

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2013



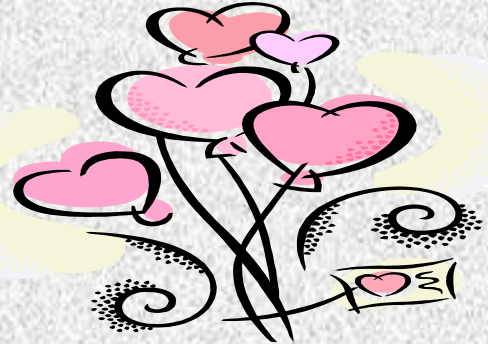
Message from the President

Greetings to All,

Another beautiful sunny day in Florida and the river waters continue to evaporate. At last check, the water levels were a good bit below normal and that makes for great fossil hunting. If you are new to the club you can learn how to hunt by joining up for the next trip to the Peace River. In addition to having the proper equipment you will need to obtain a fossil permit. An application for the permit is included in this newsletter.

Another great way to add some fine fossil specimens to your personal collection is to participate in our Annual Auction coming up this March. We are still receiving some nice donations from several members and we appreciate the generosity of those who always support our annual fund raising event. We are in need of several items at this time as we shoot for about 120 auction pieces. As most of you already know the auction is essentially a way for everyone to obtain fossil specimens at a reasonable price while raising funds for university scholarships. If you would like to make a donation, please bring them to Club VP Mike Siciliano at the February meeting.

In January, we were once again very pleased to have Dr. Robin Brown as our guest speaker. His theme was Florida's Future Fossils and his message was quite jarring. As all of know, we are in an interglacial period that began some thousands of years ago. The questions are how long will the interglacial period



continue, what are the exacerbating factors and what can we humans do about the potential adverse effects.

Our February speaker is also one of our club members. He is Chuck Zietsma, a long time rock hunter who enjoys the wonders of nature. He will share some of his experiences in western Canada and tell us about ammonite. He will show us some excellent specimens he has collected over the years.

Our club secretary, Kathy Pawlowski has submitted her resignation because of health reasons. We will need to fill that position as soon as we can and are looking for a volunteer. We want to thank Kathy for her service as secretary and also for working the club merchandise operation.

In anticipation of a very large attendance, our February 21st meeting will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church. We will have our monthly raffle, a variety of club merchandise, and Show and Tell.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Regards, Bill

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on **February 21st** at Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919. Meeting starts at 7 PM.

OFFICERS

Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694

billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com

Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406

Pam Plummer, Treasurer, 239-246-5993

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

DIRECTORS

Dean Hart, 941-979-8217

Gunther Lobish, 941-268-7506

Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526

Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094

Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921

COMMITTEES

Cherie Neat, Newsletter

Curt Klug, Web Master

Bill Shaver, Speakers

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer

Kathy Pawlowski, Club Merchandise

Pam Plummer, Club Badges

Pam Plummer, 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

CLUB REFRESHMENTS

Joshua Frank, Refreshments Committee Co-Chair has volunteered to provide refreshments for the month of February.

For the month of March, the Bonita Beach Combers will honor us with their traditional spread, which is a real bonus and another good reason for attending our Annual Auction meeting.

Jack Boyce and Bobby Joe Sherrill have volunteered to do refreshments for April and we thank them for their support.

Joshua and Dean Hart will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting. Your support of your club is appreciated.

The club will reimburse you for reasonable expenses and also the club provides the beverage coolers. Everyone is invited to participate.

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY, INC

Date: January 17th, 2013

Place: Calusa Nature Center

Attendance: 92

Presided by: Bill Shaver, Club President

Bill opened the meeting and welcomed all members and guests.

The speaker was Dr. Robin C. Brown.

A nominating committee for 2013 elections was announced. VP Mike Siciliano and two other members not yet identified will form the committee.

All members were thanked for their support of the upcoming auction and the monthly raffle.

Refreshments were provided by Pat and Ted Oakes and SallyJane Moore.

Members signed up for club river trips for January 19th and March 2nd

Club by-laws to be updated to change place of business and to add INC

Submitted by: Bill Shaver; in absence of Club Secretary, Kathy Pawlowski

ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION

Our Annual Auction will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church on **March 21st**. In past auctions we have been fortunate to have several members donate some super items for the auction. Thanks to some of our members, we already have a start toward a goal of about 110 items. However, we still need a lot of items. For those of you who wish to donate items, please bring them to the February meeting so we can prepare them for the auction.

Donated items are generally rocks and minerals, Indian artifacts, pertinent books, pertinent photos, fossil jewelry, fossil shells, display cases, river screens, fossil hunting equipment/tools, and of course vertebrate fossils of all kinds. If you are not sure if an item is acceptable, please ask.

The money we raise from the auction is primarily used to support scholarship funds at the University of Florida and University of South Florida for deserving students pursuing advanced degrees in paleontology. The club membership votes on the distribution of the funds.

Please bring your donated items to Club Vice President Mike Siciliano. Thanks to everyone of you who generously support your club.

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/

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

Southwest Florida Fossil Club
www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club
www.floridafossilhunters.com

PEACE RIVER Water Levels
www.canoepost.com

Mark Renz's Fossil Expeditions
www.fossilx@earthlink.net

Smithsonian Natural History Museum
www.mnh.si.edu

Florida Fossil Clubs
www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls
www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

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

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers
www.i-sci.org

Southwest Florida Museum of History
 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers
www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org

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

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL
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

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

- February 9th Southwest Fossil Club Annual Auction
- February 21st FCOLC Monthly Meeting at Zion Lutheran Church
- February 21st Speaker: Chuck Zietsma
- February 23rd Annual Burrowing Owl Festival in Cape Coral
- March 9th Calusa Heritage Day, Randell Research Center, Pineland
- March 2nd FCOLC River trip
- March 21st FCOLC Annual Auction at Zion Lutheran Church
- March 23rd/24th Tampa Bay Fossil Fest 2013
 (www.tampabayfossilclub.com)
- March 30th Fossil Show at Cape Coral Parks and Recreation/FCOLC Exhibit
- April 8th FCOLC Monthly Meeting at Iona House Calusa Nature Center
- April 8th Speaker: Steve Koski
- May 16th FCOLC Monthly Meeting at the Iona House
- May 18th Speaker: Charles OConnor

MULBERRY MUSEUM EVENT SATURDAY, FEB. 16TH

The event features several well know fossil experts to help identify your specimens. There will be some vendors of artifacts, fossils and other items of interest to fossil collectors. Claude Van Orter, well known Florida knapper will demonstrate some knapping techniques and also to show you some of his creations.

SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY

Chuck Zietsma will present "Fossilizing a Devonian Reef in Canada's Northwest Territories and exploring Cretaceous fossils in south Alberta with focus on precious Ammonite" He will show some excellent specimens and narrate a photo presentation.

Chuck is a retired teacher and he spent lots of summer collecting rocks, mineral specimens, and fossils at many locations in North America. He has a great love for the outdoors and collecting, from his point of view, is a wonderful way to experience the wonders of nature. Chuck is a Canadian "snowbird" member of our club and can be frequently on the Peace River.

A FCOLC trip to the Peace River by: Jack Boyce

Saturday, January 19th, 2013 – It was a cold and windy day, especially when the sun was hiding behind the clouds and breezes were rolling down the river. It was not too bad for the majority of club members who had wetsuits, but I could really feel for those who came from northern States and decided to enter the river with swimsuits and shirt tops. We all gathered at the river in Wauchula Crews Park between 8:15 and 9:30. There were 24 adventurous club members and a few had Kayaks. Coby and Jimmie were 2 of the first to arrive with Kayaks deciding to combine a day of fishing with a day of fossils. They headed up river a couple of miles and I later heard through the grapevine that Coby found his first large perfect Megalodon in the Peace River!!! I did not get a picture, so I'll have to wait until the next fossil club meeting for Coby to show his find.

Directions were few and concise. Step off the right side of the boat ramp because there is an 8 foot hole just off the left side of the boat ramp. Walk across the river to the east bank and then proceed upstream until you find a likely pile of gravel. Most fossil seekers were finding the normal small Lemon and Bull teeth with larger Snaggletooth shark teeth also in the mix. I fossiled for 2-3 hours, stopped to eat lunch while standing in the river and then decided to kayak upstream and downstream asking what kinds of unusual fossils had been discovered. At the request of my FCOLC club president, I also took a few photos for this newsletter article. I saw a couple of horse teeth, a couple of gator teeth and Lyle Copmann had found a very nice large black Tapir molar.

The fossil find of the day goes to Vickie Manderfield, a recent FCOLC club member and a 1st time fossil hunter in the Peace River. Vicki and husband Jim were 2 of those brave souls without a wetsuit but she did say that they came from Wisconsin where river are a lot colder. Vickie took my advice on crossing the Peace River from the right side of the boat ramp, but then she improvised!!! Once across the river, Vickie started to pick up interesting rocks that might be fossils. Most of them were just rocks, but one of the rocks that Vicki picked up directly across from the Crews Park boat ramp was 2 plates of a Mammoth tooth (5x3.25x2.5 inches). Vicki and Jim were certainly pleased, and I especially liked having a great find to write up in this article. Just goes to show.

The following named members that were on the January 19th trip to the Peace River are hereby eligible for honorary membership in the Florida Frigid Waters Society:

Cindy and Noarman Bateman
Coby Pawlowski
Jimmie Harper
Vickie and Jim Manderfield
Gordon Ahl
Don Young
Kathy, Jim and Kyle Copmann
Bill Howat

Don and Gerri Huston
Charlotte Rose
Liz Henry
Joe and Tar Larkin
Charles and Marcia Simons
Pam and Jim Siegel
Pam Plummer



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a friendly reminder that it is time to pay your dues for the Year 2013. Our treasurer, Pam Plummer will have membership forms available at our February meeting. Even if you are a long time member she would appreciate having you fill out the form completely so she can update the membership roster.

If you joined the club in the last quarter of 2012 you are paid up for year 2013. Also, if you don't have a name badge, please let Pam know so she can take care of it.

Thanks to all who continue to support your club.



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Snow Bird Summer

My husband I are those sometime derided humans called snow birds. Sorry about that, but we can't help it. Many of you wonder how we can possibly want to leave the paradise of SW Fla., but we have families, friends and strong ties in Il. Among the strong ties is our membership in an active rock club called Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society or LOESS centered in Springfield, IL. This summer I participated in 4 field trips with the club, all of which were very interesting. Twice we returned to a quarry I call "crinoid heaven." There was an extensive layer there of marine fossils, but mainly crinoids. For those of you not familiar with crinoids, they were an early sea animal that looked like a plant with long "stems" and a large bulbous "head". The stems are common and were often strung on cord by the Indians. The heads are much less common, but they were abundant in this quarry! This whole layer was exposed and crinoids and heads were everywhere! Some were weathered out and laying on the ground waiting to be picked up and there were several different kinds. I've not been able to find a good guide book to identify all the types I found yet, but I am looking. The quarry owners were removing the overburden off a whole new area last time we were there and club members were drooling at the thought of "virgin" areas.

The next quarry was one we had been to before near the Illinois River and a beautiful state park called "Starved Rock". One usually thinks of Il. as flat farmlands, but this area has cliffs and canyons and beautiful overlooks and hiking trails. The quarry is a clay quarry with huge petrified logs, glacial boulders, iron and pyrite nodules. Sometimes the pyrite is wrapped around the iron nodule and reminds one of a hot dog in a bun. Some folks were digging out large petrified logs that took several people to move. I concentrated on smaller pieces with the bark still in place and found some very interesting specimens to add to my collection. The iron nodules are similar to the famous Pennsylvanian Mazon Creek fossil nodules, but isn't so common to find the ferns, etc. inside. I did collect a bucket full and will open them at my leisure. The pyrite is quite abundant there and very pretty but due to the high sulphur content, is unstable. I had an egg carton of them that turned to mush in my basement. I am trying to store them differently to see if that helps the situation.

The last quarry we visited was much lower in the Ill. river system and was new to us. It is a limestone quarry so we expected calcite and fossils, but what we found surprised everyone. There in the rubble piles were cave formations! We found stalagmites and stalactites, and drapery folds. Some were good-sized and so very interesting! At one time there must have been quite a nice cave there. I didn't see any evidence of it at that time, but the owner said he knew of one at the other end of the quarry. There were either more than one or they were joined. Everyone took home some cave calcite. Some club members have portable rock saws and were able to cut beautiful calcite vugs out of the large boulders. Again, it was a productive, beautiful day.

Our club also put on a huge sale of Illinois fluorite and calcite that had been part of an old collection. A former member donated a truck load of beautiful material to be sold at reasonable prices for our club. It was heaven for fluorite lovers!! The mines of Illinois have been closed for years but were known for the large purple, yellow and other colored crystals sometimes with calcite, stronianite, sphalerite or pyrite.

I am telling you about all these trips and activities not to make you envious but to make you more aware of the possibilities. Most clubs will happily allow visitors to join in on their field trips for the low price of joining that club for the insurance coverage. There are guides to US clubs and the internet has much information about clubs throughout the US. If you want to visit Ill., I will be glad to help. Some northern visitors would be delighted to join on some of our Florida field trips as well as swap and buy. Rock hounds are generally friendly folks always happy to meet fellow collectors so if you travel during the summer keep this in mind and do a little research first!

By Rita Bass (217-816-9400)

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.

DO NOT USE THIS FORM if you already have a permit or had one at any time in the past and wish to renew it for an additional year. Follow [these instructions instead](#). This form is only for individuals who have never had a permit before.

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 University of Florida. 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: