



Fossil Club OF LEE COUNTY

APRIL 2015

Letter from the President

Last month we had a great auction meeting. The Bonita Beachcombers again outdid themselves in providing terrific refreshments! No one wanted to leave the auction at the break--because then they would miss out on the feast! Thank you guys!

The rivers are down. Start your engines!! Upcoming Girl Scout camp trip!

April is our annual elections meeting, with voting for officers and board of directors. I ask that as many of you attend as possible to vote and be a part of your club. Also, if any member wants to run for an officer or director position, please let me know. We have a few changes this year. The list of nominees is posted in this newsletter.

There are some folks who have decided to not run again, and I want to sincerely thank them for all their hard work and dedication to making the FCOLC a success.

Joe Larkin has decided to not run for director again. Joe has been a big help all year long and we will miss him in that position. His enthusiasm for fossil collecting is at a very high level and he is always looking for new places to hunt. Thank you Joe.

Pamela Plummer, past treasurer and recent director, also has decided to not run again. Pam was instrumental in helping the club attain its non-profit status. She worked many hours towards this goal, and the club has, and will continue, to benefit from that. Pam also was the co-chairman of the 2014 Fossil Festival (along with Dean Hart), and worked tirelessly to make that show happen and be a success. Pam's energy and enthusiasm has bubbled over to many of the newer members, causing excitement to develop about fossil hunting and collecting. Pam is the Fossil Museum Director at the Shell Factory and has done an outstanding job. Thank you Pam.

Sandy Schwartz, a long time member, has done just about everything. And now she just wants to be a regular member enjoying the meetings and talking to people. She was the person to take on the task, back in 2004, of trying to take our newsletter to the digital level, away from hard copy print. She worked long and hard, and got the job done. Her original format is still used today. With the newsletter going digital (and it took a couple of years to fully implement it) we were able to significantly save money that we had been spending on printing and postage. This greatly helped increase the reserves in our treasury. (Along with some donations from people like the Ken Ericson family, we



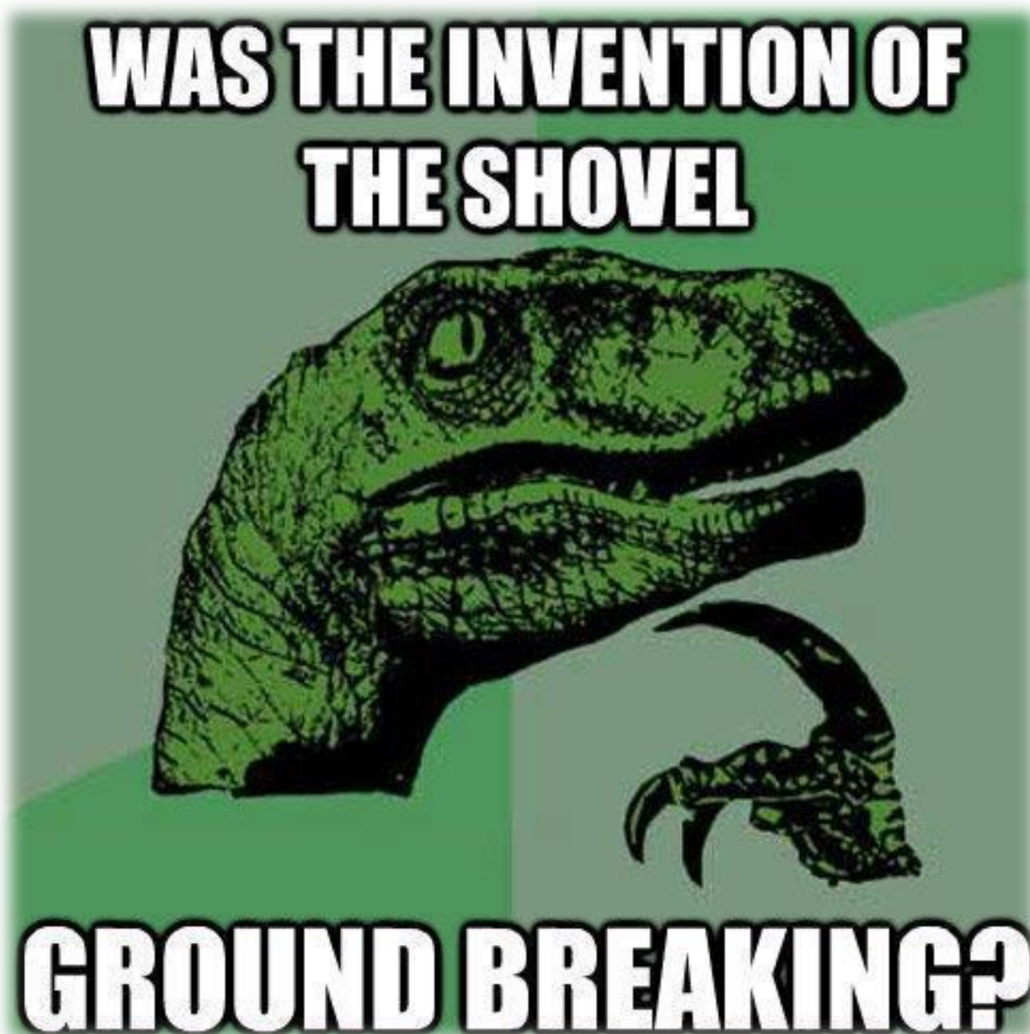
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started on the path to scholarship funding). Sandy has always stepped up and volunteered to fill in wherever needed, Signage at the fossil shows--Sandy. Membership forms--Sandy. Our club information on rack cards--again, Sandy. And many, many other things Last year, she volunteered for the Treasurer position, made available with Pam stepping down, and has spent many a tireless hour handling, that as well as the accompanying membership. You have seen her at the meetings, always keeping busy handling money for the merchandise table or the \$1 raffle or new memberships or just updating member's contact info. The club library cart, where all the books are stored? That nice cover was sewn by Sandy! She took her expertise in quilting and used it to custom fit that cover. I could go on, but suffice it to say that Sandy has volunteered and performed for this club for well over a decade. I really want to thank her, for all of us.

This month should be a fun meeting! Gunther is providing refreshments and the merchandise store as well as the \$1 raffle will be open. See you there!!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County

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MARCH 19, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

Louis Stieffel called meeting to order.

This is a early, abbreviated meeting because of the annual club auction.

There will be elections at the next meeting, in April. Anyone wishing to run for office feel free to contact any of the existing officers. It is imperative that all officers and board members attend the next meeting because of the elections, and the need to sign the incorporation paperwork as a board member.

There were 78 members in attendance.

A river walk-in trip is planned for April 23, 2015, conditions permitting, at Arcadia, on the old girl scout camp grounds. More info at the meeting.

The annual fossil auction of the FCOLC was held. Approximately 140 lots, both regular bidding as well as silent auction, was held.

A preliminary accounting at the end of the auction indicated revenue of approximately \$3,900.00 less expenses.

Minutes: by Al Govin Secretary

OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President
239-851-7499,
cape187@earthlink.net
Michael Siciliano, Vice President
239-980-1406
Sandra Schwartz, Treasurer
239-772-8015,
sschwartz@embargmail.com
Al Govin, Secretary
239-910-2339

DIRECTORS

Joe Larkin.....239-265-6772
Charles O'Connor....239-246-5526
Pamela Plummer.....239-246-5993
Ray Seguin.....239-939-1921,
Emeritus
Dean Hart.....941-979-8217
Dave Seehaver
Jeanne Seehaver
Don Lindsey
Jim Manderfield

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director
Curt Klug, Web Master
Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer
Sandy Schwartz, Badges,
Membership
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver,
Merchandise
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive
Trips
Charles O'Connor, Speakers
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer,
Vertebrate Education, Newsletter
editor, FOSSIL project
representative

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

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/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

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/vpppermit.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.

Upcoming speaker!!

Bryan Roberts presents to our club in May

His topic will be "Collecting in the Green River Formation of Wyoming"

Second First Floridians First Americans Conference will be in the Monticello, Florida Opera House on October 1, 2, 3, 2015. We will present 22 speakers and an Exhibit hall will include displays of pre-Clovis artifacts and an artifact identification booth where private collectors can learn the age of their finds. Because of the stature of the Page-Ladson site, our speakers include Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian, Michael Waters of TAMU and others, some of the foremost Paleolithic scholars in the Western Hemisphere. The Conference is free to the public.

Registration is open at <http://www.firstfloridiansconference.com>.

Contact: Anne H. Holt, Coordinator, ahholt@ahholt.com, 850-576-0721

April Fossil Club Meeting

The meeting this month has a speaker. Or, rather HAD a speaker. However he had to cancel and we decided to do something a little different that we have been looking into.

This month there will be a **competition**. Open to any member who wants to participate, teams of three will be chosen. They will go to different tables where fossils and partial fossils are laid out.

Then the fun begins! Each team will try to identify as many of the fossils as they can. They will write down their answers and the teams with the most answers will move on to the next round.

After that round we see who is the best! The winning team will get a prize. No one will have the time to Google the answers. probably, but you are welcome to try. Depending on the amount of teams we will have different levels and there may be more than the two rounds to decide the winning team!

Come and have a good time. I promise that you will learn, even if you're not trying! Some of the fossils everyone knows (or should!), such as shark teeth, and some are difficult, and some will be quite hard.

Let's have fun! See you there!

ANNUAL ELECTIONS!!

Nominees for officers and directors of the FCOLC for 2015.

These members will be voted on at the regular scheduled meeting of April 16, 2015. Term is for one year.

Officers:

President--Louis Stieffel

Vice-President-- Mike Siciliano

Secretary/Treasurer--Al Govin

Directors:

Charles O'Connor

Dean Hart

Don Lindsey

Dave Seehaver

Jeanne Seehaver

Jim Manderfield, (seasonal)

Any member wishing to run for any office can do so.

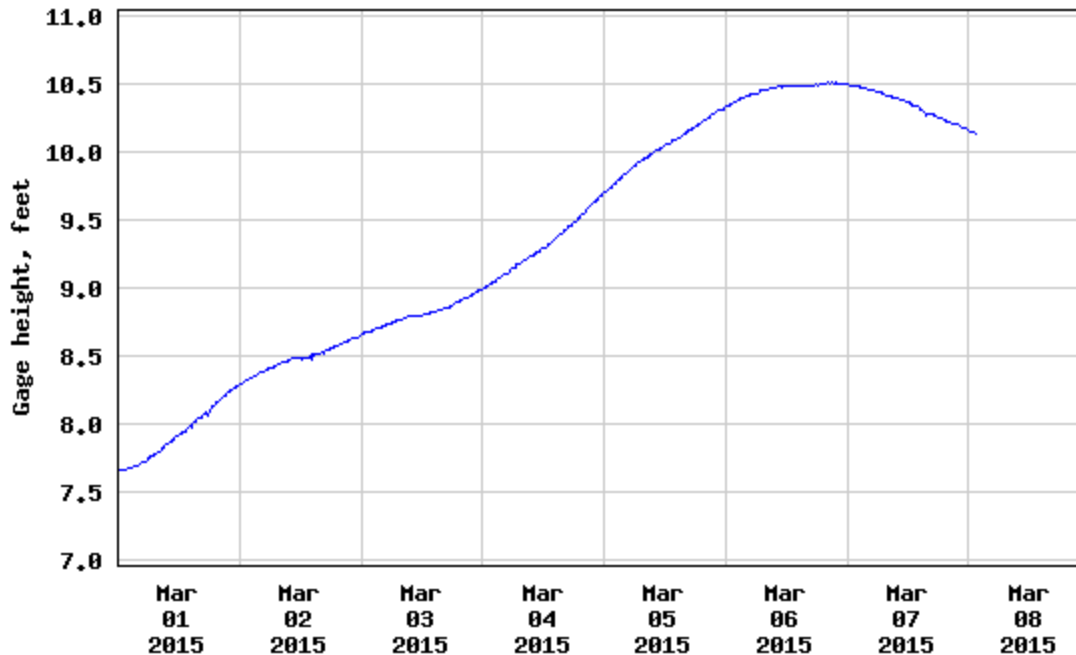
Recent river finds by Ron Seavey



FINALLY!!!!!!

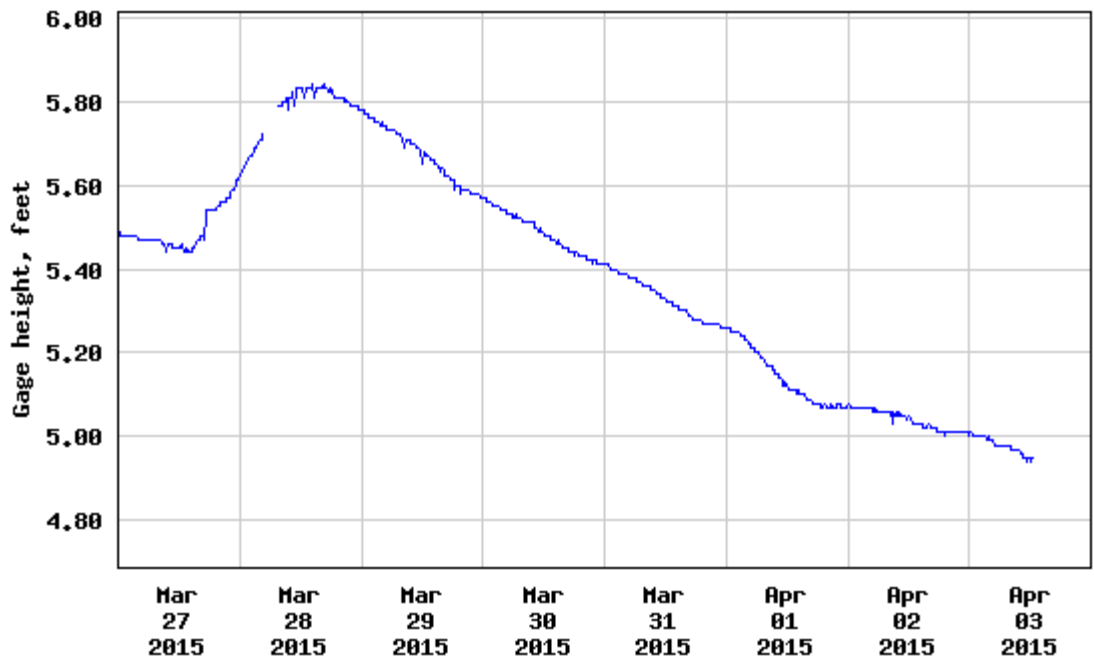
After an excruciatingly long wait in this most unusual of high water years, we can finally get into the Peace River to do our fossil hunting!! I've been doing this over two decades and have NEVER seen the water in the river this high for SO long!! The weather fronts have moved a little further south than they have historically, and usually the leading edge of these cold fronts is rain. Almost weekly we have experienced winter rains and the watersheds of our favorite winter fossil hunting places have received enough rainwater to keep the levels high. Who can ever remember when the Zolfo guage was over 10 feet--**in MARCH!!** Wow! But, it seems that our weather has stabilized to more normal for this time of the year for us and the water has come down!! The last two club river trips were affected by high water, but we have high hopes for the next one to be successful. So, go and get 'em, while you can! If normal rains start in early June, it will be over till next year! Bring in your finds for show and tell!!

USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----

USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL



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Creek Fossil Finds

While the rivers don't wish to co-operate recently there are creeks that we can explore if we get permission. While large trophies are elusive I want to share some of my recent finds. These were all found Tuesday March 24th. Starting at top left a deer carpal, peccary toe bone, horse incisor, fossil wood, medial phalanx of a giant tortoise, manatee tooth, 1/2 carnivore tooth, snake vertebrae.

Many of these fossils are rare and maybe not as sexy as a large Meg tooth, but are infinitely harder to find. As an example how many peccary toe bones do you have? My first one and it really made my day.

We have always stated if you are not sure of your find, save it and bring it to a meeting. The Tortoise medial phalanx would probably be thrown away by most hunters as it is difficult to distinguish from a stone. Good luck with your hunting.

Al Govin



Creek fossil find!!

When the rivers are too high, don't give up! Try to find a creek with lower water. Creeks rise quickly, but also go down faster than the river.

My Bear jaw, found in early March, cleaned, preserved and both halves glued back together! I did the burn test--NO protein. :-)

The bone is a nice deep chocolate brown and the teeth are honey-colored instead of black, but this was a creek find with not as many tannins in it as some of the rivers.

I've found camel and Tapir teeth in this creek that were not so dark colored, either.

However, I'm sure it's fossilized. The bone has that clink to it. And it's solid and heavy. Age? Who knows? No older than late Pleistocene, probably.

This fossil find will surely be my find of the year. However, I'm still out there hunting, so you never know!!

Louis



MAILBOX FIND!!

This is a fossil mud lobster, *Thalassina emerii*, from Central Java, Indonesia.

The smaller one is a *Thalassina anomala*, from Queensland, Australia.

I did not know the larger one was SO much bigger,
but was very pleased to find that out when it arrived in the mail!

As usual, sadly, with so many fossils being shipped and packed poorly,
it arrived as six separate lobsters, so I had to do repair.

It's still a great, welcome addition to my collection.



Venice Shark Tooth Festival!!

The 23rd Venice Shark Tooth Festival will be April 10, 11 and 12th, 2015.

It will be held again at the Venice Airport, with entry off of Hwy 41. Just follow the signs. If you know how to get to the pier, or Sharky's restaurant, you're there Almost. Again, follow the signs!

This festival has grown tremendously over the years, with attendance anywhere from 25 to 40 thousands folks in the three days! Fossils, crafts, food, more!!

Back in the day, when the festival was starting out, our fossil club had a booth there. With one huge tent for fossil dealers (compared to three, now!), we were needed to help fill the space. We manned a non-selling fossil information, club promoting booth. Many of the members brought fossils to show to people and we helped them with id on ones they brought or purchased at the show. I remember seeing many tables of flats of Megalodon teeth, all stacked in rows with the points up. Each flat was its own size, from 3" up to 5+ ". Prices started at \$30 and went up \$5 per flat, with sizes increasing by 1/2" per flat. So A 4 1/2" Meg was \$45. Of course, the truly large and perfect ones went for the big bucks, but it was still a sight to see

I remember Vito, a top level fossil shark tooth diver, always had a couple of tables of the BIG ones laid out for sale! He had the best! Unfortunately he died on one of those fossil dives, and the hobby and the festival lost a great one.

I also remember one year everyone suddenly had masses of Morrocan shark teeth! Wow, those golden Mackerals were something! And another year the teeth from Peru was abundant, and cheap, and colorful. Then teeth from Chile. And then Megs from the Pacific, dredged from the bottom of the sea.

Of course, back then-20 years ago-Bone Valley was giving up its treasures, so it was not uncommon to see some really fantastic Miocene and Pliocene vertebrate material. And, as you know, the world class condition and quality and colors can be extremely appealing.

No one knows what surprises await us there every year. But, for a short ride, and three bucks, the mystery is easy to solve!

If you have gone to the Shark Festival, go again! If you have never gone (WHAT!??) --you need to go!!

Tampa Fossil Show!!

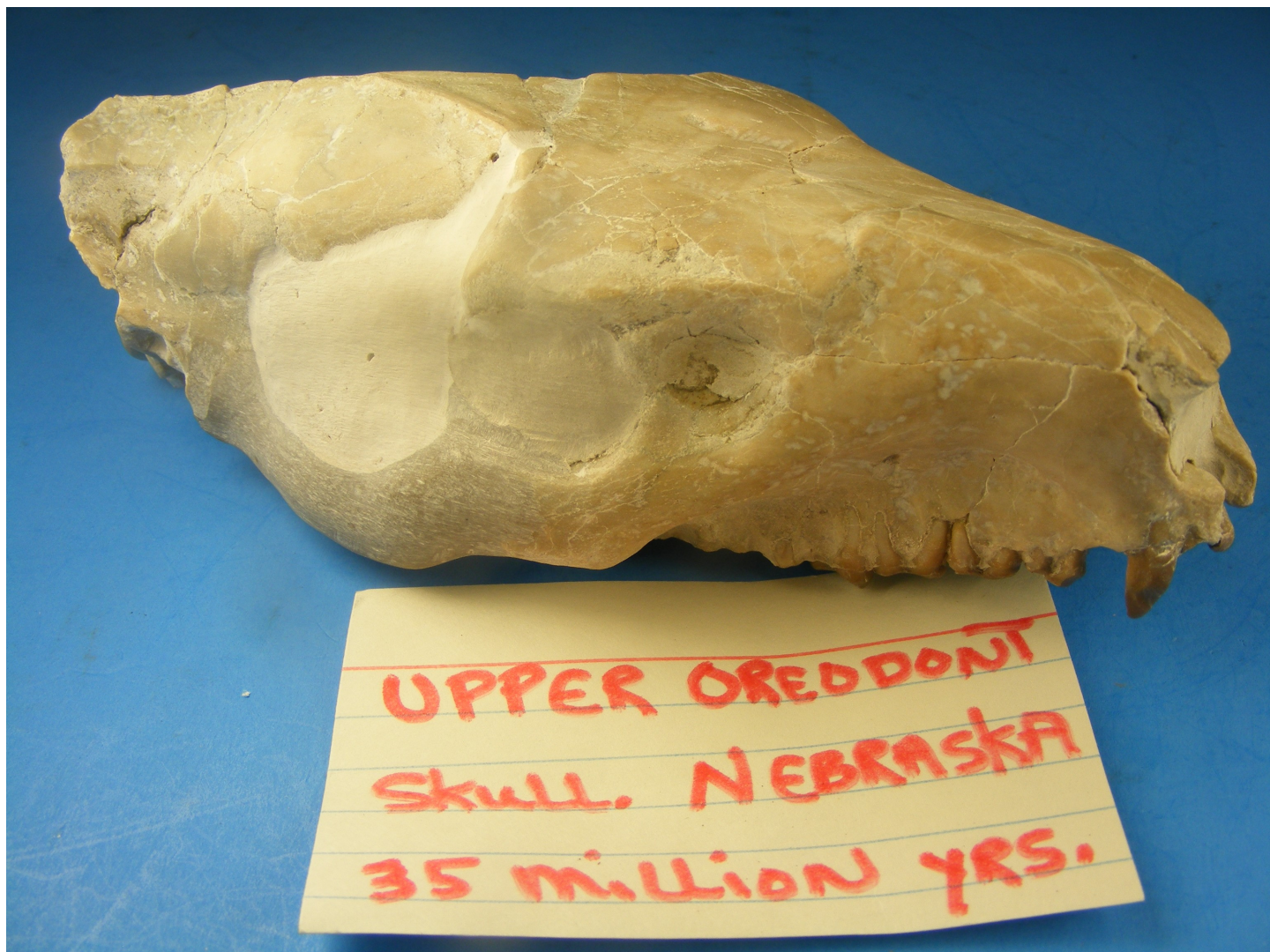
The Tampa Fossil Club held their annual fossil show in March. As usual I went, with Leslie and Mike Siciliano. We saw many of our members. I know I saw a lot of you guys there. I enjoyed it. I'm sure you did also. They put on a large show every year, with lots of fossil dealers, both professionals as well as club members. The assortment of fossils, minerals, and other offerings is mind boggling as you need to try and sort it out while strolling through the aisles. I find it hard to make it to the back of the large room before spending my fossil allowance! I could easily spend the whole day there, going from table to table, checking out the great fossil displays along an entire wall, looking at the fossil books, tee shirts and other things the club sells, as well as trying to win a treasure at the silent auction. Richard Hulbert was there, taking applications for fossil permits, but also giving his professional opinion of identification of those mysteries! The kids had a terrific time with the fossil dig. Speakers talked about some very interesting fossil topics. And, I found that if you go around to all the tables again (and

again!) you see new things each time! So I didn't, again, win anything at their raffle, or have enough moolah to get the really sexy stuff, but I did manage to come home happy with my newfound fossil treasures.

Even though this show is a solid two hour ride for us, (are we there yet?), I always recommend our members trying to go. It's one of the biggest and best fossil shows in the state, and it's only once a year, so, if you have NOT gone this year, make sure to plan to be there in 2016. You don't have to even buy a fossil to have a great time! In fact, you can go on a Saturday, stay over and do Bush Gardens on Sunday! Now you GOTTA go!

A few of my acquisitions from the show is an Oreodont skull, a very nice Squalodon Whale tooth, and a vertebra from an Angustidens shark

Louis





THE FOSSIL PROJECT!

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I thought reading the entire email from Lisa Lundgren about the Fossil Project, would be better than be paraphrasing it.

If any member is interested in these opportunities, please see me about it!

Louis

Hello FOSSIL collaborators,

I hope this email finds you well! If you've been following our newsletter and social media (and reading my emails to you!) you'll know that we've been gearing up for a lot of great things for FOSSIL this summer and beyond. In many of these projects, we need your help and feedback. This is going to be a long email, but it'll be worth your while to read it!

A great component of our newsletter is the Featured Fossil. We are continuously searching newsletter articles for new fossils found by FOSSIL collaborators to put in the FOSSIL newsletter. Thank you to those of you who have submitted fossils in the past! These stories are some of the "most-clicked on" in our online newsletters. The article about the fossil can be a reprint from your organization's newsletter that you would like to share with the rest of the community, or a story that you write solely for distribution in the FOSSIL Project's newsletter. Please email fossil@flmnh.ufl.edu to submit a fossil, or email me at alisa.lundgren@ufl.edu if you have any questions about submission.

We are also interested in listing opportunities for paleontological excavations and/or volunteer work that are happening this summer. These can be museum-associated (e.g. a field camp that is hosted by a museum or preparation opportunity in a lab), club/society field trips that you host, or any other opportunities that you have gone on and think other members of the FOSSIL Project network would enjoy participating in. You can email me these opportunities and I will put them on our website and feature them on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

We know that many of you distribute scholarships and awards to people who are pursuing paleontology as a career. In order to showcase the good work you do, we'd like to create a database of these award-winners and the clubs/societies who support them. If your fossil organization currently gives away scholarships, please let me know! We would also like to write a newsletter article about the award winners and the organizations which distribute these awards. Thank you for continuing to provide excellent new scholars in the field of paleontology! Furthermore, if you have been the recipient of an award, please let us know—we'd love to write an article about you!

From June 15th-June 17th 2015, the FOSSIL Project is co-sponsoring a workshop with iDigBio and

K12 Teachers in Gainesville, Florida at the University of Florida. The workshop is called “3D Digitization of Fossils for Educators and Citizen Scientists.” The FOSSIL Project is inviting fossil organization members who are also classroom teachers or who do outreach with schools to participate in this event. Keynote speakers include: Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Dr. Doug Boyer, Dr. Andy Farke and many more. Breakout session leaders include: Ashley Gosselin-Ildari, Dr. Jon Bloch, Dr. Dana Ehret, Dr. Shaunna Smith, and others. On Wednesday, June 17th, Dr. MacFadden will be leading a field trip to Thomas Farm following the two days of workshops and breakout sessions. The FOSSIL Project is able to fund all travel expenses to this event for five FOSSIL Project club or society members who are also classroom teachers or who do outreach with schools. If you or your club/society members are interested in participating in this event, please email me atfossil@flmnh.ufl.edu. We’d love to see you there!

From October 12th-13th 2015, the FOSSIL Project is co-sponsoring a meeting with the Dallas Paleontological Society. At this meeting, you will be able to attend poster sessions and hear speakers talk on a variety of topics. The FOSSIL Project is planning to provide some support for one member from each club or society which plans to attend this meeting. Although funding will be limited to one member from each club or society, the DPS/FOSSIL Project meeting is open to the entire FOSSIL Project network. Following this meeting, plan on attending the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology annual meeting, also held in Dallas, Texas from October 14th-17th. More details about this will be coming soon, so keep an eye on our social media pages and keep reading the newsletter!

In addition, please keep in mind that we are planning another meeting for 2016. This meeting will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio and will be hosted by the Dry Dredgers. We are in the planning stages of this and will keep you informed as things coalesce.

Please feel free to contact us and your fellow FOSSIL Project organizations anytime. The information for clubs and societies is posted on our website. You can find the information by following this link:<http://www.myfossil.org/paleosocieties/>. We enjoy hearing what is going on with you and your organization. It’s great to see the variety of paleontological work that goes on across the country! You made it to the end of this marathon email, congratulations! Have a great day! You can email me atfossil@flmnh.ufl.edu or lisa.lundgren@ufl.edu. You can also call me anytime at 303-524-4203.

All the best,

Lisa

Lisa Lundgren

303-524-4203

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University of Florida Science Education PhD Student

Interim FOSSIL Project Coordinator | www.myfossil.org

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Jan. 24 - Sept. 13, 2015

Experience the **MOST COMPLETE** *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever discovered! Observe a fully mounted **42-FOOT-LONG** cast of the dinosaur, which lived **67 million years ago.**

\$7.50 adults, (\$6.50 Fla. residents and seniors), \$4.50 ages 3-17, free to UF students and Florida Museum members.



This exhibition was created by The Field Museum, Chicago, and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's Corporation.



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