



# **FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

**MAY 2018**

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## **Letter from the President**

Summer is here!! We still have not got the annual rains, yet, so the rivers and creeks are very hunt-able. Better get cracking! Once June starts, it's over quickly.

*The newsletter is noticeably shortened this month. Reading it will not take up much of your time.*

Travis Willis organized a club canoe trip last month. I was not able to go, but heard that most folks had a good time. Thank you , Travis!!

Last month we had a mini-auction, to auction off the overflow of items we had from the annual March auction. It was all silent auction, and some members were able to acquire some new additions to their collection.

Refreshments for April meeting were provided by Linda and Edgar, thank you! This month it will be Pam Siegal. We are looking at new ideas for the refreshments part of the meeting. It will be addressed at the May Board meeting.

I have not been receiving pictures from members on their fossil finds. It seems that many members are posting to our FCOLC Facebook page. You may want to look at that so as to keep current on happenings, finds, pictures, etc. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/378838762286864/>

You also may want to check our website for information, contacts, etc. [www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)

These links are provided to you instead of actual posts taken from these sources. This helps keep the newsletter shortened. (For your viewing pleasure! J)

We will have a speaker this month: Bill Courtwright. He will be presenting about Florida's beautiful agatized fossil corals. Please try to make this meeting.

Our meetings are from 7 pm, to 9:30 pm. I get flack, if it goes past 9pm, by some folks who need to sleep. If this is a major issue then we will address it. If not, I'm sorry the one day a month we hold our meetings on is a long one for you. (Keep in mind, that I get there by 5pm to set up and once the meeting ends, Leslie and I stay another hour or so picking up. We sometimes get a helping hand, but not always. The meetings do not start or end themselves, folks. It takes a bit of effort. And time.)

We have a date for our 2019 Fossil Festival. It is February 23, 2019. Chairman of the organizing committee will be Dawn Markowski, with the committee staff of Pam Siegal and Dean Hart. Thank you all for stepping up and doing this for the club!!

I am trying to find ways to simplify the club operations. I enjoy the FCOLC, and have been president of it 3 different times, spanning almost a third of its' existence. I do not plan on doing it forever. But

since I manage to wear so many hats, it will be difficult to have someone else step up and be in charge, so I am in an active mode of lessening the burden and duties for the next person. I think we can continue to be an active club, with great members and good times but without as many intricacies. So you may notice changes slowly taking place throughout this year, and a leaner organization. Ideas being looked at are refreshments, club store, library, and speakers. Any ideas and help from our members is appreciated!

Upcoming summer meetings will be our annual show and tell and trade and sell, and our micro-matrix hunt. Speakers are not as yet lined up, but invites have been sent out. Any member who would like to do a fossil presentation, please see me. Thanks.

I have had some physical limitations recently. My active fossil hunting so far this year has included two river days (club walk-in trips) and a land site hunt. I had surgery for a bad hernia last week, and will miss the rest of the river season. Please try to make it up for me and go hunt!!! A lot!!!! And bring it in and show and tell!! We want to see your fossils!! Show me what I missed!!!

The FCOLC is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. All contributions are tax deductible. And don't forget to sign on to Amazon Smile! (Info is inside!)

See ya at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting!!

Louis Stieffel  
President  
Fossil Club of Lee County



### **OFFICERS**

Louis Stieffel, President  
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### **DIRECTORS**

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

### **COMMITTEES**

Al Govin, Club Trips Director  
Curt Klug, Web Master  
Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer  
Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips  
Travis Willis, Club Trips  
Cindy Bateman, Librarian  
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise  
Dean Hart, Refreshment  
Victoria O'Toole, \$1 Raffle  
Lou and Valerie Rahn, Festival Organizers  
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, in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church , 7401 Winker Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919**

## **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)

## May Meeting Speaker

I haven't given this talk for a couple of years, but have done it several times a while back. I collect quite a few kinds of rocks and minerals including crystals, but for many years now have devoted most of my collecting efforts to Florida agatized coral. I think what happened with this stuff is not only incredibly beautiful but also a scientific marvel in its very existence. Your members may already know as much about it as I do, but I suspect I can add something to the knowledge and appreciation of coral for many of them. Really looking forward to the opportunity and also to probably joining your club.

I Think I will have something for you which is both educational and entertaining. Will bring in a fair number of specimens for the "show and tell." Will also bring a paper on coral to distribute to the audience. Will sort of roll all this up in the life story of a local boy with 68 years of life in Fort Myers.

As far as my bio, I'm a Graduate of the University of Florida in 1972 with a business degree and an accounting major. Have been practicing Public Accounting with the CPA firm of Hughes, Snell & Company for the last 40 years. My wife, who is now retired, taught English, Spanish, and French at Evangelical Christian School for 34 years. Have a daughter who is also now a teacher at Evangelical, and a son who is also a CPA. Throw in 4 granddaughters and that pretty much sums me up.

I appreciate the opportunity to throw a line in the water about Kiwanis. Our Club is now 96 years old and our Thomas A. Edison Regional Science Fair Project I think is about the best thing anyone in town is doing to help kids succeed in life. I would like to find a way to use the Fossil Club as a tool to get our young scientists interested in geology in all its forms and get involved with organizations such as this one. Hopefully, some of your members might be willing to at least come down and check out some of our Wednesday lunch meetings. Always a good speaker, good food, and a lot of nice people to chat with and get to know.

Bill



## A MESSAGE FROM:

**Zachary Deyo**

A huge thank you to the entire club and board of directors is in order. I was just notified today that the board has decided to grant me another scholarship for the next two semesters. I am still so surprised from receiving the previous scholarship for this year's school (which helped with so many dues), and I never would have expected to be considered for another, especially since I am studying nursing instead of a paleontology degree. Thank you to everyone in the club who participated in this year's scholarship auction; myself and the other recipients at UF and USF are thankful to you. I'm so glad to be a part of a loving community who is with me every step of the way through anything I have set my mind to, and throughout my difficult degree. I will be back in Fort Myers for my summer semester, so I most likely will be at a future meeting. I am forever grateful to all of you, and thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Zack

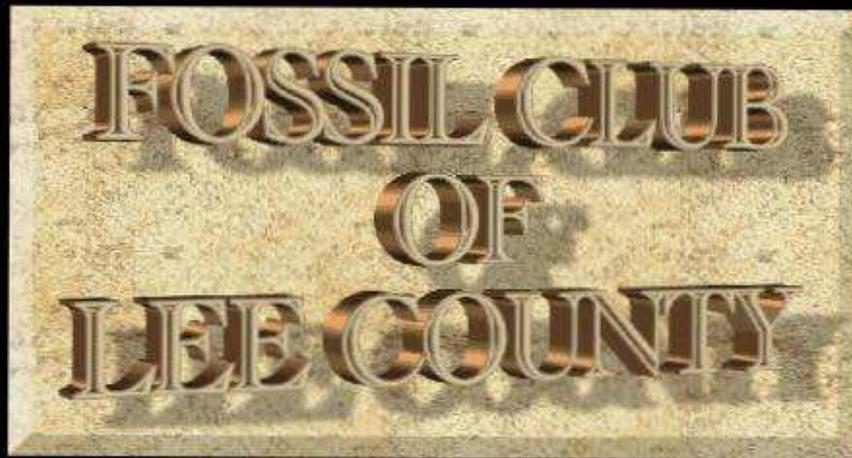


Here is a terrific idea, brought to the club's attention by Valerie Rahn! Seems that Amazon will donate a portion of any purchase you make—to the Fossil Club of Lee County!! But, you need to register with Amazon, to be able to have this work. It cost you nothing, and you still shop exactly the same as you normally would. Valerie posted these instructions on our FCOLC Facebook page. I copied them here. **THIS IS A GOOD THING!! PLEASE do this!** Thank you VALERIE!!



Please Help Us with our  
Community Outreach  
and our scholarships  
by  
Making us Your  
**AMAZON Smile**  
Contribution

1. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
2. Select: **Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc.** as your Non-profit.
3. Use [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) every time you shop Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to us.
4. It costs nothing but can mean everything.
5. **THANK YOU!!**



The Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. is an organization of people interested in the fossils of southern Florida and all points beyond. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall is located at: 7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, FL 33919.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378838762286864/>

For those of you who ask what books to get-- here's a great group!

We offer most, if not all, in the club store at the meetings.

