



Fossil Club of Lee County

June 2008

Message from the president

**Our new
President
Bill Shaver**



There has been a lot of club activity since our last newsletter. Gunther has taken members to Quality Materials on two trips and several of us continue to hunt the Peace River. The water level at Gardener was so low (34 inches below normal) that we had to cancel our club canoe trip that was scheduled for **June 8th**. So we went to plan "B" and hunted the Peace River at Wauchula which turned out to be higher water than expected. On that trip, Sandy found a real nice tapir tooth--a really fine specimen. Most of us found several shark teeth, Gunther found a lot of hemi's but no pristine megs! On the real plus side---the water was clear, the day was beautiful, and we enjoyed each others company.

At our June meeting, I would like to hear your thoughts on having a Fossil Show later this year. If there is enough interest we will need to secure vendors as soon as possible. Give it some thought and let me know if you want to pursue it and **if you are willing to work the show**. I met with the Director of the Calusa Nature Center and we agreed that **December 6th** would be a suitable date--after that they start their festival of lights which would making parking a real problem.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday June 19th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd

Executive Board Members

Officers

Bill Shaver, President
(239)834-0694 and billshaver-peaceriver@hotmail.com

Al Govin, Vice President 541-2845 and cell 910-2339

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 939-1921 or 936-5019

Leslie Stieffel, Secretary

Directors

Louis Stieffel, 458-9818

Michael Orchin, 574-6318

Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015

Trip Director, Bill Shaver

Pit Trip Director Gunther Lobisch

Mike Siciliano , 980-1406

Committees(Chairmen)

Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz

Speakers: Bill Shaver

\$1. Raffel: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

The people at the Nature Center expressed their appreciation for our donation-- they have lost some of their funding and are dependent upon donations and fund raisers to continue their level of service. My assessment is that they are quite satisfied with our relationship and assured me that they will help us any way they can if we have any needs. They appreciate the past support we have given them in terms of our volunteering to do work at the Center. Laurel La Croix who is their Office Manager said she needs volunteers to work the admissions and gift shop and perhaps other things. As in the past, we encourage our members to participate if they want to, but its strictly a personal decision and not to be construed in any way to be a condition of membership.

Thanks to Ray and Brian, for updating our membership application. If you have a friend or associate with interest in fossils, bring them to our next meeting and sign them up! We have new forms!

With respect to field trips, we expect to visit CF Industries in Wauchula in the near future. This is a phosphate mine and we have requested a visit/tour. We have another candidate mine in the Arcadia area that has fossil shells--waiting on some heavy rains to wash off the spoil piles.

We have a good speaker slated for our June meeting. He is Peter Harries, an associate professor at the University of South Florida-Tampa. He will talk about fossil shell formations in Florida.

In July, instead of having a formal speaker

program, Louis Steiffel will conduct a fossil recognition/identification session. He will bring in a selection of fossils and some written material/hand-outs. This should be a good learning experience. I hope everyone will attend this session.

Since our June speaker is interested in fossil shells, I encourage our members to consider bringing in some shells--especially Gunther!! Also since we have been doing quite a bit of hunting don't forget our regular feature of show and tell. Hope to see everyone there!

Bill Shaver

Cannot identify something? This is the man to see!



Our old, out going once, going twice president, Louis Stieffel, will still continue to handle the annual auction that has come to be very popular.

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

A 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 15, 2008
MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M. / Started about 7:30
MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: 20

The club's new President Bill Shaver presiding.

Speaker: Susan Sanders of South Florida Water Management District, topic restoration of the Florida Everglades.

Bill thanked last year's officers including outgoing president Louis Stieffel and secretary Chuck Ferber, for all their help to the club, and Sandy Schwartz for all her hard work on the newsletter.

Bill discussed upcoming field trips to Quality Pit and possible canoe trip on the Peace River, Sunday, June 8th.

Upcoming Refreshments:
June: Linda & Richard Kemper
July: Al Govin

Refreshments were brought by Leslie & Louis

Stieffel.

Show and tell was held by Rick Piper, with riker cases of various fossils including three-toed horse.

Mike Siciliano brought a large meg tooth that he found diving.

Al Govin brought in crocodile teeth and a croc scute, found in the Peace River.

Gunther Lobisch brought his shell collection from 2 pits.

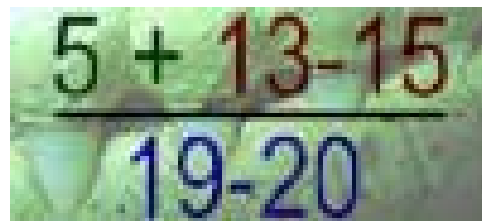
Louis Stieffel compared a dugong tooth to a manatee tooth.

Dollar raffle and door prize drawing were held.

By: Leslie Stieffel, Secretary

Here is an interesting question uncovered by Cheryl:

How many teeth does an alligator have?



DENTITION:

The diagram above shows a "dental formula" showing the number of teeth in different parts of the upper and lower jaws of an alligator. **This is not always the same**, so the total number of teeth varies from 74 to 80. That breaks down into 5 pre-maxillary; 13-15 maxillary; 19-20 mandibular.

Frogmander Fossil

In an article written by Julie Steenhuysea @ yahoo.com, [May 21, 2008](#), she states scientists have found the missing link that falls right between where the fossil record of the extinct form of frogmander and the fossil record for the modern form.



This discovery of the 290 million year old fossil that links modern frogs and salamanders was found in Texas in 1995. Known as the "Gerobatrachus hottoni", was found in almost perfect condition. It has a mixture of frog and salamander features, with fused ankle bones only seen in salamanders, a wide frog-like skull, and a backbone that resembles a mixture of the two. It is believed that the scientific community will agree that frogs and salamanders share a more modern ancestor.

Member News

Best wishes to **Martha Naumberg** who is very ill from lung cancer which she has been battling for 6 years. She has been fossil hunting for many years, she loves Indian beads, fossil shells and fishing. She is hoping to live until June 23rd which is her 9th wedding anniversary to Wayne. Her many friends are thinking of her.

Christian Davenport on May 21st at the SW Archaeological Society

Mary Southall attended the talk about the archaeological finds that **Christian Davenport** made at Lake Okeechobee. Although we did not get an invitation to attend until very late, Mary and several of our members were there. Mary wrote: The interesting thing was that never in modern times has the lake been this low. The archaeologists found all kinds of interesting artifacts including many trade items that came from as far as Missouri. Many shell tools showed ancient people traveled from the center lake area to the shores of Florida on both coasts. A walking dredge with a one cylinder engine was sitting in the mud. The dredge was used in the late 1890's to make the canal water ways to the east coast. The reason for the water ways was for travelers to come to the lake to buy the mucky, rich land. The land was said to be very rich and good for farming. The lake even had a hotel that stood on poles in the lake which was without electricity. People who were interested in buying land around the lake could stay in the hotel. The archaeologists found the old platform that the hotel sat on. Even Ford and Edison had big boats on the lake and Edison's boat, which was taken up north to a museum, is still there.

The presenter gave a very good history of the lake area as it was from the pre-history days up until now.

Member news continued:

Pat Legree returned north to Canada and promptly had surgery. We hope she is soon back in fossil-hunting form. See you in November Pat!

Sea urchin with spines
Still attached



Hunt at Quality Pit

Across the front: Don and Pat Legree, Jacob Rosenkranz, Sue Coller, Alice and Dick Thorne. Back: Maurice Guy, Flo Young, Al Govin, Bill Shaver and Louis Stieffel.



Maurice Guy to left
With barnacles

Jake to right
with pecten



Leslie Stieffel below at the Peace River shortly before she got wet



Beautiful meg from diving in



Venice 5/28/08 S andy 2 7/8"