

Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.
Newsletter



✓VOTE
for FPS
Officers...

See Ballot
inside

Volume 15 Number 2 Spring Quarter 1998

FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

OFFICERS

President:	Gordon Hubbell, 150 Buttonwood Drive Key Biscayne, Florida 33149 (305) 361-5890
President-Elect:	Terry Sellari, 5555 Pentail Circle Tampa, FL 33625 (813) 968-6820
Past President:	Sue Pendergraft, 17 Jeff Road Largo, FL 32544 (813) 555-2661
Vice President:	Tom Ahern, 629 Gail Ave. Temple Terrace, Florida 33617
Secretary:	Eric Taylor, P.O. Box 3506 Lake City, Florida 32056 (904) 752-6764
Treasurer:	Phil Whisler, Fla. Paleo. Soc., Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida 32611 (352) 335-5550

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Bode, Ft. Meade, 1998	Bruce MacFadden, Gainesville, 1998
Janet Burton, Havana, 1998	Roger Portel, Gainesville, 1998
Douglas Dew, Palatka, 1997	Joyce Jackson Poulton, Ponte Vedra Bch., 1998
Barbara Fite, Lutz, 1997	Dean Sligh, Orlando, 1998
Steve Hutchens, Old Town, 1998	Jim Toomey, Bradenton, 1997
Barbara Toomey, Sanibel, 1998	

COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

Book Committee:	R. Portell, B. MacFadden
Nominations:	Susan Pendergraft
Finance:	J. Rupert, P. Whisler, R. Portell
Membership:	Eric Taylor, B. MacFadden
By-Laws:	Eric Taylor, Robyn Miller
Honorary Members and Awards:	J. Pendergraft
Historical:	Eric Taylor
Board of Editors:	R. Portell, F. Rupert, A. Brown, E. Taylor
Resident Agent:	Bruce MacFadden

HONORARY MEMBERS

Anita Brown Lelia and William Brayfield David Webb Gary Morgan Clifford Jeremiah

INFORMATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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

**Florida Paleontological Society
1998 Officer and Board member Ballot**

Please indicate your choices by placing an "X" in the boxes provided.

President Elect

Tom Ahern

Vice President

Jim Toomey

Secretary

Eric Taylor

Treasurer

Phil Whisler

Board of Directors (11 needed)

Joyce Bode

Bruce MacFadden

Janet Burton

Roger Portel

Douglas Dew

Joyce Jackson Poulton

Barbara Fite

Dean Sligh

Sue Hutchens

Barbara Toomey

Steve Hutchens

Please mark your ballot, remove the ballot from newsletter, and fold on lines indicated with the Museum address showing. Tape shut and mail or bring it with you to Paleofest98. You may return this ballot in your own envelope if you wish.

Fold

Stamp

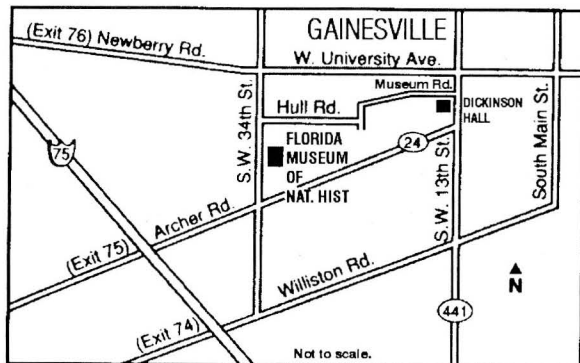
**Florida Paleontological Society
University of Florida
Florida Museum of Natural History
Gainesville, FL 32611**

Fold

CONTENTS

Contents..... 1
 Our First 20 Years as the Florida Paleontological Society 2
 All the King's Men and all the King's Horses 5
 Paleofest98 Information 6
 Paleofest98 Registration Form 7
 How to Avoid the Pitfalls of Building a Schoolyard Fossil Pit 17

Final Announcement - Paleofest98



Back by popular demand, the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Florida Paleontological Society are pleased to announce that *Paleofest98* will be held on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville on

**Friday, 20 November and Saturday,
 21 November 1998**

Paleofest98 will be a celebration of Florida paleontology and gathering of folks interested in vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils.

Paleofest98 activities will include:

Friday

- Evening tour of exhibits and behind-the-scenes at Powell Hall, the Florida
- Museum of Natural History's new education and exhibition center.
- Curators' tour of spectacular Elephants! exhibit
- Welcome party
- Fossil and club displays
- Public lecture by noted dinosaur paleontologist Jack Horner (Museum of Rockies)

Saturday

- Welcome talks and orientation lectures
- Field trips and workshops
- Banquet and awards ceremony
- Auction, with proceeds going to support fossil exhibits at the FLMNH (Note: the Florida Paleontological Society business meeting will be held on Saturday)



See Detailed Information and Meeting Registration Forms inside, pages 6-15.



Our First Twenty Years As The Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.

by
S. David Webb
Distinguished Research Curator
Florida Museum of Natural History

In the first part of this paper, published in the FPS Newsletter for Winter 1997 (Volume 14, Number 1, pages 5 -7), I covered the first period of FPS history, Early Development (1966-1977). A major feature of our development was construction of a new museum building on the University of Florida campus. This allowed Florida's vertebrate paleontology to become the most rapidly growing collection in the country, as shown in the graph in the previous paper. And the growth of that collection involved and enthused the amateur community around the state. In this issue we cover the next three periods of FPS history.

II FORMATIVE PERIOD (1976 - 1983)

During the very years that Gainesville rose to a peak of collection growth and research activity, the former center in Tallahassee (The Florida Geological Survey) had virtually dropped Vertebrate Paleontology. Mr. Stan Olsen had taken a job at the University of Arizona and most of the FGS collection had been moved into a warehouse in Tallahassee. This led to an agreement in 1975 whereby the Florida Museum acquired and reactivated the FGS collection. Another major growth spurt came from the museum's intense excavations at the Love Bone Bed, by far the richest bonanza of Late Miocene vertebrate fossils east of Nebraska.

The first meeting of Florida paleontologists took place on October 14, 1976 at the new Florida Museum of Natural History in the center of the University of Florida campus. When Howard Converse and I organized that event, we called it the "*First Annual Paleontology Meeting*". We knew that this meeting would be a great success and, and we chose the phrase "first annual" knowing that such meetings were going to continue. The meeting lasted all day and well

into the night. The daytime featured diverse talks on fossils and stratigraphy, followed by a lab tour and fossil clinic. In the evening we had banquet in the museum courtyard followed by a talk by Dr. Clayton Ray. Dr. Ray had moved from Florida to the Smithsonian Institution in 1964 and still had a wonderful feeling for the vigor and future of our Florida paleontological community. He also appreciated first-hand the vital role of amateurs in building our collections and our science. He emphasized this in his "*Commentary on the History of Vertebrate Paleontology in Florida*". This set the tone for future meetings and the laid the foundation for the origin of the FPS.

In 1977 we had our second annual meeting in a similar format. That is when we determined to form a permanent, non-profit corporation to disseminate information on fossils and continue the cooperative activities between amateur and professional paleontologists throughout Florida. At the third annual meeting in September, 1978, the *Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.* became a legal entity. The Articles of Incorporation that are distributed to each new member still proudly state, among other things, that "This Corporation shall be concerned with the collection and preservation of Florida fossils."

The whole paleontological enterprise in Florida continued to grow. The Florida Museum hired Bruce MacFadden and the Geology Department hired Doug Jones to upgrade vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology programs respectively. By this time 38 issues of *The Plaster Jacket* had been distributed to nearly 2,000 subscribers. Bruce MacFadden became its new editor and gave it a facelift by sending it to a professional printer. That was also the year that



the new society developed the head of *Hexameryx* as its logo (Figure 1). This rare genus of six-horned antelope, native to Late Miocene gravels of the Bone Valley in central Florida, made a proud symbol for this great society. A set of modelled horns was passed on to each new president at the annual business meeting in the fall of each year. Margaret Thomas gave the

III. BLUE PERIOD (1984-1987)

The worst year for Florida paleontology was surely 1984. The museum administration and a number of Florida legislators were alarmed by a wave of commercialism that began invading the state's vertebrate fossil resources, particularly some of the most productive river bottoms. For example an extraordinarily rich Early Miocene site in the Suwannee River had been totally



Figure 1. F.P.S. patch featuring the Society logo, *Hexameryx simpsoni*, the six-horned antilocaprid from the Bone Valley.

FPS publication and distribution rights to her wonderful fossil book and Howard Converse produced his *Handbook of Paleo-Preparation Techniques*, which later was given to the FPS by his family. In June, 1984 the Museum and the FPS jointly operated The Thomas Farm Fossil Dig, two one-week experiences at this rich 20-million year-old site.

mined out and sold to a wealthy Texan. The same trend was affecting cultural artifacts, but their legal status was already covered by the Florida Antiquities Act. This concern led The Florida Legislature to pass a law "to protect and preserve vertebrate fossils on state lands, with title thereto vested in the Florida Museum of Natural History". Widely known as "the permit system", the law provided for issuing an



inexpensive permit to any interested individual to "help unlock the secrets of Florida's fossil heritage and preserve this knowledge for future generations." Now, after more than a decade has passed, some 1200 permits have been routinely issued, and about half of the permittees routinely report their finds and renew their permits annually. But at its inception the new bill appeared threatening to some, and a firestorm of objections erupted. The FPS became a focal point for much of the controversy, and the membership became polarized. We all received more than one heated mailings about the bill during its consideration by the legislature. For the next two years the annual meetings became smaller and less enjoyable than at any time before or since.

Howard Converse's untimely death in 1987 further weakened the liaison between professionals and amateurs. On the other hand, I believe that it made us all think more carefully about our roots and the abiding advantages of a strong alliance between professionals and amateurs. In 1988 the Museum initiated the "*Howard Converse Award*", to honor the memory of Howard Converse and an amateur paleontologist selected for his or her outstanding contributions to paleontology in Florida.

IV. MATURE PERIOD (1987-Present)

The focus of most FPS members soon returned to the fundamental goals of sharing an interest in fossils, and the permit system settled into a benign routine. The Society and the Museum continued to grow. The *Plaster Jacket* gave way to the *FPS Newsletter* (a quarterly) and *Papers in Florida Paleontology*, (two issues per year). The Society instituted a *Student Research Award*, later named the *Gary S. Morgan Award*. In 1992 Lelia and Bill Brayfield donated the publishing rights to their book, *A Guide for Identifying Florida Fossil Shells and Other Invertebrates*. Another important book, now under development by the society, is Dr. Richard Hulbert's review of *Florida's Fossil Vertebrates*, a greatly improved descendant of *The Plaster Jacket*, soon to be

published by the University of Florida Press. *The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*, the national/international organization, located its office in the Museum for several years, between the years in which Bruce MacFadden and I each served as SVP President. *The National Science Foundation* also recognized the importance of our Museum with more than \$4 million in collection and curation improvement funds. And most recently the Museum has announced *The Lucy Dickinson Graduate Fellowship in Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Over these two decades it seems clear that healthy growth of the FPS and of the Museum have gone hand in hand, each raising the other to greater levels of achievement. The productivity that pervades this joint enterprise is rooted in Florida's rich paleo resources and its growing leisure class. The Census Bureau predicts that by the 21st Century Florida will add another 1.1 million citizens to our present 14 million, and there will be more potentially interesting exposures. Our manifest destiny - for amateurs and professionals alike - is to unearth and understand our natural fossil wealth. The more we work together the more we enrich our collections, our publications, our exhibits and our own enjoyment of paleontology. We also improve the experience of our younger members and future scholars, not only through awards and fellowships, but more fundamentally through the richness of our shared experiences and cumulative knowledge of paleontology.

Today we are steering that same steady course that Clayton Ray foresaw in his 1976 address to "*The First Annual Florida Paleontology Meeting*". As he stated on that occasion:

"I believe there is bound to be an ever larger role for the amateur worker in Florida paleontology. There is going to be more leisure time, greater population, and more sophistication in paleontological procedures. We are entering the golden age of Paleontology in Florida."

We can all share a great sense of pride as we continue to build our society into the next millenium.



All the Kings Horses and all the king's men ... can't put the crushed fossils together again!

Every day, in countless shell pits, limestone quarries, and phosphate mines throughout Florida untold thousands of fossils are extracted along with their once-protective matrix, dumped into trucks to be hauled away for road fill or piped into distant plants for additional processing. For thousands, and in many cases millions, of years nature has miraculously protected these precious remnants of our prehistoric past eras; and in a few careless seconds man destroys them forever.

From the unknowing worker, through the unconcerned management personnel, and finally to the uncaring property owner, million-year-old fossils are totally ignored, smashed, and trashed. After all fossils just aren't a part of their job, not important to their end-product, and add nothing to the day's profits.

And whose fault is it? **Ours...yours and mine** for making little or no effort to educate those responsible for this wanton destruction of an irreplaceable portion of our heritage. How often have you sent the owner and/or management of a shell pit literature explaining the difference between anthropological material (which can cause work slowdowns if discovered on site) and fossil material (which poses no threat to the work schedule of the project)?

And when was the last time you sent any of those people a newspaper article of an exciting fossil discovery some place in the state, or invited them to be your guest at a newly-opened exhibit at a museum, or sent them some passes and literature for an upcoming Fossil Fair?

It would only fall on "deaf ears"? You've tried explaining things to them before, with no success? It has always been this way and always will? Well, then maybe it's time to put away your digging and sifting equipment and concentrate on a less demanding hobby, such as butterfly chasing or matchbook collecting? *Or maybe it's time to grit our teeth, take a deep breath and expend some time and energy in a collective effort to solve some of the problems...and save thousands of fossils doomed for destruction in the process??*

The Florida Paleontological Society has a tremendous resource that could be Of immense value in solving the Site Access problem...its members.

What if small groups made up of 4 or 5 members worked on specific projects such as:

A small map of Florida showing locations of important fossil discoveries (to show site owners that fossils are found and are collected from all over the state);

A master liability waiver form, on FPS stationery, to be used by all FPS members;

Literature explaining the difference between artifacts and fossils, to show the owners they have nothing to fear from either the fossil hunter or the state if fossils are discovered on their property;

A (form) proposal to site owners asking for access for small groups (4-5, 5-10?) for a specified amount of time (4 hours?) during non-working periods (Sat., Sun., holidays?) with a per-person fee to pay for someone from the company to be on hand to supervise.

These are just some of the areas in which possible solutions might be created by small groups working on specific problems. Is it worth a try...or shall we just continue to let thousands of fossils be trashed daily??

Dean Sligh
Florida Fossil Hunters





UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Florida Museum of Natural History
Exhibits & Public Programs
Powell Hall

Hull Rd. & SW 34th St.
PO Box 112710
Gainesville, FL 32611-2710
Phone (352) 846-2000
Fax (352) 846-0253

September 1, 1998

Dear Friends:

Enclosed are the registration materials and associated hotel information for *Paleofest98*, "A Celebration of Florida Paleontology." We will be hosting this event in Gainesville starting on the evening of Friday, November 20, and continuing through the evening of Saturday, November 21. From the enthusiastic response received thus far, we anticipate a large meeting with several hundred attendees.

Proceeds from *Paleofest98* will support the new exhibits and educational programs dealing with invertebrate paleontology, vertebrate paleontology, and paleobotany here at the Museum.

Please note the following:


- The regular adult registration fee is \$25 (\$15 for children 12 and under). We are also offering an optional Patron Registration of \$100 if you desire to support this event at a higher level. The Patron Registration includes conference registration, all events, buffet dinner, and special recognition; \$55 of this fee is tax-deductible.
- As part of the *Paleofest98* activities, all registrants will have the option of attending one Saturday workshop or field trip. We anticipate that most of the workshops will fill to capacity. Spaces in these workshops will be assigned on a **first-come, first-served** basis. In the event that your first-choice selection is full, we will do our best to place you in one of your other indicated preferences.
- Hotel reservations should be made on your own (see attached sheet). The Radisson Hotel, Gainesville, is the host hotel; please be sure to mention *Paleofest98* in order to obtain the conference rate. These rates are applicable only for reservations made before October 30th.
- If you have any paleontological or archaeological items (casts, T-shirts, books, etcetera, but not original fossils or artifacts) to donate to the fund-raising auction, please contact the auction coordinator, Russ McCarty at 352-392-6767. (Also see enclosed announcement.)
- Be sure to **submit a separate registration form for each individual** and complete both sides of the registration form. Return it to us with your check made payable to UF Foundation.
- Please feel free to copy any of the enclosed forms and distribute them to your friends.

We are very excited about *Paleofest98* and are working hard to make it a rewarding and successful experience for all. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Jarzen. We hope to see you at *Paleofest98*!

Sincerely,


Susan A. Jarzen
Coordinator, *Paleofest98*
email: saj@flmnh.ufl.edu


Bruce J. MacFadden
Co-host, *Paleofest98*


Roger W. Portell
Co-host, *Paleofest98*



PALEOFEST98 Registration Form
 Florida Museum of Natural History
 Powell Hall, Box 112710, Gainesville, FL 32611-2710
 352-846-2000, ext. 204
Friday & Saturday, Nov. 20 & 21, 1998

(Please submit a separate registration form for each individual. Feel free to photocopy this form as necessary.)

Name _____

Club or Institutional Affiliation, if applicable _____

Mailing address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone: _____ (e-mail, If applicable) _____

Registration Fees:

Optional Patron Contribution: \$100 \$ _____

Patron contribution includes conference registration, workshops, lectures and all social functions, including the buffet dinner as well as special recognition for support of this event. Proceeds will benefit paleontological exhibits and education. \$55 of this fee may be claimed as a charitable deduction.

Conference Registration	Postmarked by 10/23/98	Postmarked after 10/23/98	
Adult	\$25	\$30	\$ _____
Child (12 and under)	\$15	\$20	\$ _____

Conference registration includes all sessions and the official conference poster.

Other Fees:

Buffet Dinner (Saturday, Nov. 21, 6:30pm @ the Radisson Hotel, Gainesville)

Adult	\$20	\$ _____
Child (12 and under)	\$14	\$ _____

Conference T-shirt

Advance purchase price is \$12. (\$15 at the conference)

Quantity _____ Size (S, M, L, XL)



TOTAL _____ T-shirts x \$12 each = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

Mail completed registration form with payment to: *Paleofest98*, FLMNH, Powell Hall, Box 112710, Gainesville, FL 32611-2710. Please do not send cash.

Checks should be made payable to UF Foundation. We can not guarantee workshop or dinner availability without advance registration and payment. Cancellations must be received in writing by November 1, 1998 to qualify for a full refund, less a \$10 processing fee.

Paleofest98 Workshops and Field Trips:

Saturday, November 21, 1:30pm-5pm

Participants may attend one workshop or field trip, but not both. Consult below for workshop descriptions. Space in each workshop/field trip is limited and will be filled on a **first-come, first-served** basis. Please register early to insure that you are placed in your first choice. Those workshops for which less than five people have registered may be cancelled. In this case we reserve the right to reassign you to another workshop. Please indicate below (using the digits 1, 2 & 3) your first, second, and third choices for workshop sessions or field trips.

Workshops (1:30pm-5pm)

_____ Teacher workshop (1:30pm-4pm)

_____ Replicating Fossils

_____ Coal-ball Peeling

_____ Osteology

_____ Fossil Sharks (1:30pm-3pm)

_____ Mammoths

_____ Fossil Identification

_____ Fossil Diving & Snorkeling in Florida Waters: for adults and children. (1:30pm-4pm)

OR

Field Trips (1:30pm-5pm)

_____ Gainesville Creeks: for adults and children of all ages

_____ Haile Quarry: for adults and children over 12 years of age

A waiver of liability will be required prior to field trip participation. In the event of inclement weather, indoor paleo activities will be scheduled in lieu of field trips.

Descriptions:

- 1. Teacher workshop: Instructors: Paulette Stone, Glyniss Hudson, Audrey Carter. Maximum participants: 30. Open to adults only.** Designed especially for high school teachers by high school teachers, this workshop will instruct in the use of paleontological materials in the classroom. You will go through the lab exactly as it is currently taught to Orange County high school students. You will also learn how to create a fossil pit in your own school as well as how to use it within your elementary school community. **Time: 1:30pm-4:00pm.**
- 2. Replicating Fossils: Mold making and Casting Techniques: Instructor: Russ McCarty. Maximum participants: 20. Open to adults and young adults, 16 years of age and older.** This workshop will deal with making reproductions of your favorite fossils. Topics covered will be: molding rubbers and resins, prepping specimens for casting, one piece and two piece molds, making mother molds, and painting casts.
- 3. Coal-ball Peeling: Instructor: Dr. David L. Dilcher. Maximum participants: 20. Open to adults and young adults, 16 years of age and older.** The making of coal-ball peels allows each person to embed and peel away from a rock surface a thin section of the plant tissues petrified in the coal-ball. These coal-ball peels can then be examined with a dissecting microscope and all the plant parts (stem, roots, seeds, leaves) can be identified. You can take the peels home.
- 4. Osteology: Instructor: Marc Frank. Maximum participants: 25. Open to adults and young adults, 14 years of age and older.** An introduction to vertebrate skeletal anatomy, with an emphasis on mammals. Learn to recognize the various elements of the mammalian skeleton and apply this information to the identification of fossil bones.
- 5. Fossil Sharks: Instructor: Dr. Gordon Hubbell. Maximum participants: 30. Open to adults and young adults, 14 years of age and older.** This workshop will describe and identify the different species of sharks found at different fossil sites around Florida; discuss shark evolution and how it applies to the living species of sharks; and briefly address the difficulties in identifying fossil species of sharks. **Time: 1:30pm-3pm**
- 6. Mammoths: Instructor: Dr. S. David Webb and students. Maximum participants: 50. Open to all ages.** Participate in a curator's tour of the Elephants! traveling exhibit and in a hands-on workshop about fossil mastodons and mammoths.
- 7. Fossil Identification: Instructor: Gary S. Morgan. Maximum participants: unlimited. Open to all ages.** Bring in your fossil collections and try to stump the expert! We are flying Gary in from New Mexico for him to lead this I.D. session.
- 8. Fossil Diving & Snorkeling in Florida Waters: Instructor: Bob Sinibaldi. Maximum participants: 50. Open to adults and children.** Fossil diving & snorkeling in Florida's waters or any other waters containing fossils will give the certified diver or snorkeler in-depth information on permits & laws, equipment, and how, when, and where to go fossil hunting.
- 9. Field Trip to Gainesville Creeks: Instructors: Kurt Auffenberg & Jay O'Sullivan. Maximum participants: 50. Open to adults and children of all ages.** Participate in a trip to a fossiliferous creek with screens and buckets to find shark's teeth, sea-cow ribs, and other local vertebrate fossils. Fun for the whole family!
- 10. Field Trip to Haile Quarry: Instructors: Dr. Richard Hulbert & staff. Maximum participants: 50. Open to adults and children, 12 years of age and older.** Guided tour of the area. Limited collecting of Eocene to Pleistocene vertebrate and invertebrate fossils.

Paleofest98 Schedule of Events

Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21, 1998

University of Florida Campus

For more information contact: 352-846-2000, ext. 204

Friday events:

- 5:30-6:30pm: **Public lecture.** Jack Horner, renowned dinosaur paleontologist from the Museum of the Rockies, will present a fascinating lecture for all ages.
Location: Center for the Performing Arts
- 6:30-9pm: **Paleofest98 Registration and Welcome Party:** Tour the FLMNH exhibits, browse through displays by Florida fossil clubs, and have the opportunity to purchase books and related gift items dealing with Florida paleontology. Museum curators and staff will be on hand to explain the exhibits and provide guided tours. Our distinguished guest dinosaur paleontologist, Jack Horner, will be available for autographing books and posters.
Location: Powell Hall: Fossil Hall

Saturday events:

- 8am-10am: Late registration, Welcome, and Orientation. Coffee, Juice, Pastries.
Location: Reitz Union Ballroom
- 10:30am-11:45am: Florida Paleontological Society business meeting.
Location: Dickinson Hall classroom

OR

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Dickinson Hall Paleo Collections

- Noon-1pm: LUNCH : on your own. (Lunch suggestions will be provided.)
- 1:30-5pm: Workshops/Field Trips. (see reverse for listing & descriptions)
- Locations: Powell Hall classroom, Fossil Hall at Powell, in the field, and other sites to be announced.
- 6:30pm-11pm: Buffet dinner at the Radisson Hotel, Gainesville (Host Hotel)
 - 6:30-7:30: Cash bar and silent auction
 - 7:30-8:30: Buffet Dinner
 - 8:30-11pm: Awards, live auction, end of silent auction



Paleofest98 Workshops & Field Trips: Saturday, November 21, 1:30pm-5pm

***Paleofest98* participants may attend one workshop or field trip, but not both. A waiver of liability will be required prior to field trip participation. In the event of inclement weather, indoor paleo activities will be scheduled in lieu of field trips.**

Descriptions:

1. **Teacher workshop: Instructors: Paulette Stone, Glyniss Hudson, Audrey Carter. Maximum participants: 30. Open to adults only.** Designed especially for high school teachers by high school teachers, this workshop will instruct in the use of paleontological materials in the classroom. You will go through the lab exactly as it is currently taught to Orange County high school students. You will also learn how to create a fossil pit in your own school as well as how to use it within your elementary school community. **Time: 1:30pm-4pm.**
2. **Replicating Fossils: Mold making and Casting Techniques: Instructor: Russ McCarty. Maximum participants: 20. Open to adults and young adults, 16 years of age and older.** This workshop will deal with making reproductions of your favorite fossils. Topics covered will be: molding rubbers and resins, prepping the specimen for casting, one piece and two piece molds, making mother molds, and painting casts.
3. **Coal-ball Peeling: Instructor: Dr. David L. Dilcher. Maximum participants: 20. Open to Adults and young adults, 16 years of age and older.** The making of coal-ball peels allows each person to embed and peel away from a rock surface, a thin section of the plant tissues petrified in the coal-ball. These coal-ball peels can then be examined with a dissecting microscope and all the plant parts (stem, roots, seeds, leaves) can be identified. You can take the peels home.
4. **Osteology: Instructor: Marc Frank. Maximum participants: 25. Open to adults and young adults, 14 years of age and older.** An introduction to vertebrate skeletal anatomy, with an emphasis on mammals. Learn to recognize the various elements of the mammalian skeleton and apply this information to the identification of fossil bones.
5. **Fossil Sharks: Instructor: Dr. Gordon Hubbell. Maximum participants: 30. Open to adults and young adults, 14 years of age and older.** This workshop will describe and identify the different species of sharks found at different fossil sites around Florida; discuss shark evolution and how it applies to the living species of sharks; and briefly address the difficulties in identifying fossil species of sharks. **Time: 1:30pm-3pm**
6. **Elephants: Instructor: Dr. S. David Webb and students. Maximum participants: 50. Open to all ages.** Participate in a curator's tour of the Elephants! traveling exhibit and in a hands-on workshop about fossil mastodons and mammoths.
7. **Fossil Identification: Instructor: Gary S. Morgan. Maximum participants: unlimited. Open to all ages.** Bring in your fossil collections and try to stump the expert! We are flying Gary in from New Mexico for him to lead this workshop.
8. **Field Trip to Gainesville Creeks: Instructors: Kurt Auffman & Jay O'Sullivan. Maximum participants: 50. Open to adults and children of all ages.** Participate in a trip to a fossiliferous creek with screens and buckets to find shark's teeth, sea-cow ribs, and other local vertebrate fossils. Fun for the whole family!
9. **Field Trip to Haile Quarry: Instructors: Dr. Richard Hulbert & staff. Maximum participants: 50. Open to adults and children, 12 years of age and older.** Guided tour of the area. Limited collecting of Eocene to Pleistocene vertebrate and invertebrate fossils.
10. **Fossil Diving & Snorkeling in Florida Waters: Instructor: Bob Sinibaldi. Maximum participants: 50. Open to adults and children.** Fossil diving & snorkeling in Florida's waters or any other waters containing fossils will give the certified diver or snorkeler in-depth information on permits & laws, equipment, and how, when, and where to go fossil hunting.





COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
DICKINSON HALL
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
32611-7800
352.392.1721

EXHIBITS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
POWELL HALL
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
32611-2710
352.846.2000

Paleofest98 Auction

August 22, 1998

Dear Potential Donor:

The Florida Museum of Natural History will hold Paleofest98, a celebration of Florida paleontology, November 20-21 on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. Paleofest98 will be attended by hundreds of amateur paleontologists and fossil enthusiasts from Florida and the Southeast. As part of this event, sponsored by the museum, the Florida Paleontological Society, and The Paleontological Society, we will hold a fund-raising auction. Proceeds from this event will enable us to support the Fossil Hall in the museum's new Education & Exhibition Center at Powell Hall.

We encourage you to be a part of this popular fund-raising event by donating items such as books, reprints, artwork, casts, photographs, models, T-shirts, field gear, fossil prep/casting/mold making tools and supplies, or any other suitable material dealing with paleontology, geology, or evolution; however, we cannot accept original fossils or artifacts for this auction. Because we like to have fun at our auctions, we also welcome tastefully humorous items and novelties.

Your donations will be acknowledged at the Paleofest98 auction. Of course, if you would like us to display and distribute brochures, catalogs, and price lists of your wares and products to those attending the festival, we would be pleased to do so.

Please send all donations to the Paleofest98 auction and promotional materials to:

Paleofest98 Auction
c/o Russ McCarty
Dickinson Hall, P.O. Box 117800
Museum Rd., University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800
Telephone: (352) 392-6767 Email:cormac@flmnh.ufl.edu

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,


Russ McCarty
Chairman, Paleofest Auction Committee



Don't Miss the *Paleofest98* Auction!

Here's your chance to acquire unique items for your collection, or as gifts! (This is a preliminary list-many more items will be available.)

- ◆ Museum quality casts including:
 - ◆ Oligocene *Archaeotherium* skull ("big pig")
 - ◆ Bronzini *Teleoceras* rhinoceros statue
 - ◆ Bronzini Miocene gavial
 - ◆ *Smilodon gracilis*, Florida saber-toothed cat
- ◆ Rare and out-of-print Books
- ◆ Complete sets of reprints (many on Florida paleontology)
- ◆ Mineral specimens
 - ◆ Fluorescent minerals
 - ◆ Calcite crystals
- ◆ *Pony Express* field trip to Thomas Farm (April 1999)
- ◆ Kid's Stuff
- ◆ Paleo related T-shirts and Posters

An auctioneer will conduct the bidding on big ticket items!

Silent Auction

There will be many other items including books, casts, T-shirts and interesting "paleo curios" that will be offered in a silent auction with the highest written bid taking the items.





Florida Museum of Natural History
Exhibits & Public Programs
Powell Hall

Hull Rd. & SW 34th St.
PO Box 112710
Gainesville, FL 32611-2710
Phone (352) 846-2000
Fax (352) 846-0253

DIRECTIONS TO THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Florida Museum of Natural History, Powell Hall, is located on the University of Florida Campus, at 34th Street and Hull Road between the Harn Museum and the Center for the Performing Arts.

Directions from I-75 North

Take EXIT 75 (Gainesville/Archer Rd.). Turn right onto Archer Rd. (=SR24). Go approx. 1.5 miles to the light at 34th Street. Turn left onto 34th St. Go .7 miles to the light at Hull Road. Turn right onto Hull Rd.. Take your first right into the large parking lot. The FLMNH is located between the Harn Museum and the Center for the Performing Arts.

Directions from I-75 South

Take EXIT 75 (Gainesville/Archer Rd.). Turn left onto Archer Rd. (=SR24). Go approx. 1.7 miles to the light at 34th St. Turn left onto 34th St. Go .7 miles to the light at Hull Rd. Turn right onto Hull Rd. Take your first right into the large parking lot. The FLMNH is located between the Harn Museum and the Center for the Performing Arts.

Directions from US441 South (becomes 13th Street in Gainesville)

Once you have entered the Gainesville city limits, go approximately 2.0 miles to the light at Museum Rd. Turn left onto Museum Rd. Go 1.8 miles to the stop sign at Hull Rd. You will pass Dickinson Hall on your left, Lake Alice on your left, and the UF softball stadium on your right. Turn right onto Hull Rd. The museum is located .3 miles on your left. Turn left into the large parking lot. The FLMNH is located between the Harn Museum and the Center for the Performing Arts.

Directions from US441 North (becomes 13th Street in Gainesville)

Once you have entered the Gainesville city limits, go approximately 3.6 miles to the light at University Ave. Continue 0.5 miles to the fourth light and turn right onto Museum Rd. Go 1.8 miles to the stop sign at Hull Rd. You will pass Dickinson Hall on your left, Lake Alice on your left and the UF softball stadium on your right. Turn right onto Hull Rd. The museum is located .3 miles on your left. Turn left into the large parking lot. The FLMNH is located between the Harn Museum and the Center for the Performing Arts.

Directions from SR24 South

Once SR24 enters the Gainesville city limits, it is known as Waldo Rd. Proceed on Waldo Rd. through three lights. The fourth light will be University Ave. (=SR26). Turn right onto University Ave. Go 1.7 miles to the light at 13th St. Turn left onto 13th St. Go 0.5 miles to the fourth light and turn right onto Museum Rd. Go 1.8 miles to the stop sign at Hull Rd. You will pass Dickinson Hall on your left, Lake Alice on your left and the UF softball stadium on your right. Turn right onto Hull Rd. The museum is located .3 miles on your left. Turn left into the large parking lot. The FLMNH is located between the Harn Museum and the Center for the Performing Arts.





ACCOMMODATIONS

The official *Paleofest98* headquarters is the **Radisson Hotel Gainesville**.

Radisson Hotel Gainesville

2900 SW 13th Street

Gainesville, Florida 32608

Phone: (352) 377-4000 or call Radisson Hotels Worldwide

Toll-Free 1-800-333-3333

Fax: (352) 371-1159

Reduced rates are available at the Radisson provided that you mention *Paleofest98* when making your reservations. Room rates are \$59.00 for Single or Double Occupancy. Reservations must be made by **October 30, 1998** in order to obtain this special rate. The Radisson offers a free 24-hour shuttle service to and from the Gainesville Regional Airport. The Radisson is situated on beautiful Bivens Arm Lake and Wildlife Sanctuary only minutes from the University of Florida campus.

For those interested in camping while in Gainesville, the following campgrounds offer a wide variety of facilities for both tent and RV campers.

McGilvary Fish Camp

Newnans Lake, 7406 SE 2nd Avenue

Gainesville, Florida 32601

352-376-3452

Paynes Prairie State Preserve

Rt. 2 Box 41

Micanopy, Florida 32667

352-466-3397

Other hotels in the area must be approached individually. The following is a list of the name, address, and phone number of some of the additional hotels available in Gainesville:

Apartment Inn

4401 SW 13th Street

Gainesville, Florida 32608

352-371-3811

Bambi Hotel

2119 SW 13th Street

Gainesville, Florida 32608

1-800-34BAMBI

Briar Cliff Inn

3455 SW Williston Road

Gainesville, Florida 32608

352-378-2405

Budget Lodge

6901 NW 8th Avenue

Gainesville, Florida 32605

352-331-1601

Cabot Lodge

3726 SW 40th Boulevard

Gainesville, Florida 32608

1-800-843-8735

Cape Cod Inn

3820 SW 13th Street

Gainesville, Florida 32608

352-371-2500



Casa Loma Lodge
2000 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32608
352-372-3654

Comfort Inn
2435 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32608
352-373-6500

Courtyard by Marriott
3700 SW 42nd Street
Gainesville, Florida 32608
352-335-9100

Days Inn-University
2820 NW 13th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32609
352-376-1211

Econo Lodge
2649 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32608
352-373-7816

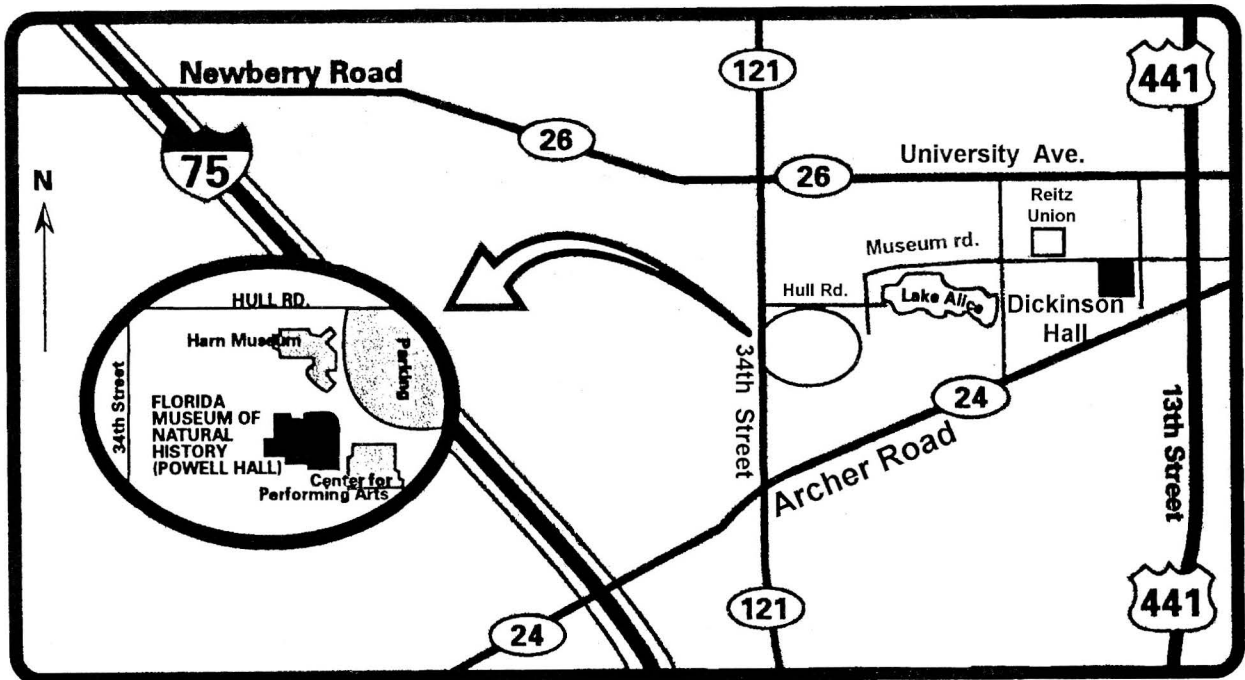
Fairfield Inn by Marriott
6901 NW 4th Boulevard
Gainesville, Florida 32601
352-332-8292

Florida Motel
2603 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32608
352-376-3742

Gainesville Lodge
413 W University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601
352-376-1224

Gator Court Motel
4170 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32601
352-376-4667

Paleofest98 meeting location, Powell Hall,
University of Florida campus, Gainesville, FL



FPS Books and Supplies

New Edition!

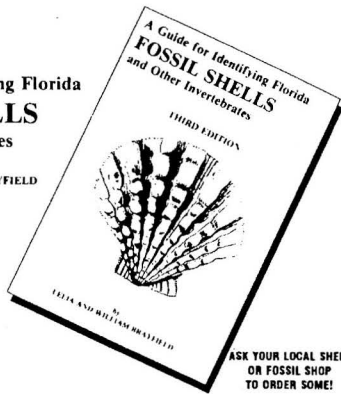
A Guide for Identifying Florida FOSSIL SHELLS and Other Invertebrates

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.



ASK YOUR LOCAL SHELL OR FOSSIL SHOP TO ORDER SOME!

\$5.97 each plus shipping

Newly Revised Edition

FOSSIL VERTEBRATES—

Beach and Bank Collecting for Amateurs

By M. C. Thomas



Take It With You!

- Use this guide to help you get started as an amateur collecting fossils on the coastal beaches or on spoil bank deposits.
- Attractively presented 72 page book explains the exciting Where, When, How and Why of beginning this hobby and of understanding the ancient past.
- High quality photographic illustrations for comparison.

Available by the single copy in many bookstores, shell and fossil shops, and museum shops. Dealers may order in quantity from:

The Florida Paleontological Society
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Paleontology and Geology of the Leisey Shell Pits, Early Pleistocene of Florida

Volume Editors:

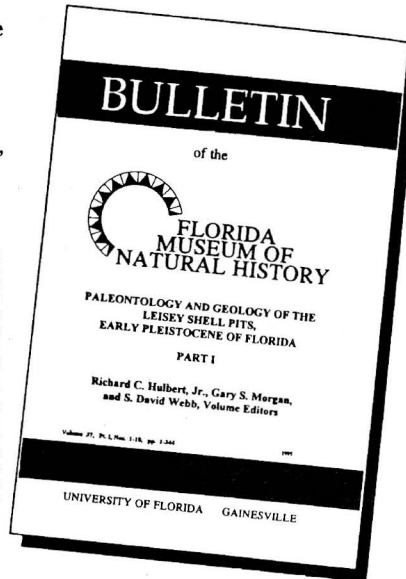
Richard C. Hulbert, Jr., Gary S. Morgan, and S. David Webb

Bulletin Editors:

F. Wayne King and Rhoda J. Bryant

For the last two decades the Leisey Shell Corporation has operated several pits along Tampa Bay. Draglines unearthed numerous invertebrate fossils and, occasionally, vertebrate fossils. The spoil piles and quarry walls were periodically explored by several avocational paleontologists. In 1983 a tremendous concentration of fossil bones was exposed. Quarrying in the area ceased, thanks to the cooperation of the owner, C.E. "Bud" Leisey, Jr., and manager, Eric Hunter. In 1984, after meetings among representatives of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), Leisey Shell Corporation and avocational paleontologists, a major operation was planned. The owners subsequently transferred ownership of the fossils to FLMNH. That Spring major excavations resumed as a cooperative effort among the FLMNH, the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club, and the Leisey Shell Corporation. The dig has attracted the attention of local, state, and national news media, including a spot on NBC's "Today Show", an article in Newsweek magazine, and a lengthy Sunday feature in the Tampa Tribune.

Publication Date: March 1995



This volume is printed in two parts, including twenty papers which cover birds, fishes, invertebrates, mammals, plants, and reptiles and amphibians, as well as the taphonomy of terrestrial mammals and geology of this Early Pleistocene site. Several new species are described.

Bibliographic Data

1995 Volume 37, Part I	352 pages	21 halftones	40 line diagrams	numerous tables
1995 Volume 37, Part II	324 pages	40 halftones	26 line diagrams	numerous tables

FPS Members may order this set for \$25.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Please indicate the number of copies desired, and include your name and complete mailing address with your order. Make check or money order payable to Florida Paleontological Society.

HANDBOOK OF PALEO-PREPARATION TECHNIQUES



Howard H. Converse, Jr

An FPS classic; \$6.50 each plus postage

Order and Shipping Information

- All books require a minimum order of 10.
- Terms: 30 days Net from billing
- Shipping Charges will be calculated on the total number of items ordered

Send orders/inquiries to:

Florida Paleontological Society
Florida Museum of Natural History,
Powell Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32601

Butvar™ specimen consolidant

by the one pound bag

\$6.00 ea.



How to Avoid the Pitfalls of Building a School Yard Fossil Pit

Paulette Stone

Science Teacher, West Orange High School
Winter Garden, FL

When I received my copy of the Pony Express newsletter (Volume 6, Number 1) in 1997, I had no idea that it would lead me to a very unusual school project: a fossil pit on the campus of West Orange High School in Winter Garden, Florida. The lead article in the newsletter, written by Griff Jones, Science Department Chairman of the P.K. Yonge Laboratory School, University of Florida, Gainesville, gave a "recipe" for building a pit containing fossil matrix for a school campus. The pit would be a wonderful teaching tool, and I toyed with the idea of constructing a similar structure on my own school campus. And so my journey began.

As Mr. Jones mentioned in his article, site selection is most important; there must be access to a service road in close proximity to the school. West Orange High School has a wetland area at a nearby stream, with an open student work area. I selected a pit site with running water and an access road going through the highest part of the wetland area. The site is in a remote part of the campus, within four minutes walking distance from the main building.

Once I selected a site, it became necessary to look for funding. As it happened, the Orange County Public School system was offering a new grant for instructional use. As well, a business corporation was simultaneously offering another grant. (If you plan on funding your project through grants, you should apply for as many as possible and hope that one comes through! Grants are usually offered toward the end of the academic school year.) As such, we applied to both institutions for funding.

Soon, I discovered (the hard way) that the funds must be made easily accessible for immediate use. Somehow, you have to convince the Accounting Department at the district level to

transfer the money to the school level in order to have access to the money whenever a need arises. The biggest stumbling block I had arose in waiting for purchase orders to be processed at the local level, the district level, and then back again; there were times when checks for C.O.D. delivery failed to arrive in time, due to the long waiting period.

In the event that total funding does not become available, the next best way to proceed is to seek out private donations. Because West Orange is a large high school, I tried to get as many school departments as possible involved in the actual planning and physical work of construction. First, we visited the Drafting Department, where the students devised a plot plan of a 20' x 20' x 2' pit, with a division in the middle separating it into two 10' x 20' x 2' holes. One hole would contain shell matrix excavated from Sarasota, and the other washed phosphate excavated from the Bartow area, both Pliocene in age and rich in fossils. (The biggest advantage of employing student help is that it immediately establishes ownership with the project.)

Likewise, the Industrial Arts Department, in conjunction with the Drafting Department, came up with the materials listed in Table 1. As can be seen, the greatest cost was in the ten long boards. We later found that it would have been less costly and more efficient to buy twenty 10' boards, as the longer boards bowed in the center with the weight of the fill when it was dumped.

In addition, the long boards had to be special ordered, which added to the cost. Before ordering materials, discuss the necessary equipment with your construction supervisor. In this particular case, I ultimately spent more money on the framing materials than on anything else. Had I discussed it with the construction



Table 1: Material List for fossil pit

Quantity	Description	Approx. price	Total
10	2" x 12" pressure treated 20' boards	\$45.50	\$455.00
5	4" x 4" x 8' posts	\$ 4.50	\$22.50
32	Lag bolts for mounting	\$.32	\$10.24

supervisor (the agriculture teacher), I could have cut the lumber costs in half.

In keeping with the idea of locating donated materials and/or labor, I next asked my classes if anyone had a relative or friend who had access to a back hoe. The response was immediate, as the father of one of my students was in the construction business; within a matter of days he had an operator and a back hoe on site. Because of this donated labor I made sure to write thank you letters to everyone who helped, including all the teachers of the classes that participated in the project.

Once the pit was dug, we engaged the services of our agriculture teacher and his student crew. Our agriculture students are required to do a special project each year, and, with the help of their teacher, these students took on the pit framing as their special project. They followed the plot plan as designed by the drafting students; however, upon the first filling of matrix we found the center board greatly bowed by the weight. Based on this, I recommend that four 10' boards be used for the center divider with supports on each side of the board in the middle, instead of just on one side.

Additionally, we discovered that the hole made a great swimming pool, as we never thought of installing drainage in case of heavy rain. As luck would have it, we had record rains and our pit became flooded. Fortunately, most of the water eventually evaporated. Hint: If you find that your soil is not porous, I would suggest that some kind of apparatus for drainage is included during construction.

Now that we had a framed-in pit (swimming pool), it was time to get serious about filling it

with fossil matrix. Roger Portell, Coordinator of Museum Operations (and also an Invertebrate Paleontologist) at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville was called upon for help. Roger had assisted Griff Jones in developing and setting up the pit at the P.K.

Yonge Laboratory School in Gainesville. Roger was my "guiding light". He advised that we use Pliocene matrix, if possible because it was readily accessible. He contacted Hugh Cannon, from the Quality Aggregates Quarries in Tallevast, FL, who graciously donated of 21 tons of uncrushed and unwashed shell matrix from a pit near Sarasota.

Here the problem of transport arose. You can save yourself a lot of phone time by going directly to your district office to find out the name of the hauling company that is used by the district office. This vendor will already be on your district list, so the best price will be obtained. It will also make it much easier to get your purchase orders processed. As it turned out, I learned that a mini-wheeler dump truck holds about 20-21 tons of material - just the right amount to fill in one side of a pit like mine. However, most importantly, be sure to coordinate your hauler with the mine supervisor, making sure that the mine cranes can load your truck. If the mine does not own its own equipment, they must use the hauler trucks that are owned by the leading company. In one case, there was no problem using the district bid hauler, but the second load required use of the leasing company equipment. Again, be sure to coordinate the hauler with the mine before you write your purchase orders and coordinate the date of delivery.

Back to the Pit! Delivery took place while I was in the classroom, so we didn't see where the matrix was being dumped. As it turned out, we ended up with a very big pile of wet, nasty, fossil-filled shell matrix that needed to be spread out evenly into one side of the hole. My



teaching partner enlisted the help of her biology class, and the next day, 25 students with shovels in hand (borrowed from the ecology class) went out to the site and took turns shoveling the matrix into its proper location. They had a great time getting dirty and, better yet, they were excited just seeing all the fossils. They shoveled, they learned, they got excited, and we got the pile leveled out!

Subsequently, it was time to fill the other half and so I contacted Roger again. Back to the phone I went, this time looking for donations of Bone Valley (Polk County) material. Eventually, I reached Larry Peace, Public Relations Manager of IMC Agrico, Mulberry, FL, who most graciously donated a truckload of washed phosphate. I originally had intended to obtain matrix as it came out of the ground, but I was told that there could be potential problems transferring the material directly from the ground to the truck. We were therefore advised to take the washed phosphate instead. This proved to be quite satisfactory, as the phosphate contains a great number of shark teeth, ray tail barbs, ray mouth plates, and other fish bones.

Again the hauling became a challenge. Be aware, that depending on your location, most of your funds will probably go towards hauling fossil matrix. Since Winter Garden is approximately 75 miles from the mines, my particular cost ranged from \$161.00 to \$250.00 per load. However, it would be safe to guess that any longer haul could cost closer to \$350.00.

We ultimately used Trans-Phos Transport, Bartow, Florida, instead of the district bid hauler because of liability reasons. Trans-Phos was the company leasing all of the mining equipment to IMC Agrico; therefore, we needed to use their hauling trucks. Bill Whiney, president of Trans-Phos, was my contact person, and he also was most helpful. Caution! Be sure that you have covered all bases before you assume delivery is set. I had already contacted the bid hauler and had all the arrangements set for the next day when I got a call from Larry Peace saying that it could not be done because my truck was not part of the leasing company equipment. He then

suggested I call Trans-Phos. Had I contacted Mr. Peace first, I would not have had to cancel the bid delivery. This caused a lot of aggravation because it entailed having to cancel the purchase order, write a new one, and wait for approval on the county level. It caused much delay. Had the funds been transferred to my school, I could have easily had a check prepared for day delivery, but it ended up that the purchase order process had to start from the beginning.

Finally, the phosphate arrived and again we used our students to spread the material. Now all we needed was a security fence. Originally I looked in the Yellow Pages and called for an estimate. I wanted a 6' x 30' x 30' fence with a gate. The estimate was \$1600 (way over the total amount of my grant), so I dismissed the idea and called the district office again. I was given the bid fencing company and again the estimate was too high for my proposal (\$1,100). Someone suggested calling the district office once more, this time finding the person in charge of fencing. This was a big bonus, as the fencing supervisor came out to the site and said it needed to be secured as part of the school property anyway. He also had a used 16' wide gate that he said could be re-used, and within a matter of a week the entire site was fenced in with a gate that can accommodate a mini-wheeler truck when replenishment of the matrix is needed. There was no cost to my project for this security fence, as it came from the district level to become a permanent part of the school property.

The pit is essentially for everyone's use, but certain basic rules have been established to maintain the integrity of the site. We decided to use the spoil pile system; that is, whatever matrix is taken out of the pit for exploration is to be put into a bucket and dumped onto a spoil pile outside of the fenced area. Fossils may be kept by the students or returned and put back into the pit for rediscovery. Also "seeded" were donated dugong bones collected by Brian Beatty, a graduate student at the University of Florida.

Basic equipment purchased or donated included:



- 15 one-gallon buckets with handles (\$1.00 ea.) from local Dollar Store
- Used dental picks from local dentists
- Small artist paint brushes - one per student
- Donated plastic buckets from area sandwich shops
- Trowels - one per student
- Screwdrivers
- Plastic terra trays

**** School surplus depository** - A trip to the district surplus depository became a storehouse of treasures when we found many gardening supplies that were free and useable for our purposes. The plastic terra trays that are put under large flower pots proved to especially good containers. These made functional containers for washed phosphate. Students simply put their samples in the middle of the container and by using the small paint brushes they were able to easily separate the rock from the fossils. "Used" phosphate is then put into the bucket and taken to the spoil pile.

My final purchase included identification books to be used at the site or in the classroom. I purchased copies of Robin Brown's *Florida Fossils* from Pineapple Press, Sarasota, and M. C. Thomas's *Fossil Vertebrates - Beach and Bank Collecting for Amateurs* and Lelia and William Brayfield's *A Guide for Identifying Florida Fossil Shells and Other Invertebrates* from the Florida Paleontological Society. I strongly suggest that you contact the museum before you order anything, as you most probably will be able to purchase items at wholesale prices instead of retail.

The entire process from selecting the site to students actually working the pit was recorded by the West Orange TV Productions, a student media class. A video was produced and will be used at presentations on "how to build a fossil pit". This project added

ownership along the way and has in effect become a school-wide endeavor. Student interest is high and hopefully the added ownership will decrease vandalism.

In summary, here are the tips that will help avoid delays and unnecessary expenditures.

- Select a site with easy access by a large dump truck.
 - Use 10' planks instead of 20' planks.
 - Reinforce the center planks on both sides to avoid bowing.
 - Install drainage.
 - Before attempting to buy anything, check with your school district for bid prices and available materials.
 - Check your district school surplus depository.
 - Consult the Florida Museum of Natural History for names of contact persons.
 - Use student labor as much as possible, including clubs, departments, and parent involvement.
- ** Most importantly, find a way to have your funding transferred to the local school level so that you can have checks written quickly for C.O.D. delivery if needed.**



Figure 1: Students diligently working the fossil pit .





FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Mail completed form to: Florida Paleontological Society
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

New _____ Renewal _____ Member Number (From label) _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____ Telephone _____
E-mail Address _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 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

1. NUMBER OF YEARS OF INTEREST IN PALEONTOLOGY _____
2. WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR STATUS: COLLECTOR ___ OCCASIONAL DEALER ___
FULL TIME DEALER ___ PROFESSIONAL POSITION ___ JUST STARTING ___
3. 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!

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 slews 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.