

# FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

JANUARY 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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WOW! Happy New Year!!

Yes, it's a new year! Already! Where has the time gone?

Those of you who attended the December meeting enjoyed some great food and great company! With the club providing the Turkey (Marcia Simons) and the smoked hams (Chuck Ferber) and the refreshments (Dave and Pat Rosenquist), and most members sharing a special homemade dish, we sure had a nice meal! Of course, WAY too many deserts, but they were all very good. What's another pound gained, anyway? With the fossil hunting in full swing, that can be worked off easily!

Al Govin was presented a plaque for the latest induction into the lifetime membership group. He has been in the club for over twenty years, since it was originally formed, and has served in several different capacities. Presently Al is the trips organizer, and is working on presenting some fun river trips soon.

Zack Deyo was recognized for his contributions to the club for 2013. As one of the younger members Zack has given talks many times, representing our club, and teaching youngsters about fossils. He has represented FCOLC with presentations at the National Fossil Day Show as well as our recent club fossil show.

Our fossil show was a big hit, held the first weekend of December. We already have ideas for next year's show! Many club members participated as volunteers and had a good time! Most of the vendors did well and will return again next year.

We have some great speakers lined up for the next few months, so plan on attending as many meetings as you can!

The annual club auction is held in March. Please bring

any donations you are willing to part with for the auction, at the January or February meeting. The earlier the better, as it makes my job (auctioneer) easier. Most of the proceeds from the auction go towards scholarships.

Sandy Schwartz has agreed to transition the FCOLC treasury office from Pam Plummer to her. Pam has obligations that will be preventing her from attending our meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Sandy, who has always unselfishly helped in any way she could, will be eventually taking this important position over completely as the duties and responsibilities are transferred. Sandy also designed and sewed the library cart cover as well as made all the signage for the fossil show. Thank you Sandy! And thank you Pam!

Al Govin and I met with the owner of the Shell Factory, recently, to discuss installing a fossil museum there. More to come on this as I find out more.

I retrieved our fossil display from the Ft Myers Beach Library. It was there for the months of November and December. All of the printed club information available was taken, so there are more folks out there who are now aware of us.

We had some very sad times this past year, with the passing of Club President Bill Shaver, Donna Johnson and Linda Warner. I sincerely hope that 2014 will be better, for the club as well as its' members. So, remember these terrific people in your thoughts and prayers, and please enjoy a safe and healthy new year!

Louis Stieffel

President, Fossil Club of  
Lee County







## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SEAKERS

January 16th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

February 20<sup>th</sup> Speaker; – Fossil Author **Bob Sinibaldi**

*Refreshments: Phil and Louise Briskin*

Saturday January 25th Mosaic Phosphate Mine Field Trip

Sat February 8<sup>th</sup> Peace River Fossil Hunt Canoe trip

Sat February 8<sup>th</sup> Southwest Florida Fossil Club Annual Auction

February 20th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

February 20<sup>th</sup> Speaker; – TBD

*Refreshments: Mary Southall*

Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Burrowing Owl Festival, Rotary Park, Cape Coral, Florida 10am to 4pm Admission \$5

Sat-Sun, March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Fest, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, Florida

March 20th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

FCOLC Annual Fossil Auction – No Speaker

*Refreshments: Bonita Beachcombers Club*

Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> Peace River Walk-in Fossil Hunting trip at Gardner

April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Venice Sharktooth Festival, Venice Airport Festival Grounds

April 17<sup>th</sup> FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

April 17<sup>th</sup> Speaker; – TBD

*Refreshments: Bobby Joe Sherrill and Jack Boyce*

## Presentation of Bill Shaver Memorial Scholarship - January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014



It has been more than 6 months since our good friend and past FCOLC President died. I was close enough to Bill over his last 5 years to really understand how much Bill invested his time and his passion into his grandchildren and also into the Fossil Club of Lee County. Bill was the President but also an ambassador, an educator, making constant appearances and presentations to business, local clubs, young people in trouble and especially grade school children. Bill was always trying to pass on his passion for fossils to the next generation.

At the end, Bill asked that any donations from family and friends after his death would not go to flowers, medical research, or even the Hospice organization that supported Bill and his family. Similar to many of the Scholarships that Bill facilitated for UF Paleontological Graduate students, Bill asked that all donations go to a scholarship fund to be awarded to a younger member of FCOLC.

The Presentation of the Bill Shaver Memorial Scholarship Fund will happen during the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the FCOLC January meeting. Many members of Bill's family will participate including some of his grandchildren and his wife, Kathy Shaver. Please plan to come to this meeting and participate.

## FCOLC Fossil of the Month - January, 2014



Fossil: Caloosahatchee River Mako

FCOLC Member: Mike Cox



Fossil: Gulf of Mexico Megalodon

FCOLC Member: Dave Finchbaugh

The 2013-2014 Fossil Hunting Season is heating up. I am sure that many club members are making remarkable finds, but only a few tell your Newsletter Editor and provide a photo. I encourage all club members to submit your best finds and I put as many as I can into this Newsletter.

Mike saw the 2 inch Mako flashing golden in less than a foot of water. Dave picked his 4 plus inch Meg off the bottom of the Gulf in **deep** water. The Meg is just about perfect with serrations, an undamaged tip and a beautiful bourlette. The *Smilodon fatalis* Carnassial is a 1.125 inch, lower M1 meat shearing tooth. The large male Jaguar Calcaneum was donated to the UF Paleontology Research Lab.

There are many more as rare as these: **Get out there and find them!!!**

Fossil: Peace River *Smilodon* Carnassial

FCOLC Member: Aimee Hankel

Fossil: Peace River Jaguar Calcaneum

FCOLC Member: Jack Boyce



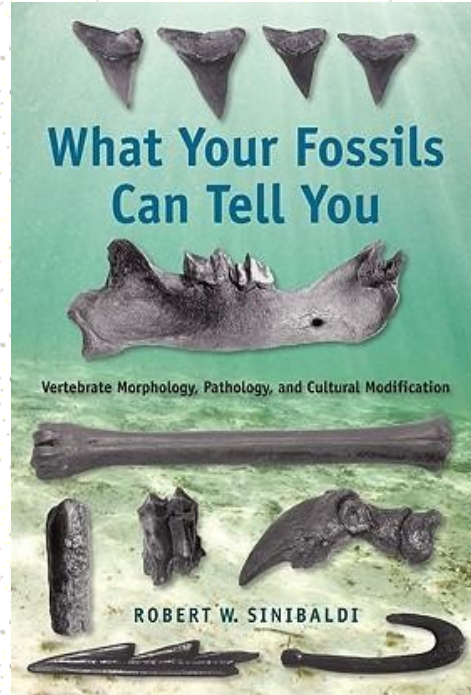
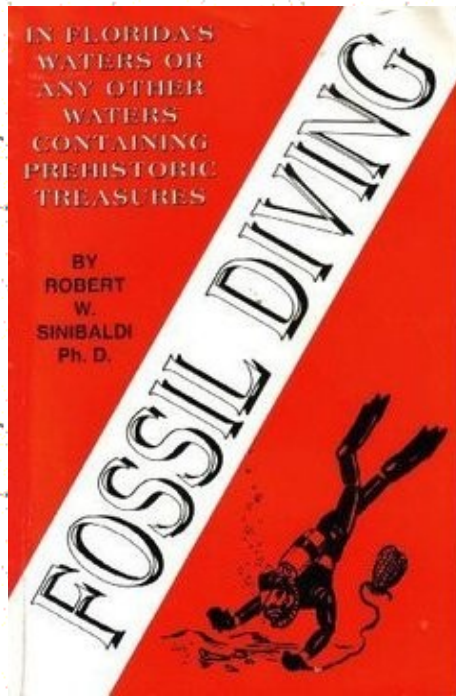


## Speaker

**Robert Sinibaldi**, Ph.D. is a former president of the Tampa Fossil Club. His latest book What Your Fossils Can Tell You: Vertebrate Morphology, Pathology, and Cultural Modification was published by the University Press of Florida in April of 2010. In 2012 he was presented with the Howard Converse Award for his service to paleontology by the Florida Paleontological Society. He is also the author of Fossil Diving: In Florida's Waters or Any Other Waters Containing Prehistoric Treasures and The Handbook of Paleontological Terms. He works for the Pinellas county School District and with the University of South Florida in the field of exceptional student education. He was awarded the National PE Teacher of the Year in 2011 for those working with children with special needs.

## Presentation Topic

Fossil Diving in Florida Waters



## Refreshments

A Big THANKS to **Marcia Simons, Chuck Ferber, and Dave & Pat Rosenquist** who provided refreshments for the Christmas Dinner meeting.

## Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers. Meeting starts at 7 PM.

## Please Welcome our New Members

Clara Alevy and Elijah Friesen

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a friendly reminder that it is time to pay your dues for the Year 2014. Our treasurer, Pam Plummer will have membership forms available at our January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Even if you are a long time member she would appreciate having you fill out the form completely so she can update the membership roster. For your convenience there is a Membership Form on the last page of this Newsletter.

If you joined the club in the last quarter of 2013 you are paid up for year 2014. Also, if you don't have a name badge, please let Pam know so she can take care of it.

**Thanks to all who continue to support your club.**

## FCOLC Peace River Fossil Hunting Canoe trip - February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

There will be sign-up sheets at the January 16<sup>th</sup> FCOLC meeting for a February Peace River Canoe Fossil Hunting trip. This will be an all day trip 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. We will paddle downriver and stop to hunt for fossils at some known likely locations. Canoe trip will be from the Gardner boat-ramp to Brownville boat-ramp. Cost is \$38.56 per canoe including taxes. We can make arrangements for as many people as wish to sign up. **Al Govin** is going to lead this trip and if you have questions the best way to contact Al is sending him an email at [al-govin1@hotmail.com](mailto:al-govin1@hotmail.com). Members need to bring their own screens, shovels and food & drink. Some additional items could be bug spray, sun blocks, knitted cap, soup/coffee thermos. Bring a change of clothes (there is a restroom at Brownsville Park).

More details are available on the sign-up sheets and announcements will be made at the January meeting.

Below is a photo of a happy fossil hunter at one of last year's trip to Crews Park, Wauchula. It was a great day but when the sun went behind the clouds and the wind picked up, it was definitely *chilly*.



*The Fossil Club of Lee  
County is an  
organization of people  
interested in the fossils of  
southern Florida and  
all points beyond.*

Meetings are held at the

*ZION Lutheran  
Church  
Fellowship Hall  
7401 Winkler Ave.*

*Fort Myers, FL 33919*

on the  
Third Thursday  
of every month  
from  
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### Officers

Louis Stieffel President  
(239)-458-9818  
[cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)

Michael Siciliano, Vice-President  
(239)-980-1406

Pam Plummer, Treasurer  
(239)-246-5993  
[fcoldtreasures@yahoo.com](mailto:fcoldtreasures@yahoo.com)

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary  
(239)-267-6130

### Committees

Cherie Neat: Newsletter Developer  
Jack Boyce: Newsletter Publisher &  
Club Photographer  
Curtis Klug: Web Master  
Louis Stieffel: Vertebrate Education,  
Speakers, Auctioneer  
Ray Seguin: Club Merchandise  
Pam Plummer: Membership & Club  
Badges  
Gunther Lobish: Pit Trips  
Michael Siciliano: Raffle and Dive  
Trips  
Coby Pawlowski: Youth Activities Director  
Gunther Lobish: Invertebrate Education

[www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)

### Membership Information-

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Dues ~\$20.00

Dues are due the first day  
of January.

Payable to :

The Fossil Club of Lee County  
133 NE 20th Street  
Cape Coral, Fl  
33909





# FLORIDA'S LARGEST PREHISTORIC SHOW!

## 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. Jacketing, glues, and preservation techniques are discussed for the beginner.

**FOSSILS & ARTIFACTS**  
**GEMS \* MINERALS \* SHELLS**  
**FOSSIL EXHIBITS & WORKSHOPS**  
**KIDS GAMES \* FOSSIL MINE \* RAFFLES**  
**DOOR PRIZES \* SILENT AUCTION**



Presents the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual

# FOSSILFEST

March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Sat: 9AM-6PM, Sun: 10AM-4PM

Adults \$6, Kids 12 and under FREE!

**Florida State Fairgrounds**

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



Be a part of the adventure!  
Visit TBFC's membership table &  
**JOIN TODAY!**

[www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)