



Fossil Club of Lee County

February 2008

Another month, another meeting!!

I hope to see all, or most, of you at our monthly meeting in February. Dr. Robin Brown has agreed to be our speaker. As most of you know, Dr. Brown is the guy who wrote THE book on fossils in our area-Florida Fossils. We consider it the bible of fossil books, for our locale. He is also one of the founding members of the club, way back in 1992, when it was formed. The name of the club, at that time, was The Paleontology Society of Lee County. We have come a long ways since then, but owe a lot to Robin Brown. I cannot tell you when he may speak again, so try to make it to this meeting.

The meeting in MARCH is our annual auction. We will have a large variety of both fossils and some non-fossil items. We ask that you be early, if possible, for registering and viewing. I plan on starting promptly at 7 pm, and since there will be lots of great stuff that you will want to get, be on time so you don't miss out. We will have approximately 100 auction lots, some with multiple choices, and we will be allowed to stay a little bit later in the building. However, this is a lot to sell in the allotted time so we will move it along as briskly as possible. A short break halfway through, with refreshments provided by Pat Le Gree, will be all the time spent not auctioning items. Please wait until you are completely finished bidding before settling. This auction is our main fund raiser of the year, so please plan on adding to your collection as much as possible. If you plan on donating items to the auction--bring them to this meeting!!! Once I finish the lot numbering, it will be too late!!

The Cape Coral Burrowing Owl Festival will be held on Feb. 16, at Rotary Park, in Cape Coral. We will man a table, show and talk to folks about fossils. Several members

Next Meeting

Our next 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 speaker will be Dr. Robin Brown.

Officers

Louis Stieffel, President (239) 458-9818 or e-mail: Cape187@earthlink.net

Al Govin, Vice President 541-2845

And cell 910-2339

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 939-1921 or 936-5019

Chuck Ferber, Secretary 489-2891

Board Members

Leslie Stieffel, 458-9818

Michael Orchin, 574-6318

Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015

Trip Director, Bill Shaver

Committees

Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz

Speakers: Louis Stieffel

\$1. Raffel: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

signup sheet will be at the meeting. Bill Shaver is doing a great job lining up trips, and it is well appreciated by all. He has gained club access to the Panther mining pit, in DeSoto county, but since we had such a large turnout, the owner decided he didn't want us back!! It was, unfortunately, too successful!! Too many people!!

Bring in your fossil finds, as usual, as this is an integral part of our club. What good is hiding your fossils away in a box at your home, when you could be sharing them with others of like interest?? Bring them in and show and tell!!

The Fossil Club of Lee County has given away three \$1,000 checks to three different organizations. These were nominated and voted on by the members attending the last two meetings. The grantees were; University of Florida, at Gainesville, Museum of Natural History UF Foundation; the Calusa Nature Center, and the University of Florida Foundation Wetlands Archaeology Fund 3693 or Archeology Time Line Project for fossil dating headed by Barbara Purdee. This donation is in keeping with the by-laws of the club, and our non-profit status.

Ray Seguin, our esteemed treasurer, and woodworker and pictureframer extraordinaire, has built a cabinet for the storage of club materials that will be placed in the Iona house, with the Nature Center's permission, and will greatly aid us in storing books, riker cases, T-shirts, etc, rather than hauling them back and forth to each meeting!! What a great thing!! We have had member requests for a speaker system and power point projectors but had no easy way to transport it. Now it may be more possible to get serious about these issues. Thanks Ray!!!!

The elections are coming up in April. New

officers will take over in May. Anyone wanting to jump into the mix, let me or Al Govin know. The position of Newsletter Editor is open. We want to give a chance to anyone who is interested.

See you at the meeting!!

Louis, President FCOLC

Club Fossil Hunt to the Peace River

January 26, 2008

Submitted by Donna Johnson

It was a cool, windy morning when 28 club members and guests met at the Acadia Park boat ramp at 9 am on Saturday, January 26th for our second official club outing of 2008. Louis had arranged for special club access to the Peace River via private property so we were all anticipating a great day of hunting.

People were dressed in a variety of ways for the weather conditions. Some in shorts, some in wet suits. Some were a bit cold at first, but the sun soon came out and some people even ended up in bathing suits.....burrrrr, not me!

Digging/Screening was pretty easy as the water was shallow and the gravel bed was extensive. Everyone seemed to find small shark teeth, bone fragments, dugone bone, turtle and the usual. However, almost everyone also found a special treasure or two. Jacob (Sandy's grandson) found a beautifully colored meg as well as a very large mako and snaggle tooth. Pat (while sitting in a beach chair in the water) found several horse teeth. Al filled a screen showing the process to a newbie and came up with a whale vertebrae. Louis, just after coming back to the water from a snack break, found a large piece of ivory in his screen. Donna found an armadillo scute for her collection.....a perfect 5 sided one. Dave found some nice teeth, scutes and a mammoth tooth fragment. Pam found

a glyptodon scute. Bill found a “golden” horse tooth (it might be from a unicorn). Mike found an impressive “mimic” eye.

I could go on and on. A great time was had by all in a beautiful location surrounded by oaks, herons, woodpeckers and friends.

Refreshments

February - Sally Jane Moore, Pat Oakes and Ted supervising

March -Pat Legree

April

Coming Events

Feb. 23, FCOLC Club trip to the Orange River. Details and signup sheet at the meeting.

Feb. 22-24 Sarasota—Frank Cox Productions 169th Gem, Jewelry and Bead Show, Municipal Auditorium 801 N. Tamiami Trail 10-5 daily. (941) 954-0202

March 8th and 9th, 2008 the Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center will go back in time to a different land, when the Tampa Bay Fossil Club presents, *Florida, 10,000 B.C.!* FossilFest hours are from 9AM until 6PM on Saturday, and 9AM until 4PM on Sunday. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, children 12 and under are free. The Ice Age returns!

Where: Florida State Fairgrounds, Special Events Center

When: March 8th and 9th 2008

Time: Saturday 9AM-6PM, Sunday 9AM - 4PM

Please visit us at

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

March 15 ANNUAL Fossil Club of Lee County AUCTION at the Calusa Nature Center 7 pm to end.

Saturday, January 26 was a day at the river for members of the Fossil Club of Lee County. We had 27 members meet at the Hwy 70 boat ramp west of Arcadia and from there we followed Louis to his “secret” spot on the river. He had access to a beautiful mile long stretch of private land bordering the Peace River. After entering and slowly driving to the old boat ramp access, we all got our hunting gear and waded into the shallow water. We found out that just immediately downstream was an extensive gravel bar. This gravel stretched on for a very long way and I don’t think any member found the end of it. Mostly we all stayed near the entry place and hunted to our hearts content. Every gravel bar in the Peace River has been hunted, of course, but with some perseverance, we started finding some nice fossils. A tally near the end of the day showed that as a group we discovered fossils of 21 species of animals, along with fossil wood and a couple of fossil coprolites. Several nice Megalodon shark teeth were found as well as several very nice Giant Armadillo armor skutes, a few Glyptodont, a beautiful camel tooth, some jumbo horse teeth, tapir, deer, whale,

mammoth, mastodon, a very large puffer fish lower jaw(mouthpart), three toed horse molar, and among other finds, a part of a Rhino tooth.

Overall, the members that were there enjoyed themselves, and were asking as to when can we do it again. Hopefully, soon!

A mammoth discovery may solve many mysteries

From the News-Press, Cape Life North Saturday, February 9, 2008

There's a mammoth-sized mystery to be solved, and an infant could hold some very important clues. The nearly intact frozen body of a baby woolly mammoth, currently undergoing tests in Japan, could finally explain why the giant creatures disappeared, scientists said. Researchers also believe that the discovery could help shed light on the history of climate change.

The 6-month-old calf, nicknamed "Lyuba," was unearthed last May by a reindeer herder in the remote Yamal-Nenets region of northern Siberia. The animal had been preserved under the icy Siberian permafrost for some 37,500 years. Permafrost is soil that remains frozen all year round.

The 4-foot gray and brown carcass's trunk and eyes are almost entirely intact, and it even has some fur. But it appears that the tail and ears were bitten off. Other mammoth carcasses have been found, but none are as nearly complete as Lyuba. According to Sergey Grishin, director of the Shermansky Yamal Nenets Museum, the baby mammoth is the best-preserved mammoth ever discovered.

"Lyuba's discovery is an historic event," said Bernard Buigues, vice president of the International Mammoth Committee, based in Geneva, Italy. "It could tell us why this species didn't survive,... And shed light on the fate of human beings."

Lyuba arrived in Tokyo, Japan, at the end of December, and underwent a computer X-ray scan that created 3-D images of the insides of its body. The scans give a detailed view into the animal's internal organs and structure. Analyzing the images will help scientists determine the baby's diet and why it died. They will also study tiny air samples left in Lyuba's lungs to get a better idea of what the earth's atmosphere was like during the last Ice Age. Naoki Suzuki, a professor at Japan's Jikei University School of Medicine, is leading the first part of the international study of the baby mammoth. Scientists from the United States, Canada, Russia and other European countries are also expected to participate.

The last of the ancient animals are believed to have roamed the earth from about 4.8 million years ago to 4,000 years ago. Researchers have long argued about whether the species' extinction was due to climate change or over-hunting by humans. They hope that Lyuba will give them more answers.

Meanwhile, the baby mammoth is on public exhibit at the Science Museum in Tokyo until late February. "It looked amazing, almost like it was alive said 10 year old Chikara Shimizu.

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 18, 2008

MEETING TIME: 7:00 p.m.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in Attendance: approximately 47

Louis Stieffel presiding

Minutes continued:

March Meeting is the annual auction. Vote on how to distribute money was made for three \$1,000. donations. The club voted to give a donation to the Calusa Nature Center, The University of Florida Museum of Natural History and a University of Florida Foundation Wetlands Archeology project. Thank you to Steve Koski, archaeologist from the Little Salt Spring Research Facility, who spoke to us. Also, thanks to Mark Cantos for the great refreshments..

Here is a listing by Louis of the different species that our members found on the Peace River Hunting Trip; dugong, glyptodont, armadillo, ray, puffer fish, shark in several varieties, deer, camel, horse, lots of horse, bison, tortoise, turtle, porpoise, gator, mammoth, mastodon, whale, garfish, fish, rhino, croc, tapir and several other things that I could not make out because Louis wrote it.

Volunteer Hours

A club goal is to provide volunteer hours to the **Calusa Nature Center** in exchange for our free meeting room each month. This is voluntary but we hope all those who are able will participate. Please call **Laurel La Croix at 275-3435** to volunteer. Laurel is there Monday to Friday from 9:00—5:00.

There are no special events planned at this time but there are always mailings, front desk work and help needed in the butterfly garden as well as other outdoor things to do. Please report the number of hours and date worked to me at; Cameraqueen @earthlink.net or (239)772-8015 Sandy