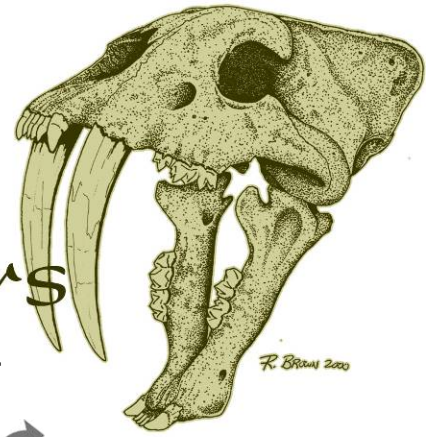


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 24, Number 9

October 2014



2014 Fossil Fair—October 18th & 19th

From the President.....

Hello, everyone.

Hope you got all the rain you wanted. The rivers are up but soon our dry season will be here and the digging should be good after these big washouts.

Now is our club's busy season. Our annual **Fossil Fair** is almost here and Valerie First, the Fair Coordinator, is telling us that the vendors will fill the building. Hope you have volunteered to help with all the festivities. It's going to be a great show. I can't wait to see what I'll bring home.

The Florida Fossil Hunters have been really busy at different venues: Natural History Day at MOAS, National Fossil Day at the South Florida Museum, and of course, at the Orlando Science Center, doing what our club is know for..... educating and inspiring the public about Florida's rich fossil record.

If you missed last month's speaker, don't worry. We plan on having Felipe Opazo, PhD back next year. He is a fossil marine biologist and his lecture on past extinctions is well worth an encore.

In **November**, **Dr. Bruce MacFadden** will be coming to talk. He'll be talking about the various projects he's working on at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Don't miss it. Bonnie will be having a **Kids' Blast** on one of Dr. MacFadden's favorite subjects: Prehistoric Horses. So bring your kids and your horse fossils for all to see.

The wonderful Cindy Roll has lined up a **Mosaic Mine trip**... details inside this newsletter. **Vulcan Mine trips** on the 2nd Saturday of each month have resumed. **The Megalodon Exhibit** is coming back to FLMNH this October until Jan 4th. Come join Bonnie and me at the grand opening of the exhibit on Saturday, Oct. 26th from 1 to 4 pm.

On Saturday, Nov. 1st, the Orlando Science Center will host their annual fund raiser... **The Neanderthal Ball**. Florida Fossil Hunters will be there with fossils to wow the crowd.

See you around.
Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Saturday, October 11th
Vulcan Mine

October 18th & 19th
FFH Fossil Fair

November 15th
2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting & Bruce
MacFadden, speaker

Saturday, December 20th
Meeting & Fossil Bucks Auction

More events listed on back page

For more info...
www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Kids' Fossil Blast

Our next Kids' Fossil Blast will be on Saturday, Nov. 15th at 2 pm at the Orlando Science Center. We'll trace their evolution and great diversity from their beginnings in North America.

Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal hands-on experience with real fossil, casts, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 through 14.

ASK Science is all around you!

Florida Museum - 3215 Hull Road, SW 34th Street and Hull Road Gainesville, FL 32611
Nov 09th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Take advantage of this opportunity to talk with scientists one-on-one and ask those questions you have been wondering about. Bring your specimens and find answers during an afternoon of discovery and learning.

Topic: Meet local scientists and investigate a variety of science and natural history topics!

For more information, call 352-273-2062.

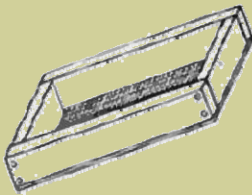
- See more at: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/ask-scientist-2/?eID=1094#sthash.COQiuUbO.dpuf>

PEACE RIVER

With all the rains we've been having, I wouldn't be surprised to find animals lined up two by two near the boat ramps. It's going to be a while before the water level goes down in the Peace enough for fossil hunting. Now would be a great time to go through your old finds and see if there are some you can donate to the Kids' Fossil Pit or the Silent Auction at our Fossil Fair on October 18th & 19th.

In the meantime you can always check on the water level via our website

floridafossilhunters.com



Mosaic Mine Dig

Saturday, December 6th

This might be the only time that Mosaic will let us in this season.

To sign up, call Cindy Roll at [904-571-4258](tel:904-571-4258).
or email her at croll59@cs.com

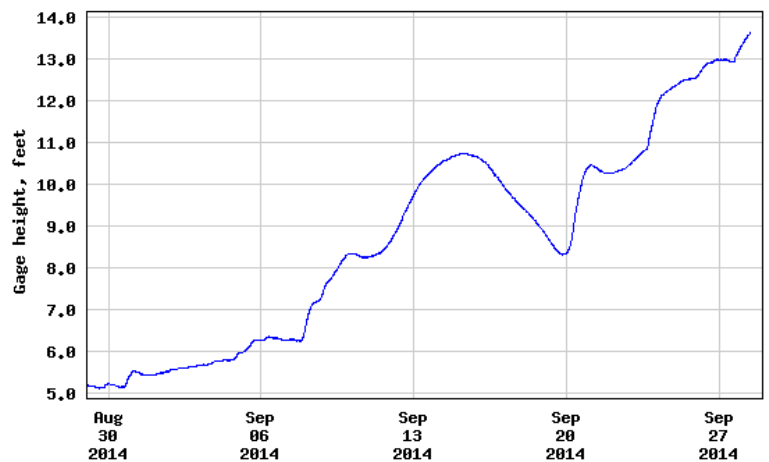
Once Cindy gets who the attendees are, she will email the waivers out to them and get them all the info on what to wear and bring. Mosaic won't let her know where we are going until right before the dig.

There are thirty spots...no one under the age of 13 is permitted.

She will keep two sign up lists for the first two weeks - one for people who have never been to Mosaic and one for repeat offenders (ha ha)... after two weeks, if there are not enough newcomers to fill all the spots, she will take the repeat offenders in the order they signed up- this means that even the repeaters need to contact her asap- if they want a better chance of going. This process seemed to work well last time.

If you have to cancel out of the trip, you must let her know as soon as possible... and absolutely no later than 3 days before the trip takes place - so we can let people on the waiting list have the opportunity to go. If you make no attempt to let her know you can not make the dig and just do not show up - you will not be allowed to sign up for the next dig.

USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



Graph courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

Fossil Fair - - October 18 & 19 - - Almost here!

Won't be long before we are wandering around the tables of the dealers drooling over treasures and deciding which ones just have to come home with us. It's so much fun to see all the different fossils, minerals, and artifacts and learn all about them. There is always something that I've never seen before. It's the best kind of brain candy.

It takes all of us to make this event a success..... not just raising funds for the club expenses, but also spreading the good word about the story of the earth and the life that has inhabited it. The true icing on the cake is putting wonder and smiles on the kids' faces.

Please give of your time, expertise, and fossils to make this event fantastic.

Volunteers needed:

- Admissions
- Kids' Dig Pit
- Fossil ID
- Silent Auction
- Membership
- Set up- mostly Friday
- Put out and pick up signs
- Cleanup after the fair- Sunday 4 pm to ?

Shifts are-

Sat: 8:30am to 2:45, 12:30 to 5pm
Sun: 9:30am to 12:45, 12:30 to 4pm

Just sign up at the September mtg or email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com or call [352-429-1058](tel:352-429-1058) between 7-8 pm.

Please donate:

- Fossils/minerals for the kids' dig pit
- Fossils, shells, casts, minerals, kids' toys, books, shelving or cases, & anything fossil/rock/artifact related for the Silent Auction
- We have a mini-cafeteria at our Fossil Fairs for volunteers and dealers. (Mostly through the hard work of Sara) Please bring a covered dish to share with the group.

As a bonus, you'll earn FFH Fossil Bucks for the hours you volunteer and the things you donate!

Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived Exhibit Oct. 4, 2014 - Jan. 4, 2015

Florida Museum - 3215 Hull Road, SW 34th Street and Hull Road Gainesville, FL 32611

The largest shark ever known is returning to Gainesville! Be consumed with awe at Megalodon, the gigantic prehistoric shark that once cruised the world's oceans. Walk through the full-scale jaw of a 60-foot-long shark sculpture to learn the story of this fantastic ancient creature, including its size, structure, diet, lifespan, relatives, neighbors, evolution, extinction and new science that continues to reveal Megalodon's tale. The object-rich exhibit features fossil specimens from several collections and life-size, scale models of other fossil and modern sharks. Tooth-shaped display units include actual Megalodon fossils, and the exhibit is rich in hands-on, family friendly activities.

Oct 26th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Join the Museum for a "fun-for-all-ages" celebration of our newest temporary exhibit, Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived. While the exhibit has an admission fee, the exhibit celebration activities are free and an exciting first stop on a journey to learn more about this gigantic prehistoric shark!

See more at: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/megalodon-celebration/?eID=1121#sthash.NRYu6hYA.dpuf>

Saturday, Nov, 15th Meeting

Orlando Science Center
777 E. Princeton Street , Orlando, Florida 32803
Phone: [407.514.2000](tel:407.514.2000)

We'll have our November meeting at the Orlando Science Center at 3 pm, after the Fossil Kids' Blast. Look for the signs directing you to the room., You do not have to pay admittance to OSC unless you want to tour the other exhibits.

Parking in the garage costs \$5 if you are not a member of the Orlando Science Center, but there is plenty of free parking between the theater and the Science Center and across the street at the doctors' office building.

We'll have our business meeting and then we'll get treated to a presentation by Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Vertebrate Curator of the Florida Museum of Natural History. He is involved in several projects that are making fossil information more available to the public and improving the communications between professionals and amateurs.

He's widely known as **the** fossil horse expert so bring your horse fossils in for all of us to look at.

Florida Fossil Hunters News

More Bizarre Creatures From the Past....

Odobenocetops ("walrus-face whale") was a small whale from the Pliocene. It had two tusks, and, in some fossils, one tusk was longer than the other.

Odobenocetops was an early member of the dolphin superfamily, more closely related to narwhals than dolphins, with tusks projecting towards the rear of its body. It measured about 2.1 m (6.9 ft) long and weighted between 150 and 650 kg. Its neck articulations show that it was very flexible, being able to turn its head over 90 degrees. This, coupled with its broad snout, similar to that of a walrus, suggests that it was a bottom feeder, searching for mollusks and sucking them out of their shells with a powerful tongue.

Three Odobenocetops.

Perhaps the most striking discovery was that of a male *O. leptodon* skull with a tusk significantly longer than the other. On the right side of the body, the tusk was often 1.2 m (3.9 ft) long, but on the left it could only grow up to 25 centimetres (9.8 in) long. Being the only male *O. leptodon* skull known, it is not safe to say it was present in all male individuals of the species. Being too brittle, the tusk was probably held parallel to the body. It might have been used to search out food, or as a sensory organ like narwhal tusks. Even though they are closely related to these primitive whales, the tusks were gained by convergent evolution. Tim Haines thought that the tusks could be used during the mating season in jousts over females. The abstract of an influential article on an *Odobenocetops* species from the journal *Nature* helps

to explain why this is so:

The recent discovery in the Southern Hemisphere (15.5 ° S) of a walrus-like skull of a toothed whale (odontocete) from the Pisco Formation of southern Peru presents a startling example of convergence and specialization unprecedented among cetaceans. In contrast to other toothed whales, *Odobenocetops peruvianus* has no elongated rostrum but has large, ventrally directed premaxillary alveolar processes housing asymmetrical tusks. The dorsally facing orbits indicate the possibility of dorsal binocular vision which could compensate for the absence of the melon, a rostral organ involved in echolocation. Strong muscle scars on the anterior edge of the premaxillae suggest the presence of a powerful upper lip. It is this feature, together with the morphology of the deep vaulted palate devoid of maxillary teeth, that enables us to hypothesize a convergent feeding adaptation with the walrus which feeds mainly on thin-shelled bivalve molluscs, sucking out the foot and/or siphon and ejecting the shell. The structure of the face and basicranium indicates it was a delphinoid cetacean, probably related to the living beluga and narwhal (*Monodontidae*).

O. leptodon and *O. peruvianus* were extremely similar but, if the single *O. leptodon* is not a sport and is representative of its type, *O. leptodon* probably had a small melon and, therefore, echolocation ability, but had reduced (or no) binocular vision.

From: Wikipedia

RARE SAND DOLLAR

On Sunday, Sept. 21st 16 yr. old Christopher Sharpe donated an exceptionally well preserved *Albertella dengleri* to the Florida Museum Of Natural History. Chris, his brother Michael, and his father Steve had been fossil hunting in the Peace River last year when he found the sand dollars. Most of the ones they found were broken but several were whole. Roger Portell, Invertebrate Collections Manager was thrilled when they donated not only the perfect specimen but all the fragments they found. Now extensive research can be done on the

range of size, shape, and structure of this rare species. This is something many of us amateurs forget..... that fossils do not have to be "perfect" to be valuable to research. A lot of information can be gleaned from broken fossils.

Roger treated Chris and his family to a tour of the invertebrate collections in Dickinson Hall. Richard Hulbert, the Vertebrate Collections Manager, also kindly gave his time to ID some of the toe bones the family had found and gave them a tour of the vertebrate collection.



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters



2014 FOSSIL FAIR

Twentythird Annual
Fossils, Rocks, Gems & Minerals

Saturday, October 18, 2014

9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, October 19, 2014

10:00am - 4:00pm

Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

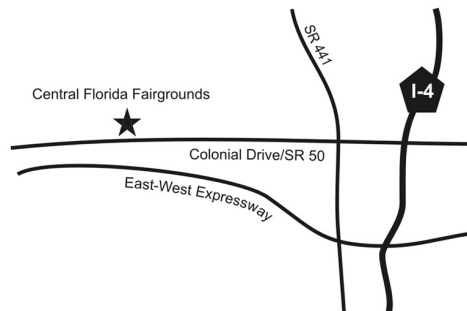
\$4.00 Adults | \$1.00 Children

**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.*



**Educational
Displays**

Vendors

**Silent
Auctions**

**Kids \$1
Dig Pit**

Raffles

**Airconditioned!
INDOORS!**

For more information on the 2014 Fossil Fair contact us by email at info@floridafossilhunters.com, call 407-699-9274, or check the website at

www.floridafossilhunters.com

VULCAN MINE Field Trips

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

If you did not sign up at the September meeting, please call or email the trip leader at:

Saturday, October 11th

Trip Leader: Steve Chambers,

Email: stchamb1@comcast.com

Cell number: 321-806-0763

Saturday, November 8th

Trip Leader: Duane Hartley

Email: dwhfla62@centurylink.net

If you can't reach via email: [352-484-4377](tel:352-484-4377)

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 be escorted

into and out of the mine. Do not leave on your own since it is easy to become lost.

THERE ARE

NO RESTROOM

FACILITIES AT VULCAN, 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.

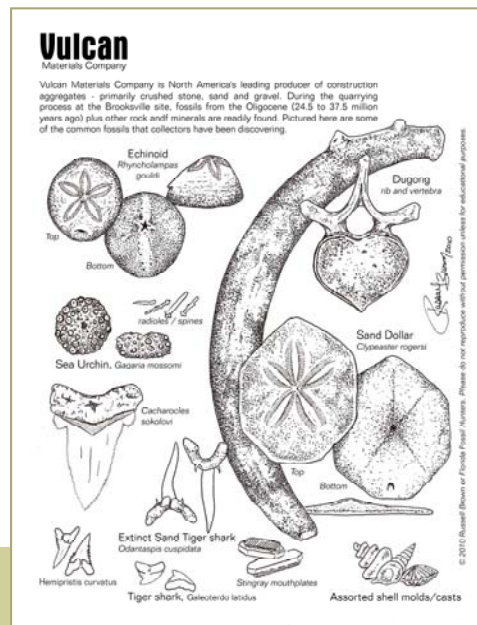
If you follow the truck route for Hwy. 50, you have to turn right onto 41, and then take the fork to the left to hook up with Ponce De Leon Blvd/98. There are several fast food places on 41 where you can take advantage of the bathroom facilities. Be sure NOT to keep following 41 north. You want to take 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.



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.

Join Us
October 11th and
November 8th

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters

Membership Application

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
Membership	Bonnie Cronin	(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	
Cindy Lockner	

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.

Saturday, October 11th
Vulcan Mine

October 18th & 19th
FFH Fossil Fair
Central Florida Fairgrounds

Sunday, October 26th
1 - 4 pm Megalodon, FLMNH

Saturday, November 1st
Neanderthal Ball, OSC

Saturday, November 8th
Vulcan Mine

Sunday, November 9th
FLMNH, Ask a Scientist

Saturday, November 15th

2 pm Kids' Fossil Blast
3 pm Meeting & Bruce MacFadden, speaker

Saturday, December 20th
Meeting & Fossil Bucks Auction

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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Orlando, Florida 32854-0404



Florida Fossil Hunters News