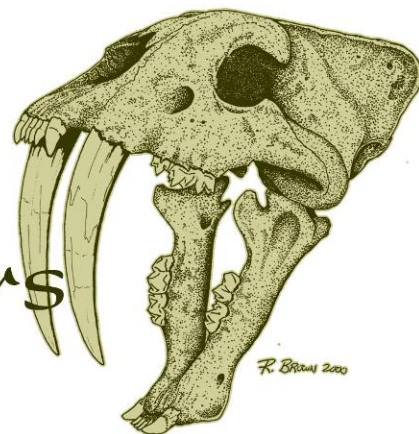


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 23, Number 3

March 2013

Desk of the President.....

Hope everyone enjoyed the trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Titanoboa exhibit there. There were a few 1st-timers to the FLMNH along with others who visit regularly. I am always amazed that there are people who have lived here for a long time yet don't know anything about the Museum and all of the collections that they have on display free of charge to the public. This is one of the main objectives of our club - to open eyes and minds to the wonderful world around them.

One of our largest outreach programs to the local community is the annual Fossil Fest at the Orlando Science Center. This will be our 8th year working with the Science Center and other organizations at this event. We'll have the fossil displays, lectures, etc. but we need volunteers. This year it will be held on Sunday, March 17th, from 10 am to 4 pm. If you want to help out or learn more, email Bonnie @ bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call us at [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

Before that event, we will be having the Vulcan Mine Fossil Dig & BBQ..... like we did last year but even better. There may be a surprise or two this year, so come on out and join us for some food, fun, and fossils at Vulcan. (*Details can be found inside this newsletter issue.*)

See you at Vulcan.
Russell Brown
President

**Vulcan Mine
Field Trip
Mar 9, 2013**
More Info Page 6

**No Mar Mtg
Join us for
at the OSC
Fossil Fest**
More Info Page 2 & 4

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

March 17th
OSC Fossil Fest
No March Club Mtg

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

More events listed on back page

For more info...
www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Needed - Volunteers for the Fossil Fest at the Orlando Science Center

Russell, Bonnie, Dave Dunaway, Valerie & Ed Metrin will bring in the fossils and replicas but we still need people to man the tables and tell people about the fossils and their experiences in finding them. If you have a favorite fossil you've found, bring it in and tell the visitors about how exciting it was to find it. We'll give you a quick course in the fossils so don't feel you have to be a genius to do this. We all started this way.

The hours and details are on the flyer in this issue. To volunteer.....if you haven't signed up already...just email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call her at 352-429-1058.

It really is so much fun to share this with other people.

THANK YOU

A big thanks to Steve Chambers for volunteering to be trip leader for February. He helped a bunch of new members discover the joys of hunting for echinoids at the mine.... and earned extra fossil bucks.

Kudos to Valerie First for volunteering her time at the Central Florida Zoo and at the Orlando Science Center. She has introduced the fun of fossils and the learning about the past to countless folks.

Titanoboa Exhibit

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.

Directions to the Florida Museum of Natural History, Powell Hall, 3215 Hull Rd., Gainesville, FL: Take I-75 to exit 384. Go east on SR 24 (Archer Rd.) Go about 1 mi., then turn left onto SR 121 (SW 34th St.) Go north 3/4 mile and then turn right onto Hull Rd. The entrance to the parking lots for the museums will be on your right. Parking is free on the weekends.



Kids' Fossil Blast

With all the activities happening the next few months, there won't be an opportunity for our usual Kids' Fossil Blast. We'll have info on the website and in the newsletter when we do schedule one.

We do hope the kids participate the Orlando Science Center's Fossil Fest on March 17th, and the picnic at Vulcan on March 9th.

Are Your Kids into Geology?

The Florida Museum of Natural History is having a special event on Saturday, March 16th from 10 am to 3 pm. It will feature volcano and earthquake demos, gem displays, and more. The best part is that it's FREE! For more info, go to flmnh.ufl.edu

You could make this a Geology and Fossil weekend with your kids... The museum event on Saturday and the Orlando Science Center's Fossil Fest on Sunday, March 17th.

Vulcan March Picnic

See page 6 for more information.

Piece on the Peace

Good news - the water level is still nice and low for digging and sifting in the Peace River for fossils. A trip to the Peace would be a great way to spend part of the kids' spring break. Still planning a club dig..... info will be in future emails and issues.

The club's annual dig on the Peace has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 20th. More details will be in future newsletters.

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

Fossil & Mineral Shows

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

Their 25th Fossil Fest will be held 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday, March 23rd, and 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, March 24th, at the Florida State Fairgrounds near the intersection of I-4 and Hwy. 301, just east of Tampa. Admission is \$6 but kids 12 and under can get in free. There is an additional cost for parking.... I think it was in the range of \$5 to \$7.

There will be fossils on display as well as for sale. Minerals, gems, and shells will be offered, too. To make it even more fun there will be kids' games, a fossil mine, raffles, door prizes, silent auctions, and workshops. For more info go to www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society

Their Spring Mineral & Gem Show will be held 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday, April 27th, and 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday, April 28th. at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 South Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Vendors will offer beads, minerals, gemstones, custom jewelry, and fossils, etc. Family activities include a sandpit and sluicing. There also will be demonstrations. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. go to their website www.cfmg.org for a \$1 coupon off admission.

Venice Shark Tooth Festival

The 2013 Festival will be held April 12th - 14th. The hours are- Friday 4 - 9 pm, Saturday 10 am - 9 pm, Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. There are shark teeth and fossil vendors as well as lots of arts and crafts booths. You can get all kinds of food and enjoy the music of the live bands while you eat. There are kids' activities, too. While you're in Venice, you can go to the beach and hunt for your own fossil shark teeth.... hint - they are generally black in color.

Cost is \$3 for adults and kids under 12 can get in free. Directions: From Sarasota take Rt. 41 south to the Rt. 41 Venice bypass. Look for the signs on Rt. 41 along the bypass directing you to the Venice Municipal Airport festival grounds. For more info, check out www.escape-to-sarasota.com/venice-sharks-tooth-festival

Congratulations!

2012 Howard Converse Awardees

Russell Brown and Bonnie Cronin received the Prestigious Florida Museum of Natural History's Howard Converse Award at the January 2013 meeting of the Florida Fossil Hunters from Alex Kittle, Asst. Curator of Invertebrates at FLMNH. The Converse Award is presented annually to recognize individuals from the non-professional paleontological ranks who have made outstanding contributions to Florida paleontology.

Russell and Bonnie are recognized for their impact on the community by sharing their passion of Florida's fossils and natural history through their talks, exhibits, field trips, work with the community and artistic recreations.

The two are well known for their numerous talks to schools, libraries, community groups such as boy & girl scouts, historical societies, etc. Their descriptions and exhibits bring to life Florida's rich fossil history for all generations. They are often found displaying their fossils and educating visitors at events at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences, and the Orlando Science Center and encouraging everyone interested to discover the thrill of finding their own fossils.

They have generously loaned fossils in displays at the Orlando Science Center, the Lake County Historical Museum and have rotating educational displays in several Central Florida schools. Recently Russell was asked to display some of his fossils in the Florida Paleontological Society's display at the Museum as well.

In 2005 Russell and Bonnie initiated and continue to cultivate a kids' program for the Florida Fossil Hunters, incorporating hands on experience with fossils and fun activities that convey the concepts of paleontology, prehistoric life, and geology to young enthusiasts.

"We are dedicated to the goal of educating the public, especially children, about the rich fossil and geologic history of Florida." says Russell Brown.

Russell is also well known for his artistic expression of his passion for fossils. He has created numerous hand-drawn ID sheets for Florida fossils, recreations of his fossil adventures and been asked to display his paleontological artwork in the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Russell Brown has served as President of the Florida Fossil Hunters for 3 terms. Bonnie Cronin has been the Editor of the club newsletter since January of 2005. Both have contributed their time in numerous other positions within the club for more than a decade.



ORLANDO
SCIENCE
CENTER

Florida Fossil Hunters

presents



Fossil Fest 7

March 17, 2013

10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Lectures by

12 to 12:30 pm
Russell Brown,
Florida Fossil Hunters
**"Fossils of
Central Florida"**

1 to 1:30 pm -
Chris DeLorey,
Brevard Zoo
**"Hunting Dinosaurs
in Wyoming"**

2 to 2:30 pm
Russell Brown,
Florida Fossil Hunters
"Prehistoric Pine Hills"

Local collectors
Local fossils

Fossils for children

Florida Paleontological Society
Fossil identification

Hands-on table

And more.....

more info... www.osc.org and www.floridafossilhunters.com

Lulu Creek - Part 11: What I Found

Today as in yesterday, man has thrown his trash everywhere. In time, your trash may be a future society's artifacts. As man makes advances, his trash reflects these changes.

Sadly, trash of today can be readily found in Lulu Creek. Everything imaginable from construction material, tires, washing machines, rugs, lawnmowers, you name it, has been dumped here. Most will eventually decompose. Some will remain as future artifacts.

The plastics which replaced the pottery, glass, and metals we used in the past, will remain thousands of years and will be a "fingerprint" of today's societies. From times past, we find lots of glass. Metal objects corrode fairly quickly. Iron oxide forms by exposure to air and moisture. Large reddish-orange clumps can be found at Lulu. Glass, however, is everywhere. Broken through the years and mixed in with railroad gravel, pieces can be found in every shovel-full. Unbroken bottles that we found add to the story of the Creek.

There are a lot of "screw-top" bottles... beer, soda, mason jars, big brown Clorox bleach bottles, and a lot of medicine bottles that date from today back to the early 1900's. Before 1906 there were pre-machined and a some hand-blown glass bottles. Colors range from clear (some turned pinkish with age) to brown, blue, and green.

During the earlier times in Winter Garden coal-fired trains came through transporting goods to and from the area and stopped to replenish their water at the creek. Railroad gravel washed down into the ravine along with a few railroad spikes, pieces of coal, glass insulators, etc.

Strangely, marbles are a common find in Lulu Creek - both glass and clay. I've found them in other creeks in Gainesville, too.... have a couple of old milk bottles full of them. Clay marbles are from around the 1890's; the glass ones range in age. I had asked the grove owner about them and he said that during the Depression, they'd use the marbles with their slingshots to hunt small game around the Creek. Still not sure why there are so many of them.

Another oddity were smooth slender stones about as thick as a pencil, 3/4 inches long, and cut diagonally on both ends. Heard all sorts of explanations for them including the theory that they were Indian's game pieces. Years later I found out that they were tumblers

from inside a machine at the orange processing plant.

Bones from land animals are rare in Lulu. But we have found some from domesticated horses, cattle, pigs, and the animals that inhabit the woods of Florida today. These bones were light in weight and a lot would splinter apart as they dried out.

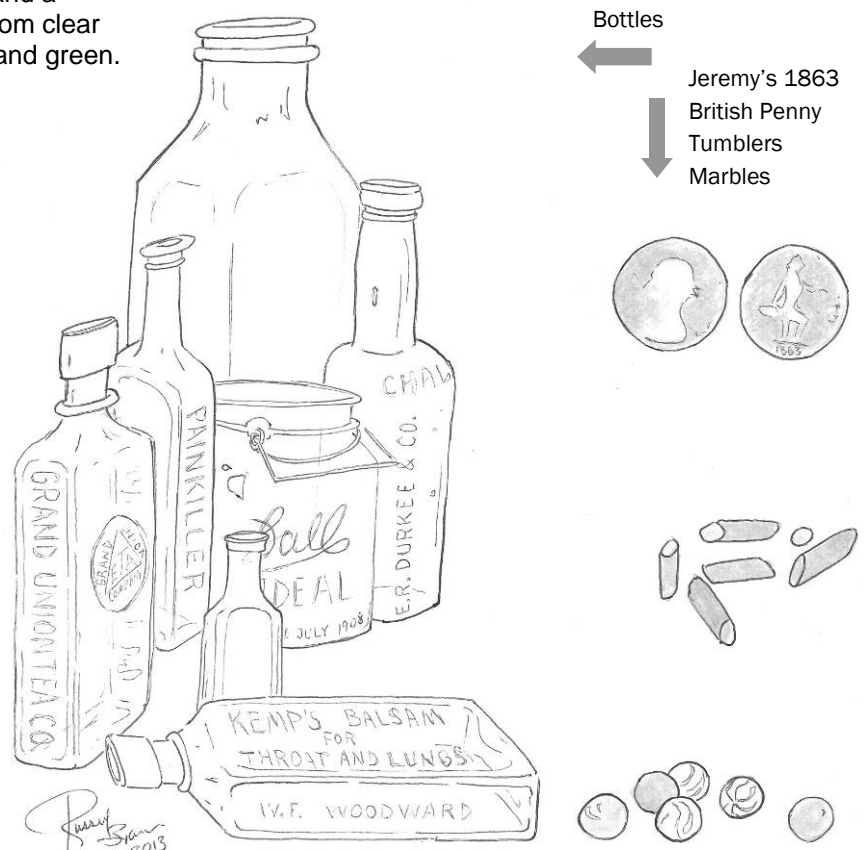
Yes, coins would turn up every now and then. Most were fairly recent and often corroded and tarnished. One exception was one found in 1995 by Jeremy Smith (lucky dog!). It was a 1863 British coin almost smooth from the wear of time.

I'm sure early hunters and traders came around Lake Apopka and walked along the creek as well as European explorers looking for new areas to claim for settlements.

But before those, the first Floridians lived here and left some of their artifacts for us to find.

Russell Brown

Next month: The early artifacts at Lulu Creek and the people who left them.



VULCAN MINE Field Trip & BBQ

Vulcan Mine Field Trip ***near Brooksville*** **Saturday, March 9th**

Trip Leader: Bonnie Cronin & Russell Brown,
If you have not signed up yet, please email
them at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or
call [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058).

We need a count of people to make sure we
have enough food, plates, etc.

Cell phone for day of trip only: [321-279-2592](tel:321-279-2592)

Our club tried this last year and it was a lot of fun. Come
join us for fossil hunting and food and laughter. The club
will provide hot dogs and fixings, plates, utensils. Please
bring your own drinks, chairs a dish to share with the
others..... salads, fruit, veggies, chips, desserts, etc.

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 some-
times 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 be-
come 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 bath-
room 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 con-
tainers and tissue for fragile fossils.

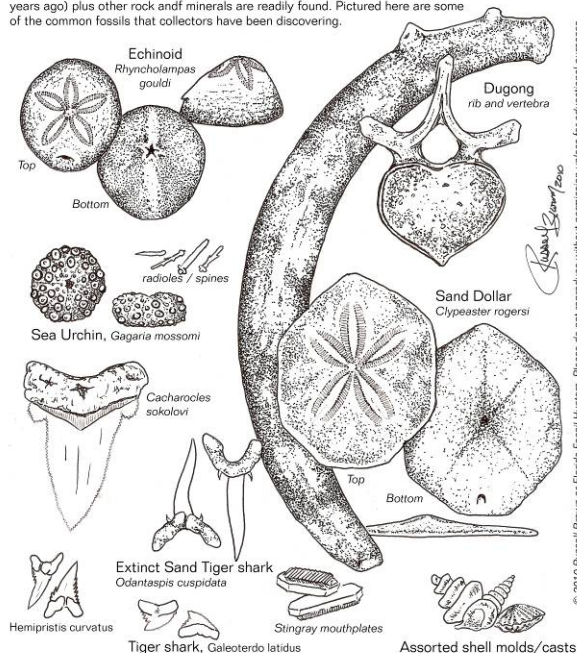
Wear a hat, sturdy shoes, long pants (some of the rocks
are sharp), and sunscreen. Bring lots of water and/or
drinks and some snacks or lunch to eat.

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.



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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@liseydreams.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@liseydreams.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

March 9

Vulcan Mine Field Trip & Picnic

March 17

OSC Fossil Fest
No March Club Mtg

March 23 & 24

Tampa Bay club Fossil Fair

April 12, 13, 14

Venice Shark Tooth Festival

April 27 & 28

Cen. FL Mineral & Gem show

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