

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2015

Letter from the President

Well, it's looks to be a rainy summer--err--wait, it's NOT summer! But, we don't get rain like this in the winter! Hmm... Oh well, at least it's not cold. Since our fossil collecting hobby is outdoors, and this part of the year is focused on river hunting, these rains have us all messed up! Our recent Jan 20 club trip to the Peace River, at the girl scout camp, was almost a bust as the water had risen all week and was too deep to even get in! Michael Gessel saved the day with a spot he shared with us. Al Govin, the trips coordinator is pulling his hair out over trying to schedule trips. Good thing he has plenty! (of hair). He wants to try another river trip on March 17th, and also is looking at canoe trips, but unless the rains cooperate, they may not happen. We have had a couple of members head up to the Alafia River, with some success. Maybe we need to focus our efforts on heading farther away from here? Coming down from Alabama, through Georgia and then into Florida I saw several promising excavations visible from the interstate. Maybe some exploring is needed. Let me know what you find!

It seems that fossil sites on Face Book has increased lately. For you armchair hunters, this online source may help fill in the holes in your collection. Several sites have members looking to trade, and I have done a few trades and am satisfied with the results. These mailbox finds sure brighten the day!

Our club library, the largest club paleontological library in the state has been curated by David Sheehey. Dave has done a wonderful job, keeping it organized and adding new book donations to the library as they come in. However, to our disappointment, David is moving. We need another librarian! David is willing to give a crash course to whomever volunteers. It is not a job that will take much time away from your schedule, but it is one that is needed by the club. Please let me know if you are interested.

Membership renewal is due; if you have not yet done so, please see Sandy, the treasurer lady, and catch up!

Each month we highly encourage members to bring in fossils to show and tell. These can be your recent finds or ones relating to the speaker that month or just something you want to share with the fellow members. We also pick a featured fossil of the month as well, and this month it is the Megalodon shark. Bring in your Meg teeth and skeletons! We want to see them!! And--We will have some nice Megs for the March auction!

The annual FCOLC fossil auction is coming up soon, at our March 19 meeting. As the auctioneer, I have the task of acquiring all the items needed. We usually shoot for about 100+ lots and even though we have a good many, we can use more donations. Please consider bringing in to the February meeting anything fossil related you think you can spare. I will organize it and, as always, also fill in missing lots from my collection, and promise that you will have a nice time at the auction. Mike Siciliano will be handling the table with his trusty group of helpers and this year has a new improved system to speed up the checkout procedure! So don't miss the annual auction. You will enjoy it and go home with some great things! (No credit cards-sorry!)

Our speaker this month, Victor Perez, will be talking about sharks. He says: "For the talk I was planning on spending about 15-20 minutes talking about my background and how I got into paleontology, 15-20 minutes on a study I'm finishing up related to Megalodon, and then 15-20 minutes about my current research here at UF regarding sharks of Panama and the closure of the isthmus". So, plan on an interesting presentation!

Some upcoming events are the SWFFS auction in Punta Gorda on Sat, February 14. Bring your valentine to the auction! Also, The Tampa fossil show is March 21-22; the Cape Coral fossil show is March 28; the T-REX named Sue is ongoing at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville; and the always fun--but non-fossiliferous--Swamp Cabbage Festival in Labelle is Feb 21-22.

Our April meeting is annual elections. Any member wanting to run for office or board of director, please let me know. We will have a speaker that month, Joshua Slattery, and in May will have a micro matrix fossil hunt!

More good stuff, and great speakers, as the months roll by, so plan on attending as many meetings as you can! I know I will be there, and sure would like to see you!

Louis Stieffel
President



FCOLC Meeting Minutes 1/15/2015

73 members were present.

Meeting called to order by President Louis Steiffel

Dollar raffle and door prizes were discussed

Gunther and the Rozencrantz to do refreshments for February meeting.

Louis discussed the complexities of acquiring and handling club trips.

Al Govin discussed details of 1/20/15 girl scout camp trip

A show of hands was asked for a possible March or April Gainesville museum trip. 16 indicated an interest.

Walter Stein of Paleo Adventures presented a talk about the dinosaur Chicken from Hell.

A break, with refreshments provided by Jim and Vickie Manderfield and Joe Larkin, was taken.

Having a chairman for fossil show discussed. The position is presently needing to be filled.

Elections for club officers and directors will be in April. A call was put out to any members wanting to seek a position

March meeting will be the FCOLC auction. Members are asked to bring donations to the February meeting.

Dues are due as of 1/1/15, please pay immediately. Dues are \$20 per address.

Remember to get your Florida fossil permit as you need it for river hunting. A link to the permit is to be found on the club website, www.fcolc.com

A show and tell was held. Tapir was the featured fossil for January.

Walter Stein of Paleo Adventures presented a talk about the dinosaur Chicken from Hell.

The meeting wrapped up with the \$1 raffle, called out by John Taraska.

Minutes by: Al Govin

FCOLC Secretary

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Pamela Plummer.....239-246-5993

Ray Seguin.....239-939-1921,
Emeritus

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217

Dave Seehaver

Jeanne Seehaver

Don Lindsey

Jim Manderfield

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Sandy Schwartz, Badges,
Membership

Dave and Jeanne Seehaver,
Merchandise

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive
Trips

Charles O'Connor, Speakers

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer,
Vertebrate Education, Newsletter
editor, FOSSIL project
representative

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Sandra Schwartz, 1821 SE 5th 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/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Smithsonian Natural History Museum www.mnh.si.edu

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

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

www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html

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.org

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

www.i-sci.org

Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club

www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club

www.floridafossilhunters.com

The Fossil Forum

www.thefossilforum.com/index.php

Fossil Treasures of Florida

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

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.

Our January speaker was Walter Stein. He did an extremely interesting presentation about Dinosaurs, including a brief overview of his company which offers Dinosaur Hunting to the public. If you are interested, please check out Walter's website. He brought some pretty spectacular Dino fossils to show as part of his presentation, and these are found on his trips.

Walter W. "Bill" Stein

President

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Please visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/PALEOADVENTURES-DINOSAUR-DIGS/110528125650279?ref=hl>

Fossil Finds of the Month

Aimee Hankel , Meg tooth at Mosaic Mine.



This was a recent offering on Ebay. It is a Megalodon tooth, measuring at 7.06". The bidding was at \$10, 600, but the seller had the reserve even higher, so it was still unsold!

For those of you who are finding such large teeth in the peace River or diving Venice, now you know the approximate value!

When we get a fossil from Ebay, or from one of the face book sites, or a dealer's website, it's called a "mailbox find" !!



January 3, 2015 FCOLC trip to hunt the Mosaic phosphate mine

1st--Everyone getting safety gear on in the pavilion before venturing into the mine.

2nd--Alligator taking up residence in one of the settlement ponds

3rd--a Bone Valley Golden meg--waiting to be collected!!

4th-- a trio of intrepid fossil hunters!!



Neighbors dig up 42 mastodon bones in Michigan yard

Rachel Greco, Lansing State (Mich.) Journal 10:32 a.m.
EST January 13, 2015



(Photo: Rod Sanford, Lansing State Journal)

BELLEVUE, Mich. — Contractor Daniel LaPoint Jr. has been [digging in the dirt for two decades](#) but he'd never seen anything like this.

The massive rib bone sticking out of a pile of earth he had dug up from his neighbor's backyard was gray with age. It formed a graceful, wide curve. When he saw it, he jumped down from the helm of his excavator and pulled out the four-foot long skeleton.

It looked prehistoric. One word rushed to his mind: Dinosaur.

The bones discovered on the Babcock Road property in November, 42 in all, weren't from a dinosaur at all.

They were a mastodon's. The Ice Age animals, the distant relatives of elephants, weighed five tons and date back more than 10,000 years.

LaPoint and his neighbor Eric Witzke spent four days digging up the unique find before tracking down an expert's opinion on its origins. Later this month they will donate most of them to the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology.

The discovery was "pure luck," according to Witzke.

"Just boom. There you go," he said

It's also just one heck of a story.

A historical find

Daniel Fisher, the director of the U of M museum, has made two trips to confirm and examine the Bellevue Township find.

He said there have been a total of about 330 confirmed mastodon bone discoveries in Michigan — but just two in the last year. Most of the bones have been found in the southern half of the lower peninsula. Sometimes people find just a tooth or tusk.

LaPoint and Witzke's collection includes several rib bones, leg, shoulder and hip bones, the base of a tusk and pieces of the animal's vertebrae.

Eric Witzke, left, and Dan LaPointe, right, show just a few of the many ancient mastodon bones LaPointe unearthed

excavating a pond on some of Witzke's property in Bellevue, Mich. (Photo: Rod Sanford, Lansing State Journal) Fisher has spent several hours looking through what they found and believes the mastodon was a 37-year-old male. "Preliminary examination indicates that the animal may have been butchered by humans," said Fisher. Bones show what look like tool marks, in places.

The bones are between 10,000 and 14,000 years old. Fisher said once they've been donated to the museum the exact age will likely be narrowed to within 200 or 300 years.

Sharing the history

Fisher believes there could be more bones at the property, but LaPoint said the wet earth was a challenge to bring up and go through.

Still, the work was the most fun he's had in years.

"I spend quite a bit of money to go on hunting trips," said LaPoint. "All the sudden this became a hunting trip right in the neighbor's backyard."

The discovery awakened his childhood love for prehistoric animals. In late November the men decided to share that experience.

They took the collection to Olivet Community Schools, where middle school students spent the day getting a closer look at them.

"Once these things go to the museum and get crated up, you're not going to get to touch them again. It's over with and I was that kid who wanted to touch that thing on the other side of the glass," said LaPoint. "All the kids got to pick them up and hold them. Some kids, it was life-changing for them. To change one kid's life because they got to touch it, I think, is an incredible opportunity."

Fisher said the bones could be worth a few thousand dollars on the open market, but that their research value is higher.

"The scientific value is really the new perspective, the new information, that specimens like these can bring," he said. LaPoint and Witzke will keep a few to display at home, but both say the memory of finding them is more important.

"Finding them was very, very cool," said LaPoint. "You know, after time goes by and you have the bones it wears off, the excitement. Digging and finding the bones for the first time, it's not something that can be replicated. It really is a once-in-a-lifetime thing."





"Florida in the Civil War" Opens Jan. 10

**Commemorates 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Myers
Special Presentation by Robert N. Macomber
on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m.**

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Myers (February 20, 1865), the Southwest Florida Museum of History is hosting this special exhibit featuring

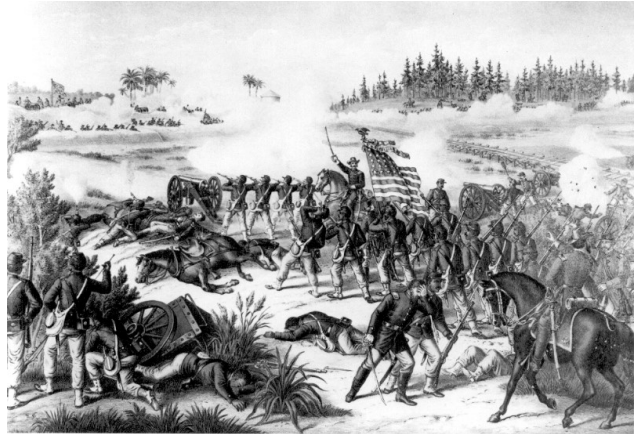
framed documents, three interactive exhibits, artillery, letters, medical surgical kits, Confederate money, a ceremonial sword and more. In "Florida in the Civil War," discover how Florida overcame adversity to ship salt and beef to the Confederacy and how the state's citizens survived the Union blockade of its coastline. Visitors can try on uniforms, hear music of the era, listen to letters exchanged between a soldier and his wife and make choices about difficult situations they may have faced during those tumultuous times.

Exhibit runs Jan. 10 - April 4 at the Southwest Florida Museum of History, 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers. For details, call: 239-321-7430

Special Presentation: "The Patriot and the Widow"

Southwest Florida author and naval historian Robert N. Macomber will share the touching story of a pro-Union couple on Useppa Island and the sacrifices they made during "The Patriot and the Widow." Macomber's books centering on Florida during the Civil War will be available for purchase and signing.

When: Thursday, Feb. 26, at 5:30 pm **Cost:** Tickets are \$15 per person. Come early to experience the new exhibit or purchase a discounted ticket for \$5 for a return visit. **Reservations:** Contact (239) 321-7430 or rcsmith@cityftmyers.com. *Space is limited; reservations are required.*



Join the Museum for Battle Reenactment

Special Event: Reenactment of camp life by the 2nd Infantry Regiment USCT Reenactment Unit and Living History Association; children's activities; artifacts **When:** Saturday, Feb. 28, at 10 am - 2 pm **Cost:** FREE **Where:** Lee County Black History Museum and Clemente Park, 1938 Henderson Ave., Fort Myers **Coordinated by:** Florida Public Archaeology Network & Lee County Black History Society



About the Battle of Fort Myers

The Battle of Fort Myers was fought on Feb. 20, 1865. Abandoned following the Third Seminole War, Fort Myers was reoccupied by Union soldiers in January 1864 to confiscate livestock from regional cattle ranches to prevent the shipment of beef to the Confederate States Army. It also was used as a refugee center for escaped slaves and Union sympathizers. The fort was garrisoned by the 2nd Florida Cavalry, a company of the 110th New York Volunteer Infantry, and the D and I Companies of black soldiers of the 2nd Regiment, United States Colored Troops. The Battle of Fort Myers broke out when elements of the Confederate Cattle Guard Battalion ("Cow Cavalry") demanded the fort to surrender. The demand was refused, leading to the exchange of fire. The Confederates withdrew after dark and returned to Fort Thompson (present-day LaBelle) where they had been protecting cattle. Casualties were light on both sides.

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Support by: Southwest Florida Museum of History Foundation

Research

from universities, journals, and other organizations

Humans, not climate, to blame for Ice Age-era disappearance of large mammals, study concludes

Date: June 4, 2014 Source: Aarhus University

Summary:

Was it humankind or climate change that caused the extinction of a considerable number of large mammals about the time of the last Ice Age? Researchers have carried out the first global analysis of the extinction of the large animals, and the conclusion is clear -- humans are to blame. The study unequivocally points to humans as the cause of the mass extinction of large animals all over the world during the course of the last 100,000 years.



Skeleton of a giant ground sloth at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, circa 1920.

Credit: Public Domain, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Was it humankind or climate change that caused the extinction of a considerable number of large mammals about the time of the last Ice Age? Researchers at Aarhus University have carried out the first global analysis of the extinction of the large animals, and the conclusion is clear --

humans are to blame. A new study unequivocally points to humans as the cause of the mass extinction of large animals all over the world during the course of the last 100,000 years. "Our results strongly underline the fact that human expansion throughout the world has meant an enormous loss of large animals," says Postdoctoral Fellow Søren Faurby, Aarhus University.

Was it due to climate change?

For almost 50 years, scientists have been discussing what led to the mass extinction of large animals (also known as megafauna) during and immediately after the last Ice Age. One of two leading theories states that the large animals became extinct as a result of climate change. There were significant climate changes, especially towards the end of the last Ice Age -- just as there had been during previous Ice Ages -- and this meant that many species no longer had the potential to find suitable habitats and they died out as a result. However, because the last Ice Age was just one in a long series of Ice Ages, it is puzzling that a corresponding extinction of large animals did not take place during the earlier ones.

Theory of overkill

The other theory concerning the extinction of the animals is 'overkill'. Modern man spread from Africa to all parts of the world during the course of a little more than the last 100,000 years. In simple terms, the overkill hypothesis states that modern man exterminated many of the large animal species on arrival in the new continents. This was either because their populations could not withstand human hunting, or for indirect reasons such as the loss of their prey, which were also hunted by humans.

First global mapping

In their study, the researchers produced the first global analysis and relatively fine-grained mapping of all the large mammals

(with a body weight of at least 10 kg) that existed during the period 132,000-1,000 years ago -- the period during which the extinction in question took place. They were thus able to study the geographical variation in the percentage of large species that became extinct on a much finer scale than previously achieved. The researchers found that a total of 177 species of large mammals disappeared during this period -- a massive loss. Africa 'only' lost 18 species and Europe 19, while Asia lost 38 species, Australia and the surrounding area 26, North America 43 and South America a total of 62 species of large mammals. The extinction of the large animals took place in virtually all climate zones and affected cold-adapted species such as woolly mammoths, temperate species such as forest elephants and giant deer, and tropical species such as giant cape buffalo and some giant sloths. It was observed on virtually every continent, although a particularly large number of animals became extinct in North and South America, where species including sabre-toothed cats, mastodons, giant sloths and giant armadillos disappeared, and in Australia, which lost animals such as giant kangaroos, giant wombats and marsupial lions. There were also fairly large losses in Europe and Asia, including a number of elephants, rhinoceroses and giant deer.

Weak climate effect

The results show that the correlation between climate change -- i.e. the variation in temperature and precipitation between glacials and interglacials -- and the loss of megafauna is weak, and can only be seen in one sub-region, namely Eurasia (Europe and Asia). "The significant loss of megafauna all over the world can therefore not be explained by climate change, even though it has definitely played a role as a driving force in changing the distribution of some species of animals. Reindeer and polar foxes were found in Central Europe during the Ice Age, for example, but they withdrew northwards as the climate became warmer," says Postdoctoral Fellow Christopher Sandom, Aarhus University.

Extinction linked to humans

On the other hand, the results show a very strong correlation between the extinction and the history of human expansion. "We consistently find very large rates of extinction in areas where there had been no contact between wildlife and primitive human races, and which were suddenly confronted by fully developed modern humans (*Homo sapiens*). In general, at least 30% of the large species of animals disappeared from all such areas," says Professor Jens-Christian Svenning, Aarhus University. The researchers' geographical analysis thereby points very strongly at humans as the cause of the loss of most of the large animals.

The results also draw a straight line from the prehistoric extinction of large animals via the historical regional or global extermination due to hunting (American bison, European bison, quagga, Eurasian wild horse or tarpan, and many others) to the current critical situation for a considerable number of large animals as a result of poaching and hunting (e.g. the rhino poaching epidemic).

Story Source: The above story is based on [materials](#) provided by [Aarhus University](#). The original article was written by Anne-Mette Siem. *Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.*

Journal Reference: C. Sandom, S. Faurby, B. Sandel, J.-C. Svenning. **Global late Quaternary megafauna extinctions linked to humans, not climate change.** *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 2014; 281 (1787): 20133254 DOI:[10.1098/rspb.2013.3254](#)

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Aarhus University. "Humans, not climate, to blame for Ice Age-era disappearance of large mammals, study concludes." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 4 June 2014.

<www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140604094108.htm>.

Ancient Scorpion Had Feet, May Have Walked Out of Ocean

LiveScience

Stephanie Pappas 1/15/2015



© David Rudkin, Royal Ontario Museum A specimen of the new scorpion species *Eramoscorpius brucensis*, which lived about 430 million years ago, making it among the earliest

scorpions. The species probably lived in water, but it had feet that would have...

A new scorpion species found fossilized in the rocks of a backyard could turn the scientific understanding of these stinging creatures on its head.

The fossils suggest that ancient scorpions crawled out of the seas and onto land earlier than thought, according to the researchers who analyzed them. In fact, some of the oldest scorpions had the equipment needed to walk [out of their watery habitats](#) and onto land, the researchers said. The fossils date back some 430 million to 433 million years, which makes them only slightly younger than the oldest known scorpions, which lived between 433 million and 438 million years ago.

The new species "is really important, because the combination of its features don't appear in any other known scorpion," said study leader Janet Waddington, an assistant curator of paleontology at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. [[25 Amazing Ancient Beasts](#)]

Backyard fossils

The new species fell into Waddington's hands almost by happenstance. Museum curators frequently get calls about fossils, most of which are run-of-the-mill, she told Live Science. But a woman who called about an "insect" in her backyard stone wall had something very exciting on her hands.

"When she showed me this fossil, I just about fell on the floor, it was so amazing," Waddington said.

The fossil was no insect, but rather a [scorpion](#) — and a new species at that. Over the years, more specimens trickled in, mostly from patio stones and rock quarries, and one from a mislabeled fossil at a national park on Canada's Bruce Peninsula. Now, Waddington and her team have 11 examples of the new species, ranging in length from 1.1 inches (29 millimeters) to 6.5 inches (165 millimeters).

What made the animal, dubbed *Eramoscorpius brucensis*, so fascinating was its legs.

Walking in water

Previously, the earliest scorpion fossils found came from rocks that were originally deposited in the water, leading paleontologists to believe that the animals evolved on the seafloor, like crabs, and only later became landlubbers. Ancient scorpions had legs like crabs, with a tarsus, or foot segment, that was longer than the segment preceding it. This arrangement, Waddington said, would have meant the creatures walked on their "tippy-toes," such as [crabs do today](#). But *E brucensis* was different. This species had a tarsus segment that was shorter than the segment before it, which would have made it possible for the animal to set its tarsus flat against the ground. In other words, this scorpion had feet.

"They could have walked on their feet, which is really important because it meant that they could have supported their own weight," Waddington said. Without the need for water to buoy them up, the animals could have walked on land.

The fossils also show that the scorpions' legs were solidly attached at the body, without the exaggerated "hinge" seen in scorpions that would have needed water to stay upright. What's weird, Waddington said, is that all the other features of these scorpions seem aquatic. They are found in marine rocks, and their digestive systems appear to require water (in today's land scorpions, digestion begins outside of their bodies, a process that requires adaptations these [ancient scorpions](#) lack).

Waddington said she and her team suspect that the fossils they've collected are not the bodies of dead scorpions at all. Instead, they may be molts, exoskeletons left behind as the scorpions grow. Scorpions are incredibly vulnerable during molting, Waddington said, and in deep water, ancient squidlike animals would have loved a helpless scorpion snack. The scorpions that could haul themselves out of the water onto the shore to escape predators would have had a survival advantage. The rocks that house the scorpion fossils often feature ripples that would have been created when wind blew thin films of water over land, suggesting a shoreline lagoon habitat.

What that means is that the first adaptations that scorpions developed for life on land could have appeared much earlier than researchers thought.

"Our guys are really, really old," Waddington said.

"They're vying for the second-oldest [scorpions] known."

The researchers reported their findings today (Jan. 13) in the journal *Biology Letters*.

Follow Stephanie Pappas on [Twitter](#) and [Google+](#).

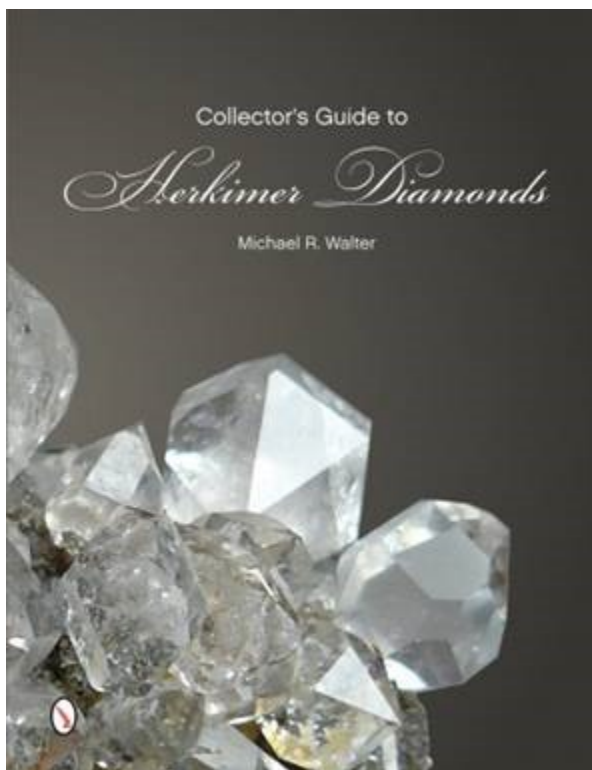
Follow us [@livescience](#), [Facebook](#) & [Google+](#). Original article on [Live Science](#).

For the mineral enthusiast!

Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. is pleased to announce the release of *The Collector's Guide to Herkimer Diamonds*.

The Collector's Guide to Herkimer Diamonds

By Michael R. Walter



This is the first published guide to Herkimer diamonds, striking quartz crystals, that includes all important aspects of interest to anyone curious about this unique form of the mineral quartz. Over 210 vivid color images of important specimens, associated minerals, and field shots illustrate the informative text and enhance the reader's experience. The text includes the most recent scientific information regarding Herkimer diamonds' geological and mineralogical history, where they can currently be found, descriptions of important historic locations, and the inclusion of noteworthy peripheral localities. The specific methods used to effectively field collect Herkimer diamonds are detailed, including photos of mining methods and a discussion of collecting strategy. Additionally, the mines are enumerated, the gear readers need is detailed, specimen preparation, mineral collections, and associated minerals recounted. This is the essential guide for every collector of these well known and much sought minerals, a guide only a seasoned field collector can provide.

Size: 8 1/2" x 11" | 219 color & 7 b/w photos | 96 pp
ISBN13: 9780764347108 | Binding: soft cover Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. is a family-owned, independent publisher of high-quality, nonfiction books. Since 1974, Schiffer has published thousands of titles on the diverse subjects that fuel our readers' passions. From our traditional subjects of antiques and collectibles, arts and crafts, and military history, Schiffer has expanded its catalog to publish books on contemporary art and artists; architecture and design; food and entertaining; the metaphysical, paranormal and folklore; and pop and fringe culture, as well as books for children.

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Invitation - National Fossil Day 2015 - Mark Your Calendar!

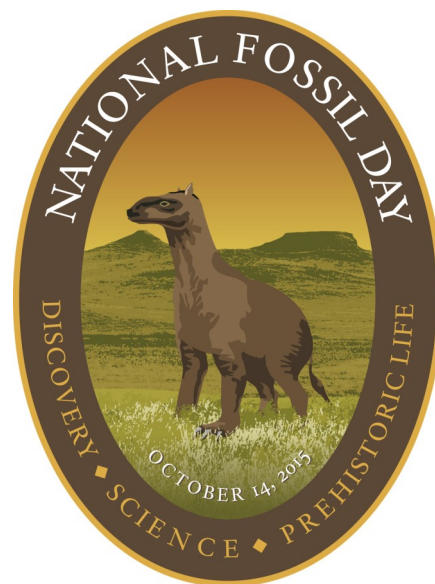
This is your official invitation to the *Fossil Club of Lee County*, as a National Fossil Day Partner with the National Park Service, to attend this years NFD Mega event at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton. The museum has officially set the date for **Saturday October 3rd 2015**.

Mark Your Calendar! Please Join us in Celebrating National Fossil Day 2015!!! South Florida Museum Bradenton, Florida
R.S.V.P. to Samantha Sprague, SSprague@southfloridamuseum.org or call Phone: 941-746-4131 ex 31

"Fossils at the Museum – Part 2!"

National Fossil Day Florida Sponsored by: National Fossil Day Celebration!

Come join us in celebrating this year's National Fossil Day. The South Florida Museum is excited to be a host institution this year and to partner with local and state agencies, organizations and clubs. Guests can come and meet real paleontologists and geologists who work everyday to uncover the secrets fossils reveal about our ancient Earth. Location: South Florida Museum, 201 - 10th St. West, Bradenton, FL 34205 Time: Museum hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Special Family Night Event extended hours. Clubs and Vendor Displays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY Mark Your Calendar! Please Join us in Celebrating National Fossil Day 2015!!! South Florida Museum Bradenton, Florida R.S.V.P. to Samantha Sprague, SSprague@southfloridamuseum.org or call Phone: 941-746-4131 ex 31DR



"Celebrate National Fossil Day, October 14th 2015"

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm>

Aww! Primordial Reptile Fossils Show Mother Caring for Babies

by Laura Geggel, Staff Writer | January 17, 2015 10:33am ET



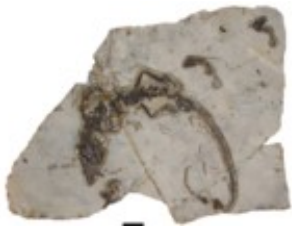
The fossilized remains of a small aquatic reptile surrounded by six babies suggest that the extinct animal was caring for the little ones when they died, a new study finds.

The reptile is an extinct species called the philydrosaurus, and likely lived during the Early Cretaceous, a time period that spans about 145 to about 100 million years ago. An anonymous farmer donated the "beautifully preserved skeletons" to the Jinzhou Museum of Paleontology in northeastern China in 2010, the scientists added.

The adult in the group is roughly four times the size of the smaller ones, which appear to be juveniles of the same species. All of the young are similar in size, so it's likely that they were born in a clutch at the same time, the researchers said. [[The 7 Weirdest Moms in the Animal Kingdom](#)]

Given that all of these animals died within a tail's length of one another, it's likely that the adult was caring for the young, they said.

"Although it is possible that the individuals were all swept together during or soon after the event that killed them, it is [felt] that this specimen more likely represents an instance of postnatal parental care," the researchers wrote in the study.



Parental care is seen in other animals, including crocodiles and birds, which lived during the time of the dinosaurs. For instance, crocodiles defend their young from predators, and birds protect and feed their young, the researchers said.

A photograph of the fossil showing an adult reptile surrounded by juveniles of the same species. Credit: Lu, Junchang, et al. *Geosciences Journal*.

It's rare, but not unheard of, to find [fossilized evidence of parental care](#) among ancient animals. Researchers have found other instances of parental care among the dinosaurs *Psittacosaurus* and *Oryctodromeus*, as well as in the varanopid "pelycosaur," an ancient reptile that looked like a modern monitor lizard.

In fact, ["caring" behavior](#) likely evolved multiple times in vertebrates, the researchers said. In this case, the adult is likely the mother, according to an analysis of the creature's anatomy, the researchers said.

"That philydrosaurus shows parental care of the young after hatching suggests protection by the adult, presumably against predators," the researchers wrote in the study. "Their relatively small size would have meant that [they] were probably exposed to high predation pressure and strategies, such as live birth, and postnatal parental care may have improved survival of the offspring."

The study was published Oct. 20, 2014, in [Geosciences Journal](#).



**Girl scout camp
Peace River trip
FCOLC
Jan 20, 2015**



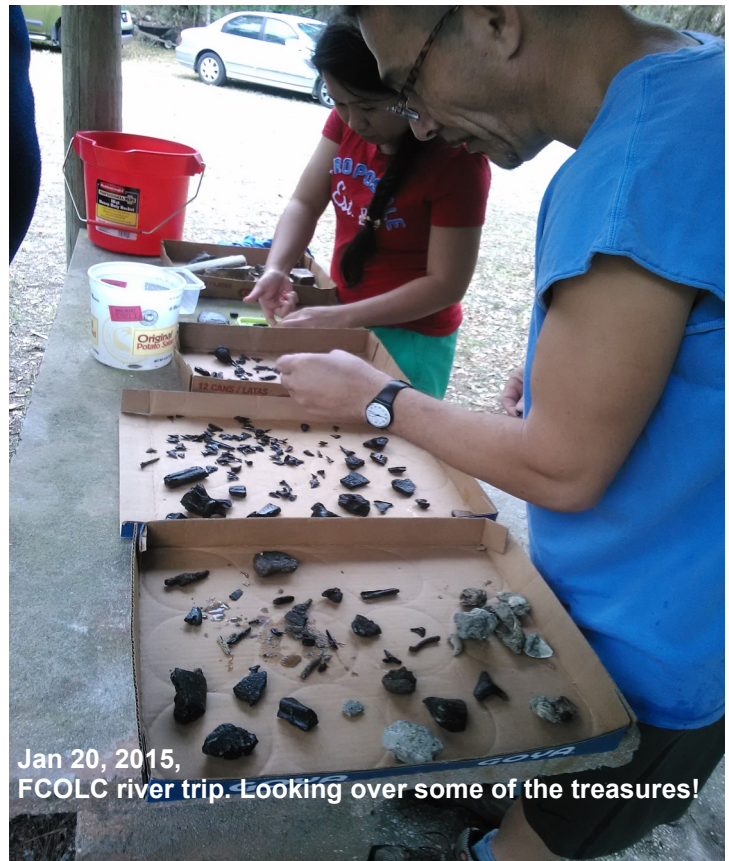
Girl scout camp Peace River trip, FCOLC, Jan 20, 2015

January 20th was the date picked for a FCOLC trip to the Peace River, at the old Girl Scout Camp near Arcadia. Unfortunately, a rare rain event happened in the days prior to this trip, and the water in the river rose dramatically. Al Govin, the trip coordinator, notified everyone through email that the conditions may be iffy, but the trip was still on if anyone showed up to hunt. Well, it seems most folks really wanted to hunt, since we had about 18 members show up at the Arcadia boat launch meeting place. About 30 signed up, so some folks stayed home, but it was still a good attendance. We caravanned to the private Girl Scout Camp property and made our way, through the cows!, to the river access-an old boat launch on the far side of the property. Upon getting down to the river we discovered that the water, already high the week before, had actually rose a couple of feet more, instead of falling. It was just too deep to even get in the river, to try and make it to the gravel bar! Our worse fears were realized, as the trip was now a bust!

However, a long time, seasonal member, Michael Gessel, stepped up and offered us to use the access he has to Horse Creek, a private creek, a few miles away. The creek was low enough to hunt, so we all agreed to travel there and try our luck. The day was saved! We went there, and everyone got in and scattered all over. Most folks found fossils and a few good ones were collected. The water was manageable, the sun came out and it was a good day after all!

When I mentioned to Michael that I really wanted, at the scout camp, to try and collect some small micro gravel for a fossil hunt at a future meeting, but now couldn't do it, he said he already had some, and if we followed him home after the hunt, he would donate it to the club! Well, that just made my day! So, Al and I followed him home to his winter house in Arcadia and he very generously gave the club plenty enough unsearched small gravel to meet our needs. I'm sure he had spent a lot of time and effort screening and washing and drying all that gravel, and his generosity is very, very much appreciated. Thanks, Mike! You saved the day! Twice!

Louis/Al



Jan 20, 2015, FCOLC river trip. Looking over some of the treasures!



Parking at Horse Creek, Jan 20, 2015, FCOLC river trip.

I'm Don Brunning from the new PBS science/reality show: **FOSSIL HUNTERS.**

Our cast met some of your fossil club members at a recent fossil excursion and we are highlighting some of them on our premiere show! Please share our website and Facebook page (below) with your members and have them look for our show in the upcoming months on their local PBS station. Thanks!

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/fossilhunterstvshow?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Website: <http://fossilhunterstvshow.com>

Beautiful Tapir Maxilla with five teeth!
Found by Ken Follmann a few days
before the river levels rose! Peace River
collected.



Al, and Louis (not shown), set up for a January children's science presentation at the Franklin Park School, Ft Myers.



Michael Gessel's club donation! LOTS of sieved, washed small gravel for a future club meeting hunt!



A long time, seasonal member, Barry Rodgers, is leaving us !

Here's a good opportunity to get a nice kayak and some fossil stuff!

The Kayak is a sit on 10ft with a low draft flat bottom, which is good for the River when it is low and searchable. It is easy to get in and out of, paddle and anchor included. \$300
2 screens with ½ " screen and a ¼ " screen insert, \$20 each. A shovel and stand to set the screens on included if you buy both screens.

The beach trolley has large high flotation tires to easily pull over the soft sand. \$90.00, it was \$180 new.

To see or buy all me at 239 494 8271. 21615 Portrush Run Estero Fl.



Hi!! Here's the recipe for Mom's Spaghetti Sauce that I served at the January meeting as part of the refreshments. VICKIE MANDERFIELD



2 lbs. hamburger (may substitute sweet Italian sausage for part of the hamburger)
2 lg. onions diced
6 cloves garlic, minced
Brown all together.

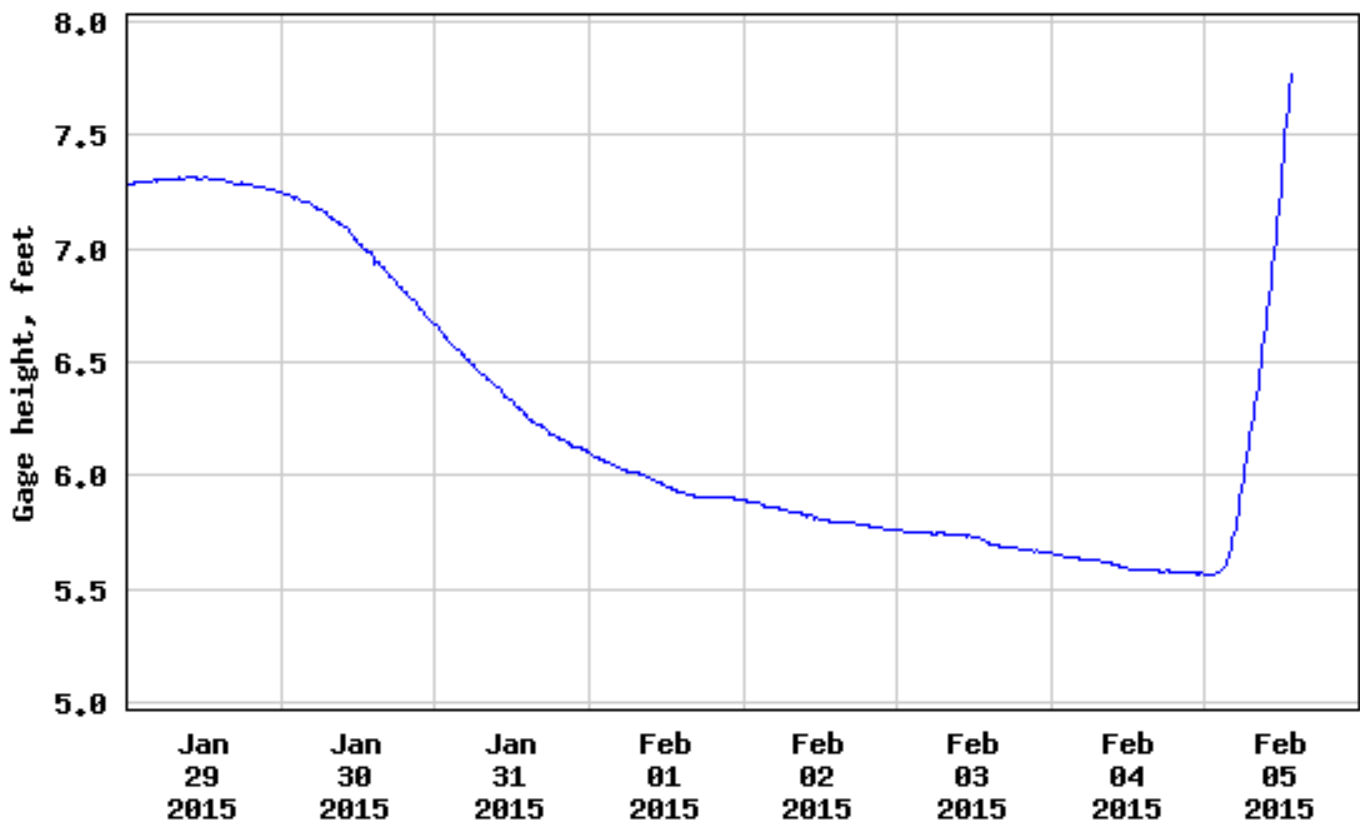
2 - 28oz. cans diced tomatoes
1 - 28oz. can tomato sauce
1 - 6oz. can tomato paste
1/4 cup brown sugar, more to taste
1/4 tsp. Oregano, Thyme, Allspice, Basil, Rosemary, and Marjoram (may add more to taste)
1/2 tsp. Paprika
4 Bay Leaves
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper

In a large pot, add all ingredients. Simmer for 2 1/2 to 3 Hrs.

Looks like a normal July or August!!

Except that it's **FEBRUARY!!**

USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----

This needs to be about 5 feet for the Peace River to be low enough for fossiling!

Never Say Never: A Story of Vacation Multi-Tasking

I recently had an opportunity to go to Arizona with a friend and decided to do some fossil hunting while I was there. I started researching potential fossil locations by signing onto The Fossil Forum and posting requests for information. The responses were surprisingly negative, filled with dire warnings about the dangers of Arizona and the foolishness of seeking “easy access” hunting grounds.

Please understand that I didn’t post a message stating I was planning on wandering off into the desert in a sundress and flip flops. On the contrary, I made it clear that I had traveled/hiked in the state before, would have a rental car and was willing to drive long distances. The responses made me wonder, if in the future, I should change my screen name to something a little more masculine and see if I get a different reaction. My response to the naysayers was, “I’ll never know unless I ask; never accomplish anything unless I try.” One TFF member was kind enough to message me 2 locations with specific directions for which I was very grateful. The rest of my location goals came from YouTube and Google and I included mineral hunts to help keep me from getting skunked. Since this is a fossil club, I’ll just cover the fossil material but you can read about the mineral sites as well at www.zookeeperfossils.blogspot.com if you’re interested.

I began my fossil hunt from Phoenix, heading toward Big Water, Utah, about a 5 hour drive through the most beautiful desert landscapes you can imagine. Just south of the Utah border, I took a 50 mile detour to a location where I had read it was possible to find some of Arizona’s famous petrified wood. The directions were exact and the location didn’t disappoint: there was petrified wood everywhere! Arizona’s petrified wood is from several varieties of coniferous trees and is approximately 211-218 million years old. The details of the bark and wood grain can be astounding.

The next morning, I followed directions to an area of Big Water, Utah which is regulated by the BLM. Fossil hunting is allowed on the arid flats where the gray Tropic Shale layer (Cretaceous Period) of the cliffs has been washing down for eons. I covered a LOT of ground, both in the car and on foot but only came away with a knob from a huge ammonite called *Mammites nodosoides* and several segments from a type of long, straight ammonite called *Baculites*. Still, pretty cool stuff from another stunning location.

I returned to Phoenix for a couple of days then drove 93 miles east to the well known “Paleo Site” near Payson, Arizona. The best way to hunt fossils in this location is to cling to the hillside and pick apart layers of rock, but several days of steady rain produced a slippery muck which prevented that kind of maneuvering. Determined to find something, I hiked the trail to the top of the hill and started looking around. The ground was covered with brachiopods and in the rain they looked so shiny and perfect I had a flash of confusion: were there live clams up here?! Well, of course not. These were fossil “clams” from the Naco formation, putting them in the age range of 300 million years. I collected enough to make a big pot of “fossil clam” chowder.

Here’s my scorecard for the impossible Arizona fossil hunt: 3 fossil locations, 1 tiny rental car, 866 miles traveled in 3 days, 3 successful hunts. Never say never!

Aimee





Trades and mailbox finds!! Louis



NOTICE:

I asked Richard Hulbert, the vertebrate collections manager at the Florida Museum of Natural History and the person handling the fossil permits, a question about keeping arrowheads if found on non state property, specifically the private creeks in the area.

Richard,

If I find a point in Horse Creek, which is a private creek, can I keep it? The creek is not navigable for the most part and even has fences across it. As far as I know the land owners own the creek as well as the property on both sides.

Louis Stieffel

His reply: ***If the owners have given you permission to hunt for fossils and artifacts on their property, then it would be OK.***

Keep in mind it is still illegal to collect any artifacts from PUBLIC property! The Peace River is state owned PUBLIC property. Put 'em back!

Louis

I found this 3" megalodon shark tooth yesterday along with the horse molar, deer astragalus, holmesina scute and smaller meg just to name the best of the day. The problem is that after last night's rain the water levels have risen almost 2 feet so no hunting again for several weeks. This is what keeps me active. AL



With the river high and no land sites to hunt, I turn my attention to online fossil hunting. These nice fossils were obtained through face book fossil sites. The bottom Makos were a trade. The top colors are from No. Florida. I am a sucker for the colors! Louis



PALEO WORKSHOPS

Learn about Florida's prehistoric past in a FossilFest workshop! Experienced collectors will teach you how to find, identify, and preserve fossil treasures of your very own! All workshops are free to FossilFest attendees!

Saturday & Sunday

Discovering Florida's Fossil Treasures with TBFC's own Dr. Bob Sinibaldi PhD. Learn where and how to find fossils of your own right here in Florida!

Florida's Fossil Vertebrates & the Fossil Hunting Permit with Dr. Richard Hulbert PhD of the Florida Museum of Natural History. It's cheap and easy! Learn how to get your fossil permit and participate in the science of paleontology.

The Perfect Plaster Jacket & Other Preservation Techniques with Bill Faucher. Learn how to successfully get fossils from the field to your lab. Jacketing, glues, and preservation techniques are discussed for the beginner.

**Be a part of the adventure!
JOIN TBFC TODAY!**

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

FLORIDA'S LARGEST PREHISTORIC SHOW!

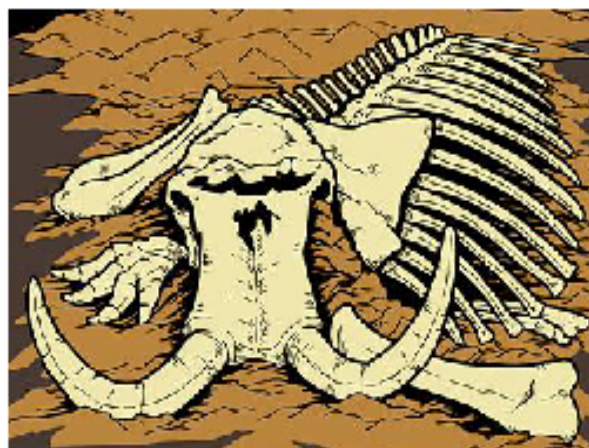
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KIDS GAMES * FOSSIL MINE * RAFFLES
DOOR PRIZES * SILENT AUCTIONS**

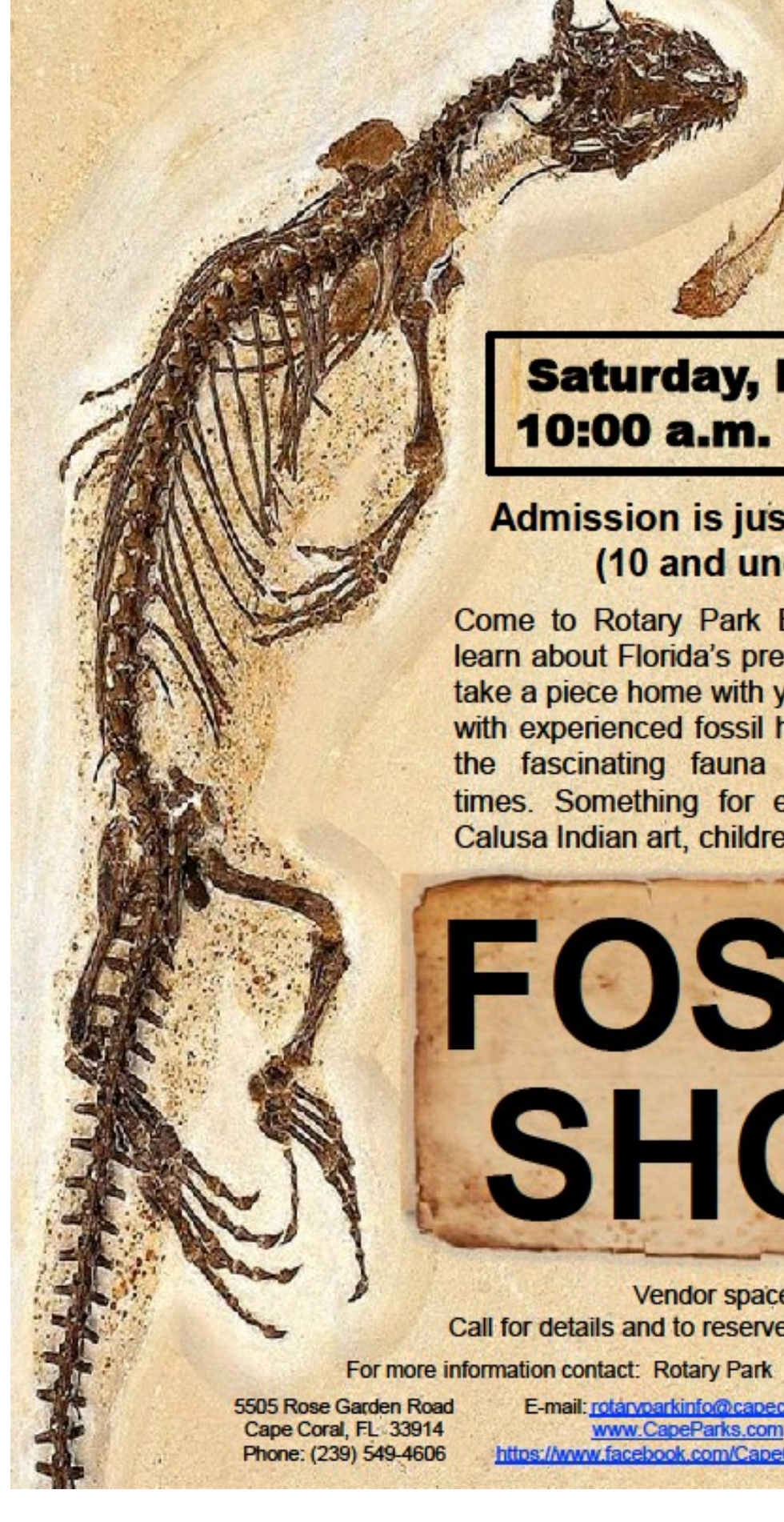


**Presents the 27th Annual
March 21st & 22nd, 2015
Sat: 9AM-6PM, Sun: 10AM-4PM**

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**Florida State Fairgrounds
Intersection of I-4 & Hwy 301 just east of Tampa.**





Saturday, March 28th
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Admission is just \$2 at the door!
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FOSSIL SHOW

Vendor spaces available!

Call for details and to reserve your space (239) 549-4606

For more information contact: Rotary Park

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