



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

MAY 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

This month's newsletter may have a different look to it! Since I am now the newsletter editor and responsible for getting the needed content to our newsletter developer, Cherie Neat, I accumulate interesting articles and member contributions during the month and save these in a folder in my email provider page on my computer. Then I send them to Cherie. However, this month, I stupidly clicked on a link that was bogus (yes, I know!) and was infected with a Trojan virus as well as 135 Malwares attached to it. By the time I realized it, my computer was corrupted and not usable for anything. In the process of replacing it, I have been using a borrowed laptop and have no access to any email addresses or folders with stored information. I apologize to any member who has contributed a fossil find of the month, and it is not in this newsletter. I promise it will be in next month's, no worry!

Since the last meeting, which was our annual elections, the new board has met and discussed club business and brainstormed ideas for the future. We discussed finances as well as wanted acquisitions. One of these is a laptop for the club, as well as a working projector. This will enable speakers, almost all who must travel a long way to see us, to just have a small memory stick with their talk on it, then plug it into the laptop and the power point presentation will be ready.

I had planned on starting an article discussing the so-called "Indian Beads" we find in the river. I have some ideas, developed over 20 years of collecting and observing and discussing this subject, and thought I would put that out there for review and possibly further discussion by members. I am not able to do so, with my computer issues, this month. I hope to do so for the June newsletter however.

The fossil museum at the Shell Factory officially opened. Please go by there and see all the hard work and accomplishment that our own Pam Plummer, the new museum director, has been able to showcase. Many of our members have fossils on loan there that are displayed for all to see.

Al Govin has sent out a survey about T-shirts. He is trying to get t-shirts for the club, and is wanting to get the type and colors that most members want. Al is also researching the laptop and projector the club is purchasing. The old projector has broken and is irreparable and out of warranty. Al has also decided to not pursue another canoe trip this season. For reasons unknown to him, and I, club participation has been very poor on the first two trips and very little interest was shown for this third one. The May 24th trip to SMR is still on, though. Phil Briskin, the land trips coordinator, is handling the details for that trip.

Most of our northern residents have returned home by now but we will still have interesting meetings throughout the summer months. The rivers are still hunt able, as of this time, but June starts rainy season and may put a stop to river hunting. Go do it while you can. And, bring in your finds for show and tell.

The feature fossil this month, besides your recent finds, is SHARK. So, show off your shark fossils! This is mostly teeth, but we sometimes find vertebrae's as well. And, rarely, we find the hyper calcified rostral nose cartilage. Show off your stuff!!

Sandy, Schwartz, the newly elected treasurer, is settling in and getting ready to take your money! The SMR trip costs \$15, which goes towards expenses incurred by the pit director. This is not for the club. And Bill Howat is doing a bang up job as the new merchandise coordinator. Let him know of any wants you think the club should try and carry.

Wrapping up, I want to thank all the members who help make our club as good as it is. And, I look forward to another year being a part of it!

Louis Stieffel,
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



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MINUTES APRIL 17, 2014

FCOLC MEETING

Louis Stieffel called meeting to order
Bill Howat was named new person in charge of Merchandise.
Ray Seguin was thanked for his years of service as Merchandise coordinator, and other duties.
Mike Sicillano was thanked for his efforts running the raffle every month.
Meeting was attended by 36 members.
Al Govin was thanked for doing this months refreshments.
Joe Larkin volunteered to do refreshments for May.
Mary Southall volunteered to do refreshments for June.
Bill Howat volunteered to do refreshments for July.
Al Govin will continue doing river canoe trips, Mike Sicillano to continue dive trips and Phil Briskin will do all future land trips.
Al Govin spoke about canoe trips and their difficulties. He offered a trip for May 10th but will require 10 people.
A signup sheet was put out.
Phil Briskin spoke about upcoming SMR trip and it's requirements.
It was announced newsletters will only be available as digital from now on.
The candidates for Officers and directors were presented, for voting on for the annual election.
President: Louis Steiffel, **Vice-President:** Mike Sicillano, **Treasurer:** Sandy Schwartz, **Secretary:** Al Govin, **Directors:** Ray Seguin, Charles O'Conner, Pam Plummer, Joe Larkin, Dean Hart.
Nominations were closed, a vote was held and all candidates were unanimously approved by members in attendance.
Speaker for tonight's meeting cancelled due to illness.
Speaker for May is Tom Granada. The speaker for June will be Kathy Hendy. The speaker for July will be Bob Fuqua.
August will be a show and tell meeting and members will be offered the opportunity to sell fossils to other club members.
Sales tax and it's ramifications to the club were discussed. It is an ongoing issue that needs to be fine tuned to keep our non-profit status. Officers are checking out issue.
Venice Shark Tooth Festival was discussed.
The Board will have a meeting Monday at 7:00 PM at Mike Sicillano's house.
The "fossil of the month" for June will be the shark.
The fossil raffle and the show and tell was held after the break. Various members showed "horse fossils" which was the featured fossil of the month, as well as other proud finds.

FCOLC Secretary
Al Govin

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, May 15th, 2014
at Zion Lutheran Church
7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers
Meeting starts at 7 PM.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a friendly reminder that 2014 Membership fee is past due. Our treasurer, Sandy Schwartz will have membership forms available. 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.

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.

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 (**New 2014**) 239-246-5993
Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus
Dean Hart, 941-979-8217

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director
Curt Klug, Web Master
Phil Briskin, Land trips/Invertebrate Education
Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer
Pam Plummer and Dean Hart, 2014 Fossil Show
Sandy Schwartz, Badges, Membership
Bill Howat, Merchandise
David Sheehey, Librarian
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education,
Speakers, Newsletter editor, FOSSIL project representative

Refreshments

May: Joe Larkin

June: Mary Southhall

July: Bill Howa

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/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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

May 15th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church

7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

May 15th Speaker; – *Tom Granata*

Saturday - May 24th SMR Aggregates Fossil Shell trip (see page 5 for details)

June 19th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church

7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

June 19th Speaker – *Kassie Hendy* from the FLMNH



**found in the
Caloosahatchee**

It's always a good day on the river!

On April 19th, I led a fossil hunting trip to Brownville Park with a few fossil club members. The plan for the trip was to have a children's dig, which would hopefully get more young members either to join the club, or to become interested in science. Unfortunately, none of the kids showed up. People who did show up included Don, his grandson Jarett, and Jack Boyce was my assistant for leading the trip. Even though the trip didn't go as we originally planned, it was still a very successful dig! When I first got to our spot, the first thing I noticed was a huge bone lying on the shore. When I showed it to Jack, he said it was a possible mammoth or mastodon leg bone. Don, Jarett, and Jack found a few hundred small shark teeth, some gator teeth, and of course a bucket full of dugong ribs.

My father and I decided to work together on one hole that I found. The hole was a few feet wide and maybe a foot deep; at the end of the day the hole was about five times the original size. My dad found a strange mammal tooth (possibly llama or deer), as well as a big glyptodont scute. My find of the day was a 2 inch *Isurus Hastilus mako* shark tooth. The trip proved that staying in the same spot and constant digging can yield big fossil finds!

Zach Deyo



Fossil Festival update

We are getting closer to the Fossil Festival.

We have set vendor table prices and have had a few people sign up already.

Also some members have already asked to volunteer. We are working on getting fossils for the show. We are also trying to keep the table costs down.

Club members will pay \$30.00 for the first table and \$20.00 per table after that. We are asking for a two table minimum. We are expecting heavy traffic, so the cost is extremely reasonable for this event! Also we have tables under a tent and they will cost only \$20.00 per table. There are setups in the tent for two four or eight tables per vender.

I was at **The Shell Factory** today and stopped at the free fossil museum. Our club members have supplied most of the fossils. I have been to other museums and I have to say this is a great display here. You all should be proud of your participation in the loan of these fossils for display. If you haven't been to the museum take a trip here and bring the kids or grand children and spend some time here.

So in closing enjoy your summer, then in the fall empty out your boxes of extra fossils and donate some of them as well as time to the Fossil Festival. It's worth seeing the faces of the kids as they win fossils on our wheel game or dig in the sand and pull a sharks tooth. You will be smiling as you see their excitement.

Updates on the Fossil Festival will be regularly sent in our newsletter.

Dean Hart

UPCOMING MAY 24th, 2014 FCOLC - SMR FIELD TRIP DETAILS

The April 2014 FCOLC meeting offered our club members the ability to sign up and make a trip into Florida's Premier Fossil Shell Collecting mine namely SMR Aggregates in Sarasota. The May 24th trip offers the fossil shell collector the ability to collect fossil shells in situ in the richest and most well preserved Pinecrest beds of the Tamiami Formation. Access to SMR is obtained only through Roger Portell of The Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, Florida. Roger is the Director of Collections for the Invertebrate Paleontology Department at the museum. Our club president Louis Stieffel, Dean Hart and myself have worked very hard over the course of several months to gain entrance into SMR for the club. While SMR is best known for its fossil shells, there are still some vertebrate fossils to be found in its formations. Whale ear bones, Sharks teeth and Walrus Tusks have been found there. Fossil Corals and pearls from *Perna conradiana* a type of mussel have also been collected there. SMR has excavated to a depth of 40 feet or more exposing other formations such as the Buckingham limestone member of the Tamiami Formation.

When our club arrives at SMR, Roger Portell will tell us what units of the Pinecrest beds or older formations we will be able to collect fossils in that day. The fossil shells range anywhere from 2.25 Million to 3.5 million years old and many are extremely well preserved. Since this may be a once in a few years opportunity for our club, it is highly suggested that anyone interested should take advantage of the opportunity to attend.

We distributed liability waivers at the April meeting to interested members for both SMR Aggregates & FLMNH. These 2 waivers must be signed and notarized by each field trip participant. No participant can gain access to the mine On May 24th without their names on the participant list and their two waivers signed and notarized and there is a \$15.00 field trip fee that must be paid to our club treasurer Sandy Schwartz prior to the trip. SMR and FLMNH both have rules that must be followed by every field trip participant. A hard hat must be worn at all times with a pair of wrap around impact resistant safety goggles. A brightly colored safety vest, long pants like jeans and sturdy boots preferably steel toe must be worn. No tennis shoes, crocs or street shoes can be worn. A very good pair of gloves is also required to protect from sharp shells etc. Bring 5 gallon buckets to collect specimens with equipment like a four prong rake, screw driver or geology hammer to extract specimens from the soil. It is mandatory to bring a canteen, thermos or small cooler with plenty of water preferably as conditions in May can get "Hot & Brutal" especially as we approach the noon hour. Bring your own lunch as well and don't forget that Sunscreen!

Field trip participants must arrive by 8:30 am at the gate on Quarry drive just off University Parkway in Sarasota where we will be meeting Roger Portell to guide us into the mine. Please be on time! Please also make sure you meet all the field trip requirements or you may go home disappointed and won't be able to go into the mine! We realize that some of you will have to purchase many items for the trip. Great boots can be found at Walmart. Safety Vests, Goggles, hard hats can be found at Lowes or Home Depot. More than anything let's be safe, follow the rules and have a lot of fun! Feel free to call me with questions or e-mail me at insidecy@aol.com if you want to get your name added to the participant list and I can send the necessary forms to you by PDF in an e-mail. Notarized forms can be returned to me at the May 15th, 2014 club meeting or mailed to me with your \$15.00 field trip fee to my address listed below. Our club is limited to only 20 people that can attend. We have 13 people already signed up as of May 1st, 2014. If more than 20 people want to attend we will have a lottery drawing at the May 15th meeting for the final field trip spots minus the list of attendees that are already confirmed to go on the trip like board members, etc. We will have attorney Chuck Ferber at the May 15th meeting to notarize last minute waivers for participants. You can also go to your local bank and they will happily notarize the forms for you. Bring all forms of proper identification with you like your driver's license, etc.

Phil Briskin
FCOLC Land Trip Coordinator
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insidecy@aol.com

THE FOSSIL FINDS



These are Michael Cox's Finds from the Caloosahatchee River.
4/21/14 Near the Ortona Locks.

I was presented these two shark teeth by Dave Finchbaugh, as his fossil finds. He collected them, diving, in the gulf of Mexico, off of Venice Beach. One is very interesting as it has several round algae deposits, nicely round and in two different colors. Some are red and others are white. I'm sure this is an unusual find from that area, or else Dave would not have submitted them. So, you see, fossils do not have to be perfect to be interesting and collectable. Thanks, Dave.

Louis



fossil of the month



Spring is a great time to dig in the Peace River because you get to smell the orange blossoms while you enjoy being surrounded by the natural beauty of the area. Having a stellar fossil day makes it that much better. A few weeks ago, I accompanied a couple of my fossiling friends to one of their out of the way locations. I mean it sincerely when I say, "I would be nothing without the help of others." They have always been kind enough to point me in the right direction. I started digging and within a

few sieves, I had one of my best finds ever: a baby mammoth tooth with much of the root intact! To say I was excited would be an understatement and the day was just beginning. I quickly found a beautiful meg, measuring 2" on the diagonal with awesome coloring and serrations. I don't find many megs and as I approach the end of my second season in the river, this one is my best yet. I also found 2 tapir caps which exactly doubles my tapir cap collection (remember, I'm a newbie) and a wonderful variety of scutes including glyptodont, turtle, various armadillo species, as well as a small but good quality selection of herbivore teeth.

Throw in the usual collection of small shark teeth, mastodon fragments, etc., and it made for a banner day! Dig on, Amy

