



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

MARCH 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Auction time!!

Yes! It's time for our annual fossil auction. Every March, rain or shine, we have our fossil auction. And all members are expected to be there! Really, we would love to see you. We work hard at presenting a nice assortment of items for your opportunity to take them home. We will have at least a hundred different lots. I want to thank each of you that donated to this great cause! An auction of this size takes several hours, so plan accordingly so you can see it all.

The auction starts PROMPTLY at 7 pm. In past years we started it a little earlier, but many of our members found it difficult to get home from work and get to the fellowship hall for the early start. This year, we listened to them and will start at 7pm.

The Bonita Beachcombers, a great group of fossil hunters, and beach lovers, will be continuing their tradition of providing the refreshments. They do an outstanding job and it is a great reason to come to the auction! And, did I mention—we will have a lot of fossils to sell!

Please make sure you bid in such a way that I, the auctioneer, can see your bid. If I can't see it, I can't acknowledge it. When you get to the fellowship hall, please try to register and get a bidder number right away. Then when the auction time is ready, you will be also. You may want to come a little early to view the merchandise so you know what you want to bid on. We expect to have the items ready for viewing by 6:15 - 6:30 pm. I expect the evening to end somewhere around 9:30. If it goes a little later, be prepared.

If anyone decides to bring items for the auction when they show up, it will be placed at the end. So, don't be disappointed if your last minute entry does not do as well as you may have wanted. Remember, we asked for donations starting in December. Cash and checks are accepted. **We are not set up**

for credit cards. Sorry. All rules will be discussed prior to the start.

Since the last club meeting, in January, I attended, along with Al Govin, the North American Paleontological Convention, in Gainesville, Florida. This opportunity was made possible through the FOSSIL Project. This project is a new network set up to help fossil clubs and museums and professional paleontologists better communicate and work together. It is an exciting venture, inasmuch as it allows interaction between different levels of the science that did not exist before. After several days of attending lectures from different paleontologists, from all over the world, reporting on their individual projects, we had the first formal FOSSIL workshops. We learned that over 70% of the collections at most museums are the result of amateurs, and the professional community sees the need to better interact with us, the amateur, or avocational paleontologist. Much of this project has been brought to a working plan by Bruce McFadden, of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Funded by a \$1.97 million grant from the National Science foundation, the Fossil project has solid funding for four years. Plans to meet every year were drawn up, as well as suggested locations. This ongoing project can only benefit our fossil club, and I expect some of the networking with others from around the country to help us in ways not realized until now. I think it's a great opportunity for our club, as well as other fossil clubs throughout the nation. I will report more in the upcoming months.

See you at the auction!!

Louis Stieffel

President, Fossil Club of
Lee County



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Sandra Schwartz, 1821 SE 5th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL, 33990

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/

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

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.

OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President, 239-851-7499

cape187@earthlink.net

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Jack Boyce, 239-281-2416

Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094

Joe Larkin, 239-265-6772

Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526

Pamela Plummer (**New 2014**) 239-246-5993

Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus

COMMITTEES

Jack Boyce, Newsletter Publisher, Photographer

Pam Plummer and Dean Hart, 2014 Fossil Show

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Sandy Schwartz, Badges, Membership

Gunther Lobisch, Pit Trips, Invertebrate Education

Ray Sequin, Merchandise

David Sheehy, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, and Speakers

FCOLC Annual Elections

Elections of Officers will be held at the April 19th meeting. We are currently searching for members to fill these positions and specifically Club Secretary. Interested members are encouraged to contact Louis Stieffel at 239-851-7499 or email cape187@earthlink.net.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

March 20th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, Fl 33919

FCOLC Annual Fossil Auction – No Speaker

Refreshments: Bonita Beachcombers Club

Saturday March 22nd Peace River Fossil Hunt Canoe trip

Friday March 28th – Sunday March 30th - Dig till you can't dig no more! Join us for 3 day and 2 nights of primitive camping @ Payne Creek's State Park private camp ground.

There is no hunting on state property, however the rest of the river is available to hunt. The camp ground is on Payne Creek with a small beach. Bring your fishing poles! There is no electric or water, you must bring what you need. If interested please contact Pam Plummer @ 239-246-5993 or fcolctreasures@yahoo.com.

Saturday March 29th Cape Coral Fossil Show, Rotary Park, Cape Coral, Florida (10am to 4pm) Admission \$5 (10 and under FREE) <http://www.capecoral.net/Portals/0/DeptImages/Parks%20and%20Rec/Fossil%20Show%20Spring%202014.pdf>

April 11th-13th 22nd Annual Venice Sharktooth Festival, Venice Airport Festival Grounds

April 17th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, Fl 33919

April 17th Speaker; – **Matt Hayes**, Graduate Student/Researcher, UFMNH

Presentation: Isotopic Analysis of Fossil Shark Teeth

Election of 2014 Officers

Refreshments: Bobby Joe Sherrill and Jack Boyce

Saturday April 19th Peace River Fossil Hunt Walk in trip

May 15th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, Fl 33919

May 15th Speaker; – TBD

Saturday May 24th SMR Aggregates Fossil Shell trip

Fossil Donation Request

The Shell Factory is putting together a small Fossil and Mineral museum and is requesting donations. All donations will be credited to the donor. Make your choice on whether these donations are permanent or “on loan”. Contact Pam Plummer for more information at 239-246-5993 or fcolctreasures@yahoo.com. This is different from donations for the March Annual Auction or monthly raffle.

Minutes of February meeting
THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: February 20th

Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Presided by: Louis Stieffel, President

Club president Louis Stieffel welcomed all current and returning seasonal members and called the meeting to order. Members were informed of club merchandise being sold by Ray Sequin, the \$1 raffle table manned by Mike Siciliano, and everyone was handed a ticket for the door prizes.

- A few short announcements were made concerning the club participation at the Burrowing Owl Fest, the upcoming Tampa Fossil Fest, and a short overview of the recent North American Paleontology Convention and also the FOSSIL Project.

Louis introduced our speaker **Sharon Holte**, who proceeded to present a very interesting and spirited talk about Thomas Farms, a famous Miocene Vertebrate fossil location owned by the state of Florida. This site has been excavated for almost 80 years and continues to produce many specimens important to science.

Sharon's presentation is followed by the refreshment break.

- After the short break we discussed the change of our annual fossil show to a new location, the SHELL FACTORY. The co-chairmen of the 2014 FCOLC Fossil Show will be Pam Plummer and Dean Hart. Anyone wanting to be on the fossil show committee, please talk to either one. Pam also discussed the details of the Shell Factory new fossil museum and our club's involvement.
- Al Govin went over the signup sheets and the upcoming club canoe trip on Saturday March 22nd. He found a canoe outfitter, Canoe Safari, who will accommodate our needs to have a shorter trip, thus allowing more time to

fossil hunt the Peace River.

- Joe Larkin presented a possibly new location on Charlie Creek that the club can gain access into and hunt fossils in the creek. It was decided to do a preliminary checkout visit and see if it warrants a full club trip. Camping will be allowed on the property.

- A laptop will be purchased by the club, after the club auction, to help accommodate the many speakers we get that do power point presentations.

- Louis announced that the club has some particulars that make us unique. We have the oldest member, (Ray Seguin, age 90) the most southernmost club in the USA, and the best and largest club library of any fossil club in the state. (Davis Sheehey, the club librarian has done an excellent job!).

- Our May 24 trip to SMR was discussed. It will be shared with the Manasota Fossil club and we will get 20 spots. The cost will be distributed amongst any member attending. The cost will be \$15 per member. This money goes to Roger Portell for expenses incurred for this outing.

- Pam Plummer spoke about a camping trip to Payne Creek Park on March 28 to the 30th. Interested members should contact Pam.

- Show and tell was presented. Participating members showed fossils they had recently collected along with fossils of the feature fossil of the month, Mammoth.

- The auction will be held in the next meeting, March 20th, 2014.

- The annual elections of officers will be held at the April 17th Meeting. The feature fossil of the month for April will be HORSE.

- Mike Siciliano then presented the \$1 raffle. Many members went home with new additions to their collections.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken & submitted by Leslie Stieffel

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, March 20th, 2014
at Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers
Meeting starts at 7 PM.

Club Annual Auction – no Speaker

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a friendly reminder that 2014 Membership fee is past due. Our treasurer, Sandy Schwartz will have membership forms available at our March 20th meeting. Even if you are a long time member she would appreciate having you fill out the form completely so she can update the membership roster. For your convenience there is a Membership Form on the last page of this Newsletter.

If you joined the club in the last quarter of 2013 you are paid up for year 2014. Also, if you don't have a name badge, please let Sandy know so she can take care of it. **Thanks to all who continue to support your club.**

FCOLC Annual Fossil Auction

March 20th, 2014

The March club meeting will not have a speaker and we will keep the club business to a minimum. We want to leave as much time as possible for our traditional Auctioneer Louis Stiefel, to conduct the FCOLC Annual Auction. Year after year this is a very special event for a couple of reasons. At the break a group of very friendly fossil hunters, who call themselves the **Bonita Beachcombers**, will provide their traditional fantastic spread which is well worth attending this meeting all by itself!!

Certainly you can take advantage of trips to Mosaic, Peace River or SMR and find your own fossils. Another great way to add some fine fossil specimens to your personal collection is to participate in our Annual Auction coming up this March. We are still receiving some nice donations from several members and we appreciate the generosity of those who always support our annual fund raising event. We are in need of several items at this time as we shoot for about 100 plus auction pieces. As most of you already know the auction is essentially a way for everyone to obtain fossil specimens at a reasonable price while raising funds for university scholarships. If you would like to make a donation, please bring them to Club VP Mike Siciliano at the February meeting.

Here are a couple of the very nice fossils you can bid on. Both were found by Bill Eberlien while searching in the dark bottoms of South Carolina Rivers. The 1st is a gorgeous 3.25 inch posterior Meg with a great tip and sharp serrations.



Next is a 4 inch Meg with the same great tip and sharp serrations. It also has the telltale self inflicted bite mark as this tooth fell out during a feeding frenzy.



So come, join your fossil friends at the FCOLC Annual Auction at the March meeting.

Introducing the FOSSIL project

Throughout the U.S., more than 60 fossil clubs and paleontological societies hold meetings, host speakers, organize festivals, run field trips, conduct outreach, work with scientists and build their own collections. Unlike many other science hobbyist groups (e.g., birdwatchers), fossil clubs and paleontological societies do not enjoy the benefits of a national network.

To facilitate networking, the Florida Museum of Natural History has begun to develop a community of fossil clubs, paleontological societies and professional paleontologists. The effort—called FOSSIL (Fostering Opportunities for Synergistic STEM with Informal Learners)—is supported by funds from the National Science Foundation. To date, more than 30 fossil clubs and paleontological societies have expressed interest in participating in FOSSIL as has an initial cohort of professional paleontologists.

In December the FOSSIL team at the Florida Museum met with representatives of a small number of these clubs and societies to determine priorities for the development of FOSSIL. This was followed by the inaugural meeting of FOSSIL, in conjunction with the 10th North American Paleontological Convention in Gainesville, FL, this February. Nearly 30 clubs were in attendance at the convention, and were able to discuss in detail the rollout of future FOSSIL resources and activities. These discussions combined with results from a national survey conducted in 2012 revealed interest in improving communication between clubs/societies, creating training and development events, enabling attendance at professional meetings and workshops, conducting K-12 outreach to underserved audiences, having online access to the growing digitized collections of natural history museums and creating and sharing personal digitized fossil collections. The broader community of amateur and professional paleontologists will ultimately determine the scope of FOSSIL activities, tools, and resources and collaborate in their development and implementation.

For more information and to keep track of developments with FOSSIL please like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/TheFossilProject, follow us on Twitter [@projectFOSSIL](https://twitter.com/projectFOSSIL), or subscribe to our eNewsletter at www.myfossil.org.

FCOLC Fossils of the Month - March, 2014



Fossil: *Carcharodon Megalodon* went extinct approximately 2 mya

FCOLC Member: Jack Boyce hunting with Dave Finchbaugh found this 2.2 inch almost perfect Meg in the Peace River north of Wauchula. These are traditional Peace River colors – black blade with brown root, which are attributed to tannic acid in a black water river. The serrations wrapping around the tip are relatively rare.

Fossil: *Pachyarmatherium leiseyi* 1.8mya to 300000 years ago

FCOLC Member: The FCOLC February Newsletter featured this fossil. This recently discovered and named (1994) fossil that, thus far, is unique to 5 locations in Florida including Payne Creek Mine, Polk County, Florida. Originally considered to be a miniature glyptodont, proposals now point to a member of the armadillo family. Aimee Hankel also found one of these recently just north of Payne Creek Park and for member interested in finding one of their own, Pam Plummer is leading a combined camping/fossil hunt at the Park over the last weekend of March. Here is a photo of Aimee's Armadillo scute:



There are many more as rare as these: **Get out there and find them!!!**
Also Please send me photo of your finds. Let's get some variety in FOTM

FCOLC Peace River Kayak trip - February 22nd, 2014



FCOLC, through the efforts of the trip leaders Aimee Hankel and Jack Boyce, sponsored a walk-in and Kayak trip to the Peace River on Saturday, February 22nd. We anticipated a great day, but there was heavy fog and driving rain in the early morning hours and it was still overcast as 10 hardy fossil hunters gathered at the boat ramp in Crews Park Wauchula slightly before 9am. Our group consisted of Jack Boyce, Aimee Hankel, Bill Howat, Joe Larkin, Bill & Chris Johnson, Jim & Pam Siegel, Jim & Vickie Manderfield. For whatever reason every participant had a kayak and so this turned out to be a Kayak only hunting.



I followed the kayakers upriver checking out the scenery and seeing where fossil hunters chose to stop. Bill and Chris Johnson and Bill Howat had found a spot just beyond a beautiful cypress tree growing out of the river. They were finding large bones and small shark teeth. Some of the better finds were medium to large Hemipristis (Snaggletooth) shark teeth, some of which were "jewelry grade". I dug with this group for 45 minutes and then headed up stream again. Here I found Aimee digging in pretty shallow water only up to her knees. Since digging in shallow water is strenuous on the back, I asked Aimee why dig here? She had already found a complete Meg, Mako and horse tooth just next to a pile of very large gravel. I promptly anchored my kayak and started digging. Bill and Chris Johnson joined us within the next 10 minutes and we found some nice hemis, tiger and lemon teeth plus chunks of ray mouth plates under the larger rocks. I also found a horse tooth.



I never did make it 3 miles upstream to the special spot where Bill Howat, Joe Larkin, the Siegels, and the Manderfields were finding mammoth tooth fragments, nice snaggletooth shark teeth, horse teeth, and numerous Meg and Mammoth fragments. We had a gorgeous day weather wise, all attempted to stay until the late afternoon and were ready to try this again maybe at a different location.

Written & Submitted by Jack Boyce

Jaw with teeth in a Tennessee Cave

As a newsletter publisher, I keep track of developments and articles that might be of interest to FCOLC members. One of my sources is TheFossilForum.com. On March 5th, a new post with the title "Jaw with teeth in a Tennessee Cave" caught my attention. <http://www.thefossilforum.com/index.php?/topic/44655-jaw-with-teeth-in-tennessee-cave/> The poster was a cave explorer with the TFF name **Aagroek** who provided a couple of photos and stated

"While caving last weekend in Tennessee in Mississippian limestone there was an area littered with black bones, but this jaw fossil caught my eye. I've never seen anything like this before. Most of the fossils we see in caves are crinoid and horn coral. I was hoping someone could tell me what this is...shark, fish, something else? Attached are pics of the jaw and a rock from nearby illustrating the density of all the little bones."



I dimly recalled seeing those "ribbed" teeth some where previously. The remainder of the thread developed the following facts:

1) Aagroek had taken a couple of photos and left the fossil in the cave, notified a local museum and a paleontologist, who identified the jawbone of a Tetrapod.

For those, like me who were not sure what a Tetrapod is, I look in Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetrapod> "The tetrapods evolved from the lobe-finned fishes about 395 million years ago in the Devonian Period.[1] The specific aquatic ancestors of the tetrapods, and the process by which land colonization occurred, remain unclear, and are areas of active research and debate among paleontologists at present."

2) This fossil jaw with 6 sockets and 4 complete teeth is approximately 2.5 inches.

3) Many of Fossil Forum experts identified it as

Rhizodus : *Rhizodus* is an extinct genus of a [rhizodont](#), a branch of the [Sarcopterygii](#), the bony vertebrate [clade](#) that also includes [tetrapods](#). It was of enormous size, reaching 6–7 m in length.^[1]

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhizodus>



Tennessee Cave fossil taken by Alan Grosse, Wikipedia photo of a Rhizodus tooth.

Written & Submitted by Jack Boyce

*The Fossil Club of Lee
County is an
organization of people
interested in the fossils of
southern Florida and
all points beyond.*

Meetings are held at the

*ZION Lutheran
Church*

*Fellowship Hall
7401 Winkler Ave.*

Fort Myers, FL 33919

on the

*Third Thursday
of every month
from*

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Officers

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cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice-President
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Pam Plummer, Treasurer
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Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary
(239)-267-6130

Committees

Cherie Neat: Newsletter Developer
Jack Boyce: Newsletter Publisher &
Club Photographer

Curtis Klug: Web Master

Louis Stieffel: Vertebrate Education,
Speakers, Auctioneer

Ray Seguin: Club Merchandise

Pam Plummer: Membership & Club
Badges

Gunther Lobish: Pit Trips

Michael Siciliano: Raffle and Dive
Trips

Coby Pawlowski: Youth Activities Director

Gunther Lobish: Invertebrate Education

Membership Information-

Date: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

phone _____

Yearly Dues ~\$20.00

Dues are due the first day
of January.

Payable to :

The Fossil Club of Lee County

133 NE 20th Street

Cape Coral, Fl

33909

www.fcolc.com