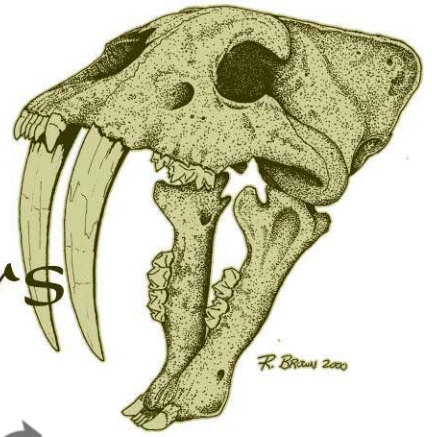


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 26, Number 5

May 2016

From the President.....

Welcome new members and all you fossil-hunting enthusiasts. Summer is on the way with hotter and hotter days. The only cure is a trip to the Peace River.... now if only I had time. Have you got time? Get together and plan your trip today. There are plenty of club members wanting to go but they don't want to go by themselves. "Chat" on Facebook or meet your fellow members at one of our meetings or events.

Events like the "Women in Paleontology" this Saturday. Cindy Lockner is still waiting to hear from you for a women-only "float-down" Peace River trip.

Come out and join us at Vulcan Mine, Saturday, May 14th. We'll hunt for fossils and grill some food. Bring a dish (salad, dessert, snack food, fruit, etc.). We'll have a great time. Email or call Bonnie- bonnierussell62@gmail.com or [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058) to sign up so we can bring enough hot dogs and fixin's.

Join Dave Dunaway May 21st for a walk-in fossil hunt in the Peace River. Meet him at the Wauchula boat ramp near the bridge. (More info inside the newsletter.) Call him if you have questions (his number is listed on the officers' page).

The club will not be meeting at the Science Center in June and July. I encourage you to get out and go digging and have some adventures.

June 18th Dave Dunaway will host a cookout at his house. Believe me, there is no place like Dave's. He's got cool collections, a swimming pool, an 1890 style Fort crammed with all kinds of old stuff, a chicken house, etc..... Bring the kids and your camera. Again we ask attendees to bring some food for the cookout (club provides the hot dogs/hamburgers and fixin's) Let us know if you are coming so we can have enough food.

I'm sorry to have missed last month's guest speaker and new member, Frank Logiudice. I look forward to having him speak to the club again. Thank you for your time and welcome to the club, Frank.

As a side note - Bonnie & I finally got a day to volunteer at Montbrook, one of the FL. Museum of Natural History's dig sites. It was a wonderful experience and for all those over 16 years of age, I highly recommend that you check it out for yourselves. I had uncovered an alligator skull in the section I was working in so I had to take another day off of work so I could finish prepping it for a plaster jacket. Now that it's getting dog-hot, the sites will close up until Fall when cooler weather returns.

Hope to see you soon.

Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

June: Cookout pg 3

July: No Meeting

August 20th
2pm Kid's Fossil Blast
3pm Meeting

More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Meetings

Our Next Club Meeting is August 20th

Summer Club Activities

Check out the Peace River Field trip to the right and page 3 for more information about our summer activities: the Vulcan Mine Fossil Hunt & Cookout May 14th and the Summer Fossil Club Cookout at Dave's on June 18th.

Join Us May 21st,
for a Peace River
Field Trip

Fossil & Mineral Shows

OSC Fossil Fest 2016

Working with our friends at the Orlando Science Center, we're planning a Fossil Fest September 10th. This is an educational event with lots of extra displays, hands-on experiences, and mini-lectures. This will be a golden opportunity for our club to do outreach to the public plus advertising for our Fossil Fair, National Fossil Day at the Bradenton Museum, and OSC's Neanderthal Ball. These outreach to the public events are a large part of what our club is about, so - like always - I'll be asking for members to volunteer. A definite date and more info will come later.

VULCAN MINE

MAY 14th See page 3 & 6
for more details.

Kids' Fossil Blast

Since we have no meetings in June or July, our next kids' program will be on Aug. 20th before our regular meeting. I'll have more info in the August newsletter.

Kids can join us at the Vulcan Mine cookout on May 14th, too.

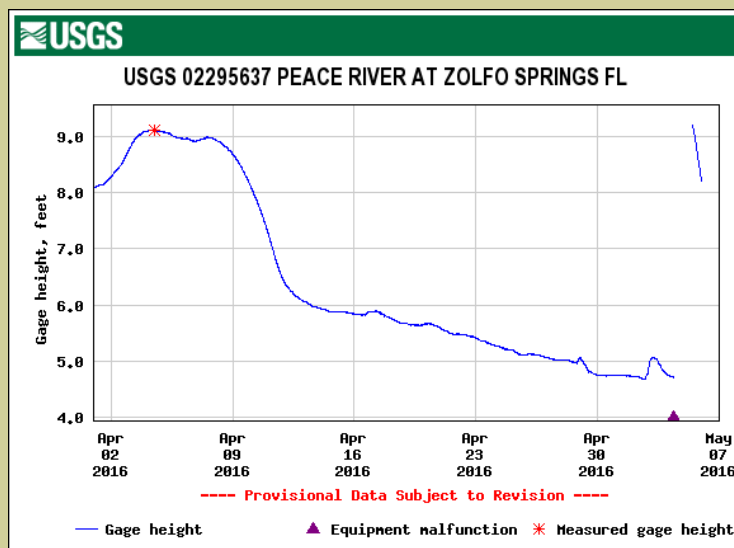
Piece on the Peace River

The water level is nice and low. Hope it stays that way for a couple weeks. Dave Dunaway will be down at the Wauchula canoe launch ramp on Saturday, May 21st for a walk-in and fossil hunt on the Peace River.

Bring your gear: sifter with noodles attached as floats, shovel, fanny pack for small fossils and a bucket for the big stuff. Also bring a hat, sunscreen, wear old tennis shoes or dive boots (no sandals.. there are sharp rocks and people have lost sandals in the current), drinks, food, etc.

Directions: Hwy. 17 south from Bartow. Continue south to Wauchula. Turn left onto Main St. Go east approx. 1 to 2 mi. Before the bridge is an entrance to Crews Park on the left. The park is on the north side of the bridge. We usually park the vehicles in the park and walk downriver under the bridge to the shallow areas. The GPS listed on the canoe map is: N 27.5507, W -81.7936

Check the water level before you go or call Dave at [407-786-8844](tel:407-786-8844) the night before to make sure it's still a go.



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Women in Paleontology 2016 Girls Participate

Girls and Ladies.... It's time to share what you've found and learned.

Bring your fossils to the Women in Paleontology event on Saturday, May 7th from 10 am to 4 pm.

(if you can only do part of the day, that's okay) Show people what you've accomplished.

Just call or email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or 352-429-1058, to let her know you will be displaying your fossils and we'll reserve space for you. You could be the example that inspires another girl.

Cindy Lockner is spearheading the event, so contact her at clockner@comcast.net to sign-up to volunteer, or you can email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com

We hope to make this event as fantastic as last year's.

Summer Fossil Club Cookout, June 18th

Dave Dunaway has offered to host a cookout at his house on Saturday, June 18th from 9 am to 3 pm. For those of you who haven't been to his house before, you're in for a rare treat. He has chickens, a pool, fossil displays, and a replica fort in his backyard. It is awesome!

Please bring a dish to share: salad, fruit, desserts, etc. The club will provide the makings for hot dogs and hamburgers.

Directions: I-4 to the SR 434 exit. Go east on 434 to Markham Woods Rd.. Turn right and go north on Markham Woods to the traffic light. Turn right onto EE Williamson Rd. Turn right at the first road (Ferne Dr.) His house will be on the end on the left: 600 Ferne Dr., Longwood, 32779

May 14th: Vulcan Mine Club Fossils & Cookout

We will go to Vulcan as usual but add a lunch cookout. Club will provide hot dogs and the fixings, plates, utensils, etc. Please bring your own drinks (no alcohol) and a dish or snack food to share. You'll want to bring a chair to sit on while you eat. Sign up so we can know how much food to buy.

Email bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call 352-429-1058. We will be hunting away from the other groups so there should be plenty of fossils to find.

World Sea Turtle Day Celebration

Jun 4th 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Florida Museum - 3215 Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611
SW 34th Street and Hull Road

Celebrate World Sea Turtle Day with the Sea Turtle Conservancy! Children and families are invited to tour the Museum's sea turtle exhibit with staff from the Sea Turtle Conservancy. The free event features sea turtle specimens, a turtle library and stickers and bookmarks for all kids. Children also may create fun crafts to take home, meet sea turtle scientists and play turtle trivia for a chance to win a cool prize.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to speak with researchers from the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at UF about sea turtle conservation and careers in marine biology.

- See more at: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/sea-turtle/#sthash.PdNIxnVb.dpuf>



Florida Fossil Hunters News

First North American monkey fossils are found in Panama Canal excavation



Seven fossil teeth exposed by the Panama Canal expansion project are the first evidence of a monkey on the North American continent before the Isthmus of Panama connected it to South America 3.5 million years ago. A team including Carlos Jaramillo, staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), published this discovery online in the journal, *Nature* today. They named the new monkey species *Panamacebus transitus* in honor of Panama and the monkey's movement across the ancient seaway that divided North and South America.

The 21 million-year-old teeth were found in the Las Cascadas Formation during a five-year intensive fossil salvage project by field crews from STRI, the University of Florida and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. Most of the mammal groups represented in the Las Cascadas formation have North American origins, despite the fact that South America is much closer, supporting the idea that Central America and western Panama represented a long peninsula extending south from North America.

During the salvage project, researchers rushed in behind engineers as they dynamited the steep canal banks. The researchers collected exposed fossils and described each location before heavy rains and fast-growing vegetation obscured evidence of the dramatic tectonic events that lifted the land bridge out of the sea to connect North and South America.

"I asked my boss for a million dollars to dig a hole in

the ground," said Jaramillo. "Then the Panamanian people voted for the Panama Canal Authority to spend \$5.6 billion dollars to expand the Canal and unlocked a treasure trove for us, containing this new monkey species and many other fossils."

"We suggest that *Panamacebus* was related to the capuchin (also known as "organ-grinder" monkeys) and squirrel monkeys that are found in Central and South America today," said Jonathan Bloch, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Florida Museum of Natural History on the University of Florida campus and lead author on the study. "Prior to this discovery, New World monkeys were thought to have evolved in isolation on South America, cut-off from North America by a wide seaway."

Before the monkey teeth were discovered, the oldest evidence of movement of a mammal from South to North America are 8.5--9 million-year-old fossil remains of giant sloths. The authors of this report suggest two explanations: 1) that mammals from South America were more adapted to life in the South American derived forests still found in Panama and Costa Rica than to other forest types characteristic of Northern Central America or 2) that the lack of exposed fossil deposits throughout Central America means that evidence of these dispersals has yet to be revealed.

For more info, go to:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/04/160420151548.htm#.VyuB4jMaucE.email>

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Montbrook Fossil Site by Rus Ahlgrim

The Montbrook fossil site near Williston Florida is one of two sites being excavated and studied by the vertebrate paleontology department of the Florida Museum of Natural History. The other site is the Thomas Farm site that is regarded as having the richest source of Miocene mammal fossils in the Eastern US. The Montbrook site was first discovered by the land owners who cleared some trees on their property and excavated some of the ground. The daughter of the owner is said to have found some bones that were unearthed and assumed that she discovered a dinosaur. The University of Florida and the Florida Museum of Natural History were contacted and determined the bones to belong to an elephant from the Miocene Epoch (23 to 5.3 million years ago). During the later Miocene Florida was exposed as dry land due to geologic uplift. This gave way to Florida having a large variety of land mammals to wander our state. While Florida has a great representations of Miocene fossils, it is also known as the best source for Pleistocene mammals in the world. The fossil site at Montbrook is dated as a late Hemphillian (pronounced hemp-hill-i-an) site; 5.7 to 4.75 million years old. This is named after the fauna found during this time period. The stratigraphic name Hemphillian was first coined by Reed and Longnecker for Hemphill County in Texas. It was chosen for this land mammal age due to the largely studied vertebrate fossils found in this county. Hemphillian time periods are divided into four subintervals beginning at 9 million years ago.

I contacted Dr. Richard Hulbert, the Vertebrate Paleontology Collections Manager, and volunteered to assist at the site. I have never dug at an organized 'professional' site before and was not sure what to expect. As I arrived I found the excavation of a hole about 20 feet deep and 100 feet across. Dug into the ground were several layers, each divided into 4 foot sections and marked out by red flags. I was assigned to my own

section and given some professional paleontology tools; a screwdriver and a plastic bucket. I was to unearth about a handful of ground at a time. Then sift through this compacted sand with my fingers and look for anything of substance or having that familiar brown fossil color. The leftover sand was put into the bucket and each time when full dumped into the spoil pile across the way. I was lucky to have a plot rich in fossils. The first fossil found was a large toe bone from an elephant, possibly an amabelodon. This was a relative to modern elephants that weighed in at 22,000 lbs and was as large as a mammoth. Specimens found here include other gomphothere, rhino, llama, horse and some carnivores.

There are also turtles, lots of turtles. Layers of earth are removed at about 4 inches at a time. As fossils are unearthed the fossil material is kept together. Large pieces of turtle shell are found and left in place while the area around it is carefully removed to expose the rest of the broken shell. A long bone is found in several pieces and bagged together to keep it separate from the rest of the find. Assorted leg bones, toe bones, fish bones and many unrecognized bones are all carefully placed in bags and containers for later study. The fossils from each area are kept separate from the rest of the site so that they are logged in according to depth and location. This is long tedious work and must be performed slowly and methodically. As a fossil lover it can be very fulfilling to find and identify these lost fauna of central Florida. I will be returning to this site soon to continue this work.



The Montbrook site has been active since November of 2015 and work will be completed on May 13, 2016. The Thomas Farm site will only be worked from April 4 through April 8.



Note from editor: The Montbrook site might have a Fall dig season, so check with the Florida Museum of Natural History for dates to volunteer later this year.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

FOSSILS & COOKOUT

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville
Saturday, May 14th

FIELD TRIP LEADER

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

Trip Leader: Bonnie Cronin
email bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Home Phone: 352-429-1058

(Cell phone for day of trip only: [321-279-5183](tel:321-279-5183).)

Do not text or leave a message on the cell phone)

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

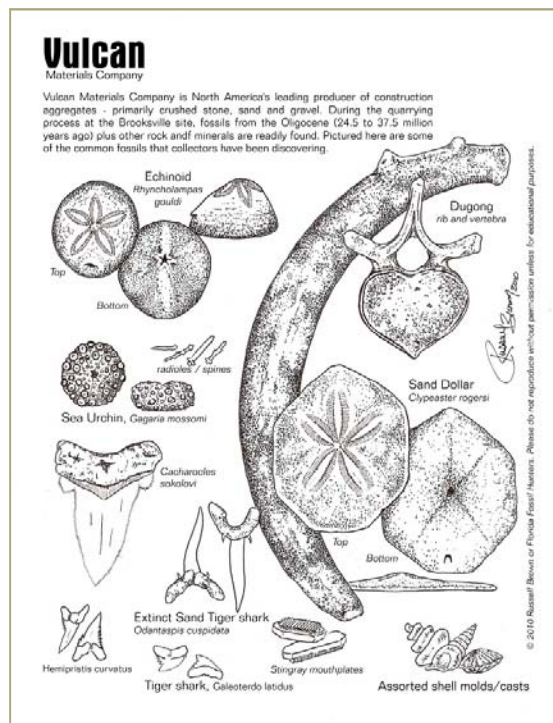
into and out of the mine. Do not leave on your own since it is easy to become lost.

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.

JOIN US
May 14th

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

Membership Application

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	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:

Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	

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**

Names: _____

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

Saturday, May 7th
Women in Paleontology
at OSC 10am - 4pm

Saturday, May 14th
Vulcan Mine - Fossils & Cookout

Saturday, May 21st
Peace River Fossil Hunt
(river level permitting)

Saturday, June 18th
Summer Cookout at
Dave Dunaway's

Saturday, Aug. 20th
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting

Save the dates:

OSC Fossil Fest

September 10th

National Fossil Day

October 1st

Fossil Fair

October 15th & 16th

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