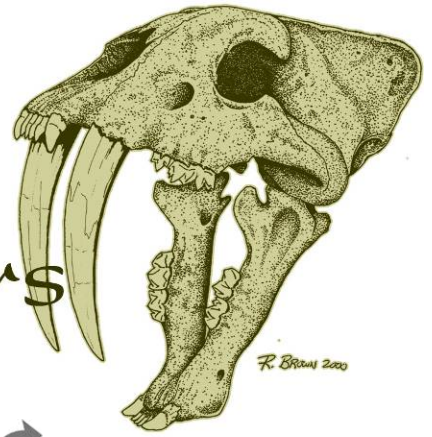


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 24, Number 1

January 2014

From the President.....

Welcome to the New Year and another year of fossiling, museum trips, and public outreach.

Before I get too far ahead of myself, I must say thank you to all who make our club shine. A lot of "Pillar" members have stuck with the club in various positions - officers, chairpersons, board members - year after year. And now it looks like you are stuck with me as President. Though I may not be to every meeting, if ever there's something on your mind, don't hesitate to call or email me.

One of this year's biggest Paleontological events is the North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) at the University of Florida In Gainesville in February. Check out the event's webpage for the list of presentations and activities. I'm sure you'll find something to whet your interest.

I am very excited about this event, especially project FOSSIL which proposes to connect and improve communications between amateurs and professionals and increase public outreach. We enlisted our club in this organization at the beginning and we will participate in the symposium/workshop titled "Celebrating Public Participation in Paleontology" scheduled on February 17th, from 8:15 am to 4:30pm. The symposium will be led by Dr. Bruce McFadden and Dr. Austin Hendy and the keynote speaker will be Jack Horner.

Then on Wednesday, the 19th, the first annual FOSSIL meeting will be held for the members to discuss how to accomplish our goals.

Read the article on page 6 - "FOSSIL: A brief introduction" for more on the aims of this project. We'll be sure to pass on more information as it becomes available.

Also inside this issue are proposed activities for the coming year.... Chris DeLory's Paleo Prep-lab, Shark Week at OSC, Women in Paleontology, if I can get a few small boats for ferrying - Yankeetown fossil hunting, Peace River fossil trip, and..... More on page 5.

As always..... if there is something you are interested in and like to help make it happen, just let us know.

Keep warm but don't let the cold weather keep you from digging.

Russell Brown
President

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

January 11th

2 pm Kids Fossil Blast

3 pm meeting

February Mtg

to be determined

More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunter.com

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2014 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Looking for a few good women.....

There has been a good response to Russell's request for us ladies to have a meeting in March featuring "Women in Paleontology".

Stephanie at the Orlando Science Center would like to expand the concept throughout March and celebrate "Women in Science". Our club would concentrate on arranging for a speaker(s) in the field of Paleontology/ Archaeology for the day our club has its meeting in March.

10th NORTH AMERICAN PALEONTOLOGICAL CONVENTION



FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

10th North American Paleontological Convention February 15 - 18, 2014, Gainesville, FL

We are pleased to announce that the 10th North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) will be held in Gainesville, in February 2014. The meeting will be hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History (University of Florida) from February 15th through 18th (Saturday - Tuesday).

Pre-conference and post-conference field trips are tentatively planned for February 13th -14th and 19 - 20th, respectively.

For more info visit:

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/napc/symposia.htm>

Thank You Dave Dunaway!

The club would like to thank Dave Dunaway for, once again, opening his house, collections, fort, etc. to all club members for our Christmas Party/ Auction. (This has almost become a tradition.

Thanks again, Dave, for your hospitality.

PIECE ON THE PEACE

The water levels on the Peace have been nice and low. It's great for fossil hunting. The water may feel cold but as soon as you find something, you'll warm up to a feverish pitch.

Happy Hunting.

Kids' Fossil Blast

Our January kids' program will explore fish fossils and the evolution of those creatures of the watery world.

So join us at the Orlando Science Center on Saturday, January 11th at 2 pm.

Kids' Fossil Blast is a hands-on experience featuring real and replica fossils in a casual learning environment aimed at kids ages 5 through 13.

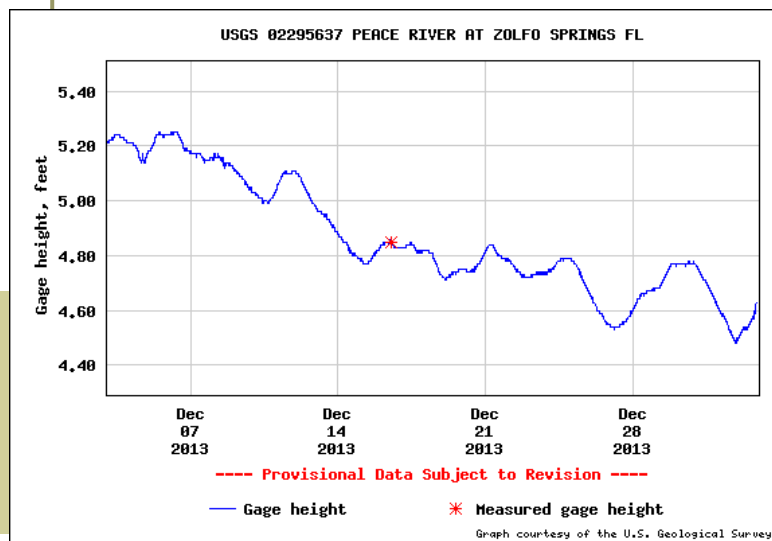
TIME TO RENEW

2014 MEMBERSHIPS

It's time to renew your Florida Fossil Hunters membership.

At \$17 per household, it's one of the true bargains..... and where else can you find folks as crazy about digging in the dirt as you are?

Just fill out the form in the newsletter or download the one on the website (I like to make sure the contact info we have is up to date) Then make the check out to Florida Fossil Hunters and mail it to P.O. Box 540404, Orlando, FL 32854-0404 - or bring it to the meeting.



Florida Fossil Hunters News

FOSSIL & MINERAL SHOWS

REPORT

CFI, Wauchula Field Trip, Dec. 6th

Cindy Roll, the trip organizer and leader said that a good time was had by all. Quite a few Megs were found as well as whale vertebrae, horse teeth, and a nice Mako tooth.

Our club will have another opportunity to fossil hunt in the mine (tentatively, Sat. April 26th). Club members who have NOT gone on one of the mine trips will have the first opportunity to sign up for that one.

We want to give Cindy Roll a BIG thank you for all her time and effort in arranging these trips.



COMING SOON

**Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society,
Jan. 18 & 19**

43rd Annual jewelry, gem, mineral, & fossil show at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Bldg., State Road 44, DeLand, FL (1/2 mi East of I-4, Exit 118) There will be silent auctions, exhibits, door prizes, and lots of minerals and fossils for sale.

- Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm
- Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm

Admission is \$4.

Children under 12 get in free.

For more info: Rosemary van Wandelen at rrborzoi@yahoo.com

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, February 22, 2014

The Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society will offer exhibits, children's games and activities, grab bags, door prizes, silent and Chinese auctions and over 30 dealers of rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts and hobby supplies. Craftsmen will be on hand to demonstrate and explain various lapidary arts, such as wire wrapping and cabochon making.

Saturday February 22, 2014, 9:00am - 4:30pm

Admission: Adults \$3.00, Children and Teachers free.

Location: 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801.

Contact Kim Price, Show chair, at [\(863\) 412-9156](tel:8634129156), or email kprice1105@gmail.com. Website: www.bonevalley.net. Check us out on facebook for event info and

Florida Fossil Hunters News



Peace River: The First Trip

Carl Darling... easy-going, bald on top, bearded, was a trusted friend who answered the call for help at Lulu Creek and he had finally convinced us to go to the Peace River. This was years ago, before the word got out about the Peace to everyone who hunts fossils.

Mostly Jeremy, Mike, and I would fossil hunt in small creeks in Central and North Florida. The fossils there had beautiful colors and a lot of them were pristine in preservation.

Now, Dark-thirty A.M., Wauchula, Florida....

"Hey, man. I thought I told you guys to come early," Carl said.

I couldn't have read a watch if I had one on. Carl had his old john-boat all ready. We threw in our digging gear and headed down to the boat ramp at the City park.

Continued on page 5

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Peace River, Continued from page 4

I'd been trying to imagine what hunting on the river would be like.

"Any alligators?"

Carl replied. "Nothing to worry about... mostly small gators."

As he slid the boat into the water, a 6 ft. alligator slid into the water about 20 ft. from us.

"Hey, man. You guys coming?" Carl asked. I told Jeremy that if we didn't find any fossils, it didn't mean we'd got home empty-handed, as I motioned towards the bank. We grinned.

We headed upstream from the ramp slicing through the dark, tea-colored water... deep in some areas, shallow in others. In the morning light, we could see 4 ft. garfish, turtles, and all kinds of stuff. This was going to be a cool boat ride. I sat back to take it all in.

"O.K., man. We're here. Get out."

Carl pulled his boat up towards the bank. We hadn't gone 50 yards from the boat ramp. I was feeling cheated.

The river was about 50 ft. across and the bottom was limestone hardpan in some areas with gravel scattered around, making small rapids. We shoveled the gravel into our screens. The gravel was so thick in some areas that you'd never in a lifetime reach the bottom. Then in other areas, there'd be nothing but sand.

But I'd never seen this many sharks teeth before - not even at Venice Beach. It wasn't long before I grew accustomed to the monotones of grey and black. There were so many! Some kinds I'd never found before.... Tiger shark, Hemipristis, Megs, Threshers. I was a blithering idiot.

"Hey, man. I told you nuts long ago about this," Carl said. "About how there's so much stuff." He went on and on. He could strip down butt-naked and play on a banjo for all I cared. I was finding lots of sharks teeth. At the end of the day, I had more than I ever imagined plus a bison molar, deer antler, dugong bones... Yes, it was cool to me then and there was tons of stuff just like Carl said.

If you and your family love the outdoors, discovery, and you want a trip to remember when you're old and grey, go to the Peace River.

Peace River was, and still is, producing fossils. Digging there would be in my future...Lulu Creek, too, every now and then.

Gainesville creeks still had plenty of adventure to offer. Dr. Hubbell moved from South Florida to Gainesville. This helped me add to my shark jaw collection as well as increasing my knowledge each trip up.

Time for us to take a break... go fishing, exploring around the State. We loaded up, headed North, and wound up in a crazy place called Yankeetown.

Russell Brown

Calendar

January's meeting will be held at the Orlando Science Center on **Saturday, January 11th at 3pm.**

Bring your fish fossils and also any fossils that you would like identified or just to share the thrill of finding them.

We will discuss the activities and scheduling for 2014. So be there to have a voice in what goes on this year.

Tentatively.....

FEBRUARY

NAPC in Gainesville

Meeting at OSC on the 8th or 22nd?

MARCH

Women in Paleontology?

Meeting at OSC

Kids Fossil Blast

Field trip to Dinosaur World

APRIL OR MAY

Peace River dig (depending on which month water levels are good)

Speaker

Kids Fossil Blast

JUNE

Club Fossil Bucks auction

Fossil ID

JULY

No meeting

AUGUST

Kids Fossil Blast

Speaker

Fair sign-up

SEPTEMBER

Fossil Fest at OSC

Natural History Day at Daytona Museum of Arts & Sciences

OCTOBER

Fossil Fair

National Fossil Day

NOVEMBER

Kids Fossil Blast

Speaker

DECEMBER

Holiday party & Fossil Bucks auction

Florida Fossil Hunters News

ABOUT FOSSIL

FOSSIL: A Brief Introduction

Fostering
Opportunities for
Synergistic
STEM with
Informal
Learners

Throughout the U.S., more than 60 fossil clubs and paleontological societies hold meetings, host speakers, organize festivals, and run field trips; conduct outreach; work with scientists; build their own collections; and use the Web to learn about paleontology. However, in contrast to other science hobbyist groups (e.g., birdwatchers, stargazers), fossil clubs are not closely networked (nationally). Moreover, some fossil clubs have only limited interactions with professional paleontologists and natural history museums. Together, these realities limit participation in the science of paleontology and reduce capacity for informal STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning.

Coordinated from the Florida Museum of Natural History and funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation, FOSSIL will cultivate a networked community (known as a *community of practice*) in which fossil club members and professional paleontologists collaborate in learning, the practice of science, and outreach. This national community will help determine the scope of FOSSIL activities, tools, and resources, and collaborate in their development and implementation. Mediated by the *myFOSSIL* Web space (www.flmnh.ufl.edu/myfossil), FOSSIL components may include opportunities to: (1) communicate electronically and socially (e.g., social media, chat, blog, and wiki); (2) engage in training and development;

(3) attend meetings and workshops (in person or virtual); (4) conduct K12 outreach to underserved audiences; (5) contribute to and have online access to the growing digitized collections in U.S. natural history museums; and (6) create and share personal digitized fossil collections. The inaugural FOSSIL project meeting will take place in conjunction with the 10th North American Paleontological Convention in Gainesville, FL in February, 2014.

More than 30 of the fossil clubs surveyed during the development of the FOSSIL funding proposal, and in subsequent communication, have been enthusiastic about participating in FOSSIL, as are an initial cohort of professionals. FOSSIL includes research to better understand how this transformative approach supports the community of practice and impacts participation in science. In addition, FOSSIL would like to build upon ongoing national “big data” initiatives that over the next decade will make available millions of digitized fossil specimens, thus enabling access by diverse stakeholders, including fossil clubs and other amateur scientists. The knowledge gained from FOSSIL will enlighten informal learning and STEM educators about how to effectively engage the public with scientific data.

For more information,
go to www.flmnh.ufl.edu/myfossil

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 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: bonnierussell62@gmail.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 11th

2 pm Kids Fossil Blast
3 pm meeting

January 18th & 19th

Tomoka Mineral, Gem, & Fossil Show

February 15th - 18th

NAPC in Gainesville

February 22nd

Imperial Bone Valley
Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.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: bonnierussell62@gmail.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News