



# **FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

**FEBRUARY 2012**



## *Message from the President*

Greetings to all members and friends. It is February and we expect that most of our northern and southern members will be in attendance at the upcoming meeting. In anticipation of very large turnout, we will hold our February 16th meeting in the Planetarium at the Calusa Nature Center.

This month, we are so pleased to have Dr. Robin C. Brown, who was one of the major founders of our club, as our guest speaker. Dr. Brown will tell us about a "whale of a time" he had some years ago. His talk is titled: A Whale in the Swimming Pool" and like so many of his presentations, I am sure it will be entertaining and especially interesting. As many of our members know, Dr. Brown has written what many of us call the fossil book of knowledge, but its official title is Florida's Fossils. He also wrote another best seller, from our point of view, called Florida's First People. Bring your books to the meeting and Dr. Brown will sign them for you.

This month, February 25th to be exact, our club has a trip scheduled to Gainesville where we will have an opportunity to see the Vertebrate Laboratory at the University of Florida Museum of Natural History, tour the Museum and see a special exhibit titled : "Crusin the Fossil Freeway." There is also a side trip to see a fabulous world-wide renown collection of shark teeth. There is an

article about the trip in this newsletter and details will be provided at the monthly meeting.

Next month is our Annual Auction and we are still preparing for this event, which is always one of the major highlights of the year. We have received some wonderful donations and would appreciate a few more items. So if you have not made a donation in several years or ever, you are invited make one and bring your donation to the February meeting. The auction is our major fund raiser and a sizeable amount of the proceeds is used for scholarship funds at the University of Florida and University of South Florida. We also make an annual donation to the Calusa Nature Center, which is a very worthwhile organization in our community. This amounts to a win-win situation, the nature center and the universities support our club and we support them.

This month's program includes a great speaker, our new and improved merchandise table, "Show and Tell", trip talk, lots of raffle items, door prizes, and refreshments. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Planetarium on February 16th, 2012.

Best regards, Bill

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be February 16<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm at Calusa Nature Center Planetarium



## OFFICERS

Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694  
[billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com](mailto:billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com)  
Michael Siciliano, Vice President,  
239-980-1406  
Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 239-939-1921  
Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

## DIRECTORS

Dean Hart, 941-979-8217  
Gunther Lobish, 941-268-7506  
Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526  
Pam Plummer, 239-573-7807  
Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094

## COMMITTEES

Cherie Neat, Newsletter  
Curt Klug, Web Master  
Bill Shaver, Speakers  
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer  
Kathy Pawlowski, Club Merchandise  
Pam Plummer, Club Badges  
Ray Seguin, Membership  
Joshua Frank, Refreshments  
Dean Hart, Refreshments co-chairman  
Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips  
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips  
Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director  
Hollie Tiner, Club Photographer  
Gunther Lobish, Invertebrate Education  
Louis Stieffel, Vertebrate Education

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rich Burke  
Ryan Cerone  
Phil & Debbie Donahue  
Jessica Hasting  
Roland Hebert

## MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: Jan 19.2012  
Place: Zion Lutheran Church  
Attendance: 75  
Presided by: Bill Shaver, Club President  
Bill welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.  
Bill explained that the Board recommended that FCOLC file to become a corporation. He and Charles Ferber are working up the necessary documents.  
In accordance with the Club by-laws, a nominating committee is to be formed in January for the purpose of nominating members who wish to run/serve as directors and officers for the club. The current slate of officers and directors chose to continue to serve and there was no opposition from the attending members. Therefore, no election is to be held in 2012.  
The trip to the Mosaic mine was set for February 4th. Thirty members signed up and six others were on a waiting list.  
The club is in need of items for the annual auction in March. Please bring your donations to the meeting in February.  
Please pay your 2012 dues. See the Club Treasurer.  
The meeting for February will be held at the Calusa Nature Center in the Planetarium.  
The speaker tonight was Dr. Charles O'Connor. He showed a series of colorful slides depicting some of the highlights of his recent trips to Panama, Peru, and other South American countries.

Refreshments this month were provided by: Ted & Pat Oakes and Sally Jane Moore. Gunther Lobish and Bill Shaver volunteered to do February. The Bonita Beach Combers will handle March. See Joshua Frank to volunteer for April and May.  
Show and tell was provided by: Gunther Lobish, Coby Pawlowski, Louis Stieffel and Ron Seavey.  
Submitted by: Kathy Pawlowski, Club Secretary

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Southwest Florida Club Annual Auction (see club website)  
Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting at the Calusa Nature Center Planetarium  
Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> Speaker Dr. Robin C. Brown  
Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Burrowing Owl Festival in Cape Coral (FCOLC will exhibit)  
Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Gainesville Trip  
Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> FCOLC Annual Auction at Zion Lutheran Church  
Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Tampa Bay Fossil Club Annual Fossil Show (see club website )  
Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> Cape Coral Fossil Show at Rotary Park (FCOLC will exhibit)



## **SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY 2012**

The speaker for February is our own Dr. Robin C. Brown, a Lifetime Member of the Fossil Club of Lee County, and one of the Club's founders. Dr. Brown's topic is "The Whale in the Swimming Pool", which is a true story about just one of the many events he has experienced in the wonderful world of fossils in Florida.

Many of us know Dr. Brown as the author of two great books we carry in our club's inventory. One is "Florida's Fossils", which is the "book of knowledge" for Florida fossil hunters. His other book is "Florida's First People", which contains a wealth of information about the Indians that inhabited Florida from about 12,000 years ago up until the time the Europeans arrived in the early 1500s. (We also very much appreciate Dr. Brown for donating all of the books and research papers he used in the writing of "Florida's Fossils" to our Club Library). Dr. Brown also donated his original photographs to our club for us to use in our annual auction.

Dr. Brown is a medical doctor and a well known ear surgeon who somehow found time to raise a successful family, operate a successful medical practice, be a leader in the community of Fort Myers, and also write three excellent books. He was one of the key individuals involved in saving the Iona House and having it relocated to the Calusa Nature Center.

Dr. Brown said he would be glad to sign either of his books for our club members at the conclusion of his presentation. We are so pleased to have such an outstanding club member be our speaker for the February 16th 2012 meeting.

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## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Dues for 2012 are being collected at the February meeting. Please plan to renew your membership at that time. See your esteemed Treasurer, Mr. Ray Seguin---he accepts cash or checks. If you joined the club in October, November, or December 2011, you are paid for all of 2012. See the club website [www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com) for a membership application and mailing address if you would rather mail in your dues. Thanks for your prompt payment.



## **WEB SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST**

Fossil Club of Lee County: [www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville  
[www.flmnh.ufl.edu/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/)

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

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

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

PEACE RIVER Water Levels  
[www.canoeoutpost.com](http://www.canoeoutpost.com)

Mark Renz's Fossil Expeditions  
[www.fossilx@earthlink.net](http://www.fossilx@earthlink.net)

Smithsonian Natural History Museum  
[www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu)  
Florida Fossil Clubs  
[www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com](http://www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com)

Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts  
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/underwater/finds>

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium 3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers Tel 239-275-3435  
[www.calusanature.com](http://www.calusanature.com)

Imaginarium 200 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers  
[www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium](http://www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium)

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2300 Peck St., Fort Myers [www.swflmuseumofhistory.com](http://www.swflmuseumofhistory.com)

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

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

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

Lost in Time, 4719 69th Street, N. St Petersburg, FL 33709, Tel. 727-541-2567 Owner Brian Evensen

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

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls  
[www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org)



## FCOLC ANNUAL AUCTION

Thanks to our many members who have donated items for our annual auction scheduled for March 15th. We have about 70 items at this time and are shooting for about 100 by auction day. Some of the items we have at this time are four exceptional wildlife posters, several rikers of Indian artifacts, two beautiful large framed photos of Florida birds, a fossil screen, several rikers of butterflies, rocks and minerals specimens, a variety of books, many rikers of fossil specimens including alligator scutes, glyptodont and armadillo scutes, horse teeth, bison teeth, a variety of mammal bones, megalodon shark teeth, various other fossilized shark teeth, a surveyor pole probe and accessories, fossilized plant material in stone slabs with stands, tickets to the Imaginarium, a variety of fossil sea shells and several miscellaneous items.

Everyone is invited to support your club auction by donating items and bidding on items that will enhance your collection or for gifts for family and friends. Please bring your donations to the February meeting so they can be included in the auction.

Our annual auction is held for two main purposes: one is to make items available to our members at reasonable prices, and the other goal is raise funds for scholarships for deserving paleontology students and other worthy causes. In the past our club has provided scholarship funds to the University of Florida and the University of South Florida and we also make a donation to the Calusa Nature Center.

Our auction will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church on 7401 Winkler Rd in Fort Myers (same place as where we held our December and January meetings.) Louis Stieffel is our auctioneer and Ray Seguin, Club Treasurer and his volunteer staff, will handle the financial aspects. Viewing of the auction items will begin at 5:30pm and the auction will start at 6pm. The auction date is Thursday, March 15th, 2012. Your participation will be appreciated.



### CLUB MERCHANDISE

Club merchandise will be available at the February meeting that will be held in the Planetarium at the Calusa Nature Center. The inventory has been replenished! A large variety of rikers and books will be available including Dr. Brown's book on Florida Fossils and his book on Florida's First People. ( Dr. Brown said he would be pleased to sign your books at the meeting--you do not need to buy a new book for his signing---you can bring in one/s you already have.) Tee-shirts and preservative VINAC-15 will also be available. Please bring cash in small denominations if you can or make out checks to the Fossil Club of Lee County for your purchases. Kathy Pawlowski, Club Secretary, also heads up the Merchandise Committee and we appreciate her support of the club.

### COBY'S COLUMN

#### A Little Bit About Meteorites

When I learned that we had booked a speaker to talk about meteorites, I decided to read up on it. When I learned he cancelled, I decided to share a little bit of what I found out about meteorites.

A meteorite is a natural object that comes from outer space, survives travel through the earth's atmosphere and lands on the earth's surface. There are three types of meteorites: iron, stone and stony-iron. The most common type of meteorite is iron, a mineral that can erode away over time on the earth's surface. Meteorites can range in size from a few grams to thousands of pounds. They can land anywhere on the surface of the earth, but what matters is the type of environment they land in. Here in Florida, meteorites of iron content will oxidize very quickly and disintegrate rather rapidly. For those of us who want to try and find one in the local area, it was reported that the closest meteorite finds were in Bonita Springs and south of Lake Okeechobee.

Happy Hunting, Coby



## CLUB TRIP TO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

A club trip to Gainesville is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th, 2012. The University of Florida Museum of Natural History has a temporary exhibit called "Crusin the Fossil Freeway" that features the work of paleoartist Ray Troll and paleontologist Kirk Johnson. In addition to this exhibit and seeing the museum itself, a visit to the vertebrate laboratory has been set up and also a visit to see Dr. Hubbell's "world renown" collection of fossil shark teeth. It will be a full day of activity!

The "Crusin" exhibit features a Triceratops and Albertosaurus skeleton and 30 fossils to complement the 19 color prints and five large scale paleomurals that were created for the book entitled "Crusin the Fossil Freeway" by Troll and Johnson.

Other fossils in the exhibit include a giant ammonite, a dinosaur egg from China, and a Diplomystus, which is an extinct fish that lived about 34 million to 56 million years ago.

Additional information about the exhibit and the museum can be found on the UFMNH website. Details of the trip will be announced at the February 16th Club meeting.



Lunchtime in the Morrison Formation © Ray Troll

Dream of the Double Didy  
© Ray Troll



## REFRESHMENTS

Joshua Frank (Refreshment Committee) will have a sign-up sheet available at the February meeting for volunteers to bring in the refreshments (snacks and beverages) for the coming months. Gunther Lobish and Bill Shaver are handling refreshments for February. We appreciate the Bonita Beachcombers who signed up for March (Annual Auction Meeting)---they always give us a real nice spread!

We have many new members and hope that some of them will sign up to support their club. The Fossil Club policy is to reimburse anyone who brings in the refreshments unless they specifically want to make it a donation, which is always appreciated. The club owns and provides the beverage coolers, which are available at each meeting so they can be picked up for the next meeting. The intent of the refreshments is to have something simple during the meeting break. Snacks and cookies are all that is expected.

All members are invited to take their turn at doing the refreshments. Thanks for supporting you club!



Ted Oakes leads the line at the Annual Holiday Dinner



## CLUB TRIP TO MOSAIC PHOSPHATE MINE

It was a beautiful day for fossil hunting, sunny with a gentle breeze, and everyone was eager to search the mine area in hopes of finding three-toed horse fossils, shark teeth, especially the famed megalodon shark teeth, and other relics of the ancient past.

Our hosts at Mosaic were Jon Courtney and Joe Alex, both of whom have been in the phosphate mining industry for many years. They shared with us some interesting information and facts about Mosaics operation and how they reclaim all of the lands affected by the mining process. We concluded they do a great job of restoring the environment.

The Club members, 30 in all, then headed out to the search areas where our hosts pointed out where to look for the fossils. One person, Jessica Hasting, a new member found two small megalodon teeth in the first five minutes. By noon just about everyone had megs in their pouches and some three-toed horse teeth were also found. The trip concluded with a little bit of "picture taking" by Chet Patterson as people showed off their finds for the day.



Al Govin and Bill Shaver



Jon Courtney and Joe Alex of Mosaic with Bill Shaver



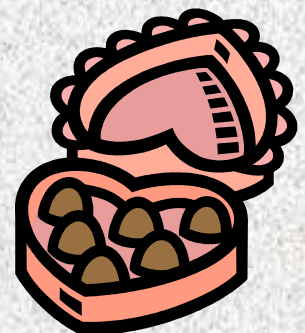
Pam Plummer, Sandy Schwartz, and Donna Johnson show their teeth.



Barry Rogers, Don Huston, Don Young and Bob Bridges



Fossil hunters taking a break





## Fossil Identification---Take A Closer Look

As part of my continuing effort to help members of the Fossil Club of Lee County be better, more knowledgeable fossil hunters, it is important that you can identify finds so you do not toss them back while hunting! The river level is down now and easier to hunt and as much effort as we spend getting to a collecting spot in the Peace River, and digging and sifting gravel, rocks, leaves, twigs, broken glass bottles and other things we find on the bottom it would be a shame that you find a good fossil, yet discard it as not. (I also want to say at this time that I realize that many of you only want perfect, pristine fossils and many of you ONLY want shark teeth, but there is much to be of interest in fossils that are partials or slightly eroded or worn, as well. A partial Rhino or Dugong tooth is WAY rarer than a 3" Megalodon tooth, found in the Peace. And many broken pieces and chunks of bone and Dugong ribs, upon a cursory examination will be found to have bite marks from the predator that killed the animal. It does not have to be a perfect fossil to tell a story. SO, if you don't want the ones that are not up to your high, museum standards, keep them anyway and donate to our club raffle table for others to enjoy). Ok, back to the topic I have drifted away from—throwing back good fossils! I have included six pictures - with this article. It is of three different groups of fossils, showing the backs, which look like nothing, with a less careful look than is needed. The fronts show what you would have tossed back. Yes, it is NOT shark

teeth!, but they are very interesting and collectable fossils anyway!

One pictures has a group of nondescript backs of a variety of fossils. When wet, in the screen, and callously sifted around without flipping over, you would have tossed Sting Ray and Skate dermal spines, a complete Sting ray pavement teeth grinding mill, leg spurs from an extinct giant Tortoise, a dermal armor skate from a Giant Armadillo, and a complete, small grinding mill mouth part from a Drumfish. Another picture shows ear bones from an extinct Porpoise. These are commonly discarded, so pay more attention! One picture shows the backs, and when wet, and you are not careful, easy to miss. However the other picture shows the fronts and you can see the Bulla on the left and the Periotic bones on the right. The last two pictures show what appears to be nothing, but-possibly interesting somehow, and it IS something, but what? Well it is three different halves of a turtle lower jaws. The second picture shows it in comparison to two complete turtle jaws. SO, folks, all I'm trying to say here is take a little more time going through your diggings. I found ALL of these fossils in dug, discarded gravel, left by some hardworking fossil hunter not being careful. I hope I have helped enlighten you a bit and your hunting success increases. Remember—you can ALWAYS throw it away. Don't be in such a hurry to do so!! Good luck!

Louis Stieffel, Vertebrate Education, FCOLC

