



Fossil Club of Lee County

February 2006

Message from the president

Hello!!

Another month gone by and more fossil stories to tell---I hope!! I just got finished watching the Super Bowl as I'm sure lots of you watched also. I was rooting for the Colts, as Payton Manning, the quarterback, is Archie Mannings's son. Archie was a quarterback for the Saints, which is my home town team. After seeing the kickoff for their first-ever game, I've been a fan ever since. I figured a Saint ex-quarterback's son was as close as I get to the superbowl!! Anyway, they won, so now it's time to "wait till next year." I hope all who watched enjoyed the game as much as I did.

Ok!! Time to talk fossil club. This month our speaker is Jonathon Bloch from the museum in Gainesville. He will be bringing Richard Hulbret also, who is the collections manager. Jon will speak about fossil whales and early primates. Richard will be available to help you identify your unknown treasures. He is about the sharpest guy in the state on id, so now is the time to take advantage of his expertise.

Annual club membership renewal is now past due. Please re-up if you have not done so yet. Anyone not on the roster soon will not get the newsletter, and may not know what is happening in the club.

Alice Thorn has agreed to take on the task of trips coordinator. The board will meet, along with Alice, before the regular meeting, and we will be able to pass on at the meeting any progress towards fossil trips. I wish to thank Michael Orchin, the previous trips coordinator, and Al Govin, trips guy before Michael, for all their efforts in the past. We wish Alice lots of

February Meeting

Our February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd. Our speakers will be Jonathon Bloch and Richard Hulbret, both from the Museum in Gainesville.

luck trying to get us into locations where, so far, it has been very difficult to fossil hunt. Of course, if you go on trips, we expect you to show and tell your finds!! No secrets!! Share your fossils and we all learn.

The Tampa Bay Fossil Fair is coming up. I believe it is the second weekend of March. Great fossil show. I highly recommend it. The Venice Shark tooth Fest is in April. We will post the date when we know the correct dates, times and place.

Last month's speaker, Greg Herbert would like for any member to let him know if you come across any little mom and pop pits. These get dug out very fast. He wants to try and take samples in all of these locations for study. If you hear of such places, let me know, and I will pass it on to Greg. It is preferably a pumped down pit, not a water-filled lake dug by dragline.

Sandy Schwartz, our newsletter editor and do-everything-else person, is in the process of getting t-shirts for the club. She is also getting riker cases for the club members to purchase cheaply for their collections. The club also provides access to various fossilbooks (Sandy again!!), and butvar bone hardener/preservative. All of these items, once procured, will be at monthly meetings for the member's needs. .

Our annual fossil, (and some other things), auction will be on March 15th. I have lots of items so far, but can always use a few more!! This will be the last month to contribute so as to get them catalogued into this years auction. We are in the process of acquiring a more professional auction system. This encompasses a bid card cabinet, as well as bid cards/receipts. Come to the auction and let's see if it works!!

The Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife's annual Owl fest will be February 17, from 10-4. We participate in this event and welcome any club members to volunteer at our booth. Help promote fossils and our club. You will have a good time. The Museum of Natural History is having a shark exhibit starting June 16. Our club, along with others has been invited to set up a display. I will pass along any more info as I get it. Perhaps Richard Hulbert can elaborate more about this at this month's meeting.

I appreciate you guys making a part of my job easier. When I called for volunteers for refreshments, I couldn't keep up writing down all the names. Needless to say, we all thank all of you.

We couldn't get last month's canoe trip to happen and decided to meet at Crews Park in Wachula and play and dig in the river there. We had 24 members show up and dig. We didn't find a whole lot, but a few nice fossils were discovered and Herb Schwartz cooked a heck of a bbq for lunch!! After eating and warming up, most of us went back to digging. We didn't want to leave the river feeling too full!!

We had a great turnout last month at the January meeting and I hope to see all of you again!!

Louis Stieffel, President, Fossil Club of Lee County

Officers

Louis Stieffel, President (239) 458-9818
or e-mail: Cape 187@earthlink.net
Al Govin, Vice President 541-2845
and cell 910-2339
Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 989-1921 or
936-5019
Chuck Ferber, Secretary 489-2891

Board Members

Leslie Stieffel 458-9818
Michael Orchin 574-6318
Sandy Schwartz 772-8015
Trip Director: Alice Thorne

Committees

Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz
Speakers: Louis Stieffel
\$1. raffle: Jose Langone
Auction: Louis Stieffel
Web Master: Curtis Klug

Volunteer Hours

Some of our members are confused about the volunteer hours. **Volunteer hours are exactly that, you do them voluntarily.** No one **must** do work for the Calusa Nature Center. They provide us with a place to meet at a time when many groups are having problems finding meeting places. Hopefully, members will willingly work 4 hours a year to help us maintain our meeting place. However, not everyone wants to or is able to work. That is okay, we will do what we can. If it is necessary, the board will look into changing our dues structure in the club next year to cover the possible added expense of the Nature Center if we don't have enough volunteer hours. **Several people were upset and thought about quitting the club over the issue of volunteer hours. Please do not do that, it is a fun and educational club and we would miss you.**

MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

A meeting of the membership of the Fossil Club of Lee County was held at the time, date, and place set forth below.

DATE OF MEETING: January 17, 2007

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: approximately 46

Louis Stieffel presiding.

Thank you to Al Govin for refreshments.

The meeting began with an excellent talk on "How Strombus got its spines" by Dr. Greg Herbert of the University of South Florida. Thank you for coming all the way from Tampa to speak to us.

T-shirts (small) for sale for \$2. Werner Grabner is going to design a new t-shirt for the club for the March meeting. March meeting is the auction.

Club had discussion on raffle table. Thanks go to Jose for handling the raffle table.

Canoe trip on Saturday cancelled, but instead everyone is to meet at Wauchula to wade in to fossil hunt.

Alice is new trip director. Contact her at her web site.

Shark exhibit in Gainesville needs displays?

February 17, 2007 is Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife's owl fest. Fossil Club needs volunteers for its table.

SW FL Fossil Club has February 10, 2007 auction at Edison College in Charlotte County.

Secretary

Coming Events

March 10th and 11th Fossil Fest of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club is being held at the Florida State Fair Grounds in Tampa located at highway 301 and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saturday 9-6, Sunday 9-4. Entrance \$5.00.

March 15 Fossil Club of Lee County Fossil Auction at the Calusa Nature Center 7 pm to end. Directions on page 1.

April 6, 7 and 8th Venice Shark's Tooth Festival

PEACE RIVER TRIP WAS A GOOD TIME FOR ALL

On January 20, 2007, the Fossil Club of Lee County had a field trip to the Peace River at Wauchula to collect fossils. About 20 to 30 people from the club attended the field trip and got wet, some more reluctantly than others. It was a mild sunny day which was perfect for fossil collecting. Most everyone found at least one "good" fossil, especially Al. Everyone found the usual small sharks teeth, dugon ribs, etc. Some lucky members found horse teeth, megladon teeth, or mammoth tooth plates, among other fossils.

Jerry and Loretta brought a boat and had a ferry service to a gravel bar upstream. Several people took advantage of their generosity. Many of us collected near the boat ramp or at least a couple of hundred yards from it. It was fairly obvious that most everywhere had been dug before. Reportedly Al, Louis and Gunther had previously mined the river of all the fossils they could carry.

Mark Cantos, Jason and Jason's friend brought a canoe and headed upstream, never to be seen again. A half dozen members brought skin diving gear and hunted that way. Most members brought screens and shovels.

The highlight of the day was lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, fruit salad and more. Thanks to Herb Schwartz for grilling the burgers and dogs. They were excellent and provided free of charge by the club. Louis would like to do it again. It was a very pleasant day of collecting, even though it was not highly productive fossil wise.

Chuck Ferber

Secretary

Dinosaur Eggs Reportedly Found in India

By Associated Press

Associated Press Monday Feb. 5

NEW DELHI— Three Indian explorers have recovered more than 100 fossilized eggs of dinosaurs in a remote area in a central Indian state, a news report said Monday.

The amateurs also found footprints of the dinosaurs through which they could also trace the 'track way' of the now extinct heavy animals. The Hindustan Times Web site quoted Vishal Verma, one of them, as saying.

All the eggs were discovered from a single nesting site in Kukshi-Bagh area, some 95 miles southwest of Indore, a key city of Madhya Pradesh state.

"These animals used to come from far away areas to lay eggs on the sandy banks of the rivers in this area, identified scientifically as Lameta bed," Verma said.

The dinosaurs were 40-90 feet in length, Verma said. The richest dinosaur field in India is in the "Deccan Traps" near Jabalpur, a town also in Madhya Pradesh state.

New Mollusk Species Found in Philippines

By Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines— A French-led marine expedition team believes it has discovered thousands of new species of mollusks and crustaceans around a Philippine island, officials and scientists said Monday, Feb. 5th.

Some of the 80 scientists, technicians, students and volunteers from 19 countries surveyed the waters around Panglao Island, 390 miles southeast of Manila from 2004-5.

"Numerous species were observed and photographed alive, many for the first time, and it is estimated that 150-250 of the crustaceans and 1,500-2500 of the mollusks are new species," said a statement from the expedition team, which was led by Philippe Bouchet of the French National Museum of Natural History.

"However, it requires a thorough comparison with all previously names species to ascertain if a novel species is indeed new to science," it added. "This is a slow and tedious process."

On Monday, the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project turned over to the Philippine National Museum more than a hundred holotypes or representative specimen of the rare finds, officials said.

The expedition team said its survey revealed over 1,200 species of decapod crustaceans, a group that includes crayfish, crabs, lobsters and shrimps and some 6,000 species of mollusks.

BILL DAVIS

It is with great sadness that I must report that one of our members has passed away. The member is Bill Davis. He passed away, peacefully, in his home on January 23, 2007, at the age of 69. Wild Bill, as he liked to be called, was a colorful character, a loving husband and protective father. He was also a professional wildlife trapper, an antique and arrowhead collector and a heck of a fossil hunter. I was fortunate to hunt several times with Bill, over the years, and always enjoyed seeing his collection. He was one of the co-discoverers of the La-belle site, and hunted it relentlessly until the pit flooded. Bill was definitely his own man. He did it his way and did it well. The local fossil hunting community will feel his passing and miss him immensely. The Fossil Club of Lee County expresses our condolences to his wife and children.

Louis

Refreshments

February

March Sandy Schwartz

April Alice Thorne

Dues for 2007 are past due

You cannot go on a club trip if you are not a member as our insurance will not cover you.

Individual..... \$15.00

Couple \$17.00

Family\$20.00

Make check payable to;

Fossil Club of Lee County

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