

Florida Paleontological Society , Inc.

Newsletter



Volume 5 Number 1 Winter Quarter 1988

FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Leidy Centennial	Dr. S. David Webb, Robin C. Brown
Membership	Anita Brown, Phil Whisler
1988 Fall Meeting	Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Anita Brown, Dan Bryant

Honorary Member - Margaret C. Thomas

Editor - Phillip M. Whisler, 158 Venice East Blvd., Venice,
Newsletter FL 34293

Editor - Gary Morgan, Florida State Museum, Gainesville,
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FSM Representative Dr. S. David Webb

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In Memoriam

HOWARD H. CONVERSE, JR.
July 23, 1936 - October 2, 1987

Mr. Howard H. Converse, Jr., died at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, October 2, 1987, at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville.

Howard was a career employee of the museum, beginning January 18, 1971. He rose through the career service ranks to the prestigious position of Senior Museum Curator. Howard was genuinely talented and gave freely of his skills as both a craftsman and administrator. He was equally adept as an artist, craftsman, educator, horticulturist, paleontologist, fossil preparator and gem cutter.

In the FSM vertebrate paleontology laboratory, Howard developed techniques for fossil preparation. He shared his knowledge with others through a lab manual and videotape he produced as well as workshops and scientific meetings across the country. In addition, he was a charter member of the Florida Paleontological Society, founded in 1978, and served as its first secretary-treasurer, a volunteer position he faithfully filled for several years.

As a gem cutter, orchid and bromeliad grower, Howard was an exhibitor in many museum public events. He also taught both bromeliad and aquarium culture at Santa Fe Community College and was an accomplished multimedia producer. Howard also did field work in Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Honduras and Indonesia.

I think we will all remember the terrific exhibits that Howard designed and built for Open House. We will also remember him as the person we called upon if we needed something fixed, found, moved or unloaded. He truly loved the museum and was an exceptional employee. We will miss him.

Memorial services were held at Williams-Thomas Funeral Home in Gainesville Monday afternoon, October 5. VP's David Webb delivered the eulogy.

Graig Shaak
October 2, 1987

Each of us grieves the loss of a good friend in our own way. Upon receiving the news of Howard's death, Frank Garcia felt a deep loss and expressed his feelings in the following letter.

A FAREWELL TO HOWARD

Dear Howard:

Do you remember how we first met? It was 1969, at the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club, Inc.'s Annual Gem & Mineral Show in Tampa, Florida. I was exhibiting my very first showcase of fossils in the Competitive Exhibits, and you were one of the judges. You gave me advice and council on my showcase, on competitive competing, and on fossils. But best of all, you gave me friendship.

After we got to know each other better you invited me to see the magnificent American Mastodon skeleton which you had put together in West Palm Beach. At that time the only skeleton assembled by an amateur! I was impressed at the beautiful job you had done, since you were an amateur, just like me. You worked as a metallurgist for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in West Palm Beach. At the same time you also worked for the West Palm Beach Museum and Planetarium, as Curator of Paleontology. You asked me to work with you, and I took the position as your Research Assistant. You inspired me and gave me - and many others after me - the encouragement to further my study of paleontology and to keep setting and reaching for higher goals.

Over the next few years we became the best of friends and often would take our families with us on our fossil hunts to the phosphate mines in Bone Valley, Florida or to the wonderful Blacan Fossil Site in Kissimmee, Florida.

I remember the day I took you to the phosphate mines in Polk County, Florida and the look on your face when you found your first rhino tooth! I remember the day you got heat stroke and I had to carry you out of the mines! That surprised me, since you were always so physically fit. I have always prided myself on being an excellent badminton player, unbeaten in tournament play. But out of the five times that I ever lost a game, four of these were lost to you! You were quite an athlete!

I admired you because, like two other respected and revered gentlemen, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, your intellect, talents and interests had no boundaries. You were an expert on wild animals and tropical fish and had degrees in each. You had a great love of orchids and became an expert in this field as well. And you made the best homemade beer on earth.

You got a job working with the Florida State Museum in Gainesville as a laboratory technician and became an expert on the reconstruction of fossils. Dr. S. David Webb, you, and I worked as a team. The fossils I found were sent to Dr. Webb. You put them together and Dr. Webb researched and described them.

I have lots of photographs of you and me and a couple of fossils you gave me from the West Palm site - and I will always cherish those. On the desk in Dr. Webb's office sits a coprolite that I gave him - and you had gold-plated! I like to think this is rather symbolic of the friendship that cemented the three of us - a measure of history and science and a dash of foolishness and horseplay which produced a friendship more precious than gold!

I remember you in so many ways! Your funny laughter still echoes in my mind. You never had time to write me but inevitably would hastily scrawl "p.s.'s" at the bottom of Dr. Webb's neatly typed letters to me.

Rick Carter and I were hunting fossils last Sunday when he told me the most shocking and sobering news of my life. He told me you had passed away. You were much too young to die, Howard, there are too many fossils left behind for you to mold. Too much yet to seek out and discover. Too many more badminton games unplayed, and too much beer yet to drink. Since I never told you how much you meant to my career, and since I did not get to attend the funeral, I wanted to say good-bye, ol buddy.

As I gaze across my room now at the mementos of my past I see the old badminton racket that I used in my desperate attempts to beat you. It's leaning against a box of bones. Oh, for one more badminton game ...I am very glad I never got to beat you, dear friend. You shall remain the champ!

You were a gift to science and to all of us and we will both miss you.

With great respect, admiration, and my heartfelt thanks

Your friend,

Frank

 *
 * Dues are due. As a matter of fact they are "Over Due". *
 * Please forward dues immediately to our Secretary, Anita *
 * Brown. If dues are not received then your name will be *
 * dropped from the mailing list. *
 * *

MINUTES OF MEETING

Fall 1987

The annual meeting of the Florida Paleontological Society was held at the Reitz Union Auditorium, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida on November 21, 1987.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Serbousek at 9:00 AM. President Serbousek welcomed all members to the meeting. He appointed Dan Bryant Chairman of the tellers Committee. He then introduced Dr. David Webb, Chairman of the program. Dr. Webb welcomed the members to the University and presented the following program:

Fossils, Uplift, and Sinkholes in Florida by Douglas Jones.

This presentation discussed how fossils found in elevated beach ridges in Florida are used in the reconstruction of the history of the sea level, uplift and limestone dissolution in the state, accounting for many of the topographic features seen today.

Pleistocene Man in Florida by Jim Dunbar.

This program included a description of land and water sites, showing butcher marks and artifacts, and discussed the relationship between the paleofauna and paleoman.

Development of Geologic History of Southwest Florida Using Vertebrate and Invertebrate Fossils by John Waldrop.

Mr. Waldrop described the progress that he has made in determining Southwest Florida stratigraphy and it's paleohistory.

Following the program and a coffee break, President Serbousek went into the business meeting. He spoke briefly about the contributions of prior presidents and stated that they had offered a challenge to him in his efforts as President. He then called on Dan Bryant to report on the balloting for elections of Officers. Bryant reported that the slate of officers as presented by the Nominations committee had been elected unanimously and made a motion that the ballots be destroyed. The motion was seconded and passed without discussion. The meeting was turned over to Phil Whisler, the newly elected President.

President Whisler thanked Don Serbousek for the good job that he had done as President; thanked the Florida State Museum and Staff for hosting the meeting. He then thanked members for the donated door prizes to be given away at the close of the business session. Rick Carter donated a specimen of fossil wood from Bone Valley; two cases of beautiful Pliocene shells were donated by Bill Webster; a large tooth

of Charcarodon megalodon was donated by Phil Whisler. The shells were identified by Vi and Charlie Hertweck. The display cases were made by Dan Prestia, Venice, Fl. Identifying plates were donated by The Printer of Venice, Venice, Fl.

The President called for the minutes. The Secretary offered to read them but noted that they had been published in the summer newsletter, Volume 4, Number 2. The President asked for corrections. Bill Webster made a motion that the minutes of the last meeting which were printed in the newsletter, Volume 4, Number 2, be approved as printed. The motion was seconded and passed without discussion.

In the absence of the treasurer, it was determined that the books would be sent to an accountant for review as soon as they were obtained by the new Treasurer, Roger Portell. The Secretary stated that to the best of her knowledge all bills had been paid and that the last statement she had seen showed a balance on hand of several thousand dollars.

President Whisler moved on to old business. He requested volunteers for the M. C. Thomas book committee. Dave Webb volunteered. Further discussion was referred to the Board.

Bruce MacFadden reported that the initial editing for the Plaster Jacket book has been completed and that the results had been placed into the computer. There remains editing of the text and scientific data; upgrading of the illustrations and pictures before the book will be ready for final editing. Further information will be available at the Spring Meeting.

Bill Webster and Ray Robinson were appointed to present a Waiver of Liability at the Spring Meeting. They said they would have copies ready for members to sign at that time, using the sample recommended by Bessie Hall.

David Webb brought up for discussion the request made by Clayton Ray for a donation to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology of which Dr. Bruce MacFadden is the current President. Dr Webb explained the use of the funds requested by the national/international society and recommended support by the Florida Paleontological Society. Following discussion, motions were made, motions were amended and motions withdrawn, with Bill Webster making a final motion that upon completion of the review of the books that \$250.00 be donated. That if sufficient funds were not available because of prior commitments that the membership be notified at the next meeting so that private donations could be made; that this donation be ongoing, provided that funds are available, from year to year. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Webb reported that the Florida State Museum is in the process of establishing an award for honorary recognition of outstanding amateurs in the field of Paleontology. He then suggested that the first award be named in honor of the late Howard Converse, Chief Preparator at the Florida State Museum and a founding member of FPS.

A letter from Bessie Hall, resigning as Chairman of the State Fossil

Committee was discussed. It was brought to the attention of the members that the Florida Geological Survey has for years given unofficial recognition to *Eupatagus antillarum*, an Eocene echinoid, as the State Fossil. In addition, it was suggested by the letter from Mrs. Hall that the task set for this committee was beyond the capabilities of one person both financially and in time required to achieve success. It was determined that the committee should be terminated.

Anita Brown reported that as of November 20, there were 269 paid members in the society. All dues Paid after October 1 of each year are credited to the following year. Dues are actually due on January 1 and should be paid prior to the spring newsletter at which time the paid up members will be listed in that publication. Mailing lists are available from the Secretary. They can be provided to members at cost. Several different lists are available. Members should speak to the Secretary to get a price based on what they need. Currently, all new members receive a society pin and the person recommending the society to them also receives a pin. Mrs. Brown thanked Phil Whisler for his help on the Membership Committee.

President Whisler requested more news for the newsletters. There will not be newsletters unless there is news to print. All members were requested to respond with any information of interest to the membership. Complimentary newsletters will be sent to contributors and to people mentioned in published articles. Children especially like to see their names and news in print.

Gary Morgan reported the first issue of Letters in Florida Paleontology is ready to be printed and we are waiting for bids from several printers. The second issue is in process and should not be long to the final stages and publication.

Dr. Bruce MacFadden volunteered to serve as chairman for the Annual Meeting in 1988. It will be the 10th anniversary of the Society. He suggested an expanded meeting to include, in addition to the morning meeting and the afternoon at the Museum, tours of various labs and other facilities, a hospitality hour and a dinner meeting with a speaker. This suggestion was met with enthusiastic approval by all present. Phil Whisler appointed him as chairman of the next annual meeting. MacFadden requested anyone who had a suggestion for an outstanding speaker to get in touch with him.

President Whisler requested discussion from members present about their ideas on paying speakers or reimbursing them for their out of pocket expenses. Several members addressed this question and Bob Marsh made a motion that funds should be made available to pay mileage, housing and meals for speakers. The motion was seconded and during the discussion it was determined that the members wanted reimbursement for non-members, particularly from out of state. Mr Marsh amended the motion for the Board to approve certain expenses for outside speakers. The motion was seconded as amended and passed.

President Whisler announced that for today the Museum was closed to the public. That at the end of the business session, the meeting would be

adjourned; that the Board would have a short meeting during lunch, then all were encouraged to go to Homasassa Springs for a meeting sponsored by Ben Waller. This meeting, to start at 2:30 PM and open to all FPS members, was to have a special exhibit of fossil elephant material followed by an evening lecture series. The cost of the meeting included an evening meal.

President Whisler requested that members donate door prizes for the spring meeting. He requested that anyone with suggestions for the spring meeting to get in touch with him as soon as possible.

Jeri Freidman, a member of the Gainesville Gem and Mineral Society, invited FPS members to participate in a field trip to Occidental Mine in White Springs at a date in January or February which will be set in the near future; and to a Florida Rock Swap in Ocala. Both dates will be announced in the Society newsletter.

Billy Webster was invited to draw names for the door prizes. Gordon Hubbell won the fossil wood; William Webster won the shark tooth and Dan Bryant won the Shell collection.

Meeting Adjourned.

Anita Brown
Secretary

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*
* Our Secretary, Anita Brown, has designed a new address *
* label which should make her job easier and allow members *
* to see whether or not their dues are current. Your *
* address label should look something like this: *
*
*          007 A 88 *
*          Fossilfinder, John Q. *
*          302 Matrix Ave. *
*          In Situ, FL *
*          54321 *
*
* The 007 corresponds to your computer number. The letter *
* "A" indicates that you are an active member. Other *
* codes are "J" Associate Member; "H" Honorary Member; *
* "I" Institutional Member; "S" Subscriber; and "C" *
* Complimentary. The 88 indicates that your dues are *
* paid for the year 1988. If it says 87 or less then *
* your dues are due. *
*
*****
    
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FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM Museum Road, University of Florida,
Gainesville, FL 32611

The FSM is the museum of the University of Florida and of the State of Florida, with research emphasis on natural sciences and anthropology of Florida, the Caribbean Basin and South America. It is open every day except December 25, Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays and holidays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

DIAMONDS, DOLOMITE AND DINOSAURS

Sunday, April 24

Join the Museum for the annual gem, mineral and fossil show featuring the Gainesville Gem and Mineral Society. Demonstrations, paleontological displays and children's activities. 1:00 - 4:30 PM.



**HERE'S SOME
Exciting
NEWS!**

FSM VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (Dr. Bruce J. MacFadden)

Dr. MacFadden is already making preparations for next years FPS Fall Meeting (see previous minutes of last falls meeting, page 6). He has asked Anita Brown and Danny Bryant to serve on the committee with him. Since this will be our 10th Annual FPS meeting the tentative plans call for a full day (Saturday) meeting, including an evening social and Banquet.

Dr. MacFadden has in mind the following schedule:

1. 8:30 - 11:00: talks on Florida geology and paleontology; progress on the new FSM Exhibition Center (with mid-morning coffee break).
2. 11:00: General Business Meeting
3. 12:00 - 1:30: Lunch (participants are on their own)
4. 1:30 - 4:30: Afternoon identification session at the Museum.
5. 6:30 - 7:30: Cocktail social hour (at Museum if possible).
6. 8:30 - 10:00: Banquet, awards, and guest speaker.

If the Banquet is held at the Museum then seating would need to be limited to probably 80 to 100. Dr. MacFadden has some ideas for a speaker but requests suggestions from members. Also requested is suggestions for other activities that members might prefer and a recommendation regarding the optimum cost of the banquet.

Suggestions should be sent directly to Dr. MacFadden at the Florida State Museum. Send suggestions as soon as possible so that concrete plans can be made now.

FSM INVERTEBRATE COLLECTIONS (Dr. Douglas Jones and Roger Portell)

Jon Bryan, geology student working in Invertebrate Paleontology under Dr. Jones, recently completed his master's thesis on Late Cretaceous and Early Tertiary Invertebrates from Alabama. His research dealt with the severity, selectivity, and timing of extinctions of some terminal Cretaceous Invertebrates including the ammonites and several bivalve lineages. Jon is now working on his Phd. in IVP at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He will be doing his research on the stratigraphy of larger foraminifera of Florida and Georgia.

Jeri E. Friedman, a new employee, is now working in Invertebrate Paleontology under Dr. Jones and Mr. Roger Portell. She recently transferred from the College of Veterinarian Medicine to the Museum in order to work in her life long favorite field and to pursue a third degree; this time in Geology. Under the supervision of Mr. Portell, she is helping to organize and catalogue the backlog of specimens in the collection. Ms. Friedman is currently the Vice President and Program Chairman of the Gainesville Gem and Mineral Society. Her major interests are physical geology and paleontology. She is also a member of FPS and the Florida State Museum Associates.

Danny Bryant spent this past summer attending a field geology class in the western United States and visited several famous geologic sites such as Bryce Canyon, Utah. Upon returning he began research on his senior thesis, funded by a grant obtained by Dr. MacFadden through the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates. He has been concentrating his studies in the Quincy, Florida area on Miocene sediments of the Torreya Formation. Danny and Dr. MacFadden are applying several new geologic dating techniques to the sediments. Recently (Dec. 27-30) Dr. MacFadden, Danny, Roger Portell and Ken Gilland spent several days collecting rock samples and fossils from the area. Danny hopes to finish his project and graduate this summer and then go on to graduate school.

Dr. Jones and Roger Portell are doing a paper for the 1988 Southeastern Geological Society field guide. The paper will be entitled:

"Fossil Invertebrates from Brooks Sink,
County, Florida"

Gary Morgan and Dr. Ann Pratt are also doing a paper on the vertebrate fauna from the same locality. Brooks Sink is a Middle Miocene age exposure (Hawthorn Group sediments exposed). A copy of the 1988 SGS registration form can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Note the interesting itinerary and reasonable cost of the field guide.

Recent FSM Invertebrate Paleontology Accessions (Jeri E. Friedman & Roger Portell)

Charles Howlett of Casselberry donated two specimens of the fossil echinoid *Epiaster whitei* (UF 10668 - 10670) and two specimens of the echinoid *Rhyncholampas* (UF 10671, UF 12992) all from Hardee County; five specimens of the echinoid *Eupatagus ingens* from Citrus County; and one specimen of the crab *Zanthopsis vulgaris* (UF 13110) from Washington state.

Ernest Marshall of Paisley donated nine specimens of fossil wood and a barnacle (UF 11843) from Polk County. He also donated a beautiful large Trilobite (UF 11842) from India.

Gregory Lepera of St. Augustine donated a large fossil bivalve (UF 11844) from Anastasia Island.

Steve Wilson of Arcadia donated eleven pieces of the echinoid *Abertella aberti* (UF 11841) from Polk County. Other donations by Steve include two specimens of the rare gastropod *Vasum floridanum*.

Jim and Susan Pendergraft of Largo continue to donate numerous coral, echinoderm and crab specimens (UF 10715 - 10724) from Hernando County; two stone crabs and four echinoderms (UF 10664 - 10667) from Pinellas County; numerous specimens of *Rhyncholampas evergladensis* and *Mellita acclinensis* (UF 10672 - 10673) from Charlotte County.

Harry Miller of Ocala donated one specimen of *Siderastres siderea* (coral)(UF 12282) from Marion County and six specimens of *Ocalina floridana* (stone crab)(UF 10672) from Dixie County.

David Lambert of Gainesville donated the book Pliocene Mollusca of Southern Florida by A. Olsson and A. Harbison, 1979 edition (out of print).

Dr. Gale Bishop of Statesboro, Georgia donated twenty-five casts of fossil crabs, shrimps, and lobsters (UF 12946 - 12970) from several Cretaceous localities.

Dr. Burt Carter of Americus, Georgia donated twenty-two fossil Eocene echinoids and bivalves (UF 12971 - 12991) from several Georgia localities.

Muriel Hunter of Tallahassee donated ten books for the Simpson Library of Paleontology including a original copy of the Florida Geological Survey Special Publication No. 5.

Phil Whisler of Venice donated twenty-five fossil Pliocene crabs, shrimps and echinoids (UF 13001 - 13024) from Charlotte County.

Dr. Ester Farinati of Bahia Blanca, Argentina donated twenty-six specimens of mollusca and echinoderms (UF 13307 - 13319) from Argentina.

Dr. Roy H. Reinhart of Oxford, Ohio donated 1062 specimens (13784-13804, UF 13996 - 14000, UF 14018 - 14049, UF 14051 - 14053, UF 14303-14374) of Ordovician invertebrates from the Cincinnati, Ohio area.

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

TAMPA BAY FOSSIL CLUB - Sponsored by the Museum of Science & Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa

Welcome to the members of our newest local club. Recently formed the club meets at the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:15 PM. President is Rudi Johnson and they already have a newsletter called "THE FOSSIL ENQUIRER". The first meeting on Nov. 4 was highlighted by a color slide program of a Nebraska fossil hunt by Frank Garcia. Membership is open to anyone, anywhere, who wants to join in the fun of learning about and finding fossils. For more information or an application call 813-985-5531 or write to their Secretary, Janice Robbins c/o MOSI, zip 33617-2099.

AQUAVENTURES UNLIMITED P.O. Box 651055, Miami, FL 33165

If you like fun and adventure then this is the club for you. The following is a excerpt from one of their newsletters. I liked it so much I asked Bob if I could reprint it.

HORSE CREEK CAMPOUT NOV. 21 & 22 Dan Facsina took off Friday to get up to the property and have everything in shape when the members arrived. Gert & I left here right after work Friday and arrived about 9:30 P.M. This way we were able to squeeze in an extra night. I brought up a portable television so Gert could watch Miami Vice. Had to see Don Johnson & Sheena Easton tie the knot.

Saturday morning we awoke to 41 degree temperature. It wasn't cool, it was cold. We spent most of the morning trashing the back room in the trailer and trying to find out what it will take to make it into a waterproof shed. About noon we realized only 3 of us were going to make the trip and we were already there.

Last time we were here I wanted to get into the water and do a little creek diving but the weather was too messy. I figured this time it would be just right...well, I lost out again. The water was at least 5 foot deeper than usual and no way could I fight that current. Anyway it will wash out a few more fossils for the next trip (if the water isn't too cold). We took one canoe upriver to S.R.72. The water, being so high, we knew it wouldn't give us any problems with the usual log jams. However we didn't plan on going through the tops of the

trees. The water was very swift bouncing us from limb to limb. At one point a wasp nest fell in the canoe and before we could get it out, Gert became a casualty - 3 stings. That night we built a roaring campfire and partied out under a clear starry sky.

Sunday it wasn't quite as cold. Only 46 degrees when we awoke. There is a portion of Horse Creek I've always wanted to canoe and since the water was moving right along I thought it might be fun to go all the way down the creek to the Peace River as there is a boat ramp on Lettuce Lake where we could leave the van. I didn't tell them it was 12 1/2 miles to the ramp. We got a late start from camp, 12:15 P.M. The first portion of the trip was just like the upper creek, lots of trees in the way and we were constantly being swept into them. As we were higher up in the tree there were a lot more vines which left their marks. With the camera and outboard motor in the canoe I really didn't want to think about turning over. We kept busy fighting the current until we passed under the bridge at S.R. 761. Of course, the first thing we ran into there was a barbed wire fence which the current helped us through whether we wanted to go or not. From S.R. 761 the creek broadens out and it wasn't long before I brought out the motor. The water was so high I only bumped bottom once. I was really glad we had the motor when we hit the Peace River. This portion is wide and it was rather windy. It kept us moving right along. We averaged 3.8 MPH and made the whole trip in 3 1/2 hours. I was glad to see the van waiting for us at the boat ramp. Dan stayed another night at camp. Gert & I had to get back for work in the morning so we headed back. We did take time out in Clewiston to stop at the "Old South Bar-B-Que". This was a good campout. Sorry we didn't have more members to share it.

BONE VALLEY FOSSIL SOCIETY 2704 Dixie Road, Lakeland, FL 33801

This busy society is now in the capable hands of Sandra Kendrew who was recently voted in as President for 1988. The FPS Editor was also glad to see that Joe Latvis of Dade City and Charlie Howlett had volunteered to help Ed Holman with the newsletter. Ed has done a tremendous job and I'm sure he appreciates Joe and Charlie's help.

The BVFS was very busy last October with their Fossil Fair and they are already making plans for next year. If you haven't visited the fair you should. They offer something for everyone and I know you will have a good time.

In case you didn't know, BVFS offers it's members some excellent fossil outings. They regularly organize trips to Bone Valley or the Peace River. In June they went to the DeSoto Shell Pit to collect Pliocene-Pleistocene invertebrates and vertebrates and the July trip was to Yankee Town where they collected everything from Eocene invertebrates to Pleistocene vertebrates. Trips are restricted to members only. Why don't you consider joining BVFS and the fun.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FOSSIL CLUB 132 Countryman Ave. S.W., Port Charlotte,
FL 33948

Col. Bill Royal, discoverer of the importance of Warm Mineral springs as an archeological site and author of "The Man Who Rode Sharks" was the December speaker. A video tape of a new Warm Mineral Springs paleontological site was shown. Charlie Howlett of the BVFS was the speaker for January with a program on "Fieldtripping in Florida".

SUN COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL & PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2811 38th Ave North,
St. Petersburg 33713

The SCAPS held their annual Christmas Party at the Science Center in St. Petersburg on Dec. 18 and they had an enjoyable time. Their Jan. Meeting was highlighted by the showing of two films, "PREHISTORIC IMAGES - THE FIRST ART OF MAN" and "RICHES OF THE EARTH". Their Jan. newsletter contains an interesting article about the creation of a lifesize model of a woolly mammoth in Ottawa.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Diane Aiken
Mary J. Brayfield
Nelda Hamm
Louise Harvey
Jonnie Johnson
Trish Kohler
Charles Lyon
Robert Morgan
Bart Paramore
John Powell
Peggy Scherbaum
Lawrence Smith
Craig Thomas
Marg Troupe
Wayne Weis
Roxane Wilson

Norma Bartholomew
William Cummings
Cheryl Hanneman
Richard Hevly
Douglas Jones
Adam Levy
Robert Mercer
Jeff Nelson
Edward Pasquella
Michael Radford
Paul Schiebold
Diane Sorey
Scot Thomas
Vicky Valade
Everett Wilcox
Richard Yarger

Robert Blaske
Frank Garcia
Gene Harris
Charles Hoffman
Carmen Kincaid
Sue Lewis
Cynthia Miller
Loretta Oriento
Susan Pendergraft
Vincent Santucci
Robert Siepel
Bill Thayer
Joseph Troupe
Thomas Walkuski
Fred Williams
Leonas Yahn

Editor,

On October 6, 1987, my home was burglarized. This was not the typical home burglary; the only things taken were fossils of substantial collector value, (the majority collected over a 15 year period in the phosphate mines of Polk County). The burglar was very selective in deciding upon which fossils to take. The police have concluded that the burglar is a FOSSIL COLLECTOR.

I have given the police a detailed list of the missing fossils with descriptions and photographs in some cases. I will circulate this list widely among collectors and dealers. Friends and fellow collectors have come forward with suggestions, with promises to watch for specific pieces, and even with photographs of some of the stolen fossils. To these people I say: Thank you very, very much for your help!

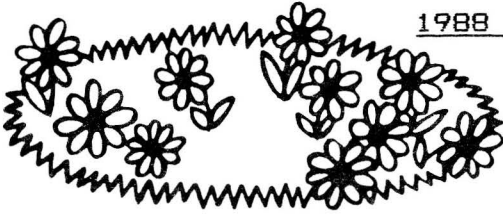
To the burglar I would say: I am determined to make this very dangerous for you! If you try to display these fossils, you may be discovered and face ostracism from the company of fellow collectors. If you try to sell or trade these fossils, your buyer may be cooperating to locate these stolen fossils. You may face several felony counts if apprehended. Members of your family may be charged as accessories. If you are charged, you could lose your job and spend your lifesavings on a defense attorney. If you are convicted, you would lose your civil rights and perhaps even your freedom.

There is only one thing you can do with these fossils that is not potentially ruinous for you. Call off this dangerous game by returning the fossils to me. Wrap them well, put them in a box, and mail them anonymously from Orlando, Miami (or from some other metropolitan area) where the postmark will not give you away. I have no interest in seeing you and your family ruined: I just want my fossils back, no questions asked.

Sincerely,

Larry Martin

1988 SPRING MEETING PLANS



The "tentatively planned" spring meeting trip to the Chipola River area has been cancelled due to technical difficulties. An alternate trip is being arranged and plans should be formalized soon. A separate

mailer will be forwarded posthaste. Friends and guests are invited. RSVP will be required. Door prizes are planned. Only FPS members in good standing will be eligible for the door prizes. Tell your local shell club about this meeting. Send RSVP to Phil Whisler.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BLACK HILLS NATURAL SCIENCES FIELD STATION - Summer Program 1988
(Phil Whisler)

I recently received the Field Station's program for field courses in archaeology, biology, geology & paleontology. The cover has a beautiful color picture of a Cretaceous mosasaur. The picture, by Mr. Daniel Varner, Minneapolis, Minn. is exciting and gave me a tremendous feeling for the power, beauty and grace that the mosasaur must have possessed.

I had the opportunity to participate in a previous BHNSFS field paleontology course and it was a tremendous experience. The courses are reasonably priced and worth every penny. I shall always cherish the memories and friendships from my trip and I highly recommend the summer programs. If you're interested contact Dr. James E. Martin, Director, Black Hills Natural Sciences Field Station, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701-3995. Paleontology courses are:

Session I: June 20 to July 1 A field course which includes exploration, excavation, and documentation of vertebrate fossils in northwestern South Dakota with special emphasis on Tertiary mammals and Late Cretaceous dinosaurs such as *Tyrannosaurus* and *Triceratops*. Students will participate in reconnaissance to locate new sites, learn techniques in excavation of dinosaur bones in a large bone quarry, and learn how to document such specimens. Living quarters will be in an old ranch house, food costs are extra, and group cooking should be expected. Short camping trips will be required. Cost \$300 includes tuition, fees, handouts, field equipment and supplies. Instructor: Dr. Philip Bjork, Director, Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

Session II: July 5 to July 15 The field course will consist of excavations in Cretaceous marine shales. Fossil fish, sea lizards, flying reptiles, and invertebrates will be collected from the Pierre Shale during most of the course. Also, the course will involve excavation of Plesiosaur skeletons located by previous class members, as well as searching for new fossil specimens. Visits will be made to Hot Springs Mammoth site. Camping will be required, and food costs are extra. Group cooking should be expected. Cost \$300 includes tuition, fees, handouts, supplies, and travel. Instructor: Dr. James E. Martin, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

LITERATURE AVAILABLE

Natural History, "Clovisia the Beautiful!" by Paul S. Martin, October 1987 discusses the discovery of clovis points in association with extinct mammals. Florida sites are specifically mentioned. If you don't have a copy check with your local library.

Natural History, "Travels of an Ancient Reef" by George D. Stanley, Jr., Nov. 1987. Excellent article about the paleocoral reefs of Oregon at some 6000 feet above sea level and it's relationship to similar reefs in Germany. Nice photographs. Check it out at your library.

Natural History, "Evolving Views of Dinosaurs" presents a collection of paintings depicting dinosaurs (as the artists perceived them) in their natural habitat. BEAUTIFUL pictures !!!!!!!

Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, Vol. 7, No. 3, Sept. 16, 1987, "CRANIUM OF EQUUS INSULATUS (MAMMALIA, EQUIDAE) FROM THE MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE OF TARIJA, BOLIVIA". Dr. Bruce J. MacFadden (Florida State Museum) and Augusto Azzaroli describe the first reported cranium and associated mandible of *Equus insulatus* from the middle Pleistocene of Tarija, Bolivia and discusses the interrelationships of this species relative to other members of *Equus*. Specimens from this site are important because it preserves the "assemblage of endemic and immigrant taxa that co-occurred during the Ensanadan land-mammal age, which was the height of the Great American Interchange (Webb, 1976)". Also in this volume is an interesting paper entitled, "REDISCOVERED TYPE SPECIMENS AND OTHER IMPORTANT PUBLISHED PLEISTOCENE MAMMALIAN FOSSILS FROM CENTRAL MEXICO" by Oscar Carranza-Castaneda and Wade E. Miller. An interesting report of the rediscovery of previously lost type specimens. Excellent photographs.

Paleobiology, Vol. 13, No. 3, Summer 1987. "Pleistocene extinctions: the pivotal role of megaherbivores" by Norman Owen-Smith. Examines and discusses the two major hypothesis of climatic change and human predation in relationship to the demise of about half of the large mammal genera in the later Pleistocene.

Journal of Paleontology, Vol. 61, No. 4, July 1987. Informative and important paper by Richard C. Hulbert, Jr. (Florida State Museum), "LATE NEOGENE NEOHIPPARION (MAMMALIA, EQUIDAE) FROM THE GULF COASTAL PLAIN OF FLORIDA AND TEXAS" describes physical characteristics and phylogenetic relationships of Florida and Texas species. A must reading for serious Florida collectors.

Journal of Paleontology, Vol. 61, No. 5, Sept. 1987. Of interest to our invertebrate collectors is an article describing a new species of spatangoid echinoid from SW Georgia, "BRISSUS BRIDGEBOROENSIS, A NEW SPATANGOID ECHINOID FROM THE LOWER OLIGOCENE OF SOUTHWESTERN GEORGIA, by Burchard D. Carter. Also in this issue is an interesting vertebrate article, "New rodents (Mammalia) from the late Barstovian (Miocene) Valentine Formation, Nebraska" by William W. Korth.

Itinerary: Friday, February 19 - 1/2 day visit to Du Pont heavy mineral mine near Starke, Florida. Bus will depart headquarters 12:00 noon. Cocktail hour, 6:00 P.M., in reception and banquet room Best Western Inn. 7:00 P.M. dinner meeting with guest speaker.

Saturday, February 20 - Depart headquarters @ 8:00 A.M. First stop: Associated Minerals, heavy mineral mine south of Green Cove Springs. Second stop: Brooks Sink (co-type locality of the Hawthorne Fm.). Return to headquarters approximately 5:00 P.M. Third stop: Exposure of Citronelle sediments in Putnam Co., FL.

Lodgings: Special room rates at the Best Western Inn of Orange Park are available through Ms. Pattye McLean, Lake Region Travel (904-473-7234). Single \$34/day - Double \$19/prn/day - Triple \$14/prn/day - Quadruple \$11.50/prn/day.

Housing Form: Name - First Person _____
Second Person _____ Third Person _____
Fourth Person _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ ZIP _____
No. of Nights: _____ Phone # () _____
Visa # _____ AMEX # _____
M.C.# _____ Check # _____ (Payable to Lake
Region Travel) P. O. Box 980, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 - Note:
One housing form per room. Please include 5% State sales tax.

Registration Form: Name _____
Date: _____ Address: _____ ZIP _____
Company or University: _____
Address: _____

_____ Please check if planning to attend dinner meeting.

Price of field trip will include Saturday lunch, guide book and bus fare. Students before January 19th, \$10; after, \$15. Professionals before January 19th, \$25; after, \$35. Friday dinner meeting will cost \$16 per person (including 5% tax and gratuity). Guide book will include five papers concerning Central and Northeast Florida geology. Extra copies are available and may be purchased for \$10 per copy. Make registration check payable to Southeastern Geological Society. Send form and check to Lake Region Travel. For more information, please contact Fred Pirkle or Jack Reynolds at (904)964-8800.

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 on laws, regulations and rules on collecting in private and 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 or 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 FPS are \$5.00 for persons under age 18 and \$10.00 for Full Membership (persons over age 18) and Institutional Subscriptions. Persons interested in FPS membership need only send their names, addresses, and appropriate dues to the acting Secretary. Please make checks payable to FPS. Members receive a membership card, the FPS Newsletter and randomly issued technical papers.

Newsletter Policy: All news items, art work and photographs related to paleontology in Florida are welcome. The editor reserves the right not to publish submissions and to edit those which are published.