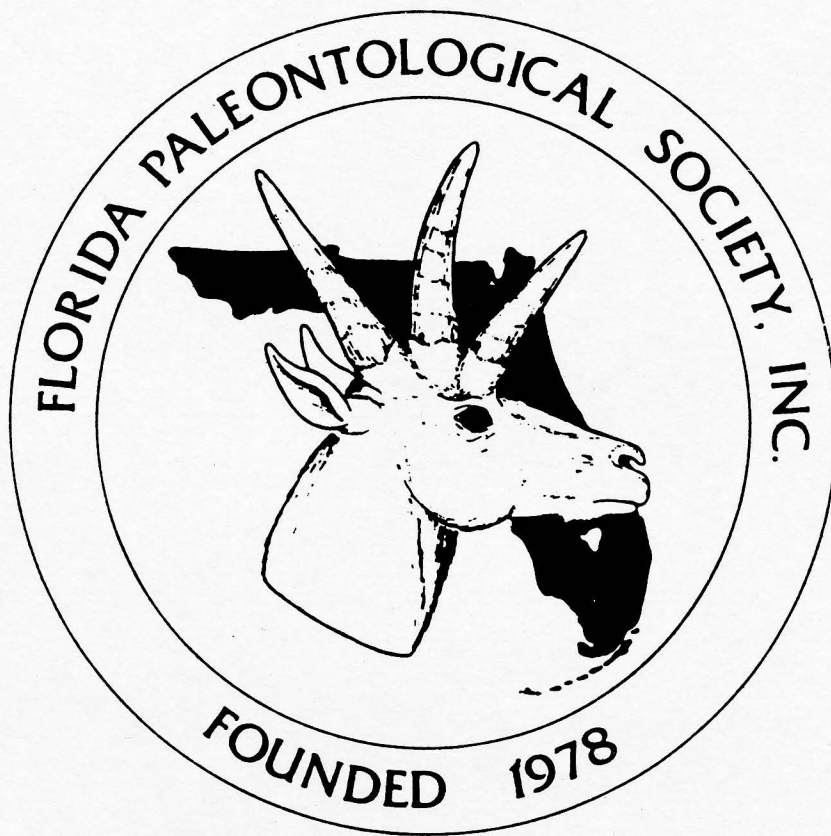


Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.
Newsletter



Volume 13 Number 2 Spring Quarter 1996

FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Please Address: Secretary, Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

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Announcing
Paleofest96

A Festival Celebrating Florida Paleontology

8-9 November, 1996, Gainesville, FL

Co-Sponsored by the
Florida Museum of Natural History & Florida Paleontological Society

See page 2 for more details. Mark your calenders now!

**Nominations for 1996-1998 FPS
Officers and Board are now being
taken. Send your nominations to:**

Frank Rupert
Florida Geological Survey
903 W. Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32304



Paleofest96

A Festival Celebrating Florida Paleontology

8-9 November 1996--Gainesville, FL

Sponsored by the Florida Museum of Natural History,
Florida Paleontological Society, & The Paleontological Society

With participation from:

Pony Express

Office of the Director

FLMNH Museum Associates

Florida Fossil and Shell Clubs

Other statewide enthusiasts

You are cordially invited to join us at the FLMNH for a festive meeting of Florida paleo-folks and friends. *Paleofest96* coincides with the 20th Annual Fall meeting of the Florida Paleontological Society and we are taking this opportunity to invite anyone with an interest in fossils to this weekend in Gainesville. This is a non-football weekend and we will be arranging for blocks of rooms at reduced rates for out-of-town participants.

Paleofest96 Activities will include:

• *Reception-social at the museum* • *unveiling of a new fossil horse skeleton (Leisey Equus)* • *dedication of the new "Florida 40-Million Years Ago" exhibit* • *book-signing and public lecture by world-famous dinosaur paleontologist Dr. Louis L. Jacobs III (author of "Lone Star Dinosaurs" and "Quest for African Dinosaurs"), Director, SMU Shuler Museum of Paleontology* • *20-year retrospective lecture by Dr. S. David Webb* • *a variety of workshops on Florida fossils* • *Fossil club book and membership displays* • *awards banquet* • *fund-raising happy-hour and auction*

Join us starting at 8 pm on Friday night at the "Icebreaker" reception, or at 8:30 am on Saturday morning for coffee and donuts. Either way, you are sure to have an educational and enjoyable time at *Paleofest96!*

Pre-registration for all activities (\$20-adults; \$10-children 12 and under plus, if desired, Bar-B-Q dinner \$10-adults; \$5-children 12 and under) and hotel reservation information will be available in the pre-registration packet with an anticipated mail-out date of August 15, 1996. Until then, you may direct inquiries via email to: paleofest96@flmnh.ufl.edu or access the FLMNH Home Page at <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu> or write to: Department of Natural Sciences, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2035.

News from the Florida Museum of Natural History



From the Invertebrate Paleontology Division...

Recently, **Doug Jones** co-authored and published a paper with **Warren Allmon**, **Steve Emslie**, and **Gary Morgan** in *The Journal of Geology*. The paper is entitled *Late Neogene oceanographic change along Florida's west coast: evidence and mechanisms* and discusses the hypothesis that during the Pliocene, biological productivity in the eastern Gulf of Mexico was considerably higher than during post-Pliocene times. They cite evidence from vertebrate and invertebrate fossil assemblages and isotopic analyses to support this hypothesis.

Roger Portell co-authored and published several papers recently. These were *Clypeaster lamprus* H.L. Clark (*Echinodermata: Echinoidea*) in the *Manchioneal Formation (early Pleistocene) of Jamaica*, co-authored with **Stephen Donovan** and published in the *Caribbean Journal of Science*; *The Tucker Borrow Pit: Paleontology and Stratigraphy of a Plio-Pleistocene fossil site in Brevard County, Florida*, co-authored with **Gary Morgan** and published in *Papers in Florida Paleontology*; and *Middle Pleistocene (early Rancholabrean) vertebrates and associated marine and non-marine invertebrates from Oldsmar, Pinellas County, Florida* co-authored with **Paul Karrow**, **Gary Morgan**, **Erika Simmons**, and **Kurt Auffenberg**. This paper was published in the book entitled *Palaeoecology, Palaeoenvironments of late Cenozoic mammals: tributes to the career of C.S. (Rufus) Churcher* which is printed by University of Toronto Press.

Doug and **Roger** attended the sixth North American Paleontological Convention at the Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Natural History, in Washington, D.C. They, along with **Lauck Ward** and **Paul Mueller**, presented a paper entitled *Temporal calibration and correlation of fossiliferous Neogene strata in Florida, Maryland, and Delaware using Strontium isotopes*. **Doug** and **Roger** also participated in pre- and post-meeting Invertebrate Paleontology workshops sponsored by the National Science Foundation. These workshops were designed to help set standards for collection practice and policy, including computerization.

The newest member of the Invertebrate Paleontology Division is **Betsi Nemeth**. **Betsi** received her B.S. degree in Biology from the College of Charleston, where she worked at the Charleston Museum under the direction of **Al Sanders**. Currently, she is enrolled in the Masters Program in the Geology Department at the

University of Florida. Her primary interest is isotope geochemistry. She is currently working on a thesis project on *Turritella mortoni* from the Aquia Formation of Virginia, under the guidance of **Doug Jones** and **Warren Allmon**. Using carbon and oxygen isotopes, she will determine the life history of *T. mortoni* and its paleoenvironment.

In late July, **John W. Arthur** will be taking temporary leave from the Invertebrate Paleontology Division to conduct ethno-archaeological field research for his Ph.D. in anthropology. He will be working among the Gamo people of southwestern Ethiopia to understand how different social classes use ceramic vessels in a household context. The study will provide a contemporary setting to test models on prehistoric subsistence, ceramic use, and difference in social status.

From the Paleobotany Lab...

Congratulations to **Steven Manchester** for receiving the Paleontological Society's highest award for excellence in a systematic paleontological monograph. **Steve** received the 1995 Golden Trilobite Award for his *Fruits and seeds of the Middle Miocene Nut Beds Flora, Clarno Formation, Oregon*, which was published as *Palaeontographica Americana No. 58*.

Steve Manchester recently co-hosted the Fifth International Organization of Paleobotany Conference at the University of California in Santa Barbara. He was also responsible assisting in the planning of this meeting, which was two years in the making. Over 200 people attended, including paleobotanists from Russia, China, eastern Europe, South America, and Australia.

Steve recently completed the manuscript for his upcoming *Fossil Woods of Florida*, which should be a useful addition to a relatively under studied area of paleontology in Florida. Finally, with apparently boundless energy, **Steve** has also completed the *Bibliography of American Paleobotany* for 1995. For information on obtaining a copy, please contact **Steve** at the Museum address.

David Dilcher has been working in Eocene deposits near Laredo, Texas. His team recently discovered a fossil palm fruit whose modern relatives live in the mangrove forests of Asia. This discovery was made in a mammal fossil bed, and is one of the first Eocene plant-animal fossil associations found in the Gulf coastal area.



Prep Talk

by Russ McCarty

Greetings from the bone lab. As the old song from Porgy and Bess goes, "summertime and the livin' is easy---catfish are jumping---and the cotton is high....." Now, you may have seen fish jump before, but I have it on good authority (George Burgess, head of our Ichthyology collection) that outside of the lyrics of this song and another song by the Doobey Brothers, that catfish just don't jump. They have been known to do a lazy roll at the water's surface, and of course, there used to be tourist attraction billboards along U.S. Highways 441 and 301 in Florida that advertised walking catfish---but jumping catfish? No way!

Well, regardless of whether we're going to see catfish in the field events of the Atlanta Olympics this summer, summertime is easy only if you don't work outside, or if you don't have to mow the grass---and I really hate to mow the grass. I should move to Tucson, Arizona, where most yards consist of a few ornamental cactus plants, or at best a postage stamp sized lawn. Oh, migod! I almost forgot about the sweltering 115 degree days. Guess I'll stay put until I can retire to the Shetland Islands off the coast of Scotland.

Return of the Terror Birds

The museum's avian paleontologist, Dr. Bob Chandler, continues his search for fossil remains of *Titanis walleri*, the six foot tall, 350 pound flightless bird that roamed Florida in the Pliocene. Bone fragment by bone fragment, Chandler has accumulated a tantalizing assemblage of *Titanis* skeletal parts which are beginning to reveal just how

truly unusual this fearsome creature was. Its long legs allowed *Titanis* to run down prey at speeds up to 40 miles per hour, and the uniquely fused carpometacarpus (handbone) which it possessed leads Chandler to believe that *Titanis* had a functioning claw which it could use to pin down the prey while it fed.

Paleofest96 Auction

As a co-sponsor of *Paleofest96*, all you FPS members are aware of the festive paleo meeting planned for the weekend of November 8-9, this year. It should be fun, informative, and hopefully, the beginning of a long tradition which will enrich the paleo communities of Florida and the Southeast. As part of this annual event, we will hold a fund raising auction. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Natural Sciences Special Projects and Awards Fund. This fund will enable us to expand the educational experiences in paleontology at the University of Florida.

We encourage you to be a part of this fund-raising event by donating items such as books, reprints, artwork, casts, photographs, models, T-shirts, field gear, fossil prep tools or supplies, or any other suitable material dealing with paleontology, geology, or evolution. Your donations will be acknowledged at the *Paleofest96* auction, and if your business is making the donation, we would be pleased to display and distribute your business brochures, catalogs, and price lists. Please send all donations to the *Paleofest96* auction and any promotional materials for your business to:

Paleofest96 Auction

c/o Russ McCarty
Florida Museum of Natural History
Museum Rd, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Consolidants

Consolidants or hardeners are often the collector's first line of defense against deterioration of the specimens in their collection, especially those comprised of poorly mineralized sub-fossil bone often found

in Pleistocene deposits. By definition, a consolidant is a resin which has been dissolved in a solvent. Common solvents are water, acetone, alcohol, and toluene. Consolidants are purchased in two forms: 1) pure resin, 2) emulsions.

Pure resins consolidants are resins dissolved in a solvent, such as Butvar (polyvinyl butyral) granules dissolved in acetone. These consolidants should only be used on dry specimens, since even a small amount of moisture in the specimen can react adversely with the consolidant destroying its desired properties. Museums in the U.S. and Europe stick with a few tried and true consolidants which are known to have a low tendency for crosslinking and which do not lose their consolidant properties over time. Chief among these are polyvinyl butyral (Butvar), a thermoplastic resin, and Acryloid B-72, an acrylic resin. PVA (polyvinyl acetate), used as a pure resin is still available, but most users have switched to Acryloid B72, which is harder, more durable, and exhibits less flexibility. Pure resins are mixed with their solvents to form a very thin, watery solution which is then applied to the specimen (or the specimen is immersed in the solution).

I stress thin and watery. The idea is to get the resin where it's needed, and in order to penetrate the specimen's surface and carry resin down into the interior of the fossil bone, the consolidant must be thin or else it will be deposited on the surface of the bone only, like shellac or varnish used in the past. Those treatments may have protected the surface, but did little to strengthen the whole bone.

The second class of consolidants, the emulsions are mainly used to treat wet or moist specimens. Emulsions are suspensions, in water, of a resin and solvent solution, and like Elmer's Glue, a popular polyvinyl acetate emulsion, are generally white, milky mixtures.

As consolidants go, emulsions are not as desirable as pure resins. It is hard to reverse emulsions once they have dried, and virtually impossible once they have cross-linked with exposure to UV light from sun or fluorescent bulbs. Emulsions also have a tendency to turn yellow with age and cross-linking. But,

these negative aspects aside, there is no better treatment for soft, wet bone. Brand names such as Rhoplex AC33, CM Bond M3, and Union Carbide's AYAF, are all good general purpose PVA emulsions. They are normally mixed with water in a ratio of 15 to 20 parts emulsion to 85 to 80 parts water. This mixture can be brushed on the bone, or the specimen can be immersed in the consolidant mixture. As I mentioned, Elmer's Glue, is a type of polyvinyl acetate emulsion, and could be used on wet specimens. Because proprietary (commercial) brands such as Elmer's generally keep their formulas secret, and even periodically change their formulas, museum conservators do not like to use these commercial PVA emulsions. However, Rhoplex, CM Bond M3 and Union Carbide AYAF PVA emulsions are specifically designed and sold for conservation purposes and should be used when possible.

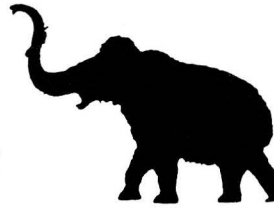
When considering the possibility of using consolidants on a specimen, the collector should remember that not all specimens need consolidation. One of the axioms of conservation is: Minimal intervention is best, in other words, do as little as possible to a specimen that will change its nature. And when dealing with sturdy wet specimens, the best approach may be to place the specimen in a slow drying chamber, rather than treating the specimen with a water based emulsion resin like Rhoplex or CM Bond M3. (See past issue of Prep Talk for a discussion of easy to build drying chambers).

All of the products mentioned above are available from Conservation Materials, Ltd., 240 Freeport Blvd., Sparks, NV 89431.

Questions, comments, and suggestions should be directed to Russ McCarty at the VP Prep Lab, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. Telephone: (352) 392-1721. Email: Cormac@flmnh.ufl.edu

13th Annual BVFS Florida Fossil Fair

Year of the Elephants



Sponsored by the Bone Valley Fossil Society, Inc.
Affiliated with the Eastern Federation and American Federation of Mineralogical Studies

Saturday, October 5, 1996 • 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 6, 1996 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FOSSILS, MINERALS, GEMS, JEWELRY & ARTIFACTS

Our fair has been moved indoors to better serve our dealers and the public. It's located in an air conditioned auditorium with excellent lighting at Lake Mirror, 800 East Main Street, Lakeland, Florida.

DEALER REGISTRATION

- Exhibit:** If you have an exhibit you want to display contact: Ed Holman, **Exhibit Chairperson**, 2704 Dixie Road, Lakeland, FL 33801 or phone (941) 665-3426
- Lodging:** There are many motels and hotels in the area. Rates are reasonable at this time of year.
- Camping:** Camping is available in the Lakeland area.
- Set Up:** Dealers must be set up prior to opening of show. Door will be open 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Friday and 7:00 a.m. Saturday.
- Electricity:** Electricity is available for those desiring table lighting.
- Table Rental:** (Maximum 4 tables) Price: \$15.00 a day per table.

MAKE CHECK/MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

Bone Valley Fossil Society, Inc.

SHOW CHAIRMAN: Ed Holman • 2704 Dixie Road • Lakeland, FL 33801

Deadline for registration: September 1, 1996 (first come first served)

BVFS FLORIDA FOSSIL FAIR BOOTH REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE # _____

Tables desired @ \$15.00 per day# _____ Saturday@ \$ _____

_____ Sunday.....@ \$ _____

(Chairs furnished)

TOTAL \$ _____

Please **DO NOT** send registration without your deposit. We cannot reserve space for you if you do not send deposit of at least 1/2 the total price for tables. Final cancellation date is August 1, 1996, with refund. Balance due at Set Up. Tables will be skirted.

NOTE: BVFS will not be responsible for fire, theft, vandalism, breakage or for merchandise left unattended. City employees will lock doors at night and reopen next morning.

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Sullivan, Mary, Frostproof
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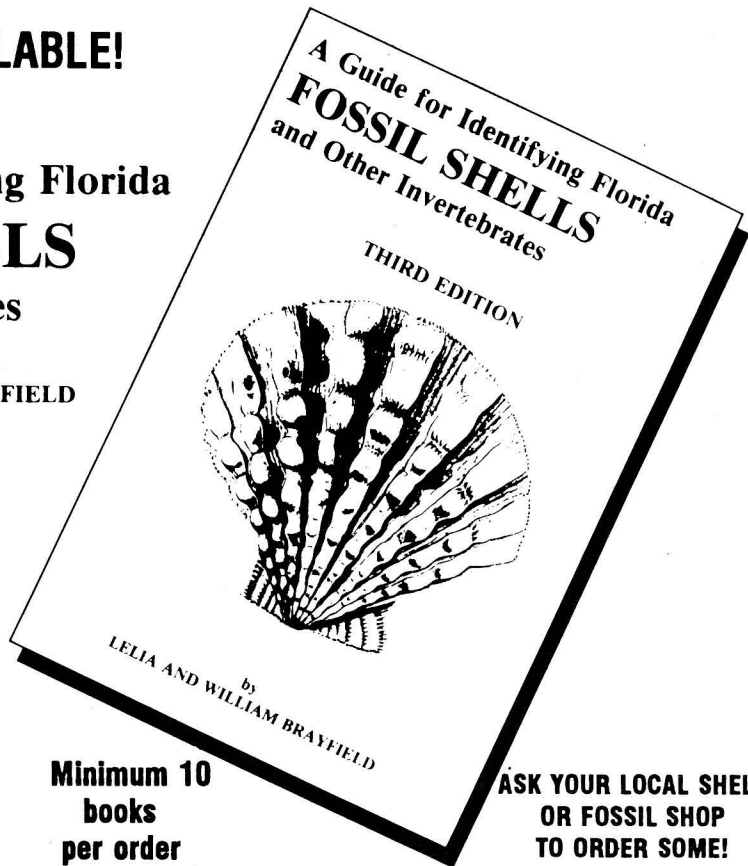
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FOSSIL SHELLS
and Other Invertebrates**

by
LELIA AND WILLIAM BRAYFIELD

Updated by the staff of the Invertebrate
Paleontology Division, Florida Museum
of Natural History.

*"Our hope is that collectors of Florida fossils will
continue to enjoy the Brayfields' book, find this
edition more useful than ever in identifying their
specimens, and feel that we have been faithful to
the authors with our revision."*

Dr. Douglas S. Jones, Roger W. Portell and
Kevin S. Schindler.



**Minimum 10
books
per order**

**ASK YOUR LOCAL SHELL
OR FOSSIL SHOP
TO ORDER SOME!**

FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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QUANTITY (Min. 10 Books)	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
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1	A Guide for Identifying Florida FOSSIL SHELLS and Other Invertebrates (Third Edition)	\$5.97	
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**TERMS: 30 DAYS NET FROM DATE OF BILLING
MINIMUM 10 BOOKS PER ORDER**



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Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

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NAME _____
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CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ TELEPHONE () - - _____

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. INDIVIDUAL ACTIVE (\$15.00) _____ | 2. SUBSCRIBER (\$15.00) _____ |
| 3. INSTITUTIONAL (\$15.00) _____ | 4. GIFT (Mark Type) _____ |
| 5. FAMILY (3 or more. \$25.00) _____ | 6. COUPLES (\$20.00) _____ |
| 7. SUSTAINING (\$50.00) _____ | 8. ASSOCIATE (Under 18
\$5.00) _____ |

FAMILY AND COUPLES PLEASE LIST NAMES OF ALL APPLICANTS IF NEW.
PLEASE COMPLETE PERSONAL FACT SHEET BELOW IF NEW OR CHANGES
HAVE OCCURRED SINCE PREVIOUS YEAR.

NOTE!!! MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR A CALENDAR YEAR AND ARE DUE NO LATER THAN
JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR! PLEASE RENEW ON TIME!

BIOGRAPHICAL FACT SHEET

- NUMBER OF YEARS OF INTEREST IN PALEONTOLOGY _____
- WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR STATUS: COLLECTOR _____ OCCASIONAL DEALER _____
FULL TIME DEALER _____ PROFESSIONAL POSITION _____ JUST STARTING _____
- PRIMARY AREAS OF INTEREST:

<u>VERTEBRATE</u>	<u>INVERTEBRATE</u>	<u>BOTANY</u>	<u>MICRO</u>
PLEISTOCENE _____	_____	_____	_____
PLIOCENE _____	_____	_____	_____
MIOCENE _____	_____	_____	_____
OLIGOCENE _____	_____	_____	_____
EOCENE _____	_____	_____	_____
EARLIER _____	_____	_____	_____

4. LIST ANY PREFERRED TYPES (Horses, Sloths, Echinoids etc.) _____

5. LIST ANY PUBLISHED WORKS ON PALEONTOLOGICAL SUBJECTS.

6. DO YOU BUY _____ TRADE _____ FIND _____ FOSSILS?

7. LIST ANY SKILLS OR ABILITIES THAT MAY BE OF USE TO THE SOCIETY'S
PROJECTS (RESTORATION, PREPARATION, COMPUTER USE, GRAPHICS SKILLS,
SPEAKING, PHOTOGRAPHY, PUBLIC RELATIONS, WRITING, FUND RAISING ETC.)

8. LIST ANY UNUSUAL SPECIMENS FOUND, CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THEY
WERE LOCATED AND THEIR DISPOSITION.

PLEASE USE AN ADDITIONAL SHEET IF REQUIRED! THANK YOU!

Payments, contributions or gifts to the Florida Paleontological Society are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Dues payments may be deductible by members as ordinary or necessary business expenses. We recommend that you consult with your tax advisor.

(cut out and return form)



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 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.

ANNUAL DUES for the FPS are \$5.00 for Associate Membership (persons under age 18) and \$15.00 for Full Membership (persons over age 18) and Institutional Subscriptions. Couples may join for \$20.00, and Family memberships (3 or more persons) are available for \$25.00. A Sustaining membership is also available for \$50. Persons interested in FPS membership need only send their names, addresses, and appropriate dues to the Secretary, Florida Paleontological Society, Inc., at the address inside the front cover. Please make checks payable to the FPS. Members receive a membership card, the FPS newsletter, the Papers in Florida Paleontology, and other random publications entitled to members.

NEWSLETTER POLICY: All worthy news items, art work, and photographs related to paleontology and various clubs in Florida are welcome. The editors reserve the right not to publish submissions and to edit those which are published. Please address submissions to the Editors, Florida Paleontological Society, Inc. Newsletter, at the address inside the front cover.