

NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 27, Number 5

May 2017

From the President.....

May is a great month - it's right before summer monsoon season so the Peace River is low water/hot diggin'. It's the month of Mother's Day and our club's big **Women in Paleontology** event. Cindy Lockner and Eleanor Gardner have done such a fantastic job that I'm tempted to leave the rest of the page blank. There are no words to express my thanks for their dedication, time, and talents in making this outreach opportunity what it is.

May 6th at the Orlando Science Center - PLEASE come and support our club in this endeavor to reach the potential future scientists while they are still young and curious. There will be plenty for all ages to volunteer at Women in Paleontology. (more details inside)

At the **May meeting on the 20th**, our club will be giving those "oh, so common" stingray mouthplates and barbs a closer look. Why is so little known about them when they are so common? Bring in yours; I'll bring in mine and we'll discuss the "flat" creatures: Stingrays, skates, guitar fish.

In June and July there are no meetings. However, there will be digging at the Peace until high water stops us and you don't have to be a Yankee to come along with us to **Yankeetown spoil islands**. The trip is tentatively to be Saturday, June 10th. (see inside for details)

See you at Women in Paleo!

Russell Brown
President

Go to the Peace River; come to Women in Paleo.

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Saturday, May 6th
Women in Paleontology, OSC

Saturday, May 20
Meeting, 3 pm

**No FFH meetings at OSC
in June & July**

Saturday, August 19th
2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm - Meeting

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

www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Yankeetown Field Trip, June 3rd

On Saturday, June 3rd Florida Fossil Hunters will have a field trip to the Yankeetown spoil islands to hunt for fossil echinoids: i.e. the State Fossil: *Eupatagus antillarum*, sand dollars, starfish ossicles, and even tiny crinoid parts.

Bring your fishing license and gear if you like. It's a great place to enjoy the sights and sounds of the beach and relax.

We'll meet up at the boat ramp at 8 am. We'll leave when the weather makes us or when we're too tired to hunt anymore.

Bring your canoe (or kayak) to paddle out to the island (about 50 yds.) or hitch a ride with other members.

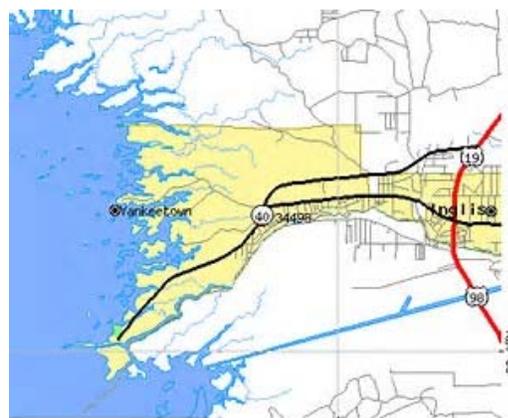
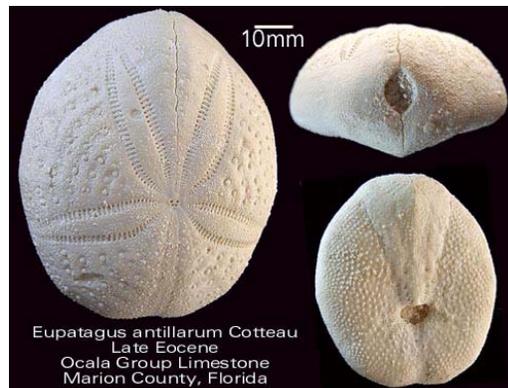
Bring your own snacks, lunch, and lots of drinks (no alcohol). Also be sure to bring sunscreen, a hat, bug repellent, towel, toilet paper (no toilet on the island, just bushes), etc.

Wear old gym shoes or dive boots. NO SANDALS - the coral, rocks, and shells are very sharp.

You'll need small containers for the fossils... and maybe a couple larger ones for your finds.

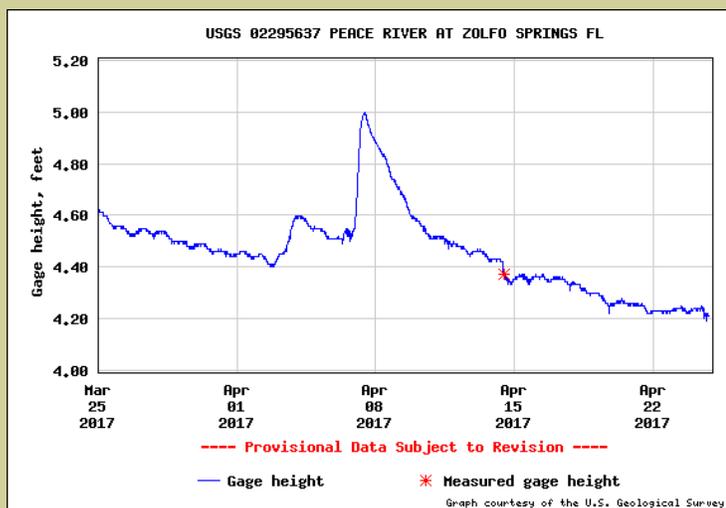
Sign up at the May meeting or email me at bonnierussell62@gmail.com so we know who is coming.

We don't want to leave anyone stranded on the shore.



Piece on the Peace River

If this dry spell keeps up, we'll have to put wheels on canoes/kayaks. Meanwhile, the water is low and the digging is great. If you want to hook up with someone to dig with, contact Steve Sharpe (sharpe626@yahoo.com) or Sheila Walaszek (swala@me.com)



Science Night Live!

July's theme will be Paleontology at the Orlando Science Center. On Saturday, July 22nd, Florida Fossil Hunters will put their fossils on display and will entertain the guests with the amazing world of fossils and the stories they tell us. Be part of the experience. Times and details as we get closer to the date.

You can volunteer by signing up at the May meeting or contacting Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

Kids' Fossil Blast

On Saturday, April 15 at 2 pm, the kids will get to explore the stories of the animals that went back to ocean after living on land for millions of years.

Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 to 14. We meet for an hour before our regular meetings.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Too Good to Wait!

Broken bones and rocks yield evidence that pushes back the record of early humans in North America by more than 100,000 years

An Ice Age site in San Diego, Calif., preserves 130,000-year-old bones and teeth of a mastodon that show evidence of modification by early humans. Analysis of these finds dramatically revises the timeline for when humans first reached North America, according to new research

San Diego Natural History Museum, April 26, 2017
For more information, go to sciencedaily.com

News from the Paleontological Society

Fellows are members of the Paleontological Society who have made significant contributions to paleontology through research, teaching, or service to the profession.

The newly elected Fellows of the Paleontological Society are **Lisa Park Boush** (University of Connecticut), **Douglas S. Jones** (Florida Museum of Natural History & University of Florida), and **Peter Wilf** (Penn State University).
Congratulations, Douglas Jones.

TECH WANTED

I admit it. I had to be dragged (kicking & screaming) into using computers and email. My generation was raised with rotary dial phones that were wired to the wall. I do not own a smart-phone - my cell phone is a dumb flip-type and I don't use texts. I don't even know how to retrieve messages from it.

Our club needs someone who is adept at using Facebook, Twitter and all those social media avenues to communicate with the public.

So would one of you **please**, volunteer to be our Facebook and social media person?

You can email me at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call me at our cave in the boonies at [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

TRANSLATOR NEEDED

We need someone to volunteer to translate our brochure, fliers, and labels into Spanish. There are many people in our community or visitors to Orlando who attend our events who aren't fluent in English. If you would be willing to do this, please let me know.

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Women in Paleontology

May 6th, Orlando Science Center

We might not get to make a famous discovery in Paleontology but we still can contribute to the field by sharing our passion and knowledge of fossils and the earth's past. Getting a child excited by the creatures of the past opens a window into all the sciences. We are going to need lots of enthusiastic minds to wrestle with the challenges of the future from the health of the deep oceans to the explorations of the universe.

This is our opportunity to promote Science and share our knowledge of and our passion for Paleontology, Geology, and Archaeology.

In elementary school, both boys and girls like science but somewhere in Middle School, we lose them.... girls more than boys. We can give them the encouragement and role models they need to follow their dreams.

Even those who choose another field need to be familiar with science and not be intimidated by it... many of them will be in positions where they will make decisions based on science. We hope that they will understand what is being proposed when the time comes.

Sp please volunteer on May 6th and make an impact on the future.

Bonnie
bonnierussell62@gmail.com | [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058)

Florida Fossil Hunters' Facebook 2,300 members and growing

About five years ago, Elise, my daughter & web-master for FFH) suggested we start a Facebook page as a way for fossil hunters to communicate with one another. Some clubs also have Facebook pages but they are only open for their dues-paying members. That's okay if all you want to do is keep each other up on club news.

I thought it might work better as an open page for people to post what they find, ask for help in identification or advice on how to hunt in Florida. I have been amazed at how willing everyone is to help "newbies" even to the point of sharing info on sites or agreeing to meet up to hunt together.

This is what science should be...
the open sharing of knowledge.

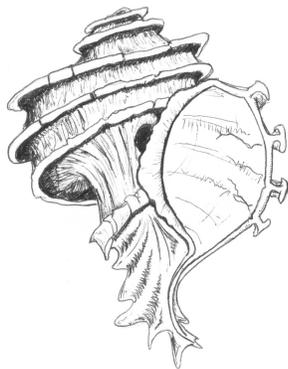
Thanks to all of you who contribute on the Facebook page.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Women in Paleontology

Orlando Science Center
May 6th, 2017
10:00am-4:00pm

From 9 to 90 –
you can touch the past,
and change the future.
Meet with female
professionals in
Paleontology,
including,
Paleontology Students
from the University of
Florida, and amateur
fossil enthusiasts and
collectors from the
Florida Fossil Hunters.



For more information
contact us by email at
info@floridafossilhunters.com,
or visit our website at
www.floridafossilhunters.com

10:00-10:15 Meet and Greet

Presentations

- 10:15-10:45 **Michelle Barboza-Ramirez, Vertebrate Paleontology** – “Accidental Scientist”
- 11:00-11:30 **Patrisha L. Meyers, Anthropology** – “**Archaeologists** Don’t Dig Dinosaurs: Anthropology vs Paleontology”
- 11:45-12:15 **Rachel E. Narducci, Paleontology** – “Digging into Paleontology: Fieldwork at the Montbrook Fossil Site”
- 12:30-1:00 **Ta-Shana Alicia Taylor, Geology** – “A Geologists’s Contribution to Marine Mammal Conservation”
- 1:15-1:45 FEATURE PRESENTATION via Skype from the University of Arkansas
- Dr. Celina A Suarez, Earth Sciences** – “Evidence Locked Within: Using the Geochemistry Composition of Fossils to Understand Prehistoric Worlds”
- 2:00-2:30 **Dr. Laura Cotton, Paleontology** – “Tiny Fossils, Big Questions: What Large Foraminifera Can Tell Us About Climate Events”
- 3:15-4:00pm View various fossil collections and exhibits**

Florida Fossil Hunters
www.floridafossilhunters.com

Interview from www.fossilguy.com

Name: Eleanor Gardner

Area of Focus: avian (bird) skeletal taphonomy

Institution: Florida Museum of Natural History

Interview Questions:

How did you become interested in Paleontology?

I became interested in paleontology after participating in an "after school science" program in second grade. The volunteer teacher had a Master's in paleontology and she made the program SO fun and exciting. I was hooked right away!

2. Explain the aspect of Paleontology that you focus on.

My research interests center upon the weathering and preservation (taphonomy) of avian bones. I do what's called "actualistic taphonomy," where dead modern organisms are put out in various environments and I document the degradation and weathering processes, and then make comparisons to the fossil record.

3. What do you do in the course of a day as a Paleontologist?

Paleontologists can work in a variety of different positions and careers. Previously, I taught geology courses as a junior faculty member at a small rural university in Tennessee. Now I work as the coordinator of [The FOSSIL Project](#), which is a program funded by the National Science Foundation, and I am responsible for facilitating networking between professional and amateur paleontologists across the United States.

4. What was your favorite discovery or field experience?

My favorite field experience was working at a Pleistocene site in the Bahamas. Bird fossils + gorgeous Caribbean scenery = awesome!

5. Is there anything else you want to say about being a Paleontologist?

Don't be afraid to fail - whether in school or later, while doing research, don't give up! It took me 7 years to get my first academic paper published, but I kept trying until it was accepted!



Sara, Dave Cass, & Dave Dunaway surprised Russell & Bonnie with a custom-made bench in recognition of their dedication to the Florida Fossil Hunters.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

FIELD TRIP LEADER

Saturday, May 13th

Last Vulcan Trip until cooler weather in Fall.

Next one will be in October

Our trip leader is Dave Granger.

Contact him to sign up at
dgrange1@yahoo.com or 407-212-5257.

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.

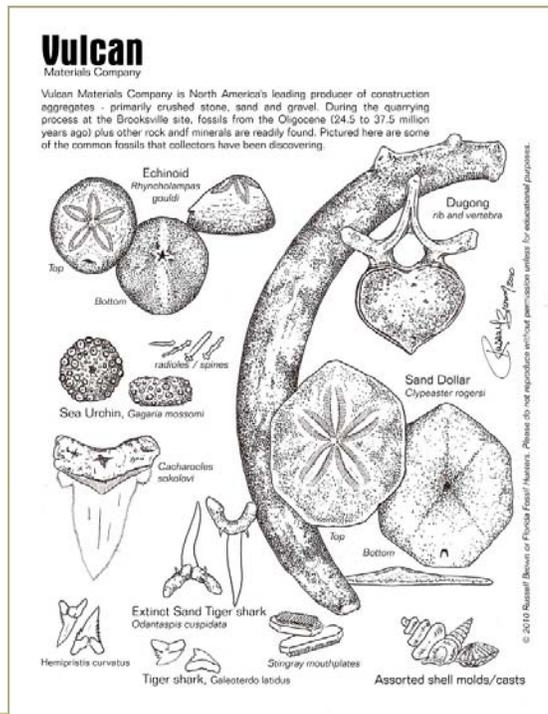
From Orlando take Hwy. 50 west (or the 408 west to the FL Turnpike, take exit 272 and then continue west on Hwy. 50) to Brooksville. Follow 50A/98 North through Brooksville and turn right on Ponce De Leon Blvd. (Hwy 98 North). Go approximately 10 miles. Vulcan/Cemex will be on your left. The address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

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.



**LAST TRIP
UNTIL OCTOBER**

*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	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	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@liseydreams.com	

Board of Directors:

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

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, 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: 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.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

January to May
FLMNH Montbrook Dig

Saturday, May 6th,
10 am - 4 pm
Women in Paleontology,
Orlando Science Center

Saturday, May 13th
Vulcan Mine Trip
Last until cooler Fall weather
TRIP LEADER-Dave Granger

Saturday, May 20th
Meeting, 3 pm

No FFH meetings at OSC in June & July

Saturday, June 3rd
Science Night Live, OSC, 8 - 11:30 pm

Saturday, June 10th
Yankeetown Field Trip

Saturday, July 22nd
Paleontology Day at OSC
(volunteers needed)

Saturday, August 19th
2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm - Meeting

FFH Fossil Fair
October 28th & 29th

Saturday, Nov. 4th
National Fossil Day
at FLMNH

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



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

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