Florida Paleontological Society, Inc. Newsletter



Volume 9 Number 2 Spring Quarter 1992

FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Jim Pendergraft, 17 Jeff Road

President-Elect:

Jacksonville, Florida 32544
Frank Rupert, Florida Geological Survey
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Vice President:

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Treasurer: Kevin Schindler, Florida Museum of Natural History

Gainesville, Florida 32611

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Roger Portell, Gainesville, 1994

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Sue Pendergraft, Largo, 1994

Marilyn Whetzel, Boca Raton, 1993

Phil Whisler, Casselberry, 1992

Bruce MacFadden, Gainesville, 1993

Ray Robinson, St. Petersburg, 1993

COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

M. C. Thomas Book:

Nominations:

Finance:

Spring Meeting:

Fall Meeting:

B. MacFadden, R. Portell, K. Schindler

S. Pendergraft, D. Crissinger, A. Brown,

T. Ahern

Membership:

By-Laws:

Honorary Members and Awards:

Historical:

Board of Editors:

Museum Representative (appointed):

Resident Agent.

S. Pendergraft, K. Schindler, Bill Webster K. Schindler, R. Portell, B. MacFadden S. Pendergraft, J. Latvis, J. Pendergraft

Bob Marsh, A. Brown, B. MacFadden A. Brown, Eric Taylor, Robyn Miller D. Webb, J. Pendergraft, C. Jeremiah

B. Waller, C. Jeremiah

Gary Morgan, Frank Rupert

Doug Jones S. David Webb

HONORARY MEMBERS

Margaret C. Thomas, Ben Waller, Anita Brown

INFORMATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Please Address: Secretary, Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.

Florida Museum of Natural History University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611

Volume 9, Number 2

Spring Quarter 1992

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Spring Meeting Highlights

The FPS Spring Meeting was held Saturday, March 28th at the new Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center in Ocala. Nestled in the woods just south of Silver Springs, the center provided an outstanding setting for the variety of excellent speakers on hand.

Attendees were treated to an interesting series of "How-to" talks by some of our state's experts in the fields. Frank Garcia presented an excellent "in-ground" demonstration of plaster jacket extraction techniques. This was followed by classroom presentations on fossil repair techniques by Tony Estevez and fossil reproduction methods by Don Serbousek. Informative classroom lectures on Florida geology and fossils were interspersed throughout the day. Dave Letasi, from the Great Explorations Museum in St. Petersburg, presented a talk on Florida's fossil Frank Rupert, of the Florida carnivores. Geological Survey, reviewed the local geology, and Bruce MacFadden, from the FMNH, presented a fascinating talk on the evolution of fossil horses.

One of the most popular presentations was the flint-knapping demonstration by Claude Van Otter. Claude showed us the techniques the paleoindians used to manufacture a variety of point types.

After the meeting, the FPS Officers and Board held a short board meeting, at which it was announced that meeting had made the FPS and Museum \$358.

Many thanks are due to Mr. Guy Marwick for hosting us at the Center. Also, kudos to Sue Pendergraft and the other meeting committee members who worked hard to organize this outstanding spring meeting.

REMINDER! It's FPS Officer and Board Member Nomination time again. See form at end of this newsletter.



From the Secretary

Eric Taylor is still accepting 1992 FPS membership dues from those who have not yet paid. They are now five months past due. Unless your newsletter label has a "1992" or later on it, please pay ASAP. Checks may be made out to the FPS, and mailed to the museum address.

Eric's son Craig has moved to Austin, Texas, and is looking for information on vertebrate collecting sites in southeastern Texas. If anyone knows of some, please write or call Eric at P.O. Box 233, Lake City, FL 32056, (904) 755-0203.

Congratulations! Speaking of Craig Taylor, our congratulations to him for winning the Tampa Bay Fossil Club's Badlands Collecting Trip! The trip was raffled off at the club's fossil fair in Tampa, March 21 and 22. Craig will attend the 8-day trip to Nebraska with Frank Garcia in June.



Peggy Scherbaum, an FPS member now residing in Philadelphia, created this cartoon of a frustrated fossil hunter stranded in the big city and surrounded by tourists.

News from the



Craig Oyen was awarded the Outstanding Student Paper, Geology Section, at the Florida Academy of Sciences 56th Annual Meeting in March. presentation, entitled Craig's significance of fossil crinoids from Florida limestones, focused on the stratigraphic and paleobiogeographic occurrence of comatulid crinoids in Florida. Skeletal elements were described from both the Inglis and Crystal River Formations (Eocene), which represents the first report of positively-identified fossil crinoids from Florida.

In April, Doug Jones and Roger Portell spent three days on Sanibel Island as guests of Lois Dunnam. While there, they visited Reed and Barbara Toomey and many other local shell enthusiasts.

In May, Doug and Roger were guests of Mary Palmer at her home in Alva. They spent two days examining and packing the Plio-Pleistocene mollusc collection of Ms. Palmer, who kindly donated it to the Invertebrate Paleontology Division. Among the specimens were hundreds collected at sites not represented in the Museum's holdings.

In March, Bruce MacFadden started a fossil horse newsletter, which is written for fossil enthusiasts throughout the state of Florida. During that month, 3,000 complimentary issues were sent to various club and society members

throughout Florida and adjacent regions. The response has so far been very enthusiastic. The second issue of the newsletter, now officially named the *Pony Express*, will be mailed out in early June.

In addition to the newsletter, Bruce also plans field activities related to the study of fossil horses. The first such activities were two highly successful fossil horse digs at the famous Miocene Thomas Farm site. A total of 20 people helped excavate many new and important fossil horses, including the otherwise elusive *Archaeohippus*. About 1000 catalogable specimens will be added to the Thomas Farm collection as a result of the two digs.

The Pony Express is also sponsoring other upcoming activities, including a preparation lab session in July and a microfaunal workshop in August at the FMNH in Gainesville. Future activities being considered include a gala fundraiser "Horse Feed" at Thomas Farm (with a special guest lecture), more digs at Thomas Farm, and other field trips to more distant places, such as the western U.S. and possibly Europe.

If you are interested in receiving the *Pony Express* or participating in any of these associated activities, please write to: Managing Editor, Pony Express, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611. The annual subscription rate for the newsletter is \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Checks should be made out to *Fossil Horse Fund*.

Upcoming Events...

June 28-July 1 Fifth North American Paleontological Convention, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill. Contact UIC Conferences and Institutes (312) 996-5225 for info.

July 26-Aug. 1 Conchologists of America, Annual Meeting, Mariott Resort at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. A short drive from Jacksonville, the Sawgrass Resort is adjacent to miles of beautiful beaches and other recreational activities. Contact Charlotte Lloyd, P.O. Box 332, Mayport, FL, (904)246-0874, information.

August 2-7 American Malacological Union, 58th Annual Meeting, Hyatt Hotel, Sarasota, FL. Hosted by the Sarasota Shell Club and the Mote Marine Lab. This year's meeting will feature research papers, exhibits, collector's evening, auction, banquet, and fieldtrips to marine, freshwater, and terrestrial shell habitats, as well as a nearby fossil pit. For information, contact Dr. Robert Bullock, Dept. of Zoology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, 02881, (401) 792-2372.

October 2-4 9th Annual Bone Valley Fossil Society Fossil Fair, "Year of the Ice Age Mammals", at the Winter Haven Complex Gymnasium, 210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. @ U.S. 17. Call (813)681-4350 information.

June 13-14 Aquaventures Unlimited's Venice Beach Weekend. Call Bob Morgan (305) 221-1783 for info.

July 3-6 Aquaventures Unlimited Holiday weekend, Venice Campgrounds on Myakka River. Call Bob Morgan, (305) 221-1783.

Venice Sharks Tooth Festival

Mr. Ed McDonald, a Venice fossil enthusiast, is currently organizing a Venice Sharks Tooth and Seafood Festival, to be held August 15th and 16th, 1992. Among the activities planned are Diving for shark teeth, live entertainment, food booths, special exhibits, and wind surfing, just to name a few.

Interested clubs are invited to participate, with fossil sale tables and or educational exhibits. Eight-foot tables can be provided at cost, or participants may bring their own. Families are welcome.

The Gulf Tide Motel, advertised below, will be the event headquarters. It is offering a special rate package for attendees.

FPS members are invited. If the FPS would like to have a table or display, now is the time to start planning for it. Further information and registration forms may be obtained from:

> Ed McDonald Sea Pleasures and Treasures 255 W. Venice Ave. Venice, FL 34285 (813) 485-5453



(813) 484-9709 708 Granada Road

Shark Jooth Special 3 Days in Paradise

only \$85 3 Days/2 Nights Late Checkout 3rd day. Double Occupancy Subject to Availability Excludes Holidays or Special Events



at the Gulf Tide of Venice Motel. Fully equipped efficiencies are available if you prefer to eat in the comfort of your own room. After a leisurely breakfast you can enjoy tennis, shuffleboard, golfing, boating, bicycling or collecting shells and fossils on our beach. You can spend romantic evenings watching the golden sunsets and walking the endless beaches. A clean and comfortable room with color T.V. awaits you after an eventful day. Come to Gulf Tide of Venice and relax in the warm sun and surf of the golden sands of the invigorating Gulf of



Prep Talk

by Russ McCarty

Greetings from the bone lab here at the museum in Gainesville. I'm sure the delightful spring weather (at least in Florida) has lured fossil collectors back into the field for another season. In this issue, I'd like to discuss field techniques for removing specimens and making impressions of specimens which cannot be removed.

Since the majority of fossils found in the field show at least some degree of damage, it is often necessary to utilize a field method which minimizes further damage to a specimen, one which will facilitate the eventual preparation and reconstruction of the specimen. The most common method, and one of the best, is to make a plaster jacket around the specimen. In the description which follows, a medium sized plaster jacket is made, such as might be used for a horse skull.

When collectors find what appears to be a skull, they should first determine its physical dimensions, then excavate around the skull, being careful not to damage the specimen by digging too close with a pick or trowel. As a rule of thumb it is best to leave at least two or three inches of matrix surrounding the specimen. This not only prevents the collector from inadvertently chopping off part of the skull, but also protects the specimen during transit to the lab, and when the plaster jacket is later opened with a saw or knife.

Once the surrounding matrix is dug away from the specimen, the skull and its surrounding protective matrix is left on a pedestal of matrix. To insure that the plaster jacket doesn't slip off the specimen, it is advisable to narrow the diameter of the pedestal under the specimen (this is called

under-cutting), so that when the plaster jacket is made over the specimen, part of the jacket will be constricted under the specimen preventing the matrix and the specimen from falling out of the plaster jacket when it is cut off from the pedestal and turned over. At this point, the specimen can be covered with "paleo" paper (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.). Wetting the paper makes it adhere to the specimen and matrix. Now apply strips of cloth and plaster. If finances permit, the convenient method for small specimens such as our horse skull, is to use plaster bandages which doctors use to make arm and leg casts. These are available from medical supply retailers (e.g. Sun Surgical Supply Co. in Gainesville, FL) for about \$3 a roll. To use a plaster bandage, remove it from the bag and soak it in a bucket of water about 10 seconds. Remove it from the bucket, letting the excess water drain for a few seconds. It is best to start by making several wraps around the constricted pedestal beneath the specimen proper, and then rolling the bandage around and over the rest of the specimen in a criss-crossing and overlapping manner to achieve maximum strength.

For larger specimens, both strength requirements and costs prohibit the use of plaster bandages. Used instead are strips of burlap which can be cut from feed bags (for larger specimens we cut strips about 4 feet long by 6 - 8 inches wide). These strips are soaked in water, wrung out, then dipped in a thick, but liquid, slurry of plaster and water, and then applied to the paper covered specimen. As with bandages, overlapping and criss-crossing the strips increases strength. Extremely large jackets will need to be reinforced to provide the additional strength and support necessary to remove them. Do this by incorporating wooden poles, sticks, two by fours, etc. into the plaster jacket. Wooden supports are better than metal when it comes to opening the jacket later with a saw. Poles may be plastered parallel onto the jacket so that two persons can carry the jacket like a stretcher.

It is possible to make small jackets with this latter technique by using smaller strips of a less coarse burlap, or some other porous, loosely woven fabric.

The plaster should cure hard enough to remove the specimen in 30 minutes to an hour. The plaster jacket is removed by cutting through the remaining matrix pedestal and flipping the jacket over on its top. At this time, if it is deemed necessary, more plaster strips or bandage can be applied to cover the bottom, completely encasing the specimen.

Plaster jackets are used only for terrestrial sites (obviously it would be impossible to make a jacket underwater). Well....almost impossible. Fiberglass resin bandages are now available from medical supply stores. While, more expensive than plaster bandages, they are strong and light, and have the miraculous ability to set up underwater allowing the collector to jacket specimens in aquatic environments.

Other alternatives to plaster do exist and as new materials appear on the market this list of useful alternatives grows as resourceful paleontologists adapt them to their needs. Jackets for small to medium sized specimens can be made from spray foam available in cans from hardware stores (Great Stuff is the name of one product). To use foam, a specimen is excavated and pedestaled as described earlier and then covered with a non-porous material such as plastic food wrap or aluminum foil. Foam is sprayed over this and smoothed with a tongue depressor or spatula. It cures in 35 - 45 minutes, when the specimen can then be removed by cutting through the pedestal as described. Surewall, is a fiberglass reinforced cement found at building supply stores. It is extremely strong and yet light since it contains no sand or aggregate and may prove to be a good material for making lightweight jackets around large specimens. It should be applied over a plastic or soft metal mesh that can be easily

cut.

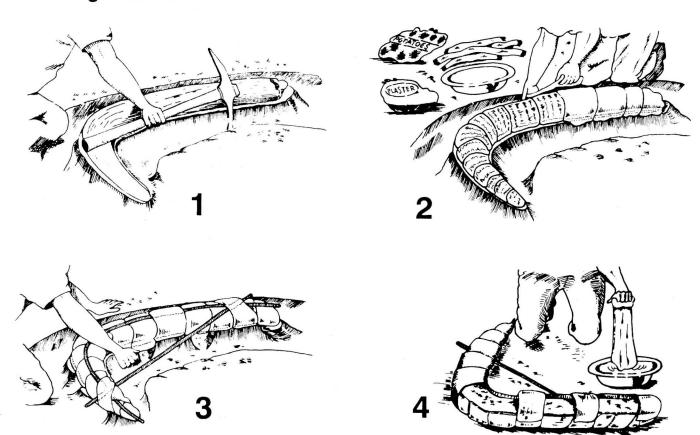
One last thought before I wrap this column up. Sometimes the collector will find a specimen of interest which cannot be removed from the site, a dinosaur track in a slab of stone or a fossil shell or shell cast in a block of limestone for example. The solution is to make a field mold of the specimen. A quick, but effective method uses the clear silicone sealant available in hardware stores. Required are several tubes of sealant, a caulking gun for dispensing the tubes, spatula, one inch paint brush, a small amount of water. dish detergent, and coffee can. A small dinosaur track can be used to describe the procedure. First, a thin coat of detergent should be applied to the specimen and surrounding matrix where the mold material will touch. When this dries, extrude some of the sealant into the coffee can (filling the can more than half full will make it difficult to stir. Add a few ounces of water and stir with the spatula until the silicone becomes milky white (20 or 25 seconds). Pour off the excess water (the silicone will only absorb a small amount). Apply the silicone to the specimen with the spatula. Avoid trapping air bubbles. A brush moistened with detergent may work better than a spatula. Water-whipped silicone sealant will cure and can be removed from the specimen in 30 minutes (unless it still feels soft and tacky).

In the next issue we will discuss adhesives and filler materials, and I will print a list of books about collecting and paleontological techniques. I hope to hear from more of you out there by next issue. I need your questions, your comments, and your tips to keep this column going.

Send your questions to:

Russ McCarty
VP Prep Lab
Florida Museum of Natural
History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Jacketing a tusk...



Illustrations from: Olsen, S., 1965, Vertebrate fossil localities in Florida, Florida Geological Survey Special Publication No. 12.

Collecting Regulations Available

Reprinted from the Tampa Bay Fossil Chronicles, April, 1992

An updated survey of the regulations governing geological, paleontological, and archaeological collecting on state lands is available in a 1991 report from the American Museum of Natural History.

This report was written by Robert M. West, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science and is based on existing legislation and current reports from regulating agencies and projections derived from upcoming legislation. The report describes the state-by-state and discipline-by-discipline regulations and statues. Names, addresses, and special responsibilities of the agencies are included.

The report covers many of the concerns and questions raised by collectors, including:

- •What permits are required?
- •What tools may be used?

- Are there open collecting areas, and do they include caves and underwater exploration sites?
- •Are metal detectors included?
- •Must collected items be reported, and to whom?
- •May collectors take their findings out of state?

Dr. West also provides background on current regulations and a summary of recent developments, with particular emphasis on the rapidly changing legislation concerning Native American objects.

The full report is available at cost (\$5.00 including postage) from the American Museum of Natural History, Special Publications, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024. Checks should be made payable to the American Museum of Natural History.



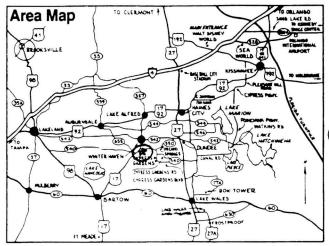
9th ANNUAL BVFS FLORIDA FOSSIL FAIR

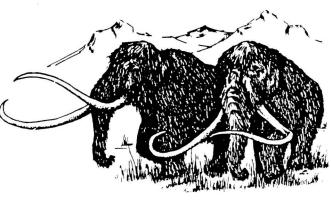
YEAR OF THE "ICE AGE MAMMALS OF FLORIDA"



Sponsored by the <u>Bone Valley Fossil Society</u>, Inc.

Affiliated with the Eastern Federation and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies





FEATURING

- -- FOSSILS, MINERALS & ARTIFACTS for sale by world class dealers
- -- PROGRAM: Lecture by DAVE LETASI, Paleontologist & Curator at the Great Exploration Hands on Museum in St. Petersburg. Time of lecture is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3, 1992 @ 3:00 pm
- -- EXHIBITS: Fossil exhibit's from well known collector's & Institutions.
- -- AUCTION: Around the clock on Saturday, October 3, 1992
- --DOOR PRIZES --RAFFLE DRAWING --FOOD --GAMES --PLUS A LOT MORE!!

AT THE



WINTER HAVEN COMPLEX

IN THE GYMNASIUM
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd.
S.E. CORNER OF CYPRESS GARDENS BLVD. & US 17



Friday October 2, 1992 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday October 3, 1992 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday October 4, 1992 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Admission:

ADULTS - \$2.50 SCHOOL CHILDREN - FREE For Information phone: 813/681-4350 or 813/644-3778

Raffle Prizes:

Fossil shrimp (Palaeastacus fuciformis) on matrix, from Germany.

Resin cast of Sabercat skull (Smilodon gracilis) with stand, from Leisey Pit.

Maple leaf on matrix, from Utah.

Minutes Florida Paleontological Society Board of Directors Meeting March 28, 1992

The Board of Directors of the Florida Paleontological Society met following the Spring Meeting at the new Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center in Silver Springs, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at 4:43 PM by President Jim Pendergraft. The following Officers and Directors were present:

Jim Pendergraft - President
Rudi Johnson - Vice President
Eric Taylor - Secretary
Kevin Schindler - Treasurer
Bruce MacFadden - Museum Representative
Don Crissinger - Director
Ray Robinson - Director
Phillip Whisler - Director
Susan Pendergraft - Director
Gordon Hubbell - Director
Frank Rupert - President Elect

Also present were Anita Brown, Tom Ahern, and other observers.

Reading of the minutes from the last meeting was waived as they had been published in the Newsletter.

No treasurer's report was given, but Kevin Schindler announced that approximately \$350 had been raised during the Spring meeting.

The Fall Meeting was discussed. Eric Taylor suggested that some location in the Bone Valley be chosen, as he had discussed a field trip with the new Public Relations director from IMC Corporation, and that person had appeared most eager to accommodate us. Others also reported an outstanding attitude there. Don Crissinger agreed to try and arrange a field trip at the Mobil mine also. President Pendergraft appointed Susan Pendergraft, Don Crissinger, Anita Brown, and Tom Ahern to serve on the Fall Meeting Committee.

The status of the book Richard Hulbert was working on was discussed. His address was given to Susan so that she could write him and get his report.

Anita Brown submitted a report on the status of the Margaret Thomas book. The revisions were done and were awaiting Ms. Thomas' approval. It is expected that the new edition will be out in 6-8 weeks with a greatly expanded marketing base. There is now storage area available for copies and all old editions are at the museum. A special effort to sell all of the old editions was decided upon, with Kevin Schindler's suggestion of a 50 cent per copy price cut and free postage being adopted.

Dr. Hubbell reported on the committee meeting to discuss the Florida Paleontologist position proposed by Dr. MacFadden. His report, which had been previously distributed, was adopted unanimously. Eric Taylor was appointed to head the fund raising effort.

President Jim Pendergraft appointed Susan Pendergraft, Kevin Schindler, and past President Bill Webster to the nominating committee.

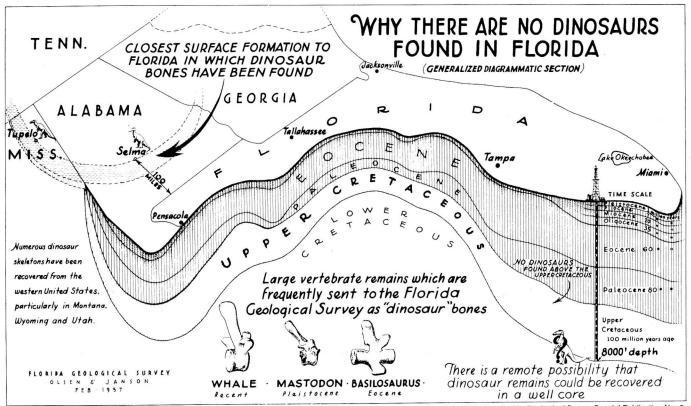
As the Silver River Museum was about to close, a special Board Meeting was called for May 2, 1992 at the meeting room at the Mobil Mine outside Bartow. It is anticipated that details of the Fall Meeting would be worked out there.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

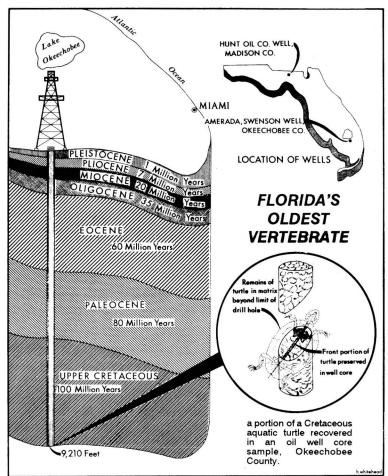
Respectfully submitted,

Eric G. Taylor, Secretary

Florida Fossil Facts

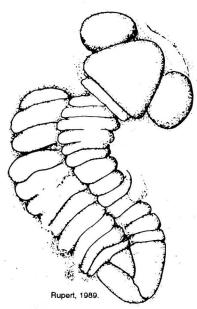


From: Olsen, S., 1959, Fossil Mammals of Florida: Florida Geological Survey Special Publication No. 6.



From: Olsen, S., 1965, Vertebrate fossil localities in Florida: Florida Geological Survey Special Publication No. 12.

FLORIDA'S OLDEST FOSSIL



Colpocoryphe exsul X6

an Ordovician (450 million years old) trilobite recovered from a Hunt Oil Company test well core taken 4,628 feet deep in Madison County.

Florida Paleontological Society NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate the following active members for consideration as Officers or as Board members of the Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.

President Elect		
Vice President		
Secretary		
Treasurer		
Board Members		
Signed	Member Number	Date

Please refer to the inside front cover to find names of the current officers and Board members. Any who have terms expiring can be nominated.

Please send this form by September 1, 1992 to:

Bill Webster, Chairman FPS Nominating Committee 12457 Condor Drive Jacksonville, FL 32223



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

Mambars of the Florida Paleontological Society Inc. are expected to

ARTICLE IX

Castian 1

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
	of laws, regulations, and rules on collecting on private or 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 and 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.

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