

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

AUGUST 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello! Another month of hot weather gone by and just a few more rainy hot ones to go! Everyone knows the rivers are swollen, but don't do like Al Govin and I did and get too close to them to see it! Being stuck in the mud is NOT a good way to spend a day at the river!

Since this is a slow collecting time of the year for most of us, it would be a good time to organize your fossils and pick out some that you can donate for the fossil show. The show will be December 7, but we need to start gathering fossil items for the kid's dig, as well as various game prizes. I will have more to say about the show as it gets further along. Also, you can, and should, renew your fossil permits. This is very important, as the statute states that you cannot legally collect, sell, prep or display fossils found on state lands without this permit. The Peace River is state owned water bottom, as are most of the other creeks and rivers we hunt. Look at our website to see the fossil permit information.

I want to remind members to please inform us of any change of address, especially their email address. Lots of hours have been spent trying to update our records. Help us keep it right.

The logo contest is ongoing, with final designs to be submitted by the September meeting. Pam Plummer has made progress on the club financials, and will report as it gets completed.

The rolling book stand has been built and David Sheehey, our club librarian, is priming and painting it. We hope to have the library available to all the members very soon.

Ray Seguin has taken over the merchandise sales. He plans on stocking a good supply of fossil books for members to be able to acquire, along with riker cases and other supplies.

Last month we had volunteers step up and volunteer to provide monthly refreshments. We still need someone for October. Please consider doing this.

Our speakers are set through December, which is the annual Christmas party. Curtis Klug, our webmaster, spoke last month about the fossil identification portion of the website. The board will address some of his concerns. So, lots of things have been going on, even with the rainy season! I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Please bring in your "show and tell" items. We all want to see your fossils!!

Louis Stieffel
President, Fossil Club of Lee County

Refreshments

Sandy Schwartz, Sue Collier and Joe Larkin provided refreshments for the July meeting. This is a great way to giveback to FCOLC in a way that is greatly appreciated by the membership. Once again, thanks to all those volunteers who are critical to our club's success.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

August 15th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FI 33919

August 15th Speaker – **Dr. Austin Hendy**, an invertebrate paleontologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History, will discuss the FOSSIL Project, which is an initiative to create a dynamic community among fossil clubs, and iDigBio, an NSF-funded portal into natural history museums of the United States. Austin will also showcase and discuss fossils of interest to southwest Florida fossil hunters.

Refreshments: Bill Howat

September 19th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FI 33919

September 19th Speaker; – **Dr. Greg Herbert**, Associate Professor of Paleobiology, Department of Geology at University of South Florida in Tampa, will discuss the Origin of mammals from mammal-like reptiles.

Refreshments: Mary Southall

October 5th 22nd Annual Florida Fossil Fair, Florida Fairgrounds Orlando.

October 12th National Fossil Day Celebration will be held at Paynes Creek Historic State Park, Lake Branch Road, Bowling Green, Florida. **Pam Plummer** is leading the active participation of FCOLC as a registered partner of the National Park Service in supporting this event.

October 17th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FI 33919

October 17th Speaker; FCOLC Director **Charles O'Connor**. Charles is a Science Chair, Lexington Middle School, Fort Myers who frequently lectures on fossils, and who once worked in the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Charles' topic will be his annual summer fossil hunting trip to Panama.

Refreshments: an open opportunity!

November 21st FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FI 33919

October 21st Speaker **Marc Cantos**, FCOLC member and volunteer, owner of The Turtle Source, and well known local Herpetologist, will discuss phosphate mine hunting and finds.

Refreshments: Marc Cantos

Officers

Louis Stieffel, President, 239-851-7499,
cape187@earthlink.net
Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406
Pamela Plummer, Treasurer, 239-246-5993
Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

Directors

Jack Boyce, 239-281-2416
Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094
Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526
Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus

Committees

Jack Boyce, Newsletter Publisher, Photographer & Peace River Trips
Joshua Frank, Coby Pawlowski, Mike Siciliano, Louis Stieffel
Fossil Show Committee
Curt Klug, Web Master
Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer
Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director
Pam Plummer, Badges, Membership
Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips, Invertebrate Education
Ray Sequin, Merchandise
David Sheehey, Librarian
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Speakers

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, August 15th,
2013 at Zion Lutheran Church,
7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers
Meeting starts at 7 PM.

Speaker

Dr. Austin Hendy is an invertebrate paleontologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History, with interests in fossil (& recent) mollusks, paleo-ecology and fossil preservation, and past biogeography. Austin also has a great appreciation of museums and the role they play in research and education.

Presentation Topic

Unlocking the Fossil Cabinet:

The Value of Collections in the 21st Century

Austin will discuss the FOSSIL Project, an initiative to create a dynamic community among fossil clubs, and iDigBio, an NSF-funded portal into natural history museums of the United States. Through these efforts it is hoped that natural history museums can better share their fossil collections (and unlock their education potential) with the public, educators, students, and fossil clubs like Lee County! Dr. Hendy would appreciate the club's feedback on these activities as well as discussing future plans to involve local fossil clubs around the US in developing resources for their local schools and the amateur collecting community. Austin will also showcase and discuss fossils of interest to southwest Florida fossil hunters.

Minutes of July meeting

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: July 18th, Zion Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

Presided by: Louis Stieffel, President

Club president Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order. Members were informed of club merchandise available and being sold by Ray Sequin, the \$1 raffle table manned by Mike Siciliano and Sandra Schwartz, and everyone was handed a ticket for the door prizes. 35 members were in attendance tonight.

Announcements:

- Sandy Schwartz, Sue Collier and Joe Larkin were recognized with a round of applause for providing the refreshments for the July meeting. A call for future volunteers resulted in Bill Howat signing up for August, Mary Southhall for September, and Marc Cantos volunteering for November.
 - Zack Deyo was recognized for the talk he gave to the children at the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples.
 - Mention was made about the memorial services recently held for Bill Shaver and Donna Johnson.
 - Annual Cape Coral Parks and Recreation day (July 20th) was announced and Louis requested FCOLC volunteers help man the club table.
 - The logo contest was discussed and the fossils, to be awarded to the winner of the contest, were displayed.
 - A call for donations of fossils was made for the annual FCOLC fossil show, to be held this year on December 7, at the Araba Shriners hall. The fossil show was briefly discussed, and a progress report mentioned the dealers that had already committed to be there. Soon a call to members and nonprofit groups will go out to help fill available tables.
 - Pam Plummer gave a treasury report. Pam also reported on FCOLC participation in the National Fossil Day. She asked for volunteers and dealers to set up tables. It will be held at Payne's Creek Park, in Bowling Green, on October 12th. Pam will write about it in the newsletter so the whole club will be aware of what is going on.
 - Our speaker, Curtis Klug, a long time FCOLC member and the club webmaster, presented his ideas on getting the ID portion of the website up and running. He explained the difficulties and importance of having positive identifications posted, as well as ways for club members to take and present photographs of their fossils for inclusion in this part of the web site. It was very informative and detailed and Curtis spent a lot of time putting this presentation together.
 - After the break, the club trips possibilities were discussed.
 - Sandy Schwartz then called the raffle numbers for the \$1 raffle
- Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Louis Stieffel, in the absence of club Secretary Kathy Pawlowski

FCOLC is holding a club logo contest among the membership.

Any member who wishes to participate in this contest should submit a finished design before the September 19th FCOLC meeting. The board will decide on the winning logo design. Submissions should be sent to Louis Stieffel or any Board member.

This logo will be used on club merchandise, in the club newsletter, and as a possible letterhead. Any and all submitted designs are the property of the club. At the July 18th FCOLC meeting, fossils to be awarded to the winner were displayed. These fossils consist of six shark teeth, six fossil bones, and six fossil animal teeth.

Those who were unable to attend the meeting can see them here:



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Pam Plummer, 133 NE 20th St., Cape Coral, FL, 33909

The FCOLC website is a source for links to Fossil websites of interest, archived monthly club newsletters, details on club meetings and officers.

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

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Smithsonian Natural History Museum www.mnh.si.edu

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org

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

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

www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls

www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

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

www.calusanature.org

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

www.i-sci.org

Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club

www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club

www.floridafossilhunters.com

The Fossil Forum

www.thefossilforum.com/index.php

Fossil Treasures of Florida

www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com

Florida Paleontological Society

<http://floridapaleosociety.com/>

Collecting Vertebrate Fossils on Florida state lands **requires** a permit. A fossil hunting permit is also part of being an ethical Florida fossil hunter.

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

Peace River Water Levels

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/rt>

Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm

If you find an Indian artifact, such as an arrowhead, on Florida state lands or river bottom, be aware that possession of an Indian artifact found on state lands after 2004 is a Class 3 Felony.

A Muddy day at Horse Creek

Al Govin and I went to Horse Creek Monday July 8th, about midday, on a spur of the moment desire to see the creek. Al had never seen it flooded and wanted to take some pictures. Well, in his Yukon Denali, with all wheel drive, a little water was no problem. Until we slid off the road into a soft spot: ...and there we stayed; and we were in the middle of nowhere!

Finally, we got a neighbor down the street to come over with a small tractor, but he couldn't budge us. He tore a few deep ruts in the ground trying and almost getting stuck himself. I hadn't realized that a six foot tall tractor tire would spin like that! Then, by calling AAA, a wrecker came but after finally finding us, they would not attempt it. So we called for a bigger one, which finally came out and proceeded to get stuck too! So a bigger wrecker came and pulled THAT guy out, but then he got stuck trying to back down the narrow road to us. Neither made it into the clearing that we were on the opposite side of. SO, then after the first wrecker pulled the second wrecker out, they called a friend in the area with a 4-wheel drive truck specially equipped for mudding. He backed down, hooked up and pulled us right out! Then he said that he had left the BIG truck at home as he didn't want to get it muddy!



It only took about 5 hours total for all of this to end. And, the mosquito population is now lessened by several thousand! Also a fair number of fire ants were done in! We swatted a lot!

Next time we go exploring we will pack a cooler as you can get mighty thirsty after a few hours! ...and a flashlight. Even though we got out right before dark, it was looking pretty badly there for a while!

I believe neither Al nor I will be heading to the river for several more months! Fossil river hunting season is completely finished!

Oh! We got pictures of the creek! I guess, in some sense this was a *successful* outing.

Submitted by Louis Stieffel

Developing the next generation of Florida fossil hunters

On July 15, 2013, my son Zack made me and the FCOLC very proud giving a Florida Fossils presentation at the Golisano Children's Museum in Naples. Zack started out the presentation with a power-point describing why Florida is a great place for fossil hunting and then he showed some of the many fossils that are found here. The kids were 6 and 7 years old and had a ton of questions for “Mr. Zack”, as they called him. When Zack starting discussing Megalodons, he had a volunteer take the end of a 65 foot string and walk out into the hallway to display how big a Megalodon could get. The kids were amazed at the size.

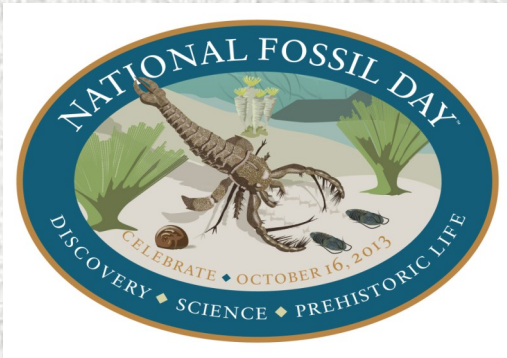
Upon completion of the power-point presentation, Zack let the kids do hands on exploration with numerous fossils he brought, including: Megs, various smaller shark teeth, whale, shark and horse vertebrates, teeth from Mammoths, Mastodons and horses. He also displayed some huge Dugong Ribs and various fossils from fish, Glyptodont and deer. Perhaps the biggest reaction came from some pieces of mammal coprolite. The kids all handled it and smelled it before Zack said it was poop. They couldn't drop it fast enough and all said “Yuck” and laughed.

After a ton of questions, Zack gave each child a shark tooth and a Megalodon tooth. Zack represented the FCOLC in an admirable fashion and certainly helped spawn some future fossil enthusiasts.



Written & submitted by Dave Deyo (aka Zack's dad)

National Fossil Day was established to promote the scientific and educational values of fossils. This nationwide celebration was first held on October 13, 2010, during Earth Science Week. The National Park Service (NPS) and over 220 partners, including museums, institutions, organizations and other groups, joined together to celebrate fossils. Hundreds of activities are hosted across the United States allowing the public to better understand the world's fossil Heritage. The 2013 National Fossil Day is October 16th but activities are scheduled throughout the week.



The Fossil Club of Lee County will join with NPS and other Florida fossil groups to sponsor a fossil focused celebration on **Saturday, October 12th** at Paynes Creek Historic State Park located on Lake Branch road one-half mile southeast of Bowling Green, Florida. Paynes Creek and the adjoining Peace River provide opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. FCOLC members know the Peace River as one of the premier fossil hunting locations in the country. A museum at the visitor center depicts the lives of Florida's Seminole Indians and pioneers during the 19th century. This event provides opportunities to interpret a fossil's ecological context by observing fossils in the same place where those animals and plants lived tens or hundreds of thousands of years ago.

While numerous details are not set, there will be NFD educational materials, displays, and presentations along with tables set up by Florida fossil groups and vendors who will display, identify, discuss and educate visitors on Florida fossils and Paleontology. FCOLC will have a booth and our members can contribute display fossils, expertise on identifications, interaction with potential fossil hunters and future club members, and donations of small shark teeth, dugong ribs, turtle shell and any other Florida fossils that can be distributed to event visitors.

Pam Plummer is leading FCOLC participation and needs volunteers and contributions. Pam is also looking for Speakers and Vendors on October 12th. If you have any suggestions on how to improve the experience, contact Pam. More detailed information will be available in FCOLC monthly meetings and newsletter as the event approaches.

Pam Plummer, FCOLC Treasurer

FCOLC Fossil of the Month - August, 2013



Fossil: Carcharocles Megalodon, 4.25 inches (estimated), minimally 2 mya
Date found: July 11th 2013 about 3 PM

Where Found: Peace River, Wauchula in Hardee County.

How found: This partial tooth was found late afternoon on my last day of river hunting for the 2012-2013 season. The water depth was over my waist and, as normal, the better small shark teeth were in the deepest location. I was excited when this very large fragment fell off my shovel into the sieve. I immediately saw that it was only 60% complete but a great color, size, and serrations.

How it measures up to my other Megs: It is not as good as a complete tooth, but my largest whole Meg is 3.25 inches. It is however my most colorful Meg with a reddish brown bourlette and a golden blade. It must have recently come out of clay protecting it from the tannic staining of the river. It also has great serrations. All in all – a keeper!! Makes me want to get back there and find the rest of this one. Rain, Rain, go away.

Jack Boyce, FCOLC Director

FOSSIL SHOW 2013

Presented by

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

**FOSSIL SHARK TEETH, VERTEBRATE FOSSILS,
ROCKS & MINERALS, INDIAN ARTIFACTS, BOTTLES, GEMSTONES,
FOSSIL SHELLS, UNIQUE JEWELRY, FOSSIL BOOKS, & EXHIBITS**

**MEET LOCAL FOSSIL COLLECTORS
FIND OUT WHERE & HOW TO HUNT FOR FOSSILS**

FEATURING MANY WELL KNOWN FLORIDA VENDORS

DECEMBER 7TH, 2013

With our annual fossil show coming up on December 7th, we thought that a participating vendor showcase in the FCOLC Newsletters would be interesting for club members. This month we focus on Tom Granata.

Tom, who currently lives in Venice, Florida, has been a vendor at our FCOLC Fossil Show the last few years. He is a retired earth science teacher, which he taught for 40 years, and his lifelong hobby has been fossil and rock/mineral collecting. Since retirement he developed a new “career” as an active dealer; buying, selling and trading with collectors from all over the USA. Tom had been a dealer at not only our fossil show, but also at fossil shows in Tampa, Orlando, Lakeland and Plant City. He has collected in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado, and of course, Florida. Tom is currently on a collecting trip out west, through the entire month of August and part of September! He attends shows in Tucson, Denver and Franklin, looking for specimens for his clients. He also supplies the little white boxes we use for specimen display to many of his friends.

As part of Tom’s educational goals, he has given talks to schools in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Tom has developed course materials on such diverse topics as analysis of local geological soil layers with types of imbedded fossils, and analysis of Barn Owl pellets to understand the food chain. He very likely will be a future speaker at a Fossil Club of Lee County monthly meeting.

We look forward to having Tom as a vendor at our fossil show. Be sure to stop by his booth and check out his stuff!!