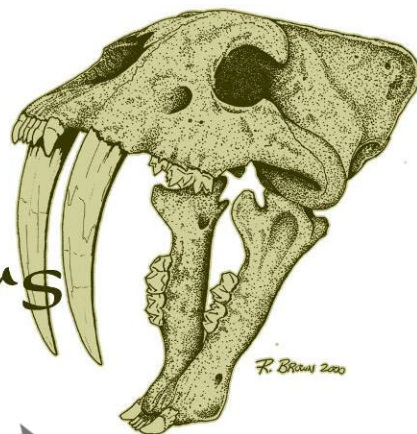


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 29, Number 1

FEB/MAR 2019



From Ye Olde President.....

Happy new year and welcome to 2019.

Wow, it goes fast. This will be my 20 something year as acting President or VP (currently filling in for Marge Fantozzi). There have been a lot a great opportunities, events, digs, and now a re-structure of meetings. Watch your newsletters and emails for info as it comes in.

We're always looking for new members to volunteer and help out us "old folks". Much of the new tech is way beyond us. Your club is in need of NEW talent to take the club forward.

Peace River was dropping close to digging level. It's back up so Steve Sharpe is sitting in a River of Tears instead of the Peace. But be assured, that he will be back hunting there as soon as it drops again. His ph is 352-552-2296. Give him a call if you want to go with him. You must have your own kayak or canoe.

It's time again to renew your membership. New members that joined at the Fossil Fair or later are good for 2019. If you trouble getting your newsletter (every other month now), email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com.

We won't be at the February meeting, but Steve Sharpe will be running the meeting. Be sure to bring in any recent finds or holiday fossils you received. Steve will also be introducing the speaker, Joshua Slattery, who will give a presentation on "Ammonite Diversity Dynamics during the Jurassic to Late Cretaceous".

We'll be back for the April meeting and I was thinking about a "women in Paleontology" theme. So, ladies, if you would like to participate, please let me know.... nothing big, just the regular meeting with this in mind. Kudo's to all the women who are pushing the outreach worldwide.

Also at the April meeting, we can lay out the plans for the rest of the year. So until then, get out and enjoy some natural Florida.

Russell Brown, President
(filling in for Marge Fantozzi)

**It's Time to
Renew for 2019**



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Saturday, Feb. 16th
3 PM Meeting

Sat., April 20th
3 pm Meeting

*More events listed on back page
For more info...
www.floridafossilhunters.com*

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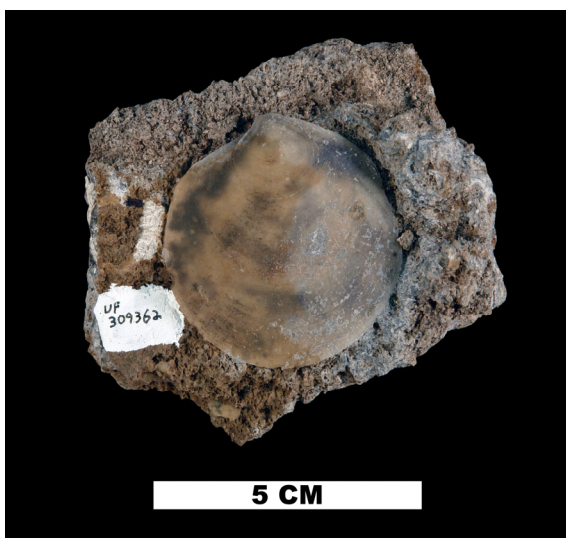
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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

Donations to the Florida Museum

For all of you who think that what amateurs find is of no interest to the professionals, rethink that] premise. They are thrilled to have the opportunity to see what's out there and they don't get much time for digging..... just like us.



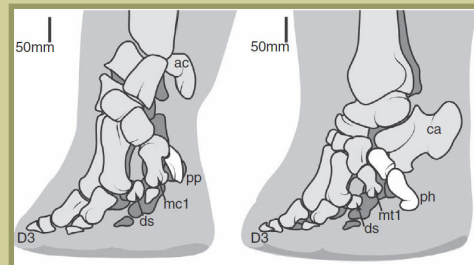
Hi Steve,

Posted to you the donation certificate today for the last batch of Peace River material. The specimens took a bit to prepare (only one more to go). Attached is one of the Miltha valves you donated. It turned out great! Let me know when you have more material that I can paw through.

Cheers,
Roger W. Portell
Director of Invertebrate
Paleontology and
Micropaleontology Collections

Kids' Fossil Blast

Our next program will be on Saturday, Feb. 16th at 2:15 pm. This month's topic will be elephants and their prehistoric relatives who journeyed from Africa to North America. There will be plenty of fossils to check out and compare. Bring your finds (whole or partials) to identify and show off.



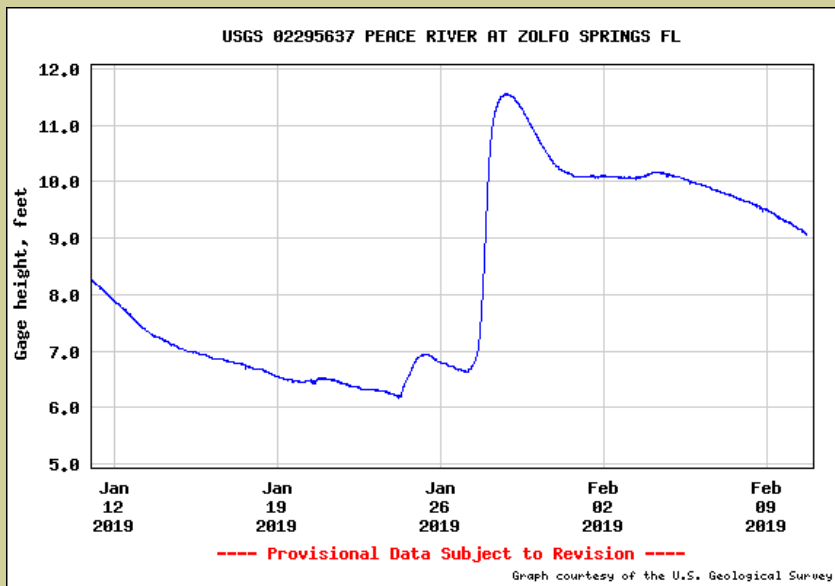
Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 to 14. Check the newsletter and website for information on future programs.

Piece on the Peace

It's just teasing us this winter.

Florida usually has a long dry spell in the winter but this year the weather fronts have dumped extra water here. The good news: fire danger is down. Bad news: the Peace River is up.

But looking at the Facebook page, fossil hunters are still finding some great things. So look where ever you and hope you find some treasures. If you want to go with someone call Steve Sharpe. 352-552-2296



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Joshua Slattery will be our speaker for the Feb. 16th meeting. His subject will be "Ammonite Diversity Dynamics during the Jurassic to Late Cretaceous"

This is how he describes his journey to where he is now.

I was born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming and received a BS in Geology and a minor in Zoology from the University of Wyoming. I became interested in geology and paleontology during high school when I began to actively collect fossils from the stratigraphic sections in southeastern Wyoming and northern Colorado. During my time in college, I developed a passion for investigating the stratigraphy, biological diversity, and paleobiology of Upper Cretaceous macroinvertebrate faunas in North America. After graduating from college, I spent one year working for Uinta Paleontological Associates,

Inc. of Vernal, Utah, as a geologists monitoring sites (e.g., gas and petroleum pipelines, coal mines) in Wyoming and Colorado for paleontological resources endangered by development. I am currently a Ph.D. student at the University of South Florida working on an NSF-funded project that is examining the influence icehouse and greenhouse climatic modes have on evolutionary tempo of ammonites and bivalves in contrasting depositional settings (e.g., foreland basin vs. passive margin). In addition to this research, I am also interested in paleoecology, stratigraphic paleobiology, sequence stratigraphy, ammonites, inoceramid bivalves, the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway and Gulf of Mexico, and shell-bed taphonomy. In addition to my interest, I have also partaken in geological and paleontological field work in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, Denmark, and Colombia.

DINO-SIZE YOUR PASSION, POSITIVITY, AND POTENTIAL

Elaine Howard, one of our members, has written an inspiring book about her journey "finding her passion". Like a lot of us she found dinosaurs were the key to that door.

Check out her website www.passioninthebones.com to learn more.

When our minds are filled with worry, doubt, and fear, our negative thoughts produce negative energy, which, in turn, draws more negativity into our lives and makes it very difficult for our circumstances to improve. When our minds are focused on something positive and exciting, however, our enthusiasm creates a positive energy, which not only improves the quality of our lives but also draws positive people and opportunities to us. Indeed, a positive mental focus not only helps break the cycle of negativity, it initiates a cycle of positivity in our lives.

A powerful way to keep the positives flowing in your life is by finding and following your PASSION!

In *Passion in the Bones*, Elaine explores the concept of "passion," identifies the essential characteristics of any life-changing passion and presents readers with an easy-to-follow plan to find, pursue and sustain their own passion to ensure they are drawing only the best things into their lives. She does this in a fresh and unique way centered around her own dinosaur adventures. Anyone can relate to Elaine's story and her words of advice offer readers hope and a practical plan for transforming their lives for the better.

If you are focused on negativity, it is time to break those chains and set out on your own life-changing adventure!

UPCOMING FOSSIL FESTIVALS

Fossil Club of Lee County Fossil Festival
SAT, Feb 23rd
9 am - 5 pm
Fort Myers, FL
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Bone Valley Gem & Fossil Show
SAT, Feb 24th,
9 am - 4:30 pm
Lakeland, FL

Tampa Bay Fossil Fest
SAT & SUN, Mar 9 & 10
FL State Fairgrounds
I-4 and Hwy 301
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Venice Shark Tooth Festival
April 12, 13, & 14th
Venice, FL
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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Tusk Variation and Paleoecology of Gomphotheriidae

across the Great American Biotic Interchange (GABI)

Whales lost their teeth before evolving hair-like baleen in their mouths

Newly described fossil whale in museum collections reveals a surprising intermediate step in their evolution

Date: November 29, 2018

Source: Smithsonian

Summary: Rivaling the evolution of feathers in dinosaurs, one of the most extraordinary transformations in the history of life was the evolution of baleen -- rows of flexible hair-like plates that blue whales, humpbacks and other marine mammals use to filter relatively tiny prey from gulps of ocean water. Now, scientists have discovered an important intermediary link in the evolution of this innovative feeding strategy: an ancient whale that had neither teeth nor baleen.

Rivaling the evolution of feathers in dinosaurs, one of the most extraordinary transformations in the history of life was the evolution of baleen -- rows of flexible hair-like plates that blue whales, humpbacks and other marine mammals use to filter relatively tiny prey from gulps of ocean water. The unusual structure enables the world's largest creatures to consume several tons of food each day, without ever chewing or biting. Now, Smithsonian scientists have discovered an important intermediary link in the evolution of this innovative feeding strategy: an ancient whale that had neither teeth nor baleen.

For the whole article,
[www.sciencedaily.com/
releases/2018/11/181129142423.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/11/181129142423.htm)

Applicant: Jeanette Pirlo

Address: 1659 Museum Rd, Gainesville, FL 32611

Phone Number: 209.815.7280

Institution: University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History

Major: Vertebrate Paleontology

Degree Program: Second year PhD Student

Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2022

Project Description:

The Great American Biotic Interchange (GABI) is one of the greatest known natural experiments in paleobiogeography. The late Miocene (10.3-5.3 Ma) provides a window into exploring the evolution of the involved taxa immediately preceding the event. The recently discovered Montbrook Fossil Site (MFS) in Levy County, Florida, preserves fauna from this time. It is suggested that MFS was an inland river with some marine incursion¹, substantiating the claims that climatic fluctuations² directly affected Florida's coastlines, changing its terrestrial habitats. This study provides an opportunity to understand the transitional paleoenvironment in the southeastern US by examining the preserved ecological signature in mammal teeth and temporal changes to the environment.

Gomphotheres, an extinct family of four-tusked proboscideans found throughout North and South America during the GABI, are well represented in the MFS fauna. The gomphotheres genus *Rhynchotherium* is characterized by a spiraling enamel band on the upper tusks³. Further identification of MFS specimens to *R. edense* is ambiguous due to morphological discrepancies between *R. edense* and MFS gomphotheres. There are gomphotheres representatives from the entire growth series (juvenile to geriatric) at MFS, which is unprecedented. No other late-Miocene site in the United States demonstrates an assemblage of so many gompho-

Florida Fossil Hunters News



theres, making this site unique for studying a population of proboscideans that were dispersed across a large temporal and geographic distribution. Well preserved gomphothere upper tusks have been excavated from MFS, providing an ample supply for taxonomic study. Isolated teeth, containing ontogenetic information of these proboscideans prior to burial, have also been recovered. The tooth enamel records the dietary and climate record and can be recovered through Stable Isotope Analysis (SIA). It is expected that Montbrook had a closed forested environment based on *Rhynchotherium* tooth morphology (browsers)⁴, but climatic changes¹ may have altered the ecosystem. Analysis of tooth calculus⁵ and enamel will provide a more complete understanding of the environment. MFS provides a snap-shot into the population dynamics

of this unique genus leading up to the GABI and will be the anchor for understanding sources of phenotypic variation within populations. Using a non-invasive, novel approach on these delicate fossils, I will elucidate group dynamics prior to the GABI, examining taxonomic, isotopic, and stratigraphic constraints that affect dispersal.

This study will be the first to examine the taxonomic placement of the MFS *Rhynchotherium* and will contribute to the understanding of the evolutionary history within Gomphotheriidae throughout their range in North America. I propose to use this new gomphothere population to answer the questions: Was gomphothere diet evolving due to changing environment? Are there significant variances between the MFS population of *Rhynchotherium* from the rest of the genus? Is the MFS population of *Rhynchotherium* a new species? The answers to these questions will help us understand the

Florida Fossil Hunters News

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Vulcan Mine near Brooksville

FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Saturday, Feb 9th & Mar 13

TRIP LEADERS: NEEDED

Steve Chambers will be leader for both months.
ph: 321-806-0763 email: stchamb1@outlook.com

MUST HAVE PAID YOUR 2019 DUES

(you can bring a \$17 check with you)

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.

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

**MUST BE ESCORTED
INTO AND OUT OF THE
MINE. NO EXCEPTIONS.
IF YOU ARE LATE,
YOU DO NOT GET IN.**

**THERE ARE
NO RESTROOM
FACILITIES AT
VULCAN MINE,**
other than the boulders
and the hills.

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.

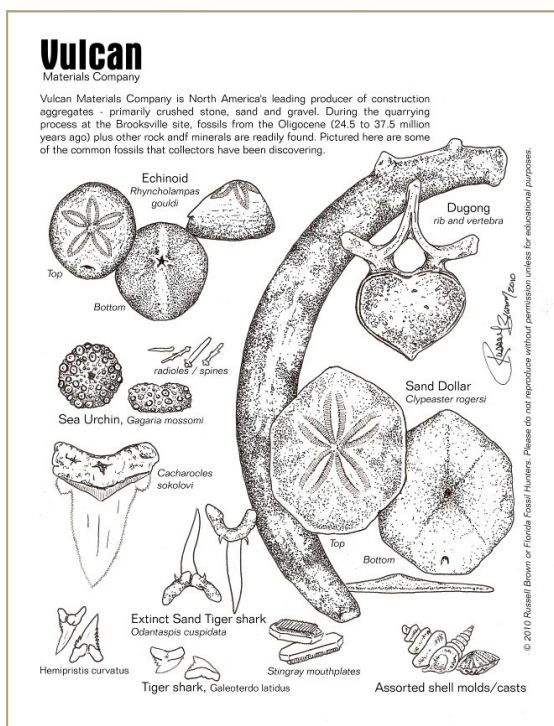
From Orlando take Hwy. 50 west (or the 408 west to the FL Turnpike, take exit 272 and then continue west on Hwy. 50) to Brooksville. Follow 50A/98 North through Brooksville and turn right on Ponce De Leon Blvd. (Hwy 98 North). Go approximately 10 miles. Vulcan/Cemex will be on your left. The address 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.



**TRIPS
FEB 9 & MAR 13**

*ID Sheet above is available on
the field trip and website.
floridafossilhunters.com/Field_Trips.htm*

***You MUST be a member of the
club for insurance purposes
to participate in this field trip.***

***MUST have paid your 2019 dues
(you can bring a \$17 check with you)***

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 1	Steve Sharpe	(352) 552-2296
Vice President 2	Salvatore Sansone	
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
Membership	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
Newsletter	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
	Elise Cronin-Hurley	(407) 929-6297
Photography	John Heinsen	(407) 291-7672
Facebook	Paul Hardin	
Webmaster	Elise Cronin-Hurley	(407) 929-6297
	elise@liseydreams.com	

Board of Directors:

Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	
Dave Dunaway	
Salvatore Sansone	

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.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

Sept. 29, 2018 - May 5, 2019
Permian Monsters
FL Museum of Natural History

Saturday, Feb. 16th
2 pm - Kids' Fossil Blast -
Mammoths & Elephants

3 PM Meeting- speaker
Creativity Classroom, OSC

Sat., Feb. 23rd 9 am - 5 pm
Fossil Club of Lee County
Fossil Festival
Fort Myers, FL

Sat., Feb. 24th,
9 am - 4:30 pm
Bone Valley Gem &
Fossil Show
Lakeland, FL

Saturday, March 2nd,
7:30-11:30 pm
OSC Science Night Live

Sat., March 9th
Vulcan Mine Field Trip
NEED LEADER

Sat & Sun, March 9 & 10
Tampa Bay Fossil Fest
FL State Fairgrounds
I-4 and Hwy 301

Sat., April 13th
Vulcan Mine Field Trip
NEED LEADER

April 12, 13, & 14th
Venice Shark Tooth Festival
Venice, FL

Sat., April 20th
3 pm Meeting

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
[Florida Fossil Hunters](#)

facebook

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com
to receive the newsletter via email.



Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

Articles and comments should be sent to: bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Florida Fossil Hunters

Post Office Box 540404
Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



Florida Fossil Hunters News



SHELL FACTORY & NATURE PARK

15TH ANNUAL

FOSSIL FEST!



PRESENTED BY THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Saturday, February 23 • 9am – 5pm

Free Admission

Live Entertainment 4 – 7pm

Silent Auction • Grand Prize Raffle • Vendors & Fossil Dealers
Games & Prizes • Free Fossil Museum & Exhibits



FREE KIDS DIG!

– Shelly, your Spokesplorer

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Dinosaur Park • Bumper Boats & Paddle Boats • Scallywags Miniature Golf • Double-Dog-Dare-You Climbing Pole • Nature Park, Petting Farm
Close Encounters • 3 Aviaries • Gator Slough • Hunts Pizza • Game Room & Arcade • Over 30 Flavors of Fudge & Ice Cream
Northern Southern Grill & Event Center • The Swamp Bar • Dogbones (Dog-Friendly) Café • Live Entertainment • Dolphin Room For Private Parties & Events
Puzzle Store • Kite Store • Post Office • Military Museum • Party House For Private Parties & Events • Shell Museum



PALEO WORKSHOPS

Learn about Florida's prehistoric past in a FossilFest workshop! Experienced collectors will teach you how to find, identify, and preserve fossil treasures of your very own! All workshops are free to FossilFest attendees!

Saturday & Sunday

Discovering Florida's Fossil Treasures with TBFC's own Dr. Bob Sinibaldi PhD. Learn where and how to find fossils of your own right here in Florida!

Florida's Fossil Vertebrates & the Fossil Hunting Permit with Dr. Richard Hulbert PhD of the Florida Museum of Natural History. It's cheap and easy! Learn how to get your fossil permit and participate in the science of paleontology.

The Perfect Plaster Jacket & Other Preservation Techniques with Bill Faucher. Learn how to successfully get fossils from the field to your lab. Jacketing, glues, and preservation techniques are discussed for the beginner.

Be a part of the adventure!

JOIN TBFC TODAY!

tampabayfossilclub.com

FLORIDA'S LARGEST PREHISTORIC SHOW!

FOSSILS & ARTIFACTS
GEMS - MINERALS - SHELLS
FOSSIL EXHIBITS - WORKSHOPS

KIDS GAMES * FOSSIL MINE * RAFFLES
DOOR PRIZES * SILENT AUCTIONS



facebook

March 9th & 10th, 2019

Sat: 9AM-5PM, Sun: 10AM-4PM

Adults \$8 - Kids 12 and under FREE!

Florida State Fairgrounds

Intersection of I-4 & Hwy 301, just east of Tampa.





The #1 Fossil Festival

in the Shark's Tooth Capital of the World - Venice, Florida

Fossils and shark's teeth, artists, live music,
great food and drinks, kids games and fun!

All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Florida – Sarasota County

APRIL 12-14, 2019

Fri 4-9pm | Sat 10am-9pm | Sun 10am-5pm

Tickets \$5 at door, 12 and under free | FREE PARKING | NO PETS
Venice Airport Festival Grounds, 610 E Airport Ave, Venice FL 34285

Schedule of Events

FRI, April 12th

6:00 - 9:00 pm:

The Gator Creek Band



SAT, April 13th

Time - TBD:

Bandana



SUN, April 14, 2019

TBD

Visit www.sharkstoothfest.com for more info