



# Fossil Club of Lee County

March 2008

## Message from the president

**AUCTION TIME!!!** Yes, it's that magical time again!! The Fossil Club of Lee County will hold their Annual Fossil Auction this month!! Lots of great fossils, minerals, and other assorted items (stuff!!) will be let go to the highest bidder!! This is your chance to grab some steal deals and be the first on your block with a unique item!! We have lots of items to auction, so we plan on starting a little early this year. The meeting will start at 6:30 (instead of 7 pm). We will have about a 3-5 minute meeting to mostly announce candidates for April's election (as required in the by-laws), and then we start the auction. Viewing will be from 6pm to 6:30, so plan to get there early enough to register and get a bidder number and see the auction items. We will have a short break, about halfway through, so you can view those items at that time, if you need to. Refreshments will be by the Legrees. Thank you!

**We need to return from break promptly as we must be out of the Iona House by 10:00 p.m.**

Try to wait until you are sure you are completely finished to check out, and be patient so as to ensure that everything is correct. We are trying to arrange the layout so that the exit will be through the kitchen area, creating less disturbance with current items up for auction. I will announce the "rules" at the beginning. Bring lots of money!!! Sorry, but we do not take credit cards.

Items that are donated for the auction, that are not listed on the bid sheets and have a lot number, will be sold in the following month -April- at a mini-auction. Any items arriving the night of this auction will be held back for then, so please don't expect to see them sold this month. I'm sure

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd. We will hold our Annual Auction. You may view the auction items from 6:00 p.m. There will be no dollar raffle or show and tell.

## Officers

Louis Stieffel, President (239) 458-9818

Or e-mail: Cape187@earthlink.net

Al Govin, Vice President 541-2845

And cell 910-2339

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 989-1921 or 936-5019

Chuck Ferber, Secretary 489-2891

## Board Members

Leslie Stieffel, 458-9818

Michael Orchin, 574-6318

Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015

Trip Director, Bill Shaver

## Committees

Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz

Speakers: Louis Stieffel

\$1. Raffle: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

you understand how confusing it can be to suddenly add items to the auction when they have not been included in the final list.

Thanks for any donations and thanks for understanding. If you plan on staying until the end (of course you are!!), you may consider bringing along a small flashlight, as it gets mighty dark in the parking lot sometimes.

Elections for new officers will take place in April. Nominations will be read off at the March meeting and voted on in April. There will be some changes in the officers, and anyone wanting to run should speak up when nominations are announced. New officers will take office in May.

Dues are now way past due!! Dues are due in January, so any members not paid up by the end of March will be taken off the roll of active members. Newsletters will cease as well as announcements of last minute changes and additions of trips. Trips and outings for the club are only for paid up current members, so please renew if you have not done so!! Thanks!

Ray Sequin, our oldest member, in years of age and in years of attendance, and esteemed treasurer, has done it again!! In the past Ray had built our club display cases, done numerous framing jobs on pictures, etc. for the auction, and he consistently contributes to the door prizes and \$1 raffle and has always stepped up and volunteered to help in almost any way possible. Now he has completed another project--a large, double door, locking cabinet for the storage of our club "stuff". This cabinet has been placed in the foyer of the Iona house, and will provide easy access to lots of different items we have had to lug back and forth, until now!! THANKS RAY!!

of our club, and it was a terrific opportunity to hear him speak and give us insight of the history of fossil hunting in the state. He also told us some stories about the beginnings of our club and the relocation of the Iona house, which is where we meet, to its present location at the Calusa Nature Center. It was a very good meeting, with a packed house!! March will, of course, be our auction. The April meeting will be our elections, mini-auction, and Greg Herbert, from the University of So. Florida in Tampa will be our speaker. The May meeting will be the first one for the new officers of the FCOLC, and the speaker will be from the SW FLA. Water Management district, speaking about the everglades restoration, and any fossil discoveries made in the digging process so far. As usual, we are working at getting world class speakers for the meetings and will keep you informed along the way!!

Many members showed up for the Orange River trip last month. We all had a great time. More trips are being planned, and we will announce them as we finalize them.

No show and tell this month!! Save your finds, and acquisitions (from the river and the Tampa Show!!) for the following month(s). We all want to see them!!!

See you at the auction!!!!

Louis Stieffel,

President Fossil Club of Lee County

## **MOST NATIVE AMERICANS DESCEND FROM SIX WOMEN**

20,000-year-old DNA links 95 percent

From the Associated Press

Nearly all of today's Native Americans in North, Central and South America can trace part of their ancestry to six women whose descendants immigrated around 20,000 years ago, a DNA study suggests.

Those women left a particular DNA legacy that persists to today in about 95 percent of Native Americans, researchers said.

The finding does not mean that only these six women gave rise to the migrants who crossed into North America from Asia in the initial populating of the continent, said study co-author Ugo Perego.

The women lived between 18,000 and 21,000 years ago, though not necessarily at exactly the same time, he said.

The work was published this week by the journal PLoS One. Perego is from the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation in Salt Lake City and the University of Pavia in Italy.

The work confirms previous indications of the six maternal lineages, he said. But an expert unconnected with the study said the findings left some questions unanswered. Perego and his colleagues traced the history of a particular kind of DNA that represents just a tiny fraction of the human genetic material, and reflects only a piece of a person's ancestry.

This DNA is found in the mitochondria, the power plants of cells. Unlike DNA found in the nucleus, mitochondrial DNA is passed along only by mothers. So it follows a lineage that connects a person to his or her mother, then the mother's mother, and so on.

The researchers created a "family tree" that traces the different mitochondrial DNA lineages

This is the **Proposed Slate Of Officers** for FCOLC to be voted on at the April 2008 meeting. If anyone else would like to run for any of these offices, please see Al Govin at the March meeting and let him know.

President elect Bill Shaver

Vice president elect Al Govin

Secretary Leslie Steiffel

Treasurer Ray Seguin

Directors

Louis Steiffel

Chuck Ferber

Michael Siciliano

Sandy Schwartz

### *Refreshments*

March Pat Legre

April Mike Siciliano and Sandy  
Schwartz

May Leslie Steiffel

found in today's Native Americans. By noting mutations in each branch and applying a formula for how often such mutations arise, they calculated how old each branch was. That indicated when each branch arose in a single woman.

The six "founding mothers" apparently did not live in Asia because the DNA signatures they left behind aren't found there, Perego said. They probably lived in Beringia, the now-submerged land bridge that stretched to North America, he said.

Connie Mulligan of the University of Florida, an anthropologist who studies the colonization of the Americas but didn't participate in the new works, said it's not surprising to trace the mitochondrial DNA to six women. "It's an OK number to start with right now," but further work may change it slightly, she said.

That finding doesn't answer the bigger questions of where those women lived, or of how many people left Beringia to colonize the Americas, she said.

The estimate for when the women lived is open to question because it's not clear whether the researchers properly accounted for differing mutation rates in mitochondrial DNA, she said. Further work could change the estimate, "possibly dramatically," she said.

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## **Bowling ball-sized "Devil Toad" fossil found**

A frog the size of a bowling ball, with heavy armor and teeth, lived among inosaurs millions of years ago—intimidating enough that scientists who unearthed its fossils dubbed

the beast Beelzebufo, or Devil Toad.

But it's size— 10 pounds and 16 inches long—isn't the only curiosity. Researchers

Discovered the creature's bones in Madagascar. Yet it seems to be a close relative of normal-sized frogs who today live half a world away in South America, challenging assumptions about ancient geography. The discovery was published by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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## **Dinky flying dinosaur fossil found in China**

As pterodactyls go, it was small, toothless and had unexpectedly curved toes—yet scientists are welcoming their new find as another piece in the puzzle of ancient life.

"we have this really amazing creature, sparrow-sized, which lived essentially in the trees, showing us a very new, very interesting side of the evolutionary history of those animals," said Alexander W. A. Kellner of the National Museum of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"We would never have thought of it," Kellner said in a telephone interview.

The find, by researchers led by Xiaolin Wang of the Chinese Academy of Science, is reported in the online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Pterodactyls are best known from giant examples of the ancient flying reptiles, and most specimens have been uncovered in coastal areas.

Dubbed Nemicolopterus crypticus—hidden flying forest dweller—the new fossil was uncovered in the western part of China that was believed forested when it lived there 120 million years ago.

**Thank you to Donna Johnson** for contributing paleontology news articles regularly and **Pat and Ted Oaks** who have also contributed. It makes writing the newsletter easier so be sure and tear articles out when you see them. **Cheryl Mitchell** will be taking over the newsletter soon and will appreciate your input.

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF FOSSIL CLUB  
OF LEE COUNTY**

A meeting of the membership of the Fossil Club of Lee County was held at the time, date, and place set forth below.

DATE OF MEETING: [February 21, 2008](#)

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Caloosa Nature Center

Number in attendance: approximately 62

Louis Stieffel presiding.

Thanks go to Sandy Schwartz for her saving money on the news letter by sending it out by e-mail.

The Fossil Auction is next months' meeting. It will start at 6:30 PM, so please show up earlier to view the fossils before the auction.

Thanks go to Pat and Ted Oakes and Sally Lean for refreshments.

Thanks go to Bill Shaver for working so hard to get us into the pits.

Show and tell.

Thanks go to Dr. Robin Brown for his excellent and entertaining talk on Florida Fossils.

Secretary