



# **FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

**JANUARY 2019**

## **Letter from the President**

New year—new adventure awaits!! Lots more fossils to find!! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a good start on this new year, 2019!

My year ended on a sad note, as my Mom passed away. She was just shy of 93 years old, and lived a long life but it's still a difficult loss to accept. You only get one mom. I'll miss her. As I still miss my dad, who passed several years ago. I know many of you guys have also lost parents, and I feel for you. And I want to thank Jeanne Seehaver and Cherie Jacobs and Al Govin for putting the newsletter out last month when I was out of town. It's nice to know someone will cover for you when you need it.

But, new year! And on to happier times. We still have a couple of meetings and exciting events coming up, and I hope you all plan on attending and participating and volunteering!!

This month, we will be having our annual Show and Tell and Trade and Sell meeting!! Usually held in June, but having many requests from seasonal resident members to hold it when they are here, well, it's happening!! So, bring in your great fossils to show and tell. Or bring some to trade, or even to sell! This is the only meeting where we openly allow members to sell fossils. To each other. A great way to add to your collection, or to thin it out a bit! If you want a table, just set up on one. Be nice. Be gracious. There's lots of room. First come, first served of course, but we have a lot of them! Consider, if you are selling, to bring some change with you. And maybe packaging materials for delicate fossils. AND—Marc Cantos will be repeating his annual tradition of providing a meal for the club, just like he's done for many other Januarys!! THANK YOU MARC!! It will be a hoot! A bit Crazy, I think, but should be fun for all. We also will talk about a few things like the Fossil Festival, the annual auction, etc. Please try to make the meeting!!

Our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Festival is fast approaching. Read more about it inside.

March will be the month for our annual Fossil Auction!! Any donations for it, please bring to this meetings. We can always use whatever you donate. Last month I took in a large quantity from Dave Finchbaugh, and also a bunch from Michael Gessel! Thank you. As well as to the Rosenquists, and Robert Perez, and Ray Seguin and Donald Dan, and Victoria O'Toole and Gary O'Toole, and Linda Simmons and Amy Hankel and any other members I may be missing. Sorry if I've left you out. Also to any fossil dealers who have given terrific deals or outright donations. It all helps guys. We depend on this auction income to fund the majority of the club as well as donate towards scholarships. And, it's a fun meeting!!

Our annual elections are approaching. More about this inside.

The rivers are low, almost, then high, then higher, then lowering!! It's a CRAZY year for fossil hunting on the water! But, soon!! We'll get our chances, soon!! Hang in there!

The Shell Factory fossil museum is probably going away, or drastically shrinking. More, inside.

Fossil festivals are coming up. Besides ours there is the Tampa Fossil Fest, March 9 and 10, and the Venice Shark Tooth festival, April 12-13-14. Put 'em on the calendar guys!!

Speaker next month, February 21, will be Walter Stein! He's a real-life Dinosaur fossil hunter and has some great tales to tell!!

Ok, I'm done! I really hope to see a bunch of you guys at this month's crazy meeting!!!

Louis Stieffel  
President  
Fossil Club of Lee County



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

## **OFFICERS**

Louis Stieffel, President  
239-851-7499, [cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)  
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President  
239-980-6311, [cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)  
Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer  
239-910-2339, [algovin1@hotmail.com](mailto: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  
Linda Simmons, Librarian  
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise  
Edgar Jestes, Refreshments  
Victoria O'Toole, Linda Simmons, \$1 Raffle  
Dawn Linda Borys Markoski, 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>

**Here's a link to the Aurora Fossil Museum (North Carolina) and a chance to sign up for a free digital newsletter from them.**

**<http://aurorafossilmuseum.org/post/36/newsletter.html>**



**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](http://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.flmnh.ufl.edu/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/)

The Fossil Project [www.myFOSSIL.org](http://www.myFOSSIL.org)

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/)

Smithsonian Natural History Museum [www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu)

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers [www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org](http://www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org)

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL [www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org)

Cracker Museum at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs, FL Tel 863.735.0119

[www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html](http://www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html)

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls

[www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org)

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium 3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers Tel 239-275-3435

[www.calusanature.org](http://www.calusanature.org)

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

[www.i-sci.org](http://www.i-sci.org)

### Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club [www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com](http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com)

Manasota Fossil Club [www.manasotafossil.com](http://www.manasotafossil.com)

Tampa Bay Fossil Club [www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)

Orlando Fossil Club [www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

The Fossil Forum [www.thefossilforum.com/index.php](http://www.thefossilforum.com/index.php)

Fossil Treasures of Florida [www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com](http://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://flmnh.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](http://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.***

# A FOSSIL POEM!!

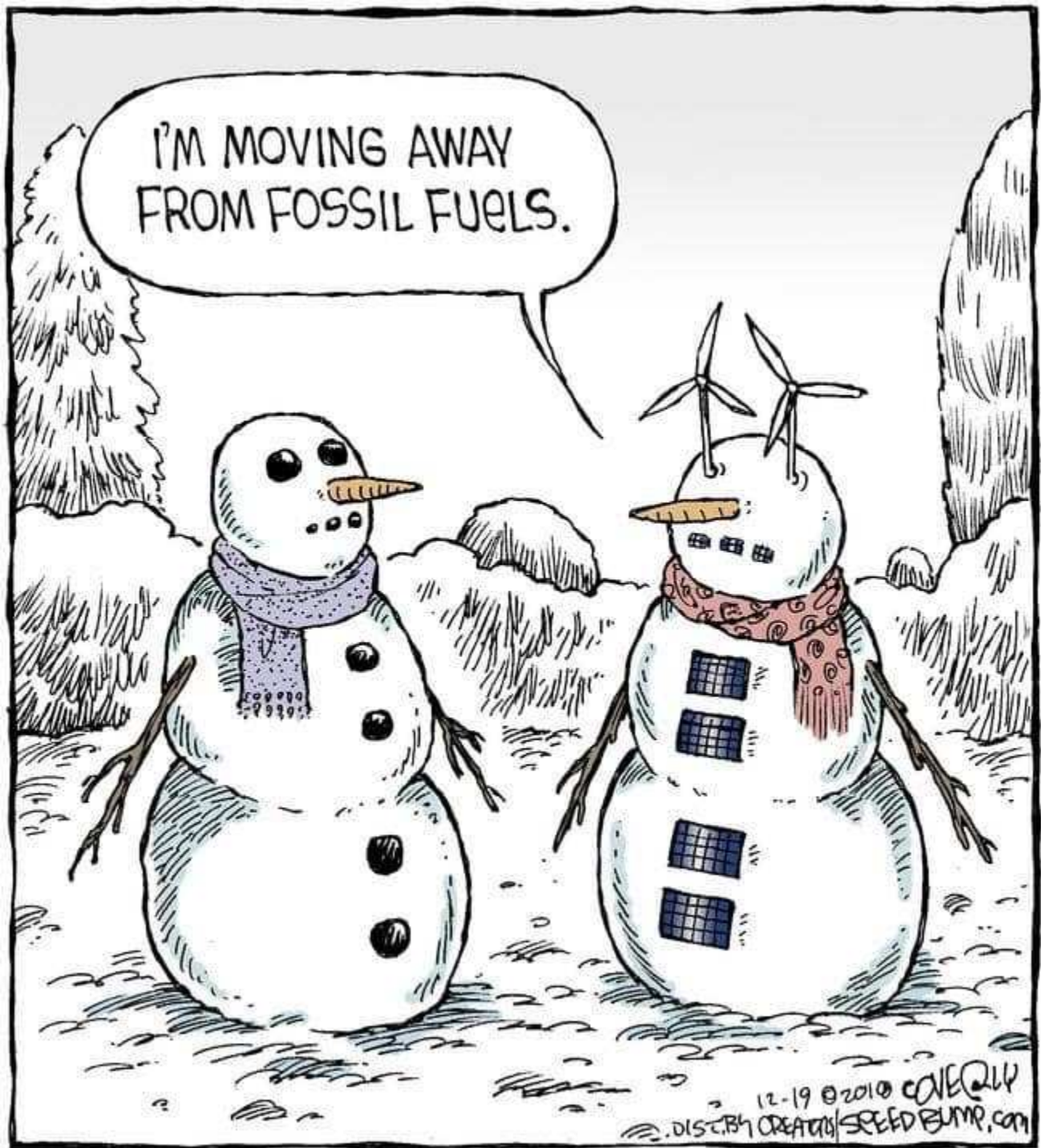
ALL YOU LOVERS OF ROCKS AND BONES AND  
NATURE, YA HAVE TO READ THIS.....

EVOLUTION .....Langdon Smith 1858

When you were a tadpole and I was a fish  
In the Paleozoic time,  
And side by side on the ebbing tide  
We sprawled through the ooze and the slime,  
Or skittered with many a caudal flip  
Through the depths of the Cambrian fen,  
My heart was rife with the joy of life,  
For I loved you even then.  
Mindless we lived and mindless we loved  
And mindless at last we died,  
And deep in the rift of the Carodic drift  
We slumbered side by side.  
The world turned on in the lathe of time,  
The hot hands heaved amain,  
Till we caught our breath from the womb of death  
And crept into light again.  
We were amphibians, scaled and tailed  
And drab as a dead man's hand;  
We coiled at ease "neath the dripping trees  
Or trailed through the mud and sand.  
Croaking and blind with three clawed feet  
Writing a language dumb,  
With never a spark in the empty dark  
To hint at a life to come.  
Yet happy we lived and happy we loved,  
And happy we died once more;  
Our forms were rolled in the clinging mold  
Of a neocomian shore.  
The eons came and the eons fled  
And the sleep that wrapped us fast  
Was riven away in a newer day  
And the night of death was past.  
Then light and swift through the jungle trees  
We swung in our airy flights,  
Or breathed in the balms of the fronded palms  
In the hush of the of the moonless nights;  
And, Oh! what beautiful years were these  
When our hearts clung each to each;  
When life was filled and our senses thrilled  
In the first faint dawn of speech.  
Thus life by life and love by love  
We passed through the cycles strange,  
And breath by breath and death by death  
We followed the chain of change,  
Till there came in the law of life  
When over the nursing sod  
The shadows broke and the soul awoke  
In a strange, dim dream of God.  
I was thewed like an Aroch bull  
And tusked like a great cave bear;  
And you, my sweet, from head to feet  
Were gowned in your glorious hair.

Deep in the gloom of a fireless cave,  
When the night fell 'or the plain  
And the moon hung red over the river bed  
We mumbled the bones of the slain.  
I flaked a flint to a cutting edge  
And shaped it with brutish craft;  
I broke a shank from the woodland dank  
And fitted it, head and haft;  
Then I hid me close to the reedy tarn,  
Where the mammoth came to drink;  
Through the brawn and bone, I drove the stone  
And slew him upon the brink.  
Loud I howled through he moonlit wastes,  
Loud answered our kith and kin,  
From west and east to the crimson feast  
The clan came tramping (trooping) in.  
O'er joint and gristle and padded hoof  
We fought and clawed and tore,  
And cheek by jowl with many a growl  
We talked the marvel o're.  
I carved that fight on a reindeer bone  
With rude and hairy hand.  
I pictured his fall on the cavern wall  
That men might understand.  
For we lived by flood and the right of might  
Ere human laws were drawn,  
And the age of sin did not begin  
Till our brutal tusks were gone.  
And that was a million years ago  
In a time that no man knows,  
Yet here tonight in the mellow light  
We sit at Delmonico's.  
Your eyes re deep as the Devon strings,  
Your hair is dark as jet,  
Your years are few, your life is new,  
Your soul untried, and yet -  
Our trail is on the Kimmeridge clay  
And the scarp of the Purbeck flags;  
We have left our bones in the Bagshot stones  
And deep in the coralline crags;  
Our love is old, our lives are old,  
And death shall come amain,  
Should it come today, what man may say  
We shall live again?  
God wrought our souls form the Tremadoc beds  
And furnished them wings to fly;  
He sowed our spawn in the world's dim dawn,  
And I know that it shall not die,  
Though cities have sprung above the graves  
Where the crook-boned men made war,  
And the oxwain creaks o're the buried caves  
Where the mummied mammoths are.  
Then, as we linger at luncheon here  
O'er many a dainty dish,  
Let us drink anew to the time when you  
Were a tadpole and I was a fish.

Langdon Smith, Jan 4, 1858  
educated Louisville, Kentucky



Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society Inc., a non-profit 501(C)3 educational organization, is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, hand crafted cabochons and jewelry, fossils, artifacts, rocks, etc. Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations, Family Activities, Scavenger Hunt. Admission: Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Scouts in uniforms free. Website: [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org). Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or [ssfossilhunter@aol.com](mailto:ssfossilhunter@aol.com).

## Is fossil hunting facing yet ANOTHER hurdle!?!??

A recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision reclassified fossils as minerals. Fossils now fall under the purview of Mineral Rights, taking their legal ownership from the land or property owner and placing them under the domain of the property's "Mineral Rights" holder.

This ruling applies to all fossils; vertebrates, invertebrates and plants. The drastic change in established law now puts academic and commercial paleontologist as well as the casual fossil collector and museum collections in great peril.

If this ruling stands, mineral right holders will be able to file lawsuits to take possession of any fossils collected on land that is privately held. Many museums are in jeopardy of losing important type specimens, and many wonderful fossil specimens that had been legally collected, prepared and sold could be seized and forfeited.

A court ruling like this can easily spill from Montana to rest of the states.

There are appeals to the decision being drafted, and AAPS, among other groups and museums want to fight this decision. AAPS has created a Go Fund Me page to raise funds to have an attorney produce and file an Amicus Brief. The goal being to ask the court for an en banc hearing by a larger panel of judges and get this decision overturned.

To read more about this and help donate to the cause to save fossils and preserve land owners rights, follow this link:

### **Mammoth tooth found by FCOLC member John Rowley**



### **An occasional find these days in the Peace river. FYI. It's a grass carp tooth. Modern.**





**December FCOLC Christmas meeting!  
The chow line starting up!! Lots of great food!!  
And gift exchange!!**





## Pretty little Great white tooth!!



## Shell Factory Fossil Museum

Pam Plummer, a FCOLC member, and the Shell factory fossil museum director, will be moving on from the Shell Factory to a position with another company. Because of this change, most of us are pulling our loaned fossils out of the museum. The result will probably be a much diminished museum or a closed one. Sad to see this, but glad Pam will be doing better for her personal life in the future.

Those of you who have not seen the museum, I say that it's probably too late now, and you missed out on seeing some great fossils!

Louis

## Annual FCOLC elections!!

Our annual elections will be held before the start of the annual Fossil Auction at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Positions to be filled are all of the executive positions; President, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Time is getting shorter, so please consider this seriously. Any questions as to job responsibilities of each office, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for your consideration,

Louis

## FCOLC Fossil Festival!!

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual FCOLC Fossil festival is coming quickly! The February 23<sup>rd</sup> date is next month! Dawn Markowski and Pam Siegel have been putting in a lot of effort towards making this a good one! Held on the grounds of the famous Shell Factory in North ft Myers, it's a great opportunity to participate with your club and enjoy a great day! Sign-up sheets will be available at this meeting, so please volunteer! You'll enjoy yourself and be glad you did! We'll answer all questions at the meeting, so be sure to come! Any club member who wants to set up as a dealer, be sure to sign up for it before all spots are filled! We can use donations for the silent raffle, and if nice, the grand raffle.

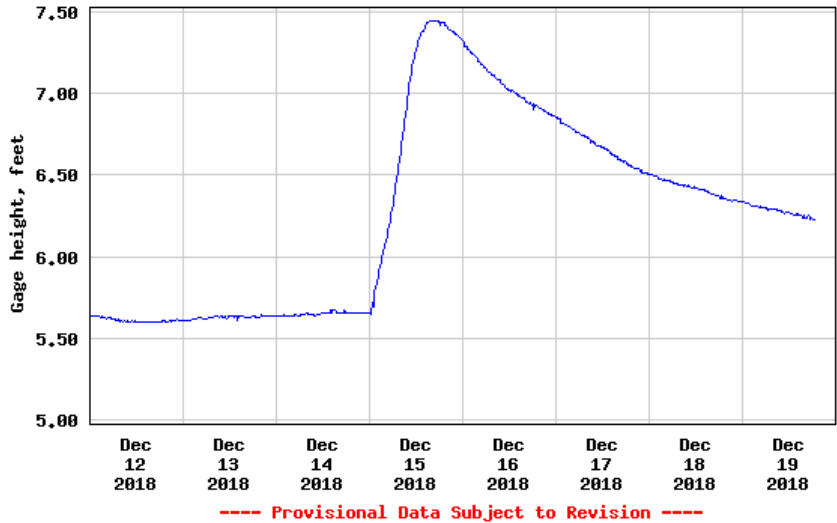
Louis

# RIVER WATER LEVELS

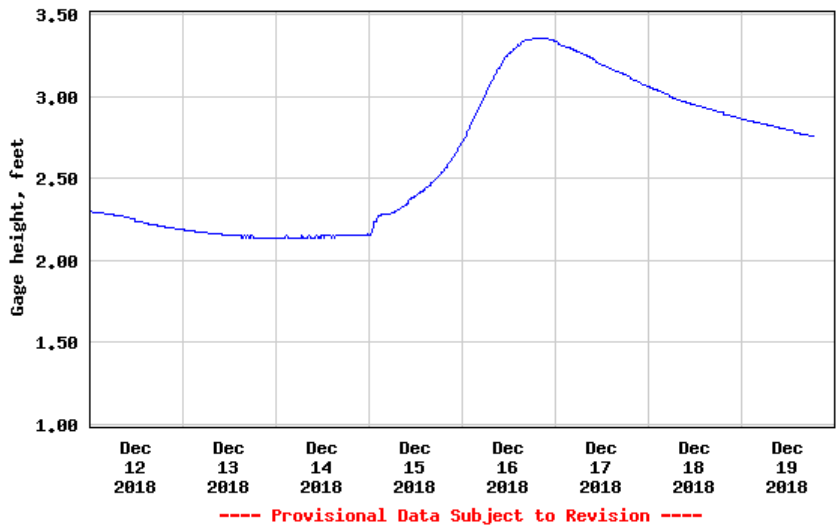
**It's getting their,  
folks!!**



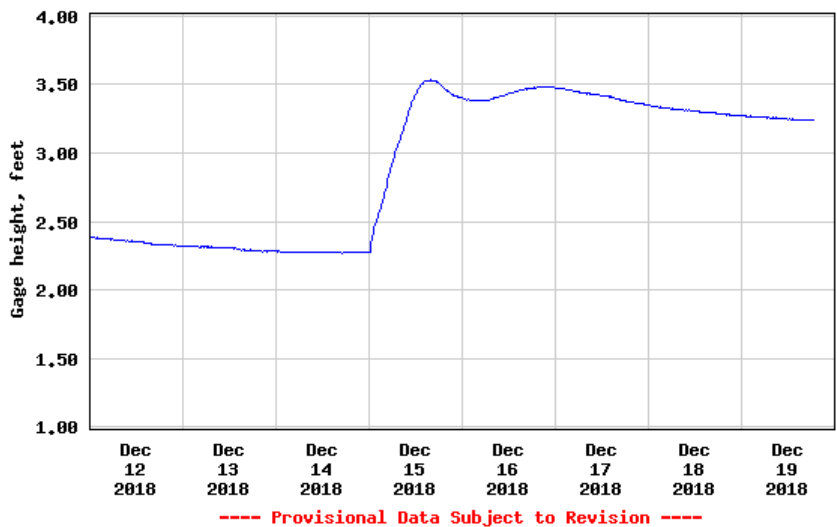
USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



USGS 02296750 PEACE RIVER AT ARCADIA FL

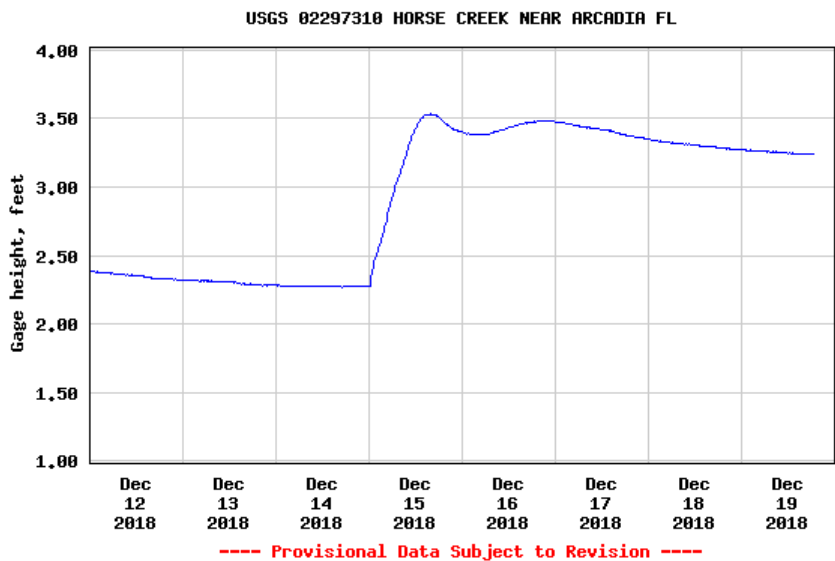
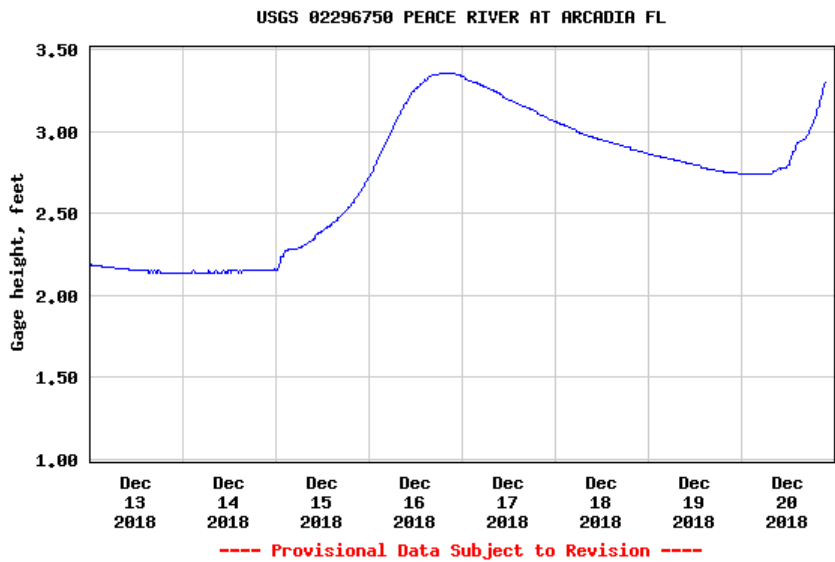
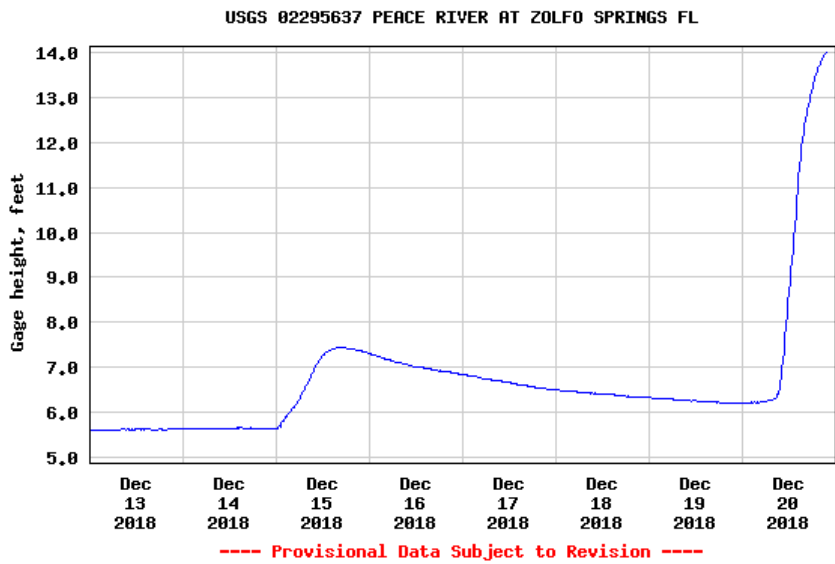


USGS 02297310 HORSE CREEK NEAR ARCADIA FL



# RIVER WATER LEVELS

**OVERNIGHT!**  
**Everything's**  
**changed!! HUGE**  
**rain!!**  
**8 feet in one day,**  
**and STILL rising!!**

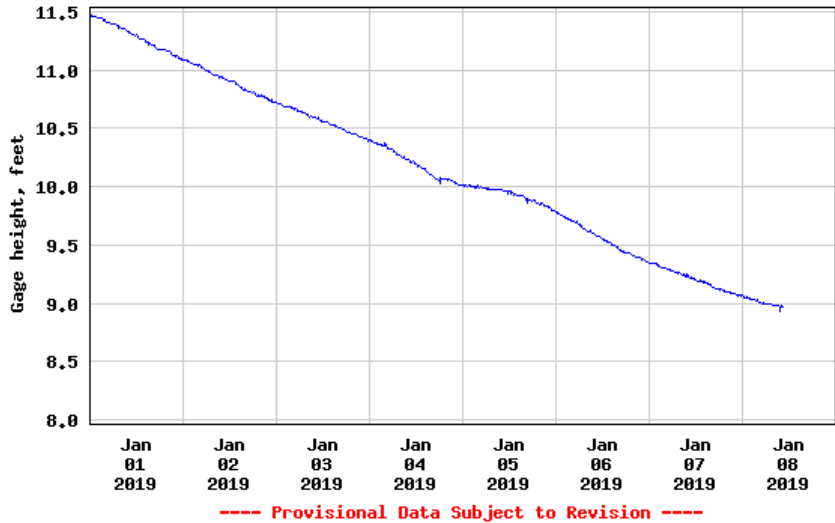


# RIVER WATER LEVELS

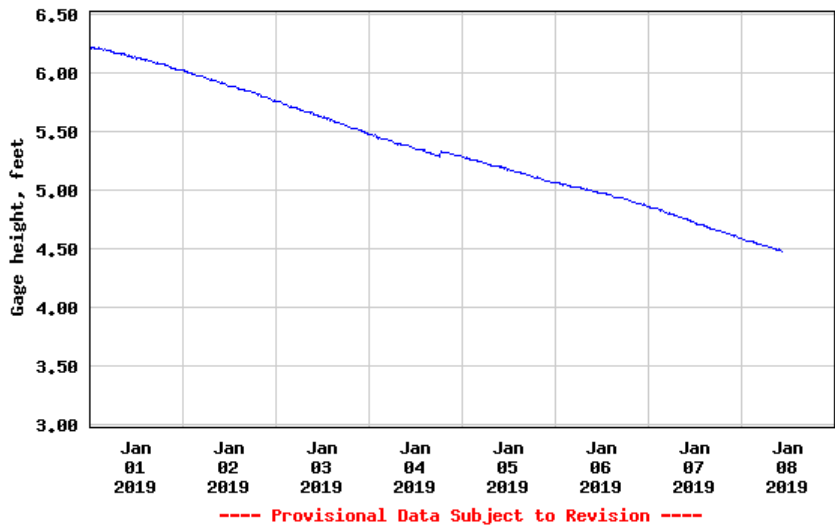
This is getting more like it!! After all, it's January!! Normal years it would be ankle deep.

A few more days and water levels should be fine!

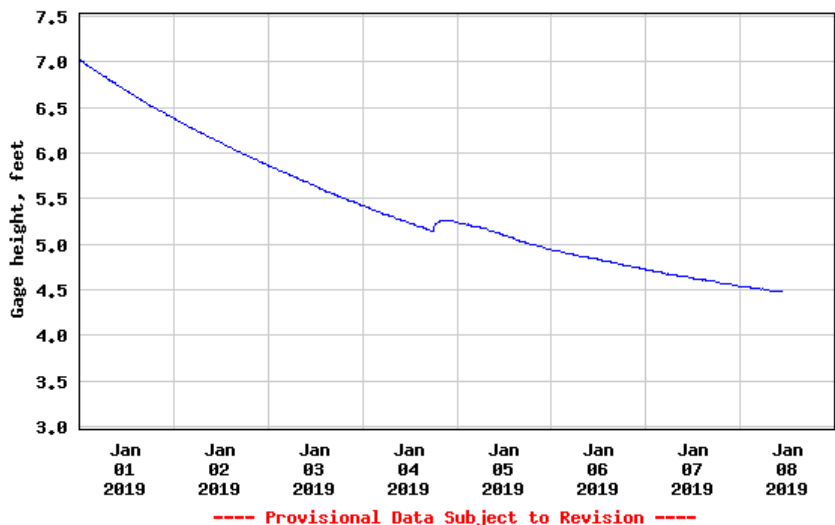
USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL

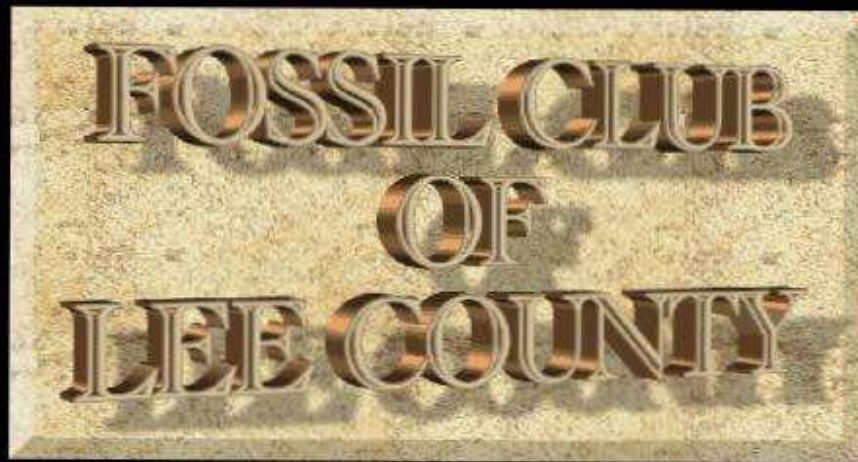


USGS 02296750 PEACE RIVER AT ARCADIA FL



USGS 02297310 HORSE CREEK NEAR ARCADIA FL





The Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. is an organization of people interested in the fossils of southern Florida and all points beyond. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall is located at: 7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, FL 33919.

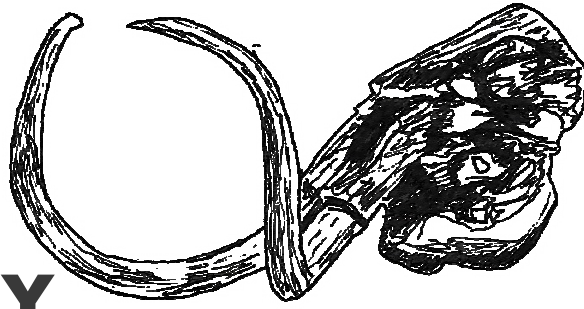
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378838762286864/>

For those of you who ask what books to get-- here's a great group!

We offer most, if not all, in the club store at the meetings.

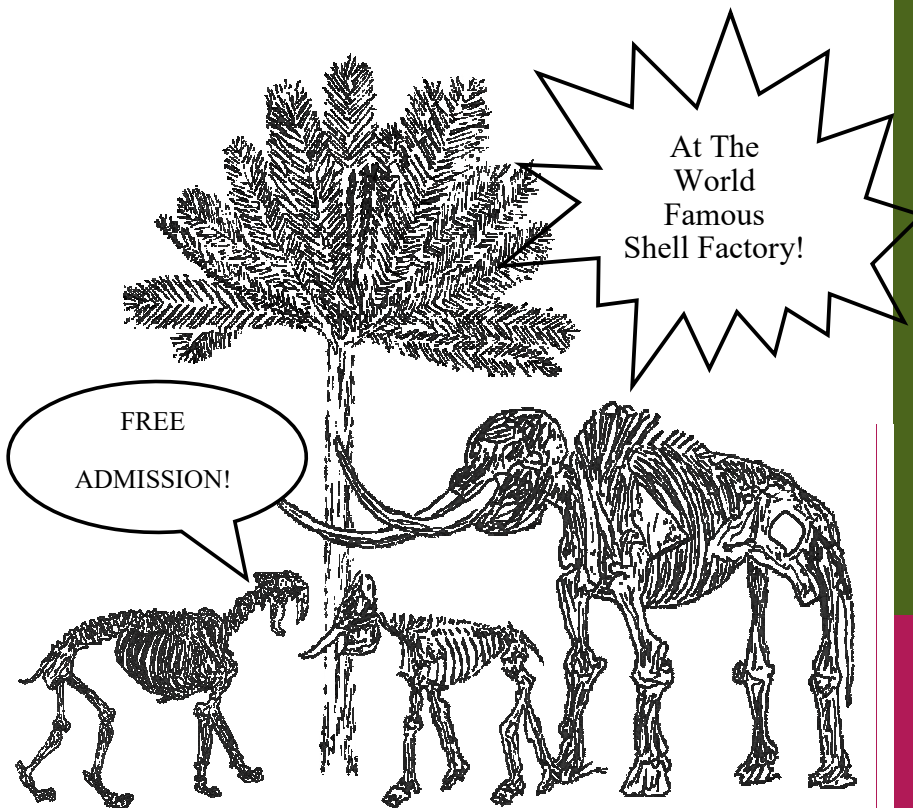


# THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY PRESENTS THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FOSSIL FESTIVAL



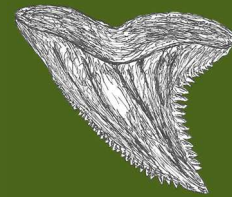
**Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 at the Shell Factory**

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. 23, 2019  
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](http://www.FCOLC.com)

The Shell Factory

2747 N Tamiami Trail

Fort Myers, FL 33903

232-995-2141

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

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

9AM until 5PM