



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

JANUARY 2017

Letter from the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Yes, another one has gone and a new one, full of fossils! , has begun! Make sure you have a new year's resolution that includes more fossils in it!

Last month we had a great Christmas meeting, with everyone enjoying the great food! I want to thank Cindi Bateman for cooking the turkey and Gordi Ahl for cooking the ham! Both were delicious! Thanks!!

Check inside for info about our upcoming Peace River Canoe trip. Don't miss out. They are a blast!

Speaking this month will be Walter Stein. Do not miss his informative and interesting talk! February will be a presentation by Gary Schmelz. March is the annual fossil auction.

Show and tell is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!! We all want to see your fossils! No matter what they are, bring them in and show them off. Everyone learns from this. Since many are fossil hunting the rivers now, we should be seeing some nice finds! To keep it even more interesting, we are showcasing any fossils that you have with **color**!

Most of what we find are dull black, brown or grey, but sometimes the minerals in the fossil horizon stain the fossils with reds, yellows, blues, and even green colors. Rare, yes, but many can be SO beautiful! Let's see what ya got!! Bring in your **colored** fossils!!

The annual FOSSIL FESTIVAL will be held on February 18th. This is high season, and we will be at the Shell Factory, and with free admission, and promoting to schools, etc., we expect a large crowd. Last year was very successful, and this year will be even larger! PLEASE volunteer to help out! We need you, and--it's a fun day!

The Cape Coral burrowing Owl festival, at Rotary Park, is February 25. As usual we man a table there. You are welcome to join us!

Also, at Rotary Park the Cape Coral Fossil Show will be on April 1. No April fool's joke here--it's for real!!

I heard from a club member that camping out on the Peace over the holiday weekend he saw the FDW&F checking for fossil permits. We have actively promoted this, and have links in this newsletter as well as on our website @ www.fcolc.com. At the Fossil festival, as at most fossil shows a representative from the FLMNH attends and mans a table signing up folks for fossil permits. PLEASE, again--get your permit! To attend a club trip you MUST state that you have a permit. Remember--canoe trip on the 21st.

Marc Cantos started a tradition a few years ago, of providing food at the January meeting each year. This January meeting Marc will be doing it again. His take on "refreshments" is pretty extreme, so he says to tell you to come hungry! Thank you MR. Cantos!

Elections will be in March, immediately before the annual fossil auction. This year, we will have an opening for a member who wants to be a part of the executive board. Mike Siciliano is stepping down from his position as Vice-president. I am looking for a member who will run for this position. Let me know!!

Donations are needed for two separate needs. One is the silent auction held at the Fossil Festival. The other is our annual fossil auction. Please consider donating to either of these causes. Both of these activities greatly contribute to our finances to run the club and provide a couple of paleontology scholarships.

Shout out to Aimee Hankel! I was able to make a club purchase from an old time collector of some fossil agatized coral. We usually call it Tampa Bay Coral. This grouping came from the Hillsborough River, near Tampa, many years ago. I've heard that collecting for this material is no longer allowed there. To be frank, looking at it, it looks like driveway fill!!! But--inside--!! Beautiful!! But-it needs to be cut open to see the gorgeous interior. And, Aimee has volunteered to take this project on, along with Tom King (whom she wrangled to polish some!) and turn this into some really beautiful items for the two auctions. Aimee has always been a generous member of the FCOLC, and willingly shares many of her finds with the club. Thank you so much--Aimee, and Tom!

I spend a considerable amount of time putting this newsletter together. I really hope you guys enjoy it, read it, and learn something from it. However, as a test, last month I put a blurb on the bottom of page 15 stating that anyone that sees it to let me know so I can enter them into a special fossil drawing. Disappointingly to me, only 4 people came up to me at the meeting, quietly telling me that they "saw an alligator dressed as Santa". I handed each a red raffle ticket, and waited for more folks to tell me. However, up to the time of the drawing, I only handed out FOUR!! tickets! And I think one or two of those was tipped off to tell me the phrase! 4! That's all. So sad. No wonder members call me and email me and text me to ask questions of things posted in the newsletter--because they haven't read it!! Well, spoiler alert--this month is not a test. It's up to you if you read it. But, sooner or later the newsletter just may get shortened, a lot. Easier on me, that's for sure!

Gordi Ahl and his wife recently got into a motorcycle accident. I told him to NOT look for fossils while driving! Anyway, if you see some limping going on, now you know why. We wish both of these nice people all the best and good luck in the future. Be careful out there!

I want to publicly thank Michael Siciliano for all of his years as vice president of the club!! I believe it is 9 or 10 years now! And also for his dedication and helping the club in any way he can. And for being the best vice-president ever. He leaves some tough shoes to fill. Mike is just a generally overall nice guy, and the club is better for him being part of it! Thank you Mike!!

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



Minutes of December FCOLC Meeting

Meeting called to order. 63 members were present.

Louis explained that since it's the Christmas meeting, business matter will be short and members will start on the pot luck dinner.

Door prize winners were called. Gift exchange rules explained.

January 21st Canoe trip was discussed by Al Govin. Sign-ups and deposits were encouraged. Sign-ups will also be taken at the January 19th meeting.

The February 18th FCOLC Fossil festival was discussed. A call was put out for donations for the silent auction.

The annual fossil auction is at the March meeting. Donations are needed.

Speaker for January will be Walter Stein

Speaker for February will be Gary Schmelz

Members feasted on a wide variety of food to celebrate our Christmas holiday meeting.

The Turkey was cooked by Cindy Bateman. The ham was provided by Gordi Ahl and his lovely wife. The club provided the beverages, ice, and accessories.

Members provided various dishes, from fixin's to deserts! It was delicious!

Gift exchange took place.

Louis called out for anyone having a RED ticket, it was time for the drawing. Only 4 members had them. On page 15 of the newsletter Louis had put a blurb about anyone reading that to tell him they saw it and he gave them a red ticket. The winner, Al Govin, received a matched pair of fossil deer toes along with the hooves.

Leftovers were gathered up along with dishes, etc. and meeting adjourned.

Al Govin

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Leslie Stieffel

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Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer

Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips

Cindy Bateman, Librarian

Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise

Dean Hart, Refreshment

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Mike Cox, Jim Manderfield-co-chairmen of the 2017 Fossil festival

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers, Vertebrate Education

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, at Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

CANOE TRIP!!

A club canoe trip will be held on January 21st. This is fossil hunting and canoeing the stretch of Peace River from Gardner to Brownsville. Cost of a canoe is \$40 = \$20 per person. Sign-up sheets will be available at the January 19 meeting. Al Govin has arranged the trip with Canoe Outpost of Arcadia and has promised a certain number of canoes so that we can have this itinerary. A \$10 non-refundable deposit per person is required upon sign-up. This is to ensure that people signing up are serious about going and that the required number of canoes will be rented and paid for. Last year, we had a third of sign-up folks not even show up, and some had even forgot they had put their name on the list! The deposit helps ensure that they remember and also to ensure the canoe folks get paid for most of the canoes we agreed to if folks don't show up.

As with all sign-up sheets, please be careful about CLEARLY writing your contact info. If we have to, we may have to call to see where you are, if late, but encourage participants to be early if possible. The trip will be meeting and transported in a group from their facility just outside of Arcadia. More information and directions will be made available at the meeting, and plans are to email participants also.

For any member who has NOT canoed the Peace River, we encourage them to do so. It is a beautiful river for this! Ancient cypress trees, moss-filled oaks, limestone weathered banks, and wildlife abounding (if quiet!). No need to fear Alligators! Yes, you may see a couple on the bank, but they are more scare of you them you are of them. Over the years we've seen deer, wild Turkey, Otters, feral hogs, squirrels, Opossums, raccoons, many birds of ALL sorts. Snakes are NOT an issue! They are pretty rare to see. If you're reasonably quiet you never know what you may see. And the water is beautiful. So, make plans to attend this canoe trip. If we support it, we will see more planned.

Meeting time to be 8:30 AM with an end time of 4:00.



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

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

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

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville www.flmn.h.ufl.edu/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

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

Aimeee's Corner!!

Well, crud!

We've all thought it at one time or another when we paddle up to that honey hole we've been working and discover that someone has come along and dug it out.

I will admit, my language was a bit more explicit when it recently happened to me.

I've been quietly working a site for over 2 years and no one else has discovered it. One thing that helped is it's not in an area known for great fossil hauls, so my heart sank and I cursed a bit to see that someone had finally horned in on my spot.

The reality, as we all know, is it's not MY spot. The river doesn't belong to me or anyone else; it's here for everyone to enjoy. I've seen men almost come to blows over the piece of river real estate where they happened to be digging. I think most of us adopt a "do unto others" mentality and respect the places our fossil friends are working, avoiding those areas unless invited.

I reminded myself of all of those noble truths...and then I had to ask this phantom fossil hunter,

"Why did you make such a mess?!"

He left visible piles of gravel slung all along the bank and gouged holes in the bank above the water line, which everyone knows is not allowed. There's no better way to invite every passing digger to your spot as well as rile up the ill will of those who would like to put an end to fossil hunting in Florida's rivers.

I wished I'd had a small board and a wax pencil. I would've left a note saying, "A little discretion, please!"

Before I left, I did some housekeeping, filling the holes in the bank and splashing water to smooth them out, then pushing as much of the gravel back into the water as possible. I'll be curious to see if he returns; I'll know him by his trademark mess.

I've always figured it's better to have to dig through some of my spoil pile in the river than to dump gravel and fossil fragments along the bank. Please share your thoughts with me on the matter at

www.zookeeperfossils.blogspot.com

Aimeeee's Corner!!

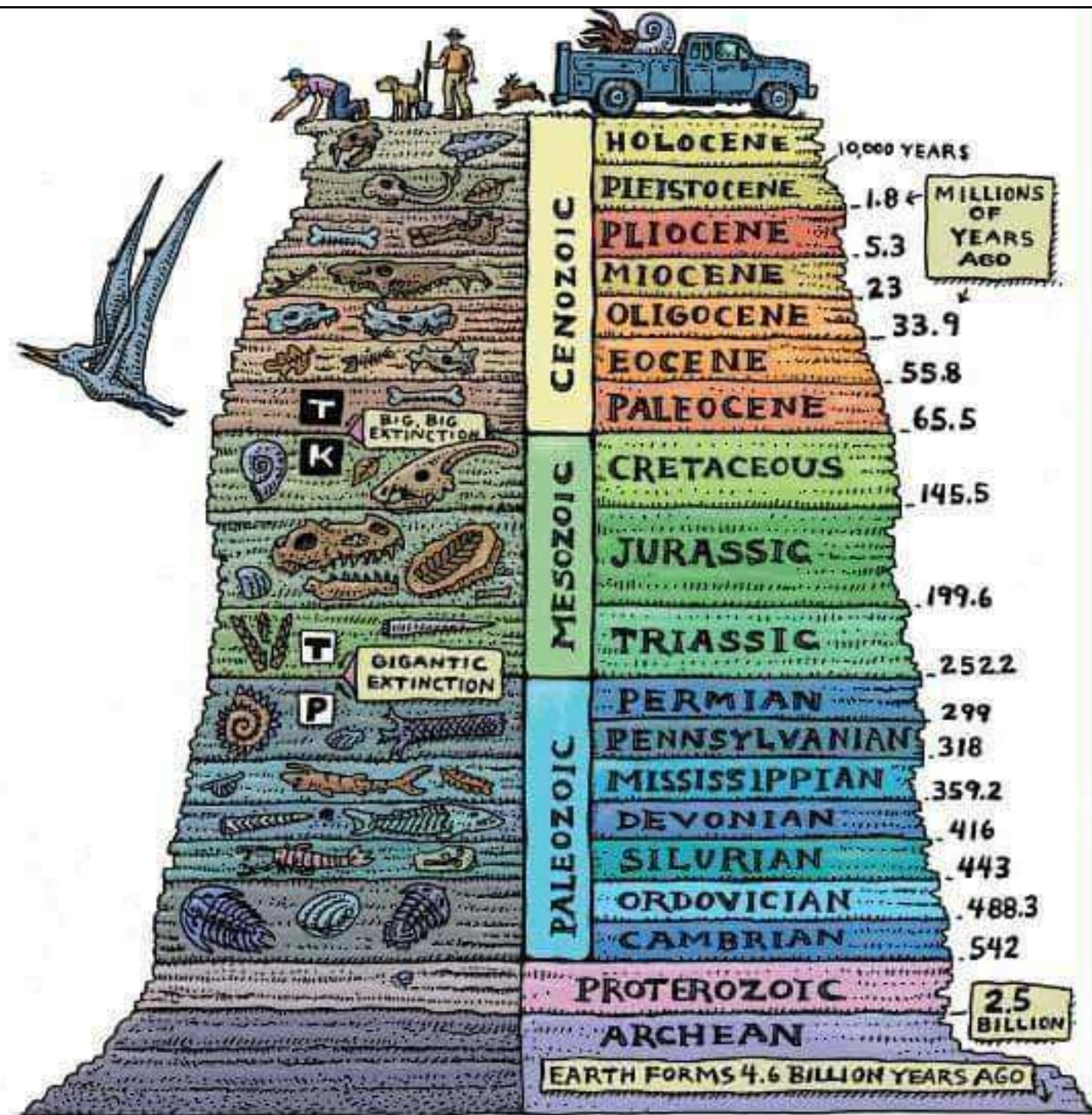


January Speaker

Walter Stein will be presenting this month at the meeting. The talk will be on fossil preparation, preservation, restoration and curation.

Walter has spoke to us before, and is a very engaging, interesting speaker. His specialty is Dinosaurs, and he leads dinosaur collecting trips each summer.

I encourage all of you to come see and listen to Walter at this month's FCOLC meeting! Bring all your Dinosaur questions!



I recently received this and thought it may be of interest to our members. We are in a quiet battle to preserve our fossil collecting and this is more info towards that topic.

It concerns The Southern California Paleontology Society, but it also is of concern to the rest of us in this hobby. Different links will take you to different comments on the topic.

Louis

Yesterday I sent you the most recent draft of the Southern California Paleontological Society's comment letter regarding pending legislation on the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009. Today I received this excellent list of online resources from one of our members, Andrew Hoekstra, who was very instrumental in drafting our letter.

You are free to distribute this list to your members to encourage their participation in the public comment process by writing their own individual letters. I hope this is helpful!

Karol McQueary

President, SCPS

The SCPS has prepared a formal comment letter on the proposed regulations governing fossil collecting on BLM lands, but individuals are also encouraged to comment, since the number of comments received is an indication of public concern.

If you decide to comment as an individual, you may benefit from reading the regulations and supporting documents, the SCPS draft letter, and other resources listed below.

Current draft of SCPS letter: http://www.sdmg.org/blmdocs/PRPA_comment_draft.pdf

Webpage where you can make comments or upload a comment letter: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-29244>

Text of the proposed rule with an explanation of the meaning: <https://goo.gl/YvaPQ7>

The Environmental Assessment for the proposed rule: https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/programs_paleontology_quick%20links_BLM%20draft%20EA%20for%20casual%20collection.pdf

The 2009 PRPA law, for which the new rule is proposed: <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Paleontological%20Resources%20Preservation%20Act.pdf>

The BLM Paleontology webpage, with PRPA fact sheets: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/cultural-resources/paleontology>

The 2015 Forest Service rule, parallel to the BLM proposal: <https://goo.gl/Y9kaHg>

FAQ by the Paleontological Society regarding the proposed rule: <http://www.myfossil.org/faq-from-the-paleontological-society-regarding-the-paleontological-resources-preservation-act/>

Articles by Andrew Hoekstra and by Mike Nelson, in the SDMG newsletter: <http://www.sdmg.org/peg-online/sdmg-pegmatite-2017-jan.pdf>

Article by Glade Gunther: <http://www.aaps.net/pdf/Gunther-BLMRuleArticle.pdf>

Commentary by Matt Heaton and others: <https://www.savefossilcollecting.org/>
Discover something new.

Dinosaurs' Long Egg Hatching Times Might Have Led to Their Demise

By Laura Geggel, Senior Writer | January 3, 2017 01:52pm ET



Dinosaur embryos took three to six months to incubate in their eggs.

Credit: Gregory Erickson | Florida State University

Modern birds hatch their eggs in a jiffy, taking anywhere from a mere 11 days to just less than three months to incubate their fluffy chicks — a far shorter time than their dinosaur ancestors took to do the same deed, a new study finds.

Dinosaurs took anywhere from three to six months to hatch their eggs, according to the study. That long waiting period likely contributed to nonavian dinosaurs' extinction about 65 million years ago, when a 6-mile-long (10 kilometers) asteroid slammed into Earth, the researchers said.

The scientific team made the remarkable discovery by studying the dental records of embryonic dinosaur fossils. [[Image Gallery: Dinosaur Day Care](#)]

"Some of the greatest riddles about dinosaurs pertain to their embryology — virtually nothing is known," study lead researcher Gregory Erickson, a professor of biological science at Florida State University, [said in a statement](#). "Did their eggs incubate slowly, like [those of] their reptilian cousins — crocodilians and lizards — or rapidly, like [those of] living dinosaurs — the birds?"

Reptile eggs, even those similar in size to bird eggs, take about twice as long to incubate as bird eggs do, Erickson said. Still, some scientists theorized that dinosaur eggs — even those as large as volleyballs — might have undergone rapid incubation, and then passed down this swift hatching time to their bird descendants, he said.

But Erickson and his colleagues thought otherwise, and decided to prove it by studying the teeth of [fossilized dinosaur embryos](#).

"Time within the egg is a crucial part of development, but this earliest growth stage is poorly known because dinosaur embryos are rare," study co-author Darla Zelenitsky, an assistant professor of geoscience at the University of Calgary in Alberta, said in the statement. "Embryos can potentially tell us how dinosaurs developed and grew very early on in life and if they are more similar to birds or reptiles in these respects."

Egg hunt

The researchers examined embryos from two dinosaur species: *Protoceratops*, a *Triceratops* relative about the size of a sheep that lived in what is now the Mongolian Gobi Desert; and *Hypacrosaurus*, a large, duck-billed dinosaur found in Alberta, Canada.

These two vastly distinct dinosaurs had very different egg sizes. [Protoceratops' eggs](#) were small, just 6.8 ounces (194 grams), or about the weight of four golf balls. In contrast, *Hypacrosaurus* laid eggs weighing nearly 9 lbs. (4 kilograms) — equivalent to the weight of a large, ripe cantaloupe. [[In Images: A Baby Dinosaur Unearthed](#)]

The researchers looked at the jaws of the dinosaur embryos using a computed tomography (CT) scanner to construct a virtual 3D image of the embryos' developing teeth. Then, the researchers extracted several of the teeth and studied them under a high-powered microscope.

An analysis of the teeth revealed [tiny growth lines](#) showing how long the embryos had been growing inside their eggs.

"These are the lines that are laid down when any animal's teeth develops," Erickson said. "They're kind of like tree rings, but they're put down daily. We could literally count them to see how long each dinosaur had been developing."

By counting the lines, the researchers found that the little *Protoceratops* embryos were almost three months old, while the larger *Hypacrosaurus* embryos were nearly six months old.

"Dinosaur embryos are some of the best fossils in the world," said study co-author Mark Norell, a curator for the American Museum of Natural History in New York. "Here, we used spectacular fossil specimens collected by American Museum expeditions to the Gobi Desert, [and] coupled them with new technology and new ideas, leading us to discover something truly novel about dinosaurs."



The embryonic remains of the dinosaur *Hypacrosaurus*.
Credit: Courtesy of Darla Zelinsky

Egg implications

Discovering the incubation time for dinosaur eggs has large implications for dinosaur research. For instance, a long incubation period likely exposed dinosaur parents to a number of dangers, including predators, starvation and other environmental threats, the researchers said.

Moreover, if dinosaurs spent [vast amounts of time incubating eggs](#), they likely couldn't nest at the temperate latitudes of Canada and then migrate the long distance to the Arctic during the summer, as some scientists have speculated.

But the new study's largest takeaway involves the dinosaurs' extinction. Compared with animals with faster incubation times, the dinosaurs' long incubation periods would have put dinosaurs at a distinct disadvantage following the asteroid impact, the researchers said.

"We suspect our findings have implications for understanding why dinosaurs went extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period, whereas amphibians, birds, mammals and other reptiles made it through and prospered," Erickson said.

The study's findings are intriguing, said David Varricchio, a paleontologist at Montana State University who was not involved with the research.

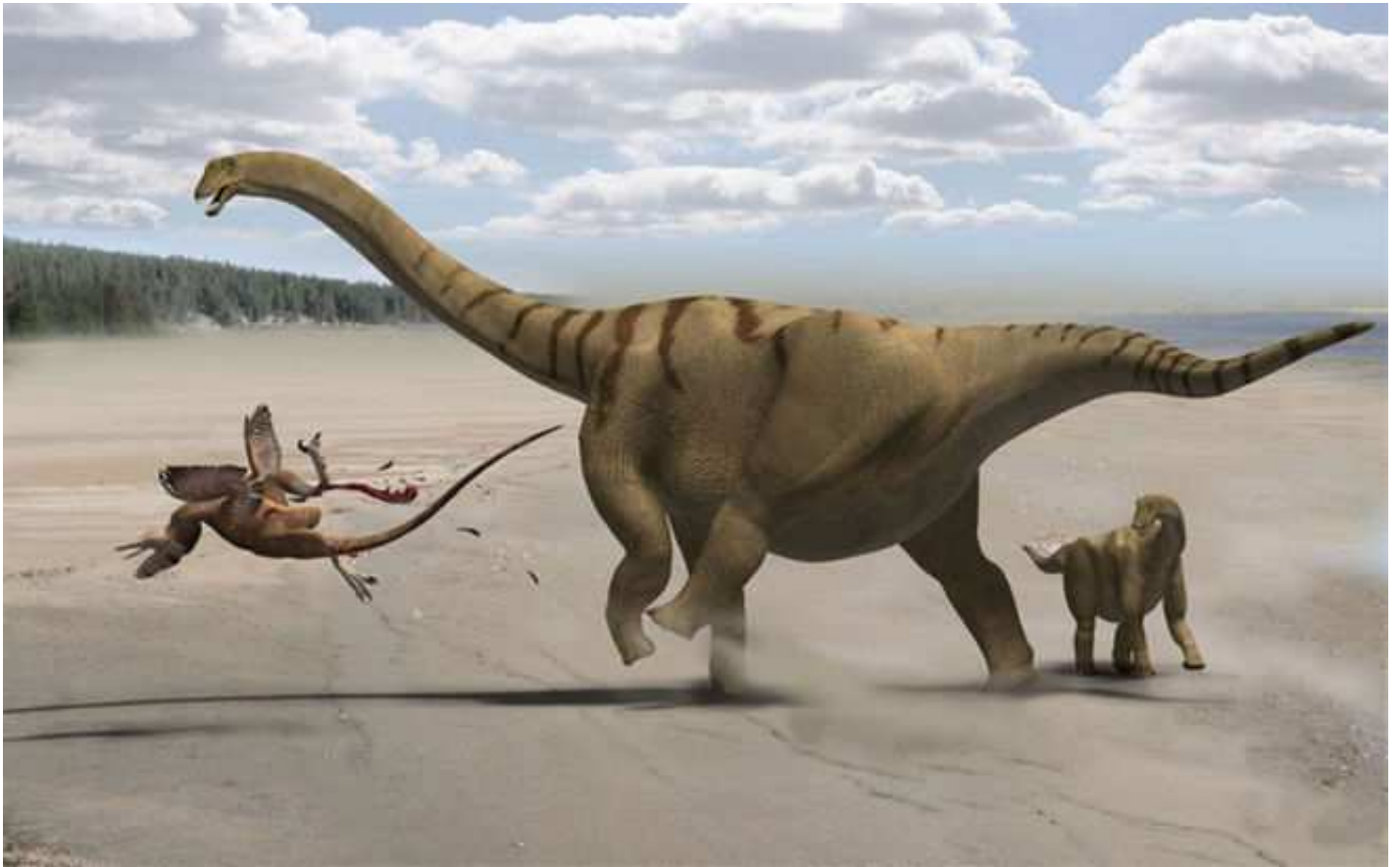
"These long incubation times [likely restricted dinosaurs](#)," Varricchio told Live Science in an email. "If they had parental care, for example, parents would be bound to a specific spot for months (up to six months) of a given year. This would limit migration. Perhaps it would also hinder dinosaurs' response to environmental change."

The study was published online Monday (Jan. 2) in the [journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

Original article on [Live Science](#).

How Do Dinosaurs Get Their Names?

By Corey Binns | November 15, 2012 09:15am ET



Dinosaurs earn their names from how they look, where they are found and even who found them.

Credit: Francisco Gascó under the direction of Mike Taylor and Matt Wedel

Dinosaurs earn their names just like Tiny Tim, Andre the Giant and William “The Fridge” Perry.

Sadly, dino names don’t always have the same ring to them. Take *Pachycephalosaurus*.

“Pachy” comes from the Greek word meaning thick; “cephale” means head; and “saurus” means lizard. Mush them all together and you’ve got a lizard topped off with a stocky noggin (though nowadays, scientists no longer classify dinosaurs as lizards).

Dino names can be mixtures of Greek or Latin words that describe physical features. Or they can be named after the location where scientists discovered the [ancient reptile's fossils](#). For instance, *Albertosaurus* was found in Alberta, Canada.

Sometimes dinosaurs are given the name of a person who helped dig up the old bones. *Diplodocus carnegii* was named for Andrew Carnegie, who funded the expedition that discovered the big sauropod.

Newly described living animals today usually are named the same way.

Mammoth Fossils Found at Site of LA Subway Dig

By Tia Ghose, Senior Writer | December 5, 2016 04:59pm ET



The skull of a large Proboscidean, such as a mammoth or a mastodon, was recently unearthed while construction workers were digging a new line to the Los Angeles Metro. *Credit: Metro*

Fossils from giant, ice age-beasts were uncovered while workers were digging an extension to the Los Angeles subway system.

The finds include a 3-foot-long (1 meter) section of mammoth tusk, as well as a skull and partial tusks from a much younger animal, which might have been either a mammoth or a mastodon, [according to The Source](#), a transportation blog about the L.A. Metro.

Though the ice-age fossils (whose exact age has not yet been determined) are certainly treasures that are rarer to unearth under the subway than rat "fossils" and "coprolites," old chicken wings or discarded coffee cups, the finds actually aren't all that surprising. The area around the site of the fossil discovery, near the La Brea/Wilshire station, is not too far from the La Brea Tar Pits, an area of central Los Angeles where [natural asphalt has been seeping up](#) from the ground for the last 40,000 years. [\[See Photos of the Ice-Age Animal Skull Uncovered During Subway Construction\]](#)

Over the eons, this constant ooze of asphalt has created sticky pits in valleys that would often become obscured by leaves, branches and other ground cover. As a result, unwary animals stepped into the sticky death traps. The [viscous ooze trapped small animals](#) and insects

immediately, while larger beasts like [mammoths](#) sank inches into the tar, struggling to get out before becoming stuck, researchers have noted. The dead or dying animals attracted predators as well — some of which also became stuck in the asphalt. All told, more than 1 million fossils have been found in the tar pits, [according to the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum](#).

[Mammoths and mastodons](#) are both Proboscideans. Though both were majestically large and had shaggy coats and impressively curved tusks, mammoths are much more closely related to modern-day elephants, having arisen about 5 million years ago in Africa. By contrast, mastodons arose about 27 million to 30 million years ago.

During the [Pleistocene epoch](#), between 1.8 million and 11,700 years ago, mammoths and mastodons roamed over the part of North America that was not covered by ice sheets, including coastal California. [\[Skin & Bones: Look Inside Baby Mammoths\]](#)

Because of the subway line project's proximity to the La Brea Tar Pits, Metro officials were anticipating fossil finds and brought on paleontologists from the firm Cogstone to make sure that any discovery of prehistoric fossils would be safely excavated and preserved, according to the blog post. The new finds were immediately covered with plaster for preservation and sent to the nearby Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Original article on [Live Science](#).

Rains, and the river!

We had a good rain shower, further up near the headwaters of the Peace, and as you can see from the USGS guage, it affected the levels immediately. Now, we have another front moving in, with some more rain. Uh-oh! You just never know. So, get out there when you can, because this weather patterns have been changing and guaranteed winter low river water levels are a thing of the past!

USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----

USGS 02296750 PEACE RIVER AT ARCADIA FL



----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----

USGS 02297310 HORSE CREEK NEAR ARCADIA FL



----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----



Fossil Hunting story

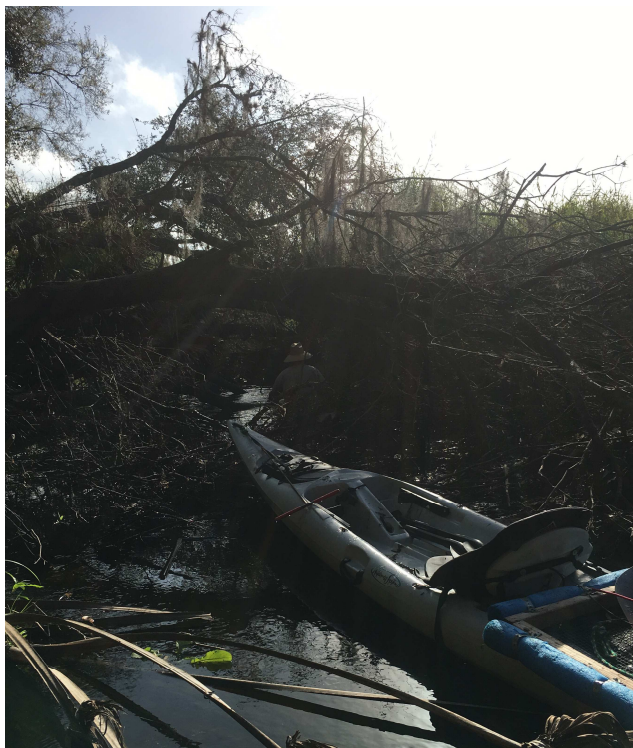
BY Jack Boyce:

Joe Larkin and I have been on many successful fossil hunting trips together, but at this specific time, we are lacking a favorite spot that produces lots of fascinating fossils. As a great example , I found a sloth mandible with 2 teeth on Jan 2nd, 2016 !!! It was a WoW.

This year we originally decided to go out December 31st, but postponed to Monday January 2nd due to a cold front rolling thru. It was a prospecting trip to a creek location we had never been to previously. There were some concerns like low water, not likely to be above 2 feet, lots more vegetation in the smaller creeks, steep side walls and the likelihood of bumping into animals.

It was not what I would say was my most successful outing. My single fossil was a piece of a turtle shell. Joer did slightly better with a maybe cow or bison astragalus, a complete but modern turtle shell, a nice coral head, and a couple of fossilized bones. And we did see a couple of river otters, one of which disputed our presence in his/her hunting grounds.

The REAL story of the day was the vegetation crossing the creek!!!



Let me do a blow_up here just in case you missed it. That is Jlar in front of his Kayak -- We agreed that I would be the trip photographer, sooooooooooooooooooooo I could not be holding the hacksaw, machete, or whatever..



Joe is up to his waist in creek water, trying to determine which path is going to be easiest to cut through. There were 10 or so of these types of barriers in the approximate 2 miles we advanced into the interior, porting kayaks and gear up , over and around, the obstacles.

The GOOD news is that we did not find any outstanding honey holes that will encourage us to go back to this creek. I was bushed when I got home last night, and every muscle hurt when I woke this morning. But I did have a lot of fun --- Joe and I always have a great time when we go fossil hunting

A couple of non fossil finds...





The two cusps on the inside lip of the carapace about 1/3 down the body from the front make me wonder if this isn't a carapace from an Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*)? It would seem to me that there might be some sort of indication on the upper carapace where the hinge of the two parts of the lower plastron meet.

The fact that there is a symmetrical pair of holes punched through the carapace in the front and the back seem to discount predation marks. There likely would be some scratches and scrapes accompanying any successful bite

wounds on either end. I'm starting to wonder if these might not be man-made perforations? I wonder if the Native Americans might have used such a carapace for some utilitarian or ornamental purpose and possibly some sort of cords might have been strung through these holes? This is, of course, just wild speculation but I cannot at this time come up with any other potentially credible explanation.

Did just come across this on an internet search:

<https://tennesseearchaeologycouncil.wordpress.com/2016/09/12/the-production-of-prehistoric-turtle-shell-rattles-in-tennessee/>

http://www.academia.edu/5366065/An_Exploration_of_Turtle_Shell_Rattle_Manufacture_in_the_Mississippian_Period

Joe tells me that the turtle shell, on drying, looks more and more modern. If not an artifact, why would modern Floridians drill holes in a turtle shell? Not much on this prospecting trip but Joe and I sure got a mystery out of it. Plus we did get to cut thru that vegetation and port the kayaks over land at least 4 times!!! Joe and Jack's fantastic Adventure.



FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FOSSIL DIG 2016-2017

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Applicants must be of at least 15 years of age to participate.

Please Type or Print

Name: _____ Date: _____

Birth Date (yr optional): ____ / ____ / ____

Mailing Address: _____

street

city

state

zip

Day phone: (_____) _____ Evening Phone: (_____) _____ (if different)

E-mail: _____

In case of an emergency, notify: _____

name

phone

relation to you

How did you hear about volunteering for the dig?

Volunteers who are 15 to 17 years old must be accompanied at all times by an adult relative or guardian.

I agree to follow all rules and instructions of the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) staff at the fossil site, to the stipulation that all specimens collected at the fossil site become the property of FLMNH, and to sign a waiver of liability before beginning work. I acknowledge that trespassing on the fossil site, or collecting fossils at the site without the consent and supervision of FLMNH staff is a crime, as is providing information (such as detailed directions) that will allow others to illegally dig or vandalize the fossil site. I consent to having photographs taken at the site and understand that these photos may be used by the FLMNH in newspaper and magazine articles and on the Internet. I affirm that I am at least 15 years of age. To the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided on this form is true.

Signature _____ Date _____

If applicant is under 18 years old, also have parent or guardian sign below

Signature _____ Date _____

Print parent or guardian name _____

Please continue application on second page

2016-2017 FOSSIL DIG VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

(CONTINUED)

Circle only days you are certain you can work at the fossil site. Please check the web site to determine which days are full (do not sign up for full dates). You will be notified by email which days you have been accepted. You can add dates later in the season if space is available. You can sign up for as many days as you want, as long as space is available

Montbrook Site Digging Dates:

November: 26 27 29 30

December: 1 2 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 14 15 16 17 18

January 2017: 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 24 25 26
27 28 29 31

February 2017: 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 18
19 21 22 23 24 25 26 28

March 2017: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30 31

April 2017: 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 19 20
21 22 23 25 26 28 29 30

Your voluntary contributions help cover the cost of supplies and equipment. If you would like to make a voluntary contribution online using a credit card, follow this link:

<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=008465>. Or, mail in a check made out to University of Florida Foundation. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your contribution. Please send your completed form (and check for voluntary contribution) to:

Richard Hulbert
Florida Museum of Natural History
Dickinson Hall, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800

Or scan and email as an attachment to rnarducci@flmnh.ufl.edu

Or Fax to (352) 846-0287

Or deliver in person to front desk of Dickinson Hall on the UF Campus

Confirmation, instructions, and directions will be sent to you by email upon receiving your application.

FCOLC Fossil Festival

Our annual fossil festival will be held on February 18, again at the Shell Factory. This year we will be bigger, and even better, than last year! The festival enjoyed such success that the Shell factory requested us to expand from one large tent to two! Along with the fixed "carport" enclosures, this provides us with a lot of space to fill with vendors and club activities!

Mike Cox has volunteered to be the festival coordinator this year! He has been working hard at the planning necessary to put on such an event. He has vendors signed on, and club booths lined up and volunteer lists at the ready. A couple more pre-show planning meetings and he feels everything will be ready for another fun and successful festival!!

FCOLC volunteers will be needed. This is a fun way to spend your day! Support your club. It's a good thing that we are doing, as much of the proceeds are earmarked for scholarships, and community outreach. Please sign up at the next meeting as a volunteer.

The Shell Factory has been a terrific supporter of our club, and we ask that in turn you help support them. Events are always happening there, as well as their free museums (one is the "world famous" FOSSIL museum!). Between the Fish Bones restaurant, the Nature Park and the huge building filled with all sorts of things, you should plan on a visit soon.

Mike says to sign up to help and come and have fun!!

The FL Museum of Natural History is currently working at a large-scale, extensive excavation at the Montbrook fossil site.

The Hemphillian Montbrook Site is about a 40-minute drive south of Gainesville, near the town of Williston in Levy County.

The Montbrook Site is very productive and almost all volunteers will find some fossil specimens on their first day.

The most commonly found fossils are bones from the shell of freshwater turtles and vertebrae, spines, scales, and skull bones of fish, including gar, catfish, snook, and drum. Fossils of alligator, birds, and mammals are also found, but less frequently. For more information about the Montbrook fossil site, visit:

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/museum-voices/montbrook/>

We will be working at the site from January 14 to May 21, 2017.

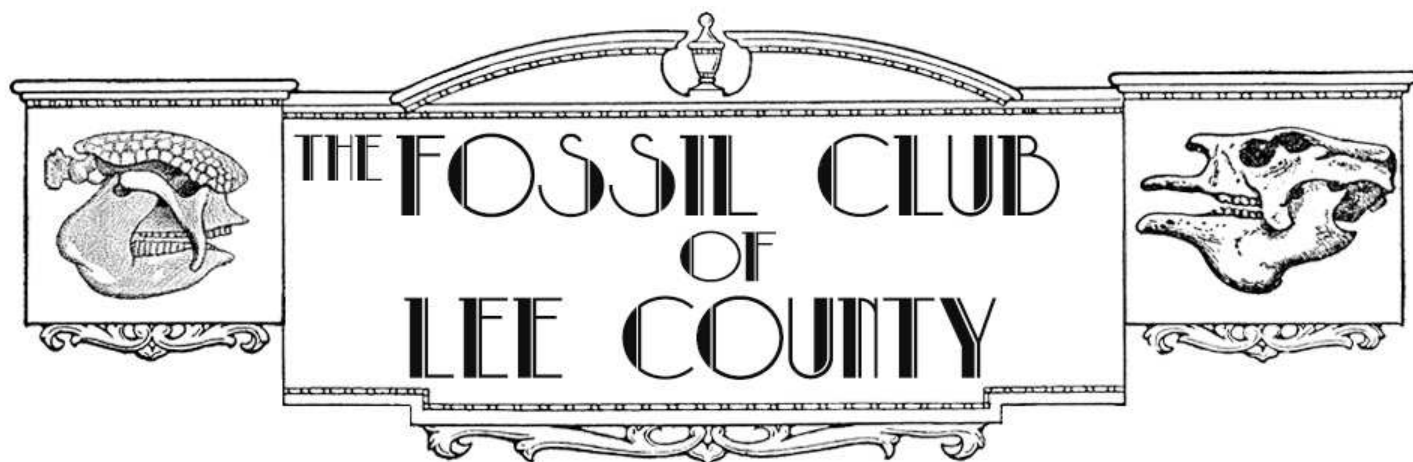
Work at the site will occur from Tuesday through Sunday, with a few exceptions for some weeks. Volunteers from 15 to 17 years of age will be accepted but must be accompanied by an adult sibling (18+ years old), or a parent or guardian.

Otherwise, volunteers must be at least 18 years old.

Volunteers must be physically fit enough to work outdoors for several hours and be able to walk up and down irregular slopes. Volunteers can work just a single day, a few days, or a regular schedule one or more times a week. There is no limit to the number of times a volunteer can work at the site.

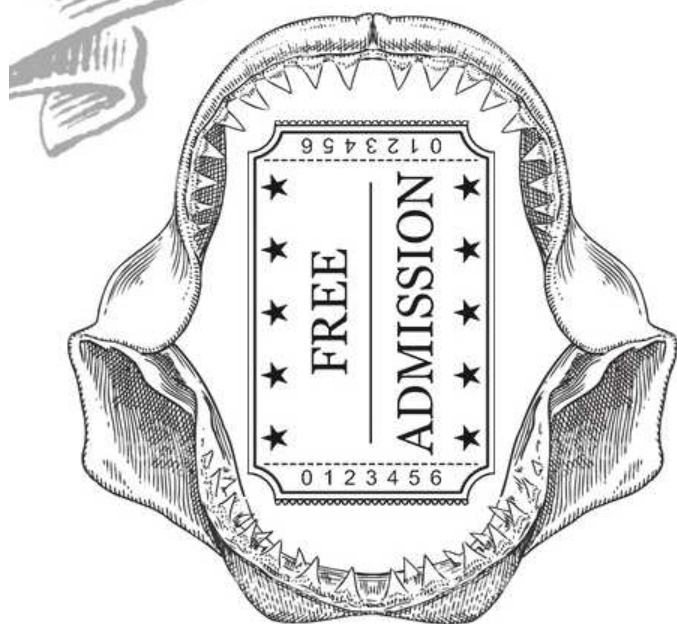
Fossil Identification

Fossils are not subjective. They are what they actually are, not what they MAY look like. It's very difficult sometimes to ID fossils, especially vertebrate fossils, from a picture. Or a book. It's one dimensional, and you're looking at a three dimensional object to compare. And you need to know some history of the fossils found in your area and the age it may be and the formation it was in to help positively ID. This can come from books. And, keep in mind that erosion and wear and millions of years of age make that fossil you found look different than the perfect ones pictured in books. 90+% of vertebrate fossils you find are partials. A complete one is an easy guess. But the broken, worn ones can be difficult to impossible to ID. Google can help, but you need to know WHAT to google, and even then, it's rarely an exact match so you may still not know. The BEST way to learn, and compare, is with REAL fossils. The best identifiers have found or seen or own many real, identified fossils to compare with. The best identifiers are the ones with the best comparable collection. Looking at your "search results" picture cannot show you the true look and feel of a matching fossil and you may never find an exact match to the picture. Go to museums, fossil shows, people's collections. Look and compare real fossils. Soon you will be able to tell a rock from a real fossil, and then start learning what that fossil really is from. Good luck.



PRESENTS

THE 12TH ANNUAL
FOSSIL FESTIVAL
WWW.FCOLC.COM



- SILENT AUCTION
- GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE
- VENDORS AND FOSSIL DEALERS
- KIDS DIG!
- FREE FOSSIL MUSEUM & EXHIBITS
- FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL, WITH PRIZES!



15th Annual

Burrowing Owl Festival

Saturday, February 25, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Rotary Park in Cape Coral

Celebrate the official city bird

- ❖ Mote Marine Mobile Lab
- ❖ Live Animals
- ❖ Free Butterfly House Tours
- ❖ Guided Owl Burrow Bus Tours
- ❖ Photographer's Bus Tour
7:30am By RSVP only + Additional Fee
- ❖ Wildlife Presentations
- ❖ Nature & Wildlife Exhibitors & Vendors
- ❖ Owl Burrow Maintenance Demonstrations
- ❖ Owl Starter Burrow Demonstrations
- ❖ Student Wildlife Art Contest
- ❖ Silent Auction
- ❖ Tasty food & treats
- ❖ Butterfly Plants for sale and more!



Photo by Dan Tudor

www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

\$5 donation requested at the gate, FREE for children under 16.
All proceeds stay locally to help the owls and other wildlife of Cape Coral

Rotary Park Environmental Center
5505 Rose Garden Road
Cape Coral, FL 33914
WWW.CapeParks.com



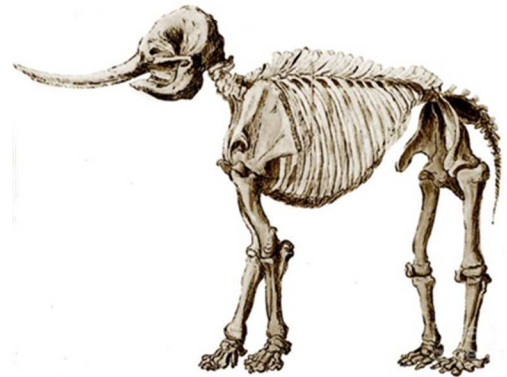


FOSSIL SHOW



**Saturday, April 1
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Come to Rotary Park Environmental Center to learn about Florida's pre-historic past and maybe take a piece home with you. Come to shop or talk with experienced fossil hunters to learn all about the fascinating fauna of Florida's prehistoric times. Something for everyone: fossils, gems, Calusa Indian art, children's activities and more!



**Vendor spaces available!
Call for details and to reserve your space (239)549-4606**



Admission is just \$3 at the door! (Under 10 FREE)

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>