

# Fossil Club of Lee County

March 2009

## Message from the President



Greetings to all fellow fossil enthusiasts! It's great to have so many of you attend the monthly meetings and participate in our club activities. I really appreciate your support and it is a pleasure to see everyone enjoying the fun and fellowship of our club.

The focus of our March meeting is our annual auction. The auction serves two major purposes. One, it is a great way to add specimens, at a reasonable price, to your personal collection and second, it is a way for us to raise additional funds for our club to sponsor scholarships and other worthwhile causes.

Our auction manager and chief auctioneer is our very own Louis Steiffel. Louis has spent many, many hours preparing over 100 items for our auction which will be held in the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center on March 19th, 2009. We have arranged to have viewing starting at 6pm and the first bid will start at 6:30. We plan to close at 10:30.

We will have refreshments available at about 6pm and also take a refreshment break at about 8pm. Our refreshment host for the auction plans to have a St. Patrick's theme? Speaking of refreshments, Helma, Herb, and Gisele sure did a splendid job at our last meeting!

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## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on March, 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd.

## Officers

Bill Shaver, President (239)834-0694 /  
billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com

Al Govin, Vice President 541-2845  
and cell 910-2339

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 939-1921 or  
936-5019

Leslie Stieffel, Secretary

## Board Members

Director—Louis Stieffel, 458-9818

Michael Orchin, 574-6318

Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015

Trip Director, Bill Shaver

Dive Trip Director, Mike Siciliano ,  
980-1406

## Committees

Newsletter: Cheryl Mitchell

Speakers: Bill Shaver

\$1.00 Raffle: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

Pit Trip Director: Gunther Lobish

(Presidents Report ... continued from page 1)

In order to devote as much time as possible to the auction, we will suspend new business, Show and Tell, and our normal raffle. We will have trip sign-up sheets available. Incidentally, our club members are still finding vertebrate fossils at the Quality pit and also finding a wide variety of specimens in the Peace River.

Happy hunting to all of you and I look forward to seeing everyone at the auction!

Bill

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***What to take for fossil hunting.....***

1. Cooler with lunch and beverages to take on river
2. Fossil sifting screens
3. Sunscreen
4. Digging tools
5. Zip lock baggies or apron pouches
6. Goggles, snorkels, and fins
7. Old shoes— rubber water shoes
8. Plenty of drinking water
9. Change of clothes



**COMING EVENTS**

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY ANNUAL AUCTION  
MAR 19TH CALL Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694

17TH ANNUAL VENICE SHARK TOOTH FESTIVAL -  
FRI APR 17TH, SAT, APR 18TH, SUN APRIL 19TH

18TH ANNUAL THOMAS FARM DIG SPRING 2009 -  
HUMMINGBIRD CHALLENGE MAR 31ST - APR 5TH  
call Dave at 352-273-1968 web [http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/ponyexpress/pe\\_adventures.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/ponyexpress/pe_adventures.htm)

**WEB SITES OF INTEREST**

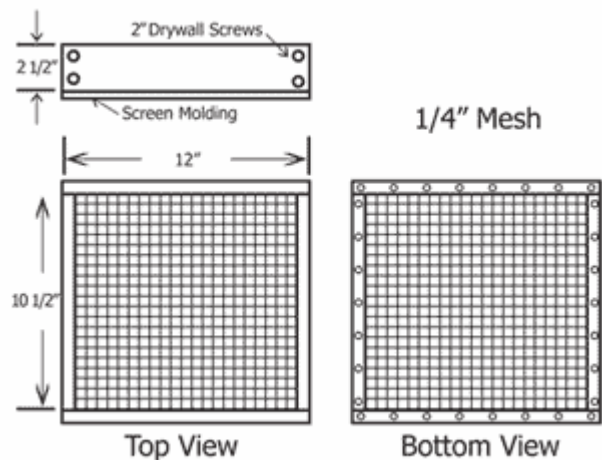
Nine links in the dinosaur-to-bird transition  
<http://www.msnbc.msn/id/28985201/from/ET>

Canoe Outpost in Arcadia (peace river water levels and rentals. <http://www.canoeoutpost.com/Peace/prwaterlevel.htm>)

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

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville - <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu>

Florida Vertebrate Fossil Permit - <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>



[How to Make a Fossil Screen](#)

## MINUTES OF THE 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 19, 2009

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: 59

Presided by: Bill Shaver, President

Bill thanked Cheryl Mitchell for being our newsletter editor.

Our annual auction will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Louis Stieffel gave an update; we are on target with donations. The viewing will start at 6:00 and the auction starts at 6:30.

Bill stated that club by-laws require annual elections in April, with new officers starting in May. All existing officers will stay on for another year if voted in, except for Leslie Stieffel, due to job demands. The secretary position is available if anyone is interested.

The club discussed ongoing field trips at Quality .

Soon we will discuss the club making donations for scholarships. Some possibilities are the Calusa Nature Center and the University of South Florida.

We will also discuss having the Fossil Show this year or not. The board voted yes unanimously. Bill asked members to know their position on this at the next meeting. We will discuss more soon.

Bill thanked Gisele Myers and Helma & Herb Rudolf for the delicious refreshments.

March refreshments: Sharon Drake and Melissa Cosme.

Dollar raffle and door prize drawing were held.

By: Leslie Stieffel, Secretary

## *Coming Events*

### Just A Reminder

**Dues for membership were due on January 1, 2009. Anyone who joined this past September, 2008 is covered for the 2009 year. If you would like to mail in your dues, go to the website: [www.FCOLC.com](http://www.FCOLC.com) and print out a membership application. Be sure to print your email address on the application in order to receive your newsletter via the internet. If you change your email address and home address, phone # be sure to email or contact Sandra Schwartz at [cam-eraqueen@earthlink.net](mailto:cam-eraqueen@earthlink.net)**

### **SPEAKER PROGRAM**

**MARCH:** Annual Auction: No speaker, But a Real Fine Auctioneer (Louis Stieffel)

**APRIL:** University of Florida - Fossils of Panama

**MAY:** Michael Wylde - Calusa Indian Culture

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR REFRESHMENTS**

March: Sharon Drake and Melissa Cosme

April: Volunteer Needed

May: Volunteer Needed

## SHOW AND TELL FEBRUARY 2009

Bill showed a nice sloth tooth he found at the Peace River on our recent club field trip.

Louis Stieffel had several nice fossils displayed in riker cases, including horse teeth, rabbit & other small mammal bones, deer, three toed horse teeth & bones, mесо hippos horse. A mammoth spit tooth, sandollars, and a complete vintage turtle foot, All items will be in our auction.

Jake Rosenkranz showed a very nice sloth tooth he found at Quality mine.

Charlie shared a very nice arrowhead collection, which he collected in Oklahoma over many years.

Coby Powlowski showed his mammoth tooth from Venice, and other fossils from the Peace River trip, including a dolphin tooth, horse tooth and shark teeth.

Pam Plummer had a nice assortment including her first mammoth tooth, mammoth astragulus, and a three toed horse tooth. The "fingernail" small toe bone from a mammoth turned out to be a nice camel patella instead, according to our own fossil guru Louis. It's a great find anyway Pam!

Dean Hart found a nice big mammoth tooth at Quality mine, and a bear tooth.

Cay Small showed a nice juvenile bear tooth and petrified wood.

Dave Flinchbaugh had a lovely nice 4" or 5" meg tooth and a sloth tooth.

Gunther Lobisch shared several sand dollars, tapir and peccary teeth, a mammoth spit tooth, horse astragulus and calcanium, mammoth toe bone, and a very nice unerupted mammoth tooth, and a regular mammoth tooth.

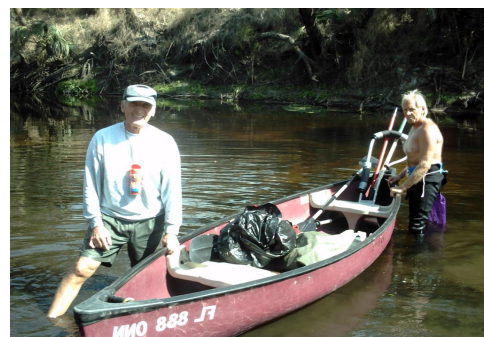
Charles O'Connor showed two large modern turtle skulls, that he found in the 10,000 islands.

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Chuck found a great rhino tooth at the Peace River. He also showed some beautiful ammolite from Alberta Canada.

## FIELD TRIPS

Several club members have been digging in the Peace River and finding a wide variety of fossils. The river is very low and the water is clear and warm. We will try to have another club outing to the Peace in early April--a sign-up sheet will be available at our next meeting--March 19th. Our Pit Trip Director has been taking members into the Quality Materials on Sundays and there have been several finds, especially mammoth vertebra, teeth, and bones. They are also finding horse, peccary, and tapir teeth and garfish scales. See Gunter to sign up for the pit trips.



Peace River Trip (Barry, Dave, Mike, and Bill)

## 2009 Fossil Club of Lee County Auction

March 19 marks the date of the next meeting of the Fossil Club of Lee county, and it will be a big one!! That's because it is the meeting that we hold our annual fossil auction!! We hold this auction to help raise the majority of our club funds. We use some of this money to sponsor scholarships for needy students in Paleontology.

This year there will be plenty of fossils to go around, so plan to be there, and bidding early and often!! We will have fossil shells, vertebrate fossils, and even some "Yankee fossils"(trilobites, brachiopods, etc). We also have a few other interesting items!!

Viewing will be from 6 to 6:30 pm and the auction will start promptly at 6:30. This is a half hour earlier than our normal meeting start time of 7 PM, but we need all the time we can get to get it all in!! We have about 105 auction lots, with several having more than one item.

We ask that you enter and exit through the Iona house's kitchen, rather than the rear door as usual. This way we can situate the tables in the best way, without having to be concerned about blocking the rear entrance. Also, as soon as possible after viewing, please sign in and get a bidder number. You can not bid without it. Upon checkout, you will surrender that number, so do not check out until you are truly finished. We will have refreshments available, and will try to take a break around the midway point. If you leave at that time, I guarantee you will miss out on lots of great stuff , so stick around!! We take cash and checks. We are not set up for credit cards. Sorry!! A couple of rules that may help you understand the auction process: if the auctioneer ( ME!) can not see your hand or number raised, he can not recognize your bid. So, raise your hand or number high!

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Also, if the bidding is closed, and "SOLD TO--" is spoken, then that is it. It's all over, and if your bid did not get seen, it's too late at that time. We will not start over with the bidding, so, again, raise it high and get seen! Also, please do not ask that you see the item immediately before bidding, unless absolutely necessary. Come early and view. We will try and show if we have to, but don't take up that person's time, and delay the proceedings without an intention to bid. We have many lot #'s to get through and must move on as quickly as possible. We ask that you DO NOT check out until you are ready to leave! In the past we have had folks check out every time they won something. We have a very efficient auction accounting system, purchased just for our auctions, so we can check you out quickly when that time comes. Also, if you get a snack or drink, fine, but try to do so without disturbing the proceedings. Also, go outside if you must have conversations, as it is hard for others to hear if you are talking. Please turn off, or put on vibrate, your cell phones. I know these may seem like rudimentary rules, but we have many new members that have not yet experienced our fossil auction, so I encourage you to read these few rules, and come and enjoy the auction.

Upon signing up you get a bidding number and also a printed list of the auction items. You may want to bring a pen along so as to keep up with the list, making your notes on the ones you've purchased. This helps stop any confusion and helps you keep up with the progression. It also helps the auctioneer ( ME!) when I lose track and then everyone can shout out which lot number I am currently on!! :-)

You may also want to bring a small, pocket sized flashlight. It can get mighty dark, when you leave, if the outside lights get turned off. I hope to see all of you at this month's annual fossil auction and I'm sure we all will have a great time!!

Louis

