



Fossil Club of Lee County

July 2006

Message from the president

Happy New Years to everyone!!

We now have a whole year to collect more great fossils for this year's Christmas meeting show and tell!!! Everyone who attended last month's Christmas "pot luck and show off" can testify to the fact that lots of great fossils showed up!! And besides these members we had lots of great fossils shown. The food was great and I think we all had a good time. It was a nice ending to a great year.

This month we will have a speaker from the University of South Florida, an invertebrate paleontologist named Gregory Herbert. I know lots of members have been anticipating an invertebrate fossil talk. Greg has hunted locally and should be able to teach us all a few things. He agreed to try and identify finds you are not sure of. Invertebrate identification is never an easy task, but he will try.

The Peace River canoe trip that was planned for January 20th, which lots of members signed up for at the December meeting will, unfortunately, not take place. Possibly in February we can arrange a trip, but as of now, it is postponed. The reason for this change of plans is that the canoe outfitter we have used in the past has gone out of business. Another canoe outfit in Arcadia that we thought would work for our needs has also, as far as we can tell, shut down operations!! The remaining canoe rental outfit is not flexible for our needs, they will not let us put in and take out where we would like and we cannot see spending \$500 to \$600 on a canoe trip we don't want. To fossil hunt effectively we cannot paddle 5 to 6 hours of the day. The only shortened

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd. Our speaker will be Gregory Herbert, an invertebrate paleontologist.

trip we could arrange with these folks is one we took a few years ago and found almost no gravel bars or fossils. So on **Jan. 20th., we will have a club gathering at the Wachula Boat Ramp at Crews Park on Main St. in Wachula** and dig some fossils!!! Michael Orchin has spent a lot of time trying to arrange the canoe trip and is hoping you will show up on Saturday and have some fun!!!

We will have a booth at **the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Annual Owlfest** at Rotary Park in Cape Coral on February 17. We will be there from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we need a couple of members to help man (or to be politically correct-woman) the table. Last year was fun and we talked fossils with lots of folks. I will have a signup sheet at the meeting.

I will also ask for refreshment volunteers for the coming months. Al Govin has agreed to do January, but we need the rest of the upcoming months filled. This is an easy task and the club will reimburse you so you won't be out anything but a little time.

Membership fees are now due for 2007. I would like you to think of the value you get for your money. You get to attend a meeting 12 times a year where fossils are shown and talked about. You get to listen to a great speaker about 10 times a year. You get the opportunity to go on field

trips, win door prizes at the meetings, enjoy refreshments at no charge, have a chance to win a few fossils for a very nominal fee and enjoy the company of other fossil type people. Also we have books, butvar (bone preserver), and T-shirts at almost club cost. You get a newsletter each month and --once a year, you get to attend a great fossil auction and add to your collection. All of this is available to you for the small annual membership!! Please renew as soon as possible as we would like to publish a membership list.

March is our annual auction. At this time I have a fair number of items, but can always use a few more quality items. Bring any you can share to this meeting.

Thanks.

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel, President, F.C.O.L.C.

THONOTOSASSA

Five men arrested for artifact poaching

Five men found digging for American Indian artifacts near Interstate 75 in Hillsborough County have been arrested and charged with trespassing, authorities said.

They may also be charged with criminal mischief for poaching for arrowheads and spearheads on vacant land, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which oversees investigations of artifact poaching.

The site was eligible for inclusion in a federal register of protected properties, but the landowners never requested it, said Bob Austin, a consultant with Southeastern Archaeological Research.

"There is a comparatively small percentage of sites that are really, really very significant, and this is one of them," said Austin.

The interruption of the five men Thursday by sheriff's deputies was a rarity. Experts say burial mounds and other sites in Hillsborough County rich with remnants of ancient cultures are often raided because they are unprotected.

A well-formed arrowhead can fetch thousands of dollars, he said.

The Associated Press

Officers

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Trip Director: Michael Orchin

Committees

Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz

Speakers: Louis Stieffel

\$1. raffle: Louis Kimsey

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

Volunteer Hours

Our club goal is to provide volunteer hours to the **Calusa Nature Center** in exchange for our free meeting room each month. So far, 18 people have performed 148.5 hours of volunteer labor with Eric Jacobs ahead with 53 1/2 hours. I don't think anyone will top that! Jane and Charlie Patton enjoyed working so much, they kept going back, as did Loretta Blessing and Donna Johnson. The evening I was there, over 500 people came through, Jane reported an even greater number which shows how important these events are to the nature center.

Thanks to everyone who has participated.

Their next big event is Easter with an egg hunt. It will be a lot of fun for everyone, please call **Kim Pierce at 275-3435** to volunteer. Kim is there Sunday to Thursday from 8:30—5:00. There are also opportunities to work in the gift store, office work, and grounds work. Please report the number of hours and date worked to me at; Cameraqueen@earthlink.net or (239)772-8015 Sandy

Coming Events

FCOLC Trip January 20th Meet at the Wachula Boat Ramp at Crews Park on Main Street in Wachula at about 9:30 a.m. We will dig in the river, find some great fossils and have a hot dog/ hamburger/ potato chip lunch provided by the club. Herb Schwartz will be the cook. Bring a shovel and screen, be sure to wear water shoes as there is glass in the river. Kids welcome. Eat at the picnic tables in the park at 12:00 pm.

Also provided—soda, fat free Kosher Hot Dogs, cole slaw. A few desserts would be appreciated.

Sign up at the meeting (so we know how many to provide for).

Gulf Coast Fossil and Mineral Show Jan. 27-28 in Venice, Florida Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. off I-75, exit 193 Jacaranda Ave. to Venice Ave. towards the north, then left on Nokomis to the **Venice Community Center**. You can walk the beach and pick up teeth too.
(www.mineralfossilgemclubvenicefl.org)

Refreshments

January Al Govin

February **volunteer needed**

March Sandy Schwartz

April **volunteer needed**

Trip Coordinator Position

A fossil club needs regular fossil hunt trips to keep the interest of the membership. This is not an easy hobby to do as a group, but it is possible to arrange outings where the club can participate as a group. In the past Al Govin performed these duties and currently Michael Orchin is doing it. Michael is self employed as well as the President of the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife. Both take a lot of his time. So I am asking each member to think hard about volunteering to take on **the job of trip coordinator**. Michael says if no one volunteers he will continue, but I would like to give him a break and let someone else take over. No one should take on club duties when it interferes with their personal life, so, please, give this some thought and speak up if you would like to try it. One benefit to arranging club trips is you get first dibs at it!! Of course, Al, Michael and I will help you all you need. We have some contacts with pits and mines and mostly what you need to do is make calls, using the name of the club. Some of these operations will allow us entry if we ask the right questions of the right people. A little research will make the job easy and when successful, fun!! I wait for all the volunteers to step forward.

Thanks, Louis

Dinosaur Invasion!

January 13—June 1, 2007

Nestled amongst the tropical fauna of Florida's **McKee Botanical Garden** awaits 30 life-sized prehistoric creatures of immense stature, exotic features and wide eyes, the sculptures appear at home in the tropical foliage. They are from the Postosuchus (a relative to the alligator) and the flying Sordes (or "hairy devil"), to the enormous Daspletosaurus (related to the T-Rex). Imagine stepping back in time into the prehistoric era. The dinosaur exhibit, at McKee Botanical Garden from January 13 to June 1, 2007, is a remarkable display your entire family will enjoy.

These huge dinosaurs were created by artist Guy Darrough working with plastic, clay and fiber

glass. Up to eight months, three tons of clay and gallons of plastic and rubber are required to create the molds and final sculpture of these dinosaurs. The Daspletosaurus, one of the largest, stands 33 feet tall and weighs roughly 600 pounds. Having studied these creatures for 40 years, Darrough creates life-sized, scientifically accurate models. A renowned paleontologist, Darrough is also credited with the discovery of a wide variety of Cambrian and lower Ordovician fossil animals previously unknown to paleontologists. He has traveled through out the world with his exhibit.

The exhibit will include fun and educational classes on dinosaurs, a “Dino Dig” area where children can dig for dinosaur bones, fossil plant displays and prehistoric-themed dining. The opening day of the exhibit added entertainment with lectures, contests and music. The dinosaur display is sure to amaze and educate all ages.

McKee Botanical Garden 350 US Highway 1, Vero Beach, FL 32962 Telephone (772) 794-0601 Open T –Sat. 10 a.m.-5pm. Sunday Noon–5 p.m.



Logan Rozycki, Sandy’s youngest grandson holds a whales’ tooth found at Handi Phil Pit in Englewood.

A8 | THE NEWS-PRESS, NATION & WORLD, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2006 ***

Scientists find new things under the sea — way under

WASHINGTON • • Peering deep into the sea, scientists are finding creatures more mysterious than many could have imagined.

At one site, nearly 2 miles deep in the Atlantic, shrimp were living around a vent that was releasing water heated to 765 degrees Fahrenheit. Water surrounding the site was a chilly 36 degrees.

An underwater peak in the Coral Sea was home to a type of shrimp thought to have gone extinct 50 million years ago.

Marine census returns surprises in sixth year

The Associated Press



• This new crab species was given a whole new family designation, Kiwaidae, named for Kiwa, the Polynesian goddess of shell-fish; and a species name, hirsuta, meaning hairy.

More than 3 miles beneath the Sargasso Sea, in the Atlantic, researchers collected a dozen new species eating each other or living on organic material that drifts down from above.

"Animals seem to have found a way to make a living just about everywhere," said Jesse Ausubel of the Sloan Foundation, discussing the findings of year six of the census of marine life.

Added Ron O'Dor, a senior scientist with the census: "We can't find anyplace where we can't find anything new."

This year's update, released Sunday, is part of a study of life in the oceans that is scheduled for final publication in 2010. The census is an international effort supported by governments, divisions of the United Nations and private conservation organizations. About 2,000 researchers from 80 countries are participating.

Ausubel said there are nearly 16,000 known species of marine fish and 70,000 kinds of marine mammals. A couple of thousand have been discovered during the census.

The researchers conducted 19 ocean expeditions this year, a 20th continues in the Antarctic. In addition, they operated 128 nearshore sampling sites and, using satellites, followed more than 20 tagged species including sharks, squid, sea lions and albatross.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Highlights included:

- Shrimp, clams and mussels living near the super-hot thermal vent in the Atlantic, where they face pulses of water that is near-boiling despite shooting into the frigid sea.

In the sea surrounding the Antarctic, a community of marine life shrouded in darkness beneath more than 1,600 feet of ice. Sampling of this remote ocean yielded more new species than familiar ones.

Off the coast of New Jersey, 20 million fish swarming in a school the size of Manhattan.

Finding alive and well, in the Coral Sea, the type of shrimp called *Neoglyphea neocaledonica*, thought to have disappeared millions of years ago. Researchers nick-named it the Jurassic shrimp.

Satellite tracking of tagged sooty shearwaters, small birds, that mapped the birds' 43,500-mile search for food in a giant

figure eight over the Pacific Ocean, from New Zealand via Polynesia to foraging grounds in Japan, Alaska and California and then back. The birds averaged a surprising 217 miles daily. In some cases, a breeding pair made the entire journey together. **A new find, 34-pound rock lobster** discovered off Madagascar.

A single-cell creature big enough to see, in the Nazare Canyon off Portugal. The fragile new species was found 14,000 feet deep. It is enclosed within a plate-like shell, four-tenths of an inch in diameter, composed of mineral grains.

A new type of crab with a furry appearance, near Easter Island. It was so unusual it warranted a whole new family designation, *Kiwaidae*, named for Kiwa, the Polynesian goddess of shellfish. Its furry appearance justified its species name, *hirsuta*, meaning hairy (see photo on previous page).