

**Fossil Club  
Of Lee County  
Newsletter  
August 2005**

**Message from the President**

Time for another meeting of the Fossil Club of Lee County. I hope to see all of you there. This month we will be having a good friend and highly respected fossil dealer as our speaker ---Andreas Kerner. I don't know which topic he will speak on, but Andreas is very knowledgeable and you will definitely find him interesting and you will learn something. He is also very, very good at id (hint-hint !!). Next month our speaker will be Lenny Canterbury.

We will also be discussing our involvement in this years' Fossil Festival, to be held on December 10, at the Calusa Nature Center. We need to fill out some of the committees with volunteers. The festival will be a success, but only with all of our participation, so please sign up to help. Marc Cantos and his committee chairpersons have met several times in the last month and have put a lot of effort so far to getting things rolling. Many thanks to Sandy for having these meetings at her home. As of this writing we have four dealers committed to attend and Chuck and Al are in the process of sending out invites to a large group of non-profit organizations to attend. Sandy and Carl are designing a flyer for the event, using the logo recently designed for us by Sue Ludgren. A club table will need volunteers as well as kid's events, set up and take down, raffle, decorating, front entrance, bake sale (possibly) and general help. Please help make this event a success and give a little of your time that day. You get way more out of the club if you give to it!!! We will discuss the festival at this meeting, and take a little time every month to update progress.

Now that we have a logo we will proceed to get t-shirts, etc, for the members. It may take a while but we will get them for you. Also, we are in the process of acquiring books and also butvar for the members. Trips have been tough to organize but Handi Phil is available to us every third Saturday, which is the Saturday following our meeting. Any questions, just ask at the meeting. Our web site is up and running ([www.FCOLC.com](http://www.FCOLC.com)), but needs more input. I will try to work with Curtis Klug, our Webmaster, soon on this project. We have lots of ideas but not always enough time (or energy!!) to accomplish them in a timely manner. Some things just take a little more time.

Our beloved treasurer, Ray Seguin, recently had major surgery. He had a total knee replacement and seems to be doing ok, after a rocky time in the hospital. Good luck and get well soon, Ray!! And don't try to carry out all of the dugong rib bones in the river at one time again!!!

Al Govin has arranged with the Nature Center for us to lock up when we leave. As some of you know, we have been having a hard time finishing our meeting without getting locked in, which actually happened to Rick, Ian, and me after a meeting!!! We will be responsible for turning out lights and locking the building and the front gate. Let's all try to leave together, but the last one out has to lock up!!!

We had several members step up and volunteer to provide refreshments at the next few meetings. Thanks!!!! This is something everyone can help with, whether you know anything about fossils or not. The club treasury will reimburse you for what it costs you, if you want, so cost is not an issue. We presently are ok for three months, but after that I will be looking for hands in the air!!

As always, bring your show and tell items. We all get a lot out of seeing each other's finds. You can also add to your collection by acquiring from our dealer/speakers (Andreas, this

month) and winning the \$1 raffle. You can also have "added value" by writing a short article for the newsletter about your fossil experience(s) and finds. This is your club--take advantage of the opportunity to share with like-minded people. We all win.

See you at the meeting,  
Louis Stieffel, Pres. FCOLC

### **August Meeting**

Our August Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, Fl.

The speaker will be Andreas Kerner



### **Thank you Debra and Louis !!**

Debra Powell gave a slide show and Louis Stieffel did a demonstration on using butvar to preserve our finds while showing us how to work a pit. It was fun and educational.



### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF LEE COUNTY PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

DATE OF MEETING: July 21, 2005

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: 29

Louis Steiffel, President, presiding.

Thanks go to Louis and Leslie Steiffel for cookies and refreshments.

Club adopts Sue's logo for one of the fossil clubs emblems. A motion was made to adopt Sue's emblem and it passed.

Gainesville trip was a success and everyone had a good time.

Mark Cantos volunteered to do refreshments for September and Joan volunteered to do refreshments for August.

Andreas Turner is August's speaker; Lenny Canterbury is September's speaker; and Richard Holbrook is November's speaker.

Ray Sequin gave the treasury report and there is over \$3,000 in the club treasury. Ray is selling the book "Vertebrate Fossils: A Neophyte's Guide" for the Club for \$15.  
Debra Powell and Louis Steiffel gave riveting talks on how to dig a pit.  
Bring fossil fragments for kid's digs at fossil fair. (Donations needed)  
Al Govin moved to adopt by-laws, Mark Cantos seconded, and the motion passed.  
Thanks go to Sandy Schwartz for an excellent job on the newsletter.  
Debra Powell will lead Handy Phil field trips from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.  
The owner insists that no children are allowed (sorry).  
Club had show and tell.

Secretary

## **Dinosaur Found That Turned Vegetarian**

Submitted by Sharon Reagan May 9, 2005

NEW YORK- caught in the act of evolution, the odd-looking, feathered dinosaur was becoming more vegetarian, moving away from its meat-eating ancestors. It had the built-for-speed legs of meat-eaters. It had already lost the serrated teeth needed for tearing flesh. Those were replaced with the smaller, duller vegetarian variety.

"I doubt seriously this animal could cut a steak with that mouth," said Utah state paleontologist James Kirkland, one of those describing the animal, based on bones found in east-central Utah.

The scientists dubbed it *Falcarius utahensis*. Bones from hundreds or maybe thousands of these dinosaurs were discovered at a two-acre dig site south of the town of Green River. Nobody knows why they gathered there or what killed them, Kirkland said.

It ate plants, but its bones show the transition from its carnivorous ancestors while still in progress.

All plant-eating dinosaurs were ultimately descended from a meat-eater, and switchovers to plant-eating occurred several times. The newly discovered species, which lived 125 million years ago, could help scientists understand details of how the changeovers took place.

It's "our first really good case of a dinosaur in the midst of shifting from the meat-eating body to a plant eating one," said an expert not involved in the discovery, Thomas R. Holtz Jr. of the University of Maryland.

"It's definitely eating a substantial amount of plants, (but) we still see the original imprint of meat-eating upon it."

The creature, with 5-inch claws on its outsized hands, measured 12 feet from its snout to the tip of its long skinny tail. It stood about 3 feet high at the hip and could apparently reach about 5 feet off the ground with its long neck to munch leaves or fruit, said Kirkland.

He describes the creature in Thursday's issue of the British journal *Nature* with Lindsay Zanno and Scott Sampson of the Utah Museum of Natural History at the University of Utah, among others.

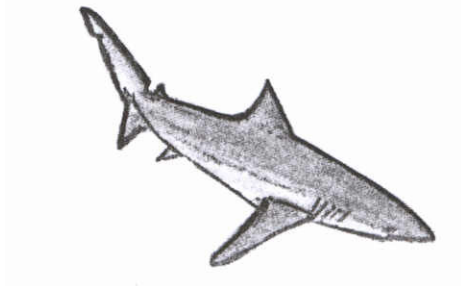
Analysis revealed that *Falcarius* was the earliest known member of a bizarre-looking group of plant-eaters called therizinosaurs (pronounced THAYrih-ZY-no-sores.) Found mostly in Asia, the barrel-bodied creatures waddled upright like Godzilla or "a pot-bellied bear," Kirkland said.

*Falcarius*, very early in its evolution into the therizinosaur body type, retained the rather horizontal posture and powerful legs of its meat-eating ancestors. And its teeth were more suited for eating plants, Zanno said.

It also showed some change toward the larger gut needed to digest plant material rather than meat, as well as a lengthened neck and smaller head associated with eating plants, she said.

Holtz said *Falcarius* still had fairly slender proportions overall rather than the barrel body of later therizinosaurs. "This one could probably move fairly quickly," he said, whereas its more evolved relatives "would have had problems hunting things faster than a tree."

Kirkland and Zanno said they suspect Falcarius probably ate some meat in addition to plants. “I wouldn’t doubt this thing would eat a lizard or two in a pinch,” Kirkland said.



### 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 Berber, 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. Raffle: Jerry and Loretta Graham  
Auction: Louis Stieffel  
Publicity: Carl Fricke

### Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you permanently change residences, please let us know in writing. Otherwise, you can continue to get your newsletter on line.

#### Type of Membership

Individual \$15. \_\_\_\_\_  
Couple \$17. \_\_\_\_\_  
Family \$20. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to: **Fossil Club of Lee County** and mail it to:

FCOLC  
2124 Harvard Avenue,  
Ft. Myers, FL 33907