



# **FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

**MAY 2017**

---

## **Letter from the President**

Lou and Valerie Rahn will be the Feb. 17, 2018 FCOLC fossil festival organizers!

Zack Deyo was awarded a FCOLC scholarship at the April meeting! This was the first one awarded to a club member, directly from the FCOLC.

The club walk-in river trip at Crews park was held on April 22, and attended by about a dozen members. Several nice fossils were collected!

A donated copy of Vertebrate Fossils: A Neophytes Guide, by Frank Kosis will be put into the club library. this will be a reference only copy, not to be taken home. It was donated by Ray Seguin.

Ray Seguin, the oldest member of a fossil club in Florida, turned 93 years old! He is still turning wood into marvelous items and continues to donate to the door prizes.

A club trip to the state/FLMNH site in Williston, Fl., is being considered for the fall. This will be an overnight trip with the chance to dig at the site for two days. If enough members are interested, this may happen! More info to follow.

The Peace River is at the lowest it's been all year! Now is the time to do your fossil hunting!

Our speaker this month, Sean Moran, has recently been awarded a Ken Ericson Scholarship. This is the FCOLC funded scholarship awarded to students of paleontology at the University of Florida.

We will look into a club collecting trip to Ruck's pit this summer. This is the place to collect those crystal clams!

The June meeting will again be our annual Show and Tell and Trade and Sell meeting! Members can do any, or all four, of these activities!

If you have not yet paid your dues--DUE JANUARY 1ST !, and are seeing this, ya got lucky. We will no longer be sending newsletters to non-members! SO, don't lose out on all the great club benefits--pay your dues!

A possible summer trip with Gary Schmeltz may be a possibility. It will be hot, but, hey!, we live in Florida!!

Don't forget to renew any fossil collecting permits that may be expiring!

The Southwest Florida Fossil Society's 4th Annual Fossil Expo will be Saturday, November 11, 9am to 4pm.

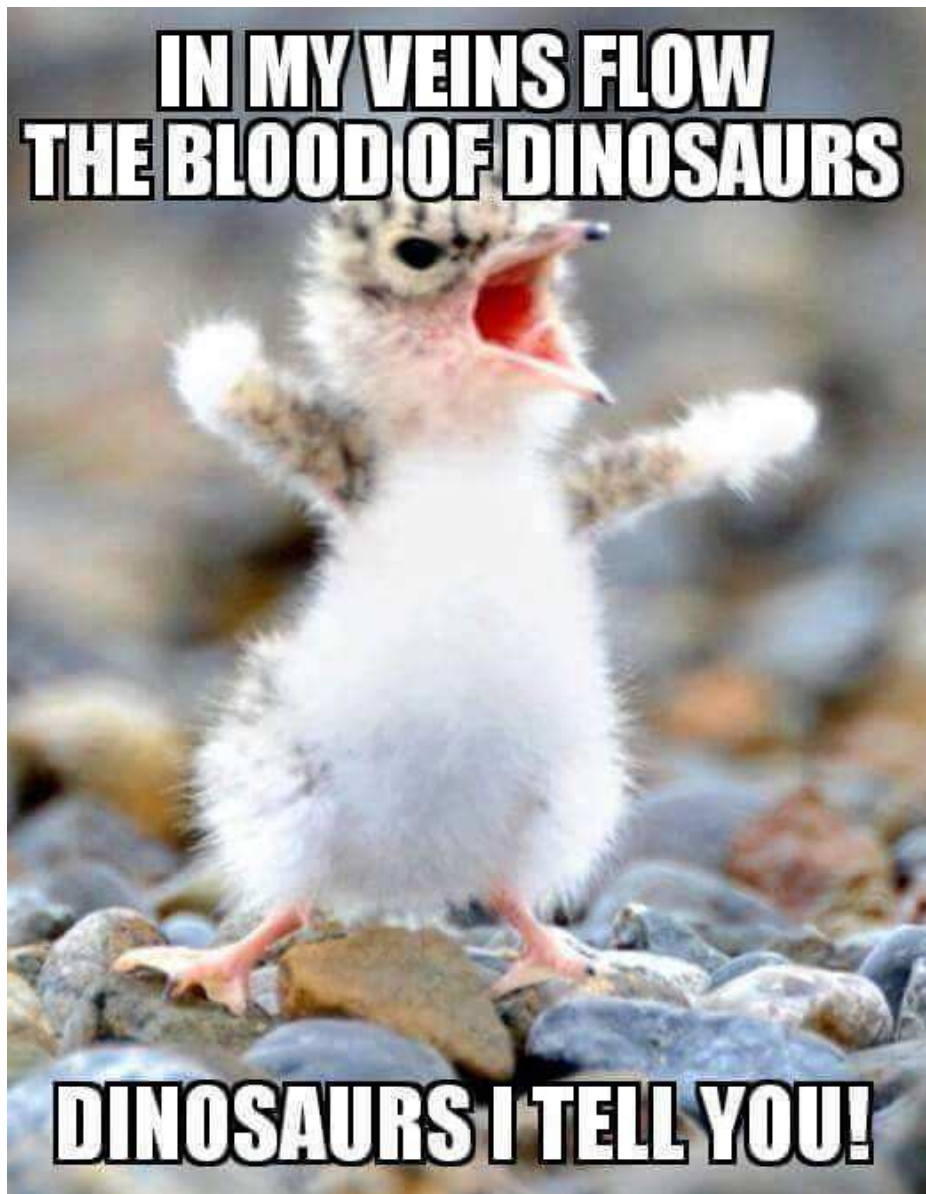
The Orlando Fossil club's Florida Fossil Hunter fair is October 28 and 29.

FCOLC member Maurice Guy will be speaking on May 11, 5-6pm, at the Naples Regional Library. he will be speaking about "Pliocene Invertebrate fossils of Florida", when Florida was under the sea!

Our last walk-in trip was on Earth Day. Several of the members, led by Vice-president Leslie Stieffel and other members helped pick up a lot of the litter at Crews park. Every time any of us are at the river, **we should try to bring back some trash and toss it away at home. TOO** many people litter these days, and such a beautiful river should not be littered!

See ya at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel  
President  
Fossil Club or lee County



# Meeting Minutes April 2017

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order.

Past vice-president Mike Siciliano was thanked for his ten years of service on the board and being vice-president.

Joe Larkin was introduced as the new \$1 raffelier.

Leslie Stieffel was congratulated on being elected Vice-president.

Wauchula walk-in river trip was discussed by Al Govin

Refreshments was provided by Dean Hart.

Future refreshment volunteers will be May-Tara: June-Sue Rhodes: July- Leslie; August- Edgar Break

Joshua Slattery spoke about Ammonites of North America

Show and tell was held

Joe Larkin called the \$1 raffle numbers.

Meeting was adjourned by Louis Stieffel

**Al Govin--Secretary**

## 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

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

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>

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

## 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.flmn.h.ufl.edu/](http://www.flmn.h.ufl.edu/)

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

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL [www.flmn.h.ufl.edu/RRC/](http://www.flmn.h.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://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](http://www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm)

## May meeting Speaker!

Sean Moran, a doctorate student under the helpful tutorage of Dr. Bruce McFadden, at the FLMNH, will speak to the club at the May meeting. he plans on presenting many pictures of the amazing fossil collection at the museum, and will speak about them. Sean is very knowledgeable, so bring your questions!!

The most recent recipient of the FCOLC Ken Erikson Memorial Scholarship, Sean is excited to present this program to our club. Please attend this meeting and listen and learn!

Louis

The moment I can point to as being the start of my love of ancient life is in fifth grade when my teacher brought in an archaeologist who was doing field work with the University of Pennsylvania in India. Although this was the crystallizing moment for me, I can remember being fascinated by fossils, and digging holes in my parents' backyard, long before that point. After a few years of honing my paleo/archaeo interests, I began collecting Cretaceous fossils in the creeks of New Jersey, my home state. During high school, I spent my weekends preparing fossils, mostly dinosaurs, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and before long I was tagging along on summer excavations to the Hell Creek Formation of Montana.

My college years took me to Virginia where I majored in geology at the College of William and Mary. I graduated in 2011 after spending my senior year researching how vertebrate microfossil sites in the Cretaceous of Montana were formed and what they could tell us about ancient ecology. Though my senior research took me back to Montana, I was lucky enough to travel across North America for field work throughout college to Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Utah, the Bahamas, and many other amazing places.

In the fall of 2011, I started my Masters degree in geology at the University of Florida. It took me a little while to land on a research project, but I ended up studying the chemical makeup of teeth from the Thomas Farm horse, *Parahippus leonensis*, to try and figure out what they were eating (probably both leaves and grass) and what climate may have looked like in Florida 18 million years ago (likely a lot drier than we thought!). I spent two years after finishing my Masters at UF/Florida Museum trying to figure out what career path I wanted to pursue. It didn't take me long to realize I really loved bringing paleontology into K12 classrooms as an engaging way to teach anything from biology to math to geology. I just started my PhD in zoology at UF in the fall and while I am still trying to narrow my long term goals, I have discovered that paleo is one of the best ways for me to combine my interests in travel, discovery, and teaching others about the world around us.

Sean Moran, M.S.  
Ph.D. Student  
University of Florida, Department of Biology  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
[smmoran@ufl.edu](mailto:smmoran@ufl.edu)  
(609) 617-5919

## ***Aimeeee's Corner!!***

### **Plant Fossils From The Hills of Georgia.**

I recently went back to the Fossil Site near Trenton, Georgia, for the second time to collect Carboniferous plant fossils. This is an easy-to-find location that is about 9 hours from where I live, north of Orlando, which makes it a great spot for a long fossil filled weekend. Confusingly, Tom and I drove all that way in his truck and didn't pack a single tool, not even a shovel. Crazy! That's ok because it gave us the opportunity to discover Bottom Dollar Tools in Trenton, a cheap tool store that's got Harbor Freight beat, hands down.

You couldn't ask for easier fossil hunting at this location. The site is shaded and you just start digging into the hills of discarded shale from a long defunct coal mine.

You will not leave empty handed! The vast majority of the plant fossils are cordaites, a precursor to conifers, which had loads of long, strap-like leaves. I've kept a few samples of these but I most like finding the seed ferns and other plant material.

These delicate plant imprints date from the Late Carboniferous, also known as the Pennsylvanian period, approximately 323 to 298 million years ago. They are so fragile! The shale comes out of the ground wet with the plants looking like they died recently but these plants predate the dinosaurs. Parking is close to the digging area but transporting the fossils can be tricky. It's possible to just load up with chunks of shale and split them when you return home but then you'll have a flower bed border of cordaites and a handful of seed ferns. We begged several cardboard boxes off the Bottom Dollar Tool store and used those to carefully move the fossils from the digging area to the bed of the truck where we laid them out in a single layer until we could buy a roll of bubble wrap. I've already scheduled a return trip in July and this time we will not only remember our rock tools, we'll come armed with boxes, bubbles, and a hand cart.

I've included a few photos of the fossils that I've attempted to identify. Some may be incorrect but I figure it's better than saying, "Looks like cilantro but older." And as always, more photos and info from the site can be found at [www.zookeeperfossils.blogspot.com](http://www.zookeeperfossils.blogspot.com).

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



**Large Gator tooth from the Peace! Found by Aimee Hankel**

**Pam Plummer  
in action on the  
Peace!!**



**The Peace River is a very  
beautiful, scenic river.**

**Not just for the fossils!**

**Here is a roosting tree,  
near Pioneer Park in Zolfo  
Springs. Getting close to  
evening, birds kept flying  
in from all directions!**



## Subject: Earth Day 2017

We had another fun club trip to the Peace river on Saturday April 22, which just happened to be Earth day. The weather was a little overcast but it was still a beautiful day and the water wasn't too cold. Everyone had a great time.

In honor of Earth day, myself, Valerie and Patricia cleaned up some of the river banks while we were there. I am a big believer in recycling and cleaning up litter when possible. Besides the standard bottles, cans & paper, we found these unusual things: child's T-shirt, one wading boot, men's underwear (there's a story there) and several diapers.

I would like to plan a club river trip next year around Earth day with the purpose of cleaning up the river as well as fossil hunting. It has always been a mystery to me how people who love the outdoors and the river enough to go and enjoy it can also destroy it! If you feel like I do, please join us next year and in the meantime when you go hunting take along a bag and collect the bottles and cans.

Please recycle at home and also at our meetings, a recycle bin is provided.  
Thanks.

Leslie Stieffel



Tampa Bay fossil club under the pavilion at Pioneer Park at Zolfo Park on Saturday, April 29. They held their annual river dig over the weekend. This was the evening Bar-B-Q and Auction.

## 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>

# Ice Age Animal Bones Uncovered During LA Subway Excavation

By Laura Geggel, Senior Writer | May 1, 2017 11:08am ET

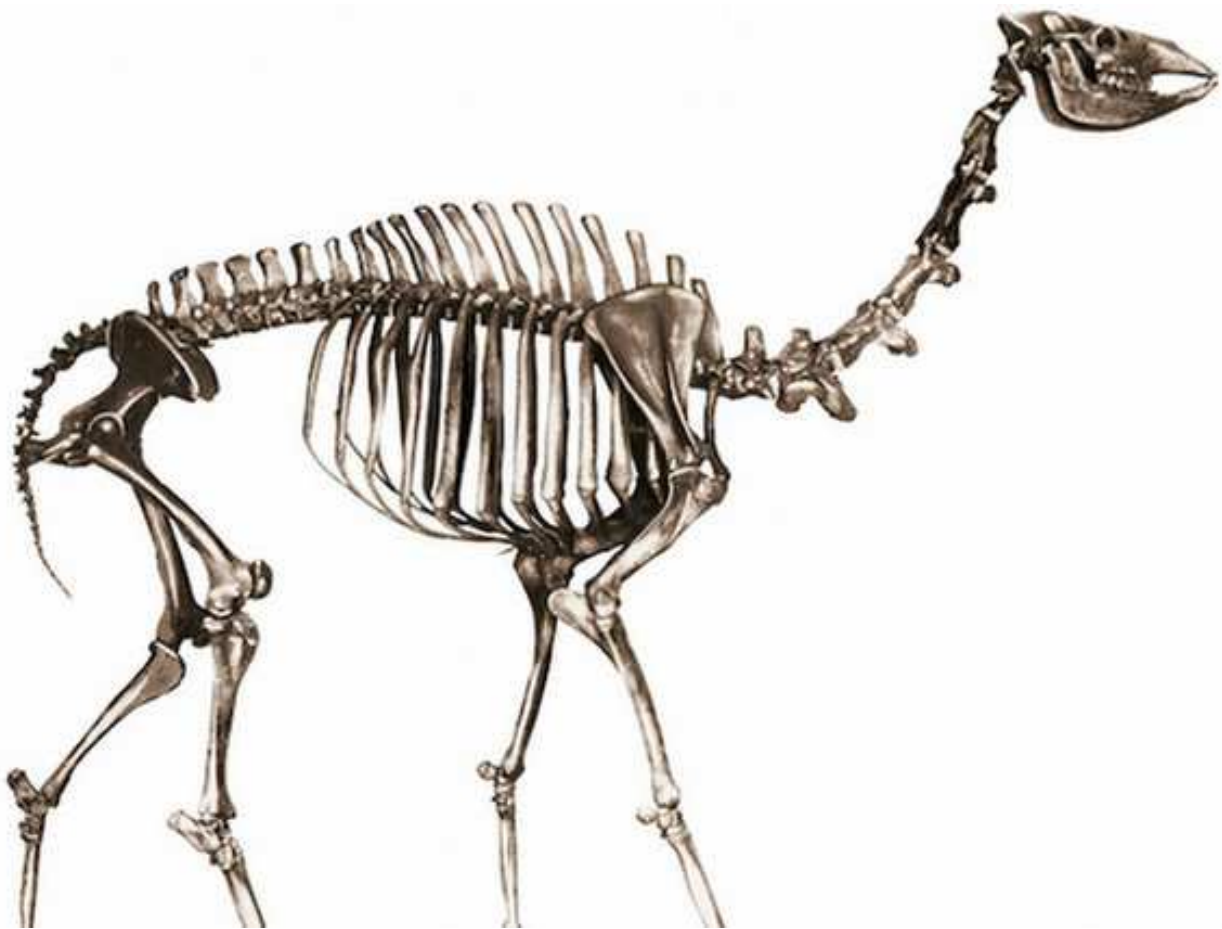
The discovery of ice age mammal bones — one belonging to an extinct camel and the other to either a mastodon or a mammoth (it's hard to say which) — temporarily stopped construction of Los Angeles' subway line extension last month.

Paleontologists found the fossils just down the street from the La Brea Tar Pits in L.A.'s Miracle Mile district, where a future subway station will be built. On April 12, scientists discovered the camel bone, and on April 13, they uncovered the bone of the proboscidean (the ancient elephant relative).

"It's one thing to read in a history book that these animals used to live all over North America, but it makes it more real when they're found in your city," said Ashley Leger, the paleontological field director for Cogstone Resource Management Inc., a company that surveys sites for paleontological and archaeological remains before construction projects begin. "[For] the people of Los Angeles, this is their history. This is what lived there thousands of years before they were ever there." [[Photos: Ice-Age Animal Skull Unearthed During LA Subway Construction](#)]

The bone from the extinct camel (*Camelops hesternus*) is an exceptionally rare find, Leger said. The La Brea Tar Pits hold the preserved remains of more than 600 species of plants and animals, including the bones of thousands of saber-tooth cats and dire wolves. But researchers have found the remains of only about 40 camels in the tar pits, Leger said.

Camels originated in North America about 45 million years ago before spreading across the world. The last known *Camelops* died about 13,000 years ago, said Emily Lindsey, an assistant curator at the [La Brea Tar Pits](#).



A drawing of *Camelops*, Latin for "yesterday's camel."

Credit: Courtesy of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

The roughly 20-inch-long (50 centimeters) camel bone is a radioulna — the combination of forearm bones between the wrist and elbow, [according to The Source](#), a transportation blog about the L.A. Metro. The radioulna helped *Camelops* support itself, allowing the animal to carry its body weight over its front and hind legs, according to The Source.

*C. hesternus* is related to, but a different from the modern dromedary camel, a one-humped ungulate more commonly known as the Arabian camel. *C. hesternus* had longer legs, knobbier knees and a larger head than dromedary camels do, according to The Source.



The 20-inch-long (50 centimeters) radioulna bone from the extinct camel species *Camelops hesternus*.  
Credit: Cogstone Resource Management Inc.

[Two other camel genera](#) lived in what is now California during the last ice age: *Hemiauchenia* and *Palaeolama*, Lindsey told Live Science.

The other fossil is an approximately 36-inch-long (91 centimeters) thighbone, or femur, of either a mastodon or mammoth. Both animals trampled through what is now Los Angeles more than 10,000 years ago, before going extinct, Leger said.

She noted that the mammoth would have been a Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*), not a woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), a shaggy beast that would have preferred the colder climate up north. Columbian mammoths were about the same size as their distant relatives, the modern-day [African elephant](#), and about 15 percent larger than that species' close relative, the Asian elephant, Lindsey said.

Paleontologists will continue to look for more ancient bones as subway construction continues. All of the fossils uncovered during the Wilshire/La Brea station excavation will be donated to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, according to The Source.



Jasmyn Nolasco (left) and Janis Basuga (right) put the leg bone of either a mammoth or mastodon (it's unclear which) into a protective plaster cast.

Credit: Cogstone Resource Management Inc. Leger noted that although the newfound bones [aren't completely fossilized](#) (that is, with minerals replacing original bone), they are referred to as fossils because they are 10,000 years old or older.

These aren't the first ice age animal fossils uncovered during the subway extension. In November of 2016, paleontologists found a tooth, tusks and a skull from either a mastodon or a mammoth, [Live Science previously reported](#).  
Original article on [Live Science](#).

# FOSSIL FINDS!!

## Al's perfect Mastodon tusk!

A perfect lower Mastodon tusk, belonging to Al Govin. He found it years ago and it has been one of his prized fossils. Al brought it to the April meeting, in a padded case, for show and tell. As you can see here, it is out of the case, and, unfortunately, Al did not latch it completely when he put it back in the case. So, when he took it out of his truck, back home, as he was carrying it inside, the case opened and it fell out, onto the concrete!

Al presented me with a bag of broken pieces of tusk. I have tried to reconstruct, but a few tiny pieces shattered and it will never be quite the same again. So sad.

Louis







