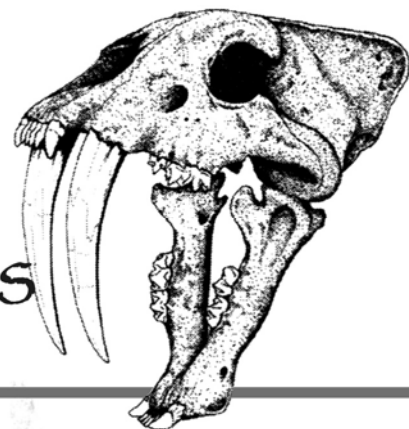


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Volume 17, Number 11

December 2007



Prez Sez:

Happy Holidays! Our thanks to Roy Singer for his bottle presentation. It was really interesting and fun. This month we are partying at Dave Dunaway's house on our regular meeting evening. Remember your fossil bucks and bring your pot luck dish.

Our January speaker will be George Hecht on micro fossils. We'll give him a second chance!! The February speaker will be Grant Groves and it will be about Native American pottery and artifacts. Our January meeting room will be the Learning Labs on Level 2. These are the classrooms in the Teacher Leadership Center hallway, most easily accessed from the parking garage and main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct our members and Adam and Jimmy will be there to help direct us.

We will have interesting fossils to bid on this month and Roy will be a fantastic auctioneer as usual at the party. New members are welcome!! See you then.

December 19, 2007

7:00pm Meeting, party and fossil bucks auction

Starting around 7:00 pm (or 6:30 pm for you early birds) at Dave Dunaway's house, 600 Ferne Drive, Longwood. Bring a covered dish to share at the meeting. Bring the fossil bucks you've earned this year for the auction.

Directions: Exit I-4 at SR 434. Go west on 434 to Markham Woods Road. Turn right and go north on Markham Woods to the traffic light at EE Williamson Road. Turn right and go to first street and turn right onto Ferne Drive, Dave's house is near the end of the road on the left

Coming Events

December 19th Meeting

7:00pm Meeting, party and fossil bucks auction

Fossil Auction Meeting

January Meeting

January 16, 2008

7:00pm Meeting

at the Orlando Science Center

Next Kid's Fossil Blast

February 20, 2008

6:00pm Kid's Blast

7:00pm Meeting

at the Orlando Science Center

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Fragments

Florida Fossil Permits

There is now a link on our website to take you directly to the permit application on the Florida Museum of Natural History's website. Richard Hulbert, who now is in charge of the permit program, would like to remind everyone to submit a photocopy of your ID with your application.

Piece on the Peace

The Peace River is now below 4 feet. Russell and I took my sister and her husband fossil hunting there during the Thanksgiving weekend and the water was still warm enough to stand in and there were still plenty of fossils to be found.....even by the novice diggers.

The Peace River is still very low so dig, dig, dig! You'll have to drag your canoe but the water is not too cold. Happy hunting.

Stone Age Fair

The Sunshine State Archaeological Society is proud to host their first annual Alachua Stone Age Fair on Saturday, January 26, 2008, from 8 am to 5 pm, at the Alachua Women's Club, 255 S Main St, Alachua, FL.

This fair will feature outstanding private and public artifact and fossil collections but will not allow any commercial buying or selling of prehistoric artifacts or fossils. A number of highly regarded speakers will be presenting the latest information on Paleolithic people and animals in North America, concurrently with displays in the exhibition hall. Modern flintknappers will display their skills, booksellers will be present, and refreshments will be available.

The admittance is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

Featured speakers include:

Dr. Michael Gramly, Organizer of the American Society for Amateur Archaeology

Dr. Barbara Purdy, Professor Emeritus of the Univ. of Florida

Scott Mitchell, Director of the Silver River Museum

Dr. Al Goodyear, S.C. Institute of Archaeology

....and others

Directions: North on I-75 to exit 399 at Alachua. Go south (or east) on Rte. 25/441 to NW 141st St. Turn right onto 141st and go south. (This road is also called S. Main St.) The Alachua Women's Club will be on your left on the southeast corner of S. Main St. and NW 140th Ave.

Tampa Bay Fossilfest

The 2008 Tampa Bay Fossilfest will be held on Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Further info in the coming months.

Field Trip Update--

We have a set weekend to dig at Vulcan. It will be the third weekend, both Sat and Sun. If you want to go another day see if I am going to work on my "rock" and you can go then too. Contact Shelley for more info 407-891-1260.

Country Shredded Chicken Sandwiches

crock pot, chicken breasts, water- cook till very tender and drain off the broth- save it for soup.

Shred chicken, add cream of celery soup mixed with milk, salt and pepper, and crushed saltine crackers. Slap it on a bun and enjoy.

You can mix it as moist or stiff as you like it. Add less milk and you can pan fry the patties.

My brother's favorite sandwich! We ate these sandwiches at every 4-H event. It was the only reason he attended. I made it for the fossil fair this year. Art gave it rave reviews and requested the recipe.

Shelley Zimmerman



Kids' Fossil Blast

We'll take December off for the party and auction, so our next Kids' Blast will be on February 20th, 2008.

The Kids' Fossil Blast is a fun, hands-on way to find out about fossils for kids mainly ages 4 to 14 yrs. Each meeting we focus on a different type of fossil using real fossils, replicas and printed materials. Sometimes the kids even get to take real fossils home. We meet every other month at 6 pm check the website for the location.

Why Dinosaurs Had 'Fowl' Breath

ScienceDaily (Nov. 7, 2007) — Scientists have discovered how dinosaurs used to breathe in what provides clues to how they evolved and how they might have lived.

The University of Manchester team, comprising biologists and palaeontologists, has found that theropod dinosaurs like the Velociraptor had similar respiratory systems to present-day diving birds, such as marine birds and wild-fowl.

The findings present for the first time an explanation of how these dinosaurs may have breathed.

"A number of studies have shown that dinosaurs were the direct ancestors of birds and have identified a suite of avian characteristics in theropods," said Dr Jonathan Codd, who led the research in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Our findings support this view and show that the similarities also extend to breathing structures and that these dinosaurs possessed everything they needed to breathe using an avian-like air-sac respiratory system."

Birds, and in particular diving birds, have one of the most efficient respiratory systems of all vertebrates which they need in order to supply their bodies with enough oxygen to sustain the high levels of energy required for flight.

Palaeontologist and co-author Dr Phil Manning, in Manchester's School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, studied the fossilised remains of maniraptoran dinosaurs and extinct birds such as Archaeopteryx and found that breathing structures, known as uncinata processes, were also present in the dinosaurs.

Dr Codd said: "Our work on modern birds has shown that the way these animals breathe is more complex than originally thought. The uncinata processes are small bones that act as levers to move the ribs and sternum during breathing.

Interestingly, these structures are different lengths in different birds -- they are shortest in running birds, intermediate in flying birds and longest in diving birds.



Fighting Dinosaurs: Whole Specimen Protoceratops fighting with Velociraptor mongoliensis showing long uncinata processes present on rib cage of the velociraptor. (Credit: Photo by JRCodd, Image courtesy of University of Manchester)

"The dinosaurs we studied from the fossil record had long uncinata processes similar in structure to those of diving birds. This suggests both dinosaurs and diving birds need longer lever arms to help them breathe.

"Finding these structures in modern birds and their extinct dinosaur ancestors suggests that these running dinosaurs had an efficient respiratory system and supports the theory that they were highly active animals that could run relatively quickly when pursuing their prey."

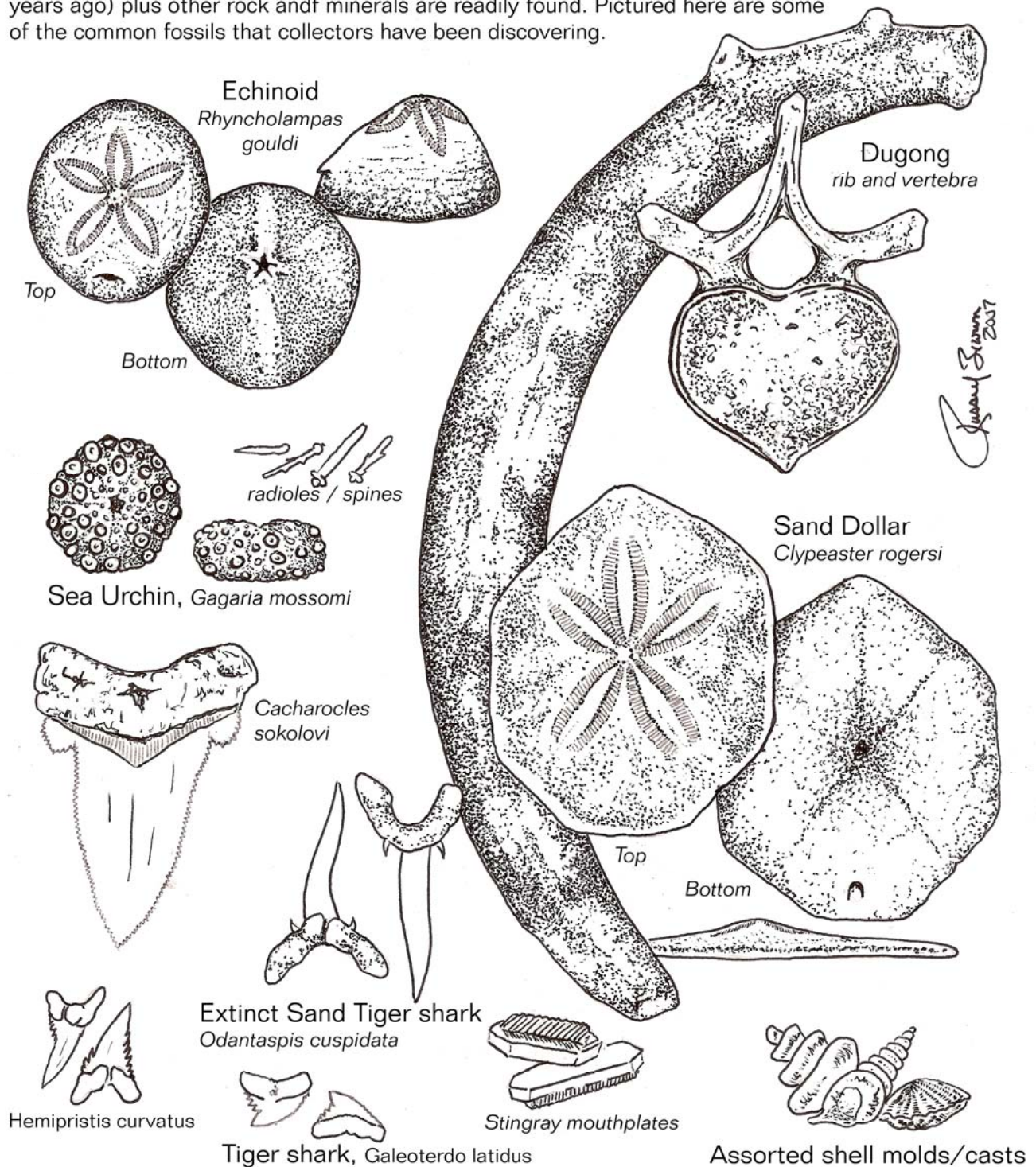
This research was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences. The research was funded by the German Research Council and The University of Manchester.

Adapted from materials provided by University of Manchester.

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 News

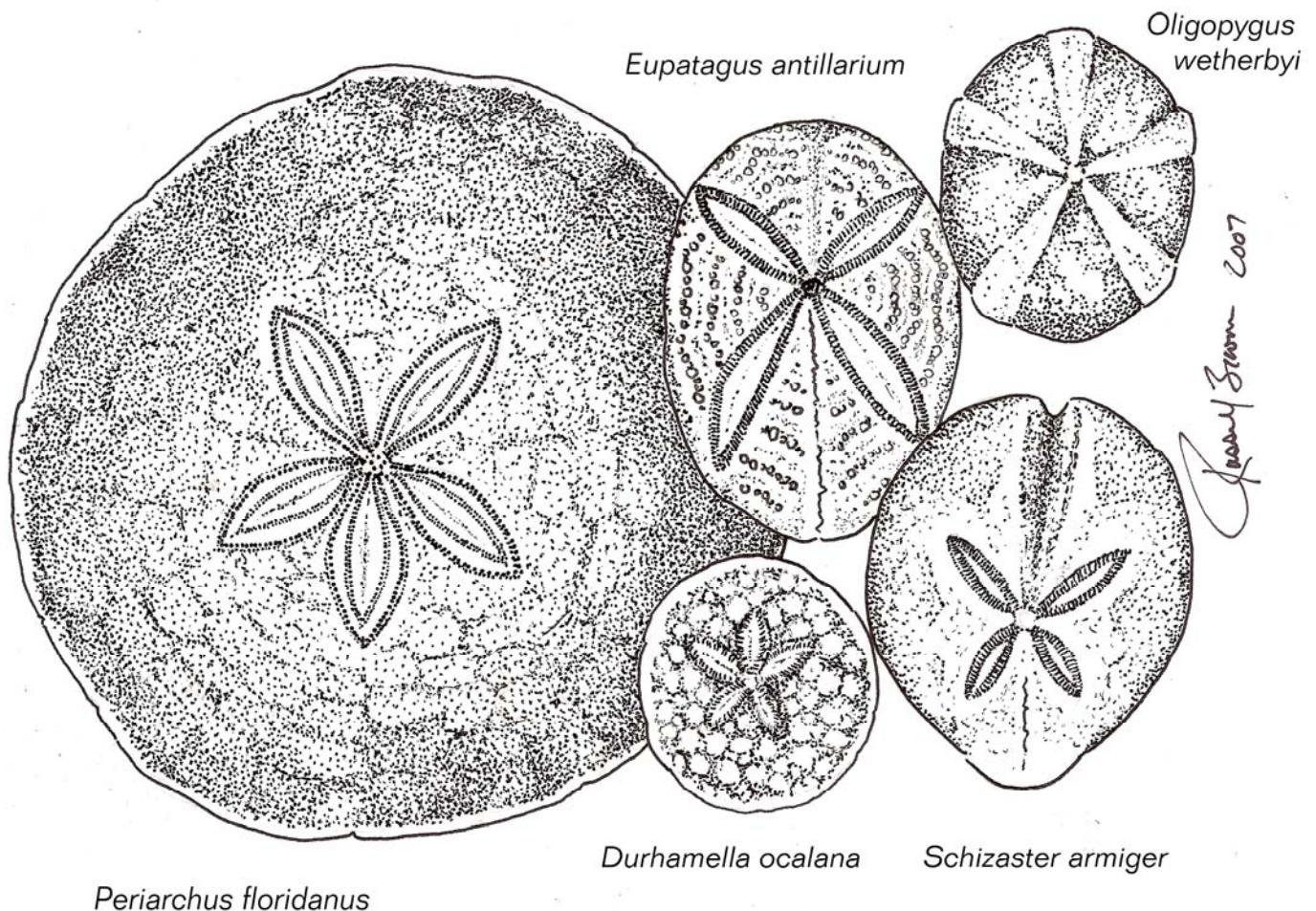
Yankeetown Echinoids

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*, *Cataopypus mississippiensis*, *Weisbozdella cubae* and *Periarchus floridanus*.



December 2007 Fossil Bucks Auction

- ☐ 1. Rotary tool kit
- ☐ 2. Polished petrified wood
- ☐ 3. Fulgurite in display case
- ☐ 4. Woolly mammoth sign
- ☐ N 5. 7" Shark tooth cast
- ☐ J 6. T-rex tooth cast
- ☐ 7. Fossil display case w/pottery - donated by Dave Cass
- ☐ 8. Polished petrified wood, Oregon
- ☐ 9. Dragonfly cast -donated by Terry Titus
- ☐ 10. Paleontologists Parking Only sign
- ☐ N 11. Sand shark tooth in display case
- ☐ J 12. Dinosaur bone
- ☐ 13 Poster : Paleo Points of the Deep South
- ☐ 14. Pre-machine medicine bottle - donated by Roy Singer
- ☐ 15. Tool kit in leather case
- ☐ 16. Red horn coral, Utah
- ☐ N 17. Minerals in display case
- ☐ J 18. Semi-precious stones in bottles
- ☐ 19. Polished petrified wood
- ☐ 20. 1920's medicine bottle - donated by Roy Singer
- ☐ 21. Polished onyx egg
- ☐ 22. Free wire wrapping for one item - donated by Mary Bordenkircher
- ☐ N 23. Quartz crystals, Mt. Ida, Ark. - donated by Shelley Zimmerman
- ☐ J 24. Blue, yellow & green calcite

J - Junior members only (kids under 14)

N - New members only (joined the club within the last year)

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 held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm, check the website for the location.

Officers:

President	Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Vice President	Paul Bordenkircher	(407) 687-3843
Secretary		
Treasurer	Sara Morey	(407) 353-8675

Chairs:

Education	Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
Field Trips	Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Fossil Fair	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Fossil Auctions	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Bucks	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil ID Table	Andreas Kerner, intlffossils@msn.com	
Fossil Lotto	Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Auctioneer	Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Historian	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Librarian	Kathy Munroe	(407) 846-7382
Membership	Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
	Joanne Maio	(407) 375-3635
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:

Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Jeremy Smith	(407) 293-9391
Roy Singer	(407) 645-0200
Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Tom Tomlinson	(407) 290-8474

Membership Application

Names: _____

Associate Members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: Zip: _____

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).

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Mark Your Calendar

December 19th Meeting

7:00pm Meeting, party and fossil bucks auction

January Meeting

January 16, 2008, 7:00pm Meeting at the Orlando Science Center

Stone Age Fair

First Annual Alachua Stone Age Fair, Sunshine State Archaeological Society on Saturday, January 26, 2008

Next Kid's Fossil Blast

February 20, 2008, 6:00pm Kid's Blast, 7:00pm Meeting at the Orlando Science Center

Tampa Bay Fossilfest

2008 Tampa Bay Fossilfest, Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th

Visit our website www.floridafossilhunters.com

Articles and comments should be sent to: elise@liseydreams.com

Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404

Orlando, Florida 32854-040



Florida Fossil Hunters News