



# **FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

**FEBRUARY 2014**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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Season is in full swing!! The river and creek levels are perfect for fossil hunting, and the weather, most days, is great. Our northern members are just about all here for the winter and most of us are fossil hunting! I want to encourage folks that can attend the meeting to share some of your discoveries. Show and Tell is an integral part of the meeting. That is where we show off our treasures and see others. In this process we all learn. Starting this month, we are instigating a slight change in the show and tell. We will focus on a different animal each month, along with whatever else you want to show. The feature animal for February will be the Mammoth. Lots of us have Mammoth fossils to bring and share. It does not have to be found within this last month, but any that you have, from any time, we all want to see! Next month is the auction, so no show and tell, but again in April we will have a different focus animal.

Speaking of the auction, our annual fossil auction will be held at the March meeting. Please bring any donations for the auction to the February 20th meeting. We can use anything you want to donate, but non-fossil related items are not as big a seller. We will have very little administrative business at this meeting. A few short minutes and then the auction! We typically have about a hundred lots, and we also will have some silent auction items. Plan on attending and having a good time!

We just had a very nice club fossil hunt at Mosaic Phosphate Mines. We were limited to 30 members, and since we had many more who wanted to go, a lottery was used to pick names. Fortunately everyone picked showed up, so we had a full group. Lots of fossil were found. There were a couple of members who had some trouble with directions, so I am going to ask, again, that anyone signing up for a trip to please monitor their email. Most of the communications to a group will take place that way. And if asked to reply back that you see the email and understand the directions, please do so! Calling a dozen members takes a lot of

time. Also, if, for some reason a trip was cancelled in the last few days, monitoring your email will let you know that.

I want to also remind everyone to make sure your contact information is current with the club. If you are not receiving the newsletter, or seeing any announcements about a trip you signed up for, then let us know what your valid email address is, please! We have asked everyone to fill out the membership form when renewing your dues this year, so that we will have current information. If you did NOT fill it out, please let us know and do so as soon as possible.

We had a great speaker last month. Dr. Robert Sinibaldi gave a spirited, informative talk. Like most of our speakers, he traveled a long way to speak to us. Please attend the meetings and listen to our speakers. You will find it interesting and learn a lot.

Our December 2013 fossil show was held at the Araba Shriners Hall. It was a great venue. However the building is for sale and we doubt that we can hold the show there more than one more year, if that. So a new place has been located. This can turn into something really exciting. Our co-chairmen Pam Plummer and Dean Hart will tell us more at the meeting!

The \$1 raffle helps generate needed funds for the club. I ask that you consider bringing some fossil related items for the table, as well as participating by trying to add others to your collection!

So, remember, bring in your auction donations and your contributions to the raffle, as well as show and tell fossils. See you at the meeting!!  
Louis Stieffel

President, Fossil Club of  
Lee County



## Websites & Locations of Interest

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

**FCOLC, c/o Sandra Schwartz, 1821 SE 5<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Cape Coral, FL, 33990**

The FCOLC website is a source for links to Fossil websites of interest, archived monthly club newsletters, details on club meetings and officers.

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

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

Smithsonian Natural History Museum [www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu)

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers [www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org](http://www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org)

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

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

[www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html](http://www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html)

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls

[www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org)

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

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

[www.i-sci.org](http://www.i-sci.org)

Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club

[www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com](http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com)

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

[www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)

Orlando Fossil Club

[www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

The Fossil Forum

[www.thefossilforum.com/index.php](http://www.thefossilforum.com/index.php)

Fossil Treasures of Florida

[www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com](http://www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com)

Florida Paleontological Society

<http://floridapaleosociety.com/>

Collecting Vertebrate Fossils on Florida state lands **requires** a permit. A fossil hunting permit is also part of being an ethical Florida fossil hunter:

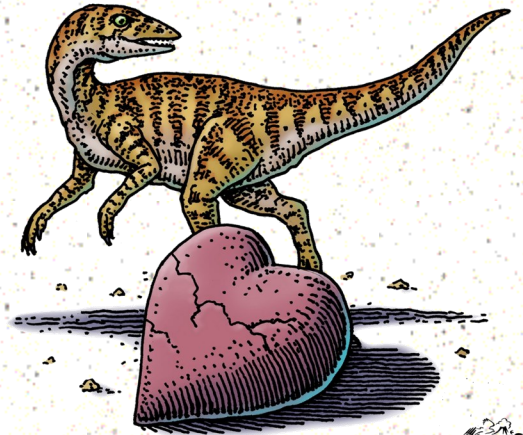
Florida Vertebrate **Fossil Permit** <http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>

Peace River Water Levels

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/rt>

Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts [www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm](http://www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm)

***If you find an Indian artifact, such as an arrowhead, on Florida state lands or river bottom, be aware that possession of an Indian artifact found on state lands after 2004 is a Class 3 Felony.***



*Happy Valentine's Day!*  
Image By: Ray Troll



### OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President, 239-851-7499

[cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)

Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406

Sandra Schwartz, Treasurer, 239-772-8015

[sschwartz@embarqmail.com](mailto:sschwartz@embarqmail.com)

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

### DIRECTORS

Jack Boyce, 239-281-2416

Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094

Joe Larkin, 239-265-6772

Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526

Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus

### COMMITTEES

Jack Boyce, Newsletter Publisher, Photographer

Joshua Frank, Coby Pawlowski, Mike Siciliano, and

Louis Stieffel - Fossil Show Committee

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Sandy Schwartz, Badges, Membership

Gunther Lobisch, Pit Trips, Invertebrate Education

Pam Plummer, Treasurer Committee

Ray Sequin, Merchandise

David Sheehy, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Speakers



## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS**

February 20th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Speaker; – **Sharon Holte** UFMNH, Vertebrate Paleontology Department

Presentation: Thomas Farm Fossil Site: Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow

Refreshments: **Mary Southall**

Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> Peace River Fossil Hunt Walk-in trip

Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Burrowing Owl Festival, Rotary Park, Cape Coral, Florida 10am to 4pm Admission \$5

Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> Donna Johnson Reflection Garden dedication, Rotary Park, Cape Coral, Florida 1pm

Sat-Sun, March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Fest, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, Florida

March 20th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

FCOLC Annual Fossil Auction – No Speaker

Refreshments: **Bonita Beachcombers Club**

Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> Peace River Fossil Hunt Canoe trip

Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> - Dig till you can't dig no more! Join us for 3 day and 2 nights of primitive camping @ Payne Creek's State Park private camp ground.

There is no hunting on state property, however the rest of the river is available to hunt. The camp ground is on Payne Creek with a small beach. Bring your fishing poles! There is no electric or water, you must bring what you need. If interested please contact Pam Plummer @ 239-246-5993 or [fcoltreasures@yahoo.com](mailto:fcoltreasures@yahoo.com).

Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> Cape Coral Fossil Show, Rotary Park, Cape Coral, Florida (10am to 4pm) Admission \$5 (10 and under FREE) <http://www.capecoral.net/Portals/0/DeptImages/Parks%20and%20Rec/Fossil%20Show%20Spring%202014.pdf>

April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Venice Sharktooth Festival, Venice Airport Festival Grounds

April 17<sup>th</sup> FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

April 17<sup>th</sup> Speaker; – **Matt Hayes**, Graduate Student/Researcher, UFMNH

Presentation: Isotopic Analysis of Fossil Shark Teeth

Refreshments: **Bobby Joe Sherrill and Jack Boyce**

### **Fossil Donation Request**

The Shell Factory is putting together a small Fossil and Mineral museum and is requesting donations. All donations will be credited to the donor. Make your choice on whether these donations are permanent or “on loan”. Contact Pam Plummer for more information at 239-246-5993 or [fcoltreasures@yahoo.com](mailto:fcoltreasures@yahoo.com). This is different from donations for the March Annual Auction or monthly raffle.

**Minutes of January meeting  
THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

Date: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Presided by: Louis Stieffel, President

Club president Louis Stieffel welcomed all current and returning seasonal members and called the meeting to order. Members were informed of club merchandise being sold by Ray Sequin, the \$1 raffle table manned by Mike Siciliano, and everyone was handed a ticket for the door prizes. 68 members were in attendance tonight. **Announcements:**

- The FCOLC Fossil Show is over and it was a huge challenge and a big success. Many FCOLC members and especially the Fossil Show Committee worked very hard to transform the location, attract vendors and fossil enthusiasts, to deliver an excellent event. Next year the Fossil Show will be even better.
- The Annual FCOLC Fossil Auction will be held during the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We need lots more donations to make it a success. Please bring fossil related donations to the February meeting.
- We lost our president last year and his request was that all donations go to a college scholarship for a young person who shared Bill's passion for fossils. Bill's family is here to present the scholarship; Kathy Shaver talked about what Bill support of FCOLC and passion for his family and for fossils. Kathy presented the scholarship to Coby Pawlowski.
- Thanks and a round of applause for Phil and Louise Briskin for providing refreshments tonight. Shredded Pork Sloppy Joe's are always a winner.
- There are sign-up sheets for a number of Peace River fossil trips on the front table. Please sign-up during the break or after the meeting.

Our speaker is Dr. Robert Sinibaldi who will focus on his decades hunting fossils in Florida and insights acquired on "What your Fossils can tell you".



**Bob's presentation is followed by the refreshment break. Zack Deyo managed the audiovisual equipment.**

- Pam Plummer is developing a combined Camping & Fossiling trip at Paynes Creek Park for the club in the last three days of March, more info to follow soon.
  - Donna Johnson Memorial Park dedication will be held Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> 1pm at the Rotary Park Cape Coral. Also at Rotary Park in Cape Coral the Burrowing Owl Festival will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> (10am-4pm). Admission is \$5. Our club has been requested to setup a table to discuss fossils and fossil hunting activities in Southwest Florida. We need 2 volunteers. Please attend both events and sign up for the table if you can.
  - Cape Coral Fossil show is Cape Coral March 29<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm and is also at Rotary Park.
  - Sandy Schwartz has stepped up to take over the club Treasurer Role; Kathy Pawlowski is leaving her position as secretary so we need a new person to volunteer as the secretary. If you are interested follow up with Louis or Mike.
  - Please everyone read your FCOLC newsletter. It is the basic way that the FCOLC officers and committee chairs communicate with the membership. If you want to submit an article, it must be submitted during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month.
  - We once again had problems tonight setting up audio/visual equipment. The Club is looking to purchase a laptop to facilitate presentations.
  - David Sheehy and Leslie Stieffel have done a wonderful job of setting up and maintaining the library.
  - Beginning next month, Show & Tell will focus on a specific animal and every month after that we will select fossils of a different animal to showcase. The Show & Tell focus animal for February is **Mammoth**.
  - Finished the evening with door prizes raffle and the dollar raffle
- Meeting was adjourned.  
Submitted by Club Secretary Kathy Pawlowski



## Speaker



**Sharon Holte** Florida Museum of Natural History: Vertebrate Paleontology Department

Sharon grew up in Woodbury, Minnesota always knowing she wanted to do paleontology. She became involved at the Mammoth Site during middle school, and spent 10 years there before, during and after obtaining an Undergraduate degree in Geology from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (research project on Giant Short faced bears). She obtained a Masters in Geosciences from East Tennessee State University (Thesis on Giant Ground sloth: *Megalonyx jeffersonii*). Currently Sharon is a 2nd year PhD student in Biology at University of Florida (Research on early Miocene carnivorans).

### Presentation Topic

*The Thomas Farm Fossil Site: Yesterday Today and Tomorrow*

Thomas Farm is the richest Early Miocene vertebrate fossil locality in North America and perhaps the world. Since its discovery in 1931, fossils of more than 100 species have been found at the site. These species range from tiny frogs, toads, lizards, snakes, doves, cuckoos, songbirds, bats and rodents, to medium-sized species including turtles, tortoises, turkeys, hawks, foxes and badgers, and larger species such as camels, horses and rhinos. By studying these varied species, paleontologists can reconstruct the ancient animal communities of Florida as well as understand the evolutionary changes that have taken place in any given group of organisms. <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/thomasfarm/about.htm>.

Thomas Farm is located in Gilchrist County, about 45 miles NE of Gainesville.

### Please Welcome

#### our New and Returning Members

Phil & Louise Briskin

Gisele Myers

John & Jacqueline Rice

Jim Tatum

Dennis Von Linden

### Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday,  
February 20th, 2014 at  
Zion Lutheran Church,  
7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers.  
Meeting starts at 7 PM.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a friendly reminder that 2014 Membership fee is past due. Our treasurer, Sandy Schwartz will have membership forms available at our February 20<sup>th</sup> 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. For your convenience there is a Membership Form on the last page of this Newsletter.

If you joined the club in the last quarter of 2013 you are paid up for year 2014. Also, if you don't have a name badge, please let Sandy know so she can take care of it.

**Thanks to all who continue to support your club.**

# FCOLC Mosaic Phosphate Mine trip - January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014



Saturday, the 25th of January was the date of the FCOLC fossil hunting trip to Mosaic Phosphate Mine. All thirty club members who were chosen to participate showed up, and hunted Mosaic's property. We were taken to a series of wells, which was just behind a large dragline digging the phosphate. These are the best places to hunt as most fossil material found is in very good condition.

Lots of nice fossils were found. Many Megalodon shark teeth were found, (Al, Aimee, Louis, Pam, Mike, --actually MOST of the hunters!), as well as smaller shark teeth from other species. Along with that were whale materials, including several vertebrae, (Mike, Coby, Louis, Pam, and others) a Baleen whale jaw tip (Aimee, Al) and a sperm whale tooth. Some ray and skate dermal spines, ray pavement teeth and tail spines were collected as well as a few fish vertebrae and a couple of sawfish teeth. I saw several sawfish and/or ray vertebrae as well. There was a small representation of terrestrial animals. Sandy Schwartz found a partial Rhino tooth. Leslie Stieffel found a nice three-toed horse toe bone and Bill Howat found a three-toed horse molar. Of course, many Dugong ribs were encountered, in various colors. I did not get to see everyone's discoveries, so there may be other nice fossils found as well. The two Mosaic gentlemen leading the trip, Joe and John, were very nice and helped anyone who needed it. We are most thankful to them, as well as Mosaic, for allowing us to fossil hunt their property. It was a great day, enjoyed by all.

Enjoy some photos of happy fossil hunters and a few close-ups of the finds.







## FCOLC Fossils of the Month - February, 2014



Fossil: [Carcharodon](#) Megalodon went extinct approximately 2 mya

FCOLC Member: Mike Siciliano found this fantastic tooth off Venice Beach on December 26<sup>th</sup> while scuba diving aboard Aquanuts shark tooth diving charters.



Fossil: *Pachyarmatherium leiseyi* 1.8mya to 300000 years ago

FCOLC Member: On January 28<sup>th</sup> Jack Boyce found this recently discovered and named (1994) fossil that, thus far, is unique to 5 locations in Florida including Payne Creek Mine, Polk County, Florida. Originally considered to be a miniature glyptodont, proposals now point to a member of the armadillo family.

There are many more as rare as these: **Get out there and find them!!!**

## FCOLC Annual Fossil Auction - March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The March club meeting will not have a speaker and we will keep the club business to a minimum. We want to leave as much time as possible for our traditional Auctioneer Louis Stieffel, to conduct the FCOLC Annual Auction. Year after year this is a very special event for a couple of reasons. At the break a group of very friendly fossil hunters, who call themselves the **Bonita Beach-combers**, will provide their traditional fantastic spread which is well worth attending this meeting all by itself!!

Certainly you can take advantage of trips to Mosaic, Peace River or SMR and find your own fossils. 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 100 plus 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.

Here are a couple of the very nice fossils you can bid on. Both were found by Bill Eberlien while searching in the dark bottoms of South Carolina Rivers. The 1<sup>st</sup> is a gorgeous 3.25 inch posterior Meg with a great tip and

sharp serrations.



Next is a 4 inch Meg with the same great tip and sharp serrations. It also has the telltale self inflicted bite mark as this tooth fell out during a feeding frenzy.



So come, join your fossil friends at the FCOLC Annual Auction at the March meeting.

## FCOLC Peace River Canoe trip - February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014





FCOLC, through the efforts of the trips coordinator Al Govin, sponsored a canoe trip to the Peace River on Saturday, February 8. For some reason we only had enough sign-ups for six canoes (seven, actually, but we had two no-shows). The week before the trip we had very unseasonal rains and the river was running very fast and about two feet higher than it normally would have been. The water was also very dark. The weather front that brought the rain also brought lower temperatures and mostly cloudy skies, so, overall the conditions were difficult. However, we all had a good time, even though some shivering was noticed by most of us! Canoe Safari Outfitters, based in Arcadia, was extremely helpful and bent over backwards to helping us enjoy the day. We wanted a short canoe trip with more time to fossil hunt. They agreed to bring us to Gardner and then pick us up at Brownsville, thus allowing us a nice canoe ride and a more than a few good gravel bars to hunt. Unfortunately the finds were rather sparse overall, since we had trouble locating some of the gravel bars in the deeper and darker water. But we still managed to do our best, and a few nice fossils made it back to the canoes!

I think the best find of the day was found by Chuck Zietsma who displayed an almost perfect un-erupted Dugong molar, with roots! Chuck also dug up a large section of fossil wood. He definitely had a good day. Other fossil hunter finds included deer, horse, camel, whale, shark and raccoon teeth, as well as various fossils from sting rays, mammoth, tapir, deer, fish, porpoise, and so on. When the sun showed itself, it was a nice day, but mostly it stayed hidden and the cold breeze felt even colder at those times. We even had a small bit of rain! In February! Talk about climate change! But, our spirits were not dampened and we all had a good time!



Al is putting together another canoe trip for March 22<sup>nd</sup>, this time from Wauchula to Zolfo Springs. Again, Canoe Safari Outfitters has agreed to do this special trip for us. I encourage anyone wanting to do a canoe trip in the meantime to use this outfitter. I also encourage everyone to join the next club canoe trip. It's a good, fun day!

Written & Submitted by Louis Stieffel

*The Fossil Club of Lee  
County is an  
organization of people  
interested in the fossils of  
southern Florida and  
all points beyond.*

Meetings are held at the

*ZION Lutheran  
Church*

*Fellowship Hall  
7401 Winkler Ave.*

*Fort Myers, FL 33919*

on the

*Third Thursday  
of every month  
from*

*7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

### Officers

Louis Stieffel President  
(239)-458-9818  
cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice-President  
(239)-980-1406

Pam Plummer, Treasurer  
(239)-246-5993

fcoldtreasures@yahoo.com

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary  
(239)-267-6130

### Committees

Cherie Neat: Newsletter Developer  
Jack Boyce: Newsletter Publisher &  
Club Photographer

Curtis Klug: Web Master

Louis Stieffel: Vertebrate Education,  
Speakers, Auctioneer

Ray Seguin: Club Merchandise

Pam Plummer: Membership & Club  
Badges

Gunther Lobish: Pit Trips

Michael Siciliano: Raffle and Dive  
Trips

Coby Pawlowski: Youth Activities Director

Gunther Lobish: Invertebrate Education

### Membership Information-

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Dues ~\$20.00

Dues are due the first day  
of January.

Payable to :

The Fossil Club of Lee County

133 NE 20th Street

Cape Coral, Fl

33909

[www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)