

Fossil Club of Lee County

February, 2010

Message from the President



Greetings to all members and a big welcome to the eighteen new members. We are glad to have you in the Club. As most you know we are growing in membership to the point where the Iona House is full. We expect an even larger turnout for the February meeting so we plan to use the Planetarium. When our snowbirds go back north we will move back to the Iona House. We are so pleased to have Dr. Robin C. Brown as our guest speaker for February. He is a lifetime member of our club and as many of know, he is the author of Florida's Fossils and an equally great book entitled Florida's First People. If you don't have his books and want to purchase them, we will have some available. Dr. Brown will speak about the mammoths that roamed throughout Florida. I encourage everyone to bring in their mammoth specimens as I am sure he will appreciate seeing them. In March, the Club will hold its annual auction, which serves to raise monies for scholarship grants and provide an opportunity for members to acquire items for their collections at reasonable prices. As we have done in the past, we ask that members consider donating items for the auction. Items need to be brought to the February meeting so they can be made ready for the March auction. All donations will be greatly appreciated. We have replenished our inventory of club merchandise and will have several books and a wide variety of riker boxes for sale at the meeting.

(continued next page)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center Planetarium, Ft. Myers

Officers

Bill Shaver, President (239)834-0694 / billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com
Al Govin, Vice President (239)910-2339
Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 939-1921 or 936-5019
Sharon Drake, Secretary, (239) 823-9052

Board Members

Director—Louis Stieffel, 458-9818
Michael Orchin, 574-6318
Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015
Trip Director, Bill Shaver
Dive Trip Director, Mike Siciliano , 980-1406

Committees

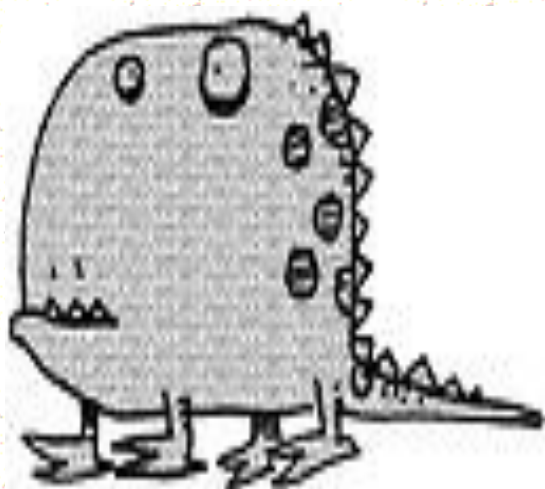
Speakers: Bill Shaver
\$1.00 Raffle: Mike Siciliano
Auction: Louis Stieffel
Web Master: Curtis Klug
Pit Trip Director: Gunther Lobish

(Presidents message continued)

Speaking of books, we have a Club library comprised largely of books donated to us by Dr. Brown. A list of all library is available. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and as always we encourage you to participate in the activities and enjoy being part of a great club.

Best regards, Bill

Notice ~ The February Lee County Fossil Club Meeting will be held in the Planetarium. Refreshments will be set up in the Planetarium lobby. Also, club merchandise, show and tell tables, and monthly raffle will be held in the Planetarium lobby. There will be no activities at the Iona House. ~ Bill Shaver



FEBRUARY: Speaker: Dr. Robin Brown, Author of "Florida Fossils" & "Florida First People".

MARCH: ANNUAL AUCTION



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~Attached to this month's newsletter is a Mammoth quiz. Test your knowledge and prepare for this months lecture!

~"May you always have a sea shell in your pocket and sand in your shoes"~

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please pay at February Meeting

Just a reminder! Dues for 2010 are due January 1st. If you joined the club since October 2009, you will be credited for 2010. Family membership is \$20.00. Single membership is \$15.00, and Couple membership is \$17.00. Please send check to Ray Seguin, Treasurer, at 2124 Harvard Ave., Fort Myers, FL., 33907 or attend the monthly meeting and give it to him in person! Thank you for your participation. See the club website for additional information. www.fcolc.com

NEW MEMBERS

Craig - Cotton Smith

Joshua Frank

Melanie Hutchinson

Honey Archer

Donald D. Lindsey

Anita - Alan Evers

David - Pat Rosenquist

Alan - Susan Goldstein

Jim - Mary Jane Snow

Steve - Debbie Johnson

Bill Johnson

Chris Johnson

MINUTES OF MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY, DECEMBER , 2009

The January meeting of the Lee County Fossil Club was called to order by President, Bill Shaver with eighty-nine members and guests in attendance. Our guest speaker was Dr. Richard Hulbert. Richard is currently employed as Collections Manager at the University Of Florida Museum Of Natural History. His topic was geochemistry and a presentation covering the many species of three-toed horses and their evolutionary paths. Bill asked Louis Stieffel to give an overview of the upcoming auction and to address the bidding procedures. Several specimens were donated for the auction and members were asked to make sure all items to be donated are given to Louis no later than the February, 2010 meeting. The purpose of the auction is raise money for scholarships and to offer members an opportunity to acquire items for their personal collection at a reasonable price. The meeting concluded at the end of the Show and Tell segment and the monthly raffle.

Bill Shaver, President

If anyone has been left off this month's new member list, please contact Bill Shaver and Ray Seguin.

It has been rumored.....

Don Young found a very fine mammoth spit tooth specimen and other members are still finding sand dollars and sea biscuits at the Quality Materials pit....

And if you like crystals and fossils laden with calcite deposits sign up with Mike!

WEB SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

Fossil Club of Lee County: <http://www.fcolc.com>

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>

Florida Vertebrate Fossil Permit: <http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vpppermit.htm>

Southwest Florida Fossil Club: <http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com>

Orlando Fossil Club: <http://www.floridafossilhunters.com>

PEACE RIVER WATER LEVELS:
<http://www.canoeoutpost.com>

Smithsonian Natural History Museum: <http://www.mnh.si.edu>

Florida Fossil Clubs: <http://www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com>

PICKING UP ISOLATED NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS: <http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/underwater/finds>

Contact Cheryl at kayak-peacriver@yahoo.com if you have any suggested additions to our web site in the interest column. Please help support the newsletter by submitting appropriate articles for publication.

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

Imaginarium
200 Cranford Av, Fort Myers
www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium

Southwest Florida Museum of History
2300 Peck St., Fort Myers
www.swflmuseumofhistory.com

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL
www.shellmuseum.org

Randell Research Center
PO Box 608, Pineland, FL
(on Pine Island)
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Six Mile Cypress Drive (Between Daniels and Colonial) www.sloughpreserve.org

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

Lost in Time, St. Pete Pier, St. Petersburg, FL
Tel 727.823.7493

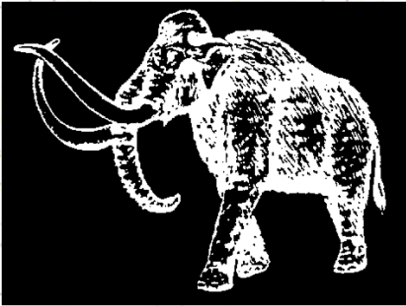
Peace River Wildlife Center
3400 West Marion Avenue (Ponce De Leon Park)
Punta Gorda, Florida
Www.peacriverwildlifecenter.com

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls
<http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org>



Mammoths

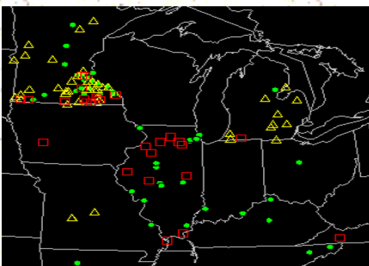
Three species of mammoths (genus *Mammuthus*) lived on the mainland of the United States at the end of the last Ice Age. These were the Columbian mammoth (*M. columbi*), Jefferson's mammoth (*M. jeffersonii*), and the woolly mammoth (*M. primigenius*). Of these, Jefferson's mammoth and the woolly mammoth have been identified from the Midwestern U.S. Mammoths, [mastodons](#) and modern elephants, are members of the order Proboscidea. The mammoths are closely related to the living elephants, especially to the Asiatic elephant (*Elephas maximus*). As adults these late-occurring mammoths stood between about 3 and 3.7 meters (10-12 feet) at the shoulder and weighed between 5500 and 7300 kilograms (6-8 tons).



Mammoth Teeth

The teeth of mammoths are quite distinctive. They are composed of a set of compressed enamel plates that are held together with cementum. These cemented plates make a very tall, strong, and wear-resistant tooth. After a tooth erupts from the gum cavity, the mammoth uses it in grinding coarse vegetation like grass. This use causes the tooth to develop a flat top with low enamel ridges where the plates have been worn. The tall structure of these hypsodont (shallow-rooted) teeth make them very resistant to wear. This is important because mammoths are thought to have been primarily grass-eaters. Grass is a very hard material to eat. It has small pieces of silica (a glass-like substance) in its leaves. These pieces of silica act like sandpaper grit and would wear away a less resistant tooth very quickly.

Mammoths are frequently found as fossils in the Midwestern U.S. Most often isolated teeth are found. Mammoth fossils are most common in areas that were covered by savannas, grasslands, or tundra during the last Ice Age. This map shows some of the important mammoth finds in the region. Approximately 1.5 to 1.8 million years ago the first mammoths entered North America. These mammoths came from Eurasia, crossing the Bering Strait at a time when sea level was lower than today. The first mammoths from Eurasia belonged to a species called *M. meridionalis*. The descendants of this species of mammoth included both the Columbian and Jefferson's mammoths. The woolly mammoths evolved in Eurasia and came over the Bering



Straits much later (perhaps less than 500,000 years ago). Approximately 11,000 years ago all species of mammoths went extinct in North America. Find out more about this [extinction](#). Although only bone and teeth of mammoths are preserved in the Midwestern U.S., the Illinois State Museum also has a sample of mammoth hair from Siberia.

This photograph shows a sample of hair from the Yuribei Mammoth. The Yuribei Mammoth was found along the Yuribei River on the Gyda Peninsula, NW Siberia, Russia. It is a young adult, female mammoth. She was covered with a long and thick, brownish hair coat, an example of which is shown above. Radiocarbon dating indicates that she lived about 11,000 years ago. The Yuribei Mammoth was collected in 1979 by a multidisciplinary team representing three institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The hair sample shown here was presented to the Illinois State Museum in 1991 by Dr. Gennady Baryshnikov, of the History of Faunas Department of the [Zoological Institute](#), Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg.



Mammoth Skeleton Sets Auction Record

Associated Press

April 17, 2007 — If you were looking for the skeleton of a prehistoric mammoth, Monday was your day to buy. Christie's auction house sold one for \$421,200 — a world record. The unidentified buyer was a European who collects contemporary art and 19th century furniture, Christie's spokeswoman Capucine Milliot said. The mammoth sale was one of a dozen world records set during Monday's auction of paleontological curiosities that brought in a total of more than \$1.53 million, Christie's said. The 10,000-year-old skeleton of a 13.5-foot-long rhinoceros sold for a record \$162,000. That of a 7.5-foot-high prehistoric cave bear from the Russian Urals sold for \$63,180. The skeletons previously were owned by private collectors. Most were bought by individuals, although a German museum and a French museum — neither identified — purchased fossils for smaller sums, Milliot said. The Siberian mammoth from the High Pleistocene era, dubbed the "The President," was the star item at the auction. At 12.5 feet tall and 16 feet long, it had been estimated to sell for about \$199,000. The last such item sold at auction, last year in Paris, went for \$254,340, Milliot said. Among other items sold was a bezoar, a sort of pearl formed in the stomach of some herbivores, made of a stone or hair covered by a layer of calcium phosphate. Bezoars that reach or exceed the size of an egg become tremendously valuable. This one went for \$45,360. The molar of a Siberian mammoth sold for \$6,480.



Sanibel Island's Crocodile Found Dead

An American crocodile, the only one known to exist in the area, was found dead on January 22, 2010. The female croc was 11 feet, eight inches long and weighed over 300 pounds. She had lived on Sanibel in and nearby the "Ding Darling" refuge for over 30 years. It is believed that the recent cold snap may have caused her death.

The main difference in appearance between an alligator and a crocodile is the fourth tooth on a croc's lower jaw is exposed when the mouth is closed. No teeth are visible when an alligator has its mouth closed. Another distinguishing feature is that alligators are gray-black in color and crocodiles are a dark greenish color.

When we hunt for fossils in the Peace River, for instance, we may find fossilized scutes from the reptiles. The difference between alligator and croc scute is the alligator scutes, which are far more common, are somewhat square with a hump in the middle, whereas the croc scute, is more round and without the noticeable ump. The teeth are also different: an alligator tooth has a faint line running from tip to base whereas croc teeth appear to have faint concentric rings visible on tooth exterior. Bill Shaver



ABOUT REFRESHMENTS

NOTE: Volunteers that sign up to provide refreshments, which includes bringing in iced beverages, will need to take home the club coolers home with them. The club bought coolers for that purpose. This has not been a problem in the past, but there have been two recent incidents where the volunteer/s forgot to get the coolers. And for all of you that have taken your turn to bring in refreshments, the club really appreciates your support! If there is still confusion, please speak to Bill Shaver. Thanks!



Thanks to Pat and Ted Oakes, Sally Jane Moore, Skip Friend, and Sue Sprout for providing the refreshments for January. We appreciate their participation and their generosity.



In view of the increased size of our club we need to keep the refreshments simple — beverages and light snacks will be sufficient. Some cookies would be nice for those of us with a sweet tooth! ~ Bill S.

REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS

FEBRUARY: Leslie and Louis Steiffel, Pat and Don Legree. We thank them in advance.

MARCH: The Barefoot Beach Combers have signed up to do the March refreshments. Who are they we ask? It's a fine group of fun loving people which includes Katie and Ken Metcalf, Don and Flo Young, Gordon and Judy Ahl, Jim and Jana Russell, Don and Gerrie Huston, Charlotte Rose, and Liz Henry. We thank each one of you. Plan on about 90 attendees for our Annual/Auction/Meeting, which will be held in the Planetarium.

April: Need volunteers

May : Need volunteers



Field Trips

With the Peace River being at high mark fossil hunting is difficult. Our Dive Drip Director, Mike Sicilliano has sought other activities. He is conducting field trips to Ruck's Calcite Mine. After scouting the operation, he succeeded taking the first group out to the mine on Feb. 2.

Gunther is still taking groups to the Quality Materials pit, however finds are spotty.

Possible club fossil trip in late Feb, when Peace River water levels drop.

Sign up sheets will be available at the meeting

The March meeting will start earlier than usual, due to the club annual fossil auction. The new meeting time will start at 6:30 instead of the normal 7:00 pm. This will be all that happens at the meeting, as there will be very little time for any regular club business. This annual auction is the club's largest fundraiser of the year. We use these funds to keep the club going and also to help with the scholarships we provide. I ask that members bring donations for the auction to the January meeting, and at the very latest, the February meeting. After that, all lots will be filled and no more items will be accepted for this current year's auction. I plan on having approximately 100 lots, as usual, and the auction for these will take up the entire meeting time, and possibly may last longer than our normal ending time. Viewing will start at 6PM. Registration will be from 6-6:30 PM. You must get a bidder number to bid. Please wait until you are totally finished before checking out. Once you finish checkout, your bidder number will no longer be accepted for bids. We accept cash and checks, but no credit cards. Light refreshments will be available, but I ask that you try not to disturb the auction if you must get up and get refreshments. If you want to bid on an item, please make sure that you are noticed. Please hold up your bidder number so as to be seen, or your bid can not be placed.

Come early, stay late, and bring lots of money. Be prepared to take home some nice fossils and other items!!!

Thanks,
Your auctioneer,
Louis Stieffel

March Annual Auction 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owl Festival is February, 27, 2010.

Please telephone 239.980.2593 for further information. <http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org>

The Tampa Bay Fossil Club FossilFest is March 20 & 21 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 9 - 6 Saturday, and 10 - 4 Sunday.

Cape Coral Fossil Show. Saturday, March 27, 2010 11 am—4 pm. Admission \$5.00 (children under 12 free). Sponsored by Cape Coral Parks and Recreation. Tel: 239.549.4606 or <http://www.capecoral.net> (This is a safe link)

Venice Shark Tooth Festival

Friday, April 9, 2010 - 4 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, April 10, 2010 - 10 am - 9 am

Sunday, April 11, 2010 - 10 am - 5 pm



Florida Fossil Permit Application

This application is for a permit that will entitle the person named on the permit to collect, for the period of one (1) year, vertebrate fossils on land owned or leased by the State of Florida. The permittee must abide by all the provisions contained in Florida Statutes § [1004.575-576](#) and the University of Florida Regulation implementing this law. Persons who already have a permit and wish to renew it for an additional year should not use this form. They should follow [these instructions instead](#).

Print out and mail completed application to: Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611-7800, USA

The following must be enclosed with the filled-out application:

1. Photocopy of applicant's identification document (i.e., driver's license, birth certificate, or passport).
2. Check or money order for \$5.00 in U.S. currency payable to the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology. If you are sending two or more applications, just send one check for the total amount, not multiple checks of \$5.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.

Applicant's Full Name (must match that on identification document):

Complete Mailing Address (include zip code):

Telephone (include area code):

E-mail address (optional):

I, the undersigned, affirm that I will abide by Florida Statutes § 1004.575-576 and the Regulations of the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, University of Florida Rule 6C1-7.541 F.A.C.

Signature:

Date:

FLORIDA VERTEBRATE FOSSIL PERMIT: <http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>