



Fossil Club of Lee County

April, 2010

Message from the President



Greetings to all and a warm welcome to our new members. For those of you just joining the Club, we invite you participate in the many activities and make sure you have a good time. We are pleased to announce that Bob Wood, one of our new members, has agreed to take on the role of Club Newsletter Editor. Cheryl Mitchell, our present editor, has done a fine job and we wish her success in her new ventures. For those of you that haven't met Bob yet, he is best known at our Club for making the highest bid at our March auction for a fine mammoth specimen! This was the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship. Thanks for your support. The Club continues to plan for a field trip to the Peace River---now all we need to do is to get the river to cooperate. At the time of this writing the water level at Arcadia is about 6 feet above normal. We will remain optimistic. The Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center (where we hold our monthly meetings) has recently been painted, cleaned, put in order, and really looks good. As matter of fact, the Nature Center has undergone a lot of positive changes recently--it looks so much better. Our April meeting will be in the Iona House. This is the time of year when our snowbirds go north---we had fun and we will miss you. Stay in touch and submit any fossils articles you come across to either newsletter editor or me. The Club will hold its elections at the April meeting and we will have our usual program events of door prizes, show and tell, and the monthly raffle. I look forward to seeing everyone. Best regards, Bill

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd, Ft. Myers.

Officers

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

Al Govin, Vice President (239)910-2339

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

Sharon Drake, Secretary, (239) 823-9052

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

Speakers: Bill Shaver

\$1.00 Raffle: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

Pit Trip Director: Gunther Lobish

Cheryl Mitchell (retiring editor)

Our New Editor.....Bob Wood



New member, Bob Wood comes to the club with a variety of skills and mastery of few. He and his better half, Sally, have a home in Punta Gorda. From there, they have been hunting fossils via kayak in the upper stretches of the Peace River for two years and, before that, in the shale deposits of western New York where they spend summers. He is particularly interested in mammoth fossils. His other passion is astronomy and he belongs to the club here in Ft. Myers as well as a club up north. He also scuba dives, struggles to fly double-line sport kites, and throws clay pots when the river is too high and night skies too cloudy.

Bob is retired from a dual professional life. First, as a customer engineer for Eastman Kodak and, secondly, as a deputy sheriff. He continues to be active in a third career as a feature writer and book reviewer for outdoor publications. Bob promises to work hard, beginning in May, to continue the excellent newsletter for members of the Fossil Club of Lee County.

Be sure to give Bob and his wife Sally a warm welcome.



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Field Trips - **MUST SIGN UP**

See Gunther - Pit trips

See Mike Siciliano - Ruck's Pit
and possible Dive trips

Peace River - When water re-
sides

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ **Election of Club Officers** ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

In accordance with the by-laws of the Club, an election shall be held in April to elect Officers and Directors to fulfill positions that will be vacated on the first of May. Al Govin, Vice President heads the nominating committee, and has interviewed club members that wish to serve in these capacities. As Al is resigning after many years as VP and also a former President, his position is to be filled. Both Louis Steiffel and Sandy Schwartz are resigning their Director positions and replacement Directors are to be elected.

As head of the nominating committee, Al has submitted the name of Mike Siciliano for Vice President; and Dean Hart, Gunther Lobish, and Charles O'Connor for Director positions. Anyone else in good standing that wishes to run for any of these positions can see Al at the meeting prior to the elections, which will be held after the refreshment break. All elected persons will take office for a period of one year beginning on May 1st, 2010. To those of you that have chosen to resign, the Club thanks you for your leadership and dedicated service to help make the Fossil Club of Lee County a great club.

Bill Shaver, President



Florida State Flag

Florida's official flag was adopted in 1900. Florida's flag has a red cross of St. Andrew on a white field; in the center is the state seal, which depicts a Native American (Seminole) woman scattering flowers, the sun with many rays, palm trees (the large one is a cabbage palm), a sailing steamboat, the land and the

**MINUTES OF MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB
OF LEE COUNTY, FEBRUARY, 2010**

DATE: March 18, 2010

PLACE: Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Bill Shaver, Club President opened the meeting and announced the Club elections would be held in April and that anyone wanting to serve as a Director or any other position should see him or any other officer. He also announced that the Club was still looking for someone to take over the job of newsletter editor. He thanked the Bonita Beachcombers for bringing in refreshments and asked for volunteers for the next few months. The Arnold family volunteered to do April. Bill turned the meeting over to Louis Steiffel, Club Auctioneer, and assistant Michael Orchin, to hold the auction. The auction concluded at 9:30pm.

The Club Secretary, Sharon Drake, was unable to attend the meeting.

Bill Shaver, President

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ **CLUB MERCHANDISE** ★
 ★ The Club is pleased to have Kathy Arnold
 ★ to manage the sales, inventory, and han-
 ★ dling of club merchandise. Kathy will
 ★ work with Ray Seguin, treasurer, who will
 ★ place orders for replenishment of inven-
 ★ tory and pay the invoices. The items for
 ★ sale to members includes tee shirts, books,
 ★ VINAC (fossil preservative), and a large
 ★ variety of riker boxes. All items are priced
 ★ and will be readily available at the next
 ★ club meeting. The Club thanks Kathy for
 ★ volunteering to take on the job! And
 ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

WEB SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST



ABOUT REFRESHMENTS

NOTE: Volunteers that sign up to provide refreshments, which includes bringing in iced beverages, will need to take home the club coolers home with them. The club bought coolers for that purpose. This has not been a problem in the past, but there have been two recent incidents where the volunteer/s forgot to get the coolers. And for all of you that have taken your turn to bring in refreshments, the club really appreciates your support! If there is still confusion, please speak to Bill Shaver. Thanks!

REFRESHMENTS

We held our annual fun and fund raising auction at the March meeting. Thanks to the Bonita Beach Combers for providing the refreshments -- it was a wonderful selection of dishes. We don't expect to have such a grand spread at every meeting, but the Beach Combers wanted to do something special and we appreciate their generosity. We have asked our April volunteers to make the refreshments light and modest. The original concept of the refreshments was to have a beverage available and perhaps some cookies, or something else that's really not that good for you like pretzels, crackers, or chips! We want to thank Kathy, Keith, and Joseph Arnold for volunteering to provide the refreshments for the April 15th meeting. We would appreciate volunteers for May and for June. Please consider doing your share by volunteering once every year or so. The Club will fully reimburse you for your expenses.

Refreshment Volunteers

- ★ April - Arnold Family
- ★ May - Need Volunteers
- ★ June - Need Volunteers
- ★ July - Need Volunteers
- ★ August - Need Volunteers

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
☆ *New Members* ☆

Elida Byard

George Byard

Audrey Byard

Sally Wood



Please do NOT forget to take the cooler with you if you are volunteering. Thanks. Bill

Field Trips - ***MUST SIGN UP***

- ★ See Gunther - Pit trips
- ★ See Mike Siciliano - Ruck's Pit and possible Dive Trips
- ★ Peace River - when it resides

April Field Trip

On April Fool's Day, seventeen of us went to hunt fossils at the CF Industries Phosphate mine dumps. It was a beautiful day and it was even better when several megs in good condition were found. Some of the finds included three horse teeth, a horse astragalus, ray scutes, dolphin vertebra, fish vertebra, several small shark teeth, some real nice megs, and a small whale tooth. We hope to have another trip there before the really hot weather is upon us. It was hard to be so close to the Peace River and not be able to do a little fossiling, but the water level being about 6 feet above normal precluded even the most daring from giving it a try.

We have a few trips to Ruck's Crystal Mine and several beautiful specimens have been found. The specimens are mostly clams that have exquisite calcite crystals that have grown inside the shell. According to the mine owner, this is the only location in the world where these crystal formations are found. See Mike Siciliano if you would like to sign up for a trip.

Our Pit Trip Director, Gunter Lobish, had been leading trips into the Quality Materials pit where they have been finding some Pleistocene animal bones and teeth as well as sand dollars and urchins. He will have trip sign-up sheets available at the April meeting.

As we know, all fossil hunters are optimistic, and we know the Peace River will someday be low enough so we can set up a Club trip. Perhaps, by late-May!

It's that time of the year when those who like to diving should be ready at a moment's notice to go into the Gulf. See Mike Siciliano, our Dive Trip Director for details.

Bill Shaver



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peace River Camp Out

Zolfo Springs Pioneer Park Campgrounds

April 24 and April 25, 2010

Join us for screening, snorkeling, or diving. Saturday night barbeque is \$10, an auction will follow. Please pay prior for the barbeque to Mike Serle, 2407 Tangerine Hill Ct., Lutz, Florida. 33549

Directions: Hwy 17 and St. Rd. 64 behind the Museum.

Venice Shark Tooth Festival

Friday, April 9, 2010 - 4 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, April 10, 2010 - 10 am - 9 am

Sunday, April 11, 2010 - 10 am - 5 pm

Cape Coral Cardboard Boat Regatta

Saturday, April 24, 2010

239.945.1988

<http://capecoralregatta.com>

Earth Day at the Refuge

Saturday, April 24, 2010

1 Wildlife Drive

Sanibel, Florida 33957

<http://www.fws.gov/dingdarling>

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The annual auction which was held at the March meeting was excellent in terms of participation, great specimens, and a record amount of receipts. The gross income was over \$3,300.00 according to our esteemed treasurer, Ray Seguin. We want to thank Ray and his auction administrative staff (Donna Johnson, Pam Plummer, and Sandy Schwartz) for doing a great job! And of course, we need to thank Louis Steiffel, who does the lion's share of the auction works. He totes all of the specimens and items you members so generously donate back to his work shop where he sorts, cleans, artistically arranges specimens in riker cases, labels, prepares the master bid log, totes it all back to the auction site and then does the auction-eering. In addition, he donates many items for the auction from his personal collection. Thanks ever so much Louis.

We want to thank each member who donated items and also thank each member that bought items----this helps us to raise monies for scholarship funds and to support other worthwhile organizations in our community.

Bill Shaver, President

Life is either a daring adventure or
nothing
.....**Helen Keller**

Wrapping A Sharks tooth or Wrapping the Triangle

Our technique for making a wire wrapped pendant is described here. The way we modify the technique is that instead of wrapping spiral coils of wire from bottom to top of the shark's tooth or other triangular shape, you would wrap the spiral coils 1/2 way up the triangular shape and then wrap the wire around behind the triangular shape horizontally to the 1/2 way point on the opposite side of the triangle. In the picture at above, you can view how you would begin with the spiral at the bottom (point 1) and continue wrapping the wire to the 1/2 way point, point 2. From point 2 to point 3 in the figure, the wire is essentially horizontal, behind the tooth. At point 3 you change the direction of the wrap to securely hold the top of the shark's tooth and wrap up toward the center of the top of the tooth, point 4. From point 4 to point 5, the wire is wrapped diagonally, behind the shark's tooth. The wrap is completed by wrapping the wire from point 5 to point 6. At point 6 the wire is bent horizontally and wrapped around the middle wire of the spiral, running up the center of the back of the tooth. After this wrap is completed, the excess wire is cut and the cut end is squeezed flat. At this point you would have about 1 1/2" of wire remaining from the central wire in the spiral. This wire is first bent 90 degrees, then a loop is made at the bend and finally the loop is wrapped closed.



<http://www.squidoo.com/wrappingtriangle>

A photograph showing a collection of archaeological artifacts laid out on a white surface. The artifacts include various stone tools, such as flint flakes, obsidian blades, and a large pile of dark, charred material. There are also some small, light-colored objects and a dark, rectangular object in the upper left corner. The background is a wooden surface.



The Thomas Jefferson Collection



http://www.elasmo-research.org/education/evolution/guide_f.htm (shark tooth chart)

A photograph of a manatee swimming in clear, shallow water. The manatee is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with its head and front flippers visible. The background shows a dense line of green trees and foliage under a clear blue sky. The water is very clear, showing the sandy bottom and the reflection of the trees.

Sailfish

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Florida Fossil Permit Application

This application is for a permit that will entitle the person named on the permit to collect, for the period of one (1) year, vertebrate fossils on land owned or leased by the State of Florida. The permittee must abide by all the provisions contained in Florida Statutes § [1004.575-576](#) and the University of Florida Regulation implementing this law. Persons who already have a permit and wish to renew it for an additional year should not use this form. They should follow [these instructions instead](#).

Print out and mail completed application to: Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611-7800, USA

The following must be enclosed with the filled-out application:

1. Photocopy of applicant's identification document (i.e., driver's license, birth certificate, or passport).
2. Check or money order for \$5.00 in U.S. currency payable to the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology. If you are sending two or more applications, just send one check for the total amount, not multiple checks of \$5.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.

Applicant's Full Name (must match that on identification document):

Complete Mailing Address (include zip code):

Telephone (include area code):

E-mail address (optional):

I, the undersigned, affirm that I will abide by Florida Statutes § 1004.575-576 and the Regulations of the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, University of Florida Rule 6C1-7.541 F.A.C.

Signature:

Date:

FLORIDA VERTEBRATE FOSSIL PERMIT: <http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>