

# Fossil Club of Lee County

July 2009

## Message from the President



Mid-summer greetings to all. It's that time of the year when only the hardest of fossil hunters are in the field. The weather is pretty hot and humid and the water levels at the rivers are five feet above normal. In spite of the adversities, our Field Trip Directors are still at work. Gunther Lobish is taking members into the Quality Materials pit, Mike Siciliano is setting up dives, and a few of us hunted fossils at the CF Industries phosphate mine last month. With respect to hunting the rivers, it is recommended that we hold off until the water levels get back to normal.

At our meeting in June, we were pleased to present a Lifetime Membership to Doctor Robin C. Brown for his outstanding support of our club. Dr. Brown is one of the club's founders, and a charter member. We are proud to have him as a member.

Our club voted to have a Fossil Show this year. The date is December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and it will be held at the Calusa Nature Center. We are looking forward to having everyone volunteer to help make this a very successful show. We plan to charge \$3.00 admission and children under 12 will be admitted for free. As in the past, our goal will be to raise funds for scholarship grants and to provide a wholesome event for our community to enjoy.

Our host, the Calusa Nature Center is asking its members to volunteer their time to help the Center with various support tasks. In the past, some of our club members have also volunteered and if anyone wants to help out, the Center would appreciate your time.

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## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, July, 16, 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)

Their contact information is in our newsletter under our recurring feature called, "Local Attractions".

While we are on the subject of volunteering, on behalf of the entire membership, I would like to thank all of you who have done the refreshments this year. We need volunteers for the rest of the year so please take your turn and support YOUR CLUB.

This month's program includes another great speaker, Show and Tell, our raffle, refreshments, and good fellowship! I hope to see you there. Bill

### SPEAKER OF THE MONTH IAN BARTOZEK ECOLOGY OF THE ALLIGATOR



Ian Bartoszek has been a biologist with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for the past 8 years. During that time he has been the project manager on a diverse assortment of research projects involved with the Everglades restoration initiative. While on assignment Ian has become very familiar with the haunts and habits of the American alligator in the remote interior of southwest Florida... all the while trying not to become part of the fossil record. A presentation on the ecology of the American Alligator will discuss the role of this reptile ruler in the Everglades system and share exciting photographs and adventures of the wetland wildlife of southwest Florida.

### EGRETS OR HERONS

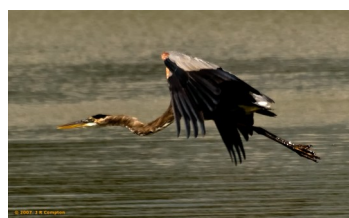
Both birds, the Great White Egret and the White Heron are about the same size and have the very distinctive body construction. The way to quickly identify them is by the color of their legs. The egret has black legs and a yellow beak. The heron has yellowish legs and a pale yellow beak. The heron is common to the Florida Keys and the egret is not. In the rest of Florida, the egret is common and the heron is rare.



A Great (white) Egret chased from its Fishing Spot by a larger Great Blue Heron. Despite the sunset-colored side light affecting both birds, these are classic egrets and great blues.



Great White Egret



Heron



Snowy Egret

## • WEB SITES OF INTEREST

[www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com) FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

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

<http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermitt.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>

<http://www.mnh.si.edu> SMITHSONIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Contact Cheryl at [kayak-peaceriver@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium  
3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers  
Tel 239-275-3435  
[www.calusanature.com](http://www.calusanature.com)

Imaginarium  
200 Cranford Av, Fort Myers  
[www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium](http://www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium)

Southwest Florida Museum of History  
2300 Peck St., Fort Myers  
[www.swflmuseumofhistory.com](http://www.swflmuseumofhistory.com)

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum  
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL  
[www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org)

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

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve  
Six Mile Cypress Drive (Between Daniels and Colonial)  
[www.leeparks.org/fossil](http://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  
727-823-7493

***Fossil Club of Lee County Fossil Show***

***Upcoming Date: December, 5, 2009***

***Calusa Nature Center***

***\$3.00 Adults.....Children Free***

## MINUTES OF MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY JUNE 18, 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: 6/18/09

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

ATTENDANCE: 31

PRESIDED BY: Bill Shaver

The President, Bill Shaver held a brief meeting outlining the discussions of the Board of Directors meeting of 6/15/09.

Grants were made to the University of South Florida, the University of Florida, and the Calusa Nature Center.

Dr. Robin Brown was honored with a Lifetime Membership, and Bill Shaver read the inscription on the plaque and presented it to Dr. Brown.

The Fossil Show had been firmed up; the date will be 12/05/09 at the Calusa Nature Center. The flyers will be made soon, and dealer applications will be sent out in July. The entrance fee will be \$3.00, children will be free.

Show & tell: Coby, Louis, Cay, Sandy, Jake, Mark and Maurice presented items.

Linda and Dick Kemper provided refreshments. Thank you.

After refreshments, raffles were drawn. Our newsletter editor, Cheryl Mitchell asked for articles of interest and pictures for future use.

Upcoming field trips were discussed; sign up sheets posted.

July speaker will be Ian Bartozeck

Kathy Powlowski has signed up to do the refreshments for July.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

By: Sharon Drake, Secretary

## SCUBA DIVING SAFETY RULES

**Get proper training** - Get certified.

**Don't hold your breath** - Always breathe slowly and in a relaxed manner. Don't take short shallow breaths. Holding your breath underwater can lead to lung injuries and worse, in extreme cases.

**Be in good physical shape** - A physical is a good idea before diving.

**Never dive alone** - Key diving rule. Always dive with a buddy. If something happens, that buddy can make the difference between life and death. Also do a pre-dive equipment check with your buddy.

**Know weather conditions** - If you are with a divemaster, he or she, will usually make the call. If diving with a buddy or group, check all conditions first.

**Ascend slowly and with control** - A key safety rule. As you ascend you are ridding your body of nitrogen in your tissues and bloodstream. If you ascend too quickly, you risk decompression sickness.

**Check your equipment** and have it serviced at least once a year. When diving with your buddy, make sure you do an equipment check.

**Relax** - If something happens, stop, breathe, think and act. Do not panic and rush to the surf-

**Plan your dive and dive your plan** - max depth, bottom time, air supply, hand signals, etc.



## ABOUT FOSSILIZED HORSE TEETH

Fossil horse teeth are relatively common finds in the rivers and pits of Florida. Most of the teeth are from *Equus*, the forerunner of the modern horse. As a side note, paleontologists concur that *Equus* became extinct in the Americas in the late Pleistocene about 10,000 years ago. *Equus* crossed into Asia, further migrated into Europe and evolved into the horse of modern times. *Equus* was later introduced into the Americas by the Spanish explorers in the early 1500's.

The *Equus* horse has a compliment of 36 teeth for mares and 44 teeth for stallions, and of course there are exceptions as some mares may also have additional teeth. The normal arrangement of teeth for the upper and lower jaw is twelve (12) front teeth called incisors (six on the top and six on the bottom) and 24 molars. The molars are further designated as premolars and molars---called the P2, P3, P4, M1, M2, and M3----six on each side of the lower jaw and six on each side of the upper jaw for a total of 24 molar teeth. So what happened to P1? P1 is also called the "wolf tooth" and is usually only in the mouth of stallions. It often is not visible as it doesn't erupt (break through the gum) as do the other molars. The stallions also have up to four (4) canine teeth, but not always.

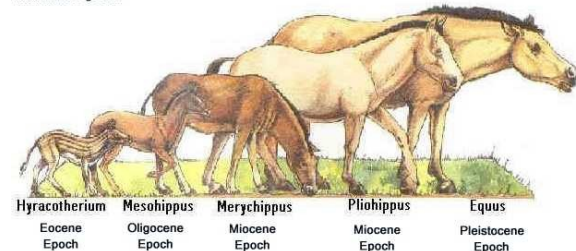
If one finds a horse tooth and wants to identify its placement in the jaw, there are a few generalities to consider. Incisors are slightly curved, about 1 to 1 1/2 inches, with a distorted oval "bite" surface, which may be smooth from wear or have an indentation which is called a "cup" or "mark". Old time horse traders/buyers could gauge the age of a horse by looking at the cup or mark on the incisors. Ever hear of the saying "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth"? With respect to molars, when looking at the chewing surface/pattern, the upper molars are pretty much square whereas the lower molars are more rectangular.

(CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN)

The P2 and M3 molars are more or less triangular and the body of the tooth is curved as it functions to press the other molars together. Incidentally, the upper jaw is non-moveable, only the lower jaw moves back and forth to grind the food into smaller pieces that can be swallowed. There are several factors that affected tooth size; these include diet, disease, injury and age at death. For instance, a molar that is less than an inch indicates that the horse had worn the tooth down over the years of grinding" and it probably was very old.

The relative age of a tooth from *Equus* is somewhere in the range of 10,000 years old and as old as 4 million years old when they coexisted with the three toed horses.

[www.critters-2-go.com](http://www.critters-2-go.com)



### Teeth

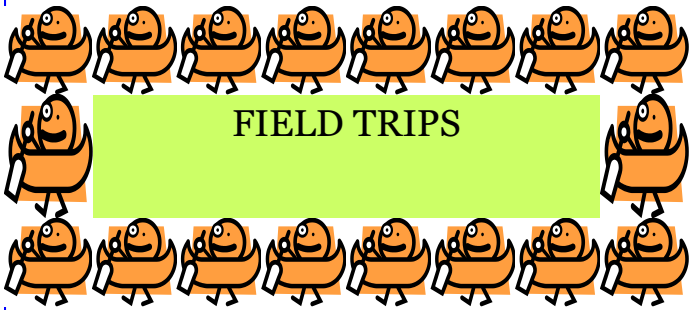


### Hoof



### Equus toes





## FIELD TRIPS

Here is a picture of the Fossil club's field trip to the CFI Phosphate Mine in Hardee County, above Wauchula.

My impressions:

- 1) it was very, very hot and 3 hours was a good limit, even when properly dressed and carrying sufficient water.
- 2) Our guides (Larry and Heather (?)) were very helpful and friendly.
- 3) I am a new fossil club member, having found only 1 small Meg in the Peace River last month. I was very pleased with results. I found 3 teeth from the three toed horse, a number of chipped Megs in various colors (Blue-grey, Tan, Green) and a couple of smaller non-Meg shark teeth. See the photo below.
- 4) I would definitely do this again, always looking for the complete Meg.



Submitted by Jack Boyce

## REFRESHMENTS

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 40 to 50 attending each summer meeting. So be a strong club member .... Take a turn at doing the refreshments!

We appreciate you all!!!!

JULY - Kathy and Coby Powlowski

AUGUST - NEED VOLUNTEER

SEPTEMBER - NEED VOLUNTEER



# **LIFE MEMBER**

## **Dr. Robin C. Brown**

**On this date, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY is privileged to grant a LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP to Doctor Robin C. Brown. Dr. Brown is a charter member of our Club and was instrumental in the establishment of the Club.**

**Our Club membership has grown to 140 members and we meet monthly at the Iona House located on the grounds of the Calusa Nature Center. Dr. Brown was one of the leaders to save the historic Iona House from destruction at its original site in Fort Myers and instrumental in having it relocated to the Calusa Nature Center.**

**His book entitled “Florida’s Fossils” serves as a field manual as well as a research reference for vocational paleontologists. His other book “Florida’s First People” is also highly regarded as one of the most informative books ever written about the Calusa Indians and their way of life. Both books have become a great source of information for the members of the Fossil Club of Lee County.**

**Dr. Brown continues to be a great supporter of the Club he helped to establish. He has generously donated many items for the Club’s annual auction which helps to raise monies for scholarship grants. He has also donated his collection of paleontology books to the Club for the establishment of a library.**

**The Fossil Club of Lee County is proud to honor Dr. Brown for his leadership and many years of outstanding support of the Club. It is with great pleasure that the Fossil Club of Lee County awards a LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP to Dr. Robin C. Brown. Congratulations and thank you for your many years of dedicated service and helping us to explore the wonderful world of fossils.**

# 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.**

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**Applicant's Name:**

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**Address:**

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**Telephone (include area code):**

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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:**

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**Date:**