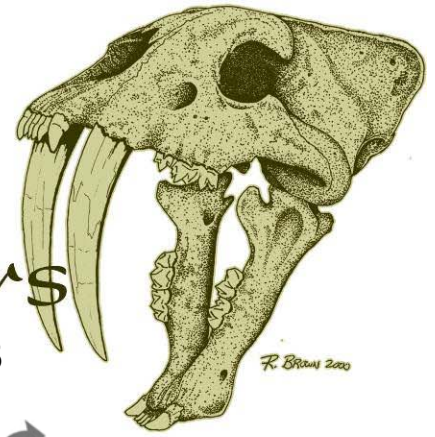


# NEWS

## Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters  
Volume 28, Number 3

March 2018

### From the desk of the President.....

Greetings, Everyone.

Hope all is well with you and yours. There is plenty of fossil collecting going on. Peace River is low and collecting is easy. If you have the time, go down and enjoy the thrill of finding new treasures and Florida's great outdoors. V.P. Steve Sharpe goes regularly so try to hook up with him. Sheila is trying to line-up a club trip.... more on that at the March meeting.

A lot of the fossil and mineral clubs are having fossil shows/events. The fossil layers on the tables are at just the right height for easy hunting. Also you can learn a lot by checking out all the cool stuff the vendors bring in.

Brevard Zoo has the Dino Exhibit for a little longer. Our club participated in their Paleo weekend last month. A BIG thanks goes out to the members who helped out at the event. Valerie First, Steve Sharpe, and Salvatore Sansone had a terrific setup for the guests to look at and learn about Florida's animals of the past. Chris DeLorey sends a thank you, too.

As always, FLMNH has many Paleo events going on. Check out their website for activities. ([www.flmnh.ufl.edu](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu)) Plus the Montbrook dig is going strong with new discoveries being made almost everyday. Sign up to volunteer to learn the tricks of the trade and experience the real excitement of discovery. The hot weather will be here before we know it and the site will close down for the summer.

April brings Earth Day celebrations throughout Florida. Volunteer at the event on Sunday, April 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm at Lake Lotus Park in Altamonte Springs. Salvatore Sansone will have a mineral display for the Central FL Gem & Mineral Club and fossils for the Florida Fossil Hunters. He'll need some folks to help tell the guests about the wonders of Florida and you get fossil bucks!

Bonnie & I have been invited to Valencia College's event on Thursday, Apr. 5th. I'm sure there are other venues that have our members telling the public about fossils and Florida's past. Be sure and let us know about them so you can get credit AND fossil bucks for doing outreach.

It's the participation in meetings, digs and other club activities that can earn you "Fossil Bucks". The more you attend, the more bucks you earn for future auctions. This is the way we reward members for the time and work involved in the club. I am aware that some members feel left behind and unable to attend because of schedule conflicts or things that happen in our busy lives. But like work, if I don't show up, I don't get paid. There are other ways to earn the bucks: write articles (I believe Bonnie's only received about 5 articles in the last 10 years), coordinate digs, set up a speaker for our meetings, etc. Get involved and fatten up your "fossil buck wallet". My personal schedule keeps me busier than a 3-legged cat covering poop in a rain storm, and it's getting busier every day. So if you REALLY want some fossil bucks, become the President or newsletter editor.

Hope you get the opportunity to get out and enjoy the great Florida outdoors.  
Russell Brown, President

### Coming Events

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

**Saturday, March 17th**

*Kids' Fossil Blast— cancelled*  
See page 2 for more info  
3 PM - Meeting

**Saturday, April 21st**  
FFH Meeting

*More events listed on back page*  
For more info...

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

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**It's Time to Renew  
for 2018**  
Still only \$17 a year.



# Florida Fossil Hunters News

# Fragments

## Mark you calendars...

Florida Fossil Hunters' 2018 Fossil Fair will be on Florida Fossil Hunters' 2018 Fossil Fair will be on October 20th/21st or on Nov. 3rd/4th. We'll let you know as soon as the date is set with the Fairgrounds.

## Time to Renew

We hope that the Florida Fossil Hunters is part of your adventures for 2018. Please fill out the renewal application on the website or on page 6 and get it to us with (yes, still only \$17 per household) check. Mailing address: P.O. Box 540404, Orlando, FL 32854-0404.

## Dinosaurs at the Brevard Zoo

Five years after their last appearance, dinosaurs are making a return to Brevard Zoo for a positively primeval family experience. Among the 16 lifelike, life-sized animatronic figures are the cunning Utahaptor, a pair of spitting Dilophosaurus and - the king himself - Tyrannosaurus rex. The trail culminates at the interactive Dinosaur Discovery Center, where guests can uncover a replica Tyrannosaurus skeleton, touch real fossils and watch volunteers prepare specimens collected by Zoo staff in Montana. "Our goal is to illustrate that everything we know about dinosaurs comes from the scientific process," said Chris DeLorey, the Zoo's director of education programs. "Because we can't observe dinosaurs firsthand, we rely on the evidence they left behind to draw conclusions about how they lived. The exhibit, which is not included with general Zoo admission, runs from Saturday, November 18 to Monday, April 30, 2018 and will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. An upcharge of \$4 applies to each guest ages three and older. More information is available at [www.dinosaireback.com](http://www.dinosaireback.com).

Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 180 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at [www.brevardzoo.org](http://www.brevardzoo.org).

# Kids' Fossil Blast

The club is suspending the kids' programs before the meetings. There have been fewer kids attending - mostly just one or two each program.

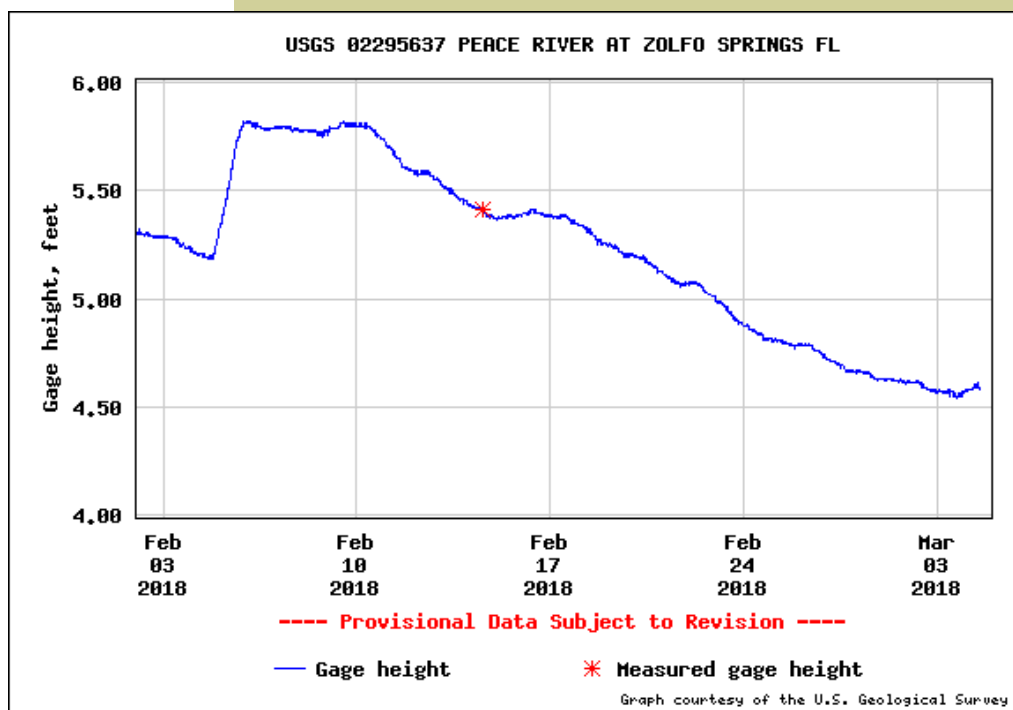
If someone else wants to take it over and even change the format, just let us know.

## Piece on the Peace

Grab your shovel & sifter, the season for fossil hunting is here and the water feels fine... after you get used to it.

The high water of the past year have tumbled the fossils around so what were dug out spots have fossils again. It's a great way to spend the day: enjoying the bird songs and expanding your mind.

Be sure to bring anything you've found to the meeting. We really like seeing all the incredible fossils.



# Florida Fossil Hunters News

## Montbrook Fossil Dig

The Montbrook Site is very productive and almost all volunteers will find some fossil specimens on their first day. The most commonly found fossils are bones from the shell of freshwater turtles and vertebrae, spines, scales, and skull bones of fish, including gar, catfish, snook, and drum. Fossils of alligator, birds, and mammals are also found, but less frequently.

- **Volunteers must be at least 15 years old.** Volunteers age 15 to 17 will be accepted but must be accompanied by an adult sibling (18+ years old), or a parent or guardian.
- Volunteers must be **physically fit** enough to work outdoors for several hours and be able to walk up and down irregular slopes. Be aware that the site is in direct sunlight and sandy. We will have a porta-potty at the site.
- Volunteers can work just a single day, a few days, or a regular schedule one or more times per week. There is no limit to the number of times a volunteer can work at the site.
- Volunteers are more than welcome to drive themselves or carpool to meet us at the fossil site. We can sometimes drive about 5 volunteers in the museum van but we need to plan this in advance.

Digging has begun! We will dig 5 days per week, Wednesdays thru Sundays. The last day of the season is Sunday, May 13th. For info on volunteering, go to [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/montbrook/get\\_involved/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/montbrook/get_involved/)

## Skeletons Animals Unveiled

Skeletons Museum near the Orlando Eye, has asked Florida Fossil Hunters to install a display for several months showing the fossils from Florida. I'm working on it and need to have it done by summer.

In May, in addition to our regular meeting, I would like to plan a cub visit. This is one of only two Skeleton Museums in the USA.

Please let us know if you would be interested in participating and what dates are good for you.

Email: [bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com)  
or phone [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

Are last visit was 2 years ago.

# Women in Paleontology

## Women in Science.... and Beyond

Outreach aimed at linking up professionals to the local youth sounds like a terrific idea. For our first several attempts, we couldn't ask for better grad students and professionals. The speakers said just the right things to inspire young minds and spirits. But where were the girls we were trying to reach? Even the generous grant from the Paleontological Society and help from the FOSSIL Project, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Orlando Science Center as well as the hours put in by Cindy Lockner contacting local girls' organizations couldn't get the young girls to the event. Maybe it was conflicts with the busy schedules of today's youngsters or transportation issues.

We wanted to reach more girls to encourage their interest in the sciences. We wanted the idea to mushroom, not only in Central Florida, but to spread nationwide. We missed that target. Maybe our methods aren't effective in this new world of technological communication.

So now, I ask all the professionals, colleges, science centers, and all the women who overcame the hurdles of attaining a career in science, to do one more thing. Record your story and post it on the web (there are several organization who are leading in this endeavor.) Let the girls and their teachers or scout leaders have access to all those stories of success when the kids' minds are ready to reach out for inspiration and reassurance that science is for everyone.

Think about this for I believe that this is the future.... but our methods have become a part of the past.

Sincerely, Russell Brown, President  
Florida Fossil Hunters

## Yankeetown Trip

Saturday, March 31

If it's not too windy, Salvatore & I are planning a trip to the spoil islands to look for echinoids and the elusive crinoid, *Himerometra bassleri*. If you would like to join us, bring your canoe or kayak. We plan on being there by 9 am... Saturdays are usually busy at the boat ramps. For more info, email Russell at [bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com) or call [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

# Florida Fossil Hunters News

**Florida Museum of Natural History's first exhibit of 2018 is all about poop!**

*Yes, we mean it.*

*There's so much to learn about animals and our environment when you get right down to it!*

**Jan. 27-May 6, 2018**

Poop is a scientific puzzle that provides important biological evidence about animals and how they live. Animals use poop to build homes, hide from enemies, attract mates, send messages and cool off – some even eat it. Discover the science behind scat by examining fecal samples to reveal clues about wildlife. Visitors can listen to an animal's digestive system, view 3-D models, touch a termite mound replica and compete in dung beetle races in this informational and interactive exhibit. Find out how scientists, farmers and power companies utilize pounds of droppings for investigative research.

*The Scoop on Poop was created by Peeling Productions at Clyde Peeling's Reptiland.*

**Venue**

Florida Museum of Natural History  
3215 Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611

**Phone:** 352-846-2000

**Website:** [www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/visit/](http://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/visit/)

**New book about fossil echinoids.**

*Available on Amazon.com*

**Identification Guide to Florida Fossil Echinoids**

Paperback – January 23, 2018

by Anita Bowe Evers (Author), Debbie P. Bowe (Contributor)

This book is designed to bridge the gap between the layman and the academic by providing information on the fossilized echinoids found in Florida, including some that have been newly named, in more easily understandable language. Readers will find a short introduction to the material, multiple high-quality photographs of the echinoids and explanations of how to identify each one. This book will be of interest to both the novice and more experienced collector. Features full color photos of specimens at their actual sizes.

**Paperback:** 116 pages

**Publisher:** CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1 edition (January 23, 2018)

**Language:** English

**ISBN-10:** 1979921016

**ISBN-13:** 978-1979921015

**Product Dimensions:** 8.5 x 0.3 x 11 inches

**Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society  
Presents the  
Rock, Mineral, Gem and Jewelry Show**

Unique Beads  
Minerals, Gems  
Custom Jewelry

Fossils & Artifacts  
Metaphysical stones  
Door Prizes

April 6th, 2018 1pm to 6pm  
April 7th, 2018 10am to 6pm  
April 8th, 2018 10am to 5pm

Family Friendly  
Kids Activities

Location:

**Florida National Guard Armory**

2809 South Fern Creek Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32806  
(just South of Michigan Ave)  
Open to the public

16 yrs and Up \$5  
5 to 15 yrs \$2.  
5 and under free

Silent Auction  
Children Activities  
Demonstrations  
Classes in wire wrap  
and Cabochon cutting



**Free Parking**  
Present this coupon for \$1.00 off



For more Information go to [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org)

**Can You Dig It?**

**Florida Museum of Natural History**

Saturday, March 17th,  
10 am - 3 pm

Dig into geology and discover the Earth at your feet! Enjoy hands-on activities and watch demonstrations of volcanic eruptions. Explore the Museum and check out displays and activities on geology, fossils, gems, minerals and much more from Florida and around the world!

For more info, go to [www.flmnh.ufl.edu](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu)

**Florida Fossil Hunters News**

# Proboscian Family Tree

A team of scientists-which included researchers from McMaster, the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Harvard Medical School, Uppsala University, and the University of Potsdam-meticulously sequenced 14 genomes from several species: both living and extinct species from Asia and Africa, two American mastodons, a 120,000-year-old straight-tusked elephant, and a Columbian mammoth.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, sheds light on what scientists call a very complicated history, characterized by widespread interbreeding. They caution, however, the behaviour has virtually stopped among living elephants, adding to growing fears about the future of the few species that remain on earth.

"Interbreeding may help explain why mammoths were so successful over such diverse environments and for such a long time, importantly this genomic data also tells us that biology is messy and that evolution doesn't happen in an organized, linear fashion," says evolutionary geneticist Hendrik Poinar, one of the senior authors on the paper and Director of the McMaster Ancient DNA Centre and principal investigator at the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Research.

A detailed DNA analysis of the ancient straight-tusked elephant, for example, showed that it was a hybrid with portions of its genetic makeup stemming from an ancient African elephant, the woolly mammoth and present-day forest elephants.

"This is one of the oldest high-quality genomes that currently exists for any species," said Michael Hofreiter at the University of Potsdam in Germany, a co-senior author who led the work on the straight-tusked elephant.

Researchers also found further evidence of interbreeding among the Columbian and woolly mammoths, which was first reported by Poinar and his team in 2011. Despite their vastly different habitats and sizes, researchers believe the woolly mammoths, encountered Columbians mammoths at the boundary of glacial and in the more temperate ecotones of North America.

Strikingly, scientists found no genetic evidence of interbreeding among two of the world's three remaining species, the forest and savanna elephants, suggesting they have lived in near-complete isolation for the past 500,000 years, despite living in neighboring habitats.

"There's been a simmering debate in the conservation communities about whether African savanna and forest elephants are two different species," said David Reich, another co-senior author at the Broad Institute who is also a professor at the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. "Our data show that these two species have been isolated for long periods of time -- making each worthy of independent conservation status."

"This paper, the product of a grand initiative we started more than a decade ago, is far more than just the formal report of the elephant genome. It will be a reference point for understanding how diverse elephants are related to each other and it will be a model for how similar studies can be done in other species groups," said co-senior author Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, a senior associate member of the Broad Institute and Director of the Science for Life Laboratory at Uppsala University in Sweden.

"The findings were extremely surprising to us," says Eleftheria Palkopoulou, a post-doctoral scientist in at HMS. "The elephant population relationships could not be explained by simple splits, providing clues for understanding the evolution of these iconic species."

Researchers suggest that future work should explore whether the introduction of new genetic lineages into elephant populations-both living and ancient-played an important role in their evolution, allowing them to adapt to new habitats and fluctuating climates.

For more info go [sciencedaily.com](http://sciencedaily.com)

## Shark's Tooth Festival 2018

26th Annual Venice Shark's Tooth Festival

### Dates and Times:

Friday, April 13, 2018 - 4pm - 9pm  
Saturday, April 14, 2018 - 10am - 9pm  
Sunday, April 15, 2018 - 10am - 5pm

### Location:

Venice Airport  
Festival Grounds  
610 E. Airport Avenue,  
Venice, FL 34285

### Admission Prices:

\$4 Per Person;  
Children 12 years  
of age and  
under are free.

**Sorry No Pets!**

For more info, go to [www.sharkstoothfest.com](http://www.sharkstoothfest.com)

# Florida Fossil Hunters News

# VULCAN MINE Field Trip

*Vulcan Mine near Brooksville*

## FIELD TRIP LEADERS

**Saturday, March 10th**

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

Trip Leader: Connie Moore

You can sign up by emailing [connie.moore9@aol.com](mailto:connie.moore9@aol.com)  
or calling her cell phone: [352-949-6747](tel:352-949-6747)

Call or email Bonnie to volunteer to lead the APR or MAY trip  
[bonnierussell62@gmail.com](mailto:bonnierussell62@gmail.com) | [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058)

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

**MUST BE ESCORTED INTO AND OUT OF THE MINE. NO EXCEPTIONS. IF YOU ARE LATE, YOU DO NOT GET IN.**

**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.

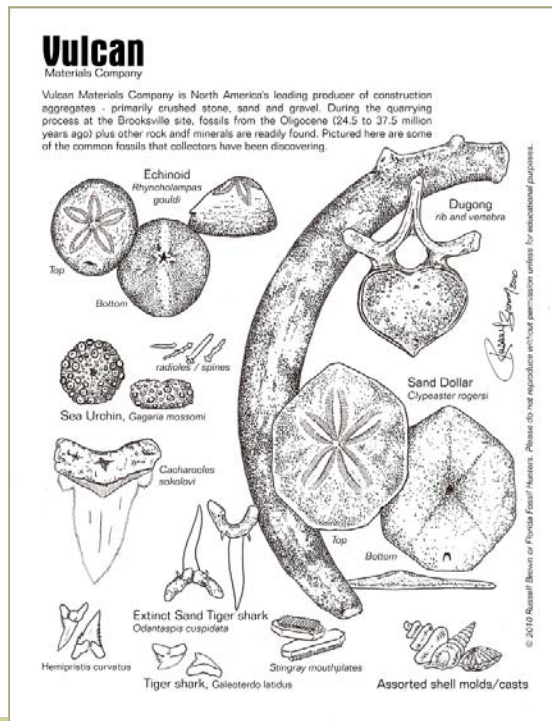
From Orlando take Hwy. 50 west (or the 408 west to the FL Turnpike, take exit 272 and then continue west on Hwy. 50) to Brooksville. Follow 50A/98 North through Brooksville and turn right on Ponce De Leon Blvd. (Hwy 98 North). Go approximately 10 miles. Vulcan/Cemex will be on your left. The address 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.

We find mostly echinoids and sometimes sea urchins, pieces of bone, or other fossils are found. We also find chert rocks. This is the material that the Indians used to make their arrowheads and tools.



ID Sheet above is available on  
the field trip and website.  
[floridafossilhunters.com/Field\\_Trips.htm](http://floridafossilhunters.com/Field_Trips.htm)

**You MUST be a member of the club for insurance purposes to participate in this field trip.**

**MUST have paid your 2018 dues (you can bring a \$17 check with you)**

**TRIPS APR  
14 & MAY 12**

# 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	Steve Sharpe	(352) 552-2296
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
Facebook	Paul Hardin	
Webmaster	Elise Cronin-Hurley	(407) 929-6297
	elise@lisedreams.com	

### Board of Directors:

Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	
Dave Dunaway	
Salvatore Sansone	

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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,*

## Newsletter Policy

*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 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 Fossil Hunters News

# Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

**Jan. 27th - May 6th**  
FMNH - Scoop on Poop exhibit

**Saturday, March 17th**  
*Kids' Fossil Blast— cancelled*  
3 PM - Meeting

**Saturday, March 17th**  
10 am to 3 pm  
FLMNH - Can You Dig It?

**Thursday, April 5th, 11 - 2**  
Earth Day at Valencia College

**April 6th - 8th**  
Central FL Rock, Gem & Mineral Show  
Orlando Armory

**Saturday, April 14th**  
Vulcan Mine Field Trip  
**Need leader**

**April 13 - 15th**  
Venice Shark's Tooth Festival

**Saturday, April 21st**  
FFH Meeting

**Sunday, April 22nd**  
Earth Day at Lake Lotus Park  
Altamonte Springs

**Saturday, May 12th**  
Vulcan Mine Field Trip  
**Need leader**

**Saturday, June 23rd**  
OSC Prehistoric Party  
2018 FFH Fossil Fair  
October 20 & 21

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



## 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