



## FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 26 NO. 3

FALL 2009

### News from the FLMNH Invertebrate Paleontology Division

The state's Invertebrate Paleontology Collection (IP) continues to rapidly grow through curation by staff (Roger Portell, Sean Roberts, Alex Kittle, George Hecht), student employees (Heather Tramel, Jeanine Beatty, Brittany Yates), and volunteers (Jon Anderson, Karina Cutter, Paul Roth, Craig and Laurie Samuel, Barbara Toomey, James Toomey). Over two million specimens have now been fully-curated (including databasing and georeferencing) and placed into IP's

formed collections. Many more specimens are in various stages of curation and the process will be completed with the aid of another year of National Science Foundation (NSF) collection improvement funding. Be sure to visit our popular website <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/invertpaleo/search.asp>. Almost weekly, new images of type and figured specimens and common Florida taxa are added.

Since our last report in the spring 2008 FPS Newsletter, individual fossils, fossil collections, and paleontological literature were generously donated on a regular basis. Most noteworthy were: Sharon



*University of South Florida students and their instructors, Peter Harries and Greg Herbert (along with Greg's daughter, Loren), anticipating the early Miocene Chipola Formation fossils in a Calhoun County, Florida creek. Roger Portell escorted this enthusiastic group for a three-day collecting trip in early October.*

**FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OFFICERS AND BOARD**

President:	Marge Fantozzi, 475 Newhearth Circle, Winter Garden, FL 34761 mfantozzi@aol.com
President-Elect:	Wally Ward, 701 TC Jester Boulevard, Suite 8102, Houston, TX ampyx901@msn.com
Past President:	Melissa Cole, 904 Red Bird Lane, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701 leaf123456@aol.com
Vice President:	Harley Means, Florida Geological Survey, Gunter Building MS 72, 903 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304 Guy.Means@dep.state.fl.us
Secretary:	Marcia Wright, 1550 Mizell Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789 mmorganw@aol.com
Treasurer:	George Hecht, Florida Museum of Natural History Box 117800, Gainesville, FL 31611 ghecht@flmnh.ufl.edu

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Greta Polites, Athens, GA, 2009	Gordon Hubbell, Gainesville, 2009
Gary Schmelz, Naples, 2010	Jonathan Bloch, Gainesville, 2010
Phyllis Diegel, W Palm Bch, 2010	Roger Portell, Gainesville, 2011
Sara Morey, Frostproof 2011	

**COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS**

Book Committee:	R. Hulbert
Nominations:	M. Cole
Finance:	G. Hecht, R. Portell
Membership:	G. Hecht
Honorary Members and Awards:	B. Toomey
Historical:	G. Hecht
Board of Editors:	A. Kittle, J. Herrera, R. Hulbert
Resident Agent:	B. MacFadden

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

Anita Brown, Robin Brown, Barbara & Reed Toomey, Gary Morgan, Clifford Jeremiah, Gordon Hubbell, David Webb

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Barbara Fite  
Joan Herrera  
Richard Hulbert  
Roger Portell  
James Toomey  
Barbara Toomey

**INFORMATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND PUBLICATIONS**

Address: Secretary, Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.  
Florida Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 117800  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7800  
email: [fps@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:fps@flmnh.ufl.edu)  
website: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fps/>

Gricius's gift of 189 flats of fossil shells and minerals and three boxes of publications. The fossils, primarily from Florida phosphate mines, were amassed by her late husband, Anthony Gricius, who worked as a mineralogist for IMC Global Inc. Additionally, the Department of Geology at the University of Kansas donated over 350 books and 7650 micropaleontology reprints from the collection of the late Roger Kaesler. Many of these publications are extremely rare, so our resident, part-time micropaleontologist, George Hecht, was thrilled to receive this fine contribution. Recently, Chet Kirby and his sons contributed over 20,000 invertebrate fossils from Brantley and Glynn counties, Georgia. This well-curated material is of exceptional quality and helped fill a void in our collection. Prior to the Kirby Family donation the FLMNH IP Division housed only minor collections from that area. Also, Carol and Bernie Peterson donated a fabulous, one-of-a-kind, fossil goniasterid sea star (see fall, 2008 FPS Newsletter for image). The specimen was collected along the Chipola River and was heavily encrusted in sandstone. With a generous donation by Jim Toomey, Matt Smith was hired to prepare and expose the delicate sea star. It is now under the study of Dan Blake (University of Illinois) and Roger Portell. Volunteer Paul Roth continues to collect, prepare, and donate many fine invertebrate fossils. Paul's most recent focus has been on the early Oligocene Suwannee Limestone and middle Eocene Avon Park Formation. Other notable contributions to the IP collection include; unusually formed *Mercenaria campechiensis* from the former Calusa Shell Pit donated by Barbara Fite, two rare Suwannee Limestone cephalopods (genus *Aturia*) gifted by Andreas Kerner, many exceptionally preserved Tamiami Formation crabs and echinoids contributed by Gunter Lobisch, Tampa Limestone silicified corals and mollusks donated by David Cass, Caloosahatchee mollusks from Levy County by Ed DeRouin and family, and over one hundred fossil echinoderms provided by Craig and Laurie Samuel.

Financial support during late 2008 and 2009 for numerous IP collection and research initiatives and IP student support is gratefully acknowledged. Thank you to Barbara and Reed Toomey, Jim and Lori Toomey, Wally Ward, and the South West Florida Fossil Club.

IP staff conducted a considerable amount of research-related fieldwork in 2008 and 2009, mostly in the SE USA and Cuba. In September of 2008, Roger, Jim, and Doug Jones (FLMNH Director)

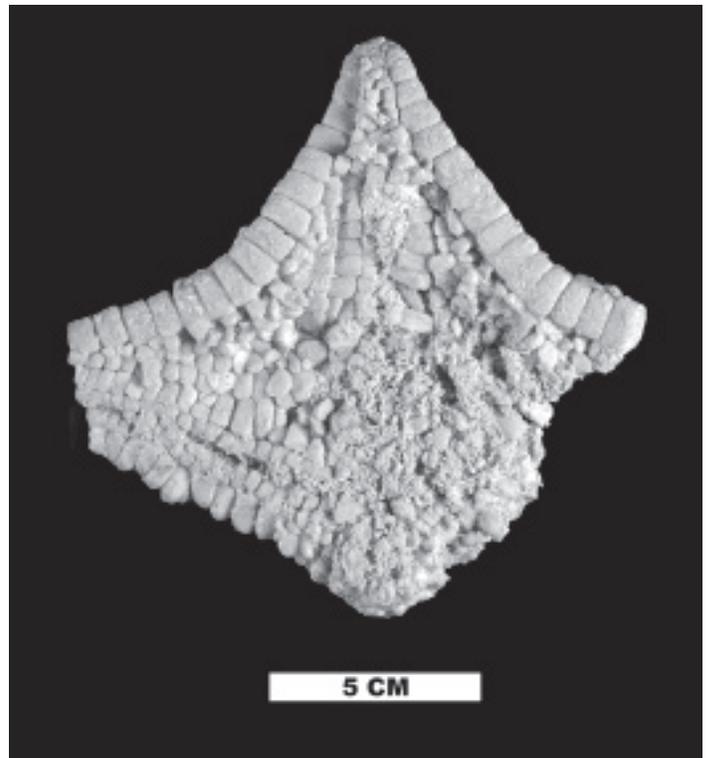
collected numerous fossil sites at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay (GTMO). Roger, Jim, and Terry Lott (FLMNH Paleobotanist) returned this past September to exploit additional sites of Eocene, Oligo-Miocene, and Pleistocene age. The team also led a fossil field trip for interested base personnel. Roger also continued to run numerous education and collecting trips for organizations such as: The National Speleological Society, Conchologists of America, Naples Nature Conservancy, Eckerd College, The University of Florida, and The University of South Florida.

In addition to Roger and Alex authoring Part 10 “Mollusca – Anastasia Formation (Late Pleistocene to Holocene)” of the popular *Florida Fossil Invertebrates* series, Roger co-authored a paper entitled “Late Eocene *Conus* (Neogastropoda: Conidae) from Florida” with J. Hendricks (San Jose State), co-authored a paper with S. Donovan (Naturalis, The Netherlands) entitled “*Campanile trevorjacksoni* sp. nov.† (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from the Eocene of Jamaica: at last, a name for the first fossil used in intercontinental biostratigraphic correlation (de la Beche 1827)”, and co-authored an article with FPS member Gordon Hubbell and others entitled “Miocene sharks in the Kendeace and Grand Bay formations of Carriacou, The Grenadines, Lesser Antilles”. Furthermore, Roger and Richard Hulbert authored a Haile Complex field guide for “Caves and Karst of Florida: A guidebook for the 2008 NSS National Convention”. Roger, Jim and others produced two guides entitled “Fossil Invertebrates of the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba”. One describes late Pleistocene mollusks and the other corals. Roger also co-authored a paper with D. Blake entitled “Implications for the study of fossil Asteroidea (Echinodermata) of new genera and species from the Eocene of Florida” in which they described two new genera and three new species of fossil sea stars. Roger, J. Collins (Natural History Museum, London) and S. Donovan also published “Decapod crustaceans from the Neogene of the Caribbean: Diversity, distribution and prospectus”.

Sean Roberts, Senior Curatorial Assistant, is continuing his work on the IP web site photo gallery, as well as updating the GIS locality database. He has made significant progress, and the IP web site now has nearly 900 specimen photographs online, 472 of which are part of the Type and Figured collection. IP has also recently hired a couple of new employees which Sean has been training in data entry.

Alex Kittle, Curatorial Assistant, continues identifying and organizing the fossil invertebrate collections housed at the FLMNH. Recently, he began the daunting task of expanding the systematic collection into forty new cabinets. He also plans to concentrate on the fossil mollusks of Florida, especially Pleistocene and eventually Pliocene formations and provide *Florida Fossil Invertebrates* guides with comprehensive faunal lists and updated taxonomy for each. Along with his museum duties, Alex recently assumed the role of editor of the FPS Newsletter.

George Hecht has been very busy fitting in ostracodes around building management. The long project of preparing the R.A. Edwards ostracode collection for cataloging and curation is about 100 lots from completion. Work is also continuing on the description of Eocene ostracodes from Seven Rivers, Jamaica. Finally, research is beginning on a revision of the ostracodes of Florida.



**CAPTION SEA STAR:** *Eocene Ocala Limestone sea star, Oyenaster oblidus, recently described by Dan Blake and Roger Portell. It was named in honor of the late Craig Oyen, a former FLMNH student and FPS member who discovered the specimen in one of the Haile quarries in Alachua County, Florida.*

**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 cooperations 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 X**

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.

**SOUTHERN FLORIDA'S FOSSIL SEASHELLS**

BY FOSSIL SHELL COLLECTORS  
Carol and Bernie Peterson

This book is geared toward amateur collectors and allows the novice to identify nearly 200 of southern Florida's most common fossil seashells and other invertebrate fossils. More than 280 black and white photos of the back and front of each shell are included along with a brief description of each species. Anyone who enjoys collecting seashells will find this book useful. Collectors of vertebrate fossils will be able to date their finds of bones and teeth, which are often found in association with fossil seashells in Florida, by identifying and dating those shells. The book is 6 inches by 9 inches and 140 pages.

Retail price is \$24.95 plus S&H for mail orders. Dealer inquiries are invited: Contact the authors at [bpeterson11@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bpeterson11@cfl.rr.com) for individual copies or bulk orders.

Order by credit card online at:  
[www.bluenotebooks.com](http://www.bluenotebooks.com)

**ANNUAL DUES** for the FPS are \$10.00 for Associate Membership (persons under age 18) and \$20.00 for Full Membership (persons over age 18) and Institutional Subscriptions. Couples may join for \$25.00, and Family Memberships (3 or more persons) are available for \$30.00. Persons interested in FPS membership need only send their names, addresses, and appropriate dues to the Secretary, Florida Paleontological Society, Inc., at the address on page 2. Please make checks payable to the FPS. Members receive the FPS newsletter, Florida Fossil Invertebrates, Fossil Species of Florida, 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.



**Florida Paleontological Society  
Fall Meeting  
November 13th-15th, 2009  
Gainesville, Florida  
Schedule of Events**

**Friday, Nov. 13th**

**6:00 - ???PM** Informal get together at the Biven's Club House.

**Saturday, Nov. 14th**

**8:30 am** Meet at Paramount lobby to caravan to the quarry.

**9:00 - 1:00pm** Quarry stop

Please pack suitable snack and drinks, there is no plan to leave the quarry for before 1 pm.

**1:00 – 5:00pm** Clean up and rehydrate before the banquet. Local attractions including the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Fall Arts festival downtown

**6:00 – 10:00pm** Banquet at Paramount Hotel and Resort (see map, please RSVP).

**7:30 – 8:00pm** **Speaker: Julie Mathis** - Leptomeridids from Nebraska: Evidence for evolution in response to global climate change?

**8:00 – 8:30pm** **Speaker: Carly Manz** – A protocetid's return to the water: Basal whale evolution and *Maiacetus inuus*.

**8:30 – 10:00pm** General Meeting: Recommendations for new board members, and officer reports

Auction: T-shirts from the Portell collection and the usual fossil casts, books, reprints, and much more. Some surprise items have been hinted at.

**Sunday Nov. 15th**

**8:00 – 9:00 am** Officers and Board meeting at Biven's clubhouse

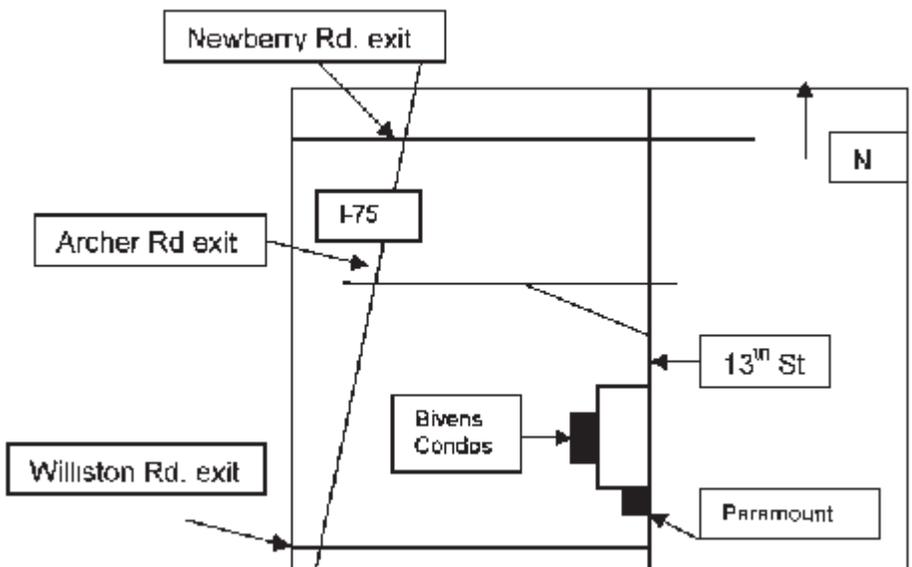
**Due to quarry restrictions no one under the age of 18 is allowed.** The quarry will be Haile or one nearby which has some promise for vertebrates. Field trip waivers will need to be signed.

For reservations for rooms at the Paramount please contact the reservations desk and ask for the FPS rate 352-377-4000

**IMPORTANT:** Please RSVP to George Hecht [fps@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:fps@flmnh.ufl.edu) or 352-273-2106 by Nov 6th and indicate **how many will be:** 1. Attending the field trip only 2. Attending the Saturday evening dinner and talks only 3. Attending both the field trip and dinner

The Paramount is the central hub for the meeting even within walking distance of the Friday night get together. Other hotels in the general vicinity are the Howard Johnsons, Days Inn, and Ramada, all on 13th street. Others can be found at the three Gainesville exits, southern end.

Please park on street at Bivens condo and enter the clubhouse gate between the North and South complexes.



## Announcing the Florida Paleontological Society's



# *Gary S. Morgan Student Research*

## *Award*

### 14th ANNUAL COMPETITION

#### Prospectus and General Overview

The Florida Paleontological Society (FPS) is pleased to announce the 14th annual competition for its student research award. The purpose of this award is to promote a better understanding of paleontology through new research discoveries. Eligible fields of relevance within paleontology include invertebrates, vertebrates, microfossils, and plants. This award is open to any student, undergraduate or graduate, in good standing at any Florida University or College.

For this competition, the FPS has allocated an award of up to \$1000. The grant's purpose is for expenditures such as (but not restricted to) field work, museum research travel, laboratory analyses, research materials, etc. It is not intended to fund travel to scientific meetings, indirect (overhead) costs, salaries, or wages. Deadline for receipt of proposals is 1 December 2009.

Applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline and be sent to the Awards Chairman at the address listed below. Applications will be reviewed by committee and judged based on the following criteria: (1) merit of proposed research, (2) feasibility of project, (3) clarity of expression, and (4) strength of recommendation letter from faculty sponsor. The screening/award committee shall consist of both professional and avocational paleontologists. The Awardee will be notified after 15 December 2009 and the FPS Treasurer will send a check for the requested amount (up to \$1000.) to the recipient.

It is expected that, during or after completion of the research, the recipient(s) will present results of their discoveries in the form of (1) a short article of a non-technical nature to be published in the FPS Newsletter and/or (2) a talk presented at an FPS meeting. In the event of the latter, the student's travel expenses to the meeting shall be paid by the FPS (this expense should not be included in the submitted proposal).

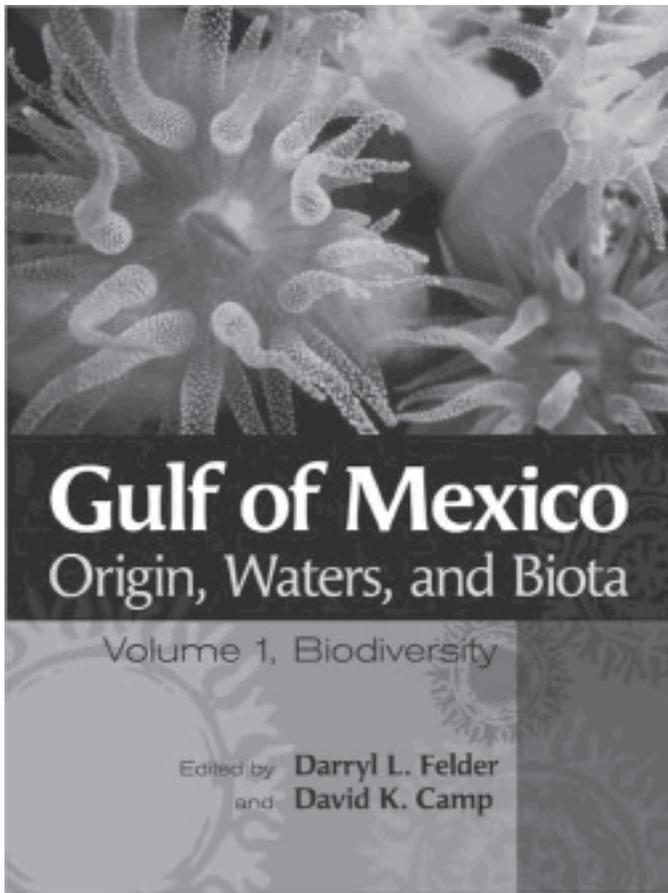
#### Application Process and Requirements:

The application is intended to be short - thus, items 1-4 (combined) are limited to two pages (minimum 10 point type, standard 1" margins). The application must include:

1. Title of research project
2. Name, address, and phone number of applicant
3. Current college status (where enrolled, major, degree program, anticipated graduation date).
4. Project description written in general, i.e., to the extent possible, non-technical, terms to include a description of what he/she plans to study, why it is interesting or important, how and when it will be done, and a budget of proposed expenditures.
5. Appended to the proposal, a letter from a faculty sponsor who will vouch for the qualifications of the applicant (as well as the importance of the project) and a short statement that the faculty member will supervise the research.

Applications should be postmarked by 1 December 2009 and sent to:

Roger W. Portell, Awards Chairman  
Florida Paleontological Society  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-2035



**GULF OF MEXICO: ORIGIN, WATERS,  
AND BIOTA: VOLUME 1, BIODIVERSITY**

**EDITED BY:**

Darryl L. Felder and David K. Camp

This reference, for scientists, and students of marine organisms, is a complete biodiversity inventory of the Gulf of Mexico with full taxonomic and biogeographic information. The book includes a comprehensive summary of research on Gulf biota through 2004. It lists more than fifteen thousand species in 38 phyla and includes the work of 138 authors from 14 countries. This volume provides information on each species' habitat, biology, and geographic range, along with full references and a narrative introduction to the group. The book is of interest to anyone interested in the organisms that inhabit the Gulf of Mexico, their biogeography and a thorough summary of scholarly articles on the subject. Published by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies the book is available from Amazon and other major booksellers for approximately \$70 - \$80.

**FPS Product Sales**

**Prices are for current FPS members only**

**Shipping and Handling Extra**

Vinac 15 (price per pound)	\$7.00
MC Thomas, Beach and Bank Collecting	\$5.00
H Converse, Paleo Preparation Techniques	\$10.00
Hulbert, Fossil Vertebrates of Florida	\$31.00

**Florida Fossil Invertebrates**

Part 1, Eocene Echinoids	\$7.00
Part 2, Oligocene and Miocene Echinoids	\$7.00
Part 3, Pliocene and Pleistocene Echinoids	\$7.00
Part 4, Pliocene and Pleistocene Decapod Crustaceans	\$7.00
Part 5, Eocene, Oligocene, and Miocene Decapod Crustaceans	\$7.00
Part 6, Larger Foraminifera (Introduction)	\$7.00
Part 7, Larger Foraminifera (Common Taxa)	\$7.00
Part 8, Brachiopods	\$7.00
Part 9, Mollusca (Shoal River Formation)	\$12.00
Part 10, Mollusca (Anastasia Formation)	\$10.00
Part 11, Eocene and Oligocene Corals	TBA

**Fossil Species of Florida**

Number 1, <i>Mammut americanum</i>	\$5.00
Number 2, <i>Tapirus veroensis</i>	\$5.00

**T-shirt (XL only)** \$10.00

**Coffee Mug** \$4.00

Sales Tax (Florida residents) add 6.75%

To purchase the above items, please contact:

[fps@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:fps@flmnh.ufl.edu)

or

George Hecht, Treasurer  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
Box 117800  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611-7800

**FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**Mail completed form to :**  
Florida Paleontological Society  
University of Florida, Box 117800  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP**

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. INDIVIDUAL ACTIVE (\$20.00) _____ | 2. INSTITUTIONAL (\$20.00) _____      |
| 3. COUPLES (\$25.00) _____           | 4. FAMILY (3 or more \$30.00) _____   |
| 5. LIFE (\$500.00) _____             | 6. ASSOCIATE (under 18 \$10.00) _____ |

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:

	VERTEBRATE	INVERTEBRATE	BOTANY	MICRO
PLEISTOCENE	_____	_____	_____	_____
PLIOCENE	_____	_____	_____	_____
MIOCENE	_____	_____	_____	_____
OLIGOCENE	_____	_____	_____	_____
EARLIER	_____	_____	_____	_____

4. LIST ANY PREFERRED TYPES (Echinoids, Crabs, Horses, Sloths, Plants, 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, PERPARATION, 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.