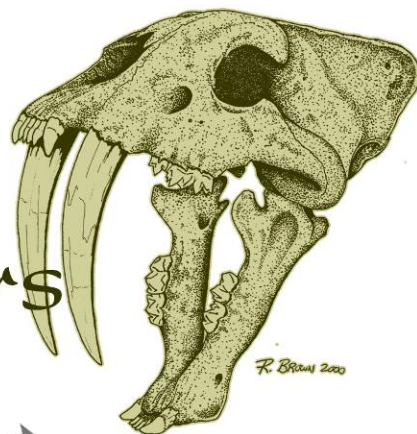


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 25, Number 3

March 2015



From the President.....

The cries can be heard from fossil hunters all over the State... "rain, rain, go away, so in the Peace River we can play".

Yes, the water level is still up. But as most seasoned fossil hunters will tell you, it will eventually go down. When it does, everyone will be headed to Peace River for some much anticipated fossil hunting.... our club included, starting on April 4th. If the river is not low enough then, Plan B: a trip to Yankeetown spoil islands will be the outing. Information on the Peace River and Yankeetown is inside this newsletter. Start planning now, 'cause Russell's goin' diggin'.

At February's meeting, Dr. Felipe Opazo lectured about extinctions and his study on the diversity of fauna after such events. Thanks for returning, Felipe.

As a bonus, my friend from Australia, Mike Murray, (who has traveled the world, collected, taught, and can probably say "been there, done that" on any subject you bring up) brought some of the earliest fossils and minerals on this planet to look at... not millions of years old, but BILLIONS! While he was here, I took him to a few places to collect, one being Yankeetown. We almost froze but we went collecting for hours. Mike was looking for fossils of crinoids. I thought he was crazy but a trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History, showed me that, not only can echinoids, sanddollars, & starfish ostoderms can be found there, but the crinoid, *Himerometra bassleri*, has been collected there as well. Learn something every day. Thanks, Mike.

We had a Kids' Blast program in February and we'll be having another in March on fossil cleaning. More on that inside the newsletter.

Finally, I would encourage all members to spread the word about our upcoming event on May 16th: Women in Paleontology in partnership with the Orlando Science Center and with the support of all the folks in FOSSIL at FLMNH. This will be one of our bigger outreach events this year. Cindy Lockner has done a wonderful job of coordinating the event and getting some great speakers. All we need is to get the word out.

Get involved; be part of your club.

See you soon.

Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Saturday, March 21st

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast

3 pm - Meeting & Speaker

Saturday, April 18th

3 pm Meeting & Speaker

More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Meeting - Saturday, March 21st

We will be meeting in the Curiosity Classroom in the Orlando Science Center at 2 pm for the Kids' program and at 3 pm for the regular meeting. **Victor Perez** (fresh from a stint in Panama) will be our speaker. His presentation will start with his background, move onto a discussion of the transition of chubutensis to megalodon, and he'll top it off with his current work in Panama. We'll have a sign-up sheets for the April 4th field trip, April's Vulcan Mine trip, and one for volunteers for Women in Paleontology on May 16.

National Fossil Day Celebration

Mark your calendars! We have been invited to participate in the Fossil Day celebration at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton on Saturday, October 3rd.

FOSSIL Website Testers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The folks at the FOSSIL Project want to test out their new website and have asked if volunteers from our club would help them. It would be scheduled on Saturday, April 18th before our regular meeting. You just need the basic computer skills. We'll be uploading photos, creating profiles, etc. Nothing that would require "Geek" level skills. If you are interested, please let Bonnie know at bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Women in Paleontology, May 16 at OSC

The plans for the Women in Paleontology program are coming together quite nicely. We have three very excited graduate students from the University of Florida's grad program signed up and a lot of interest from the FOSSIL Project as well. This is going to be a stellar event and I encourage all of you who have contact with girls and young women to tell them about it. The Orlando Science Center is looking into having a badge program available for Girl Scouts to tie in with this event, too.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, contact Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or Cindy Lockner at clockner@comcast.net. The club will have fossils on display and we'll be spreading the good news of fossil hunting as amateurs and professionals.

Kids' Fossil Blast

On Saturday, March 21st at 2 pm, before our regular meeting at the Orlando Science Center, we will have a program on cleaning fossils (thanks for the suggestion, Alex Bittle). We will talk about and try out different methods used. Be prepared to get a little dirty!

Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 to 14.

Field Trips

Vulcan, Sat., March 14th: Steve Chambers

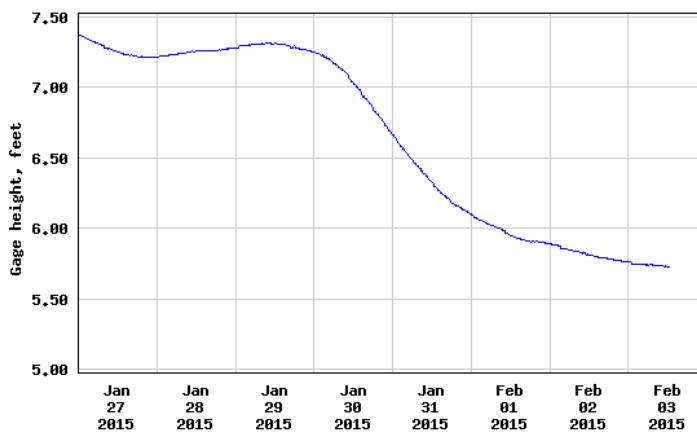
Vulcan, Sat., April 11th: Need a Trip Leader to volunteer email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call 352-429-1058. See page 6 for more details.

Peace River, Saturday, April 4th. (weather permitting) Russell Brown & Bonnie Cronin trip leaders. See page 4 for more info.

Piece on the Peace

We usually would have had most of winter to hunt in the Peace. Although the extra rain is great for the aquifer, it does make for frustrated fossil hunters. Don't give up hope.....Spring is normally the driest time of the year.

USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



SAVE THE DATE

Fossil Fair 2015: Nov. 7th & 8th

Florida Fossil Hunters News

A T. rex Named Sue

Jan. 24 – Sept. 13, 2015 | \$7.50 adults, \$6.50 Fla. residents and seniors, \$4.50 ages 3-17 and free for Museum members and UF students with a valid Gator 1 card

Students who receive an 'A' or 'E' grade in science can provide their most recent report card at the front desk and receive a free admission with the purchase of a paid adult admission. The offer is valid for the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit, the featured exhibit, when available, or a value admission for both exhibits.

Tyrannosaurus rex has long commanded respect and sparked curiosity in the mind of the public, and Sue is the most famous T. rex of all. At 42 feet long and 13 feet tall at the hips, her skeleton inspires as much awe today as she did 67 million years ago. In the featured exhibit "A T. rex Named Sue," explore how this remarkable creature interacted with its world and what we can learn from studying its bones. Revel in the sheer magnitude of a fully articulated, life-size skeleton cast while learning about Sue's movement, vision and sense of smell. Enjoy family-friendly interactives, climb into the dig pit to uncover fossils and learn about dinosaurs through touchable bone replicas and other hands-on activities. Follow Sue's sensational journey from the Cretaceous period and sedimentary rocks of South Dakota to the U.S. courts and finally the world. Come to the Florida Museum to experience the largest, most complete and best-preserved Tyrannosaurus rex ever discovered!

Florida Museum of Natural History Events of Interest:

Mar. 8th- 1 to 4 pm, Ask a Scientist: Geology

Mar. 14th- 10 am to 3 pm, Can You Dig It?: Explore rocks, gems, fossils, and the Earth

May 3rd, 2 to 4 pm, Archaeology Workshop: Pottery

Join the Florida Public Archaeology Network for a family-friendly workshop for all ages. Learn to identify different types of pottery found throughout Florida and discover how archaeologists use these clues to study people of the past. The workshop is free but pre-registration is required. Call 352-273-2064 for further info.

For more info go to www.flmnh.ufl.edu

Fossil & Mineral Shows

ORLANDO

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society will have their show on: April 10th - 1 pm to 6 pm, April 11th - 10 am to 6 pm, April 12th - 10 am to 5 pm. It will be at the National Guard Armory, 2809 South Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, 32806. Adults - \$5; Students - \$2. For more information and a \$1 off coupon, go to www.cfmgs.org

TAMPA BAY

Tampa Bay Fossil Club will have their Fossil Fest on March 21st & 2nd. See the flyer for details.

VENICE BEACH

The annual Shark's Tooth Festival will be held at the Airport Festival grounds, 120 E. Airport Ave., Venice, 34285.

Hours: Apr. 10th - 4pm to 9pm, Apr. 11th - 10am to 9pm, Apr. 12th - 10 am to 5 pm.

Admission: \$3; children 12 & under free

In addition to lots of shark teeth and fossils, there are food and craft vendors.

VERO ICE AGE "FOSSIL ROAD SHOW"

The Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee will have a Fossil Road Show with local collection displays and fossil identification on Thursday, March 26th, from 5 pm to 9 pm at the Vero Beach Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave., Vero Beach. Bring your fossils, etc. On hand will be Dr. Richard Hulbert from the FL Museum of Natural History and Dr. Andy Hemmings, lead archaeologist for the Vero Man Site excavation. For more information on this site go to: www.oviasc.org.

"SKELETONS" OPENS APRIL 25TH AT I-DRIVE 360

This unique 90-minute attraction delivers an entertaining and educational experience that is fun for the entire family! Located inside Orlando's I-Drive 360 Complex, this modern museum exhibits over 400 real skeletons from animals that live all around the world. Examine extreme natural deformities like two-headed calves. Get up close with actual human skeletons! Let your imagination run wild at the cryptozoology exhibit. From tiny mice to giant whales, marvel at the intricate internal structure that is shared by all vertebrate life. You will leave this self-paced, interactive attraction with a new fascination and respect for the diversity and complexity of life.

To schedule your group or for more information:

CALL (405) 814-0006 **Pricing and times subject to change*

Location: 8441 International Dr, Ste 250, Orlando, FL 32819

Contact: 405-814-0006 —or— info@skeletonmuseum.com

- Admission Prices*: Adults \$19.99 + tax; Children (4-11) \$12.99 + tax

- Group Rates: Special pricing for groups of 10 or more

- Operating Hours*: Open at 9:00am, 365 days a year

- Parking: FREE PARKING in adjacent 1,600-space garage

Florida Fossil Hunters News

APRIL FIELD TRIP

PLAN A

PEACE RIVER FIELD TRIP

Saturday, April 4th

If the river's level goes down enough to dig & sift for fossils, we are having a Peace River fossil hunting trip.

We will put in at the bridge just north of Paynes Creek and go downstream to Heard Bridge Rd. (about 3 to 4 miles).

Directions: Hwy. 17 south to Bowling Green. Turn left onto Main St.. Turn right onto Lake Branch Rd. Follow Lake Branch around the curve. Right before the bridge, there will be a dirt road that exits to the right and along the road and under the bridge. You can park your vehicle in the grass alongside the dirt road. We will ferry most vehicles down to the Heard Bridge so we don't have to paddle upstream.

Be at the Lake Branch bridge by 7 am so we can unload the canoes & gear and get vehicles moved to Lake Branch. That way we can be in the river at 8 am. Unless bad weather moves in, we plan on getting to Lake Branch at around 4 pm.

Of course, bring all the usual gear and necessities: water, food, shovel, sifter, containers for fossils, a fanny pack or bag to tie to yourself to hold the fossils. Be sure to wear a hat, old gym shoes and socks to keep the sand out. (no sandals-there is glass and sharp rocks in the river)

PLAN B

IF THE PEACE RIVER IS TOO HIGH

Yankeetown

Saturday, April 4th

If the river level is too high AND there are no storms on the Gulf Coast, we'll go fossil hunting at the Yankeetown spoil islands for echinoids.

Directions: Take the 408 (East/West Exp.) west to FL-91 N (the Florida Turnpike). Go north towards Ocala. Continue north when the turnpike merges onto I-75 N. Take Exit 341, Hwy 484 towards Belleview. Turn left onto SW 135th St./FL-484 and continue on it as it becomes W Pennsylvania Ave./ County Hwy. 40. Turn right onto Cedar St./County Hwy. 40 to the end of the road at the Gulf of Mexico. This trip will probably take around 2 hours.

Of course, bring all the usual gear and necessities: water, food, hand spade and/or small rake, containers for fossils, a bucket, old gym shoes (oysters can cut your feet), sunscreen, hat, etc.

You will need a canoe/kayak to get to the spoil islands. Mark has agreed to bring his canoes if we need them there. The same deposit/rental applies.

If you do NOT have a canoe/kayak, Mark Voke has generously offered the use of his canoes. He will even transport them to the Peace River. They each have two paddles but you must supply your own life jackets.

There will be a \$50 deposit required. \$40 will be returned to you once Mark has his canoe and paddles back in good condition. **This means the canoe rental is only \$10.00!!!**
(Thank you, Mark)

To sign up for the trip and
reserve a canoe,
if necessary, email Bonnie at:
bonnierussell62@gmail.com
or call 352-429-1058
(before 8:30pm)

Florida Fossil Hunters News

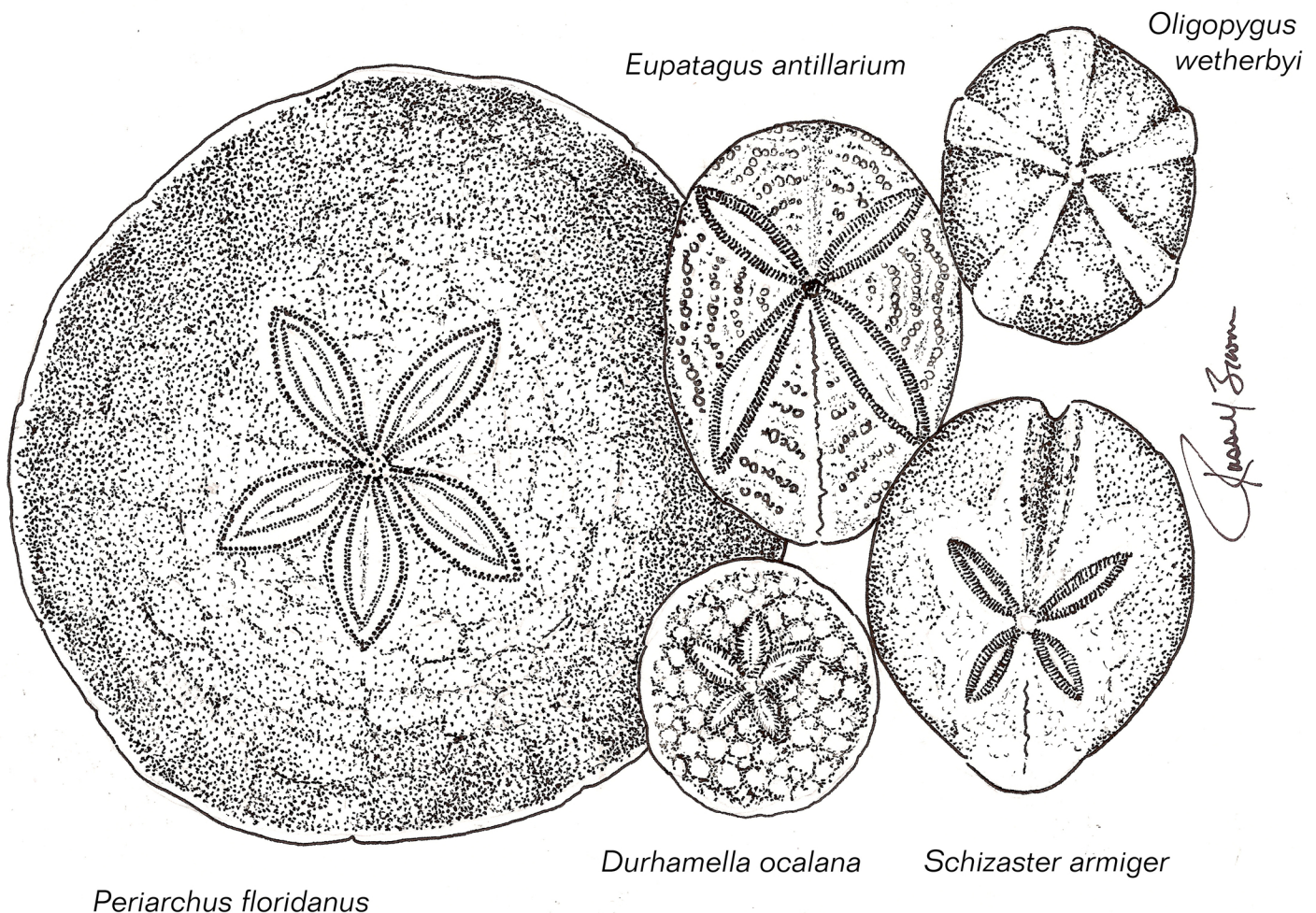
Yankeetown Echinoids

Yankeetown is located on the west coast just north of Crystal River where the Withlacoochee River empties into the Gulf of Mexico. From Orlando, take Hwy. 50 west to 98, go north on 19, turn left onto 40 till the road ends. You won't miss it. You'll need a small boat or canoe to get to several small spoil islands. The first island is only a few hundred feet from the boat ramp.

Wear old shoes. Bring a small shovel or spade and a bucket or other containers to bring back your finds. Most echinoids can be surface collected but don't be fooled because a lot are covered with algae growth or matrix or buried in the sand. Low tide will expose all the oyster bars that line the channel, also giving more echinoid hunting area.

They range from the size of a BB to about 2-1/2 inches.

The most common echinoid found here would be the *Eupatagus antillarum*. Others found are *Schizaster armiger*, *Oligopygus wetherbyi*, *Cataopys mississippiensis*, *Weisbozella cubae* and *Periarchus floridanus*.



Exploring Humans Origins: What Does It Mean to be Human?

Orange County Library
May 9 - June 5

The Smithsonian Museum is sending a traveling exhibit based on the one that was in the Museum in Washington, D.C. to libraries across the nation. Central Florida is fortunate to have it visit us.

The 1,200-square-foot traveling exhibition includes more than 40 educational panels, interactive kiosks, hands-on displays, videos, 3-D skull casts and presentations representing groundbreaking research in the scientific study of human origins. "Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human?" will highlight key milestones in the journey of human evolution and explain how they developed over time, including walking upright, the earliest known technologies, brain enlargement, symbolic language development, the origin of agriculture and the creation of complex societies.

The traveling exhibition appeals to the innate curiosity of all human beings in terms of understanding themselves and their own existence. It aims to engage local communities in the global scientific exploration of how humans have evolved over time, while inviting discussion that connects this exploration to varied societal perspectives about what it means to be human.

For more info on the exhibit, go to:

<http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/smithsonian-takes-hall-human-origins-across-country-new-traveling-exhibition>

Orange County Library is located at 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323, www.ocls.info/orlandopubliclibrary

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Saturday, March 14

Trip Leader:
Steve Chambers

stchamb1@outlook.com
cell ph: 321-806-0763

Saturday, April 11th

Need a Trip Leader.

To volunteer, email Bonnie
at bonnierussell62@gmail.com
or call 352-429-1058

All participants **MUST**
be escorted into and out of the mine.

There are **NO RESTROOM**
FACILITIES AT VULCAN,
other than the boulders and the hills.

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.

Directions: The trip will take approximately 2 hours from Orlando to Vulcan Mine. 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. Be sure NOT to keep following 41 north. You want to take 98 north from Brooksville.

This is mostly surface collecting. 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.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

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 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
Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	

Membership Application

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.
dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

Sunday, March 8th - 1 to 4 pm
FLMNH, Ask a Scientist: Geology

Saturday, March 14th
Vulcan Mine

Saturday, March 21st
2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm - Meeting & Speaker

March 21st & 22nd
Tampa Bay Fossil Fest

Saturday, April 4th
Peace River Dig or Yankeetown
(weather permitting)

April 10, 11, & 12th
Venice Shark Tooth Festival, Venice Beach
Central FL Mineral & Gem Mineral Show,
Orlando

Saturday, April 11th
Vulcan Mine
(need trip leader)

May 9th - June 5th
Smithsonian "Becoming Human"
Orange Co. Library

Saturday, May 16th
Women in Paleontology

Jan. 24 to Sept. 13, 2015 -
A ***T. rex*** Named Sue exhibit

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com
to receive the newsletter via email.



Join Our Facebook group, Search:

[Florida Fossil Hunters](#)

facebook

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



PALEO WORKSHOPS

Learn about Florida's prehistoric past in a FossilFest workshop! Experienced collectors will teach you how to find, identify, and preserve fossil treasures of your very own! All workshops are free to FossilFest attendees!

Saturday & Sunday

Discovering Florida's Fossil Treasures with TBFC's own Dr. Bob Sinibaldi PhD. Learn where and how to find fossils of your own right here in Florida!

Florida's Fossil Vertebrates & the Fossil Hunting Permit with Dr. Richard Hulbert PhD of the Florida Museum of Natural History. It's cheap and easy! Learn how to get your fossil permit and participate in the science of paleontology.

The Perfect Plaster Jacket & Other Preservation Techniques with Bill Faucher. Learn how to successfully get fossils from the field to your lab. Jacketing, glues, and preservation techniques are discussed for the beginner.

**Be a part of the adventure!
JOIN TBFC TODAY!**

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

FLORIDA'S LARGEST PREHISTORIC SHOW!

**FOSSILS & ARTIFACTS
GEMS - MINERALS - SHELLS
FOSSIL EXHIBITS - WORKSHOPS
KIDS GAMES * FOSSIL MINE * RAFFLES
DOOR PRIZES * SILENT AUCTIONS**



**Presents the 27th Annual
March 21st & 22nd, 2015
Sat: 9AM-6PM, Sun: 10AM-4PM**

Adults \$7, Kids 12 and under FREE!

**Florida State Fairgrounds
Intersection of I-4 & Hwy 301 just east of Tampa.**

