or pieces of bone.

This surface collecting and shallow digging.

You will need: buckets, small containers and cushioning for fragile fossils, trowels or small shovels or rock hammers. Wear surdy shoes, hats, and gloves. Bring water, drinks, food and sunscreen. You might also want to bring a change of shoes and clothing in case you get muddy.

Children are permitted and most of them love the experience of the mine as well as the fun of fossil hunting. They must however be under adult supervision at all times. This is a working mine and there are large trucks moving at great speeds as well as the dangers of steep sided embankments, sharp rocks and sinkholes.

There will be a sign up sheet at the September and October meetings. There is no cost for this field trip but you must be a member of the fossil club. For additional information or to sign up, email Bonnie Cronin at [bjrb48@netzero.com](mailto:bjrb48@netzero.com) or call 352/429-1058 or 321/279-2592.

## WORDS

### Stupid Science Word

In 1985, the christeners of a new genus of 15-million-year-old 30-foot-long fossil python they called *Montypythonoides* said the new slitherer "was found on a small hill, or monty." They got away with it, but not for long. "Everybody who has a pet python calls it Monty," says paleontologist John Scanlon of the Riversleigh Fossil Centre in Queensland, Australia.

The name was short-lived anyhow. More fossils, such as a toothed jawbone fragment (left), unearthed in the following decades forced a reclassification of the fossil into an already existing genus, dooming the joke to oblivion. Still, the former British comedy troupe lives on in posterity: Each of the six members has an eponymous asteroid, and a living species of long-legged, woolly lemur commemorates one of the troupe's founders, John Cleese (Avahi cleesei).

### Were did the word hurricane come from?

The word "hurricane" is derived from "Hurican," the Carib god of evil. "Hurican" in turn is derived from the Mayan god "Hurakan," who blew his breath across water and destroyed a town with a great storm and flood.

From **Ask Tom Terry**,  
Chief meteorologist, WFTV-  
Channel 9  
Orlando Sentinel

*A true story and an early Halloween tale-*

# "A Haunted Fossil Hunter"

Shelley Zimmerman

While reading a book on local ghosts I came across this story about one of our very own fossil hunters!

A frightening incident involving physical contact happened to Joanne Maio, an Orlando resident who lives in an old house built in 1927. Her grandfather bought the house in 1941, the family has lived there ever since.

She grew up in the house and her children were born while she lived there. She inherited the house in the 90's and moved back in.

She was on the upper level of a floor with many doorways connecting to a central hallway. Joanne was unpacking upstairs when she felt the presence of a very angry woman with black hair watching her.

She felt the presence wanted her to leave when all of a sudden she "felt it run across the room like a cannon ball." She felt the force hit her and knock her off kilter for a few seconds. She knew she had to leave the room but refused to leave screaming because she could not let the force take control. She turned off the lights and the thing hit her again. She tried to go down stairs but it pushed her down the hall, she grabbed a railing while it continued to push her and finally she regained her balance.

The family prayed to get rid of the spirit and it seemed to work. The final episode included the doors in the upper hall slamming shut. She checked but nothing seemed moved so she put books against the open doors and again after the slamming nothing was moved. It wasn't evil, more like a poltergeist thing. Finally Joanne had enough and went upstairs and screamed, "Stop it!" "Stop the slamming!". It stopped but when she went downstairs she heard one last door deliberately slammed. She compared it to a little child sticking its tongue out after being punished. That was the last incident they had.

Joanne always said she lived in a real haunted house, not one that just looked like it was!

# 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	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
Fossil Auctions	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Bucks	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil ID Table	Andreas Kerner, <a href="mailto:intfossils@msn.com">intfossils@msn.com</a>	
Fossil Lotto	Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Auctioneer	Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Historian	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Librarian	Kathy Munroe	
Membership	Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
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
	<a href="mailto:elise@liseydreams.com">elise@liseydreams.com</a>	

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

# Mark Your Calendar

*September 19, 2007: 7:00pm Meeting at the Orlando Science Center*

*Florida Fossil Hunters, 2007 Fossil Fair  
October 13—14, 2007*

**October 17, 2007**

*6:00pm Kids' Blast*

*7:00pm Meeting at the Orlando Science Center*

**November 9-11:** Florida Paleontological Society, Fall Meeting

**November 2007**

Meeting date tba

Visit our website [www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

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

Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404

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Florida Fossil Hunters News