

# **FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

**FEBRUARY 2018**

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## **Letter from the President**

# **FOSSIL FESTIVAL!!!! February 17, 2018!!**

## **It's almost here!!**

Plans and preparations are about to be finished as the much awaited 13<sup>th</sup> annual FCOLC fossil festival is about to happen! Lou Kiesling and Valerie Rahn have worked long and hard at organizing this year's fossil festival. With terrific cooperation from the Shell Factory, including Pam Plummer, Rick Tupper, Anne Sheridan, and Tom Cronin, they intend to have it bigger, and may I say-better!- than any we've had before! More kid friendly adventures. Lots of dealers of fossils, and grand prize raffle, silent auction, games, door prizes and so much more!! It's a fun day for our club and we ask for as many member as possible to take part in it! This is our last meeting before the festival! It's only 2 days after the meeting! Please attend the meeting for a final run down on what's happening and what is needed. And, don't be shy about volunteering to help! It's YOUR club too, so pitch in and let's make this great!!

WE will be having our annual auction at the March 15, 2018 meeting. This meeting traditionally starts earlier than most because we have a lot of great fossils to auction off!! Meeting starts at 6pm for registration and viewing and 6:30 to start the auction. Mark your calendars. There's some VERY nice items this year!! Any donations are still being accepted through this February meeting! I try to have 100 auction items and 15-20 silent auction items, so can always use MORE donations!

Al Govin provides the club a major service, performing the duties of Treasurer. Not only involved in the Fossil festival, but heavily involved in the auction. AND—he's renewing memberships at meetings and keeping up with the club store\$ and the raffle \$. THANK YOU AL!

We start the meeting with a VERY short business meeting, where we will hold our annual election. As usual, any position is open to any member who wants to run and be elected for it. Al Govin is presently holding down TWO offices, Secretary and Treasurer. It would be good if someone else would step up and try to fill one of those spots. Al says he would like to remain as Treasurer for now, but the secretary position would be unopposed. Leslie Stieffel took on the office of Vice-President last year, mainly because we had no one else to run for it. We also could use another director in case a member wants to be in that position. Let me know-[cape87@earthlink.net](mailto:cape87@earthlink.net) -if you are interested in an officer or board member position. These positions, keep in mind, are for a well established club. We have very little issues throughout the year that require board meetings. Most business is conducted through group emails as to opinions and preferences and decisions. So, what I'm saying, is don't be scared of a position in the club because it will cause you a lot of extra time or effort. It's fairly minimal and I try to make it as easy on everyone as possible.

Last month I put out a call for a Trips Coordinator. This is a very important position, because our club

members ALWAYS want to go on a fossil hunt! Most folks join a club for that opportunity. However, it's very difficult to arrange fossil hunting for a larger group, but it's not impossible, It just takes a devoted effort, which is time consuming. Knowing that, I expected that no one would step up and give it a go—BUT!!—I was VERY pleased to have an energetic, newer member volunteer! Travis Willis is now our trips guy! He will need help from some of you, of course, as he navigates through the murky world of getting permissions to hunt private properties and gain access to rivers and creeks. Travis works a full time job, and will do all he can, but he will need your help. We are appreciative of the Travis and Lena and Peyton Willis family and all they have already done for the club and for agreeing to take on this important position! Thank you guys for all you do.

Well, it's surly fossil time of year! The Rivers and creeks are low enough to hunt, although pretty cold!. And fossil shows and festivals are happening. In February, 17<sup>th</sup>, is the Fossil Club of Lee County festival, in March, 10-11<sup>th</sup> is the Tampa Bay Fossil Fest. At the end of March, 31<sup>st</sup>, is the Cape Coral Fossil Show. In April is the Venice Shark Tooth Festival, 13,14,15<sup>th</sup>! We also have the Southwest Florida Fossil Society annual fossil auction on February 10<sup>th</sup>, and the FCOLC fossil auction on March 15. Lots of fossil stuff happening! Of course, down here in SW Florida, this time of year, we have a festival of some kind almost every weekend, so please schedule your time wisely, and try to participate in these fossil shows.

The speaker for February meeting will be Victor Perez, from the Florida Museum of Natural History. He will travel down from Gainesville, so try to attend this meeting! Victor specializes in fossil sharks, so bring your show and tell and any questions you want to ask.

Last month Clay Bulan gave an excellent presentation of shark tooth diving in the Atlantic ocean, 50 miles out! Thank you Clay for a great topic and presentation.

Mark Cantos provided the meal for the club in January, as it is his tradition he's established. We all greatly enjoyed the meal! Thank you Marc.

Refreshments for February will be by the Willis family.

Refreshments for March, the annual auction tradition will again be by the Bonita Beachcombers gang -- that infamous group of northernmost folk who travel into SW Florida this time of year to collect all our fossils! J

No, seriously, these are all extremely nice, friendly, generous and well respected members of our club. Glad to have em!

Check your fossil permit!!! Renew if needed!

I took a trip to North Alabama to see mom (92<sup>nd</sup> birthday!) and really can appreciate why we have so many visitors in the winter!! It was COLD!!! (Couldn't wait to be back wearing shorts and tee shirt! I'll take the heat any day!! ) I tried fossil hunting in the local creek, but TOTALLY struck out! I picked up a few rocks, but only so that I had at least something in my poor little bucket! L Oh! Did I say COLD!!!

The Cape Coral Burrowing owl Festival is February 24, at Rotary Park. We usually have a table where we present our rack cards about the club, and display fossils, and talk to interested folk. I would like two people to volunteer to do this, please. It's easy, it's fun, and not a long day, usually 10-4. And you get to see all the cool owls, and other things at this neat festival! And it will be warm—and sunny!! J

In closing, I want to again remind you of our annual FOSSIL FESTIVAL!!!! Warm-and sunny!!

See ya at the meeting!

Louis Stieffel

President



## Minutes FCOLC Meeting 1/18/18

68 members were present.

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order

Louis requested a volunteer for trips coordinator. Travis Willis volunteered.

Louis announced elections are up coming. If anyone wishes to run for office please contact Louis.

Break was taken for the Marc Cantos special meal, Mark explained the food choices. Food was great and was enjoyed by all.

After the break Al Govin gave treasurers report. He thanked Nildere & Gary Mayer for the \$100.00 donation to the club.

Travis Willis volunteered to pickup club displays at the Imaginarium for the Fossil Show.

Val Rahn discussed our nonprofit status and some contacts she has made on behalf of the club.

Lou Kiesling discussed how things are coming together for the Fossil Fest show.

Clay Bulan the evenings speaker was introduced. He discussed ins and outs of scuba diving and showed a video of scuba hunting. He also brought in samples of some of his fossil finds.

Door prizes were picked.

Dollar raffle was held.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by

Secretary/Treasurer

Al Govin

### **OFFICERS**

Louis Stieffel, President

239-851-7499, [cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)

Leslie Stieffel, Vice President

239-980-6311, [cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)

Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer

239-910-2339, [algovin1@hotmail.com](mailto:algovin1@hotmail.com)

### **DIRECTORS**

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

Dave Seehaver

Jeanne Seehaver

Dr. John Taraska

### **COMMITTEES**

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer

Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips

Cindy Bateman, Librarian

Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise

Dean Hart, Refreshment

Victoria O'Toole, \$1 Raffle

Lou and Valerie Rahn, Festival Organizers

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

Here is a site that has every river and creek mapped **for the whole state**, separated by county. Click on the zoomify tab below each map to zoom in. Enjoy !

Save to your desktop so you can find and use it often!

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/hydrography/index.php>

**Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall at  
Zion Lutheran Church , 7401 Winker Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919**

## Websites & Locations of Interest

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

FCOLC Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. c/o AL GOVIN  
TREASURER  
3584 MIDDLETOWN ST. PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33952

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.flmn.h.ufl.edu/](http://www.flmn.h.ufl.edu/)

The Fossil Project [www.myFOSSIL.org](http://www.myFOSSIL.org)

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



# *Aimeeee's Corner!!*

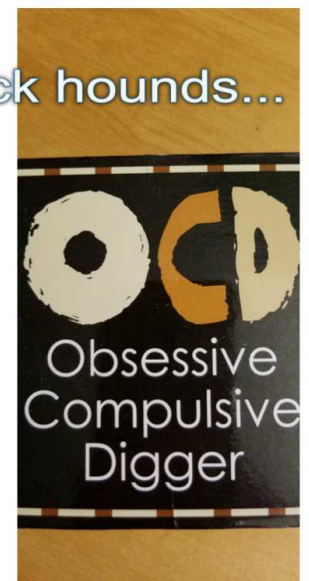
## **Time to get back in the water.**

The river levels have finally lowered enough to allow us to do some digging. Keep in mind, however, that water temps are low due to our cold weather. A couple of weeks ago, when I went digging with club members Pam Plummer and Vickie Manderfield, the water temperature was 53°F. We had to work as hard at avoiding hypothermia as we had to work to avoid all the dead tilapia that failed to avoid hypothermia. Hopefully water temps and air quality will both improve in the coming weeks.

I dug out my trusty chest waders and went through my usual wader routine: thick fleece leggings, wool socks, and a Hot Hands foot warmer stuck to the bottom of each foot: usually a winning combination. I quickly found out, however, that 2 seasons dealing with the rigors of our hobby (abrasion from metal screens, shovels, rocks, etc.) had turned my expensive waders into the thermal equivalent of a cheap wet suit. As we all know, once you've gone to all the trouble to get to the river, you'll put up with a lot to finish the day, which in my case meant trying to handle a shovel with numb feet. My new game plan is going to be cheap waders that I may have to replace each season. I'll let you know how that works out.

Pam and Vickie are made of tougher stuff than me so they just wore wet suits but several hours in the water had us all ready to turn our truck heaters to high and grab a cup of cocoa on the way home. Luckily, we had some dry clothes to change into because Vickie had printed t-shirts for us with some great slogans she found on the internet. I've included a photo of the 2 she brought with her and also of a magnet Pam gave me; all designed just for rock hounds like us.

I've only made it to the river two times this year but we had a decent day. Lots of small shark teeth for me and for Pam, a real treasure: a white megalodon tooth. I've been hearing stories of all the new gravel churned up by Hurricane Irma so now that the busy holiday season is behind me, I'm ready to get back in the water and stay there.



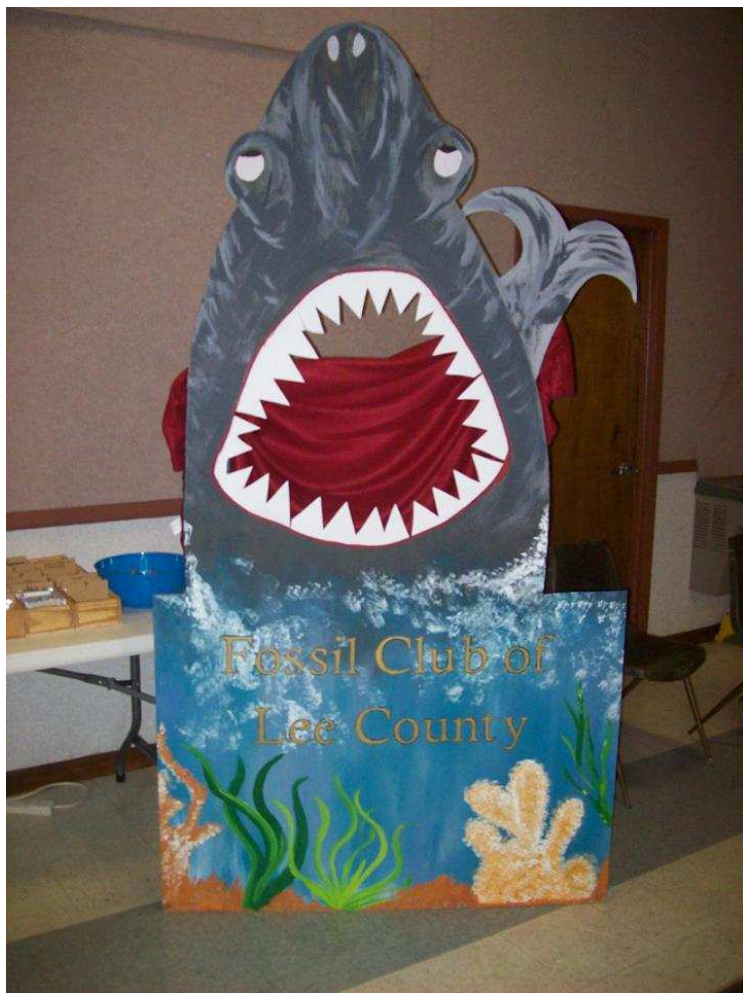
## ***Aimeee's Corner!!***

A maxillary tooth from a *Glossotherium harlani*.  
Two glyptodont scutes.  
Osteoderm from *Pachyarmatherium leiseyi*.





**A very rare fossil—  
a MEGALODON VERTEBREA!!  
From the collection of Dr. Gordon Hubble.**



**Come get your picture taken  
with the  
FCOLC shark!!  
Fossil Festival—  
February 17<sup>th</sup>!!  
Shell Factory!!**

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

**This is a email reply back from Dr. Bruce McFadden at the Florida Museum of Natural History and the University of Florida.**

**This was made possible by a very generous donation from a FCOLC member, towards to the scholarship fund.**

Hi Louis and Al—With the message, I gratefully acknowledge your club's contribution of \$1,000 to the Ken Ericson Scholarship Fund. I am forwarding it to our Development Officer so that these funds can be placed in the correct account within the UF Foundation.

Thanks ever so much for your club's continuing support of our program and students through these donations. I have not recently made an award, but rest assured that these funds will be used for their intended purpose in the near future.

Please let us know if you need speakers.

All the best, Bruce

**Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society Inc.,** a non-profit educational organization, is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, artifacts, metaphysical stones, cabochons, wire wrapping, etc. Silent Auction and Door Prizes offered. Demonstrations. Family Activities. Scavenger Hunt. Admission: Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Scouts with uniforms free. Website: [www.cfmgss.org](http://www.cfmgss.org). Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or ssfossilhunter@aol.com.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 407-816-1229. Thank you.

Betty Sumner Secretary

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

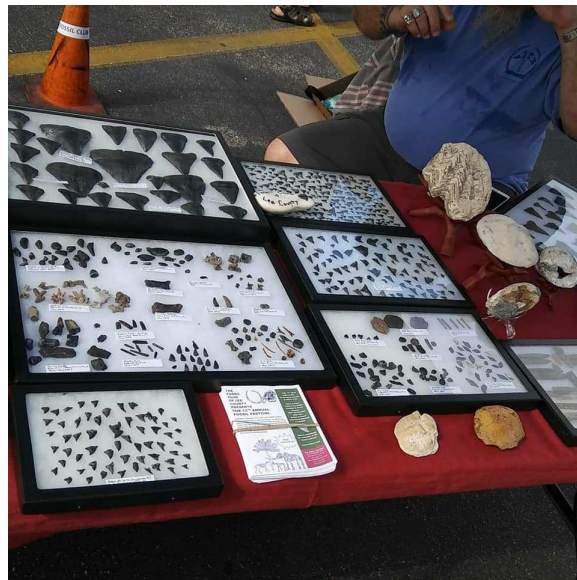


**Pam Plummer with a nice Peace River Meg! Braving the cold!**





**LOU and VAL at the Gumbo Festival! Displaying fossils and promoting the FCOLC fossil festival!**





**SHOW AND TELL!!**

**Jack Boyce Whale tooth!**



**WINTER is here!!!**  
**Be careful out there!**



**CAPE CORAL FOSSIL SHOW—MARCH 31,  
2018**

Here is a terrific idea, brought to the club's attention by Valerie Rahn! Seems that Amazon will donate a portion of any purchase you make—to the Fossil Club of Lee County!! But, you need to register with Amazon, to be able to have this work. It cost you nothing, and you still shop exactly the same as you normally would. Valerie posted these instructions on our FCOLC Facebook page. I copied them here.

**THIS IS A GOOD THING!! PLEASE do this!**

Thank you VALERIE!!



Please Help Us with our  
Community Outreach  
and our  
Scholarships  
By  
Making us Your  
**AMAZON Smile**  
Contribution.

1. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
2. Select: Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. as your Non-profit.
3. Use [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) every time you shop and Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to us.
4. It costs nothing but can mean everything.
5. **THANK YOU!!**



# FLMNH Database search tutorial

Here's the tutorial for the search function my talk was based on. This should help navigate the database and look at fossils.

Sean Moran, M.S.

Ph.D. Student

University of Florida, Department of Biology

Florida Museum of Natural History

[smmoran@ufl.edu](mailto:smmoran@ufl.edu)

(609) 617-5919

## **To view images of vertebrate fossils from the Florida Museum of Natural History collections:**

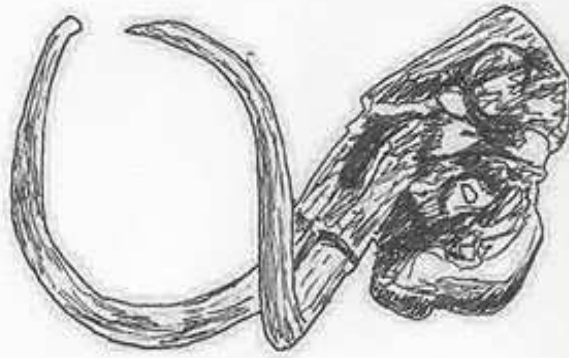
1. Go to [floridamuseum.ufl.edu/vertpaleo-search](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu/vertpaleo-search)
2. To see images check the “Only Results With Images” box at the top of the search
3. Enter your search terms of interest:
  - Taxonomic terms (e.g., Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)
    - These are all latinized names, so you will need to know (generally) what you are looking for. Good resources include “The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida” -Richard Hulbert, the taxonomic lists on the FLMNH Vertebrate Fossil Sites pages ([floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/sites/](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/sites/)), FLMNH species accounts ([floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/species/](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/species/)), or simply by using Google.
  - Locality terms (e.g., County, Site, Formation, Land Mammal Age, Epoch)
    - Again, some of these terms may be unfamiliar to a general collection, such as the Hemphillian North American Land Mammal Age, but resources on the FLMNH website (e.g., [floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/land-mammal-ages/](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/land-mammal-ages/)) should be able to provide some help.
  - Collection terms (e.g., Collector, Donor Name, Date Collected)
    - These should be fairly self-explanatory.
  - Anatomical terms (Nature of Specimen)
    - This will perhaps be the most commonly used search field, but also the trickiest to navigate without familiarity of the terms used. I would recommend changing the drop-down menu from “Equals” to “Contains” so that search returns all results with the search term entered. Most anatomical terms will bring back the terms you will likely be looking for. For example, typing in “ulna” in the Nature of Specimen field and changing the drop-down to contains will return all ulnae from our collection that have been imaged, “femur” will return all femora, “vertebra” all vertebrae, “skull” all skulls, “mandible” all lower jaws, etc.

However, due to our identification system, searching on “tooth” will only return a subset of all the photos of our teeth. This because our teeth are labeled as C, I, P, or M (for canine, incisor, premolar, or molar, respectively) for mammals and then given a number that pertains to which exact tooth it is (1 through 4). So, a P4, left upper would be a left upper fourth premolar while a m3, right lower would be a right lower third molar. If you simply switch the drop-down to “Contains” and type “p1” then “p2” then “p3” then “p4” into the Nature of Specimen field you should all images that contain a premolar in them or “m1”, “m2”, “m3” for specimens that contain a molar. It’s a little tricky, but feel free to email me [atsmmoran@ufl.edu](mailto:atsmmoran@ufl.edu) if you can’t get it figured out. Hopefully, in the future the database search function will be a little more user-friendly.
4. Click the blue “Submit Query” button
  - This will return all the images at the bottom of the page for the search you typed in above.

Other useful hints include switching between the table and list option in results box, clicking the “Display” box for a field that may not show up by default, sorting by a particular field using the “Sort Direction” drop-down menu, and exporting the results as a .csv file.

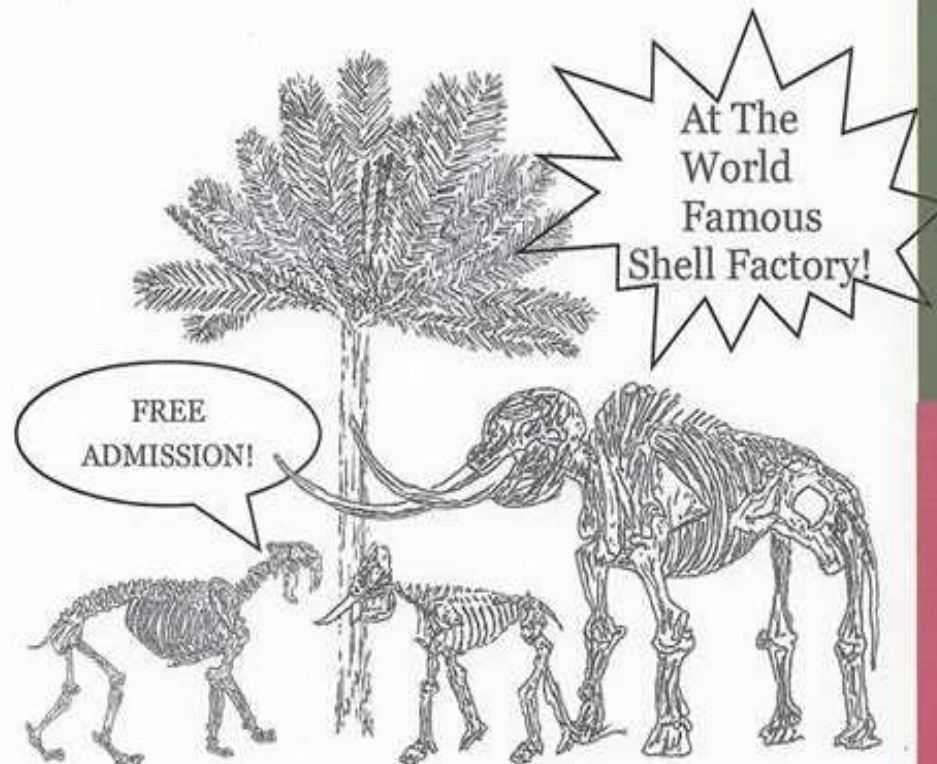


# THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY PRESENTS THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FOSSIL FESTIVAL



**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 at the Shell Factory**

Come to the Shell Factory to learn about Florida's pre-historic past, learn how to collect and identify your local fossils and maybe even get to take home a piece of the past! Talk with the local experienced fossil hunters, shop, explore all that Florida's past has to offer! There is something for everyone! Kids fossil dig, vendors with magnificent fossils of all shapes and sizes, minerals, literature for the novice all the way up to the experienced hunter!



**Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**9AM to 5PM**

**At the Shell Factory  
& Nature Park**

**Silent Auction  
Grand Prize Raffle  
Vendors & Fossil  
Dealers**

**KIDS DIG!!**

**Games & Prizes**

**Free Fossil Museum  
& Exhibits**



**There's something  
for everyone at the  
Fossil Festival!**

**Join us!**

**[www.FCOLC.com](http://www.FCOLC.com)**

## **THE SHELL FACTORY**

2747 N Tamiami Trail

Fort Myers, FL 33903

232-995-2141

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

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

9AM until 5PM





## 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. Jacking, glues, and preservation techniques are discussed for the beginner.

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

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

# FLORIDA'S LARGEST PREHISTORIC SHOW!

**FOSSILS & MORE  
GEMS - MINERALS - SHELLS  
FOSSIL EXHIBITS - WORKSHOPS  
KIDS GAMES • FOSSIL MINE • RAFFLES  
DOOR PRIZES • SILENT AUCTIONS**



**Presents the 31st Annual  
March 10th & 11th 2018**

**Sat: 9AM-5PM, Sun: 10AM-4PM**

**Adults \$8, Kids 12 and under FREE!**

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



