

# NEWS

## Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc.  
dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters  
Volume 36, Number 2

MAR/APR 2026

### From Ye Olde President.....

Hello and welcome all FFH Members. It's March and the springtime weather is almost here for fossil hunting. FFH is working to set up future field trips and looking for a field trip coordinator.

How to earn fossil bucks ..... FFH members participate 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.

#### Upcoming meetings:

- **Saturday, March 21st FFH Meeting**
- **Saturday, March 28th FFH Field Trip** will be held at Chris Delory's Fossil Workshop and warehouse.
- **Saturday, April 18th meeting** Guest speaker: Jimmy Waldron with Dinosaurs Will Always Be Awesome.
- **Saturday, April 25th:** FFH field trip and picnic is schedule for at Yankee Town Florida.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFO ON THESE EVENTS

### REGISTER/RENEW

3 OPTIONS RENEW NOW ONLINE!

<https://floridafossilhunters.com/membership>

Mail in the form on pg 7 or renew at the meeting.

Thank you  
Salvatore Sansone,  
FFH President

**FOSSIL SWAP**  
at each Meeting!

### TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

See page 2 for 3 easy options  
and all your membership supports!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### **Saturday, March 21st**

2pm Paleontology for Kids  
3pm Meeting  
FFH meeting at OSC

#### **Saturday, April 18th**

2pm Paleontology for Kids  
3pm Meeting  
FFH meeting at OSC

#### **Now Available!**

#### **2026 Calendar of Events**

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#### **FOSSIL FAIR**

October 3-4, 2026

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

## MEETINGS & MORE

### **Saturday, March 18th MEETING**

The theme for Paleontology for kids for the March 21st meeting is ***The Evolution of the Megalodon***. Please please bring in your megalodon and shark teeth finds. Share your fossil hunting stories and experiences with the club members.

### **Saturday, March 28th - FFH FIELD TRIP:**

FFH Field Trip will be held at Chris Delory's Fossil Workshop and warehouse.

FFH members will meet at 10 am and the address is 4015 Pine Industrial Ave, Rockledge Florida. Chris Delorey and his staff are very helpful and educational to all FFH members' questions. Chris has an amazing collection with items for sale and gives FFH members great deals. Please call Salvatore at 321 278 9294 for any questions and information.

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### **PALEONTOLOGY FOR KIDS**

Every OSC Meeting; 2:00-3:00pm

*Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience aimed at kids ages 5 to 14.*

***Thank you Laura and Francesca for your hard work and dedication to making Paleontology for Kids a success.***

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***Regular Meetings are held at the Orlando Science Center. Unless otherwise noted.***

Admission and parking is FREE to members. At the garage & ticket counter inform them you are there for the meeting.

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### **MEMBER REGISTRATION**

<https://floridafossilhunters.com/membership>, mail in the form on pg 7 or renew at the meeting.

**Saturday, April 18th MEETING** Unfortunately I will not be attending April's meeting and my apologies. My Mineral and Gem club is having its show that weekend. Steve Sharpe will take my place at the meeting.

**Guest speaker** will be Jimmy Waldron with Dinosaurs Will Always Be Awesome.

Paleontology for Kids programs will be active at all meetings from 2pm to 3pm. FFH will send an email to all members about the theme for Paleontology for kids for April.

**Saturday, April 25th - FFH FIELD TRIP:** Yankee Town Florida FFH field trip and picnic

Meet at the Yankee Town boat ramp at 8:00am and the address is 5921 Riverside Dr, Yankeetown, FL 34498.

We ask any members who own a boat or canoe to please volunteer and help transport members to the Islands for digging. My friend Mark Voke will be bringing 6 canoes for \$25 rental fee for the day. *Remember only paid FFH members can participate with FFH field trips due to our insurance requirements.*

Yankee Town field trip Picnic: FFH will supply hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. Members please bring a covered dish to share. No restaurants in the immediate area.

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### **At EVERY meeting!**

- Support your club with the purchase of vintage fossil fair t-shirts! Variety of sizes available at meetings while they last. \$25/Adults and Kids/\$20.
- "Fossil swap": every member brings in fossils to talk about and swap.
- Paleontology for Kids has been a success and will be held before the general meetings at 2:00pm.

# PIECE ON THE PEACE

Want the most current height? Visit [floridafossilhunters.com](http://floridafossilhunters.com) and click on the easy Peace River Gauge button in the sidebar or under the Resources tab for the latest water level data or visit the USGS website directly.  
**PEACE RIVER AT US 17 AT ZOLFO SPRINGS, FL**

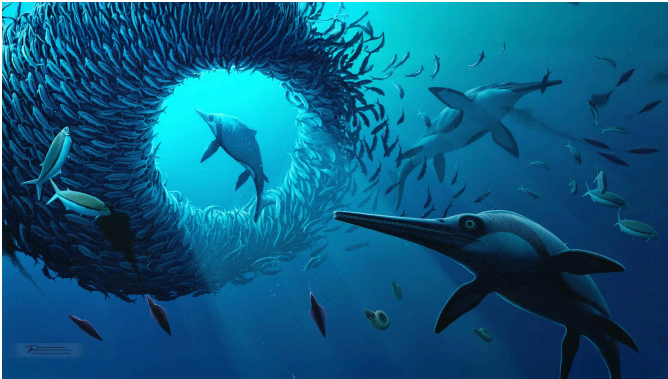
Peace River at US 17 at Zolfo Springs, FL - USGS-02295637

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

- using custom time span -  
 January 1, 2026 - March 16, 2026  
**Gage height, feet**



## RECOMMENDED ARTICLES



### 190-million-year-old “Sword Dragon” fossil rewrites ichthyosaur history

02/24/26 Source: University of Manchester

A newly identified ichthyosaur from the UK’s Jurassic Coast is rewriting part of the prehistoric playbook. Nicknamed the “Sword Dragon of Dorset,” the three-meter-long marine reptile lived during a poorly understood window of evolution when major ichthyosaur groups were disappearing and new ones emerging. Its beautifully preserved skeleton — complete with a blade-like snout and possible last meal — helps pinpoint when this dramatic transition occurred.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/02/260224023218.htm>



### This 2-pound dinosaur is rewriting what scientists know about evolution

03/10/26 | Source: University of Minnesota

A nearly complete dinosaur skeleton discovered in Patagonia is helping scientists crack the mystery of alvarezsaur, a bizarre group of bird-like dinosaurs. The fossil of *Alvarezsaurus* reveals that these animals became tiny before developing their later specialized features, such as stubby arms and ant-eating adaptations. Weighing under two pounds, the dinosaur is one of the smallest known from South America.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/03/260309225231.htm>



*Caption: reconstructions of the Titanokorys gainesi, a new species of extinct sea animal discovered in Canada. Lars Fields/Royal Ontario Museum*

## A Football-Shaped Animal Species Is Discovered In A 500-Million-Year-Old Shale

September 9, 2021 11:52 PM ET | By Joe Hernandez

Paleontologists in Canada have discovered a new species of sea animal that was 1 1/2 feet long and football-shaped, with a large protective shell over its head, a toothed mouth and a pair of spiny claws. (It's extinct, so you don't have to worry about one of these brushing up against your leg at the beach. Read on.)

The new species — dubbed the *Titanokorys gainesi* — is believed to be part of a long-gone animal group from the Cambrian period some 500 million years ago.

According to scientists with the Royal Ontario Museum, who discovered the species in a fossil in Kootenay National Park, located in the Canadian Rockies, the *Titanokorys* would have been a giant

The scientists said the broad, flat head of the *Titanokorys* suggests it swam near the seafloor, using its front limbs to scoop prey toward its mouth.

A similar species, discovered in the same area in 2018, is named the *Cambroraster falcatus*, because scientists thought its head carapace resembled the Millennium Falcon, a ship from the movie *Star Wars*.

during a time when most sea creatures grew to the size of a pinky finger or smaller.

"The sheer size of this animal is absolutely mind-boggling, this is one of the biggest animals from the Cambrian period ever found," said Jean-Bernard Caron, the museum's Richard M. Ivey Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology, in a statement.

The *Titanokorys* belongs to a subgroup of primitive arthropods called hurdiids, which have long heads and a three-part carapace, a kind of hard outer shell.

"The head is so long relative to the body that these animals are really little more than swimming heads," said Joe Moysiuk, a University of Toronto Ph.D. student who co-authored the study of the new species released this week.

*J.-B. Caron & J. Moysiuk. 2021. A giant nektobenthic radiodont from the Burgess Shale and the significance of hurdiid carapace diversity. R. Soc. open sci 8 (9): 210664; doi: 10.1098/rsos.210664*

**Full article and see more pictures:**

[www.npr.org/2021/09/09/1035510855/new-animal-species-discovered-500-million-years-old-shale-shell-canada](http://www.npr.org/2021/09/09/1035510855/new-animal-species-discovered-500-million-years-old-shale-shell-canada)



*Caption: The jawbones of Tanyka amnicola are currently the only known fossils from this animal. Reconstruction © Vitor Silva and fossil photo © Ken Angielczyk, Field Museum*

## New species of “living fossil” had jaws unlike anything seen before

By James Ashworth Date: First published 4 March 2026 | Source: University of Missouri-Columbia

Animals bite, grind and grab with their teeth – but nothing used its mouth quite like *Tanyka amnicola*.

With its uniquely twisted jaw and sideways-facing teeth, the new species was a relic of an earlier and more experimental time in the evolution of life.

Fossils discovered in Brazil show that an ancient group of animals survived longer than realised.

When researchers digging on the edge of the Amazon rainforest came across an unusually twisted jawbone, they didn't know what to make of it. After eight more turned up over the course of the dig they knew that these fossils weren't just damaged bones but signs of a new species.

The team have now named this animal *Tanyka amnicola*, which roughly translates as 'jaw living next to the river'. It's thought that the teeth jutting out from its bent jawbone were probably used to grind up plants or small invertebrates, setting it apart from its meat-eating relatives.

Most of these animals, known as stem tetrapods, were long extinct when *Tanyka* lived 275 million years ago. They'd gradually been replaced by more advanced tetrapods that included the ancestors of living amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Dr Jason Pardo, the study's lead author, says that the existence of *Tanyka* so late in the history of life on Earth is surprising.

"*Tanyka* is a little like a platypus, in the sense that it was a member of the stem tetrapod lineage that remained even after newer, more modern tetrapods evolved," Jason says. "It was a living fossil in its time."

"It's a really strange animal, and the weird twist in the jaw drove us crazy trying to figure it out. But nine jaws we've found have this twist, including the really well-preserved ones, so it's not a deformation. It's just the way this animal was."

## How did Tanyka eat?

In most tetrapods, the teeth in both jaws are positioned so that they face each other allowing the animal to cut, slice and grind food when they come into contact.

In Tanyka, however, things were different. The lower jaw twists outwards as it runs from back to front so that some teeth point out and to the sides. Meanwhile, the inside of the jawbone is lined with tiny teeth known as denticles that would have been used for grinding.

While Tanyka's upper jaw hasn't been found, it's likely that the teeth and denticles were arranged in a similar way. The denticles in both jaws would have been able rub against each other to grind down foods such as tough plant matter or the hard exoskeletons of invertebrates.

It's such an unusual way of processing food that the team couldn't immediately identify what kind of animal. [Dr Martha Richter](#), one of our Scientific Associates that co-authored the paper, says that she was "intrigued" by the structure of the jaws.

"By comparing its anatomical traits to the characteristics of known species from across hundreds of millions of years, we found that this animal was actually a primitive tetrapod after all."



*Caption: Denticles on the inside of the jaw would have allowed Tanyka to grind down tough food. © Ken Angielczyk, Field Museum*

While it's uncertain what Tanyka looked like, the researchers think that it was probably similar to a salamander with a longer snout. Other fossils have been found near Tanyka's jawbones that might represent other parts of the body, but it's not certain they came from the same animal.

## Tetrapod survivors

When Tanyka was alive during the Early Permian Period, almost all of the world's landmasses were united into one enormous supercontinent/Pangaea.

For a long time it was assumed that stem tetrapods had largely died out by this point. An event known as the Carboniferous rainforest collapse caused the widespread extinction as the moist environments they relied on gave way to drier habitats.

However, the discovery of Tanyka builds the case that not all stem tetrapods were affected in the same way. While animals in the northern part of Pangaea appear to have gone extinct, those in the south might have been able to survive due to differences in the climate across the continent.

Tanyka may also have had adaptations that allowed it to survive in more arid conditions. The area where it lived would have been hot and seasonally dry, similar to the southwest United States today, suggesting that it might have been better able to cope with change.

Finding out why these southern species lived when others died out will mean finding more of their fossils. Those from South America, Africa, Australia and Antarctica will be important to see if the conditions there helped these animals to survive.

### Full article and see more pictures:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2026/march/new-species-living-fossil-had-jaws-unlike-anything-seen-before.html>

The findings of the study were published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B: <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rspb/article/293/2/066/20252106/480542/An-aberrant-stem-tetrapod-from-the-early-Permian>

# 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 options are listed to the right.

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	Salvatore Sansone	(321) 278-9294
Vice President	Steve Sharpe	(352) 552-2296
Secretary	Melissa Dunaway	(407) 461-8507
Treasurer	David Dunaway	(407) 786-8844

## Chairs:

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	Ken Sellers	
Newsletter	Elise Cronin-Hurley, info@elisech.com	
Photography	John Heinsen	(407) 291-7672
Facebook	Salvatore Sansone Ken Sellers	
Webmaster	Elise Cronin-Hurley, info@elisech.com	

## Board of Directors:

Joyce Bittle	(407) 341-6366
Melissa Dunaway	(407) 461-8507
Marge Fantozi	(407) 256-5566
Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Ken Sellers	(407) 457-4117

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## Membership Application

MAIL in this form or Register ONLINE at [www.floridafossilhunters.com/membership](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com/membership)

Name:			
Associate Members			
Address:			
Phone:			
Email:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	New	<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal
Please list any interests, experience, talents or just plain enthusiasm, which you would like to offer to the club:			

Family membership: \$25  
Individual membership: \$20

### 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 with Family Membership. Per our insurance policy, family membership covers married couples and children. All other individuals must have separate individual membership to be covered by our club insurance.

Membership year runs from January to December.

### Newsletter Policy

Articles must be submitted two weeks before publication date. to be considered for an issue. Emailed to: info@floridafossilhunters.com. Articles can be sent either as text in the email, in a google doc, or in Microsoft Word files (.docx). Please note in subject of email 'FFH News: [article or info]

# Florida Fossil Hunters Meetings & Events

## MARK YOUR 2026 CALENDAR

*Meetings 3pm at OSC | Paleontology for Kids at 2pm and alternative time and location noted when applicable.*

March 21, 2026, Meeting  
Saturday, March 28th FFH Field  
Trip, Chris Delory's Fossil  
Workshop and warehouse.  
April 18, 2026, Meeting  
Saturday, April 25th: FFH field  
trip and picnic is schedule for at  
Yankee Town Florida.

May 16, 2026, Meeting  
June 20, 2026, Meeting  
July 18, 2026, Meeting  
August 15, 2026, Meeting  
September 26, 2026, Meeting  
2006 Fossil Fair  
October 3-4th

No October Meeting  
November 21, 2026, Meeting  
December date tba,  
FFH Annual Christmas Party  
and Fossil Bucks Auction

### SEE INSIDE

*for more information on events*



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floridafossilhunters](http://www.facebook.com/groups/floridafossilhunters)

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Email [info@floridafossilhunters.com](mailto:info@floridafossilhunters.com) to share articles, questions, & comments

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