

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

MARCH 2011



Message from the President

Greetings to all and a warm welcome to the new members. We are glad you joined the club and we look forward to having you participate in all the activities. With respect to near term activities, March is one of our busiest months. Its the time of the year when we schedule several field trips and we have our Annual Auction.

As most of you know, the Club Auction is one of our major fund raising events as well as an opportunity for our club members to buy some really great fossil specimens at very reasonable prices. This is a "win-win" event! All members and their guests are encouraged to participate in this wonderful event.

We wish to thank all of you who donated items for the auction---some of the items are so great, it must have been hard for you to part with them! There are some Indian artifacts, lots of shark teeth, mineral specimens, geodes and nodules, fossilized sea shells, trilobites, petoskey stones, jewelry, fossilized lycopod tree leaves over 300 million years old, framed items, over 25 rikers of excellent specimens, fossil books, and several mammoth bones and teeth, just to mention a few of the items. The auction will be held at the Zion Lutheran

Church in Fort Myers on March 17th. Refer to a separate article in this newsletter for details.

The Club is having an exhibit table at the Cape Coral Fossil and History Fest to be held on March 26th. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours of exhibit table duty, please let us know. Several of our club members are involved with the Cape Coral Rotary Park events section so lets support them by attending the Fest.

We held our February meeting at the Calusa Nature Center Planetarium and we want to give a special thanks to our host, Carole Holmberg, who managed the facility for us and for showing the "Mayan Skies" presentation to our members. We appreciated the special attention.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the auction on March 17th--be there about 5:30 pm for viewing and signing up for your bid card. Best regards, Bill

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is the auction, March 17th and will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: February 17th, 2011

Place: Calusa Nature Center Planetarium

Attendance: 75

Presided by: Bill Shaver, President

Bill welcomed everyone and said that the speaker for the evening called to say he has an emergency and won't be able to make the meeting. Bill called Louis Steiffel and asked him to bring in several rick-ers and other specimens for an extended Show and Tell. The show and tell session worked out very well and Coby Pawlowski and Ron Seavey also brought in some specimens to show and discuss. The Calusa Nature Center provided a planetarium presentation entitled Mayan Skies which was much appreciated.

Other topics mentioned included the Club trip to the Peace River on March 13 and details about the Club annual auction to be held on March 17th at the Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Myers.

Submitted by: Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary

OFFICERS

Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694

billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com

Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 239-939-1921

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

DIRECTORS

Dean Hart, 941-979-8217

Gunther Lobish, 941-268-7506

Charles OConnor, 239-246-5526

Michael Orchin, 239-574-6318

COMMITTEES

Cherie Neat, Newsletter

Curt Klug, Web Master

Bill Shaver, Speakers

Louis Steiffel, Auctioneer

Kathy Arnold, Club Merchandise

Ray Seguin, Membership

Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Hollie Tiner, Club Photographer

Gunther Lobish, Invertebrate Education

Louis Steiffel, Vertebrate Education

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Most members now receive their newsletter on-line and it does save the club the postage and printing costs. For those of you who receive the newsletter in the mail and would like to now receive it on-line, please let us know. Thanks

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please pay your dues to ensure continuation of your membership in the Fossil Club of Lee County. You may pay your dues at the next meeting or mail them. The application form is at our web site www.fcolc.com. The Club appreciates your support and participation.

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

March

March 17th, Fossil Club of Lee County Annual Fossil Auction at Zion Lutheran Church on 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL beginning at 5:30 pm for viewing, bidding starts at 6:00 pm.

March 26th, Cape Coral Fossil and History Fest at Rotary Park on (10am-4pm).

April

April 8th, 9th, and 10th, 19th Annual Venice Shark's Tooth Festival.

CLUB ELECTIONS

In accordance with Club by-laws, elections are held on an annual basis with the election held in April and newly elected officers/directors taking office on May 1st. This year all officers and directors with one exception have decided to remain in their positions, however anyone seeking to run for any office may do so. One Director, Michael Orchin, has made a career change and will no longer be able to serve on the Board. If you would like to run for that position, please let the Club Vice President know of your interest.

REFRESHMENTS

February Volunteers: Many thanks to Sue and Tyler Schoenherr, and Gunther Lobish for providing the snacks, and for Linda and Dick Kemper, and Pat and Ted Oakes, and Sally Jane Moore for providing the beverages.

March Volunteers: Refreshments will be provided by the Bonita Beachcombers--we will publish their names in the next newsletter.

April Volunteers: Sign up please

The Club will reimburse members for their expenses for snacks and beverages. Your participation will be appreciated.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Fossil Club of Lee County is pleased to welcome the following named people as Club Members:

Clara Alevy and Elijah Friesen

Jack Boyce and family

Jim, Jennifer, Cheyene, and
Kendall Brown

Al and Janet Iagnemmo

Mike McWilliams

David Sheehey

Anne Small

Mark Terrell

Dennis Von Linden and family

Michael, Elizabeth, Sam and Syd
Zerbe



WEB SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

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Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/

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

Southwest Florida Fossil Club
www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club
www.floridafossilhunters.com

PEACE RIVER Water Levels
www.canoeoutpost.com

Mark Renz's Fossil Expeditions
www.fossilx@earthlink.net

Smithsonian Natural History Museum
www.mnh.si.edu
Florida Fossil Clubs
www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com

Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/underwater/finds>

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium 3450 Ortiz
Av, Fort Myers Tel 239-275-3435
www.calusanature.com

Imaginarium 200 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers
www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2300 Peck
St., Fort Myers www.swflmuseumofhistory.com

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel-
Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL www.shellmuseum.org

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Cracker Museum at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs,
FL Tel 863.735.0119

Lost in Time, 4719 69th Street, N. St Petersburg,
FL 33709, Tel. 727-541-2567 Owner Brian Evensen

Peace River Wildlife Center
3400 West Marion Avenue (Ponce De Leon Park)
Punta Gorda, Florida
www.peaceriverwildlifecenter.com

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls
www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

Fossil Auction

ANNUAL AUCTION

The Annual Auction will be held on **March 17th, 2011** at the **Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall** at 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL. We all look forward to this event for two important reasons: one is to raise funds for our annual scholarship funds and the other is to make available a wide variety of fossils and other items that our members and guests can obtain at a reasonable price. Its a fun event, but also a lot of work for those who make it happen, so let's appreciate everyone involved and that includes the members that make donations and to those who bid and buy. We know that it some-time hard to part with some of your fossil specimens and other items, but it is for real worthy causes.

The viewing of the auction items begins at 5:30 pm and you can sign up for your bid cards. If you are a little late, don't worry as you can still sign for a bid card and participate. The auction will start at 6pm and go to about 9:30pm. There are over 100 items up for bid.

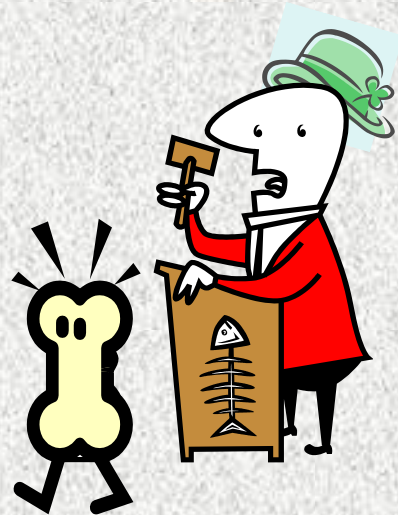
Our Auctioneer will be Louis Steiffel assisted by a few backup attendants. Please bring check or cash. Credit cards cannot be processed, however there are a few ATMs in the area if you run out of money.

Several of the items up for bid are mentioned in the "President's Message" on the front page. There are three beautiful mammoth teeth and five mammoth toe bones and several other bones all from the same animal. There are several "mystery" boxes with lots of fine things inside---the box is worth a lot on its own! There are two golf club that were converted to long handle dirt scratchers, a super fossil screen, and a beautiful shell wreath. There are several tubs of fossils bones that have not been plundered---your bid gets you a tub and all of its contents! There is something for eve-

ryone---will make a nice gift/s for yourself or someone you care about.

Directions to the Church are as follows: From I-75, get off at Daniels Parkways in Fort Myers (that the same exit as for the Airport) and go west. When you cross RT 41, Daniels becomes Cypress Lake Drive, continue on for a couple of miles, then turn left (south) on Winkler Road, go about 2 miles and the church will be on your left. Call 239-834-0694 if you need further assistance.

The Club greatly appreciates your support!



Fossil Field Trips

Tis the season for field trips. Gunther Lobish, Pit Trip Leader, is conducting trips every Sunday to one of our pits. Sign-up sheets are available at every meeting. The Club had a trip to the Orange River recently and Coby's Column pretty well covers that event. There is a trip to the Peace River on March 13th--about 30 members have signed up. The Club visited CF Industries on March 4th and reports are that everyone found some fossils. One of our members was hunting in the Peace River recently and found a tapir jaw bone with 11 teeth and also found a peccary tusk. Just goes to prove that its still possible to find some nice fossils. Good Hunting to All!

COBY'S COLUMN

The Orange River

Recently, the club took a trip to the Orange River in Buckingham. The Club met at the local Cracker Barrel and then followed our guide to a beautiful spot on the river. We had to find an easy access point, but after finding one, the hunt was on! The Orange River is absolutely beautiful, with an overhanging canopy, crystal clear water, and abundant fish life, it is too hard to explain with words. As for fossils, there wasn't much. There was millions, and yes I mean millions of modern clam shells. They were the type that are a light brownish-tan and are quite common on the Peace River. It was pretty much shell beds with fossils mixed throughout. They did help to sharpen your eye though! At the end of the day, I came up with 5 or so shark teeth, and some miscellaneous fossils. As for the other hunters, I saw a beautiful mako come out, a gator tooth or two, and a horse tooth. There were also quite a few shell fossils. The Orange River is one of those sites where you can sit back, enjoy nature's beauty, and find a few fossils while you are at it.

Happy Hunting,
Coby Pawlowski

INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS

by Gunther Lobish

My favorite Echinoid is the Clypeaster. I have only seen 2 species at Quality and one, Clypeaster rosaceus must be very rare there as I've only found the bottom of one specimen. The other is called Clypeaster sunnilandensis and comes in many shapes and of course sizes and colors. It's hard for me to believe that specimens that are oval, almost round, and pentagonal are all the same species. I'll bring a variety to the April meeting. The oldest Clypeaster we can collect in Florida can be found at the Vulcan pit and is known as rogersi. When you can find the more chalcified specimens, they are very nice. Very nice specimens of Clypeaster Wythella eldrigei can also be found at Vulcan. A beautiful Clypeaster concavus was recently found in the Chipola Formation by a friend, Adam Osborn, in Northern Florida. Adam has a fantastic collection of Echinoids the will be featured in Anita Evers book when it is completed.

Happy Hunting,
Gunther



"Another glorious day at the pit!"



"A beautiful day for fossil hunting"





"Just having
a great time
at the pit."

