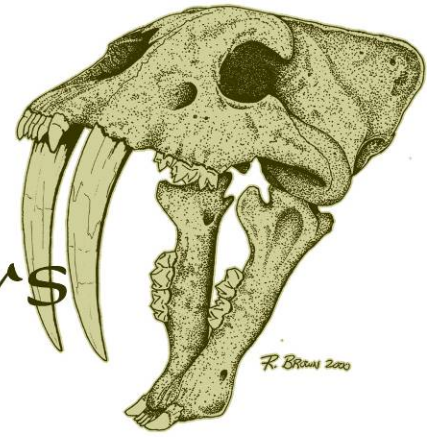


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 22, Number 11

December 2012

Desk of the President.....

Happy Holidays to everyone. Can you believe it's already here? Peace River is down. Weather is cooler, but don't let that keep you inside.

This December, instead of having our auction at Golden Corral as we've done the previous two years, we'll have our "end of the year" party/fossil bucks auction at Fort Reid in Longwood. Yes, Dave Dunaway has graciously agreed to let us invade his territory. Weather permitting, we plan on having the auction in the Fort. We're not going to serve a full meal so eat one before you come. Just asking folks to bring their favorite desserts to share. If you have yet to see Dave's place, you need to make this event, trust me.

The auction list is inside this issue.

At the Board meeting there was lots of discussion on next year's agenda. A lot will depend on member participation. Some of the activities considered are: going to FI. Museum of Natural History in February for "Titanaboa", their new exhibit, a Vulcan Mine cookout, the Peace River fossil hunt & cookout, a Yankeetown Island cookout, a Kids' Blast event at Dinosaur World, plus the usual guest speakers, Orlando Science Center Fossil Fest in March, and, of course, our October Fossil Fair.

I'd like to thank everyone who's helped me the past few years especially running the meetings when I couldn't be there. Together we have accomplished a lot: new member packets, updated website, Facebook page, displays at the Orlando Science Center, fossil ID sheets, etc. Plus there are all the "behind the scenes" work that you've done... set-ups, tear-downs, phone calls, planning.... the list is endless. I thank you so much for your support. Thanks to Bonnie for putting up with my hair-pulling, last minute things, putting the newsletter together, plus doing the Kids' Blast. She's put up with a lot and deserves a break... after my dinner is ready, I'll give her one. Without her I wouldn't have accomplished a thing.

Things I've been putting off are calling me and it's time for me to answer that siren song.

It's been a fantastic journey.
See you in the woods.

Thanks.
Russell Brown
President
Florida Fossil Hunters

**December
15, 2012**

**Christmas at
the Fort**
More Info Page 2

**January
Mtg
date and
time tba**

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

December 15th
Christmas at the Fort

January 2013
Meeting date and time
to be announced

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

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More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Fragments

January, 2013 Meeting

As of this date, the Board was still working on the date and place for our January meeting... might have it on a weekday evening for those of you who usually can't make our Saturday meetings. Alex Kittle of the FL Museum of Natural History will be our speaker. Be sure to check the January newsletter for more information.

Brevard Zoo Dino Film Clip

For those of you who went to the Brevard Zoo last Spring with the club.... and for those who didn't, too... , you can relive some of the trip and the neat animated dinosaurs at www.billingsproductions.com Click on the Brevard Zoo Dinosaurs: Dead or Alive and sit back and enjoy. You might even catch a glimpse of some familiar people. Be sure to keep watching after the last credit for some silliness featuring Chris DeLorey of the Brevard Zoo.

Christmas at the Fort

Come one! Come all! Our December meeting/party will be at Dave Dunaway's on Saturday, December 15th from 3 pm to 7 pm. See the incredible replica of Fort Reid that Dave built and where we will have a campfire and hold our auction. We'll munch on the assortment of desserts that all of you bring around 4 pm ... no meal this time so be sure to have yours before or after the festivities. The auction will begin around 5 pm.

You can bring your favorite drinks but NO ALCOHOL.

Directions: Exit I-4 at State Road 434 and head west. Turn right and go north on Markham Woods Rd. Turn right at the light (EE Williamson) and then turn right at the first road, Ferne Dr. Dave's house is on the left, almost at the end of the road. 600 Ferne Dr. Longwood, 32750 Ph: [407-786-8844](tel:407-786-8844)

Hands-On

I've been thinking about having the children who attend Bonnie's Kids' Blast programs doing a little "hands-on" at tables during our events like OSC Fossil Fest and our annual Fossil Fair. Bonnie & I will be putting a collection of fossils to be used for just this and we'll have sessions to go over the facts for the fossils to familiarize the kids with them. Any parent/child who is interested should get with Bonnie at the meetings or via email.

OSC Neanderthal Ball

Thank you, Dave Dunaway, Valerie First, and Ed Metrin for representing the Florida Fossil Hunters at this event and sharing your fossils and knowledge with the guests. The sabre-cat skull replica that our club donated for this fundraising event garnered \$500 for OSC. The runner-up bidder wanted it so badly that he offered to pay a matching amount if OSC could get another! We are pleased to be able to support science education for the community. Thanks again, Dave, Valerie and Ed for your time and enthusiasm.

Don't forget - all Fossil Permit reports are due at the end of the year.

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

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 level has dropped close to 4 ft. at the Zolfo station. That means there are lots of places that are accessible for us non-divers to dig and sift in. The only drawback would be that the water has gotten cold early. If you need a wetsuit, check out the factory outlet stores. They usually have some good prices.

Happy hunting.

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

Fossil & Mineral Shows**Spring Hill - Withlacoochee Rockhounds**

38th Annual Gem Show with minerals, fossils, jewelry, too. Friday, Nov. 30th through Sunday, Dec. 2nd, from 9 am to 5 pm at Slovene American Club, 13383 County Line Road, Spring Hill, FL

Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 teens, 12 & under get in free

Need more info? Try

info@withlacoocheeroackhounds.com

Ft. Myers - Fossil Club of Lee County

Fossil Show 2012 featuring shark teeth, fossils, minerals, artifacts, bottles, gemstones, kids' dig pit and more on Saturday, Dec. 1st. Fossil talks at 11 am and 2:30 pm by Dr. Charles Connor. Held at the Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Ave., Ft. Myers. Directions: I-75 to exit 136 (Ft. Myers). Go west at 1st light, turn right. Entrance on the left.

Admission: \$3 adults, kids under 12 get in free.

For more info go to www.fcolc.com

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

New Fossil White Shark species

In honor of Gordon Hubbell who donated his incredible white shark fossils.... an associated set of teeth and vertebrae from Peru, this intermediate species of shark has been named *Carcharodon hubbelli*. For more on the research of this

shark, go to www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/11/121114172939.htm

**Fossil Bucks Auction - December 15, 2012**

Rules for this auction:

1 successful bid per person or 2 for a family

In addition: 1 successful bid per child

Russell will be the auctioneer and he'll auction off the following items but not in this order, so pay attention.

Open to all members:

- Green River fish
- Petrified wood slab
- Petrified wood piece
- Amber bracelet
- Piece of fossil ivory tusk
- Thunder egg.... matching pair
- Blue calcite sphere
- Equus horse case
- Gator case
- Peccary case
- Tapir case
- 3-toed horse case
- Deer case
- Fossil pine cone
- Bison vertebra
- Armadillo case
- Cave bear teeth: molar & incisor
- 2012 t-shirt
- Wood & glass display case donated by Jim Tatum
- National Fossil Day poster 2012

Kids' items:

- Dino dictionary book
- Pop-up dino book donated by Marcia Wright
- T-Rex model skeleton
- Triceratops model skeleton
- Stuffed mammoth, donated by Shelly Zimmerman
- "Make your own fossil" kit
- Spinosaurus dino tooth
- Small stuffed shark pillow
- Shark jaw
- Geode/thunder egg rock

Lulu Creek - Part 8:

It Came From Winter Garden

Pushing my fingers through the clay, I could feel it running straight into the bank..... BONE. The end was exposed now, about 10" around, tapered at the end. I pulled out the first pieces of the broken bone. I recognized it as the tip of a baleen whale jaw, lower mandible. I carried out what I could. Caved in the area, covering it so it wouldn't be disturbed until I could get back.

Unsure of how much was there, I brought Jeremy out to help. Digging away at the sand & clay, we pulled out about 7 feet of jawbone before getting to the end of it. Amazingly, as we pulled the last of the jaw out, we could see more bone. There was the atlas vertebra, axis vertebra, a couple cervicals were also starting to show along with ribs. Amongst the bones were sharks' teeth. Some lay against the bone or within inches of it. Now it's looking like more was there..... much more.

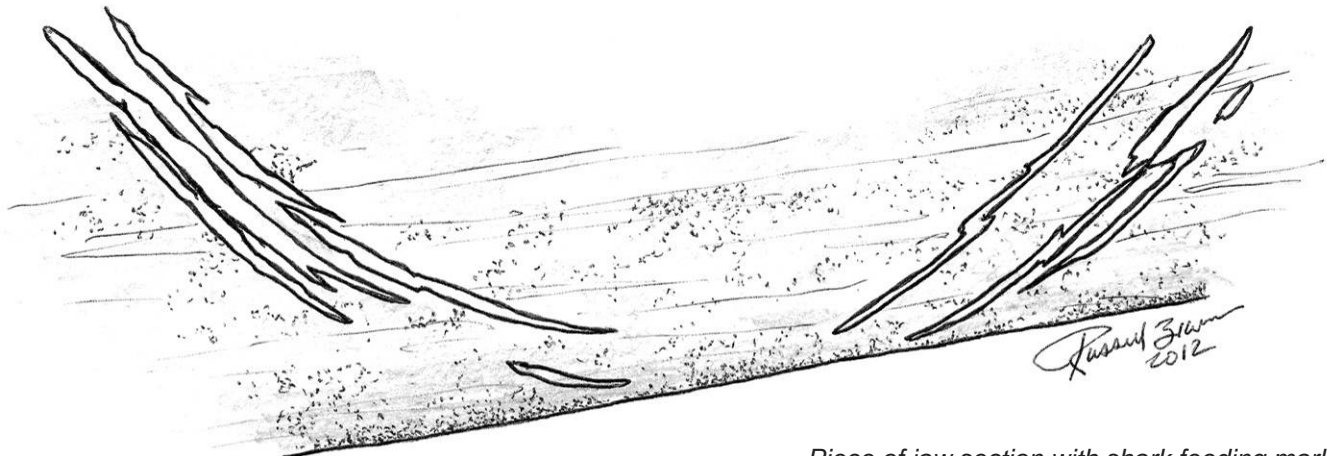
Went up to the store and bought tin foil, turkey pans, tupperware containers, towels, etc. The bones were somewhat crumbly, so we wrapped them in foil with matrix until I could get them home. During our next trip out, as Jeremy & I were moving a large dead tree to block off the area, there suddenly was a "POP". Next thing I knew, I was rolling in pain from a blown vertebra in my back. Jeremy laughed. It was hours before I could even move. My back still bothers me now and again from this.

Next time out, as I sat in a chair on the bank, Jeremy pulled up the exposed bones, piece by piece, wrapping them in foil, putting them in some sort of order into the tupperwares, and carrying them up to my truck. Like a mother hen, I told him how to do this piece by piece, tupperware by tupperware, till he got that look like he needed to kill something. Then I let him alone.... for a little bit.

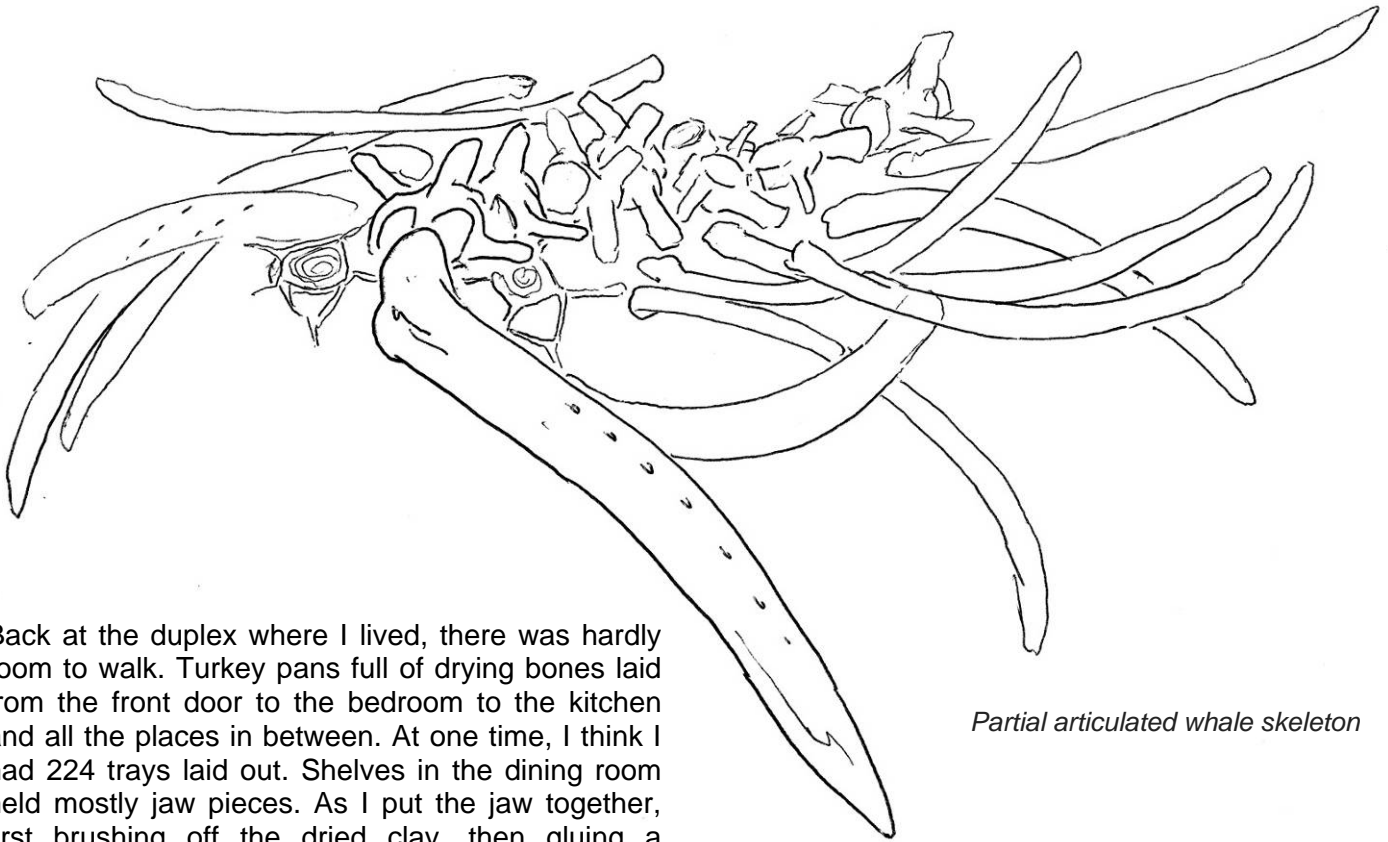
Asked the homeless man we had befriended earlier that camped just above the area to watch over it and run off anyone he saw there. He just grinned, "No problem."

I called trusted friends - Mike Trapp, Dave Dunaway, and Carl Darling - recruiting them for more help. As we slowly dug deeper... by hand so as not to damage the bones... we'd remove a bone, often revealing another underneath it. All were located below the water level at Lulu. I took pictures, drew sketches, took notes, soil samples, etc. Each time before we left, we'd block it off and cave in the dirt trying to prevent looting.

Looking at the bank, about 6 ft. above where the whale bones lay, there was a definite line... yellowish on top, blue clay underneath (which was baby blue when first exposed but would change to dark blue and then grayish as the iron oxidized). Above that layer was the ancient dry shoreline and below was the ocean bottom.



Piece of jaw section with shark feeding marks



Partial articulated whale skeleton

Back at the duplex where I lived, there was hardly room to walk. Turkey pans full of drying bones laid from the front door to the bedroom to the kitchen and all the places in between. At one time, I think I had 224 trays laid out. Shelves in the dining room held mostly jaw pieces. As I put the jaw together, first brushing off the dried clay, then gluing a piece... repeating this process over and over... I could see shark-feeding damage on the bone, scars criss-crossing in the pattern of a shark's jaw (most less than a foot in diameter). The sharks' teeth we found in close proximity to the bones were Tiger shark (*G. cuvier*), Bull shark (*C. lucas*), and Sharp-nosed shark (*R. terraenovae*).

There were other odd scars on the rib bones... round and about the size of a quarter. Some had a bone-like growth over them... some kind of disease.

In six months we had unearthed what was there, a partial skeleton. This is how its story came together....

A million or so years ago, this area is covered by the ocean during a period when the ice has melted from the polar caps. A baleen whale (baleens evolved about 22 million years ago) dies and, as today, its bloated body floats along being fed upon by sharks and other scavengers. In time, the body began to break apart. The skull, the heaviest part, breaks away and sinks down. What remains together washes in towards the beach and is covered. Fossils of whales are common throughout the State.

I've used this whale material throughout the years in school displays, lectures, etc. Still have a lot to put together..... someday.

Back at Lulu Creek, the digging was slowing down. Since the Lake Apopka Clean-up Project started, the only water going through was rainwater and run-off from the road. The ditch was getting nasty. Still sharks' teeth called to me and I'd go now and then. Through the years I've found lots of things... some strange, some downright scary.

The time I took Bonnie, the water was muddy and a foot or so deep. I walked out in front as usual to make sure no threats lied in wait. Standing in the water, I looked back and had the sudden sensation of something as big as my arm sliding between my legs. I leaped about 10 feet in one jump. "Get out! Get out of the water," I hollered. Bonnie just stood there as it moved towards her.

Russell Brown

Next time: Honey, Can I Keep It?

VULCAN MINE

There will be a field trip to Vulcan Mine near Brooksville on Saturday, December 8th and the Trip Leader contact is:

Trip Leader - Dave Dunaway,
home ph. 407-786-8844.
Cell phone for the day of the trip ONLY
is 407-493-4253.

Sign up sheet will be at the Nov. 10th meeting or you can call Dave Dunaway.

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.

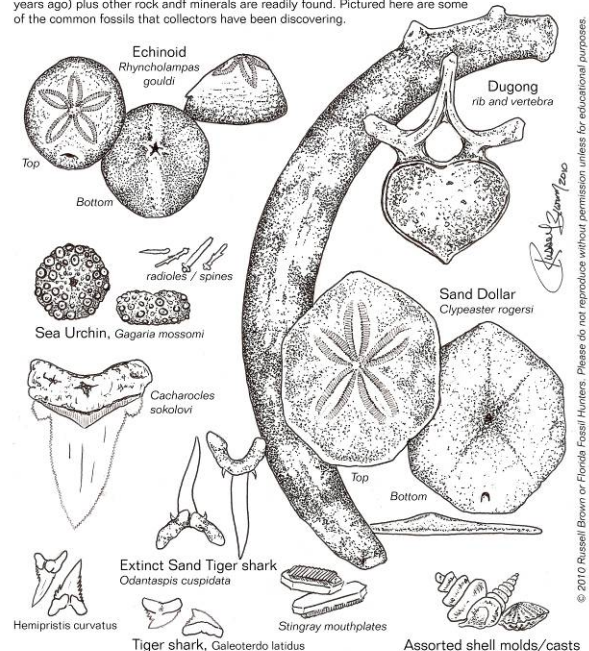
Wear a hat, sturdy shoes, long pants (some of the rocks are sharp), and sunscreen. Bring lots of water and/or drinks and some snacks or lunch to eat.

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.



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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

See inside for more information on events.

December 8th
Vulcan Mine Field Trip

November 30 to December 2
Springhill Annual Show

December 1
Lee County Fossil Show

December 15th
Christmas at the Fort

January 12th & 13th
Tomoka Gem & Mineral Show

January 2013
Meeting date and time
to be announced

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