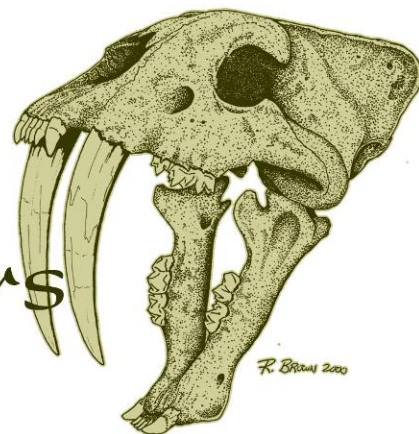


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 23, Number 1

January 2013

Desk of the President.....

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a great time during the holidays.

The January meeting will be on Thursday, the 17th, from 7 to 9 pm at the Mt. Vernon Inn in Winter Park. Directions, etc., can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

The Board members want to try this to to widen our availability to all members. Years ago FFH met on Wed. evenings and by moving it to Saturdays, it conflicted with some people's schedules. (Bonnie & I will always have the Kids' Blast programs on Saturdays, like usual)

Alex Kittle, Invertebrate Paleontology Curatorial Assistant at the Florida Museum of Natural History, will be our guest speaker this month. His presentation will be "The Suwannee Limestone (Lower Oligocene) of Florida".

On January 26th, the Titanoboa: Monster Snake exhibit has its grand opening. Bonnie & I have reserved two tables for a Florida Fossil Hunters' display at this event. Later In February, we'll line up a club trip for members to see this exhibit.... plus there is always so much to see at the Museum. Look for details as to cost, date, etc. on our website and the February newsletter.

As some things change, others don't. As in previous years, the club has had no one different volunteering to hold any positions of office (except Melissa Cole has graciously volunteered to help with membership). I hope that within this next year, a few new members will step up, for this is your club and we old members are becoming fewer. I won't be able to make some of the meetings and events due to work, so I'll be calling on officers, directors on the board, and even regular members to run these events.

We've got a lot planned for this year, as most have you have read in previous newsletters. As these events come up, there will be info on what, where, when, etc. each month. If you can help out, please contact us.

Thanks.
Russell Brown
President
Florida Fossil Hunters

**Vulcan Mine
Field Trip
Jan 12, 2013**
More Info Page 6

**January Mtg
Jan 17, 2013**
7pm Mount
Vernon Inn
More Info Page 2-3

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Thursday, January 17, 2013
at 7 pm, at the
Mount Vernon Inn
on 17-92 in Winter Park

**Time to renew your
Florida Fossil Hunter
Membership**

More events listed on back page

For more info...
www.floridafossilhunter.com

Table of Contents

Fragments	2
Piece on the Peace	2
Kids Fossil Blast	2
Fossil & Mineral Shows	2
January Mtg Info	3
Lulu Creek - Part 9	4
Vulcan Mine Field Trip	6
Contacts and Membership Info ...	7
Calendar	8

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Just when you've overcome your fear of snakes.....

Titanoboa: Monster Snake | Jan. 26 - Aug. 11, 2013

Florida Museum of Natural History scientists recently discovered 60-million-year-old remains of the largest snake in the world, *Titanoboa cerrejonensis*, in a Colombian coal mine. Measuring 48 ft. long and weighing 2,500 lbs., this massive predator could crush and devour a crocodile. Featuring a full-scale model of *Titanoboa* and clips from a Smithsonian Channel documentary, the exhibition delves into the discovery, reconstruction and implications of this enormous reptile. Fossil plants and other animals found at the site also reveal the earliest known rain forest, teeming with life and dating to the Paleocene, the lost world that followed the demise of the dinosaurs.

Russell Brown and Bonnie Cronin will represent the Florida Fossil Hunters with a display of Florida fossils at the grand opening on Saturday, Jan. 26th. Other organizations will also have displays for this event. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please email Bonnie & Russell at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call them at 352-429-1058.

We hope to have a club trip to the Museum to see this exhibit in February.

Kudos to Dunaway

We all want to thank Dave Dunaway for a great Holiday Party at his place in December. We all had a delightful time exploring his fort and relaxing in the courtyard while we shared fossil hunting stories and ate all the yummy stuff that folks brought. The kids especially had a fantastic time. They took turns riding in the trailer behind Dave's 4-wheeler, chased the chickens (a couple were even caught and gently held), found fossils in the gravel strewn around the fort, and put each other in the jail. The icing on the proverbial cake were the fireworks that Dave set off after the auction. They elicited oohs and aahs from the adults as well as the kids. Thank you, Dave.

Discover the Daytona Mastodon

From now through Spring 2013, select Mastodon fossils that were unearthed last year in Daytona Beach will be on display at the Museum of Arts & Sciences. Also be sure to see the Giant Ground Sloth skeleton that is back on permanent display there. For more on the Museum visit www.moas.org

Deland - Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society

39th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show on Saturday, Jan. 12th from 10 am to 6 pm, and on Sunday, Jan. 13th from 10 am to 5 pm. Held at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Bldg., SR 44, Deland. (1/2 mile east of I-4, exit 118)

For more info, go to www.tomokagms.org

OSC Fossil Fest #7, March, 2013

Already going over plans for the next Fossil Fest at the Orlando Science Center with Stephanie Kazmierzak-Esler. Our club will participate in it INSTEAD of having a regular meeting in March. We've asked for 13 tables and we'd like at least a dozen members to volunteer more since some of you can't volunteer for the whole time of 10 am to 4:30 pm. We're working with Chris DeLory from the Brevard Zoo to present a program on hunting dinosaur fossils. Russell Brown will speak on the Fossils of Pine Hills. Hoping to get some people from the Florida Paleontological Society, Museum of Natural History to be there, too. Also planning on a "fossil identification" table, a "hands-on" table, grab bags for the kids, etc.

Please join us and enjoy the pleasure of sharing with others the fun of learning and finding fossils in Florida.

Time to Renew Your Florida Fossil Hunter Membership

It's a great bargain..... you get to attend free presentations, go on field trips, and hang around with people who are as interested in strange rocks as you are. And it's still only \$17 per household!

Just download the application on our website or pick up one at our meetings and enter your current info. PLEASE print clearly.... the email addresses are unusual enough without having to guess if that figure is a G or a 6. Make checks out to Florida Fossil Hunters and give it to the membership folks or mail it to P.O. Box 540404, Orlando, FL 32854

Kids' Fossil Blast

Everyone had a great time learning about how footprints are made and fossilized in November. The kids really got into the spirit of the thing, testing different types of animals' imprints and re-enacting hunting scenarios. Even think I heard a few roars.

We'll probably have our next kids' program in February. Be sure to check the newsletters and the website for the date and time.

Piece on the Peace

The water level has stayed low during the whole month of December and hopefully that will continue through January. Start your year off right..... a good resolution would be to get out and hunt more often. It's great for the body, brain, and soul.

January 17th Meeting

Some of our members have been unable to make our meetings since we switched them to Saturdays when the Science Center shortened their hours. So we're having our meeting in January on Thursday, January 17, at 7 pm so they can participate, too. It will be at the Mt. Vernon Inn, 110 S. Orlando Ave. (17-92), Winter Park, FL 32789. Ph: 407-647-1166. The meeting room is on the 2nd floor above the office.

Directions: I-4 to exit 87, Fairbanks Ave. Go east on Fairbanks 1 mile to 17-92 (S. Orlando Ave). Turn left onto 17-92, go north 2 blocks and Mt. Vernon Inn will be on your right.

Our January 17th meeting will feature Alex Kittle of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

The Suwannee Limestone (Lower Oligocene) of Florida

He will be presenting on the geology and marine fossils (mainly mollusks) of the lower Oligocene Suwannee Limestone, which is exposed in streams and quarries in the eastern Florida Panhandle, northern peninsular Florida, the west-central part of the state (i.e. Brooksville), and southern Georgia. This formation represents an interesting time in the geological history of Florida. During this time there are cooling trends in global temperatures, shifts in ocean currents, and changes in deposition that all had considerable impact on the marine faunas of the western Atlantic, including Florida.

Alex is a graduate of Georgia College, located in the Piedmont Region of Georgia. There he received his bachelors and masters degrees in biology. He was involved with the setup of the first university based natural history museum in central Georgia. The museum is a fossil repository for the National Park System, and has an extensive collection of fossil mammals from the White River Badlands of South Dakota. Alex assisted with multiple collecting trips to the Badlands of South Dakota, Yellowstone National Park, Tetons National Park, and Grand Canyon National Park. Alex is currently, a curatorial assistant in the Invertebrate Paleontology Division at the Florida Museum of Natural History. His duties include collection, preparation, and identification of fossil invertebrates from the SE USA and Caribbean. He is also, newsletter editor and member of the board of directors for the Florida Paleontological Society. Along with Roger Portell, he has produced a series of identification guides for fossil mollusks found in Florida for the society.

Vulcan Mine Field Trip Pictures



Imagine what treasures are hidden here.



Alex Bittle hunting for Vulcan's fossils.

Lulu Creek - Part 9:

Honey, Can I Keep It?

Standing where I had jumped on the bank at Lulu Creek, I could make out the snake-like motion moving towards Bonnie. Getting between her and it, I reached into the cloudy water thinking, "I hope that's what I think it is." Something big bumped into my hands. Grasping wildly, I felt it slip through.... slimy and smooth. Grabbing at it again, the head appeared. It was about 3 inches wide and lined with needle sharp teeth. "I've got you now."

I used my shovel to lift it up to show Bonnie the giant salamander which was about 14 inches long. These rare creatures are seldom seen but I've run across a few before at Lulu and once when I was a kid at Turkey Lake. My grandfather called them Mudpuppies. It was beautiful.

As I gazed at it, noticing the dots on its sides, the little legs and tiny toes, feathery gills..... I heard a voice, "No."

I could picture myself, keeping this at home for a while.... maybe in the bathtub. "No," Bonnie repeated.

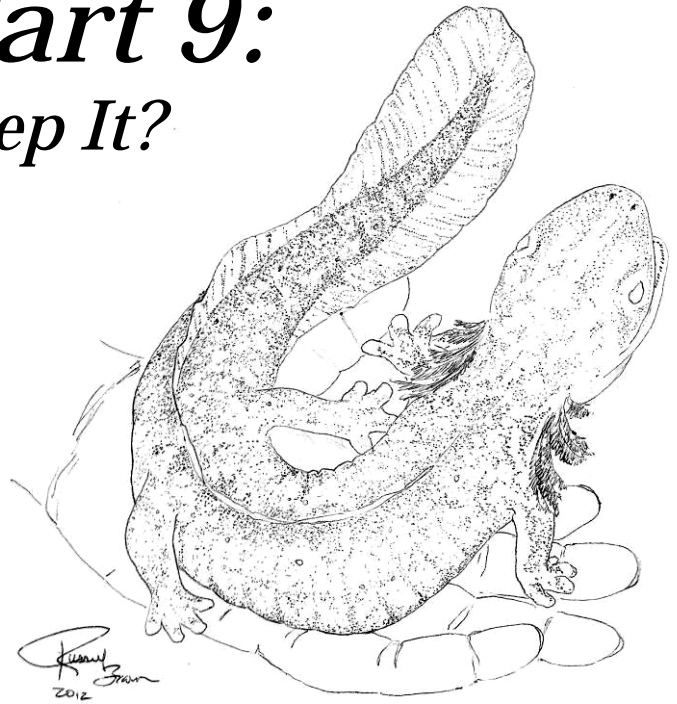
I'd call him Snappy for the way he tries to bite. Jeremy would be soooo jealous. "No, you're not," Bonnie said.

Of course it was the right thing to do. Reluctantly, I let it go on its way. But what a privilege to see such a wondrous thing.

(* Note to men: During the domestication process, women tend to weed out most exotic pets like snakes, scorpions, etc.)

Through the years spent digging at Lulu, I'd seen deer, hogs, coyotes, foxes, a bobcat, armadillos, possums, raccoons, etc., but the giant salamander takes the cake.

In the wintertime, especially during freezing temperatures (back when the orange processing plant would flush warm water through Lulu), a solid milky cloud would hang in the ravine and hide the creek



Mudpuppy, *Necturus maculosus*

from view. After descending through the cloud, we'd find clear warm air below. The colder air above would trap the warmth. It was REAL nice..... until it was time to leave and we had to climb up to the cold again.

One spot in a bend of the creek had a small waterfall which had eroded a small round area. It was about the size of a washing machine and covered with ferns. A huge snapping turtle usually would be buried there... the kind that could easily take off a finger if you didn't handle it properly.

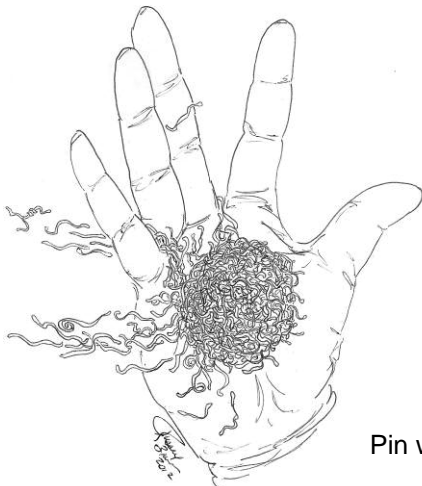
Jeremy and I would go out, exploring areas areas of Florida - driving, hiking, etc. - always looking for fossil localities. After one particular day spent hunting for the creeks of Gainesville for fossils, we went back to the motel room and as we showed each other our finds, I noticed one of the freckles on my arm move. Under closer inspection this turned out to be a small tick no larger than the period at the end of this sentence. Suddenly a wild itchy feeling came over me.... there was another one, and another..... Jeremy was laughing until he thought to check himself and started finding them all over his

body as well. We looked like two chimps that night, picking ticks.

That's why I like taking Bonnie digging with me now. She's a regular tick magnet in the woods.... they all jump on her and leave me alone. One perk of being domesticated..... she's a lot more fun to pick ticks off of than Jeremy.

When the dry season came, only a trickle would run down Lulu. Stagnant pools with an orange-brown scum would cover the creek bed. After digging up a couple shovelfuls hunting for sharks' teeth, you could easily scoop up enough pin worms to mash into a large meatball. They'd fill up the wire mesh and cover everything. Took the fun out of fossil hunting until the rainy season came and washed the mess down. It'd be a while before I went back.

Jeremy and I traveled far and wide. We had many



an adventure in Gainesville, not to mention elsewhere in the State. Lulu Creek still calls to me now and and again. The things I've found there through the years.... why, you could write a story about it.

Russell Brown

Next time: *Things From Lulu Creeks' Yesterdays*

Pin worms - in 30 minutes or less you'd have enough for a meatball sub.....

VULCAN MINE

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

Saturday, January 12th

Trip Leader: Bonnie Cronin,

Home ph: 352-429-1058

Email: bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Cell phone for the day of the trip

ONLY is 321-279-2592

Alan Pagels at Vulcan has cleaned and exposed a fresh new area dating to the Eocene. Sand dollars, shark teeth, and other intriguing finds were made during our December field trip. It's certainly worth the drive.

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.

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

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.

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.

THERE ARE NO RESTROOM FACILITIES AT VULCAN, other than the boulders and the hills.

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.

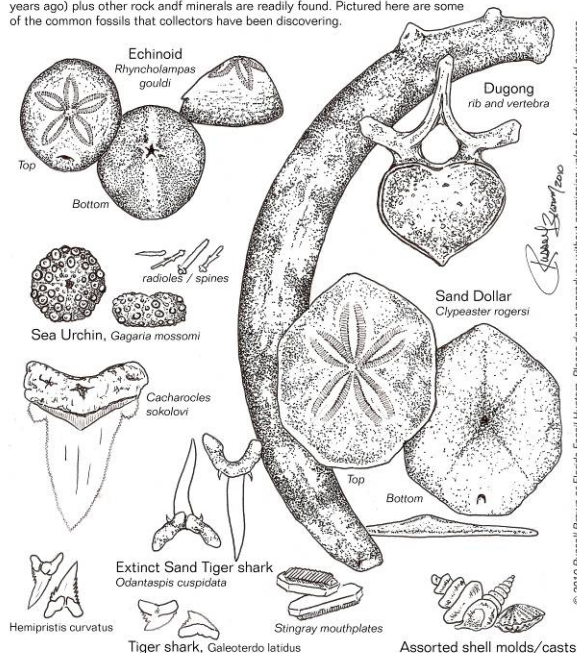
Wear a hat, sturdy shoes, long pants (some of the rocks are sharp), and sunscreen. Bring lots of water and/or drinks and some snacks or lunch to eat.

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.

Handout below is available on the field trip.

Vulcan Materials Company

Vulcan Materials Company is North America's leading producer of construction aggregates - primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel. During the quarrying process at the Brooksville site, fossils from the Oligocene (24.5 to 37.5 million years ago) plus other rock and minerals are readily found. Pictured here are some of the common fossils that collectors have been discovering.



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
Auctioneer	Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Membership	Bonnie Cronin Nicole Barr	(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	

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: elise@lisedreams.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.

January 12th
Vulcan Mine Field Trip

January 12th & 13th
Tomoka Gem & Mineral Show

March 2013
Fossil Fest at the
Orlando Science Center

JANUARY MEETING
Thursday, January 17, 2013
at 7 pm, at the
Mount Vernon Inn
on 17-92 in Winter Park

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bjrb48@netzero.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: elise@liseydreams.com

Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404
Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



Florida Fossil Hunters News