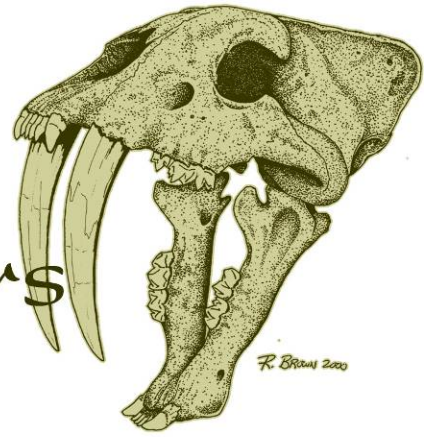


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 23, Number 9

October 2013

From the President.....

Fossil Fair - - October 5th & 6th
NO OCTOBER MEETING AT OSC

Hoping to see everyone at the club's annual Fossil Fair.

I'm sure that like every other year, there will be plenty to see, learn, buy, and eat while volunteering. Thanks in advance.

October 16th is "Fossils at the Shore" for National Fossil Day. See details inside this issue.

For the November meeting - you show me yours, I'll show you mine.

I'll be bringing in a large portion of my private collections: Sharks! Everything from the strange sharks that swam the oceans way before the dinosaurs up to what's eating you today. We'll talk sharks until your sharks' teeth fall out.

As a new twist, I'll be opening this up to the guests at OSC and plan on setting up on the 4th floor. I'll be there all day talking with visitors to the Science Center. The meeting part will be at the regular time.

Hope to see you.
Russell Brown
President

Oct 16

"Fossils at the Shore" at Cape Canaveral National Seashore to celebrate National Fossil Day

Nov 2

Neanderthal Ball at the Orlando Science Center

Nov 16

2pm Kid's Fossil Blast
3pm Club Meeting

Details
Inside

Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS
at the Orlando Science Center

Oct. 5th & 6th
Fossil Fair

November 16th

2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast

3 pm - meeting

More events listed on back page

For more info...

www.floridafossilhunter.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Russell is looking for a few good women. I've been talking to Bonnie about the idea of having a "**Women in Paleontology**" meeting sometime next year. I would like to try and make it a yearly event.

I'm hoping to get a few of our ladies to help Bonnie on this idea. From professionals to students, please email or talk to Bonnie & I. We keep a full plate with all the activities, but lately, it's been the whole table.

I believe this would make for a great meeting and/or an all-day event at OSC.

Russell Brown, President

Seventh Annual Neanderthal Ball, Nov. 2nd, 7 to 11 pm

Step into the past at the Science Center's annual fundraiser. This event is good fun while helping support the science education for our community. Dress code is cocktail fun with an accent on "caveman" culture". Enjoy delectable foods and wines.

The Florida Fossils Hunters will have displays for the guests that evening as well as donating a sabertooth cat skull replica for their silent auction.

For more info, go to OSC.org

Piece on the Peace

The Peace River has been the source of fossils for us amateurs through the years. And just when you think that it must surely be dug dry, another treasure appears. It is different from many sites in the U.S. in that it cuts through layers from the Eocene to modern times. Not only does it offer a variety of ages for the fossils, but also has both marine and land animal fossils since Florida has been covered by the rising seas and laid high and dry during low sea level times.

We can't dig right now because our annual rainy season is still here. But, as you can see in the graph for the whole year, it will soon be under 6 ft. and we can dig and sift to our heart's delight.

So get your gear in shape and keep checking the water level via the link on our website. See you down on the river.

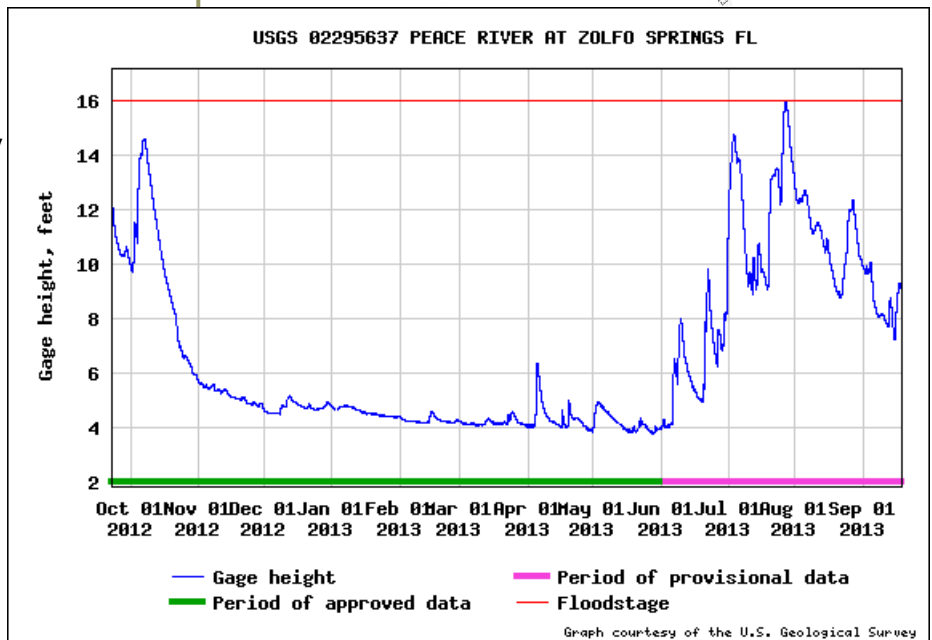
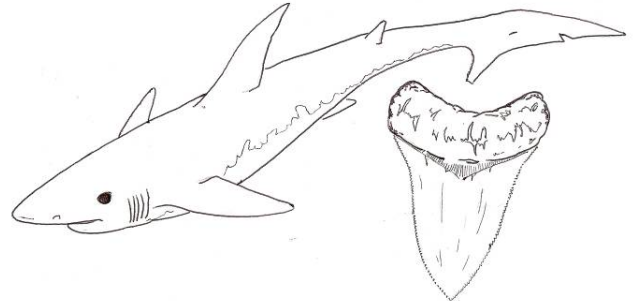
Kids' Fossil Blast

The kids had a great time creating their own crinoids at the August meeting. It was like the Cambrian Explosion all over again with a variety of forms and colors.

Of course, there will be activities for the kids at our Fossil Fair on October 5th and 6th.

The next meeting for the Kids' Fossil Blast will be on Saturday, November 16th, at 2 pm. Russell is bringing in some of his shark collection and will talk about sharks and fossil shark teeth. Bring in your shark tooth collections, too.

Kids' Fossil Blast is hands-on fun while learning about the past and the earth with real fossils, replicas, and pictures. It's geared for kids ages 5 to 13.



2013 FOSSIL FAIR

Twentysecond Annual



Fossils, Rocks, Gems & Minerals

Saturday, October 5, 2013 - 9:00 - 5:00pm

Sunday, October 6, 2013 - 10:00am - 4:00pm

Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

\$4.00 Adults | \$1.00 Children

Educational Displays

Vendors

Silent Auctions

Raffles

Kids Dig Pit \$1

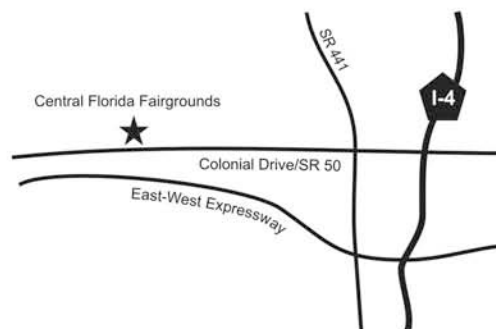
Airconditioned! INDOORS!

Learn to dig in Florida and see what can be discovered!

From Tampa - I-4 to Orlando, take Colonial Drive (Hwy 50) exit Westbound.

From Daytona - I-4 to Orlando, take Colonial Drive (Hwy 50) exit Westbound.

The fairgrounds will be on the right side, just past Mercy Drive.



For more information on the 2013 Fossil Fair contact us by email at info@floridafossilhunters.com, call 407-699-9274, or check the website at

www.floridafossilhunters.com

Giant Prehistoric Elephant Slaughtered by Early Hominins

Sep. 19, 2013 — Research by a University of Southampton archaeologist suggests that early humans, who lived thousands of years before Neanderthals, were able to work together in groups to hunt and slaughter animals as large as the prehistoric elephant.

Dr Francis Wenban-Smith discovered a site containing remains of an extinct straight-tusked elephant (*Palaeoloxodon antiquus*) in 2003, in an area of land at Ebbsfleet in Kent.

Excavation revealed a deep sequence of deposits containing the elephant remains, along with numerous flint tools and a range of other species such as; wild au-rochs, extinct forms of rhinoceros and lion, Barbary macaque, beaver, rabbit, various forms of vole and shrew, and a diverse assemblage of snails. These remains confirm that the deposits date to a warm period of climate around 420,000 years ago, the so-called Hoxnian interglacial, when the climate was probably slightly warmer than the present day.

Since the excavation, which took place in 2004, Francis has been carrying out a detailed analysis of evidence recovered from the site, including 80 undisturbed flint artefacts found scattered around the elephant carcass and used to butcher it. The pre-historic elephant was twice the size of today's African variety and up to four times the weight of family car.

Dr Wenban-Smith comments: "Although there is no direct evidence of how this particular animal met its end, the discovery of flint tools close to the carcass confirm butchery for its meat, probably by a group of at least four individuals.

"Early hominins of this period would have depended on nutrition from large herbivores. The key evidence for elephant hunting is that, of the few prehistoric butchered elephant carcasses that have been found across Europe, they are almost all large males in their prime, a pattern that does not suggest natural death and scavenging. Although it seems incredible that they could have killed such an animal, it must have been possible with wooden spears.. We know hominins of this period



had these, and an elephant skeleton with a wooden spear through its ribs was found at the site of Lehringen in Germany in 1948."

An ability to hunt large mammals, and in particular elephants, as suggested by the Ebbsfleet find, would go some way to explaining how these people then managed to push northwards again into what is now Britain. The flint artefacts of these pioneer settlers are of a characteristic type known as Clactonian, mostly comprising simple razor-sharp flakes that would have been ideal for cutting meat, sometimes with notches on them that would have helped cut through the tougher animal hide.

The discovery of this previously undisturbed Elephant grave site is unique in Britain -- where only a handful of other elephant skeletons have been found and none of which have produced similar evidence of human exploitation.

The layer of earth containing the elephant remains and flints is overlain by a higher level of sediment, rich in so-called Acheulian tool types -- handaxes of various forms from later in the same interglacial. Controversy surrounds whether or not these represent a later wave of colonisation of Britain, or whether the Clactonians themselves evolved a more sophisticated tool-kit as they developed a more sustained occupation.

Florida Paleontological Society

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 go to:

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

"Fossils at the Shore" - Canaveral National Seashore

Come join us on **Wednesday October 16th 2013** to celebrate this year's National Fossil Day. Travel through time to learn about prehistoric animals. Hear guest lecturers talk about Florida's prehistoric past. See Florida museum fossils from around the world. Speak with paleontologists and bring your fossils for identification.

Location: Canaveral National Seashore, Apollo Visitor Center, **7611 S. Atlantic Avenue, New Smyrna Beach**
Time: **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** (park hours 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Cost: Free with park entrance fee (Cars - \$5.00)

Activities: Speakers, Fossil Giveaways, Fossil Displays, Junior Paleontologist Program...

Sponsored by: Florida Paleontological Society, Florida Geological Foundation, Florida Fossil Hunters, Florida Museum of Natural History, Toomey Foundation for the Natural Sciences, National Park Service

The Florida Fossil Hunters, along with the other sponsors, are helping to make three Fossil Education Kits to be used at different National and State Parks in Florida.

FPS and the Florida Fossil Hunters are supplying display fossils for the event. (yes, Bonnie & Russell are bring their fossils). Please come out and help us at the Seashore.

Email bonnierussell62@gmail.com
or call [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058) before 9 pm.

2013 FOSSIL FAIR

To put on such an event, we need lots of volunteers to help out at...

Admissions Table: Greeting visitors with a smile, taking the money, giving them a free door prize ticket, etc.

Kids' Dig Pit: Explaining the dig rules, getting the kids in (and even harder.... OUT) of the pit, taking money, sweeping sand, identifying fossils the kids find, etc.

Silent Auction: Logging donations, selecting items for each auction round, taking money, soliciting donations from the vendors, announcing the beginning and end of the auctions, etc.

Membership Table: Handing out club info, helping people join the club, explaining about the field trips and other activities, selling t-shirts, etc.

Fossil Display Area: Telling visitors about the fossils on display and answering questions or suggesting other sources for the answers.

Setting up on Friday, Oct. 5th and packing up after closing on Sunday, putting the signs out on the streets early Saturday morning,

The shifts

Saturday: 8:30 am to 12:45 pm and 12:30 pm to 5 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am to 12:45 pm and 12:30 pm to 4 pm

You can sign up at our meetings or events before the Fair OR you can email me at bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Bring Food!

One of the really extraordinary things about our Fossil Fair is that we feed our volunteers and vendors. We firmly believe full tummies make for happy people. So we ask that everyone bring a casserole, or salad, or dessert, or bag of munchies to share. The club foots the bill for the lunch meat and fixings for sandwiches as well as the paper plates and utensils.

Donations for the Kids' Pit and Silent Auction

Search the back of your closets and the garage for all those boxes and buckets of fossils and rocks that you can live without.... to say nothing of the room it gives you for some really exciting future finds. Bring the fossils to the Fair and donate them for the Kids' Pit or the Auction. To you, it may be just another beat up shark tooth but to a kid, it's a priceless treasure.

For the Silent Auction, you can donate display cases/shelves, modern bones, figurines, prehistoric animal toys, etc. as well as fossils or minerals.

Gainesville #4: Word had Gotten Out

We went up to Gainesville to "creek walk". It had been a few months since our last visit and with the summer rains, Jeremy and I dreamed of what we'd find. Wading through the water, we turned a corner and stopped. Looking up the creek bed, all we saw were huge holes and piles of gravel... everywhere. The creek had been plundered from side to side down the entire length. Jeremy was so mad that his eyes squinted shut. I stood there dumbfounded with my friend.

Jeremy and Tom, his dad, had brought in some 2 to 3 inch makos and megs that they had found in Gainesville to a club meeting a couple months before.

Yes, word had gotten out.

It was about four years later before the creek half-way recovered from the dollar-hungry, digging looters and before we could find a few teeth again. Meanwhile we'd drive along the roads, highways, and trails, stopping at creeks here and there.

Most creeks that run through the Gainesville area are fossil-bearing. Some only in certain spots where water and time has eroded down to the fossil layer. Some creeks are covered over for part of their length by culverts, pipes underground, and with bridges. Some we'd have to crawl through. Others you could drive a semi-truck through. The larger ones were a great place to take breaks, get out of the rain, etc. Older culverts had calcite starting to form along the cracks. Some were made of concrete and others, metal. The metal ones were slicker than snot and the bruises we got from slipping were unavoidable.

One afternoon we were sitting in a large culvert under a road and goofing around during our break. The water was only a few inches deep in the middle and there was plenty of room on the sides to sit and place our gear.



It was a strange sound at first, like a raspy exhale of air from far away, but strangely close. We stood up just as the whoosh of air became a loud roar, and suddenly water exploded from a 4 ft. pipe in the side of the culvert. We liked to beat ourselves to death, grabbing our gear and scrambling to get out of there, and finally getting to higher ground..... laughing. The water now was about 4 ft. high and it looked the color of chocolate milk, with bottles, cans, boards, dead animals, and all kinds of stuff being swept down the creek. It was cool.

Russell Brown

Next Gainesville #5..... that lucky @#!! Jeremy.

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.

October 5th & 6th
FFH Fossil Fair

October 16th
National Fossil Day

November 2nd
OSC Neanderthal Ball

November 16th
2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm - meeting

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

Florida Fossil Hunters

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Florida Fossil Hunters News