Florida Paleontological Society, Inc. Newsletter



Volume 5 Number 2 Fall Quarter 1988

FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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COMMITTEES

M.C. Thomas Book

Book Fund

Finance Nominating

By-Laws Historian

Honorary Membership

and Awards

Leidy Centennial

Membership

1988 Fall Meeting

Dr. S. David Webb, Phil Whisler

Clifford Jeremiah

Don Lorenzo, Gordon Hubbell, Roger Portell Robin Brown, Ray Robinson, Phil Whisler

Phil Whisler, Ray Robinson

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FL 34293 Newsletter

Editor -Gary Morgan, Florida Museum of Natural History,

Scientific Gainesville, FL 32611

FSM Representative Dr. S. David Webb

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Number Two

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Bone Valley Fossil Society
Gainesville Gem, Mineral and Fossil Club
SouthWest Florida Fossil Club
Sun Coast Archaeological & Paleontological Society
Tampa Bay Fossil Club
Time Sifters, Inc.

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Natural History Bulletin of Paleomalacology

F. Book Sale

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BEFORE THE INDIANS by Bjorn Kurten
FOSSIL VERTEBRATES by Margaret C. Thomas
HANDBOOK OF PALEO-PREPARATION TECHNIQUES by Howard Converse

G. FPS Membership List

Fall Meeting Agenda John R. "Jack" Horner to be Guest Speaker

Dr. MacFadden has arranged an exciting program for our Fall Meeting. Through his efforts we have been offered a wonderful opportunity to have as our guest, John R. "Jack" Horner, Curator of Fossil Vertebrates at the Museum of the Rockies, located at Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. "Jack" Horner is a MacArthur Fellow, most recently noted for his work on and discoveries of baby Duckbilled dinosaurs and dinosaur nesting sites. His studies of dinosaur nesting behavior have sparked tremendous intellectual debate and opened up new avenues of thought regarding dinosaur paleophysiology and their social interaction. Written accounts of his work have been published in NATURE, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, and DISCOVERY and you have probably seen televised accounts of his work on "NOVA" and other public broadcast stations.

The meeting dates will be Friday evening, November 18 and Saturday, November 19. The agenda and tentative times are as follows:

Friday, Nov. 18

7:30 PM A cocktail party sponsored by the Florida Museum of Natural History Associates.

Saturday, Nov. 19

8:30 AM Technical Sessions begin at Reitz Union.
Three speakers on various fossils and fossil related topics followed by general meeting.

12:00 PM Lunch (participants are on their own) - Board of Directors Meeting (all members are invited to attend).

1:30 PM Auction of fossil related Books, Casts and Memorabilia.

6:00 PM Cocktails before Banquet

6:30 PM Banquet (maximum cost \$10.00)

7:30 PM Award ceremony (Howard Converse Award)

8:30 PM Presentation by Guest Speaker, Jack Horner

Times are subject to change but they are close. <u>Banquet will require a reservation</u>. RSVP letter will be sent to all members. Friends and guests are welcome. Anyone wishing to donate books, casts or fossil memorabilia to the auction please contact Danny Bryant at the museum, 904-392-1721, or Phil Whisler at 813-488-6711 weekdays or 813-493-6920 evenings and weekends.

The Officers, Board of Directors and Members of FPS wish to thank Margaret Thomas for her generous donation of \$1000.00 to FPS. She has done so much for our society. Her generosity can never be repaid.

Elections for the upcoming year are just around the corner. The Nomination Committee of Robin Brown, Ray Robinson and Phil Whisler have submitted the following list of nominees to the Secretary, Anita Brown.

President Robert Marsh, Brooksville, Fl.
President-elect Don Lorenzo, Jacksonville, Fl.
Vice President Rick Carter, Lakeland, Fl.
Secretary Anita Brown, Live Oak, Fl.
Treasurer Roger Portell, Gainesville, Fl.

Board of Directors (term ending 1991)

Rudi Johnson, Tampa, Fl. Joseph Latvis, Dade City, Fl. Jim Pendergraft, Largo, Fl. Susan Pendergraft, Largo, Fl.

Ballots will be forthcoming. The Nominating Committee is very pleased with this slate and hopes that the membership will agree.

From the Editor

Unfortunately, I had previously failed to set deadlines for issue publication and myself. It has, therefore, been too easy for me to allow personal projects and other interests to distract me from getting the newsletter to you on a regular schedule. In an attempt to insure that the newsletter is published and distributed regularly (as it definitely has not) the following schedule and guidelines for submission are proposed by the editor:

Issues will be mailed during the months of December, March, June and September.

News and submissions for publication must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of issue.

The editor will attempt to limit the size of the issue to twelve pages.

I apologize for my inconsistency but hope to do better in the future. As I stated, these are proposals and I am open to suggestions from the membership.

MUSEUM NEWS

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY Museum Road, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

The Florida State Museum has changed it's name and is now The Florida Museum of Natural History. It is the museum of the University of Florida and of the State of Florida, with research emphasis on natural sciences and anthropology of Florida, the Caribbean Basin and South America. It is open every day except December 25, Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays and holidays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

MULBERRY PHOSPHATE MUSEUM P.O. Box 707, Mulberry, Florida 33860

The City of Mulberry is the home of the Mulberry Phosphate Museum. The museum houses an outstanding collection of fossilized remains, area memorabilia and educational exhibits on the phosphate industry. Directed by Gary Hacking, it is located one block south of State Highway 60 on State Highway 37 and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Special tours are available by calling the City of Mulberry at 813-425-1125.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY 4801 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa, FL 33617-2099

The MOSI is the sponsor of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club. Located across from the Tampa SunDome, the museum is open from 10 AM to 4:30 PM everyday. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children between the ages of 5 and 15. Admission for children under 5 is free.

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES



I must thank my good friend, Bob Morgan of Aquaventures, for the lead on this fantastic tip. Seems "Eagle Eyed Bob" spotted an ad in the newspaper about a fossil club forming in the Miami area. I followed up on the lead and spoke with Gail Kricun of Miami. Gail is the editor for the Tropical Mineral and Gem Society. Gail advised me that she loves fossils and so many of her friends expressed an interest that they decided to start a local club. Gail and a friend, Harold Cook, have been organizing the club and already have the interest of 75 - 85 people. If you are interested, please call Gail at 305-595-9630. It's so nice to see a club forming in Southeast Florida.

AQUAVENTURES UNLIMITED P.O. Box 651055, Miami, FL 33165

If you like fun and adventure then this is the club for you. The club isn't just for divers either. They offer family oriented outings, camping, canoeing, shelling, cookouts, trips and parties. Bob, Gert and other members regularly travel between Miami and the Southwest Florida area in search of Sun, Fun and Fossils. Write BoB or call him at 305-221-1783. Bob has a great flair for writing and his newsletter is full of ideas for weekend outings and other interesting information. It gets exciting too. Here's another excerpt from one of their newsletters. I know you'll like it.

"Sunday: I had a couple of day trips planned but the Peace River still seemed the best. We drove over to Gardner, north of Arcadia, on the Peace River. There we put in and with the aid of an electric motor went upstream about 3 miles. I couldn't believe all the people on the river. Canoes everywhere and people in all stages of intoxication. Everyone seemed to be having fun. I brought along my dive gear as the place I had set out for was just upstream from where most of the people sift the river bed for fossil shark teeth. Along this part of the river there are rock walls on both sides. I figured this to be a natural place to find fossils. I put on my wetsuit and scuba gear and in between the heavy canoe traffic slid into the water. The visibility was near 4 ft and the depth 8 to 10 foot. First thing I found was somebody's transistor radio. A victim of a flip over. The bottom was clean & sandy. This wasn't the pile of material I expected. I gave instructions to my crew to follow me and started downstream. For a hundred yards all I encountered was white sand. Then in the deeper spots the sand got a little darker. I knew I was on the right track when I saw a dark rock right in front of me... This rock had legs! I can't tell you all the thoughts that raced through my mind (the last being, Where's the toilet?). With full scuba gear, 30 pounds of lead and a tank I scaled a vertical rock wall and kept up a continuous clamor until the canoe was directly What do you say to an 8 foot gator that owns the river? ... "Well, Excuse Me!" Fossil collecting was better back down the river anyway. I picked up a nice mammoth tooth, several large shark teeth, a whale tooth and a sloth tooth. Not bad for a guy that just had an encounter with a river dragon."

SOUNDS LIKE A FUN TRIP DOESN'T IT? Call Bob, maybe he'll introduce you to his friend, "Alley Gay Tore".

ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL CLUB OF BREVARD, INC. P.O. Box 360515, Melbourne, FL 32936-0515

I received one copy of their newsletter, THE CAPSULE, and found it very interesting. These shellers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at the American Bank Building, corner of Babcock St. and Apollo Blvd., in Melbourne at 7:30 PM. They apparently have members who are very interested in invertebrate fossils. They report that at their Ninth Shell Show The Dick Hillman Memorial Fossil Trophy was presented to Erika Vander Heyden, a junior exhibitor, for her collection of Florida fossil shells and Dave Green won a yellow ribbon for his fossil Ecphora

umbilicata (Wagner). Also, the April meeting (and potluck supper) was devoted solely to fossil shells. For more information on this call Jo and Gene Little at 305-723-2034.

BONE VALLEY FOSSIL SOCIETY 2704 Dixie Road, Lakeland, FL 33801

I assume that my mailman has taken a fancy to the Bone Valley's Newsletter and that he keeps it and reads it. Unfortunately it hasn't reached me for several months. To the rescue however came Bob Morgan and Aquaventures. Bob's newsletter included the information on the Bone Valley's 5th ANNUAL "FLORIDA FOSSIL FAIR" to be held in Mulberry, Oct. 21 - 23. The theme this year will be "The Shark".

The fair will highlight a Children's Day, Friday the 21st, games, field trips, slide show, auctions, and exhibits and admission is free. This is an excellent fair and is well worth a visit. For more information write Eric Kendrew, 4436 Tevalo Dr., Valrico, Fl 33594

GAINESVILLE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, 3517 N.W. 10th Ave., Gainesville, Fl. 32605

Although a gem and mineral society, GGMS members are getting more and more interested in fossils. Jeri Friedman has invited FPS members and friends to visit them at their 22nd ANNUAL ALL FLORIDA ROCK SWAP at the KOA Campground in Ocala on Oct. 14 - 16. The KOA Campground is located et I-75 and Florida 200, Exit 68. The swap will highlight Gems, Jewelry, Rocks, Minerals and Fossils. Admission is free and there will be door prizes, auctions and drawings. The KOA offers over 250 campsites, a sauna, pool, whirlpool bath, mini golf, shuffleboard and a fish pond (doesn't sound like roughing it to me) and the beautiful Ocala area offers numerous fine hotels/motels if you are so inclined. For more information call Dr. Robert E. Woodruff at 904-376-1914.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FOSSIL CLUB 132 Countryman Ave. S.W., Port Charlotte, FL 33948

The SWFFC, which meets at 7:00 PM, the 2nd Saturday of each month, at the First Federal Savings and Loan in Port Charlotte (next to the Ramada Inn), has had some excellent speakers and a field trip to the Desoto Pit. Recent programs included such topics as the "Migration of Species Between North and South America" by Dr. S. David Webb of the Florida Museum of Natural History; "Plate Tectonic and the Fossil Record" by Dr. Richard Yarger of Edison Community College; "Fossil Vertebrate Hunting in the Caribbean Islands" by Gary Morgan of the Florida Museum of Natural History; and "Dinosaur Museums in the United States" by Earlene Mitchell of Sarasota.

A special commendation should be given to this club for it's dedication and active participation in furthering the science of paleontology by financially assisting in the publication of scientific articles which describe specimens found by members of the club. See the <u>Journal of Paleontology</u>, Volume 62, Number 1, January 1988. The article by Dr. Douglas S. Jones and Roser W. Partell (FMNH) entitled "Occurrence and

Biogeographic Significance of Heliaster (Echinodermata: Asteroidea) from the Pliocene of Southwest Florida." These starfish were discovered by Bill and Lelia Brayfield of El Jobean and the SWFFC donated \$500.00 toward the publication costs of the article. Further examination of the starfish revealed the presence of three types of crabs living symbiotically with the starfish. The club again generously donated monies toward this publication which will soon be out. In both instances the SouthWest Florida Fossil Club is receiving acknowledgment in the publications for their generosity. Other clubs should consider this type of support for the publication of scientific articles.

SUN COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL & PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1529 30th Ave North, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

SCAPS meetings are held at the Science Center, 7701 22nd Ave. North, in St. Petersburg and they are the Tampa Bay Chapter of FPS. They have a very informative newsletter with excellent participation from the members. The most recent issue includes a very interesting article about ancient air entitled "Researchers Burst Ancient Bubble Theory" by Gina Kolata and another by Dianne Stallings entitled "Digging Into Florida's Past". Dianne Stallings article is an excellent example of how amateurs and professionals, archaeologists and paleontologists, work together to further science. This is one club that is very active in this respect. Without their assistance many important research projects would have gone undone or lacked the proper manpower to adequately complete.

TAMPA BAY FOSSIL CLUB - Sponsored by the Museum of Science & Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa

The TBFC meets at the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM. President is Rudi Johnson and they have a newsletter called "THE FOSSIL ENQUIRER". Membership is open to anyone, anywhere, who wants to join in the fun of learning about and finding fossils. For more information or an application call 813-985-5531 or write to their Secretary, Janice Robbins c/o MOSI, zip 33617-2099.

The TBFC's newsletter is excellent and their editorial staff should be commended. I must also compliment them on their ability to generate general member participation. The articles and letters from the members are very interesting and informative. If you don't subscribe, you should.

Before breaking for the summer months the club was very active with their First Annual Fossil Fair and a number of field trips. The Fair was a great success in spite of the rains and reports from the field trips sound excellent. One included a fish fry and I now see that they are planning a two day camp out/field trip in November. There programs are excellent and informative and it's obvious that this club is headed in the right direction.

TIME SIFTERS, INC. P. O. Box 32091, Midtown Station, Sarasota, FL 34239

Time Sifters meetings are held at the Sarasota County Vocational Technical Center, Culinary Arts Building, #5 at 7:30 PM on the last Tuesday of the month. Members are interested in the preservation of archaeological and paleontological sites and specimens. Their most recent project was an archaeological surface survey in the area of Oscar Scherer State Recreation Area which resulted in locating three sites that possibly indicate at least seasonal use by the Indians. They also recently held a joint PotLuck dinner with the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society at Oscar Scherer State Park which included a tour of Spanish Point in Osprey. For more information about Time Sifters call their President, Mitchell Hope, at 475-6626.

LITERATURE AVAILABLE

Natural History magazine has always been excellent, but the September issue has what I would call a real "sleeper". You have to look closely and work your way to page 88. The article, titled "Still Life with Flowers" by David A. Grimaldi is a perfect example of serendipity. The author, an entomologist, in a search for New Jersey amber made his greatest discovery in a drawer at the American Museum. In one of the drawers, donated by an amateur years before yet still unstudied, was an unusually large piece of New Jersey amber. Upon closer examination Grimaldi realized, to his disbelieve, that it contained a bee, a female, stingless bee to be exact. An 80 million year old bee. Forty million years older than the oldest known bee which he estimated pushed the origin of the bees back to at least the earliest Cretaceous, about 135 million year ago. Read the article, it's fascinating.

For the Invertebrate Collector

Avid shell collectors may want to check out a new publication called the Bulletin of Paleomalacology. Published quarterly, the bulletin deals with all aspects of paleomalacology, systematics, biogeography, and the ecology of molluscan paleofaunas. Recent articles of local interest are found in Vol. 1, No. 1, "A New Giant Muricanthus from the Pliocene of Southern Florida, U.S.A." by Edward J. Petuch describes Muricanthus hertweckorum n.sp., from the APAC pit in Sarasota, Alligator Alley, and from coral reef deposits at Miami (This shell was named for the late Mr. Charles Hertweck and Mrs. Violet Hertweck of Venice) and Vol. 1, No. 2 also by Edward J. Petuch, "A New Ecphora from the Buckingham Formation at Sarasota, Florida, U.S.A.". In this paper, Dr. Petuch describes Ecphora violetae, also a new species, from the APAC pit and named after Mrs. Violet Hertweck of Venice. papers are technical and may not appeal to the novice but serious collectors should strongly consider checking out this publication. The subscription price for Volume 1 (1988) is \$25 for members of CERF (Coastal Education & Research Foundation) and \$35 for non-members. Orders may be sent to the Coastal Education & Research Foundation, P. O. Box 8068, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

FOSSIL BOOK SALE!!!!!!!!

FLORIDA'S FOSSILS Guide to Location, Identification and Enjoyment by Robin Brown

Here is a new book, written by one of our own members. that should be on the shelf of every fossil collector in the state. The book tells how and, with map references, where This hardcover, 208 page book contains over 200 to hunt fossils. photographs of museum quality specimens which are much clearer and more detailed that many of the other publications on Florida fossils. Also included are numerous line drawings and copies of three original paintings by Christopher Kreider. The book covers how and where to look for fossils, collection and preservation, identification, history and many other interesting aspects of the hobby.

For a book of this quality and content it is very reasonably priced at only \$21.95 plus tax. It is available at most book stores around the state, at the Florida Museum Of Natural History Gift Shop or from the publisher, Pineapple Press, Inc., P.O. Drawer 16008, Sarasota, FL 34239. Be sure to check this book out. Go to your book store and look it over. I know you will like it.

Here's some comments from some professionals.

"I'd recommend this book for all of Florida's public school libraries. It addresses most of the questions that people interested in getting started in fossil collecting ask."

-- Sam B. UpChurch, Chairman, Department of Geology. University of South Florida, Tampa

"This book is scientifically accurate and professional in every respect."

-- Dr. Bruce J. MacFadden, Associate Curator, Vertebrate Paleontology, Florida Museum of Natural History

"One of the best illustrated and put together guides for fossil-collectors on the market."

-- Richard L. Casanova, Editor, Fossils Quarterly

"A truly outstanding publication."

-- Walt Schmidt, PhD., State Geologist, Florida DNR

Dr. Webb of the FMNH sent me this book review that he did. It, too, sounds like one you should own.

"Although Professor Bjorn Kurten has lived his entire life in Finland, he is one of the most knowledgeable students of Pleistocene mammals of North America. Indeed he is the first author (followed by Elaine Anderson) of a long technical book on that subject published by Columbia University Press in 1980. Now the same press has published his popular pictorial companion piece entitled "Before the Indians".

"Before the Indians interprets animals and environments of the last three million years in North America. Its story line runs up to the time when man entered the New World and the great megafaunal extinctions took place. This is a large "coffee table" type book, 272 pages long, with 29 plates and 42 line drawings by Margaret Lambert Newman and Hubert Pepper. It includes a lot of Florida scenes and creatures. I strongly recommend it. It can be purchased from Columbia University Press, Dept. 5, 136 South Broadway, Irvington, N.Y. 10533"

S. David Webb Curator of Fossil Vertebrates Florida Museum of Natural History University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611

FOSSIL VERTEBRATES, Beach and Bank Collecting for Amateurs, by M. C. Thomas. The book sells retail for \$5.25 for single copies and can be purchased from your local bookstore. Wholesale price is \$2.50 for a minimum order 24 books. Order requests should be addressed to Anita Brown, FPS Secretary, Florida Museum of Natural History, Museum Road, Gainesville, FL 32611. Make checks payable to FPS.

HANDBOOK OF PALEONTOLOGICAL PREPARATION TECHNIQUES, by Howard H. Converse, Jr. The copyright to this book was graciously donated to FPS by Howard Converse's family. It is an excellent book on how to collect, prepare and preserve your fossil specimens. Cost is only \$10.00 through FPS. Address requests to the Secretary, Anita Brown.

BUTVAR FOR SALE Preserve your fossils with butvar. A new supply is on order and will be available soon. Cost is only \$5.00 a pound (this includes tax and postage). This is very reasonable considering how long it lasts and how many specimens you can preserve with it. For a purchase contact Anita Brown at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Museum Road, Gainesville 32611. Make check payable to the Florida Paleontological Society.

FLURIDA PALEONTOLIGICAL SOCIETY 09-11-1988 HONORARY MEMBERS

THOMAS, MARGARET C.

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Our Secretary, Anita Brown, has designed a new address label which should make her job easier and allow members to see whether or not their dues are current. Your

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007 A 88 Fossilfinder, John Q. 302 Matrix Ave. In Situ, FL 54321

address label should look something like this:

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The 007 corresponds to your computer number. The letter "A" indicates that you are an active member. Other codes are "J" Associate Member; "H" Honorary Member; "I" Institutional Member; "S" Subscriber; and "C" Complimentary. The 88 indicates that your dues are paid for the year 1988. If it says 87 or less then your dues are due.

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FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY. INC.

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation: "The purposes of this Corporation shall be to advance the Science of Paleontology, especially in Florida, to disseminate knowledge of this subject and to facilitate cooperation of all persons concerned with the history, stratigraphy, evolution, ecology, anatomy and taxonomy of Florida's past fauna and flora. The corporation shall also be concerned with the collection and preservation of Florida fossils." (Article III, Section 1)

Code of Ethics

ARTICLE IX

- Section 1. Members of the Florida Paleontological Society, Inc., are expected to respect all private and public properties.
- Section 2. No member shall collect without appropriate permission on private or public properties.
- Section 3. Members should make a sincere effort to keep themselves informed on laws, regulations and rules on collecting in private and public properties.
- Section 4. Members shall not use firearms, blasting equipment, or dredging apparatuses without appropriate licenses and permits.
- Section 5. Members shall dispose of litter properly.
- Section 6. Members shall report to proper state offices any seemingly important paleontological or archaeological sites.
- Section 7. Members shall respect and cooperate with field trip leaders or designated authorities in all collecting areas.
- Section 8. Members shall appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- Section 9. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner that best represents the Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.

Annual dues for FPS are \$5.00 for persons under age 18 and \$10.00 for Full Membership (persons over age 18) and Institutional Subscriptions. Persons interested in FPS membership need only send their names. addresses, and appropriate dues to the acting Secretary. Please make checks payable to FPS. Members receive a membership card, the FPS Newsletter and randomly issued technical papers.

Newsletter Policy: All news items, art work and photographs related to paleontology in Florida are welcome. The editor reserves the right not to publish submissions and to edit those which are published.