

**Fossil Club  
of Lee County  
Newsletter  
June 2005**

**A Message from the President**

Hey guys!!! Another month gone already!!! Fossil hunting sure makes the time fly by!! We have just had our monthly Fossil Club of Lee County Board Meeting. Every month the executive committee (the elected officers and the board of directors) meets and discusses the goings on and the future needs and wants of the club. Try as I might to fulfill my unspoken promise, when I took over the reins of the club, to "keep it simple," it seems to be more involved than most members may think it is!! You should be proud of the hard work and dedication from your officers, as they put in the extra time in takes to help keep the club on a forward roll.

We finalized the rewrite of the club bylaws and will have them ready for club approval and vote by the July meeting. We are almost at the point of filing for non-profit incorporation status. Chuck Ferber is researching statutes to make sure we do it correctly. He also donated his time and office use the other night to finish typing the new bylaws. Thanks, Chuck.

We discussed the upcoming trip to Gainesville on June 25-26. We will meet at the Museum of Natural History at noon on Saturday the 25th. We will tour the exhibits and then go check in (and register if need be) at the hotel. After every one is settled, we will then go to the old museum and tour the collections. Bring your cameras, and fossils to ID. Hopefully we will be allowed to stay as long as we want, but I am not sure yet of the procedure. The next day we will either try and hunt at a local creek or see the Devil's Millhopper, a sinkhole locale, or if possible, see Gordon Hubble's shark collection. If you want to go, and you have not signed up at either of the last two meetings, let me know. You must call and book your own hotel room, if you plan on staying the night. The hotel I have found for this trip is the RUSH LAKE MOTEL. Their phone number is- 352-373-5000. When you call to book your room, make sure you say you want the rate for the FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY. I have negotiated a special rate of \$44.00 a night plus tax. (I spoke with Erica, in case of any problem). This motel is reached from exit # 384 (old # 75), Archer Road. Ask for specific directions when you call. The hotel, gas and any food expenses will be the responsibility of each member. The club will bear any admittance fees to the museum and/or collections. Again, we will try to meet at the museum at noon at the main museum at the front entrance. If you are late, find us inside!! It takes

about four hours to get there from Ft. Myers, straight up I-75.

Al Govin is leading a fossil trip this weekend to a pit outside of Arcadia. Mark Renz has agreed to show us into this pit, one he goes to with paying customers, but has agreed to lead us for free. Thanks MARK RENZ!!!! We have sent out several notices and discussed this trip at the last meeting. If you read this and want to go, but have not signed up, contact Al Govin (239) 573-7841. Good hunting!!!!

Sue Lundgren has taken on the task of designing our club logo. We will see the fruits of her labors at this meeting, if she is able to design and create it by then. If not, by the next meeting, for sure.

Mark Cantos, the fossil show chairman, discussed future plans for the fossil show, which will be held at the Nature Center on December 10th, from 9-5. Plans are coming together and you guys will be called on to help. Please do what you can, so we have a successful show. We will ask for volunteers for refreshment person(s). After this month, we have no one. It is not a difficult job, and the club will reimburse you.

Lastly, we will have a very special speaker this month. Bruce McFadden has agreed to make the drive down from Gainesville and speak to our club. Bruce is the curator of the Vertebrate Paleontology Department at the University of Florida, Museum of Natural History. He will talk to us about their Paleo-Educational Outreach Program. We hope to contribute some positive ideas that he can use in his program. The museum staff is reaching out to the amateur side of this hobby with helpful intentions, such as their "Speaker For Fossil Clubs Program. Any suggestions from members that constitute positive feedback will be helpful. Bruce will, hopefully, also share a little of his experiences fossil hunting in Florida and South America. I plan on keeping the business side of the meeting as short as possible to allow Bruce as much time as he needs. Please attend this meeting and show support for your club. The club is strong now, but needs member support to stay that way.

Thanks, and happy fossiling!!

Louis

**June Meeting**

Our June Meeting will be held on Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center, located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd. in Ft Myers. We are lucky to have Bruce McFadden from the Florida Museum of Natural History. Please come and bring a friend.

### Coming Activities

**Club trip with Mark Renz to an invertebrate pit.** June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Handi Phil pit**, available to club members on Saturdays only from 7:00 –3:30. Call Debra at (941)628-3309. Her cell phone is on most of the time. Please no calls after 9.00 pm., or you can email her at [fossilbabe@comcast.net](mailto:fossilbabe@comcast.net)

**Club trip to Museum of Natural History in Gainesville** June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Museum at 12:00 noon. See President's message for more information.

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

A general meeting of the membership of the Fossil Club of Lee County was held at the time, date, and place set forth below.

DATE OF MEETING: May 19, 2005  
MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: A lot

Louis Stieffel, President, presided.

Thanks go to George Diaz for his excellent talk on fossil rhinos.

A sign up sheet was available for the Gainesville trip, which is scheduled for June 25-26, 2005.

Mark Renz has volunteered to take anyone interested on a shell collecting field trip on June 11, 2005. A \$10 donation to the Club is suggested.

Executive committee is working on Bylaw revisions.

Can submit pictures of fossils for website.

Asking for designs of club logo. Sue volunteered to assist in this matter.

We are going to incorporate the club because the Secretary of State says there are no records of the club ever being incorporated.

Fossil Show Chairman is Mark Cantos. Fossil show will be December 10, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Talk to Mark about volunteering. Need at least 20 volunteers for 2 hours shifts.

Secretary

### Officers

Louis Stieffel President (239) 458-9818  
[Cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:Cape187@earthlink.net)  
John Reilly Vice President 482-7787  
Ray Seguin Treasurer 939-1921 /936-5019  
Charles Ferber Secretary 541-9424  
Jerry Graham (941) 423-0803

### Committees

Web Site Curtis Klug  
Fossil Show Mark Cantos  
Trip Director Al Govin and Debra Powell  
Newsletter Sandy Schwartz  
Speakers Louis Stieffel  
\$1. Raffel Jerry and Loretta Graham  
Auction Louis Stieffel  
Publicity Carl Fricke

