



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

February 2019

Letter from the President

Busy time of the year!! Lots of fossil related activity in the works! First is our annual Fossil Festival! It's on February 23rd, at the Shell Factory. We need everyone to come and help out! It's a fun day! And it's getting real close! Just 2 days after this next meeting. If you haven't signed up yet, do so at the meeting! Dawn and Pam have worked hard at getting this going, and it's looking real good!!

In March (21st) we have our annual fossil auction!! Most proceeds go towards scholarships! I'm going to have a hundred great lots and also a bunch of silent auction items as well. I work on this auction all year long, gathering great items. This is a great chance to get some nice additions to your collections! Anyone wanting to donate to this please bring to the February meeting. I will be finalizing everything soon after. It takes a while to put it together and then Leslie types all the information for the bidder sheets. So, cutoff for donations is the February meeting.

Also in March is the Tampa Bay Fossil-fest! March 9 and 10.

Next is the Cape Coral Fossil Show on March 30.

Following that up is the huge Venice Shark Tooth Festival! April 12, 13 and 14th.

Last year we had a club member set up a memorable booth at the Fossil Festival! He has fantastic fossils from Morocco and other exotic locales, and completely dominated his area in special display specimens! This member was Eric Vierling. He loved fossil hunting, and when he could break free from his nursery, Dragonfly Nursery, he was scouting the Alico Road quarries for treasures! So, it is in deep sorrow that I must pass on that Eric has passed away. On December 8, as he and his wife were in the customs at Ft Lauderdale, returning from a rip to St. Maarten, he collapsed. Even though CPR was performed and immediately taken to the emergency room, they were not able to save Eric's life. It's so sad. I know Eric and he was a kind and generous man. Always friendly and helpful to anyone. We lost a good man that day. Please keep him and his wife and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our speaker this month will be Walter Stein. He has a dinosaur discovery and recovery company. Walter will talk to us about recovering Dinosaur fossils, dinosaur

census, the faking of fossils, and many pictures of the Tucson Fossil Show! Please come and hear his presentation!

Elections will be held before the auction at the March Meeting. As of this date, only one office has a person running for it, treasurer. We still have a need for candidates for President, Vice-President, and secretary. It's looking kind of bad at this point in time, guys! You better not miss the fossil festival or the auction!! Because.....hmm....

Ken Follmann has a proposal for the club, to help him out on a children's fossil hunt. Ken is now an official fossil guide and has leased fossil creek property. He needs some volunteer help and will reward any helper on this kid's dig with a free fossil trip to the creek. Info inside! The River is extraordinarily high this year. I've NEVER seen it so high in February! Fossil hunting, as hard as it's been getting, is just getting even more difficult! Let's hope that any more rains hold off long enough for water levels to come down! Looks like you may have to collect at the fossil shows and auction! ☺

I hope to see plenty of you guys at the February meeting!!
See ya then!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



I've been sorting and arranging some of my fossil shark vertebrae! Louis

OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President
239-851-7499, cape187@earthlink.net
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President
239-980-6311, cape187@earthlink.net
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239-910-2339, 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
Linda Simmons, Librarian
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise
Edgar Jestes, Refreshments
Victoria O'Toole, Linda Simmons, \$1 Raffle
Dawn Linda Borys Markoski, 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>

Here's a link to the Aurora Fossil Museum (North Carolina) and a chance to sign up for a free digital newsletter from them.

<http://aurorafossilmuseum.org/post/36/newsletter.html>



**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

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.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

Manasota Fossil Club www.manasotafossil.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.

Subject: Puffer fish jaws



Happy
Valentine's
Day

Fossil collecting!

We all like to hunt and find fossils. One of the most common ones and usually the first fossils we find are shark teeth. For millions of years sharks inhabited the areas we collect in. The seas covered the lands and sharks lived, fed and lost teeth there. These are common finds. Many times in one day of collecting you can find several hundred. Compared to other vertebrate fossils, shark teeth are by far the most easily found. And, the interesting part is that not only are they so many, but there are many different shark species found. From the tiny angel shark to the huge Megalodon, we find 'em all. Sometimes we bring home matrix and hunt using a magnifier since some are so tiny. But usually they are easily visible and before you know it you have found a good many. HOW many? Well, I know in the 25+ years I have fossil hunted in this area I've found untold thousands. I only counted them in the very beginning of my collecting, but then measured the collected amount by container-full, and even by weighing. So many pounds, etc! I donated a two gallon container of them once to the Children's Science Center in Cape Coral, for the kids. And I once traded 12 pounds of smaller teeth for one huge tooth. Speaking to a few fellow collectors trying to get an idea of the enormous amount of fossil shark teeth found, I've been astounded! For instance, Ron Seavey has actually kept track of most of his and figures he's north of 110,000 teeth found!! Just think of his! An average shark is estimated to lose about 3 thousand teeth in its lifetime. For them to survive and fossilize, and then to actually be found, in such vast quantities, it's mind boggling how many sharks we have had in the last few million years!

Of course, these fossils are always welcome in our screens! We love to find them, and many collectors have bowls and jars, etc, lying around ready to show off! Some folks do art works with them, gluing them into shaped pictures of sharks! And other sea life. Some serious collectors try to be more scientific and do framed dentary of that species of shark. Many of us collect and arrange the best, or biggest, or most colorful ones in display cases. We give lots away to other people and many are given to kid's fossil digs so that can find them and get interested in this great hobby. But, any way we enjoy these pointy triangles is good! Just be glad we can so easily collect them and appreciate the amount of life on this planet that has been here before us!

Fossil Recovery Explorations

Ken Follmann owner operator of fossil hunting tour guide service in Arcadia on Joshua creek will be holding an event on March 16th from 10 am to 4 pm called "Children Introduction to Florida Fossils & Dig" Assisting on the event is Debra Powell southwest Florida famous Fossil Babe. Children and there Parents will be educated on a variety of fossils then taken on a 1 hour fossil dig. Debra will have automated Dinosaurs that children will be able kids to ride along with many my fun activities along with fossil sales.

I feel this is a good opportunity for Fossil Club of Lee County to represent themselves at this event. We are looking for volunteers to help during the kids dig to identify fossils. Anyone who volunteers will be put on a list for one free fossil hunting trip in April on Joshua Creek .

Parking address is Truck stop GPS address 4109 Southwest highway 17 Arcade Florida
<https://www.facebook.com/events/603621983430338/?ti=cl>



ROCKS IN THE DESERT!

I RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM Scott Hale. He is past FCOLC members Jim and Sharon Hales' son. Scott is now stationed in Iraq and sent me this picture of the desert floor. Rocks everywhere, and no doubt a few fossils mixed in!

To: FCOLC

The entire area I was in today is covered in these for miles. Dad would spend 12 hours a day there picking.

Hope all is well.
Scott



[Victor Perez](#) shared a [link](#).

[January 28 at 12:24 PM](#)

In case you haven't seen it, University of Florida has produced a free new mobile app for paleontology enthusiasts to share their finds with the world!

myfossil.org

[Mobile App | myFOSSIL](#)

myFOSSIL Introductory Mobile App Video Mobile App Tips and Tricks Video myFOSSIL Create a Group Video Watch these videos to learn more about the myFOSSIL mobile app! myFOSSIL Introductory Mobile App Video Get the App – If you have a myFOSSIL account, use the same username and password!

Annual FCOLC elections!!

Our annual elections will be held before the start of the annual Fossil Auction at the March 21st meeting.

Positions to be filled are all of the executive positions; President, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Time is getting shorter, so please consider this seriously. Any questions as to job responsibilities of each office, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for your consideration,
Louis

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society Inc., a non-profit 501(C)3 educational organization, is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 12th, 13th & 14th, 2019 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, hand crafted cabochons and jewelry, fossils, artifacts, rocks, etc. Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations, Family Activities, Scavenger Hunt. Admission: Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Scouts in uniforms free. Website: www.cfmgs.org. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or ssfossilhunter@aol.com.

FCOLC Fossil Festival!!

The 15th annual FCOLC Fossil festival is coming quickly! The February 23rd date is next month! Dawn Markowski and Pam Siegel have been putting in a lot of effort towards making this a good one! Held on the grounds of the famous Shell Factory in North Ft Myers, it's a great opportunity to participate with your club and enjoy a great day! Sign-up sheets will be available at this meeting, so please volunteer! You'll enjoy yourself and be glad you did! We'll answer all questions at the meeting, so be sure to come!

Any club member who wants to set up as a dealer, be sure to sign up for it before all spots are filled!

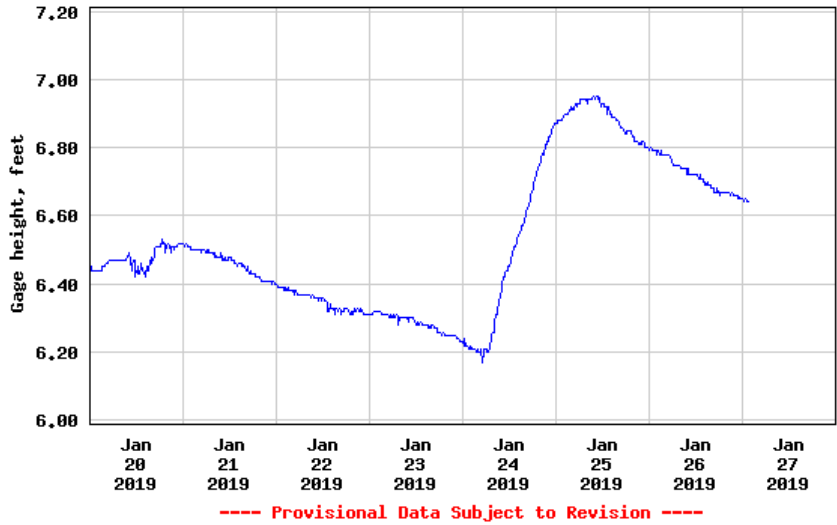
We can use donations for the silent raffle, and if nice, the grand raffle.

RIVER WATER LEVELS

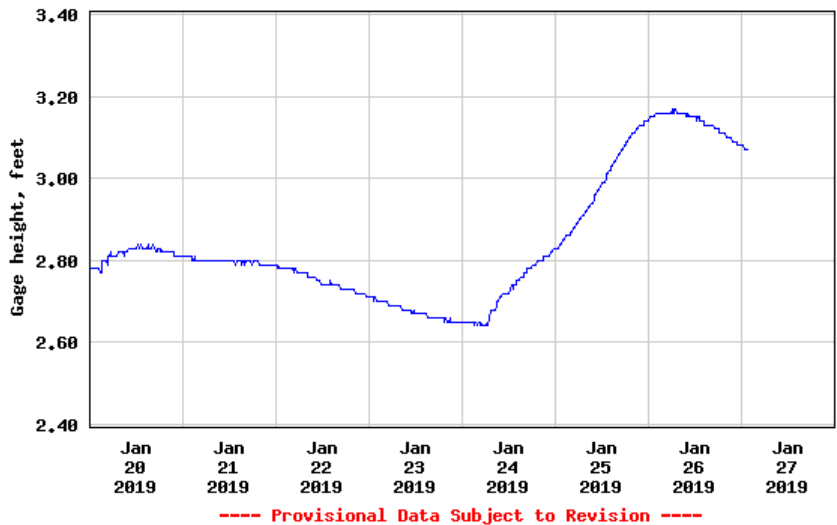
HERE'S THE
GAUGE LEVELS
ON January 27



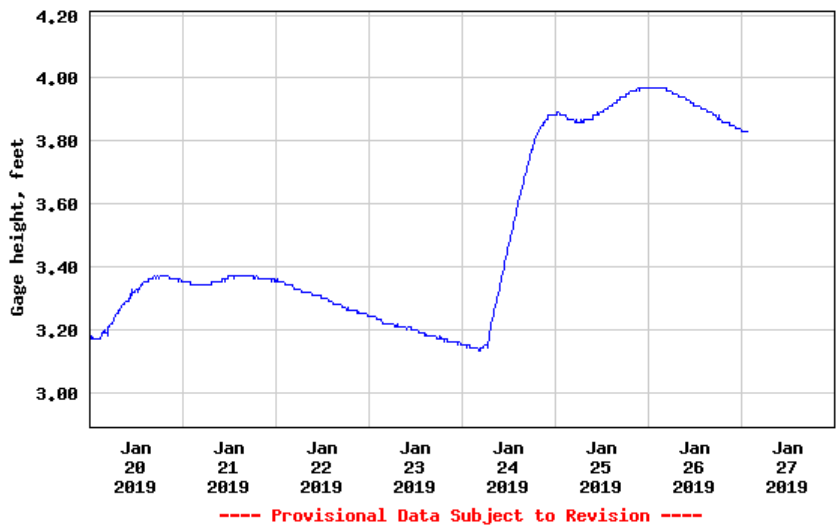
USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



USGS 02296750 PEACE RIVER AT ARCADIA FL

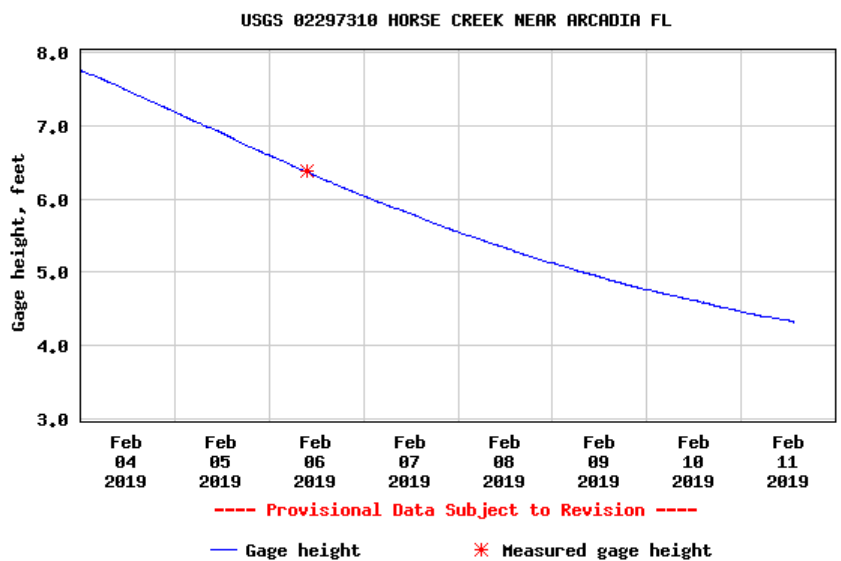
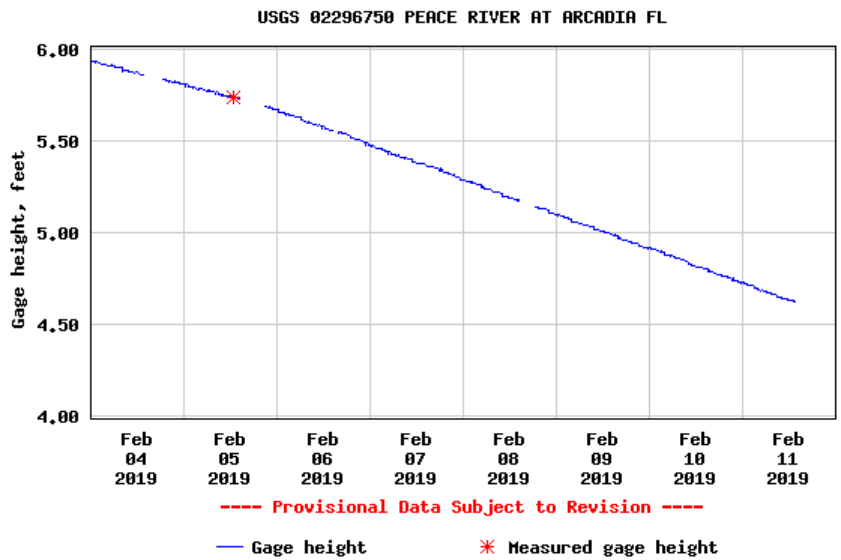
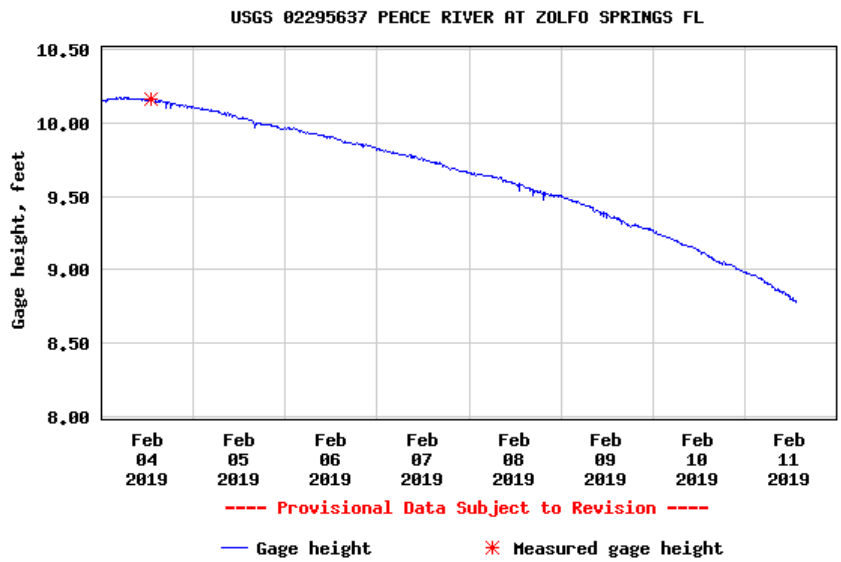


USGS 02297310 HORSE CREEK NEAR ARCADIA FL



RIVER WATER LEVELS

River water levels
on February 11



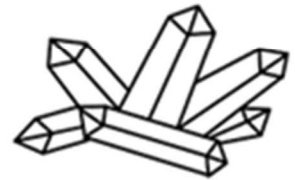
Fossil Show



At Rotary Park



Saturday, March 30, 2019
10:00am-4:00pm

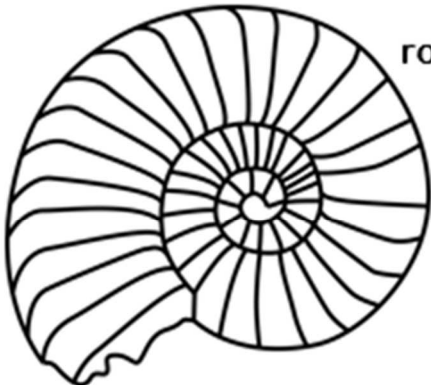


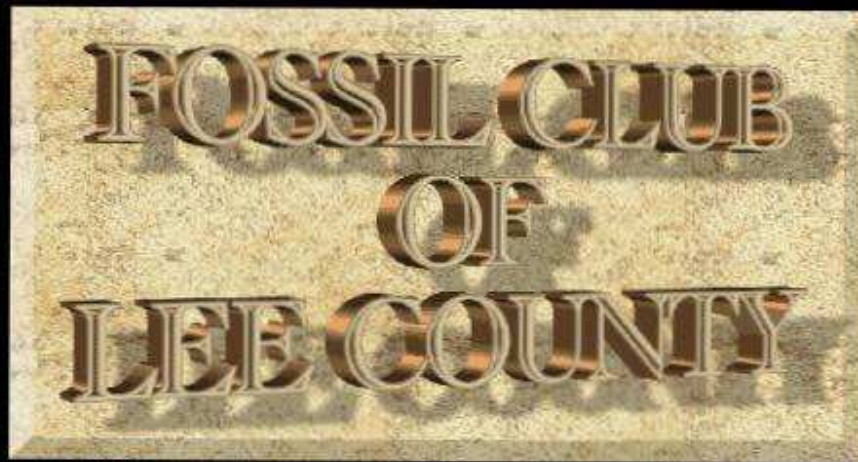
This show has something for everyone including fossils, gems, history, shopping & fun!
There will also be a fossil dig for children.

Vendors with related items are welcome.
To be a vendor, email rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net

Admission: \$3 (children under 10 are FREE)

For more information contact
Rotary Park
(239) 549-4606
rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net





The Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. is an organization of people interested in the fossils of southern Florida and all points beyond. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall is located at: 7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, FL 33919.

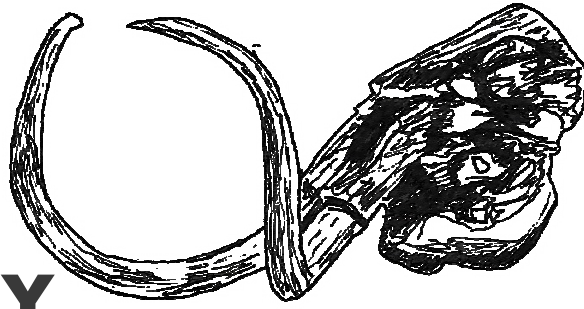
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378838762286864/>

For those of you who ask what books to get-- here's a great group!

We offer most, if not all, in the club store at the meetings.

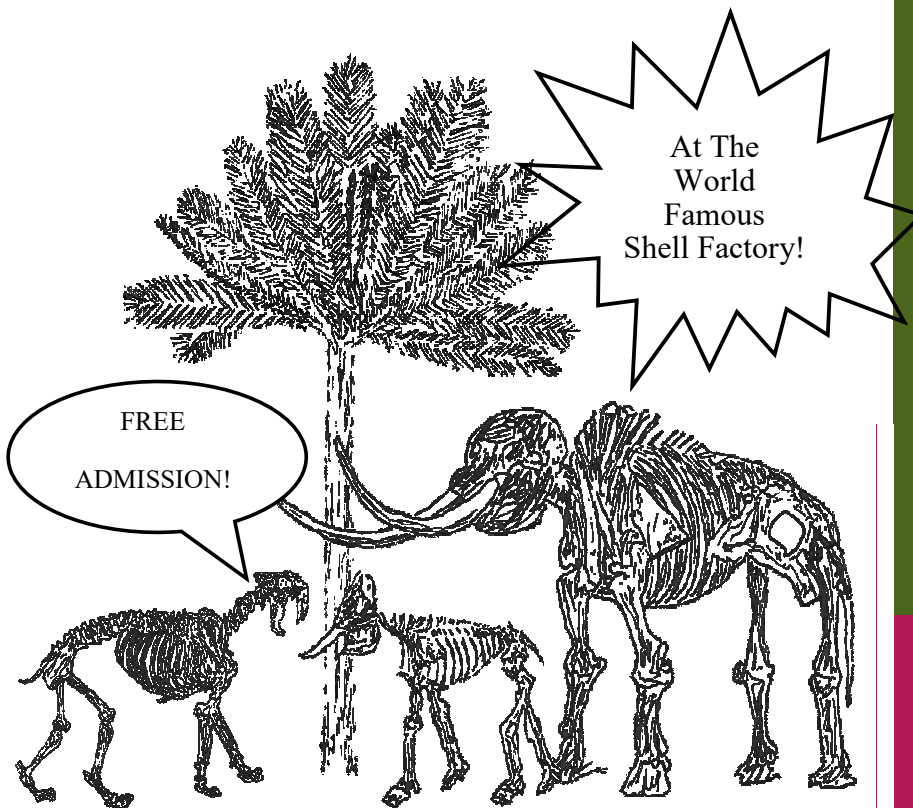


THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY PRESENTS THE 15TH ANNUAL FOSSIL FESTIVAL



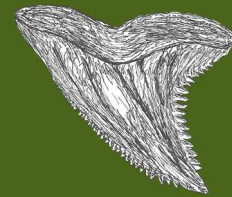
Saturday, February 23rd 2019 at the Shell Factory

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. 23, 2019
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

The Shell Factory

2747 N Tamiami Trail

Fort Myers, FL 33903

232-995-2141

www.theshellfactory.com

Feb. 23rd, 2019

9AM until 5PM



FLORIDA'S LARGEST PREHISTORIC SHOW!

FOSSILS & ARTIFACTS

GEMS - MINERALS - SHELLS

FOSSIL EXHIBITS - WORKSHOPS

KIDS GAMES * FOSSIL MINE * RAFFLES

DOOR PRIZES * SILENT AUCTIONS

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!

tampabayfossilclub.com



facebook

March 9th & 10th, 2019

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.

