



Fossil Club of Lee County

July 2010

Message from the President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greeting to all members and a warm welcome to our newest members. Our current membership averages about 150 and we are pleased to have such a great group of people interested in the many aspects of paleontology. In addition to all the fun, information and education we get from being in the club, we also work for a greater good in many ways. In June, we made a grant to the Calusa Nature Center, provided a scholarship grant to the University of Florida and another grant to the University of South Florida. All of our members are to be congratulated for their support in raising funds for these worthwhile organizations.

In May, the club voted to have a Fossil Show this year. From our experience with past shows we know it requires a lot of support from the members including the donation of fossil specimens and your time. We appreciate everyone's generosity and support. The tentative date of the Show is Saturday, December 4th 2010.

Our June speaker was Dr. Robert W. Sinibaldi. Dr. Bob, as he likes to be called, has written a very fine book entitled "What Your Fossils Can Tell You". It deals with vertebrate morphology, pathology, and cultural modifications. Several of us bought the book from him while at the meeting and the club also purchased 10 books for inventory. Anyone that collects vertebrate fossils will want to have this book!

While on the subject of speakers, I am looking forward to Andreas Kerner's presentation and an opportunity to have him identify a few of my mystery fossils. He is exceptionally knowledgeable and if you want to bring some unknown

specimens to the meeting, I am sure he will try to identify them for you.

In case anyone is thinking about getting some new fossils from the Peace River, we recommend holding off for awhile. The water is about six feet above normal at the Arcadia dock. Rain and possible thunderstorms is the daily forecast. We are finding sea biscuits and sand dollars at the pit, but since very little new material is being dug by the pit operators, the chance of finding vertebrate specimens is not encouraging. In the meantime we could visit some of the museums and check out their fossils. The museums at Mulberry, Pioneer Park, City of Ft. Myers Museum of History, Calusa Nature Center, and the Imaginarium all have good exhibits. Also, for Indian artifacts, check out the Lost in Time Store in St. Pete.

Board members have been busy behind the scenes and we want to recognize their efforts: Bob Wood--doing a good job as the Newsletter editor, Mike Siciliano for setting up the Club Canoe outing, Curt Krug for managing our web site, Ray Seguin, Treasurer, for managing the club finances and supporting the monthly raffle and giving us the door prizes, Charles OConnor for setting up the Gainesville trip, Dean Hart and Michael Orchin for helping out with the Tom Allen Collection, Hollie Tiner for taking some great pictures, and the many others who are always ready to pitch in when needed. Thanks to all of you.

Please bring in your Show and Tell items, support the raffle with donations or buying tickets, and enjoy the refreshments and fellowship. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Meeting.

Best regards, Bill Shaver

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, Thursday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd, Ft. Myers.

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MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: June 17, 2010

Place: Iona House @ The Calusa Nature Center

Attendance: 37

Presided By: Bill Shaver, President

Bill welcomed a long time member of the FCOLC **Audrey Byard** here tonight. He reminded members once again to update their email address. **Bob Wood** was thanked for doing the news letter. **Coby Pawlowski** was recognized for his article in the news letter. Bill mentioned that **Tom Allen** donated items for his museum. Bill said that the money that has been set aside for the various organizations will be distributed in July. He thanked **Mike Siciliano** for organizing the canoe trip. Everyone had a good time and the trip went well. He also thanked **Charlie Smith** for the photos he took.

Bill reminded everyone that there are still some openings for the Quality Mine trip and that **Gunther Lobish** will be out for a few of the trips and that **Bill Shaver** will be leading the group into the quarry

Charles O'Connor has put together a trip to Gainesville at the Florida Museum of Natural History

Michael Orchin, Auctioneer

Kathy Arnold, Club Merchandise

Ray Seguin, Membership

Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

CLUB RAFFLE

The club holds a monthly raffle about 10 times a year for the purpose of giving members an opportunity to win interesting items for a very minimal price. The money generated goes into the treasury and adds to monies available for scholarship grants. Please support the raffle by buying tickets and also bringing in items to place into the raffle. Your support will be appreciated.

for July 17, 2010 with a few other stops on the way back to Ft Myers.

Bill mentioned that we need volunteers for refreshments for the upcoming months.

Show and tell was done by the following: **Ron Seavey, Joe Arnold, Coby Pawlowski, Dean Hart, Gunther Lobish, Hollie Tiner** and **Charles O'Connor**.

The guest speaker for June's meeting was Dr. Robert Sinibaldi the former president of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club and he spoke about -The Comparison of the Fishing Cultures-The Prehistoric Gulfcoast of Florida-The Pacific Northwest-The Walmart Fisherman. Dr. Sinibaldi also has written books and had them at the meeting for sale.

REFRESHMENTS

JULY-----**Joshua Frank** and **Melanie Hutchison**

August-----Need Volunteer

September--Need Volunteer

Your Club appreciates your support. Thanks!

Members on the Job

Peace River Club Canoe Trip

from left: Sandy Swartz, Willie Wegman, Mike Siciliano



It was a beautiful sunny day---just perfect for a day on the river. It was Sunday morning, June 13th, and it was probably the best day we could have picked. Over 20 of us met at the Canoe Outpost in Arcadia. After a bit of getting organized, we were taken by bus to Brownville where we launched our canoes. The water level was just right for fossiling and the water temperature was ideal.

The paddle time to the Canoe Outpost dock in Arcadia was estimated to be four to five hours so this left us with about three hours to dig for fossils. We stopped at four prospective digging sites and everyone found some specimens, but nothing that we could donate to the museum. All in all, we would agree that it was a fun trip and we would do it again, perhaps next year.

Mike Siciliano did a good job of organizing the trip--he did so well than everyone voted to have him do it again. Mike also brought Sandy Schwartz back to the river and he even shared his canoe with her! Charlie and Grace Smith took several nice photos on the trip and Hollie Tiner also took some wonderful pictures. It is always nice to take a few pictures to help preserve the moment.

LOST IN TIME STORE RELOCATES

Brian Evensen, owner of the Lost in Time Store at The Pier in St. Petersburg has relocated. He has moved his store to his home, which was his original location. Brian recently had a leg amputation and he is now in the throes of rehabilitating, which is a long process. He is gaining mobility and is as spirited and confident as always. Brian spoke at our Club last year on the main topic of Indian artifacts of which he has quite a few. In fact, he has the best collection of paleo and archaic points in Florida and perhaps in all of the United States. His collection is the result of hunting for artifacts over the past 50 years. If you appreciate Indian artifacts, you must visit him and see his collection, which he will someday place in a museum. He also has an extensive fossil inventory which is a "must see" as well. His new location is at 4719 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL.33709. Call him at 727-541-2567 or 727-459-2434 to get detailed directions to the store.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TOM ALLEN COLLECTION

Tom Allen, one of our long time members has donated his collection of fossils, Indian artifacts, rocks/minerals, insects, and butterflies to the Fossil Club of Lee County for the purposes of establishing a museum at the Calusa Nature Center. The Nature Center is remaking their existing library room to house the collection. Tom was a career naturalist and he would like to inspire young people to consider becoming naturalists. The Nature Center uses the library room for summer training courses for young naturalists, so it would most appropriate to make the room the "Tom Allen Museum."

The Club has appropriated monies to establish the museum and to date has procured three display cases for the Nature Center. The cases were bought at a very good price from Brian Evensen (Lost in Time Store owner), picked up in St. Petersburg by Bill Shaver and Dean Hart and delivered to the Nature Center. The Nature Center has begun to renovate the room.

Tom's health is not good presently, but he is in rehabilitation and optimistic about his recovery. Tom is a wood carver, sculptor, writer, bee keeper, and has painted some beautiful wildlife scenes. The museum plans to include some framed documents and his biography. Target date for completion of the museum is early August.

CLUB TRIP PLANNED TO UF MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Several of our members signed up at our last meeting for a long awaited trip to Gainesville. Charles OConnor has organized the trip which is scheduled for Saturday, July 17th and limited to 12 persons.

At 11am, we will have a private tour of the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory conducted by Dr. Richard Hulbert Jr. who is the Vertebrate Collection Manager. Dr. Hulbert is well known for his book entitled The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida.

The second segment of the trip is a visit to the home of Dr. Gordon Hubbell at 3pm. Dr. Hubbell has the most comprehensive collection of shark teeth and shark jaws in the world. There is no planned activity for Sunday, however, some members are exploring the possibility of doing some fossil hunting in the local creeks. We look forward to having an exciting time and appreciate the efforts by Charles in putting this trip together.

PROGRAM FOR JULY

Our speaker is Andreas Kerner and his topic will be:

"Recent developments in FL paleontology -- new species, isotopes and REE..."

A brief overview of newly discovered fossils from FL and some high-tech tools to aid paleontology.

Andreas Kerner is president and founder of "The International Fossil Co.,Inc.". He specializes in Tertiary mammals of the Southeastern US, but also works on projects involving Eocene, Jurassic and Permian fossils from Europe.

Working closely with various Museums and Universities around the globe, IFC has donated thousands of specimens to Museum collections and Andreas has discovered several new species of mammals and reptiles. His research focuses on fossils from Florida's fossiliferous underwater deposits. He is married to Lisa Jefferson and lives in Orlando, FL.

INTERNET SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

WEB SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/

Florida Vertebrate Fossil Permit
<http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>

Southwest Florida Fossil Club
www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club
www.floridafossilhunters.com

PEACE RIVER Water Levels
www.canoeoutpost.com

Smithsonian Natural History Museum
www.mnh.si.edu

Florida Fossil Clubs
www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com

PICKING UP ISOLATED NATIVE AMERICAN
ARTIFACTS
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/underwater/finds>

Suncoast Reef Rovers - Suncoast Area Dive Stores
(Venice and Sarasota) - www.suncoastreefrovers.com/divestores.htm

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

Imaginarium 200 Cranford Ave, 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
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

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

Lost in Time, 4719 69th Street, N. St Petersburg, FL 33709, Tel. 727-541-2567 Owner Brian Evensen

Peace River Wildlife Center
3400 West Marion Avenue (Ponce De Leon Park)
Punta Gorda, Florida
www.peaceriverwildlifecenter.com

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls
www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

Young Fossil Collectors **Goby's Column**

By Coby Pawlowski



What represents Florida the best; The American Alligator

The average adult alligator weights about 800lbs and is 13' long. The Florida record is 17'5" long, think about that the next time you are about to enter the Peace River! Alligators live in fresh and brackish waters. They can run 30 miles per hour! The American Alligators fossils are common in Florida. They can be found in the Peace River and commonly in the Quaility Materials Quarry.

FCOLC FOSSILS ON EXHIBIT

The Fossil Club of Lee County has a collection of fossil specimens on long-term loan to the Imaginarium and the Calusa Nature Center. Club members are encouraged to visit these organizations and view the specimens. There are many specimens on display and it is a great opportunity to learn more about the fossils we can find here in southern Florida. The Southwest Florida Museum of History also has some good fossils on display as well, however they are not part of our fossil exhibits.

PALEO NEWS

Article submitted by Al Goviin

Dinosaur bites ranged from fast to ferocious. Meat-hungry dinos would be among today's world's strongest biters



Tyrannosaurus rex, along with allosaurs and ceratosaurs inflicted the most damaging, efficient bites, new research suggests.

by Jennifer Viegas

[DiscoveryNews](#)

Tooth by deadly tooth, dinosaurs with a hunger for meat bit using four basic techniques, with strength sacrificed for speed and vice versa, new research finds.

Carnivorous dinosaurs ranged from weak yet fast nippers, like Velociraptor, to strong and efficient biters, such as Tyrannosaurus rex.

Tyrannosaurs, allosaurs, ceratosaurs, and parrot-like dinosaurs, such as Citipati, inflicted the most damaging, efficient bites, the new research suggests. These dinosaurs didn't even have many teeth, compared to certain other dinos. But the teeth they possessed did the job well, like ripping the heads off of prey.

"These dinosaurs have consistently high efficiency in biting along the entirety of their relatively short tooth rows," said Manabu Sakamoto, author of the study, published in the latest Proceedings of the Royal Society B. Sakamoto is a researcher in the

Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Bristol.

To determine the biting strength of carnivorous dinosaurs, he calculated the ratio of the muscle force and biting force, together known as the "mechanical advantage," for several meat-eating species. He did this for each biting position along the tooth rows present in a particular dinosaur's jaws.

Sakamoto discovered that the most primitive type of biting belonged to dinosaurs such as *Herrerasaurus*, *Carcharodontosaurus*, and *Ceratosaurus*. Their back teeth did much of the work.

One of the most bizarre biting styles belonged to the coelophysoid dinosaurs: *Coelophysis* and *Syntarsus*. They could bite with a great deal of force at the back of their mouths, but their front teeth were limited to a really weak and fast bite.

The final type of carnivorous dino bite belonged to what Sakamoto called "the ostrich-like dinosaurs," such as *Velociraptor*.

"These dinosaurs have consistently low efficient biting across their tooth rows so they have relatively weak bites," he said. "But, in effect, this also means that they have relatively fast biting speeds."

He added that *Archaeopteryx*, the world's oldest known bird, also bit in this *Velociraptor* manner.

Another component of the study involved testing whether or not closely related dinosaurs bit in similar ways. For the most part, this was true, providing evidence that the various biting styles were inherited, evolved behaviors.

There were a few exceptions to the rule, however. Oviraptorosaurs — known for their parrot-like skulls — and therizinosaurids — that looked like a cross between a big sloth, lizard and bird — did not have predictable biting styles based on family history. Although their relatives were weak yet

fast biters, oviraptorosaurs and therizinosaurids were highly efficient, strong biters.

"A possible explanation is that the ancestral stock of this group underwent adaptive evolution and filled an open ecological and functional niche," said Sakamoto.

Other research suggests that if meat-hungry dinosaurs were alive today, they would be among the world's strongest biters.

Stephen Wroe of the University of South Wales recently reported that the bite force of *T. rex* was 3.1 tons, which is more powerful than the bite of a great white shark. Great white sharks, in turn, bite 20 times harder than humans can.

But Wroe believes the most formidable carnivore and biter to have ever lived was the now-extinct shark *Carcharodon megalodon*, otherwise known as "Big Tooth." According to his analysis, it could generate up to 18.2 tons of bite force, and was at least 30 times as heavy as today's largest great whites.

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