

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY FEBRUARY 2016

Letter from the President

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!

We need some rain!! HA! This is what we are usually saying this time of year. However, no more!! We set a January record, by a lot, and already have started February off with a few inches. Looks like everyone wanting to do some fossil hunting in the local waterways, will just have to wait!

I suggest, for those who desperately need a fossil fix, is to attend one of the many Fossil Shows coming up. Starting with our own, on February 13th, then the Tampa show, the Cape Coral show and then the Venice Shark tooth Festival. They all feature a very rich layer, about waist high!

Our 11th Annual Fossil Festival is just a few days away, and plans are coming together nicely! We have been on TV, in the newspaper, several fossil sites on Face Book, and on countless flyers handed out and lots of word of mouth. Many members will be participating, and everyone should have a great time! All we really need, at this stage, is for the weather to straighten up and be nice for that one day!! With good weather, we will have a great show!! John Taraska volunteered to meet with a local TV station and talk about the festival and Zack and Dave Deyo represented the club at a booth at the Gumbo fest! Many members took flyers to distribute. We hope to have great weather and a huge crowd at the fossil festival this year!!

Last month, Curtis Klug was awarded the lifetime membership award! His club website design and long years of tirelessly keeping it updated, along with helping the club in any other way he could, has not gone unnoticed! His contributions have greatly helped the FCOLC move forward into the digital age and made us known worldwide.

Presenting this month will be Dr. Bob Sinibaldi. Author of several books on what fossils mean to us, and fossil collecting and diving, Dr. Bob is always an exciting, interesting speaker and not to be missed!

Marc Cantos did an outstanding job with refreshments at the January meeting. Marc has a tradition of providing a hot, delicious meal to the club once a year. As everyone who attended the meeting can attest to, this is a popular- and tasty!- tradition! And, as usual, he donated the entire meal. Thank you SO much, MARC!!

We have already scheduled and cancelled two fossil trips to the Peace river, and at present have none with a hard schedule date. Until the water drops, we can't do it. When it gets right, Al Govin and Mike Cox will try to put together a fun and productive fossil experience!

Last month's speaker, Walter Stein, presented the commercial aspects of fossil collecting. He showed how we are all intertwined and important to each other; the Amateur, the commercial and the professional collectors. Along with some great dinosaur fossils to exhibit, it was a very good presentation.

As usual, we had spirited business at the club store, manned by Dave and Continued on page 2

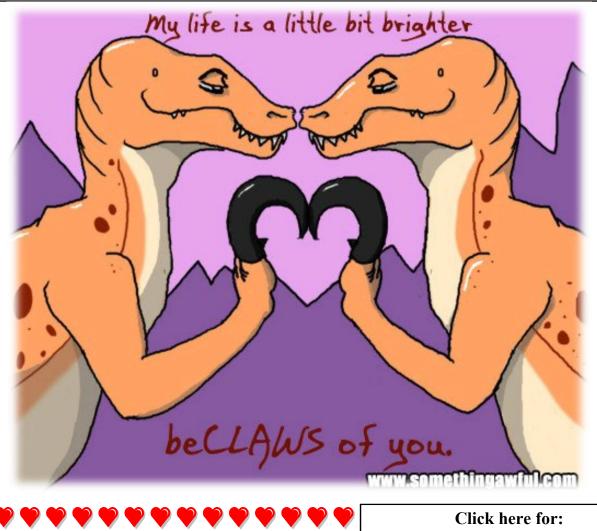
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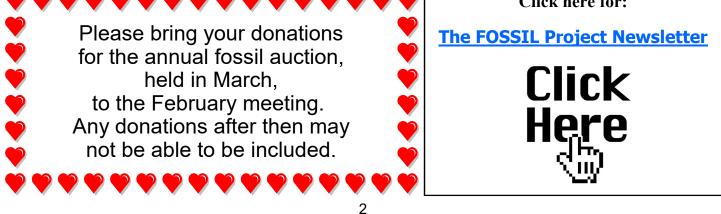
Jeanne Seehaver. Al Govin was busy as the treasurer, signing up new members and renewals. And, Mike Siciliano did another excellent job at hosting the \$1 raffle!! Afterwards, several members helped with cleanup and picking up club items and putting back into the cabinets. Thanks Joe, and Jim and Vicki, and Leslie and Mike and Dave and Jeanne and anyone else that I forget to mention

Looking forward to a great meeting!! We usually get new members from the Fossil festival, so let's all be welcoming to the newbies!!



Louis Stieffel President Fossil Club of Lee County





FCOLC Club Meeting of 1/21/2016

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order and indicated that refreshment would be served immediately and club business would resume after eating.

Louis called meeting to order and thanked Marc Cantos for the exceptional meal.

Walter Stein was introduced as the evening's speaker. Mr. Stein spoke about fossil collecting and the direction government controls were heading. The topic was followed by a spirited question and answer period.

John Taraska volunteered to do refreshments for the February meeting.

Louis discussed the article in the January newsletter and the ramifications of possible future legislation both in the archaeological and paleontological fields. It should be noted we neither support nor have an anti position towards the article.

Curtis Klug was awarded a plaque and lifetime membership in the Fossil Club Of Lee County. This was a result of his many hours of internet work as well other areas of support for the club. Door prizes were awarded.

Due to high river levels the river trip for January was cancelled.

Show and Tell was followed by the winning \$1 raffle tickets being called

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Secretary Al Govin

Click on this link, or post into your browser! Read about fossils found where you would never expect!!

http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/signs-of-mass-extinction-behind-a-new-jersey-store/ar-AAglLSK

Fossil Club of Lee County Meetings Are held the third Thursday of the month, at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. 7pm. 7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, Florida. **OFFICERS** COMMITTEES Al Govin, Club Trips Director Louis Stieffel, President 239-851-7499, cape187@earthlink.net Curt Klug, Web Master Michael Siciliano, Vice President Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer 239-980-1406 Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer Cindy Bateman, Librarian 239-910-2339 Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise Dean Hart, Refreshment Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips Mike Cox, Speakers, Trips DIRECTORS Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Dean Hart......941-979-8217 Newsletter editor, FOSSIL project representative **Dave Seehaver** Jeanne Seehaver Jim Manderfield

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 Al Govin 16331 Estuary Ct., Bokeelia, Fl., 33922 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

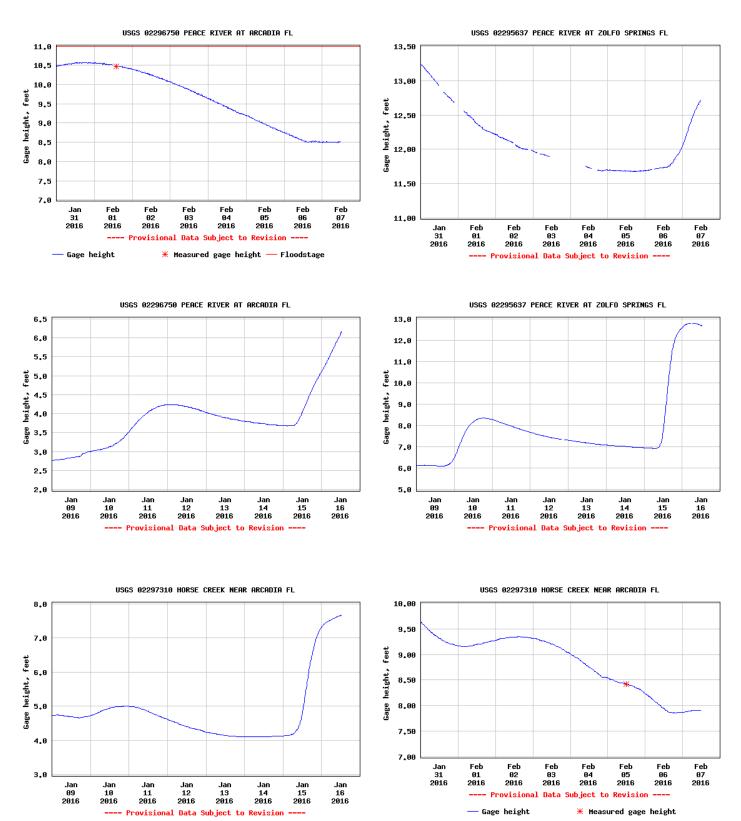
http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/rt

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.

CRAZY RIVER WATER LEVELS!!!

Here's snapshots of the USGS gauge levels for Zolfo Springs, (needs to be at 5'), Peace River at Arcadia (needs to be at 1 1/2') and Horse Creek (needs to be at 2') You can see it's way too high in January and now also February!! Looks like it will be a late fossil hunting season!!



2016 DUES ARE DUE!!! Dues are \$20/year per household address. See Al at the membership table! To participate in a club sponsored event or outing, you must be a member in good standing. Also: You must have a Florida Fossil Permit to hunt on a club trip. Please bring any contributions to the annual club auction to this meeting. Thanks!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

We have been asked again to participate in the annual Cape Coral Burrowing owl festival!! I usually attend, along with my wife Leslie and a couple other members, but this year I will not be available. We could use a couple of members to represent us. Bring a few of your fossils for show and tell, talk about the club to interested folks and enjoy the day!! That's all! Anyone interested, please let me know! LOUIS

MORE RAIN!!! As you can see from my trusty rain gauge, we had ANOTHER shower. We used to get an inch or so, but now we seem to get heavier showers. 2 1/2" is a pretty solid amount! Winter used to be our dry season, but.....

Louis

UPCOMING EVENTS!!! С **Fossil Club of Lee County 11th annual Fossil Festival** Held on February 13th, at the Shell Factory, Ft Myers, Fl. \bullet 2787 N. Tamiami Trail, 33903 9:00am -- 5:00pm Fossils, exhibits, games, Kid's Dig Free admittance, free parking Tampa Bay Fossil Club will hold their Fossil Fest on Mar. 12th & 13th. Sat 9am - 6pm, Sun 10am - 4pm. Admission is \$7. Kids 12 & under get in free. It will be held at the Florida State Fairgrounds, intersection of I-4 and Hwy. 301, just east of Tampa. There is a charge • for parking. Fossils, minerals, exhibits, etc. For more info, go to tampabayfossilclub.com **Cape Coral Fossil Show** will be held on Saturday, April 2 10:00am--4:00 pm Admission \$3, children 10 and under are free. Location: Rotary Park Environmental Center 5505 Rose Garden Road Cape Coral, Fl, 33914 • 239-549-4606 rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net Venice Shark's Tooth Festival will be on Apr. 8th - 10th at the Venice Airport Festival Grounds, 610 E. airport Ave, Venice, FL Admission is \$4. Kids 12 & under get in free.



Dinosaurs on Valentine's Day

122-Foot Titanosaur: Staggeringly Big Dino Barely Fits into Museum



museum's famous model of the blue whale by nearly 30 feet (9 m). But the whale wins in heft; in real life, blue whales (Balaenoptera musculus) weigh up to 200 tons (180 metric tons), almost three times as much as the titanosaur, museum researchers said. [See Photos of the Titanosaur Reconstruction1

The titanosaur dates to the Cretaceous period, but the dinosaur's modern story began in 2012. That's when a rancher in southern Argentina stopped by the Museum of Paleontology Egidio Feruglio in Argentina to disclose that he had found fossils on his land. In 2014, paleontologists visited the desert site by the farm of La Flecha and found a treasure trove of dinosaur remains.

A dinosaur uncovered in the desert outside La Flecha in southern Argentina now has a cast on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Credit: Copyright Alejandro Otero

After 18 months of excavations, the researchers uncovered 223 fossilized bones from six individual titanosaur dinosaurs, including an 8-foot-tall (2.4 m) femur, or thighbone. The femur's unique shape and size suggest that the titanosaur is a new species and one of the largest dinosaurs ever uncovered, researchers told journalists today (Jan. 14).

by Laura Geggel, Staff Writer | January 14, 2016 05:00pm ET

The dinosaur model is larger than the exhibition area, so it welcomes guests to the museum at the elevators, as they enter the hall. Credit: Copyright AMNH | D. Finnin

An incredibly long-necked dinosaur, with leg bones the size of couches, is so massive that is has invaded not one, but two rooms at the American Museum of Natural Historyhttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/ adTypes/icon1.png (AMNH) in New York City.

The enormous titanosaur — an herbivorous beast that weighed 70 tons (64 metric tons) when alive some 100 million years ago — is the newest permanent exhibit to join the museum. It measures 122 feet (37 meters) long, almost the length of three school buses.

The behemoth is so large it dwarfs the



One of the dig's leaders, Diego Pol, earned his doctorate at a joint program between Columbia University in New York and the AMNH, in the lab of Mark Norell, the museum chair of paleontology. Soon after the dig began, Pol sent Norell a photo of himself lying on the dinosaur's gigantic femur, much like a person would recline on a living room couch, Michael Novacek, senior vice president and provost of science at the AMNH, told journalists.

All of the individual dinosaurs discovered were young adults, identified as such because their neck vertebra <u>hadn't fully fused together</u>, as they do in adults, the researchers said. The young dinosaurs had died at three different moments in time, anywhere from a few years to centuries apart, the scientists said. It's possible that the titanosaurs were separated from their herd and died of stress and hunger, the researchers said.

However, the study announcing the new species to the scientific community is about four months away from publication. This means that the researchers were unable to share the species name. Instead, they called it "the titanosaur," and explained how it came to reside in the museum.

After excavating the fossils, researchers spent six months transforming 84 of the bones into <u>3D</u>, <u>lightweight fiberglass replicas</u>. The scientists filled in the missing gaps, including the skull, by studying the bones of related dinosaurs.



Research Casting International (RCI) produced the model with Argentina's Museo Palenontológico Egidio Feruglio. Credit: Copyright AMNH | D. Finnin

"The skulls of these kinds of sauropod dinosaurs are very rare," Norell told Live Science. "They're extremely fragile — the bones are really paper thin."

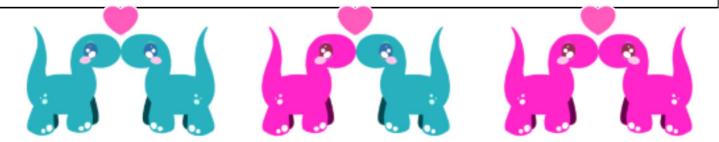
Though they found a few elements of the fossilized skull, the researchers chose to model the skull after a few well-preserved skulls of smaller animals related to titanosaurs, and "scaled it up to the size that this animal would be," Norell said. [Photos: One of the World's Biggest Dinosaurs Discovered]

In all, the titanosaur would have stood about 20 feet (about 6 m) tall at its shoulder, and 46 feet (14 m) tall with neck held at a 45-degree angle. The museum replica's neck is slightly lower, thanks to the approximately 19-foot-high (5.8 m) ceilings in the room.

In addition to the replica, museumgoers can see original fossils of the dinosaur's humerus, ulna, radius and scapula, on temporary display. The entire exhibit, called "The Titanosaur," opens Friday (Jan. 15).

Titanosaurs have been found on every continent of the world. The new exhibit replaces a *Barosaurus*, another long-necked, but smaller sauropod. Another upcoming exhibit at the museum, "Dinosaurs Among Us," is about the evolution of birds and opens to the public March 21.

Follow Laura Geggel on Twitter @LauraGeggel. Follow Live Science @livescience, Facebook & Google+.



Digging for Gomph & Rhino

contributed by Jack Boyce.

Exciting times in Florida. The Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) has announced the volunteer opportunities for 2016. More information can be found directly from their website:

https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/volunteering/field/

This year the Thomas Farm site will have a limited opportunity for field work--April 4-8 which is a Monday-Friday (no weekends). The reason for the minimal field work at Thomas Farm is actually for a good reason--they are focused on a brand new site! A new fossil site (on private property) south-west of Gainesville near the town of Williston is showing signs of being spectacular. Unlike the ran-dom disarticulated finds at the Thomas Farm sinkhole, the new site seems to contain some associated skeletons. They have already found gomphothere and rhino and there have been signs of llama, horse, and some carnivores. Additionally, there is a high diversity of turtles (6 species so far) as well as fish and gators.

The sign-up for Thomas Farm won't be till early March but the extended field season at the new site is already underway (started last Saturday). The link above contains an application form with the schedule of days that they are digging at this new site. If you've got the opportunity and interest to see a brand new site as it is uncovered, don't miss this opportunity--you'll regret it later if you do.

Don't delay--volunteer opportunities to work side-by-side with experts like Dr. Richard Hulbert don't come along every day.

FOSSIL NEWS is BACK!!

FCOLC club members, even though this is addressed to the Florida Paleontological Society, we have been invited to participate. Any member that is interested, here is all the information/links needed to submit an article!

Also, Please join the FCOLC club page on Face Book. There you will see more interesting articles and breaking news on the fossil project and other things going on in our fossil world!! Go to the page and hit LIKE. And if not yet a member on that group page, just request to join. Simple. It's a closed group and no spam. https://www.facebook.com/ groups/378838762286864/



Link to Fossil Club of Lee County Face Book page Please check out the FCOLC site and if not a member, please join. https://www.facebook.com/ groups/378838762286864/



Treasure trove of late Triassic fossils discovered in Utah

By Brady McCombs, Associated Press | Posted Oct 16th, 2015 @ 5:04pm

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Paleontologists have discovered a cliff-side in Utah brimming with fossils that offers a rare glimpse of desert life in western North America early in the age of dinosaurs.

Among the discoveries in what used to be a lake shoreline between giant sand dunes is a new pterosaur (TEH'-ruh-sawr) that would have been the largest flying reptile of the time. It wielded its ferocious teeth and powerful skull to gobble up small crocodile type creatures as it soared over a desert some 210 million years ago.

"If you saw one of these things coming at you with its jaws open, it would freak you out of your mind," said Brooks Britt, a Brigham Young University paleontologist who presented preliminary findings this week at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology conference in Dallas.

He and fellow paleontologists plan to publish the findings in scientific journal next year. Eight different animals, most likely new, have been identified at a site discovered in 2009 near Dinosaur National Monument on the Utah-Colorado border. The discoveries include:

— A type of a strange-looking reptile with a head like a bird, arms like a mole and a claw on the tip of the tail called a drepanosaur.

— Several small crocodile-like creatures with armor on their backs called sphenosuchians.

— Two different types of meat-eating dinosaurs, one related to the coelophysis, a scrawny dinosaur featured in the recent movie, "Walking with Dinosaurs."

"It's a fantastic site," said Brian Andres, a University of South Florida paleontologist who heard the presentation this week. "It's in a time and a place that we really do not have a good record of."



The pterosaur discovery is significant because it fills a gap in the fossil record between earlier, smaller pterosaurs and the giant ones that came later, Andres said.

It is related to another wicked-jawed pterosaur discovered in England: the Dimorphodon.

Each side of its lower jaw had two fangs and 28 teeth. "This thing is built like an aerial predator," Andres said.

The skull and wing bone found are also noteworthy because they are intact, and not crushed, a rarity for pterosaurs. It is the first known Triassic pterosaur found in North America, other than one unearthed in Greenland, Britt said.

"It is absurdly rare to find delicate, small skeletons from anywhere in time, anywhere in the world," said Adam Pritchard, a Yale paleontologist not part of the discovery team. "To have them from the Triassic period, which is the very beginning of the age of reptiles, is really unprecedented, especially in western north America."

The site was discovered by paleontologists Dan Chure of Dinosaur National Monument and George Englemann of the University of Nebraska. Chure said the duo realized right away they had stumbled upon the discovery of their lives.

So far, they've found 11,500 bones — and they may be only halfway through getting them all out, he said. The new pterosaur, yet to be named, was found last year by a college student carefully extracting fossils from a 300-pound block of sandstone from the site.

"This is the best stuff I'll ever see in my life," said Britts, 60, who has been collecting dinosaur fossils for five decades. "It's like Christmas every day."

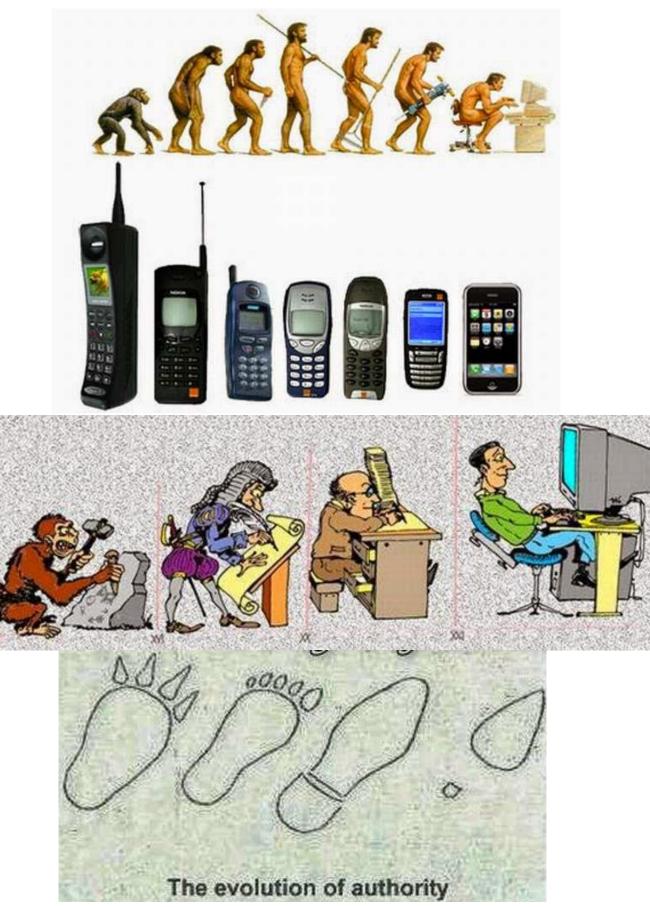
The site has been named "Saints and Sinners," a playful nod to the collaboration between Britt, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and non-Mormons Chure and Englemann.

"I'm not sure we would exactly consider ourselves sinners, but it had a nice ring to it," Chure said.

Dinosaurs on a barge on their way to the 1964 NY World's Fair!!



Subject: Evolution



Fossils of the month:

Since no one has sent me any fossil finds pictures this month, (probably because the rivers are flooded!), I will show these two nice meg teeth I found last year at this time. Yes, last year, when we could get into the river and creeks!! So far this year, we haven't!! Louis



Aimeee's Corner!!

Playing Favorites ¡Gracias por nada, El Niño! Your hijinks have put a serious crimp in our fossiling activities and there is no immediate end in sight. My friends in the water management sector have assured me that all this rain is good because "the aquifer needs to be recharged" by my fossil fever needs to be recharged, too.

Some club members have used the rain to their advantage by scouring spoil piles for fossils that have been exposed by the rain. I, however, live in central Florida and the spoil piles here are not similarly productive.

I've arranged and rearranged my fossils and finally packed up all my Withlacoochee coral that's been sitting on my dining room table since November. Now what?

How about some fossil contemplation? Here's your question for today: **what is your favorite fossil and why?**

Picking a favorite fossil can be a complex process. It's a no-brainer for some people but often, when I ask a person what is special about their favorite fossil, it involves a rich and engaging story about where, when, and how it was found. I've included a montage photo of some club member favorites.

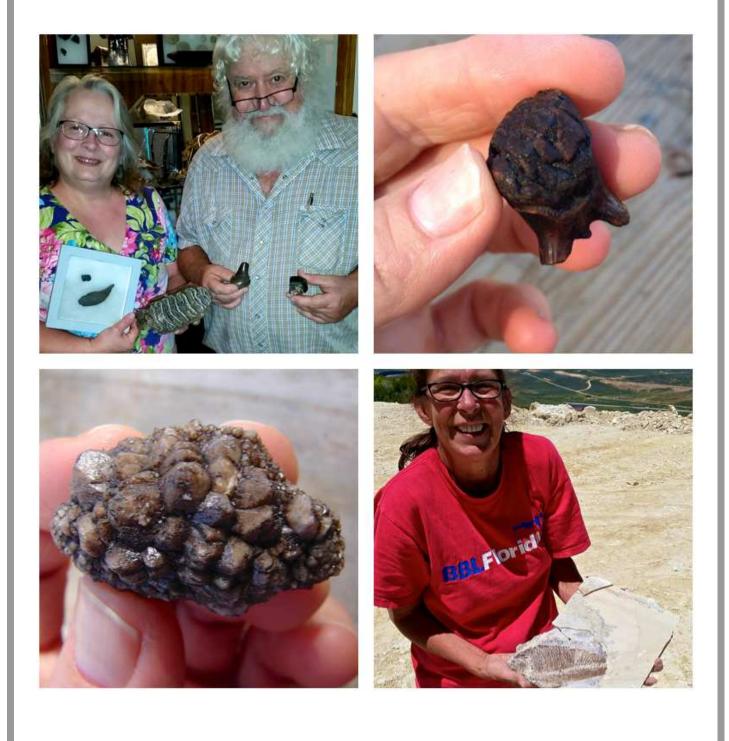
My baby mammoth tooth is one of my favorites because it is rare and valuable; obvious attributes for a favorite. But I also often find myself staring into my curio cabinet at my other favorite: the beautiful little pieces of druzy petrified wood that I found last year in northern Arizona. They rank high in the favorites game because they required a long difficult journey through tough conditions to a starkly beautiful place where I wasn't sure I would find anything at all.

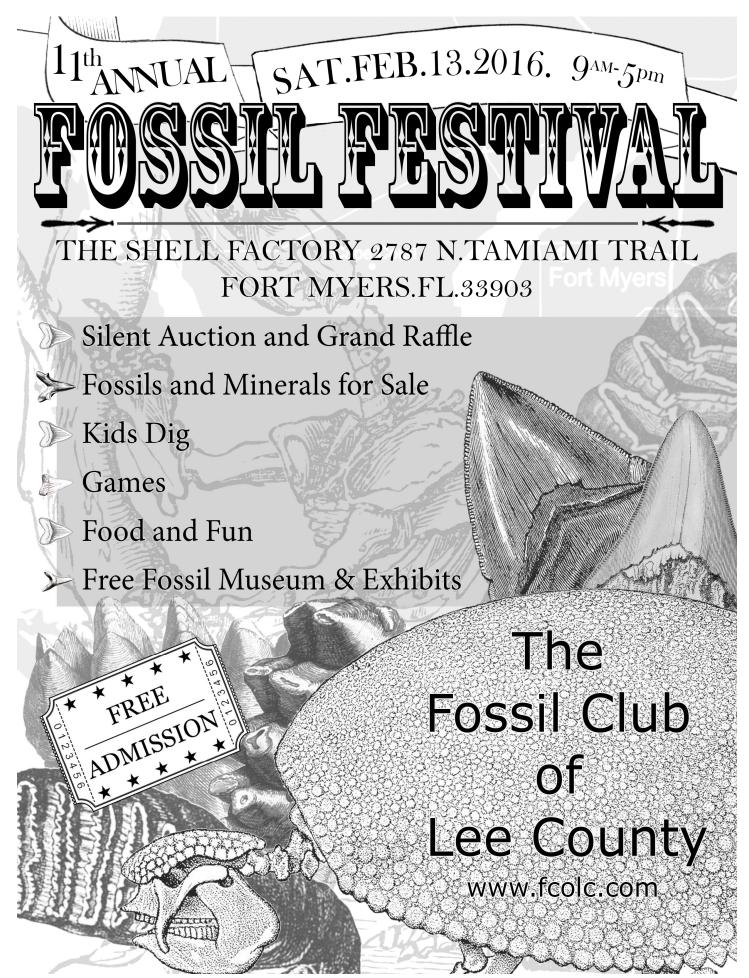
I recently visited club members Vickie and Jim Manderfield and asked them to pose with a favorite fossil. As you can see from the photo, they have several favorites. Their mammoth tooth came with a vivid description of a beautiful sunny day on the Peace River when the water was clearer than they've ever seen it since, and mere yards from the boat ramp they spotted their treasure.

Club member Pam Plummer poses in the photo with a gorgeous fish fossil she collected in Kemmerer, Wyoming last June. Not only is the fossil itself magnificent, but it is linked with memories of a special day spent in a scenic location and shared with good company.

I would love to hear the favorite fossil stories of more FCOLC members. Please send me your stories to miatria@hotmail.com, along with a photo of you posing with your treasure. In the meantime, let's all hope the aquifer gets its fill and the river levels drop!

Aimeee's Corner!!







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! <u>All workshops are free</u> 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

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Adults \$7, Kids 12 and under FREE!

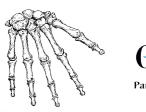
Florida State Fairgrounds Intersection of I-4 & Hwy 301 just east of Tampa.





Come to Rotary Park Environmental Center to learn about Florida's pre-historic past and maybe take a piece home with you. Come to shop or talk with experienced fossil hunters to learn all about the fascinating fauna of Florida's prehistoric times. Something for everyone: fossils, gems, Calusa Indian art, children's activities and more!









Admission is just \$3 at the door! (Under 10 FREE)

For more information contact: Rotary Park

5505 Rose Garden Road Cape Coral, FL 33914 Phone: (239) 549-4606 E-mail: rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net www.CapeParks.com https://www.facebook.com/CapeCoralParks