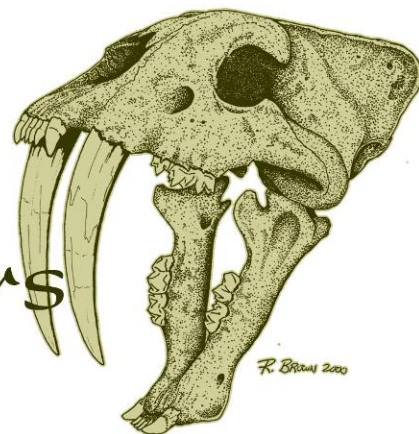


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 22, Number 9

October 2012

Desk of the President.....

Hello and welcome to our Fossil Fair.

Sept. 29th, the Florida Fossil Hunters will be at the Daytona Beach Museum of Arts & Sciences helping to educate the public and participate in the activities planned for their "Day of the Mastodon".

Oct 13th and 14th will be our Fossil Fair.

This is your chance to buy a new treasure from one of our dealers. That 6" Meg tooth or maybe that mammoth tooth..... the one that eluded you this year.... it will surely be laying on a table somewhere at the fossil show. Veteran members know the benefits from all you can learn by walking around looking and talking with the dealers. New members should take advantage of this opportunity. A lot of questions can be answered by the large assortment of fossils, artifacts, gems, etc. and the dealers that know so much about them. Tell your friends to come along and open their eyes to the past. This is lining up to be a great Fossil Fair, so don't miss out. I'll see you there.

In November we will be discussing plans for our Christmas party and we'll have a guest speaker from the University of Florida.

As always, thank you for your support.

Russell Brown
President

**October 13 & 14
2012 Fossil Fair**

*More information on
pages 3 and 7*

**November
10th MTG**

2pm Kids'
3pm Meeting

Coming Events

**October 13 & 14
2012 Fossil Fair**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS
at the Orlando Science Center**

November 10th

2pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3pm Meeting

More events listed on back page

For more info...
www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Vulcan Club Dig, December 8th

We'll have a club field trip to Vulcan Mine on Saturday, Dec. 8th. Dave Dunaway has volunteered to be the trip leader. You can sign up at the Fossil Fair, at our November meeting, or call Dave at 407-786-8844.

The usual details of digging at Vulcan can be found on our website and will be in the November newsletter.

Report on Sept. dig at Vulcan Mine

I think a good time was had by all. I collected a bucketful of Rhyncholampas, which were extremely plentiful, but didn't find anything else worth bringing home. Once I get through cleaning those and see which ones are in the best condition, I'll probably have 10 or a dozen nice ones that are worth keeping. The rest I'll donate. One guy found a bit of a dugong rib, and I heard on the grapevine that Alan had come away with a well preserved Galaria (didn't see it myself), but the grapevine also said it was one of only two found on Saturday. Because the quarry isn't being worked anymore, there's an awful lot of grass overgrowth and the exposed material is starting to weather badly. Soon it'll be digging only – and, in fact, the best specimens I took came from digging a bit beneath the semi-consolidated sandy surface. It's still worth it for a little while longer, especially if you like echinoids, but I'd say, assuming they're still letting people in, that in a year there won't be much to find via surface collecting.

Wendell Ricketts

National Fossil Day - October 17

Celebrate with the National Park Service and FPS in St. Augustine - OR - bring your fossils to work ... give a talk at your child's school ... Share the excitement!

National Fossil Day, October 17th

Come join us for "Fossils in the Fort" at Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine to celebrate National Fossil Day. Learn about coquina, the "fossil" that built the fort. Hear guest lecturers talk about its use as a construction material and the fossils that are contained within it. See museum collections of Florida fossils and others from around the world..... Russell & Bonnie will represent the Florida Fossil Hunters with a display of fossils.

Location: Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, Florida

Time: 8:45 am to 3 pm (park is open until 5:15 pm)

Cost: Free with park entrance fee (Adults 16 & above \$7, children 15 & under free with adult)

Activities: Speakers, Giveaways, Fossil Displays, Junior Paleontological Program

Sponsored by: Florida Paleontological Society, National Park Service, Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Florida Geological Foundation.

November Meeting Date Changed

Our **November meeting has been moved** to the 2nd Saturday, **November 10th** due to all the events the Science Center had going on the 3rd Saturday. Mark your calendars.

We'll be meeting in the Clubhouse at the Science Center. It's the large room across from the theater entrance on the First Floor. Our speaker for that meeting will be Adiel Klomp maker, one of the post-docs working at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He received his PHD recently from Kent State University. He'll be talking about predation on shells.

FPS Fall Meeting

The Fall meeting of the Florida Paleontological Society will be on the weekend Nov. 16th through 18th. No news on the location yet.

Piece on the Peace

Sad to say, the water level is still too high for diggin' in the Peace. For the last 3 weeks it's been fluctuating between 10 to 13 feet at the Zolfo station. Hopefully, it will come down by November and we'll all get to go stand in the river and hunt for fossils again.

INFO on NOV. KID'S FOSSIL BLAST—PAGE 8

OSC Neanderthal Ball, November 3, 2012

You are cordially invited to the

6th Annual
Neanderthal Ball

Presenting Sponsor
ARNOLD PALMER HOSPITAL
For Children
Supported by Arnold Palmer Medical Center Foundation

Saturday, November 3, 2012
Benefiting the Orlando Science Center
Premiering
HARRIETT'S
CHARITABLE TRUST
Harriett's Caveman Couture Contest

Orlando Home and Leisure Magazine declares
"Neanderthal Ball is one of the best galas in Orlando!"

For tickets, sponsorship inquiries or auction donations,
please contact Kathy Lopus at klopus@osc.org.

Member Ticket
\$95

Special member price \$95 per person
General Public \$125
(offer valid through October 15)

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Beer
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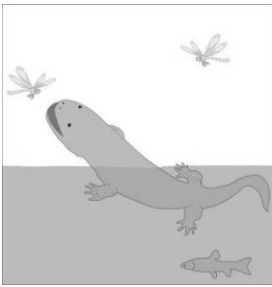
SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment

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First Giant Salamander Was a Hot Hunter



ScienceDaily (Sep. 20, 2012) — Modern giant salamanders live only in water -- but their ancestors ventured out on land, say geoscientists at the University of Tübingen.

Giant salamanders (cryptobranchidae) are amazing animals. These amphibians can live to be 100, can

grow up to two meters in length, and they have been around for more than 56 million years. The fossils of giant salamanders are found relatively often in Eurasia; they show little variation from their modern descendants. Early giant salamanders had a similar lifestyle and were just as big as today's, which live in East Asia and North America. But while the latter stick to oxygen-rich, fast-flowing mountain streams in China, Japan and the US, their ancestors also lived in rivers and lakes in the lowlands.

Now, geoscientists at the University of Tübingen have discovered another difference. The oldest known giant salamander, *aviturus exsecratus*, was able to live on land as well as in water, according to Professor Dr. Madelaine Böhme of the Senckenberg Center for Human Evolution and Paleoecology at the University of Tübingen and Dr. Davit Vasilyan of the Terrestrial Palaeoclimatology working group. In the light of recent information, the researchers reexamined fossils of *aviturus exsecratus*, which lived some 56 million years ago in what is now southern Mongolia. They were able to demonstrate that the animal hunted for food both in the water and on land. That makes it different from all the later giant salamanders, which live or lived only in water. These results are presented in online in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

The development of a species from a purely aquatic lifestyle to an amphibious-terrestrial lifestyle is linked with gigantism and sustained growth and is called peramorphosis. It is completely unknown in modern salamanders. Individual development like that was only seen in palaeozoological amphibians such as *eryops*, which lived 300 million years ago.

The scientists suspect that *aviturus exsecratus* lived on fish and invertebrates in the water -- as suggested by the shape of its lower jaw. At the same time, *aviturus* probably hunted insects. Terrestrial adaptation is indicated by the animal's heavy bones, long hind legs, a well-developed sense of smell, and palatal dentition typical of a terrestrial salamander. Also, fossil remains of this huge, up to 2m long animal were found in rock typically formed from water's-edge sediments.

The researchers think this drastic individual development in *aviturus exsecratus* was probably due to a short period of global warming 55.8 million years ago: the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum. This most sudden climate change since the death of the dinosaurs saw global temperatures rise 6 degrees Celsius within around 20,000 years.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/09/120920082524.htm#.UGMY4c1UDUG.email>

World's Smallest Fossil Footprints: Small Amphibian Roamed Earth 315 Million Years Ago

ScienceDaily (Sep. 11, 2012) — A new set of fossil footprints discovered in Joggins, Nova Scotia, near Amherst, have been identified as the world's smallest known fossil vertebrate footprints.

The footprints were found at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Joggins Fossil Cliffs. A fossil specimen of the ichnogenus *Batrachichnus salamandroides* was collected by local amateur paleontologist Gloria Melanson, daughter of Don Reid, the famed Keeper of the Joggins Cliffs, while walking the Joggins beach.

"This was one of the most exciting finds I have ever made and I am very pleased that, along with my colleagues, we are able to share it with the world. Every big fossil find is by chance; it's all about being lucky and recognizing what you're looking at. When I saw the very small tail and toes I knew we had something special. I never thought it would be the world's smallest," said Melanson.

The footprints belonged to a small amphibian which would have roamed Earth 315 million years ago, a creature not unlike a salamander.

The fossil record at Joggins is most famous for its diverse skeletal record of small tetrapods, dominated by an array of small, primitive amphibians (temnospondyls and microsaur), and the oldest known reptile, *Hylonomus lyelli*, entombed within once-hollow fossil tree stumps.

Small trackways of these animals at Joggins are common, but none so small as the one discovered recently. The 48-mm-long trackway preserves approximately 30 footprints with the front feet measuring 1.6 mm long and back feet measuring 2.4 mm long. Study of the footprints by paleontologists at Saint

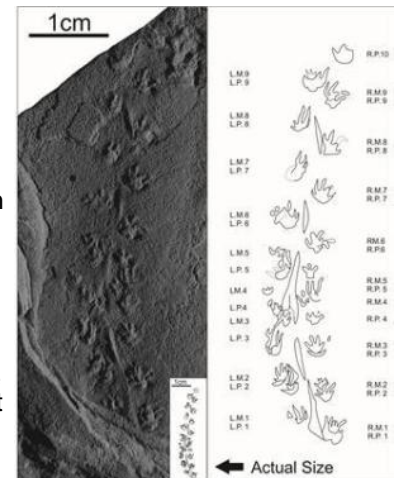
Mary's University (student Matt Stimson) and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History (Dr. Spencer Lucas) has revealed the trace maker was a juvenile amphibian, similar to a salamander (temnospondyl or microsauro) with an estimated body length of only 8 mm from snout to tail.

Further examination shows the animal began in a walk and later changed direction as it began to run. Speculation could be made that these are some of the juvenile's first footsteps on land after transforming from a tadpole stage that hatched in a local pond. The change in direction and speed may be interpreted as the animal either becoming startled by a larger predator, or perhaps while hunting some small insects, itself.

Melanson's fossil is on display at the Joggins Fossil Centre at the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Joggins Fossil Cliffs. The fossil is described in a paper by Stimson, Lucas and Melanson in the international scientific journal *Ichnos* on Aug. 27, 2012. The scientific article documents the significance of Melanson's fossil discovery and the secrets it reveals about ancient juvenile life in the Coal Age 315 million years ago in Nova Scotia.

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http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/09/120911125108.htm#.UFB_THcP3iU.email



FOSSIL FAIR 2012

Fellow Fossil Hunter members -

Our Fossil Fair is fast approaching and I need your help now more than ever. Our Fossil Fair is the annual event that raises money for our club to pay for the expenses: insurance, auction items, activities, guest speakers, etc. If you have enjoyed the activities that we've had in the past, the only way to make sure we can continue to have them is to everyone to pitch in on this most important event.

Young and old - all have a place in our club and at our Fossil Fair. Please help. You can contact Russell or Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call 352-429-1058.

Thank you for your support. Russell Brown, President

Donations Needed

Clean out the garage and that back room where you've been dumping all those "not so perfect" fossils and bring them to the Fossil Fair for the Kids' Pit. You had fun finding them the first time and they can bring smiles to kids' faces, too.

Got some extra fossils, minerals, or oddities? These are the kind of items that people love to bid on at the Silent Auction table. We've had bidding wars on modern animal skulls, too, so bring those in.

You earn fossil bucks for donations made to the Kids' Pit and the Silent Auction.

Help Wanted.....

For our annual Fossil Fair, October 13th & 14th.

We've got the front table/admission covered for Saturday but need people for Sunday.

Still need LOTS of people for:

- the Silent Auction..... where you never get bored.
- the Kids' Pit..... where you get paid in smiles in addition to fossil bucks.
- the Membership Table..... where you can share your enthusiasm for fossils and your experiences.

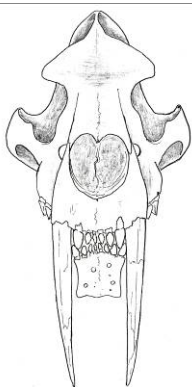
Not sure where you want to work? Sign up as a "roaming volunteer" and we'll put you where we need you the most.

Of course, we can always use some extra hands for set-up on Friday and clean-up Sunday evening.

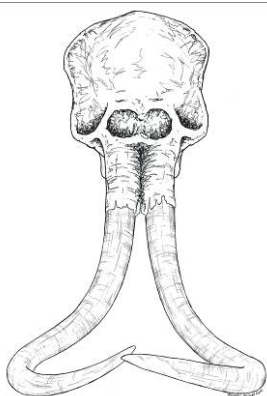
We're planning on having our "food tent" again this year for volunteers and vendors Saturday & Sunday. The club will provide fixings for sandwiches. Members please bring a covered dish, salad, dessert, etc. to share.

You can sign up at the Sept. 15th meeting, or call Bonnie at 352-429-1058 or email bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Remember, you earn 100 fossil bucks for each hour you volunteer which you can use to bid with at the December Auction.



POCKET



BACK

2012 Fossil Fair: Shirt Designs

We'll have some extra shirts at the Fossil Fair. Be sure to stop by the membership table to get yours before we run out of your size! Those of you that pre-ordered shirts can pay for and pick them up there.

FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTERS 2012 FOSSIL FAIR

FOSSILS, ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS, ARTIFACTS

Learn to dig Florida and see what can be discovered!

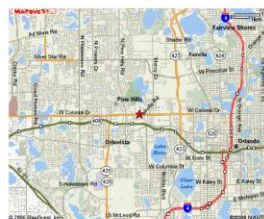
Educational displays, vendors,
Silent auctions, raffles,
KIDS DIG PIT. \$1

Oct 13 and 14

Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Dr
Orlando Florida 32808

Air Conditioned! INDOORS!

Sat 9:00AM to 5:00PM
Sun 10:00AM to 4PM
\$4/ Adult & \$1/child



Directions: From Tampa: I-4 to Colonial Dr (Hwy 50) exit. Go west just past Mercy Dr. Fair is on the north side (on the right)

From Daytona: I-4 to Colonial Dr (Hwy 50) in Orlando. Go west on 50 just past Mercy Dr. Fair is on the north side (on the right).

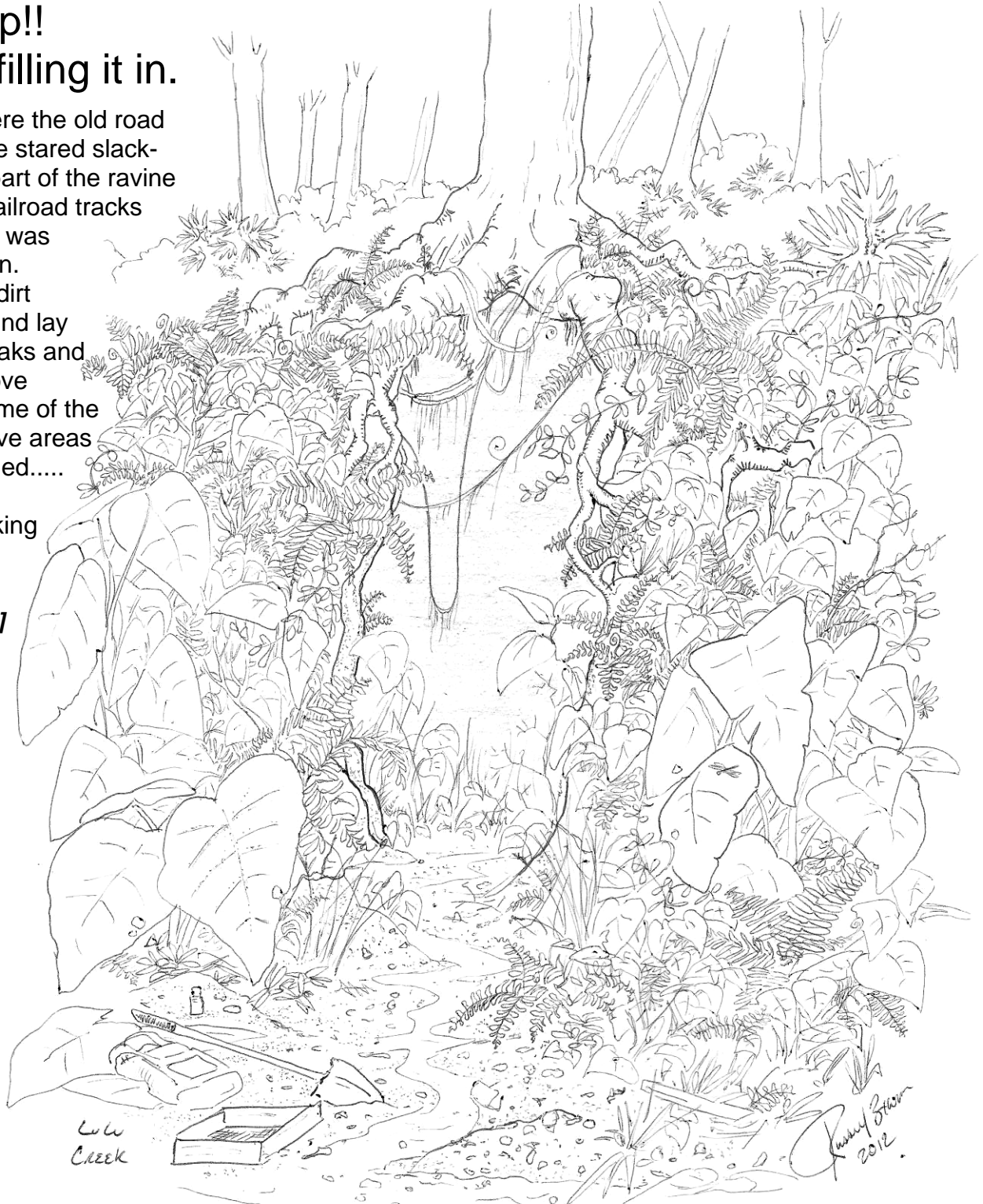
www.floridafossilhunters.com
407-699-9274

Lulu Creek - The Big Fill

Holy crap!!
They're filling it in.

Driving in where the old road used to be, we stared slack-jawed at the part of the ravine near the old railroad tracks that had been was already filled in. Mountains of dirt and bare ground lay where huge oaks and an orange grove had been. Some of the most productive areas were now buried..... gone forever. (I still cry thinking about it.)

[Continued
on page 5]



[Continued from page 4]

This would not be the end of Lulu Creek however. We headed downstream, past all the construction/ destruction. We pushed and waded along an area full of bamboo stands 50 ft high and as thick as your arm and banana trees. Pipes and a few bricks littered the banks where an old pump house once stood along the creek. This new area held many treasures as we'd find out during the next few years. A lot of broken gomphothere tooth pieces were discovered right where a new bridge had been staked out and it looked like a new housing subdivision was being plotted out on the west side.

While down in this new area, we'd dig wherever we felt lucky. One day.....

In the bottom of my screen it lay - my first symphseal (center) tooth of a cow shark. It was complete, gum and all. Jeremy was with me that day and after finding that, it was time for a celebration.

"Hey, Jeremy. Go grab me a beer out of my cooler," I called as I waded up the ravine to where I'd stashed my stuff high up the bank. Jeremy jumped up the side of the ravine root to root and then.....WHOOSH! He almost completely disappeared down into a hole that had been covered by undergrowth. I got my beer and Jeremy got a nasty raspberry scratch running from the back of his leg nearly to his head.

During breaks from digging, we'd explore around...chasing little animals and doing manly things. The trees on the banks of Lulu held many a "swinging vine". Yes, Tarzan would be proud. We had this one vine....swinging out and over the ravine with a 40 foot drop to a certain death....that's what made it fun.

We came down to one area where a small trickle of water barely 4 inches wide ran into Lulu. Pushing the tall grasses and elephant ears out of the way, a crack going up the whole height in a shear cliff was revealed. A giant oak grew at the top, its roots holding the sides of the crack together. It was just wide enough that we could skinny through going under the oak and to the other side. The ground was wet and spongy. Something felt strange....made the hairs on my neck tingle. That's when I noticed an area about 40 ft. by 20 ft. that looked like it had just sank in not

too long ago....not much vegetation growing on the seeping banks, large trees laying where they had fallen still had green leaves. No blue clay or gravel.... just an eerie sinking feeling.

Jeremy and I had seen this before years earlier in Pasco Co. We had gone into an area that had several sinkholes... most less than a quarter acre across and about 40 ft. deep. The one we explored had a small "mound" in the middle of it. It was about 2 feet high almost completely surrounded by water. As we stood on it, the mound would slowly sink down until water flowed in around our feet. When we walked away, we could see the mound very slowly push back up.

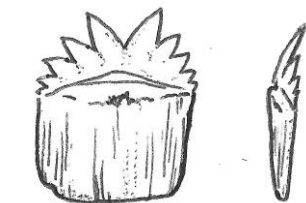
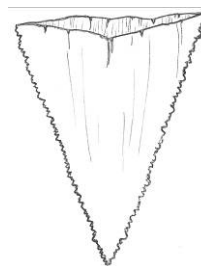
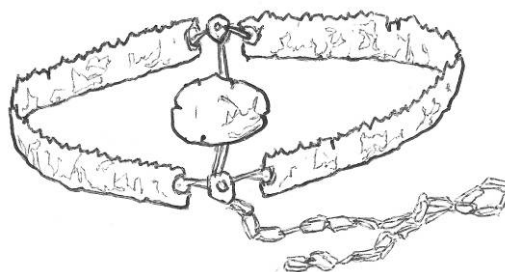
Note to self: fresh sinkholes don't hold fossils; just fools.

Back at Lulu, near where the trickle came into the creek, I found what I thought was a broken White Shark tooth....just the enamel husk. I found out later from Dr. Hubbell, that the tooth was one that wasn't completely formed from one of the back rows of the shark's jaw. Which means the White Shark died there and an entire associated set could be at Lulu Creek. But through the years, I've only found two White Shark teeth in the creek.

Jeremy had wandered off screen digging just wasn't him. He came back with an old rusty animal trap that he had discovered further down the creek. It was a foot or so across, the kind that slams shut on the animals' leg and it was stuck open. He beat on it a while trying to get it to slam shut but it wouldn't. He put it with the rest of our gear and later we heard a "SNAP"! That old trap slammed shut and a "he-man" couldn't open it.

Eventually, I'd end up going to Lulu by myself. Yes, sir, a man alone in the woods....or so I thought.

Next time: Who Are You?



1st Lower 7-Gil Shark Sym

**Upper White Shark C.
Carcharias**

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.

Sept. 29th - Day of the Mastodon
at Daytona Beach Museum

October 13th & 14th - Fossil Fair
(See pages 3-4 for more information)

October 17th - National Fossil Day

November 3rd, OSC Neanderthal Ball

November 10th
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting

November 16-18th
FPS Fall Meeting

December 8th
Vulcan Mine Field Trip

Kids' Fossil Blast

At our next kids' program on Saturday, Nov. 10th at 2 pm, we will explore fossil footprints and what information we can get from them. We'll be meeting in the Clubhouse on the 1st floor at the Orlando Science Center.

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