



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

MARCH 2018

Letter from the President

Busy time of the year for fossil folk!! We just had our 13th annual fossil festival, the Tampa Fossil Fest is March 10 and 11, the Cape Coral fossil show is March 31, and the Venice Shark tooth Festival is April 13, 14 and 15!! Add to that the annual FCOLC fossil auction on March 15th! AND—the rivers and creeks are way down, inviting fossil fiends to go get 'em! What a happy time of the year!!

Many thanks to Lou Kiesling and Valerie Rahn for organizing our very successful 13th annual Fossil Festival!! They worked hard and did a great job, even getting perfect beautiful weather for that day! Lou and Val incorporated a few new features to the show this year. One was “Education Alley”! It had a great info reader board and a walkway of fossils to see and learn from. Another addition this year, alongside our always popular kid's dig and activity tables was a ring toss game, dino-themed corn hole game, individual rock painting, and additional crafts activities. Decorated with a giant balloon arch, the kids loved to walk under it and enter kiddie fossil land! AND—on the outside of that Lou and Val designed and built a shark photo op! Along with all the variety from the many fossil dealers, the people who attended the festival had a great time! Thank you Lou and Val, and, of course, the Shell Factory!! And, all the terrific club members who showed up and supported and helped!

It's time to renew membership's folks, if you have not yet done so. See AL Govin at the meeting!

We have a good relationship with the great folks at the Shell Factory. Their fossil museum is very nice, and we keep club contact literature there. They also help us tremendously with the fossil festival. Much of this has come about because of the interest of Tom Cronin, the owner. However, it is with deep regret that I must inform you that Mr. Tom Cronin has passed away. He was an exceedingly nice man, always good to talk with and a heck of a businessman. His wife, his employees, as well as many, many people in the community will miss him dearly. Tom was a good guy! It's a sad fact of life that we must lose people like Tom. His passing will be felt by many.

Our annual fossil auction is March 15!! As the auctioneer, I can ensure you that you will have some very nice items to add to your collection! I am on the lookout all year long for potential additions to our auction, and am pleased to announce that this year we will have 104 lots to actively bid on, and about 20 for the silent auction! Because of the time to do this auction, we always start a bit earlier than our regular meetings. The time will be for registration and viewing - 5:30 to 6:15. We will have a short business meeting from 6:15 to 6:30, with the auction starting PROMPTLY at 6:30.

This month-March-is our elections. We have only one change in the officers and directors, with that change being the addition of a new director, Travis Willis. So, unless I hear from any other member before the meeting, the slate of officers will be Louis Stieffel-president, Leslie Stieffel-vice-president, & Al Govin Treasurer/secretary.

The directors will be Dave Seehaver, Jeanne Seehaver, Dean Hart, Dr. John Taraska, and Travis Willis. This slate will be voted on in its' entirety, with yeas and nays. Please attend this meeting to help elect your board, as well as participate in the auction.

A fossil trip is planned for March 24th. Travis Willis, our new trips coordinator, has announced this date, and it will be a joint trip along with the Southwest Florida Fossil Society and the Manasota Fossil Club. We will meet at Crews Park in Wauchula. These group trips are fun for all. Try to schedule it on your calendar and participate. Travis will answer any questions you may have, at this next meeting.

Refreshments were provided at the February meeting By Travis and Lana Willis. Thanks!! This month will be by the Bonita Beach Gang, who have a tradition of covering the refreshments at the annual fossil auction! What a great group to have in our club. April will be Linda Simmons. May will be Pam Siegal.

We had a great speaker in February! Victor Perez presented an interesting and informative talk about Megalodon sharks! We learned some interesting facts, and thanks go to Victor for his 3rd talk to our club! It's a long drive from FLMNH in Gainesville, and we really do appreciate it! March will be the auction. I do not yet have a speaker for April. May speaker will be William Courtwright, who will speak about Florida agatized corals!

February 24 saw Lou, Val and myself, represent the FCOLC at the recent Burrowing Owl Festival in Cape Coral. We spoke to lots of folks and passed out info about the club. I encourage members to participate in these sort of outreach opportunities, as it helps the club stay viable long term.

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22. Our club may get involved in some sort of river cleanup. We use the river and enjoy it, but some folks (not us!) trash it. If we help clean it up it spreads awareness and may just educate a few folks to carry their trash home.

Hope to see a LOT of you guys at the March auction meeting!!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President
239-851-7499, cape187@earthlink.net
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President
239-980-6311, cape187@earthlink.net
Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer
239-910-2339, algovin1@hotmail.com

DIRECTORS

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217
Dave Seehaver
Jeanne Seehaver
Dr. John Taraska

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director
Curt Klug, Web Master
Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer
Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips
Cindy Bateman, Librarian
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise
Dean Hart, Refreshment
Victoria O'Toole, \$1 Raffle
Lou and Valerie Rahn, Festival Organizers
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers, Vertebrate Education

Here is a site that has every river and creek mapped **for the whole state**, separated by county. Click on the zoomify tab below each map to zoom in. Enjoy !

Save to your desktop so you can find and use it often!

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/hydrography/index.php>

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church , 7401 Winker Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. c/o AL GOVIN
TREASURER
3584 MIDDLETOWN ST. PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33952

The FCOLC website is a source for links to Fossil websites of interest, archived monthly club newsletters, details on club meetings and officers.

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville www.flmnh.ufl.edu/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Smithsonian Natural History Museum www.mnh.si.edu

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL www.shellmuseum.org

Cracker Museum at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs, FL Tel 863.735.0119

www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls

www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium 3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers Tel 239-275-3435

www.calusanature.org

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

www.i-sci.org

Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club

www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club

www.floridafossilhunters.com

The Fossil Forum

www.thefossilforum.com/index.php

Fossil Treasures of Florida

www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com

Florida Paleontological Society

<http://floridapaleosociety.com/>

Collecting Vertebrate Fossils on Florida state lands **requires** a permit. A fossil hunting permit is also part of being an ethical Florida fossil hunter.

Florida Vertebrate **Fossil Permit** <http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>

Peace River Water Levels

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/rt>

Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm

Lou and Val,

I, along with the board, as well as the membership of the Fossil Club of Lee County, would like to thank you for all the hard work, creative ideas, and the many hours you guys spent on organizing the 13th annual Fossil Club of Lee County Fossil festival!!

We had large crowds throughout the day, and everyone attending enjoyed the festive atmosphere, varied vendor offerings, and terrific children's activities, along with great weather and an all-around nice day!

As with any event of this magnitude, a few small glitches occurred, but with all the planning you did, these were quickly solved and the attendees were none the wiser.

I believe from discussions with the vendors, that most of them did as well or exceeded their expectations. I'm sure most would welcome a chance to return again next year.

The club members I spoke with had fun, and even though it was long hours they did not mind. Getting to spend the day talking fossils with folks made it fun for all.

I will be in contact with the Shell factory soon, to follow-up, but I'm sure they were happy with the amount of attendees we had, with most of them also visiting the Shell Factory store, restaurant, and facilities.

So, overall, we had a very successful Fossil Festival and the club would like to thank you for doing such a great job!!

Louis Stieffel, Fossil Club of Lee County.

FCOLC Meeting Minutes 2/15/18

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order

79 members present

Louis asked for donations for the March Auction which is our number 1 fund raiser.

Travis Willis spoke about potential upcoming trips. A sheet was passed around to find out how many interested as well as getting email contacts.

Door prizes were drawn

Lou Kiesling spoke about upcoming Fossil Fest, volunteer sheets were out to sign up.

Louis spoke about upcoming Fossil fest and stressed need for members to volunteer and support our number two fund raiser.

Speaker Victor Perez spoke about megalodon sharks and the new formulas that are being considered to more accurately determine the size of these sharks.

Break was taken to enjoy fabulous meal provided by Travis & Lana Willis.

Dollar Raffle was held.

Meeting adjourned

FOSSIL COLLECTING TRIP!!

I pasted this letter (so I didn't have to repeat it all!) from Bryan Roberts of the Manasota club which he sent out to their members. The SWFFS will also be joining us, for a 3 club outing!! Should be a fun day! Louis

Subject: Upcoming collecting trip

Hello all,

Our Peace River collecting trip is on for **Saturday, March 24**. We will joining with the Lee County Cub and the SW FL Society in what Louis Stieffel rightly termed "a new era of cooperation and camaraderie between the local clubs". I could not agree more... many thanks to my fellow club presidents Leslie and Louis for working to make this happen.

We will meet at Riverside Park (also known as Crews Park) in Wachula at 9 AM for kayakers (or even earlier if you are really ambitious) and 10 AM if you plan to dig the nearby gravel beds. This park also has a couple of shelters plus bathrooms, although the bathrooms were locked the last time we met up there on a Saturday. There is, however, a Circle K convenience store across the road and down about .1 mile so pretty much all of your bases will be covered.

Directions: take Rt. 17 into Wachula and in the middle of town, go east on Main St., which is also Rt. 636. From the center of town, go east about 1 mile and turn left onto Riverside Dr. Then immediately turn right and the park is right there. If you go over the Peace River you missed it! The park is essentially at the NW corner of Rt. 636 and the river. There is plenty of parking, although most of it is a grassy field.

Bring the usual things... a sifter, a shovel, sneakers or dive boots, bug spray, a hat, sunscreen, and wear old clothes. You will also want to bring plenty of water plus lunch/snacks. This trip is open to all club members so no need to RSVP... no limit either on the number of folks who want to attend. If you can't make the 10 AM time, don't worry... just show when you can since this will be an all-day event. If anyone doesn't have a sifter, let me know... I have an extra one plus a lot of tie-on cloth pouches courtesy of Home Depot. These are great for stowing your finds while digging.

The rough plan is for folks to re-gather mid or late afternoon to examine our finds, help with ID, etc. With the folks coming from the other clubs, there will be plenty of experts on hand.

Thanks and I hope to see lots of folks next month

Cheers!
Bryan Roberts



Aimee Hankel posted in Fossil Club Of Lee County.

<https://zookeeperfossils.blogspot.com>

Aimeee's Corner!!

Caloosahatchee River Quest

I recently went on an expedition to the Caloosahatchee River with club members Vickie Manderfield and Mike Cox and Mike's friend, Keith, in search of the beautiful large light colored makos that Mike recently showed us at the Fossil Fest. Hunting this river is very different from digging in the Peace. Much of the Caloosahatchee has been dredged to accommodate large boats so digging and screening isn't possible. Instead, searching is done along the banks, where new material is constantly being dislodged by boat waves, and checking out exposures of spoil piles where dredged material has been dumped. The USGS web site states that the mollusk bearing sediments of southern Florida contain some of the most abundant and diverse fossil faunas in the world with the Caloosahatchee formation being dated to late Pliocene-early Pleistocene. All well and good but our hunting yielded more in the "dearth" category than "abundance." Still, as always, it was great to be outside in a unique environment, talking fossils with friends, and fossil hunting is much more relaxed when you're not digging. The Caloosahatchee formation is mainly known for fossil shells and even though I don't generally collect shells, a few nice specimens rounded out the day. I went to club member Rick Batts for help with the ID's which you will find on the accompanying photo. I didn't find a single shark tooth but everyone else in the group came up with at least one small specimen to take home. Vickie and I both found horse teeth and I came away with a giant armadillo scute. Paddling along the banks of the Caloosahatchee would be a nice way to spend some off-season fossil hunting time as the water levels remain stable throughout the year. Just be aware that large boats pass by on a regular basis and can swamp your kayak or canoe if you're not careful.



Fossil hunting, Caloosahatchee River style.

Aimeee's Corner!!



Caloosahatchee



Aimeee's Corner!!



HOW DID THE DINOSAURS DIE?

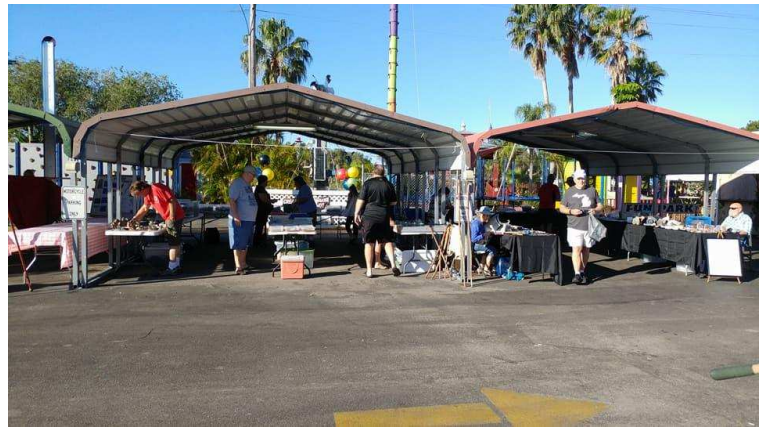
After Dinosaurs ate everything on Earth, they dug deep into the ground to search for food.

Sadly, they became trapped in the holes, which is why their skeletons are found underground today.



SOME PICTURES FROM THE FCOLC 2018 FOSSIL FESTIVAL!!

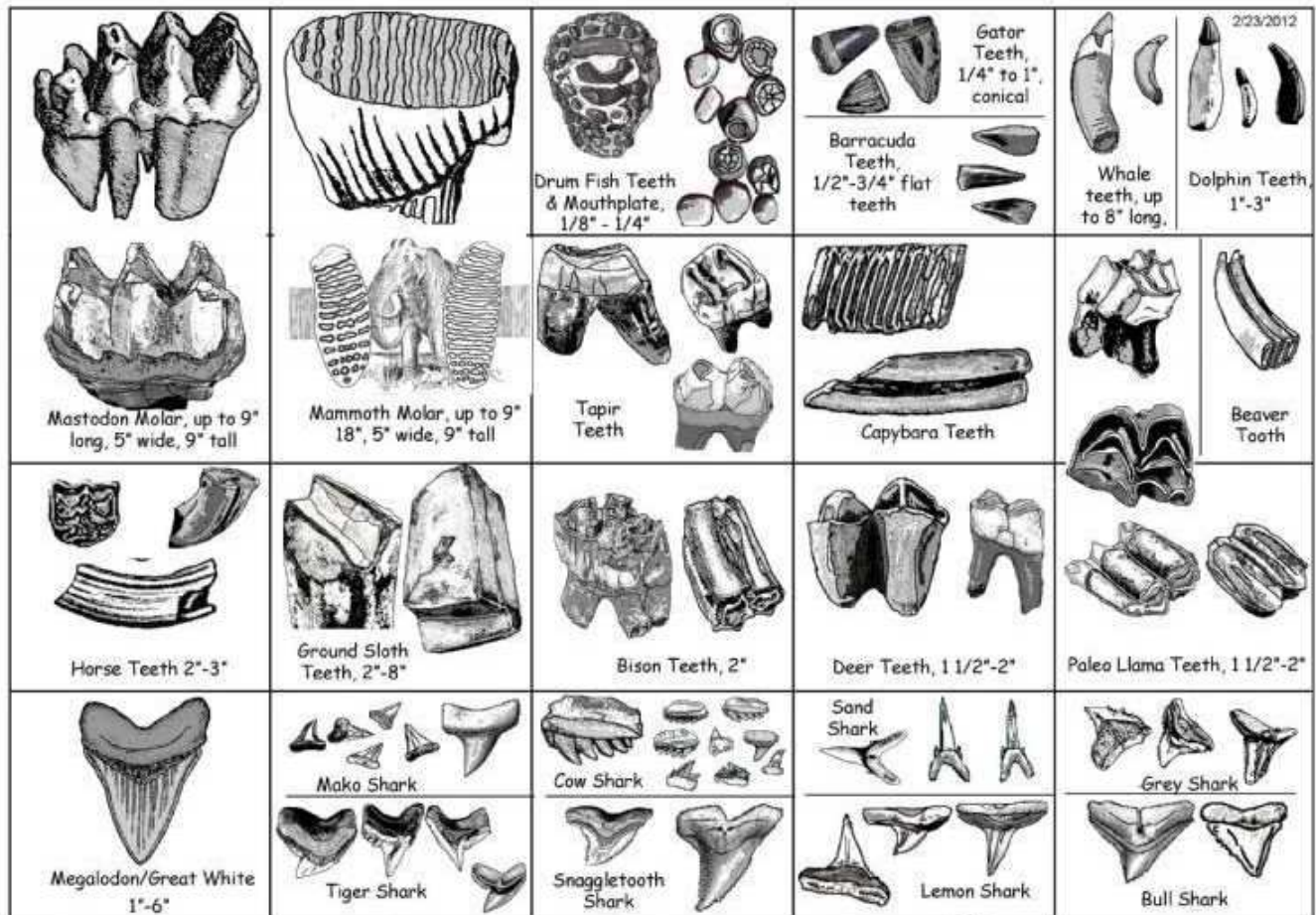
Many more pictures can be found on the FCOLC face book page.



SOME MORE PICTURES FROM THE FCOLC 2018 FOSSIL FESTIVAL!!

Many more pictures can be found on the FCOLC face book page.





Peace River Fossils  www.canoeoutpost.com

For those of you who ask what books to get-- here's a great group!

We offer most, if not all, in the club store at the meetings.



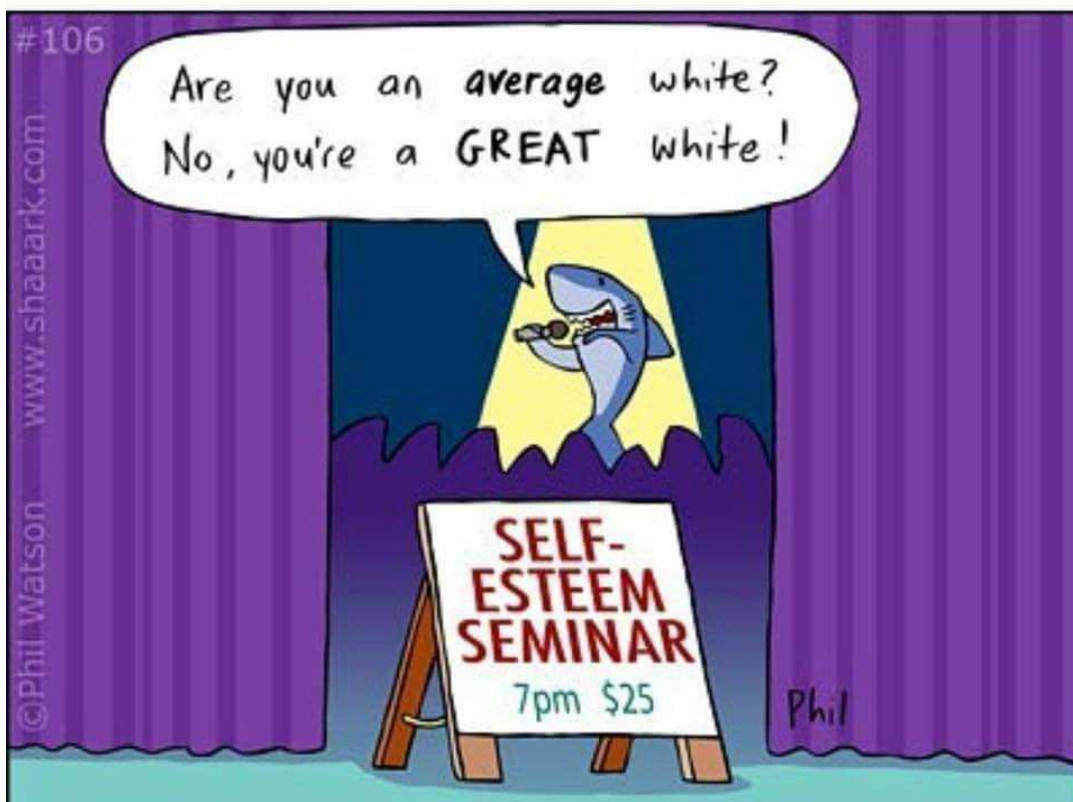
SHOW AND TELL!!

A beautiful picture of a fossil turban shell operculum! Collected and photographed by [Dawn Linda Borys Markoski](#). Posted on the FCOLC facebook page!



sharkcartoons

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Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society Inc., a non-profit educational organization, is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 6th, 7th & 8th, 2018 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show -me: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, artifacts, metaphysical stones, cabochons, wire wrapping, etc. Silent Auction and Door Prizes offered. Demonstrations. Family Activities. Scavenger Hunt. Admission: Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Scouts with uniforms free. Website: www.cfmgs.org. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or ssfossilhunter@aol.com. If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 407-816-1229. Thank you. Betty Sumner Secretary Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

Here is a terrific idea, brought to the club's attention by Valerie Rahn! Seems that Amazon will donate a portion of any purchase you make—to the Fossil Club of Lee County!! But, you need to register with Amazon, to be able to have this work. It cost you nothing, and you still shop exactly the same as you normally would. Valerie posted these instructions on our FCOLC Facebook page. I copied them here. **THIS IS A GOOD THING!! PLEASE do this!**
Thank you VALERIE!!



Please Help Us with our
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1. Go to www.smile.amazon.com
2. Select: **Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc.** as your Non-profit.
3. Use www.smile.amazon.com every time you shop Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to us.
4. It costs nothing but can mean everything.
5. **THANK YOU!!**

**CAPE CORAL FOSSIL SHOW—MARCH 31, 2018
ROTARY PARK, CAPE CORAL, FL.**

FLMNH Database search tutorial

Here's the tutorial for the search function my talk was based on. This should help navigate the database and look at fossils.

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To view images of vertebrate fossils from the Florida Museum of Natural History collections:

1. Go to floridamuseum.ufl.edu/vertpaleo-search
2. To see images check the “Only Results With Images” box at the top of the search
3. Enter your search terms of interest:
 - Taxonomic terms (e.g., Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)
 - These are all latinized names, so you will need to know (generally) what you are looking for. Good resources include “The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida” -Richard Hulbert, the taxonomic lists on the FLMNH Vertebrate Fossil Sites pages (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/sites/), FLMNH species accounts (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/species/), or simply by using Google.
 - Locality terms (e.g., County, Site, Formation, Land Mammal Age, Epoch)
 - Again, some of these terms may be unfamiliar to a general collection, such as the Hemphillian North American Land Mammal Age, but resources on the FLMNH website (e.g., floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/land-mammal-ages/) should be able to provide some help.
 - Collection terms (e.g., Collector, Donor Name, Date Collected)
 - These should be fairly self-explanatory.
 - Anatomical terms (Nature of Specimen)
 - This will perhaps be the most commonly used search field, but also the trickiest to navigate without familiarity of the terms used. I would recommend changing the drop-down menu from “Equals” to “Contains” so that search returns all results with the search term entered. Most anatomical terms will bring back the terms you will likely be looking for. For example, typing in “ulna” in the Nature of Specimen field and changing the drop-down to contains will return all ulnae from our collection that have been imaged, “femur” will return all femora, “vertebra” all vertebrae, “skull” all skulls, “mandible” all lower jaws, etc.

However, due to our identification system, searching on “tooth” will only return a subset of all the photos of our teeth. This because our teeth are labeled as C, I, P, or M (for canine, incisor, premolar, or molar, respectively) for mammals and then given a number that pertains to which exact tooth it is (1 through 4). So, a P4, left upper would be a left upper fourth premolar while a m3, right lower would be a right lower third molar. If you simply switch the drop-down to “Contains” and type “p1” then “p2” then “p3” then “p4” into the Nature of Specimen field you should all images that contain a premolar in them or “m1”, “m2”, “m3” for specimens that contain a molar. It’s a little tricky, but feel free to email me atmmoran@ufl.edu if you can’t get it figured out. Hopefully, in the future the database search function will be a little more user-friendly.
4. Click the blue “Submit Query” button
 - This will return all the images at the bottom of the page for the search you typed in above.

Other useful hints include switching between the table and list option in results box, clicking the “Display” box for a field that may not show up by default, sorting by a particular field using the “Sort Direction” drop-down menu, and exporting the results as a .csv file.



PALEO WORKSHOPS

Learn about Florida's prehistoric past in a FossilFest workshop! Experienced collectors will teach you how to find, identify, and preserve fossil treasures of your very own! All workshops are free to FossilFest attendees!

Saturday & Sunday

Discovering Florida's Fossil Treasures with TBFC's own Dr. Bob Sinibaldi PhD. Learn where and how to find fossils of your own right here in Florida!

Florida's Fossil Vertebrates & the Fossil Hunting Permit with Dr. Richard Hulbert PhD of the Florida Museum of Natural History. It's cheap and easy! Learn how to get your fossil permit and participate in the science of paleontology.

The Perfect Plaster Jacket & Other Preservation Techniques with Bill Faucher. Learn how to successfully get fossils from the field to your lab. Jacking, glues, and preservation techniques are discussed for the beginner.

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Intersection of I-4 & Hwy 301 just east of Tampa.**



