

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

MARCH 2017

Letter from the President

The river is low, and fossils are waiting for you! And fossil festival season is here as well! Two down, and two to go! The weather is great, and there's no reason to not be bringing in some great show and tell to the meetings!

Annual Fossil Festival: Mike Cox and the members of the FCOLC put on another terrific fossil festival!! Held again at the Shell Factory, and expanded from last year, we enjoyed not only great weather, but large crowds for most of the day! Along with the Shell factory's promotion and our own, Mike Cox's determination and effort, and signage posted, and many, many flyers handed out, we attracted a large crowd, estimated at between 1 to 2 thousand folks. Being spread out larger this year, we were not overwhelmed, except for times at the kid's dig and activities booth! We had a LOT of kids! Thanks goes to ALL the club members who helped make this a memorable day and a success for our club.

Horse creek fossil trip: Mike Gessel organized a special fossil collecting trip for members, at a Horse Creek location. There was a good amount of members who participated, and everyone had a good time! Some of the finds were posted on the FCOLC Face Book wall.

Peace River Canoe Trip: Al Govin organized the canoe trip, destination from Gardner to Brownsville, on the Peace River. Attendance was good, and as usual, a good time had by all. Al decided to fall out of the canoe a few times, but the fossils didn't care! Another canoe trip is being planned for March 18.

Elections: Our annual elections for Executive positions and board of directors will be held at the March meeting, immediately before the auction. The only opening this year is Vice-president, which Leslie Stieffel has stepped up to run for that office.

Meetings: The January and February regular monthly meetings were heavily attended. they were also refreshments provided that were over and above what was needed, but very well appreciated! January "spread" was put on by Marc Cantos and group, and February delight was provided by Jack Boyce, Billy Joe Sherrill and Cathy Behrle. The Bonita Beach Comber gang will provide refreshments at the annual auction meeting in March. We sincerely thank all of these folks!!

Annual Auction: Our annual fossil auction will be held at this March meeting! So far there are about 100 bidding lots and about 20 silent auction items. Viewing, and registration is from 5:30 to 6:30 when the auction meeting will start!

I work hard at putting together a good fossil auction. It's a year round endeavor, and requires a lot of work to finalize it. This year we have some very nice items, many of which I would love to have in my own collection!

Owl fest: We had a FCOLC table at the recent Cape Coral Owl festival. We showed fossils, talked about the club and handed out literature. Shirley Ness and I spent the day there and since there was a record crowd of 3,500 people! we stayed very busy. Leslie and Gary O'Toole was able to spend some time with us, also.

Dollar Raffle: Michael Siciliano has been in charge of our monthly dollar raffle at the meetings, for many years. As he is stepping down from that duty he wanted to go out with a record breaking bang! So, Mike donated many good fossils such as large Meg teeth and a mammoth tooth as well as putting together a slew of other stuff! The total amount raised is surely a record that will stand the test of time!! He raised \$500.00!! Now, that's a big bang!!

I want to thank all our members who participate in the club. You get out of it what you put into it! So, volunteer and get involved!

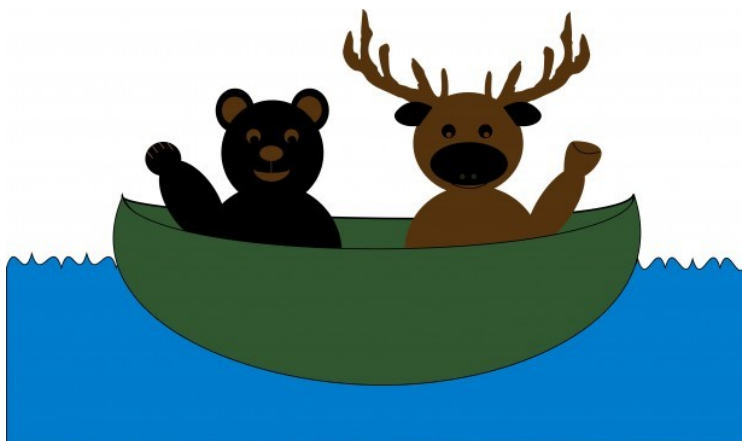
Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



CLUB CANOE TRIP!!

On January 21, the fossil club went on a canoe trip on the Peace river. We had a good number of members take advantage of this trip. Canoe Safari loaded up the bus and we were on our way to the river. When we got to the river the canoes were in the water and we paired up and were on our way. Sadly for Al he got me as his canoe partner as I have been in a canoe 3 times in the last 30 years. We went to a few spots and dug. The river didn't give up many of its prime fossils but we all had a good time. Some of our group had a few problems on the trip staying on their feet including me. We went to stop and dig in the one area and as a rookie I tried to beach the canoe with Al still in it. Wrong move as I tipped the canoe over and dumped Al out into the water. The river had a lot of shallow spots and we had to get out a few times to get out of the sand. One spot I got out of the canoe and held it while Al got out unfortunately when Al got out he was on a ridge and one foot was in 6 inches of water the other went into a hole that was a lot deeper. Of course Al went down again. Not my fault this time. We got up to the ramp and loaded back up on the bus and headed back. We got back to Canoe Safari and looked at some of the stuff that we had collected. I had a good time with all that were on the trip but it seemed like time flew by. I wish to thank AL for all his work to put this trip together, Canoe Safari for all they did for us, and all that went on the trip and made it a fun time.

Dean Hart



FCOLC February 16, 2017 Meeting

73 members present.

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order.

Annual Auction by club will be held at the March 16th meeting. Viewing will begin at 5:30 PM and meeting will commence at 6:30 PM, not THE usual 7:00 PM starting time.

Jack Boyce and Kathy Berle were responsible for the outstanding meeting refreshments.

Dollar raffle was held by Mike Siciliano and if it exceeded \$350.00 he would donate a 5" meg tooth and a mammoth tooth. Auction brought in \$500.00!!.

Fossil Festival will be held at the Shell Factory on February 18th. Volunteers are encouraged as they are needed for a variety of activities.

Mike Siciliao was awarded a lifetime FCOLC award.

Al Govin spoke of another canoe trip for approximately March 18th. It would be Arcadia to Zolfo.

Details are being worked out and will follow.

Owl Fest will be held February 25th and the club will sponsor a table.

March 11th Tampa Bay Fossil Club will host Fossil Fest.

April 7, 8 & 9 Venice Shark Tool festival will be held.

April 1st Cape Coral Fossil Festival will be held.

Dave & Zak Deyo spoke about their Gainesville dig site and how fantastic it was.

Door prizes were awarded.

Gary Schmelz was the evenng speaker. He spoke about shells and their geologic history. He also provided for sale signed copies of his book.

Refreshments were held.

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Show and tell was presented by several members.

Dollar auction was held.

Minutes by Secretary/Treasurer

Al Govin

OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President

239-851-7499, cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice President

239-980-1406

Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer

239-910-2339

DIRECTORS

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217

Dave Seehaver

Jeanne Seehaver

Jim Manderfield

Dr. John Taraska

Leslie Stieffel

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer

Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips

Cindy Bateman, Librarian

Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise

Dean Hart, Refreshment

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Mike Cox, Festival Chairman

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers, Vertebrate Education

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, at Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society, a non-profit educational organization, is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 28th, 29th and 30th, 2017 at Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 South Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1 pm to 6 pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, custom jewelry, fossils, artifacts, metaphysical stones, etc. Silent Auction and Door Prizes. Demonstrations: beading, cabochons and wire wrapping. Family Activities. Contact: phayes3@cfl.rr.com. Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$2, Uniformed Scouts Free. Website: www.cfmgs.org.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 407-816-1229. Thank you.

Betty Sumner, Secretary
Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

NOTICE: ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE \$20/year, per household

Happenings!!!

Tampa Bay fossil fest March 11 and 12
FCOLC elections and annual fossil auction
March 16
CC fossil show April 1
Venice Shark tooth Festival April 7-8-9

PEACE RIVER STATE FOREST

A RECENT ACQUISITION BY THE STATE AND DESIGNATION AS STATE FOREST HAS PUT ABOUT 8 MILES OF THE PEACE RIVER AND HORSE CREEK OFF LIMITS TO FOSSIL COLLECTING. YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT THESE LINKS AND READ AND FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THESE BOUNDRIES SO YOU KNOW WHARE IT IS.

Peace River State Forest--Links:

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20141227/preservation-potential-on-the-peace-river>

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Peace-River-State-Forest>



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.flmn.h.ufl.edu/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL www.flmn.h.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://flmn.h.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

Aimeee's Corner!!

Glyptodont Heaven

Tom King and I have been spending some time in glyptodont heaven lately, or at least we've been digging in an area that has yielded dozens of glyptodont scutes. Of course, when you look at a complete fossilized glyptodont and realize that a single animal was covered in more than 1,000 scutes, it's a wonder we haven't found enough to tile our bathroom. Tom did find a section of articulated scutes so at least we can start on a backsplash.

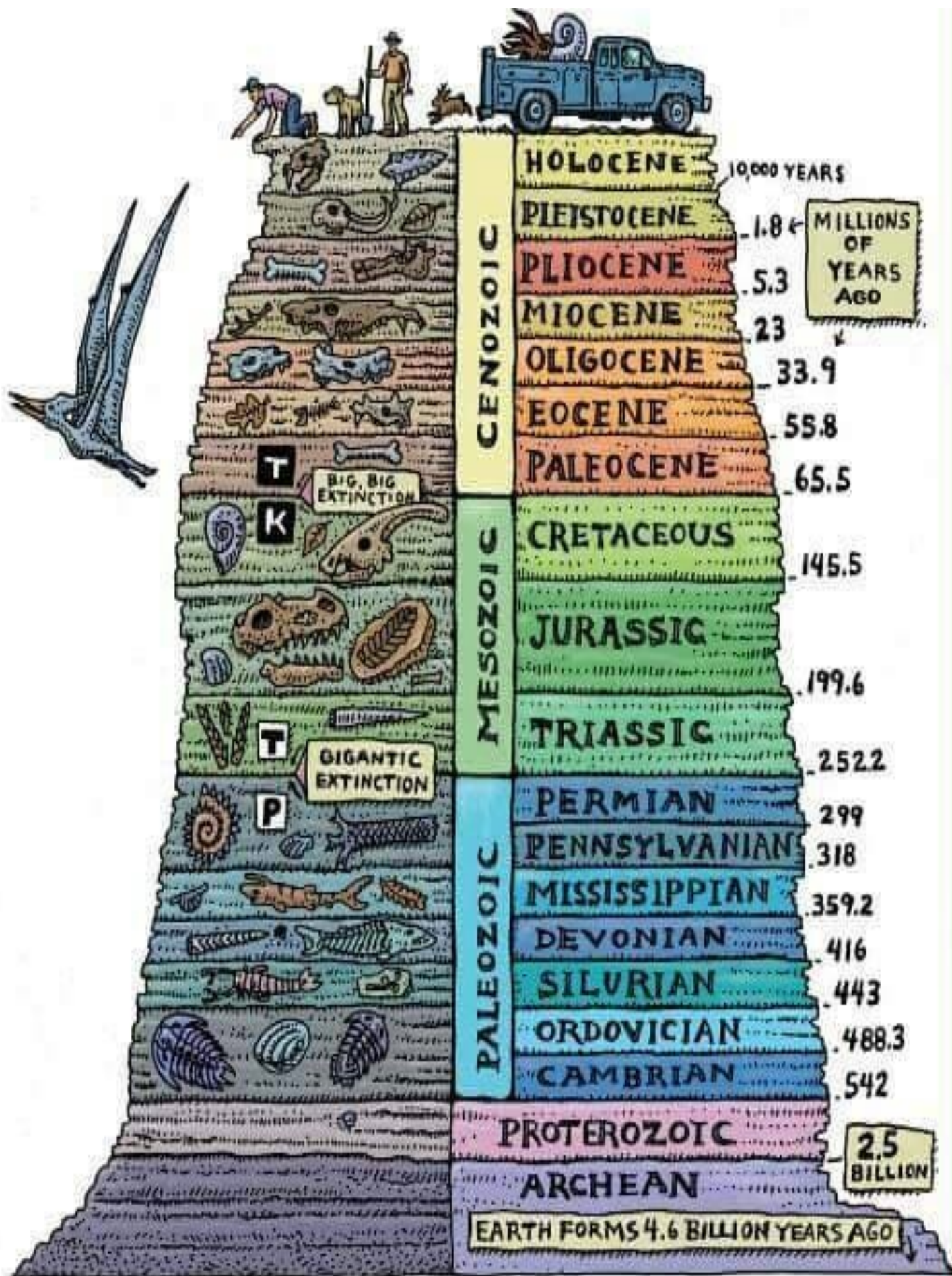
I'd like to be the first to modernize our image of the glyptodont. We have all heard them referred to as being the size of a Volkswagen Beetle but from now on, I'm going to say they were the size of a Prius, even though, according to my research, they outweighed either make of car by about 1,000 lbs. Ok, then, they were the size of a Prius loaded with bottles of kombucha.

But why is everything always glyptodont, glyptodont, glyptodont?! What about pampathere, the giant armadillo? We've found several excellent specimens of their osteoderms sharing the same resting place but since they only weighed in around 400 lbs (the weight of a Honda CB750 motorcycle, for those of you needing a vehicular comparison), their remains have had to exist outside the spotlight of the Pleistocene glamor fossils.

It's been a fun area of the river to work and even though it's been well dug, it obviously hasn't been thoroughly dug. Remember, whoever moves the most gravel WINS! As for Tom and I, we hope to get back to our little slice of heaven soon.

Aimeee's Corner!!





FOSSIL FINDS!!

These are a few finds collected by FCOLC members, Aimee Hankel and her group, in the Peace river recently. Folks--they're out there!!

I copied the pics from the FCOLC Face Book page. Many members post fossils there, so you may want to take a look at our club wall on Face Book from time to time.



FCOLC Fossil Festival 2017!!

Here's a couple of pictures from the group posted on the FCOLC Face Book wall. Check it out to see the rest!



FCOLC Fossil Festival 2017!!





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!**

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

FLORIDA'S LARGEST PREHISTORIC SHOW!

**FOSSILS & ARTIFACTS
GEMS - MINERALS - SHELLS
FOSSIL EXHIBITS - WORKSHOPS
KIDS GAMES * FOSSIL MINE * RAFFLES
DOOR PRIZES * SILENT AUCTIONS**



**Presents the 30th Annual
March 11th & 12th, 2017
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.**



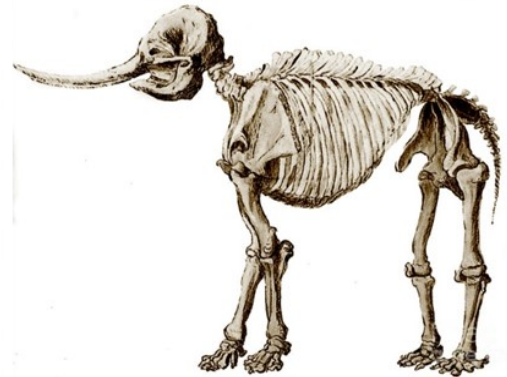


FOSSIL SHOW



**Saturday, April 1
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Come to Rotary Park Environmental Center to learn about Florida's pre-historic past and maybe take a piece home with you. Come to shop or talk with experienced fossil hunters to learn all about the fascinating fauna of Florida's prehistoric times. Something for everyone: fossils, gems, Calusa Indian art, children's activities and more!



**Vendor spaces available!
Call for details and to reserve your space (239)549-4606**



Admission is just \$3 at the door! (Under 10 FREE)

For more information contact: Rotary Park

5505 Rose Garden Road
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone: (239) 549-4606

E-mail: rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net
www.CapeParks.com
<https://www.facebook.com/CapeCoralParks>