



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

JANUARY 2018

Letter from the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Well, fellow fossil folk it's a new year and new exciting fossils to find!! After this really cold weather passes, it's time to get out there and find 'em!

The water levels will be down in the rivers and creeks, but cold, so wear some insulated waders or wet suits, so you don't get hypothermia!! Remember—you have to get out of your comfort zone to be successful in this hobby! Here's a prime example!

Last month we had our annual Christmas party meeting! LOTS of great food brought in and shared. Sue Rhodes cooked up a big ol turkey and Gordi Ahl did up a great ham, and everyone else brought in something that tasted good! What a feast! Lots of door prizes, and of course the gift exchange, rounded out the evening. Everyone had a nice time, relaxing and eating and socializing.

Speaking to the club this month of January will be a fellow club member, Clay Bulan! He is a fossil diver, and will be telling us all about ledge diving! For those of you who don't know, that is diving on underwater ledges, off of the coast of North Carolina, in the Atlantic ocean! It is deep diving, around 100 feet, but the rewards are worth the risk and effort as LOTS of great big Megalodon shark teeth are found there. Clay will show some of these teeth and tell us all about the adventure! Don't miss this!!

Our speaker in February will be Victor Perez, from the FLMNH. He will be telling us about fossil sharks, especially some new ideas on the sizes of Megalodon. Bring all your shark questions and let Victor tell you what's up. We really appreciate the effort he will be making, driving all the way from Gainesville to present to us.

FOSSIL FESTIVAL!! IT'S COMING!! February 17!! Come one-come all!!

Lou and Val are working very hard to organize and plan the festival this year! Between meetings, both with club officers, vendors and Shell Factory representatives, new designs for activities and general all around tasks they have put in a LOT of effort. We have some signed up volunteers from the club, but make sure you don't miss the sign-up sheets at this meeting! We need ya! Everyone helping at this event has fun! Do it! Be a part of our club and plan on doing your part that day. We will be discussing the festival at length at this meeting, so don't miss it!

Tradition! Yes, it's FCOLC member Marc Cantos' mission to continue his annual January tradition of feeding club! He will again this year be providing a great meal for everyone who comes to the meeting. And, Marc says to come hungry! He donates this meal, and we say **THANK YOU!**

February refreshments will be provided by the Willis'. Speaker will be Victor Perez.

March is another tradition, with refreshments provided by the FCOLC snowbird group, Bonita Beach Gang! These guys are serious about their fossil hunting too, and never fail to be there to help the club. This is the annual fossil scholarship auction. Always a fun evening!

Elections—any member wanting to run for office, or interested in being a board member, please see me (Louis) about it. The elections will be in March, before the auction.

Memberships are due on the first of the year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please see Al Govin, treasurer, at the meeting.

It is a good time to look at your fossil permit and see if it's time to renew. River hunting (state lands) is about to start for the season. You are required to have a valid fossil permit.

Fossil Donations are needed!! We need donations for the 13th annual FCOLC Fossil Festival, (silent auction, kid's dig, spin game), and also for the annual fossil auction. See me (Louis) at the meeting about this. Please remember and bring in any donations you may have. Thanks.

Show and Tell is ALWAYS welcome, at every meeting! That's what we're about—fossils! So, bring 'em in. If you are too shy to publicly speak about them, I or someone else will do it for you. And, check out the FCOLC face book page to see and post finds for us all to see. Also, send me pictures of your discoveries so we can put it in the newsletter. These are the most interesting posts we can have, as the fossils are what we are about!

I would like an energetic club member to step up and volunteer to be in charge of trips. We are stronger as a club if we have periodic fossil hunting opportunities to engage in, but it takes a bit of effort to organize a club trip. Not all trips have to be fossil hunting, but, that's preferred. I can help you. Al Govin, who has done many of these, can help you. Once you do one or two you will find it much easier, and it's fun and exciting and challenging and rewarding to do these club trips. Please consider it and let me know if interested. As a side benefit, as you get more experienced, and more of THE contact person, you will find yourself being made aware of hunting opportunities you never knew about. Please think about this and let's get some trips started!

Check out all the information and pictures inside this month's newsletter! And, consider contributing an article or picture to future newsletters.

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President
239-851-7499, cape187@earthlink.net
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President
239-980-6311, cape187@earthlink.net
Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer
239-910-2339, algovin1@hotmail.com

DIRECTORS

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217
Dave Seehaver
Jeanne Seehaver
Dr. John Taraska

COMMITTEES

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
Victoria O'Toole, \$1 Raffle
Lou and Valerie Rahn, Festival Organizers
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers, Vertebrate Education

Here is a site that has every river and creek mapped **for the whole state**, separated by county. Click on the zoomify tab below each map to zoom in. Enjoy !

Save to your desktop so you can find and use it often!

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/hydrography/index.php>

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church , 7401 Winker Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

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!!

Thinking About Fluorescence

I can't quite put my finger on why, but fluorescence is cool. Until recently I probably hadn't been in the presence of a black light since admiring my older brother's velvet Led Zeppelin poster when I was in junior high. Then club member Rick Batts shined the light...the UV light, that is...on an amazing starfish he has from South Africa. It lit up like it was covered with brilliant polka dots. Shortly after that experience, Tom gave me a small black light flashlight of my own and a whole new world opened up.

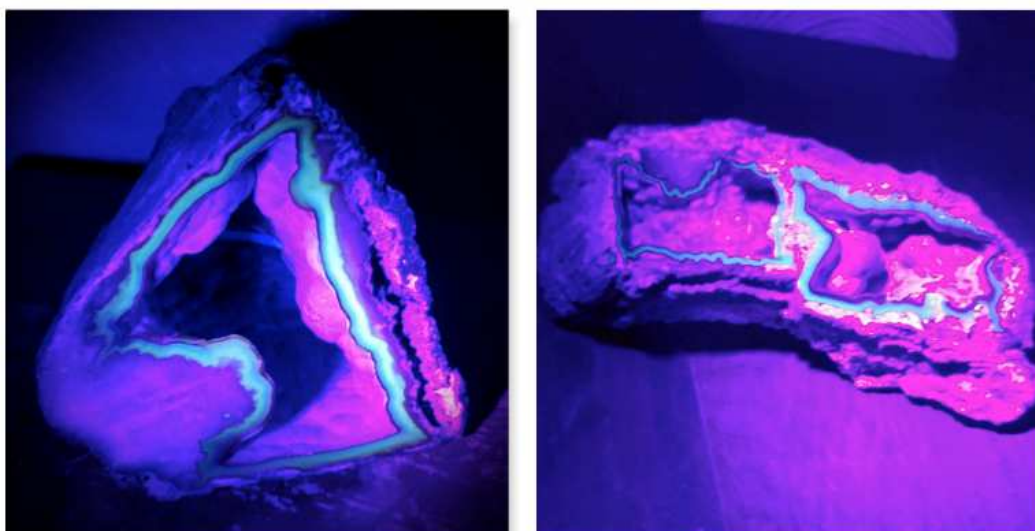
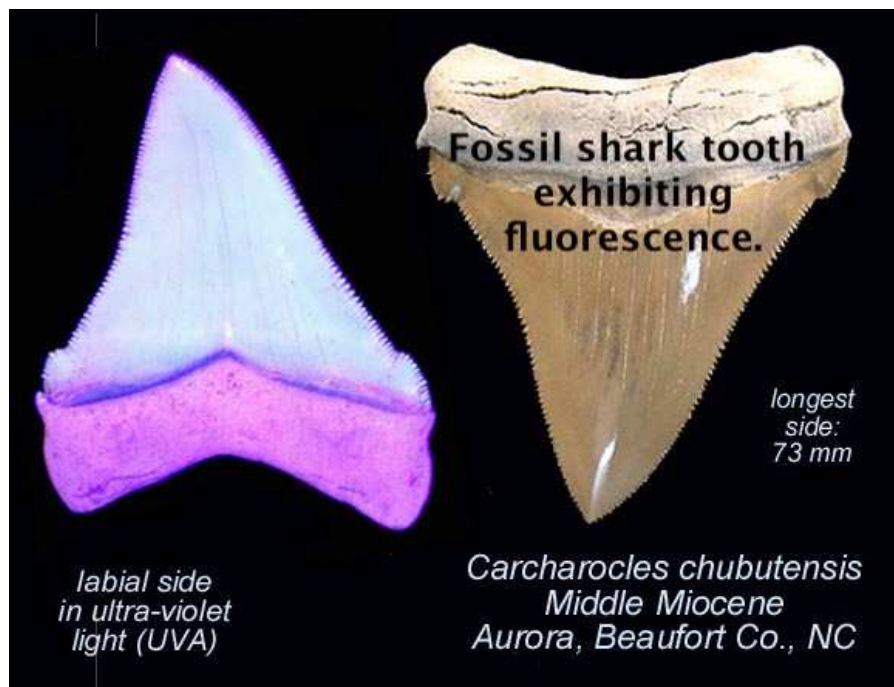
I'm not qualified to get too science-y here but I'll copy a definition of fluorescence from Wikipedia: "Fluorescence is the emission of light by a substance that has absorbed light or other electromagnetic radiation. The most striking example of fluorescence occurs when the absorbed radiation is in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum, and thus invisible to the human eye, while the emitted light is in the visible region, which gives the fluorescent substance a distinct color that can only be seen when exposed to UV light."

So I opened the doors of my fossil cabinet and shined my little black light on everything in there. A giant armadillo scute that I just found in the Peace River shone a brilliant red color which turned out to be the algae covering its surface. Most of my Peace River fossils, with the exception of the crystalized shells, do not fluoresce but a couple of the megs and smaller shark teeth do. Conversely, most of my beach finds from Venice Beach, FL fluoresce.

The lichen on a baculite I found in Montana gives off a red coloring almost the opposite of its bright yellow hue in normal daylight and small baculite segments that I found in Big Water, UT exude a pinkish glow. Brachiopods that I collected from the Paleo Site near Payson, AZ are dotted with fluorescence (probably algae again, as they were surface finds). The most exciting black light discovery I made was fossil coral from the Withlacoochee River in Georgia. I've attached a couple of photos showing the brilliant fluorescence of the cut edges. I was told that diamonds can fluoresce which made me shine the light on a small 3-diamond pendant I have. One of the diamonds not only fluoresces, it phosphoresces, which means it continues to glow for a time after the UV light source is removed. I was thrilled! When I researched it, I learned that fluorescence in a diamond is stigmatized and can force a reduction in the price. That's great because the only type of diamond I would want from here on out would be one that phosphoresces and that means I'll get a discount!

Oddly, I also discovered that the many people's man-made hair color fluoresces as well as a lot of dental work, scorpions, and pet urine. Maybe the allure is that fluorescence is like a secret, available for anyone to discover with an inexpensive tool, but hidden to most. If you don't yet have a black light flashlight, one can be had from Amazon for under \$10. You never know what secrets you'll uncover.

Aimeee's Corner!!



Ian's snake

Ian is a past member who is a biologist and is working in the everglades. At a recent fossil talk in Naples, Ian attended, and brought this Boa Constrictor skin from a snake caught in the Everglades, measuring 17'8"!! I posted this picture, because we hear about them multiplying so rapidly there, but never actually see them.



Montbrook Fossil Dig

Get Involved!!

This is just a heads up to let you all know the *tentative* digging schedule for Fall 2017. This and the updated application are not yet available, but I will email every- one once they are finalized!

- Digging 5 days per week
- Thursdays thru Mondays
- Beginning Thursday, October 5th

More Information: <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/museum-voices/montbrook/get-involved/>

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.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. Volunteers from age 15 to 17 will be accepted, but must be accompanied by an adult sibling (18+ years old), or a parent or guardian.

Volunteers must be physically fit enough to work outdoors for several hours and be able to walk up and down irregular slopes. Be aware that the site is in direct sunlight and sandy. We will have a porta-potty at the site.

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.

Volunteers are more than welcome to drive themselves or carpool to meet us at the fossil site. We can sometimes drive about 5 volunteers in the museum van but we need to plan this in advance.

WORK SCHEDULE

Field work typically begins at 10:00 AM and continues through the day until about 4:30 PM. Plan your arrival time so that you will not get there much earlier than 10:00 AM. You can begin work anytime of the day between 10 AM and 1:30 PM. You will be expected to work for at least 3 hours (not counting if you break for lunch).

RAINOUTS

We will contact you via email in the event of a "rainout" and to schedule a make-up day. This decision will normally be made the day before. If you do not receive an email from us, assume that we will be digging at the site, even if rain is forecasted for that day. If it begins to rain heavily while we are digging, we may have to stop for the day.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

The museum will provide all necessary digging tools, field equipment, and supplies for collecting fossils. Volunteers

Fall 2017 Fossil Diving Highlights

Taken from the
FCOLC Facebook page!

Pretty neat fossil diving video!!

Joshua Frank posted in Fossil Club
Of Lee County.

Joshua Frank

December 14 at 7:57 pm

Highlights of fossil diving in Venice
after Hurricane Irma.

These dives were in October and November.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLW_9dRjoVo&feature=youtu.be



Wire wrapping

I saw this for sale on a face book fossil site a
while back, for sale! It is-well- DIFFERENT!!!!



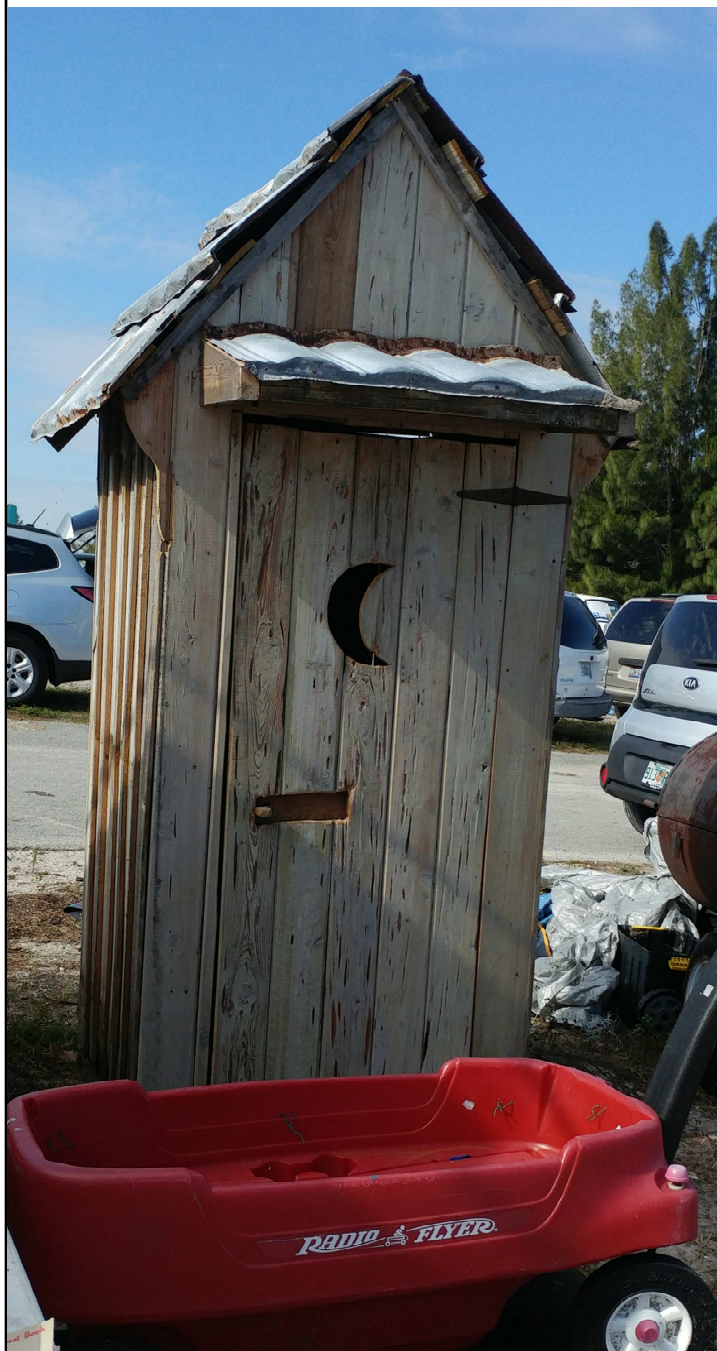
A beautiful, large meg tooth, recently donated to the club, from Paula Rankin

Plan is to offer it at our annual fossil Auction, in March!!



Attention fossil hunters!! No longer must you worry about being unprepared in the wilds of the rivers and creek and land sites, while fossil hunting!! Apparently, at our local flea markets, you can get just about anything, including this portable bathroom!!

HOW NEAT IS THAT!!!



**2018 Fossil Festival picture opportunity!!
Come get your picture taken!!**



IF YOU'RE COLD, THEY'RE COLD.



BRING THEM INSIDE.

SHOW AND TELL!!

Recent river find by Aimie Hankel!!

Not a lot of hunting going on with this cold!! Nice proximal end of a large mammal radius bone.



FLMNH Database search tutorial

Here's the tutorial for the search function my talk was based on. This should help navigate the database and look at fossils.

Sean Moran, M.S.

Ph.D. Student

University of Florida, Department of Biology

Florida Museum of Natural History

smmoran@ufl.edu

(609) 617-5919

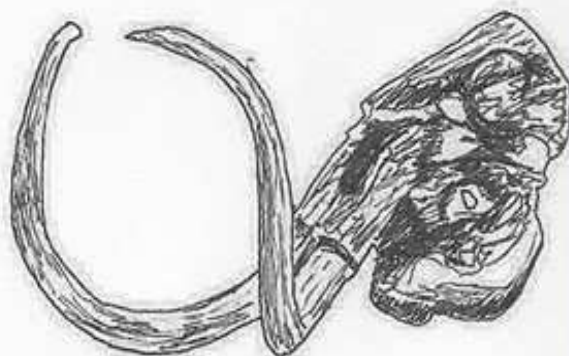
To view images of vertebrate fossils from the Florida Museum of Natural History collections:

1. Go to floridamuseum.ufl.edu/vertpaleo-search
2. To see images check the “Only Results With Images” box at the top of the search
3. Enter your search terms of interest:
 - Taxonomic terms (e.g., Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)
 - These are all latinized names, so you will need to know (generally) what you are looking for. Good resources include “The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida” -Richard Hulbert, the taxonomic lists on the FLMNH Vertebrate Fossil Sites pages (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/sites/), FLMNH species accounts (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/species/), or simply by using Google.
 - Locality terms (e.g., County, Site, Formation, Land Mammal Age, Epoch)
 - Again, some of these terms may be unfamiliar to a general collection, such as the Hemphillian North American Land Mammal Age, but resources on the FLMNH website (e.g., floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/land-mammal-ages/) should be able to provide some help.
 - Collection terms (e.g., Collector, Donor Name, Date Collected)
 - These should be fairly self-explanatory.
 - Anatomical terms (Nature of Specimen)
 - This will perhaps be the most commonly used search field, but also the trickiest to navigate without familiarity of the terms used. I would recommend changing the drop-down menu from “Equals” to “Contains” so that search returns all results with the search term entered. Most anatomical terms will bring back the terms you will likely be looking for. For example, typing in “ulna” in the Nature of Specimen field and changing the drop-down to contains will return all ulnae from our collection that have been imaged, “femur” will return all femora, “vertebra” all vertebrae, “skull” all skulls, “mandible” all lower jaws, etc.

However, due to our identification system, searching on “tooth” will only return a subset of all the photos of our teeth. This because our teeth are labeled as C, I, P, or M (for canine, incisor, premolar, or molar, respectively) for mammals and then given a number that pertains to which exact tooth it is (1 through 4). So, a P4, left upper would be a left upper fourth premolar while a m3, right lower would be a right lower third molar. If you simply switch the drop-down to “Contains” and type “p1” then “p2” then “p3” then “p4” into the Nature of Specimen field you should all images that contain a premolar in them or “m1”, “m2”, “m3” for specimens that contain a molar. It’s a little tricky, but feel free to email me atmmoran@ufl.edu if you can’t get it figured out. Hopefully, in the future the database search function will be a little more user-friendly.
4. Click the blue “Submit Query” button
 - This will return all the images at the bottom of the page for the search you typed in above.

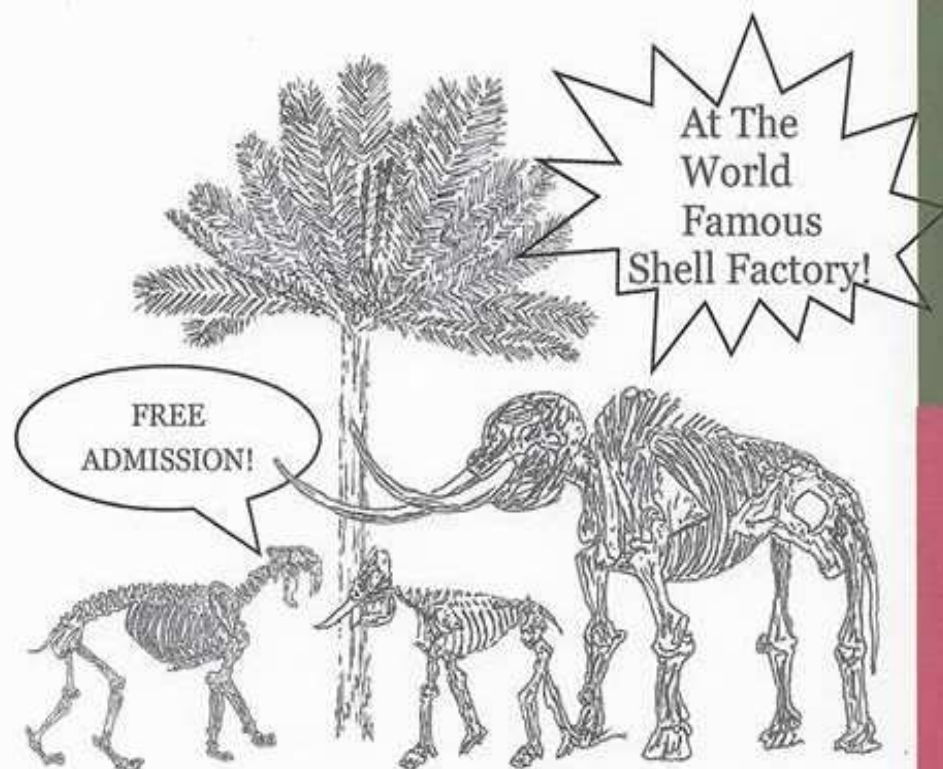
Other useful hints include switching between the table and list option in results box, clicking the “Display” box for a field that may not show up by default, sorting by a particular field using the “Sort Direction” drop-down menu, and exporting the results as a .csv file.

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY PRESENTS THE 13TH ANNUAL FOSSIL FESTIVAL



Saturday, February 17th 2018 at the Shell Factory

Come to the Shell Factory to learn about Florida's pre-historic past, learn how to collect and identify your local fossils and maybe even get to take home a piece of the past! Talk with the local experienced fossil hunters, shop, explore all that Florida's past has to offer! There is something for everyone! Kids fossil dig, vendors with magnificent fossils of all shapes and sizes, minerals, literature for the novice all the way up to the experienced hunter!



Feb. 17th 2018

9AM to 5PM

**At the Shell Factory
& Nature Park**

**Silent Auction
Grand Prize Raffle
Vendors & Fossil
Dealers
KIDS DIG!!**

**Games & Prizes
Free Fossil Museum
& Exhibits**



**There's something
for everyone at the
Fossil Festival!**

Join us!

www.FCOLC.com

THE SHELL FACTORY

**2747 N Tamiami Trail
Fort Myers, FL 33903**

232-995-2141

www.theshellfactory.com

**Feb. 17th, 2018
9AM until 5PM**



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. Jacking, glues, and preservation techniques are discussed for the beginner.

**Be a part of the adventure!
JOIN TBFC TODAY!**

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

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DOOR PRIZES • SILENT AUCTIONS**



**Presents the 31st Annual
March 10th & 11th 2018**

Sat: 9AM-5PM, Sun: 10AM-4PM

Adults \$8, Kids 12 and under FREE!

**Florida State Fairgrounds
Intersection of I-4 & Hwy 301 just east of Tampa.**



