



# **FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

**APRIL 2017**

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## **Letter from the President**

**Annual Fossil Auction:** We held our annual auction at the March meeting. We set a record this year, by a fairly large amount. The 120 lots sold for enough money for us to donate some scholarships. As well as provide operating funds for the year. Thank you to all the members who came and picked up some fossils for their collections! I also want to thank the hard workers who helped make it possible: Al Govin, Leslie Stieffel, Chuck Zeitzma, Dean Hart, and, of course the Bonita Beach Club gang for the refreshments!

**Fossil Trips:** We had a guided shell pit trip, by Gary Schmeltz. We went to a pit off of Hwy 31, and everyone found some fossil shells. Afterwards we all went to a local country diner for lunch and Gary gave away fossils to everyone! We Will have a Peace River Walk-in trip on April 22, at Crews Park in Wauchula. Details at the meeting.

**Elections:** Elections were held prior to the annual auction at the March meeting. Officers for this new year will be:

Louis Stieffel--President

Leslie Stieffel-- Vice-President

Al Govin--Treasurer

Al Govin Secretary

**Directors:**

Dave Seehaver

Jeanne Seehaver

Dean Hart

John Taraska

**Speakers:** This month (April) meeting will have Joshua Slattery as our speaker.

May is not firmed up yet. June is our annual Show and Tell and Trade and Sell meeting.

**Board meeting:** The newly elected board met a few weeks after the elections. We meet so that we all are on the same outlook for the club. Al gave a treasury status, and we are very healthy, financially. We discussed the club store, and what a terrific job Dave and Jeanne are doing. The \$1 raffle is in transition, until we find a permanent volunteer, but it will still go on. We discussed the club displays which are in several museums in the local area. Dues were talked about as well as awarding scholarships.

Annual club dues: Dues are due on January 1st of each year. If you have not paid your dues you will be purged from the email list and not be allowed to participate in club activities. Our treasurer, Al Govin, can tell you if you're up to date if you don't know.

Scholarships: The club will award two scholarships this year, and if funds are in good financial shape, we may award a third in the fall. The board will meet then and decide.

Club Library: As a member in good standing, you are allowed the use of the club library. Cindi Bateman, the librarian, asks that you PLEASE return any books you have that belong in the library. You can take one for a month, but should bring it back the next month.

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel  
President, Fossil Club of Lee County



## Mick Siciliano's Museum

For all of you guys who want to see Mick Siciliano's shark tooth "museum", but can't , (mostly because he's sleeping all the time!), here's a quick peek at some of his display. Remember, you didn't get this from me!



## **FCOLC Minutes 3/16/17 Meeting**

Abbreviated minutes due to auction.

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order.

Elections were held. Vice president election of Leslie Stieffel announced. Leslie and all existing officers unanimously approved by all members present.

River canoe trip for 3/18/17 canceled due to weather conditions.

Walkin trip to Crews park in Wachula will be held April 22, 2017.

Louis explained the rules of this evenings 120 item auction.

Meal break provided by Bonita Beachcombers.

Minutes by Secretary/Treasurer

Al Govin

### **OFFICERS**

Louis Stieffel, President  
239-851-7499, [cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)  
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President  
239-980-6311, [cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)  
Al Govin, Secretary/Treasurer  
239-910-2339

### **DIRECTORS**

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217  
Dave Seehaver  
Jeanne Seehaver  
Dr. John Taraska

### **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.

Here is a site that has every river and creek mapped **for the whole state**, separated by county. Click on the zoomify tab below each map to zoom in. Enjoy !

Save to your desktop so you can find and use it often!

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/hydrography/index.php>

## **ANNOUNCEMENT!!**

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society, a non-profit educational organization, is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:phayes3@cfl.rr.com). Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$2, Uniformed Scouts Free. Website: [www.cfmgs.org](http://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!!!**

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 BOUNDARIES SO YOU KNOW WHERE 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](http://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.flmnh.ufl.edu/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/)

The Fossil Project [www.myFOSSIL.org](http://www.myFOSSIL.org)

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/)

Smithsonian Natural History Museum [www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu)

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers [www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org](http://www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org)

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL [www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org)

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

[www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html](http://www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html)

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls

[www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org)

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

[www.calusanature.org](http://www.calusanature.org)

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

[www.i-sci.org](http://www.i-sci.org)

Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club

[www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com](http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com)

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

[www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)

Orlando Fossil Club

[www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

The Fossil Forum

[www.thefossilforum.com/index.php](http://www.thefossilforum.com/index.php)

Fossil Treasures of Florida

[www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com](http://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](http://www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm)



## *Aimeee's Corner!!*

Teeth vs. Bones: the Ultimate Smack down I love fossils and I enjoy hunting for good specimens to add to my collection. I participated in a dinosaur dig in Wyoming last year and learned that in the highly competitive field of dinosaur hunting, every bit of the animal is important, even down to the tiniest shards of bone. So why did I just want teeth? I love the look of a fossilized tooth. Tooth enamel is harder than bone and therefore fossilizes better, usually with a naturally glossy surface that takes on the colors of the minerals where it fossilized. Shark teeth also display a characteristic called chatoyancy which is a subtle yet particularly enticing refraction of light from their surface. Fossilized teeth look like beautiful gemstones with the added provenance that tens of thousands or millions of years ago they were also in the mouth of a living creature. It fires my imagination to no end, imagining what the animal looked like, how it lived, and what our Earth looked like when it was alive. Teeth are also sleek, relatively small and easy to store and display. A mammoth femur, which could measure in the range of 40", would be a fantastic addition to a home collection but displaying it requires a certain commitment of space. Teeth are instantly recognizable even if it takes a bit more research to determine which animal originally owned them. Bones are more confusing. The bones of an extinct ground sloth's foot, when articulated, grab the average fossil fan's attention, but a single sloth phalanx to someone with a limited set of anatomy skills, just looks like...a bone. This attitude particularly gets the goat of our club president, Louis Stieffel. "I think FaceBook has contributed to the popularity of shark teeth. They were always popular, but so much more now [with the result] that lots of newbies don't think it's an interesting fossil unless it's a shark tooth," says Louis, and this comes with years of experience working with the public in fossil education and sales; he is very aware of shifting trends. Louis also thinks that the public's propensity to hit up Google for all their research instead of working their way through books exacerbates the fossil bone's lack of prestige, stating, "Used to be most folks had fossil books and of course, when looking through them, you saw bones, skeletons, appendages, etc., not JUST shark teeth." I went to my bookshelf to look through the few fossil books I own and found that none of them show a representation of a full skeleton of the animals that we most commonly find fossils of in Florida and, I'll admit, looking at black and white photos of isolated bones doesn't thrill me, but a recent find of a small section of jaw that turned out to contain the roots of 2 smilodon incisors may have put me on a more fulfilling fossil track. I had to really study a photo of a smilodon skull to understand where this piece of jaw was positioned and once I "got it", it was as satisfying as putting a final piece into a difficult puzzle. Next time you're digging in the river, instead of tossing that random bone back into the water, take it home and try to figure out where it might fit in a skeleton. It can only enrich your fossil experience. I've included a few photos of fossil teeth found recently by myself and club members Tom King and Joe Larkin.

## ***Aimeee's Corner!!***



**Wolf canine**



**Sea mammal tooth**

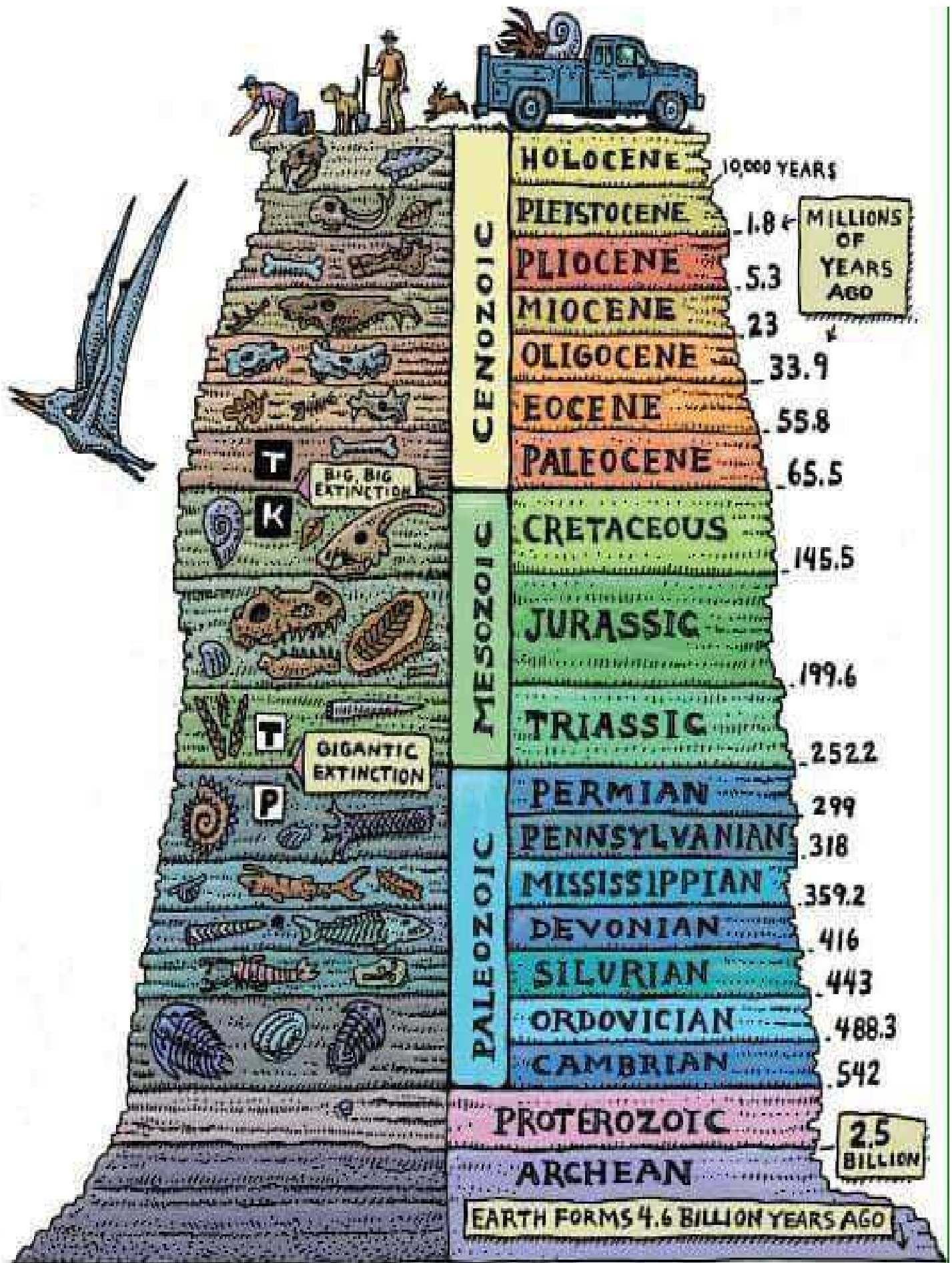


**Barracuda tooth  
found by  
Tom King**

## ***Aimeee's Corner!!***







## Club members at the recent Tampa Fossil Fest!!

Aimee (Aimeee's Corner) is trying to #1--learn from Andreas, or #2-- telling him he's wrong! Either way, it seems that Vicki is having a great time!! :-)



## Dugong teeth

Here's a few to learn from! Many folks do not know what they look like, so here's a peek! Louis





**Pictures from the recent club fossil shell pit trip, hosted by Dr. Gary Schmeltz, our February speaker! Afterwards lunch, along with fossil give-a-ways!! It was a "shelly" kind of hunt!**





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# FOSSIL FINDS!!

Some recent finds from the Venice Shark Tooth Festival!! A couple very rare items are in this group! Louis

Pachyarmatherium Skutes, a HUGE Mako, a beautiful Reddish colored fossil cowrie, and a super rare "Brayfield" Starfish!!





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