



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

AUGUST 2017

Letter from the President

SUMMER!! It's hot!! Too bad the fossil hunting is not hot! Rainy season has the rivers high and land sites are wet, sloppy and SO hot. With that being said, we still try to get out and collect. Last month we had a trip to Star Quarries, south of lake Okeechobee, and this month we had a trip to the Ft Drum Crystal Mine, north of the lake. Neither trip was crowded, since many members do not want to hunt land sites with invertebrates, and also---because it's so freaking hot!! But, for the folks who went, we all had a good time.

Part of a club hunt is the camaraderie of the group. Sure, you can go to the crystal mine, any day of the week, but hunting next to other club members just makes it better! Hopefully, more members will participate in future trips.

This brings me to a new topic--National Fossil Day. This year we (Florida clubs) will celebrate it on November 4. It will be held this year in Gainesville, FL, rather than Bradenton as in previous years. Not only would we participate in the activities of the day and set up at a table, representing the club, we can also do other fossil related activities while there. Since Gainesville is a four hour drive, it's easier to go ahead of time and spend a night. If that is done, then extra time is gained for other activities. Or--two nights! Even more stuff! **So, I am asking for a club member to step forward and agree to organize this trip.** Activities to include would be a trip to Dr. Gordon Hubble's house/museum, hopefully a FLMNH basement collections tour, and possibly an actual fossil hunt in one of the local creeks. Inquiry to find a suitable hotel in the area, (maybe negotiating a good room rate for several rooms), restaurant(s) to dine at, etc. If we get a volunteer, that person should also put up a sign-up sheet at the meetings to get a count of participants. We did this, once before, and everyone had a great time. Let me know if you have the time and inclination to organize this trip. I can help guide you. Thank you.

Kim Westbury gave a great talk at the July meeting. She came across as one of us, who's "been there, done that". Thanks, Kim!

The August meeting will feature a speaker by Aimee Hankel, one of our cherished members, who seems to always be fossil hunting! Come and listen to her stories!

The September meeting will feature our annual matrix fossil hunt! We dig through micro-matrix at the meeting, looking for tiny fossils. You keep what you find! I have acquired a good quantity of washed, sieved, unsearched matrix from the Lee Creek Phosphate Mine, in Aurora, North Carolina. It's loaded with small shark and ray fossils, and a few other surprises! Also, we will have some shelley matrix for those invertebrate collectors out there, as well. Better come and find some fossils!!

October meeting is still open, but, Dr. Rick Batt will be speaking at the November meeting. (Any suggestions for October, let me know.)

Leslie Stieffel (and Louis) provided refreshments at the July Meeting.)The popular Mango Salsa recipe is included in this newsletter, and it's Mango season! And, it freezes well.)

The August volunteer is Edgar Jestes, who also brought in some pastries for the July meeting! The club now provides the drinks and water and ice, so a volunteer needs to only provide food or snacks. Nothing too complicated. By the way, we need volunteers for September, on. Raise yer hand at the meeting to volunteer!

Ken Follmann donated a few boxes of cigar boxes to the club. Look for them on the \$1 raffle table. These are good to put fossils, etc in. Thank you Ken!

We included, again, thanks to FCOLC scholarship recipient Sean Moran, the steps necessary to access the FLMNH collections and see pictures and ID of various fossils. Look inside.

New \$1 raffle people is Victoria and Gary! And, they say--Bring in some donations for the \$1 raffle table! Just drop it off at the meeting.

Anyone with any ideas or contact we can use to involve club members in fossil hunting, please share. This is a great hobby, but difficult to find places to do it in. Let's everyone help out on this, and keep a look out for each other! Thanks!!

Don't forget to stop in at the Shell Factory when nearby. Check out their fossil museum!

Any member who would like to donate to our scholarship fund, see me, or Al. If we could add to our present fund it could be self-generating, or else start a new scholarship using the name of the person contributing the endowment. We have contributed towards a scholarship for twelve years now, at the University of Florida, through the Museum of Natural History. A larger endowment scholarship ensures this in perpetuity. Something to keep in mind!

Also, keep in mind that our annual Fossil Festival will be in need of fossils for the kid's dig, as well as for the spin game, the silent auction and the grand raffle. Lou and Val (Festival organizers) also ask to be ready to volunteer for the day. It's not unto February, but it will be here sooner than we realize it!

Don't forget your show and tell. We all want to see your treasures!

See ya at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel

President

Fossil Club of Lee County



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Dr. John Taraska

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Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer

Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips

Cindy Bateman, Librarian

Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise

Dean Hart, Refreshment

Joe Larkin, \$1 Raffle

Lou and Valerie Rahn, Festival Organizers

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers, Vertebrate Education

Here is a site that has every river and creek mapped **for the whole state**, separated by county. Click on the zoomify tab below each map to zoom in. Enjoy !

Save to your desktop so you can find and use it often!

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/hydrography/index.php>

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church , 7401 Winker Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. c/o AL GOVIN
TREASURER
3584 MIDDLETOWN ST. PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33952

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/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

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

Minutes Of FCOLC Meeting 7/20/2017

President Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order.

It was announced the club store was closed this meeting.

It was announced that Victoria and Gary O'Toole would be doing dollar auction.

Louis made announcement about membership trying to make handling of badges easier for future meetings.

Leslie & Louis Stieffel provided snacks for this meeting.

Louis discussed details of Rucks pit trip this Saturday 7/22/17.

It was announced that this last months and future months delivery of the club newsletter would be through the use of mail chimp.

Kim Westberry is tonight's speaker.

Next months speaker will be Amy Henkel.

September meeting will be hands on micro-fossil hunting. If you have them, bring tweezers and magnifying glasses.

Club was told of loss of access to Horse Creek.

Kim Westberry gave her presentation "A Trip Into The Badlands".

Club was reminded of the motto "go low and go slow".

Her presentation included fantastic samples of various fossils found over the years.

Snack break.

Treasurers report given.

Door prizes were awarded.

Show-n-tell was done.

Dollar Raffle was held.

Minutes by:

Secretary/Treasurer

Al Govin

AUGUST SPEAKER

AIMEE HANKEL will be presenting to the club, this month!! She will be talking about, and showing, fossils hunted on recent trips to various locales. Aimee also is the contributor of the monthly newsletter article, AIMEEE'S CORNER, so you know she knows her stuff!! Please try to attend and support one of our own members presenting to the club!

MANY MEMBERS ASKED FOR THE RECIPE FOR THE MANGO SALSA SERVED WITH THE REFRESHMENTS AT LAST MONTHS MEETING. HERE IT IS:

Subject: Mango Salsa recipe-Louis & Leslie

3 ripe Mangos, diced

1 medium red bell pepper, diced

1/2 cup of (red) onion, diced

1/4 cup --packed--fresh cilantro leaves, chopped

1 jalapeno pepper, seeded, and minced

1 large lime, juiced (1/4 lime juice)

1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of salt.

Mix together in a bowl. Enjoy!



Shark Tooth Serrations

Here is an example showing the difference between Great White and megalodon serrations, the GW on top. Notice how jagged and big the serrations are compared to the fine consistently sized serrations of the meg. photo credit--Corbin Newton



Aimeee's Corner!!

FCOLC members represent in the Blue Forest for the second year in a row.

You may remember, if you're a regular reader of our club newsletter that last June I wrote about club members Vickie and Jim Manderfield, Tom King, and me traveling to the Blue Forest area of Wyoming to hunt for fossil wood. I had so much fun, I just had to go again! This year's lineup was a little different: Pam and Don Plummer, Shirley Ness and I made the long journey back to the Wyoming remains of an Eocene forest.

This is also the area of the famous Green River fossilized fish so there's a lot to see and do here. We focused on the fossil wood this year and were able to dig for 3 days. I've come up with a handy formula for how long it takes one to recover after digging fossils all day: for every day digging fossils, you must add a full day of recovery equal to every year of your age over 50, hence, at the age of 52, I needed to nap and lay around eating Oreos for 6 days after this last visit to the Blue Forest. I'm no mathematician but I think I nailed it.

We followed the same protocol as last year: jump into to someone else's hole and start digging. It's not the easiest place to hunt fossils for a variety of reasons. The altitude is about 6,500' so the first day is always a little headachy and breathless. You must also contend with high winds and intense sun but when you compare it to some of the things we deal with when digging in Florida's rivers, it's not really so bad.

Pam had a great trip, uncovering large segments of a thick log. I can't wait to see it cleaned up. I uncovered a beautiful log segment with a pocket of clear druzy. I've already started polishing it and will post photos as soon as I'm done.

Shirley arrived later and only had a day to hunt so she focused on surface hunting which can be very productive. Many of the people who dig there are only interested in large log segments surrounded by thick agate so they toss fragments and small branches to the side.

We all came home with some prizes. Hopefully next year we'll get the whole crew back out there.

FCOLC members in Wyoming this June



Aimeee's Corner!!

**Shirley Ness in
Wyoming this year**



**Hard-won
prizes from
Wyoming's Blue
Forest**

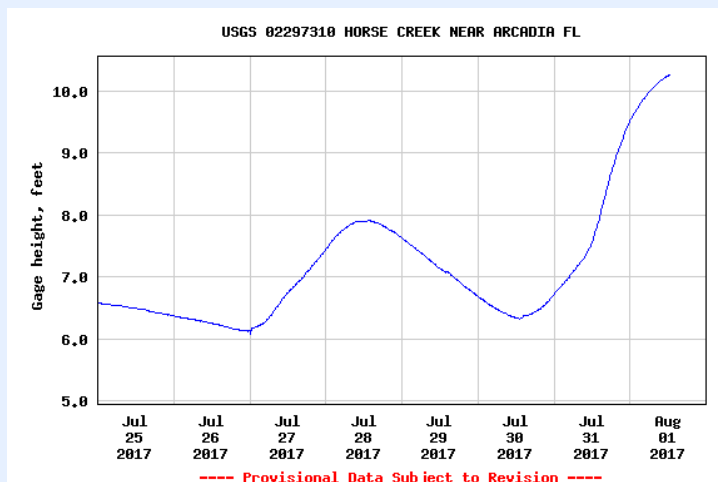
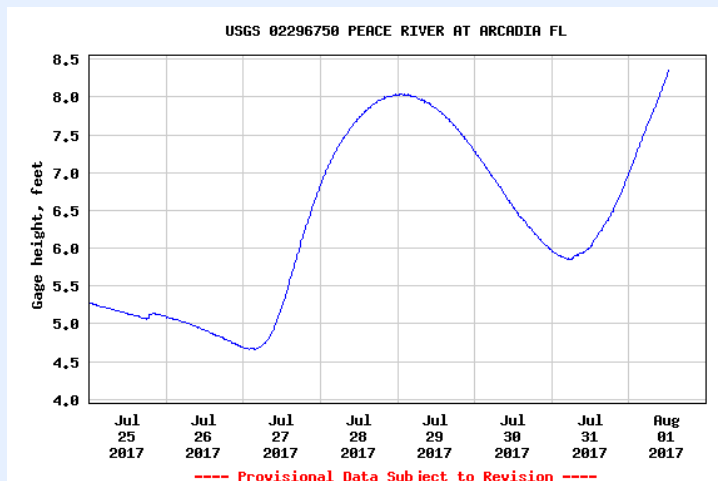
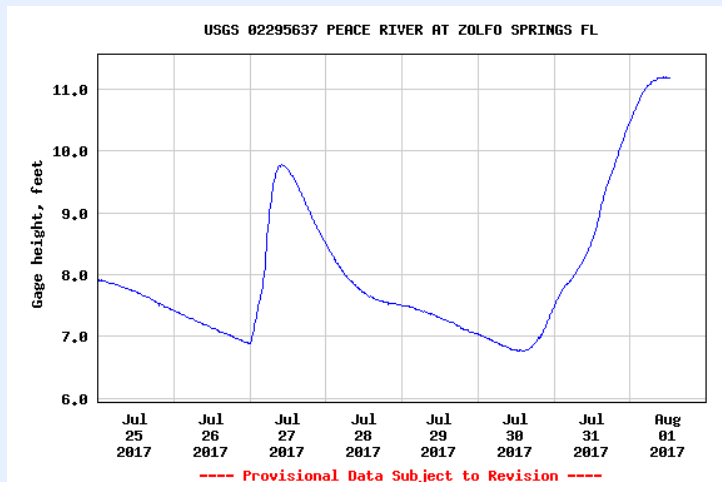


**A beautiful piece
of Blue Forest
wood being
uncovered**



PEACE RIVER WATER LEVELS!!

As of August 1st, these are the water level in the Peace River and Horse Creek.
It's WAAAYYYY over our heads!!





Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, a non-profit educational organization, is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on October 6th, 7th & 8th, 2017 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, artifacts, metaphysical stones, cabochons, etc. Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations and Family Activities. Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$2, Scouts in uniforms free. Website: www.cfmgs.org. Contact: Show Chairman George Wood, 321-663-8805 or e-Mail geow98@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 407-816-1229. Thank you.

Betty Sumner, Secretary

"This is one of those hobbies that if you want to be successful you have to leave your comfort zone".

SHOW AND TELL!!!

A few nice meg teeth found by Mike Siciliano on a recent Venice Beach dive!



SHOW AND TELL!!

SOME OF MY NICE CRYSTAL CLAMS FROM THE FCOLC HUNT AT RUCKS PIT. LOUIS



FCOLC trip to the Fort Drum Crystal Mine!!



FCOLC TRIP TO HUNT FOR FOSSIL CRYSTAL CLAMS!!



Sue is very protective of her fossil clam honey hole!!



A few crystal clams

Cindi says--"STAY AWAY FROM MY
FOSSILS!!!"



Rare shark teeth trapped by crystals!!
Found by eagle-eye Sue Rhoades!!

FLMNH Database search tutorial

Here's the tutorial for the search function my talk was based on. This should help navigate the database and look at fossils.

Sean Moran, M.S.

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To view images of vertebrate fossils from the Florida Museum of Natural History collections:

1. Go to floridamuseum.ufl.edu/vertpaleo-search
2. To see images check the “Only Results With Images” box at the top of the search
3. Enter your search terms of interest:
 - Taxonomic terms (e.g., Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)
 - These are all latinized names, so you will need to know (generally) what you are looking for. Good resources include “The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida” -Richard Hulbert, the taxonomic lists on the FLMNH Vertebrate Fossil Sites pages (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/sites/), FLMNH species accounts (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/species/), or simply by using Google.
 - Locality terms (e.g., County, Site, Formation, Land Mammal Age, Epoch)
 - Again, some of these terms may be unfamiliar to a general collection, such as the Hemphillian North American Land Mammal Age, but resources on the FLMNH website (e.g., floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/land-mammal-ages/) should be able to provide some help.
 - Collection terms (e.g., Collector, Donor Name, Date Collected)
 - These should be fairly self-explanatory.
 - Anatomical terms (Nature of Specimen)
 - This will perhaps be the most commonly used search field, but also the trickiest to navigate without familiarity of the terms used. I would recommend changing the drop-down menu from “Equals” to “Contains” so that search returns all results with the search term entered. Most anatomical terms will bring back the terms you will likely be looking for. For example, typing in “ulna” in the Nature of Specimen field and changing the drop-down to contains will return all ulnae from our collection that have been imaged, “femur” will return all femora, “vertebra” all vertebrae, “skull” all skulls, “mandible” all lower jaws, etc.

However, due to our identification system, searching on “tooth” will only return a subset of all the photos of our teeth. This because our teeth are labeled as C, I, P, or M (for canine, incisor, premolar, or molar, respectively) for mammals and then given a number that pertains to which exact tooth it is (1 through 4). So, a P4, left upper would be a left upper fourth premolar while a m3, right lower would be a right lower third molar. If you simply switch the drop-down to “Contains” and type “p1” then “p2” then “p3” then “p4” into the Nature of Specimen field you should all images that contain a premolar in them or “m1”, “m2”, “m3” for specimens that contain a molar. It’s a little tricky, but feel free to email me atsmmoran@ufl.edu if you can’t get it figured out. Hopefully, in the future the database search function will be a little more user-friendly.
4. Click the blue “Submit Query” button
 - This will return all the images at the bottom of the page for the search you typed in above.

Other useful hints include switching between the table and list option in results box, clicking the “Display” box for a field that may not show up by default, sorting by a particular field using the “Sort Direction” drop-down menu, and exporting the results as a .csv file.

2017 FOSSIL FAIR

Florida Fossil Hunters

Twenty-sixth Annual Fossils, Rocks, Gems & Minerals

Saturday, October 28, 2017

9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, October 29, 2017

10:00am - 4:00pm



Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

\$4.00 Adults | \$1.00 Children

**Learn to dig in Florida and
see what can be discovered!**

Directions:

I-4 to Orlando, Exit 84,
West Hwy 50/Colonial Drive
exit Westbound.

The fairgrounds will be
on the right side, just past
Mercy Drive.



For more information on the 2017 Fossil Fair contact us by email at
info@floridafossilhunters.com, call 407-699-9274, or check the website at

www.floridafossilhunters.com

Raffles

Vendors

**Silent
Auctions**

Kids Dig Pit \$1

**Educational
Displays**

**Airconditioned
INDOORS!**

