

Fossil Club OF LEE COUNTY

JANUARY 2015

Letter from the President

Letter from the Prez

Happy New Year! Yes, it's now 2015, and the start of a new fossiling year! The FCOLC has enjoyed a successful Fossil Festival in December and then a great Christmas Party December meeting.

Our next event, besides a trip to the girl scout camp on the Peace and maybe a couple of canoe trips, is the annual auction. We need donations!! Please help! Bring it to this meeting, as the sooner we get it the easier it is to put it in the auction. We started the new year with a Jan 3 trip to Mosaic Phosphate mines. Several members contributed pictures and articles to this newsletter, so, if you were there you should recognize it, and if you were not there, you can share in the trip this way. Our youngest member, Zach Deyo, (who recently turned 16 years old and is now legal to drive !!), made a video of the trip, and the clickable link is provided in this newsletter to see it.

This is the time of year we take advantage of the low water levels and fossil hunt in the Peace River and the creeks in our area. It is that time, after what has seemed a very long wait! Please be careful, but have a great time fossiling! Bring in your finds to show everyone! (The featured fossil for January is **Tapir**. Of course, any others you want to show, feel free)

We had a board meeting in December, and we decided to expand the board with some new directors. Any organization needs to stay fresh and this is our way of keeping new ideas and energy in the governing body of the club. The New directors I have appointed, and whom will be up for re- elections in April, are Jim Manderfield, Don Lindsey, Dave Seehaver and Jeanne Seehaver. We will have a couple of present board members leave the board, so this is part of the normal course of events. As a board we meet quarterly and do much of the communications in between by emails, So, even though Jim Manderfield is a seasonal resident, it was

felt by the board that he can stay attuned through this email process during the time he is at his northern home.

Our executive board and board of directors are up for re-election in April, with the term starting in May. If any member would like to run for any office or join the board, please let me know. The club belongs to all of us, so feel free to take an active part in it. And, do your part with participating in other areas, as well, if you chose to do so. We can always use help providing refreshments, which the club will reimburse you for (up to \$40). And, we can always use fossil donations to the \$1 raffle table. If you want to help the club, we can find a spot for you or a job to do.

We are considering mixing things up a little this year, with maybe not as many speakers but more activity meetings. Such as fossil matrix hunting for fossils; member showcasing their talents, such as fossil divers (club members) doing a presentation; a fossil identification meeting; the show and tell and trade and sell meeting; and so on. Anyone with feedback or ideas along these lines, please let me know.

Well, it's been a good year. Busy at times, but good. We've had some very good speakers, a terrific show-n-tell-n-sell meeting, a delicious Christmas meeting, a fun and successful auction, a great Fossil festival, and a museum tour meeting when we shifted over to the Shell factory for one meeting. I'm sure 2015 will be an active one and we enjoy the club even more.

See you at the meeting!
Happy Fossiling!!

Louis Stieffel



Minutes Club Meeting 12/18/2014

Louis Stieffel, President, called the meeting to order.

58 people in attendance.

Rules for Christmas gift exchange were explained. Many members participated in the gift exchange.

Briefly discussed shell factory show and thanked all volunteers especially Dean Hart, Pam Plummer and Mike Siciliano.

Louis explained this to be a brief meeting so we could enjoy the potluck meal. He thanked Marsha Simons for again cooking and bringing the turkey and Al Govin for cooking and bringing the ham.

Al Govin went over rules for Mosaic hunt to include boots (no tennis shoes) and long pants. No exceptions.

It was requested that all waivers be signed and turned in at this meeting. If you were not at this meeting please mail signed waivers to Al Govin 16331 Estuary Ct. Bokeelia, FL 33922. Waivers will not be accepted morning of the trip as they must be turned in ahead of time.

Al Govin went on to explain that permission has been given for a river hunt at the "Girl Scout Camp" on January 20th. The group to meet at Arcadia boat ramp at 9 am and convoy from there. Sign up sheet out now and again next meeting. After 3 years of non-access, this is a trip to look forward to due to the beautiful surroundings.

Dean Hart asked for refreshments volunteers for January meeting and Joe Larkin volunteered.

Door prizes were chosen and then the meal was served With so many members bringing lots of great food, everyone ate a hardy meal and had a good time!

Al Govin
FCOLC Secretary

Sandy will collect dues at the meeting on Jan 22. We already have had 35 members rejoin or join. At the end of February, Charles O'Connor is going to make the list to print out the name tags. It is a lot easier to do them all at the same time, so please sign up and pay your dues. The fee is \$20 per address. No matter if it's a single or a family, it's per address. Thank you.

Joe Larkin.....239-265-6772
Charles O'Connor....239-246-5526
Pamela Plummer.....239-246-5993
Ray Seguin.....239-939-1921, Emeritus
Dean Hart.....941-979-8217

Al Govin, Club Trips Director
Curt Klug, Web Master
Phil Briskin, Land trips/Invertebrate Education
Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer
Pam Plummer and Dean Hart, 2014 Fossil Show
Sandy Schwartz, Badges, Membership
Dave and Jeanne Seehavey, Merchandise
David Sheehey, Librarian
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education,
Speakers, Newsletter editor, FOSSIL project
representative

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Sandra Schwartz, 1821 SE 5th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL, 33990

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.flmn.h.ufl.edu/

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL www.flmn.h.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://flmn.h.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

If you find an Indian artifact, such as an arrowhead, on Florida state lands or river bottom, be aware that possession of an Indian artifact found on state lands after 2004 is a Class 3 Felony.

January 2015 speaker: Walter Stein, of Paleo adventures

Walter is a fossil dinosaur guide. He arranges trips for folks to actually hunt for Dinosaurs! He will be talking about--you guessed it--Dinosaurs!

He says:

"As far as the topic is concerned it will most certainly be on digging dinosaurs. I think what I'd like to do is a talk that starts off with general exploration and then gets more detailed. It would be regarding one of the coolest new dinosaurs described last year. It is the giant North American Oviraptor, called *Anzu wyleii*... and I helped excavate it some 15 years ago. It was finally described just last year by the folks at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. We call it the "The Chicken from Hell" and its story is quite colorful. So... some basics on exploration, some politics of paleontology, a cool new dinosaur, and a discussion on how dinosaurs are related to birds."

This is a meeting that I hope many of you can attend! Walter will be an interesting speaker and about a subject we rarely get to hear about. Come, and bring your dinosaur questions!

When the Peace River has other plans...

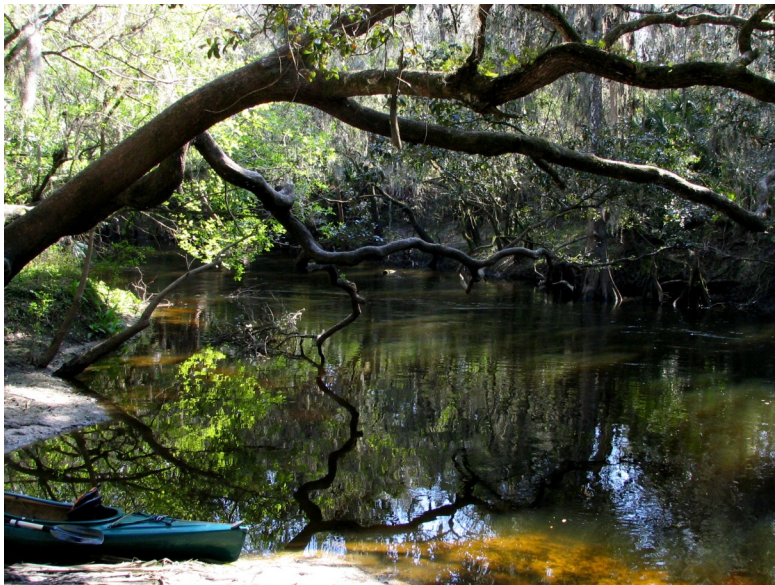
Mid-December found me still twiddling my thumbs, wondering where my next fossil was going to come from. Water levels in the Peace River remained high but the fossil veterans assured me this was in the range of normal for the “dry” season. FCOLC’s annual Fossil Fest was fun but nothing replaces the visceral pleasure of digging for fossils, and thus I found myself on the banks of the Alafia River in Lithia, Florida. The water level in that stretch of the Alafia was low enough to allow plenty of exploration but since neither me nor my digging partner had ever been there, we ran the risk of an epic fail. What else were we to do with all our spare time? We met at the well-maintained Lithia Springs Regional Park campground and set up for 3 days of fossil hunting.

We spent 2 days doing a lot of probing and digging a lot of test holes and after finding lots and lots of gravel but almost no fossil material, I finally decided I just needed to knuckle down and put in some “shovel time”. I chose an area of shallow, chunky gravel over clay and got to work. You can imagine my surprise when I found a nearly perfect camelid tooth. When you’re not finding anything at all it’s really a shock to find one thing this good.

I was packing it in for the day (one fossil? My work here is done!) when my hunting partner returned from his explorations upstream with a selection of agatized coral fragments. We had both been tossing around the idea of cutting the trip short but when I saw that coral, I was in for a penny, in for a pound! Couldn’t wait for the sun to come up on the third day!

Quoting The Paleontology Portal (www.paleoportal.org), “...[Florida’s] state stone is a fossilized coral that lived in the shallow seas covering the area during the upper Oligocene to lower Miocene (23-26 millions years ago). Over time, the calcium carbonate of the coral skeleton has been replaced with agate.” This material was used by ancient humans to form highly prized stone tools and is used in modern times for jewelry and as polished specimens for collectors.

What a fun, interesting day of digging! We found a fine variety of coral including a botryoidal piece and a piece with druzy quartz (pictured). I credit my friend for finding the location, but I found the lunker I am holding in the photo. He said I looked like “a kid on Christmas day!” When I got home, I improvised a light table to show off the color and translucency of the thinner pieces. Guess I’m going to have to learn how to use a lapidary saw!



A recent fossil hunting trip to the Alafia River saw some beautiful agatized coral specimens collected. These are a few pictures of the corals.

Aimee Hankel



Fossil Finds of the Month

A nice Mosaic Phosphate Mine collected Hubble Megalodon tooth by Zack Deyo



Fossil related news links!

A link to a video taken by Zack Deyo at the Mosaic Phosphate mine hunt on January 3, 2015

Zack's Mosaic video:
<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=1405230806436124>

This is a very interesting video I discovered on Face Book. Fossil hunting in the deserts of Peru!

I don't think we can do a club trip there, but it would be great if it could happen! Louis

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xi8ufl_exploring-the-desert-of-ica-peru_tech

Fossil Hunting River Trip!!

A club trip to the old Girl Scout Camp on the Peace River, upriver from Arcadia, will take place on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Since the camp is now private property, and it is a large tract of land, and hunting season is open, and hunting will be allowed on the weekends, we cannot go there except during weekdays. We know this is an imposition to some members, but we do what we can to make these opportunities available, and sometimes we have to deal with certain rules to be able to do so at all. This is private property.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting, and, as usual, we ask that you take your time and fill it out carefully so we have legible information.

We will meet at the Arcadia boat ramp, just west of Arcadia, on Hwy 70. We meet there at 9am. From there we take roll call and then proceed in a caravan to the property, which is about three miles away. We ask that you stay together, especially while driving on the property, to the river access point. At the river a gravel bar is immediately to your right as you walk down the old boat ramp to the river. There is no need for a boat. Please do not bring one. The gravel bar goes a long way, and starts right there. So, Please, NO boats of any kind. We drive through some areas of low hanging trees, and a roof top boat may not make it, anyway.

If you sign up for this trip--or ANY trip--remember that you did so. It is not fair to the group for us to be calling and trying to find out what happened to you. If something comes up and you cannot make it, we expect a phone call, as soon as possible, letting us know. If you don't show up and don't let someone in charge know, you may be ineligible for future trips. And, if you do **not** agree with the rules of any trip, remember that in most cases it is not us that impose the rules, but rather the people allowing us access. If you cannot follow the rules, please do not sign up for a trip.

This will be a wet, river, fossil hunt. Wear clothes that can get wet. No dress shoes, unless you want them ruined. And warm, as the water may be cold. Bring a change of clothes, for when you are finished. Bring water and food; none is provided. We arrive as a group. We may try to leave as a group also. We'll see how it goes, and if there is anyone else using the property that day. So, expect to make a day of it. Don't be in a big rush. Enjoy yourself. Bring a fold up chair. Your camera. Relax. Find some fossils! :-)

This is the Peace River, which is state owned water bottom. You need to have a fossil permit to be legal. The web site has the link to get this. www.fcolc.com It needs to be sent off to Gainesville and returned, so do it soon if you have not already done so.

Al Govin, Trips director

Louis Stieffel, President

January 3rd saw the Fossil Club of Lee County at the Mosiac Phosphate mine enjoying a fossil hunt. 30 attendees were allowed by the mine and since more than that signed up to go, a lottery was held to pick the lucky hunters. Al Govin handled the myriad details and rules imposed by the mine for us to hunt there. Members had to fill out a release form and follow certain dress guidelines. Beside sending the mine all of the members names involved, and their forms, and email addresses, and phone numbers before the trip date, Al had to follow-up after the trip and send information on those who actually attended that day. He thanked the mine, as well as asked for two hunting days in the future (again!).

I want to stress to those members who disagreed with the dress code and other things that it is NOT us imposing these rules. If you have trouble with the rules,

please refrain from signing up in the future. If you show up and do not follow the rules, the mine may choose to not allow us access in the future. If the rules state long pants, don't wear shorts. If it says closed toe hard shoes, leave the sneakers at home. The mine has the right to send you back home, and it's a long ride! Of course, most of the members have no problem, as it should be. And we all want it to be a fun outing, for everyone. It is not easy getting and handling these trips, so please appreciate the hard work and much time spent to do so.

Thank you Al.

I have a few pictures from that day, submitted by different members, included in this newsletter. Enjoy.

Louis

Mosaic Trip

On January 3rd, we went to the Mosaic Phosphate Mine. 30 members attended. It was the same place that we have gone to in the past but different tracks show that the stuff is moved around and possibly replaced. It had rained recently so there was a lot of clean material showing (not necessarily fossil). We didn't do too well, but several people found a few nice things. Zack left the 1st pit with 2 fine specimens. He did this last time too, I going to have to follow him around and see what he does different than me. We then went to a second location, quite a long way away, people managed to pick up more pieces but not in very good condition. It was a fun day to get out in the fresh air and talk to people that we don't always get to talk to or see. We are grateful for the opportunity to hunt the pit, so thanks Mosaic, and thanks to Joe and Kevin from Mosaic for giving up their Saturday to accompany us And thanks to Al Govin for all the hard work setting this trip up.

This is some pictures of some of the finds from three of the FCOLC members at the Mosaic Phosphate mine on 1-3-2015.

Don Lindsey



Notice:

The Southwest Florida Fossil Society, in Punta Gorda, will be presenting their Annual Fossil Auction on Saturday, February 14, 2015.

It will be held at 118 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda, FL, from 5:30- 10:00pm. Preview at 5:00 pm.

There will be live auction of many fossil items as well as a silent auction and a special kid's auction.

Fossil trips, Fossils, minerals, books, etc. will be available.

Notice:

The Fossil Club of Lee County will be holding their annual fossil auction in March

2015. It will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, FL, 33919.

Please consider a donation to the auction. If you desire we can give you a receipt for tax deduction.

Bring anything you want to donate (preferably fossil related) to the meeting this month.

Thank you

Auctioneer,

Louis Stieffel

Mosaic Trip

Here's some photos from today at Mosaic 1/3/15.
The finds were disappointing except for Zach who found 2 perfect megs, one of them quite large.



Dermal denticle, Cindy Bateman



Megs, Mike Gessel



Zach Deyo and his prize megs.



So close and yet so far: Mike Cox found this beat up meg with amazing color



Jim's haul, Jim Manderfield



My finds from mosaic. Michael Cox

Fossil Festival 2014

Well, the 10th annual fossil festival is in the books. Held December 6, at the Shell factory in Ft Myers, it was a total club effort. We had many members volunteer, and worked hard, with a smile, and it showed. I want to thank everyone for doing such a great job and representing the FCOLC in such a positive way. I want to thank the Shell Factory for all their support. And, I want to thank our co-chairpersons, Pam Plummer and Dean Hart, as well as the club vice president and person in charge of volunteers at the festival, Mike Siciliano. These three folks worked very long and very hard at putting on such a great show. Thank you, everyone, for doing such a great job!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



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Spokes-australopithecine

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Day one.
Ants on a stick.

You'll know you're full when the stinging makes your mouth numb.



Day two.
Fighting a large bird for some rotting glyptodon* meat.

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*Can substitute armadillo meat.



Day three.
Fruit, worms, and worms in fruit.



Days four-six.

Nothing.



Day seven.
Tree bark and grass.

After three days of fasting, you'll be surprised how yummy non-caloric plant matter is!



BEFORE

AFTER



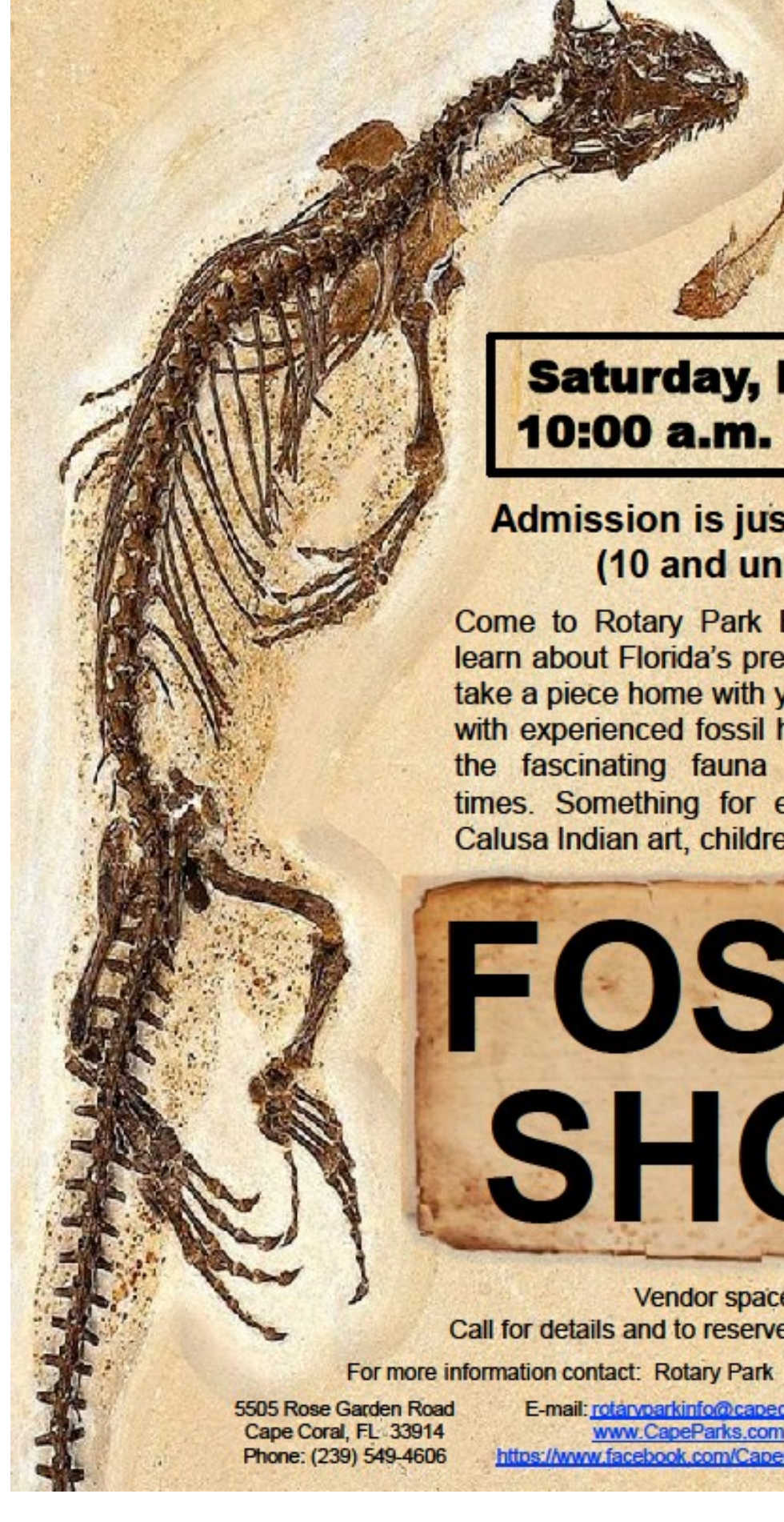
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you're fit!!*



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Saturday, March 28th
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission is just \$2 at the door!
(10 and under FREE)

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FOSSIL SHOW

Vendor spaces available!

Call for details and to reserve your space (239) 549-4606

For more information contact: Rotary Park

5505 Rose Garden Road
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone: (239) 549-4606

E-mail: rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net
www.CapeParks.com
<https://www.facebook.com/CapeCoralParks>



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This exhibition was created by The Field Museum, Chicago, and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's Corporation.



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