

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

Message from the President

Hello fellow fossil club members!! Another month has passed and a lot has happened since our last meeting. Those who attended the August meeting enjoyed it immensely. Andreas Kerner, a fossil dealer and collector from Germany, who now lives in Orlando, gave a great presentation. He spoke about his part in the discovery of a super rare extinct animal, which I will attempt to name, a Pachyarmetherium. This is only the second one known. He also spoke about fossil hunting underwater, in sinkholes, and on land sites. Andreas helped us have a very interesting meeting!!

The speaker I had lined up for September's meeting, Lenny Canterbury, had to postpone until October, so instead, that month's speaker, Debra Powell, has consented to speak this month instead. Debra will speak on and do demonstrations of, fossil matrix. This will be a hands on, with everyone attending participating!! Debra will bring lots of fossil matrix to share and members get to keep what they find!! In case you don't know what this is, the matrix is material dug from a prolific spot in a pit, washed well, and sieved through a screen. The fossils found in it are small, but very interesting. Both vertebrates and invertebrates are found. Please bring a tweezers and a container, or ziplock bag, to put your finds in. If you want you can also bring a magnifier. This will be a different, and fun meeting!! Please, also remember to bring your show and tell items. I happen to know that several fossil club members have done a little hunting, so you guys bring your finds. A good way to help learn and id your fossils is to see other's. We all gain from you sharing your treasures with the group.

Next month's speaker will be Lenny Canterbury and November's will be Dr. Richard Hulbert. December 10 is our fossil festival, and December general meeting is our Christmas pot luck party. The speaker in January will be Dr. Robert Sinibaldi, so bring your "fossil diving" books for him to sign!!

I would like to thank Sandra Schwarz for all her help with the newsletter and book procurement, and Debra Powell who is working on getting tee shirts for the fossil festival. Our treasurer, Ray Seguin, had a total knee replacement surgery in the beginning of August. Ray has had a hard time with it, but is now on the road to recovery. Ray couldn't attend the meeting in August. This was the first meeting Ray has missed since 1995 !!!!!!! WOW !!!!He sure does set a good example. He promised to attend this September meeting, so be sure to give him a hearty pat on the back and a good swift kick ... No, never mind.. Just tell him hello.

Our club web site, maintained by webmaster Curtis Klug, is up and running. We are considering posting the newsletter on the site, for the whole world to see!! This is still in the development stages. Our website www.fcolc.com in case you have not visited it yet.

Hurricane Katrina has wreaked tremendous havoc on the Gulf coast. I am originally from New Orleans, and my wife, Leslie, is from Jackson, Miss. We both had people in harm's way, but it seems that most, if not all, escaped with their lives, and some even with their homes. .What a terrible tragedy!!!! I am sure we all can relate to a little of what they are going through, since most of us experienced Charley last year. The entire country will be needed to be called upon to help these people recover. I would like to see us do our part, so, therefore, I am proposing that the theme of our fossil festival be tied in to relief efforts and a portion of our proceeds be contributed to the Red Cross relief. We can discuss this further at the meeting, or if you have an opinion, and cannot attend, email me at cape187@earthlink.net with your

thoughts. We are a democratic club, where everyone's invited to speak out. I hate making decisions for the club, as a whole, not that I can't, but that I feel we should all participate.

I keep mentioning the fossil show without really talking about it, so I will bring you up to speed now. Our fossil festival chairman, Marc Cantos has had such an increase in his workload, and since making a living is a priority, after discussing it, Marc has decided to step down from that position. He truly was getting overloaded at his job, so now, hopefully, he can concentrate more fully on surviving. Marc, thanks for all your help up to this point. Michael Orchin has gracefully agreed to take over the reins, with my direct involvement, and try to see us through this juncture and have a successful festival. Michael, who has helped the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife have successful festivals, is presently out of town, as I write this, but next Monday, we will meet and get this festival moving forward faster. We will anticipate a lot of help from you guys. After all, this is your club, and I'm sure you want it to succeed. So far we have five committed fossil dealers, one "art lady", some response from non-profit groups, a couple of speakers, and we have concessions lined up. We will need help on the setup and takedown, the club table, the front gate, the volunteer organizer person, the raffle, and donation procurement, among other little tasks, here and there. You will have fun. This is your festival. You will volunteer. You will get sleepy, sleepy.... You will now sign up!! See you on Thursday,
Louis

August Meeting

Our September Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, Fl. The speaker will be Debra Powell.



MINUTES OF MEETING OF LEE COUNTY FOSSIL CLUB

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

DATE OF MEETING: August 18, 2005

TIME OF MEETING: 7:00 P. M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

President Louis Steiffel presiding.

Our thoughts are will Treasurer Ray Seguin who is recuperating from surgery. Thanks go to Sandy Schwartz for her work on the newsletter. She is thinking of putting the newsletter on the website. Thanks go to speaker Andreas Turner for an excellent talk on a rare, extinct armadillo-like creature. Handy Phil pit is open every third Saturday, but you must contact Debra Powell as to hours and conditions upon which you can enter.

Please sign up for Fossil Festival committees. It is important that the membership participate widely in the Fossil Festival and not let a few members shoulder the burden of the entire show.
Secretary



Officers

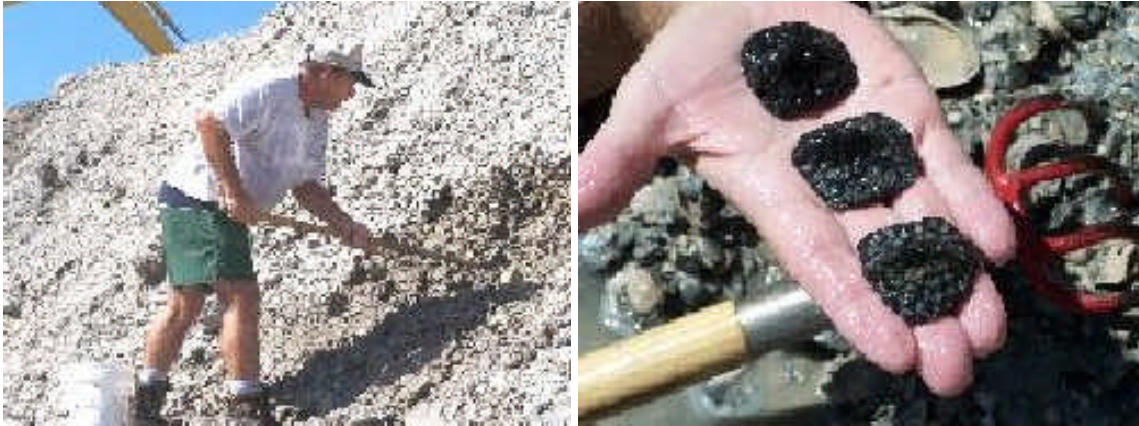
Louis Stieffel, President: (239) 458-9818 Cape187@earthlink.net
John Reilly, Vice President: 482-7787
Ray Seguin, Treasurer: 939-1921 /936-5019
Charles Ferber, Secretary: 489-2891
Jerry Graham: (941) 423-0803

Committees

Web Site: Curtis Klug
Fossil Show: Marc 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



Al Govin working in the ring ditch at a pit up north, it was cooler close to the water. He found gator scutes (see below), gator teeth, a glyptadont tooth, a horse molar, and a gator toe bone.



Lewis trying his luck looking through the mounds. Not a great day but a bad day fossil hunting is still better than a great day at work!

Books for your library

The club has purchased 4 interesting and informative books to make available to our members at below retail cost. These books will help you to identify your finds and give information on locating sites to hunt.

- Vertebrate Fossils: A Neophyte's Guide by Frank A. Kocsis Jr. \$15.00
- Fossilized Shark's Teeth and Fossils by Bron Fink \$ 4.75
- Fossil Shark Teeth of the World by Joe Cocke \$15.50
- Fossil Diving in Florida Waters or any other waters containing Prehistoric Treasures by Dr. Robert Sinibaldi ***** **Dr. Sinibaldi will speak at our club in January 2006!** \$12.00

Coming Events

Florida Fossil Hunters will have a Fossil Festival on October 15th and 16th at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building A. Hours are Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-4. Adults \$3., children \$1. For more information, see www.floridafossilhunters.com

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: FCOLC2124 Harvard,
Avenue, Ft. Myers, FL 33907