

Fossil Club of Lee County

June 2009

Message from the President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Fossil Club of Lee County is a great organization and I am proud of our members. As a result of your generosity i.e. buying raffle tickets, paying dues, participating in our annual auction, and having a fossil show to raise funds, we were able to provide scholarships grants to the University of Florida and the University of South Florida. We also provided our host, the Calusa Nature Center, with a check which was very much appreciated. The professors at both Universities have also expressed their thanks to all of our members for helping to support deserving students that are pursuing careers in paleontology.

As most of you know, one of our charter members, Dr. Robin Brown has written two wonderful books which we have for sale to our members at our monthly meetings. One of his books, "Florida's Fossils" is our field manual for hunting fossils. A great book! His other book "Florida's First People" is also a great book. Robin has always been a strong supporter of the Club and was also one of the main proponents to rescue to IONA House from destruction and lead the effort to relocate it to the Calusa Nature Center. He has generously provided the Club with wonderful artwork for us to sell at our auction. He is now doing something else for our club which is also wonderful. (continued page 2)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on , June 18, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd.

Officers

Bill Shaver, President (239)834-0694 /
billshaverpeace river@hotmail.com

Al Govin, Vice President (239)245-7560 and cell 910-2339

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

Sharon Drake, Secretary, (239) 823-9052

Board Members

Director—Louis Stieffel, 458-9818

Michael Orchin, 574-6318

Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015

Trip Director, Bill Shaver

Dive Trip Director, Mike Siciliano , 980-1406

Committees

Newsletter: Cheryl Mitchell

Speakers: Bill Shaver

\$1.00 Raffle: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

(Presidents Report Continued from pg. 1)

He is donating his library to the Club. We will catalog these books, pamphlets, and other reference materials and make the lists and the books available to all members.

Thank you once again for your generosity and for all that you have done for our Fossil Club!

Speaking of books, Sandy has ordered the book entitled "Shell Artifacts" by Nancy and Frank Hoff for our club. We expect to have ten books available at the June meeting. Our speaker for June is Dr. Jose Leal who is the Director at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum who will be talking about the shells of southwest Florida. His bio is impressive.

Just a word about Ollie Tipton, the President of the SW Florida Fossil Club, who is now home after a long and expensive stay in the hospital. He is on the mend and very much appreciates the monies we collected for him at our last meeting. We wish him well.

We will have our "Show and Tell" monthly feature so bring in your recent finds, best specimens, or recent acquisitions. We will also have door prizes and of course our raffle. Bring in a few things for the raffle if you want to make a donation.

We want to welcome our new members and encourage them to participate in all of our activities, i.e. field trips, volunteering to do the REFRESHMENTS, and having a good time! Many thanks to those of you who do so much to support your club. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Bill



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
7791 Penzance Crossing
Ft. Myers, Florida 33966 also see
Lee Parks and Recreation for more info

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH.....

DR. JOSE LEAL

SEA SHELLS OF SOUTHWEST FL

José H. Leal, Ph.D., was hired as director of The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum in February 1996. His area of specialization is systematics of marine mollusks. Dr. Leal received his B.S. in Marine Biology and M.S. in Invertebrate Zoology both from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He holds a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami. Dr. Leal was a Visiting Professor at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris, and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Leal holds honorary faculty positions at the University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University, and University of Alabama. He is also a Past-president (2003–2004) of the American Malacological Society and editor of *The Nautilus*.

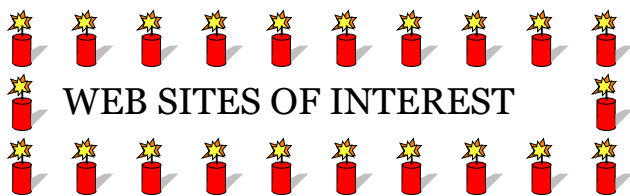


Speaker Programs for upcoming months

JULY: Ian Bartozek—Ecology of the Alligator

AUGUST: Dr. Lisa Whitenack USF The Many kinds of Shark Teeth.

Be Sure To Attend these interesting and fascinating presentations!!!!



WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.fcolc.com FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/> MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY @ GAINSVILLE

<http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm> FLORIDA VERTEBRATE FOSSIL PERMIT

<http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com> SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FOSSIL CLUB

<http://www.floridafossilhunters.com> ORLANDO FOSSIL CLUB

<http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com> TAMPA BAY FOSSIL CLUB

PEACE RIVER WATER LEVELS: <http://www.canoeoutpost.com>

Contact Cheryl at kayak-peaceriver@yahoo.com if you have any suggested additions to our web site in the interest column



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium
3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers
Tel 239-275-3435
www.calusanature.com

Imaginarium
200 Cranford Av, Fort Myers
www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium

Southwest Florida Museum of History
2300 Peck St., Fort Myers
www.swflmuseumofhistory.com

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL
www.shellmuseum.org

Randell Research Center
PO Box 608, Pineland, FL
(on Pine Island)
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Six Mile Cypress Drive (Between Daniels and Colonial)
www.leeparks.org/fossil

Cracker Museum at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs, FL
Tel 863.735.0119

Lost in Time, St. Pete Pier, St. Petersburg, FL
Tel 727.823.7493



Aviary of the Calusa Nature Center

**MINUTES OF MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB
OF LEE COUNTY MAY 21, 2009**

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

DATE: 5/21/2009

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

ATTENDANCE: 41

PRESIDED BY: Bill Shaver

The President, Bill Shaver held a brief meeting outlining the discussions of the Board of Directors meeting of 5/4/09.

He stated that our financial health is good, we have a substantial amount in the treasury and are proposing to donate monies to The University of Florida, The University of South Florida, and Calusa Nature Center.

A projector was purchased, and Charles O'Connor offered to look into a wireless portable microphone system and get back to us at the next meeting.

Bill Shaver presented an excellent book on shell artifacts, and related that it would run about \$35. After a show of hands of high interest, the club will order ten as a starter. Bill Shaver discussed the fossil show, stating that it was a vehicle to give back to the community, and raise funds. Tentative dates are mid-November or early December. He plans to line up vendors in June and July. Al Govin made a motion that we go forward with the show and Lou Stieffel seconded. Bill asked for a vote by show of hands. It was unanimously approved.

Upcoming field trips were discussed; sign up sheets posted. Our June speaker is Jose Leal from the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. We have no speaker for July yet, but August is signed up.

Our speaker tonight was Michael Wylde, Archeologist, of Randell Research Center on Pine Island. After a brief repast, furnished by Al Govin and Stefani Crandell, we had our raffle and then show and tell. We saw some great urchins, shark teeth and a mastodon jaw.

We had three new members sign up tonight. Linda and Dick Kemper signed up to do the refreshments for June.

By: Sharon Drake, Secretary

ODDS AND ENDS

LOOKING FOR FOSSILS?

The Fossil Club of Lee County has a display of Florida vertebrate and invertebrate fossils on display at the Imaginarium and also a display at the Calusa Nature Center. The Southwest Florida Museum of History in Fort Myers has a fine display of Florida fossils and the Cracker Museum at Zolfo Springs has a variety of fossils that were found in their local area. If you want to see more, visit the Lost in Time Store on the St. Pete Pier, the museum at Bradenton, and then the Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

HALOCENE EPOCH--An epoch of the Cenozoic Era extending from the end of the Pleistocene Epoch (about 10,000 years ago) to the Present. This time period on the Geologic Time Chart was formerly referred to as the Recent Epoch.

DINOSAURS became extinct 65 million years ago.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS were formed 60 million years ago.

THE ALPS, ANDES, AND HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS were formed 50 million years ago.

THE SHARK SPECIES "carcharodon megalodon" became extinct about 2,000,000 years ago---so if you find a "meg" tooth its at least two million years old!

IN THE LATE PLEISTOCENE EPOCH, about 10,000 years ago, many species of large animals became **EXTINCT**. Paleontologists are still trying to determine the cause.



Florida's Top Shark-Attack Beaches

By Stephen Regenold

North America is home to dozens of beaches where swimmers and sharks intermix, even though the humans may never know it. According to George Burgess, an ichthyologist at the University of Florida who maintains a database called the International Shark Attack File. When the rare attack happens it's usually a predatory mistake. "In the surf zone, where many attacks happen, sharks need to make quick decisions," he said. "Humans on surfboards—hands splashing, feet kicking — can trigger a shark to think there's trouble or a wounded animal, and it looks like an easy meal. "But according to Laleh Mohajerani, executive director of the shark conservation organization Iema-nya Oceanica, sharks are not looking to interfere with humans in the water. Our shark-attack fears are irrational, she said. "You are more likely to be hit by lightning." Indeed, there's no arguing the numbers. Of the millions of people who enter the ocean each year, almost none are touched. But for most people, fiery emotions override even the coldest numbers. A single scary story — be it on the news or in an effects-heavy Hollywood production — will destroy the efforts of hundreds of scientists trying to communicate on research and logic. Take a dip if you dare.

New Smyrna Beach, Fla. Due to its thousands of annual — as well as its toothy inhabitants that hunt offshore — [New Smyrna](#) is the shark attack capital of the world. That's according to the International Shark Attack File, which cites 210 attacks in the beach's home county of Volusia, Fla. But miles of white sand and consistent surf breaks continue to draw vacationers and locals alike into New Smyrna's waters.

Beaches of Brevard County, Fla.

In the past 100 years, there have been 90 reported shark confrontations on beaches in this county on Florida's east coast. Visitors head east from [Orlando](#) to the ocean to dip toes in the tepid waters at Cocoa Beach, Jetty Park and Klondike Beach, a 24-mile-long wilderness beach accessible only by foot in Canaveral National Seashore preserve.

See shark picture next column

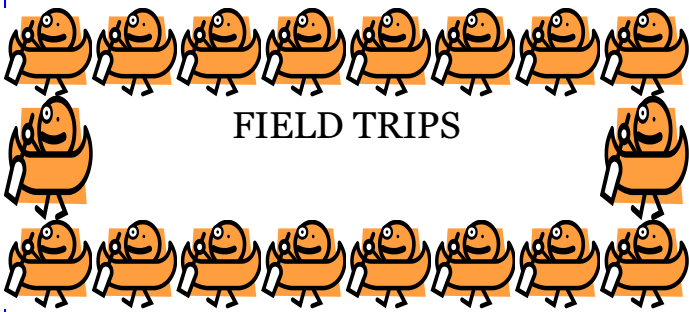
PICTURES FROM THE ADVENTURES OF OUR CLUB MEMBERS.....

Flo's Day on the Peace River and her Mammoth Tooth....Great Find.



Charles Rhino tooth from quarry near Englewood and Venice Pit.....wow!





FIELD TRIPS

We can hunt the Peace River from time to time depending upon the water level which fluctuates with the rain and sheet flow of water. Most places are not accessible when the water level is two feet or more higher than normal. To get read on daily water levels, go to the canoe outpost web site. - www.canoeoutpost.com. Finds on the river this month were OK, but no museum specimens. Diving in the Gulf is another story. Cay Small found a 6 3/8 inch beautiful meg and brought in to Show and Tell at the May meeting. What a BEAUTY. Mike, Sandy, and Jake are diving on a regular basis now and if you would like to join them, call Mike or Sandy. We had planned on a trip to the Orange River site for May, but were unable to gain access. We may reschedule for late June, but if the water remains high it will be postponed again. We are still going into the Quality pit on Sundays and Gunther will have the sign-up sheets available at the June meeting. With the recent heavy rains, some fossils shells are now exposed in the lake berms and other piles. The mine operators are not digging now so there is not any new material to poke through. Good hunting to all.

For Peace River Water Levels, check this website:

www.canoeoutpost.com



REFRESHMENTS

JUNE: Linda and Dick Kemper

JULY: Need a Volunteer(s)

AUGUST: Need a Volunteer(s)

Thanks again to our May volunteers: Al Govin and Stefani Crandell

The refreshments need not be lavish, but preferred to be kept simple except on special occasions. Drinks, crackers, cookies, and chips are all that are necessary. The club provides the drink cooler and will reimburse you for what you have spent. Figure on about 50 attending each summer meeting. So be a strong club member Take a turn at doing the refreshments!

We appreciate you all!!!!



WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Bobby Jo Sherrill

Jack Boyce

Michael Nashwinter

Florida Fossil Permit Application

This application is for a permit that will entitle the person named on the permit to collect, for the period of one (1) year, vertebrate fossils on land owned or leased by the State of Florida. The permittee must abide by all the provisions contained in Florida Statutes § 240.516 and the University of Florida Regulation implementing this law.

Print out and mail completed application to:

Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611-7800, USA

The following are to be enclosed with the application:

1. Copy of applicant's identification, either a copy of your driver's license, birth certificate, social security card or passport.
2. Check or money order for \$5.00 in U.S. currency payable to the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

Applicant's Name:

Address:

Telephone (include area code):

I, the undersigned, affirm that I will abide by Florida Statutes § 240.516 and the Regulations of the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, University of Florida Rule 6C1-7.541 F.A.C.

Signature:

Date: