



# Fossil Club of Lee County

September 2007

## Message from the president

Hello again!!

Another month already!! Boy, this summer has gone by fast! I sure hope all you guys are getting in your fossil hunting while the weather's nice. Hot, yes, but the days are long and the sun is right! When the fall and winter rolls around the sun is in a different angle in the sky and when hunting in pits and landsites, it gets harder to see the fossils. Think I'm crazy?? Just wait and see when that latter part of the year gets here and go land hunting. The shadows get soooo long and the angle gets bad making concentration a must. So---go now!!

Al Govin and I went fossil hunting LAST WEEK in the Peace River!! I had never hunted the river in September before, as it is usually at flood stage. We were, at the most, waist deep!! We canoed up around the Bowling Green area and actually got stuck on the bottom twice. Maybe by the time you read this, the river may still be hunttable, but no telling at this time. If we don't get some serious rain soon we will be in trouble this winter. I would rather have our needed rains than be able to hunt the river now, but as long as it's low--go for it!!

This month our speaker will be Frank Ponzio. He is a past president of the Mannisota Fossil Club, and will be speaking to us about artifact hunting while fossil hunting. He would like any club member to bring in beads (which you have found in times past) for identification, as he has started specializing in ancient beads, especially Indian related. He also can help id arrowheads and artifacts found locally in

## September Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd. Our speaker will be Frank Ponzio, past president of the Manisota Fossil Club.

times past.

Next month we will have a fossil hunt at the meeting. Two years ago, Debra Powell brought a bunch of washed fossiliferous shelly matrix from a rich spot in a pit and the members present hunted through it, keeping whatever they found!! Everyone enjoyed it so I have been putting together different washed matrix samples and sieved river gravels for the same purpose, so next month--October--any members attending the meeting will do some fossil hunting!! Keep what you find. I do ask, however, that if you have a magnifying glass and tweezers of some sort, to bring them, as I do not have many to bring. These are small to tiny fossils, and very interesting.

The club offers, to members, great prices on books, t-shirts, riker cases, fossil preservative (Butvar, Vican), and someone is always ready to help with advice and information. Bring in your finds for show-n-tell each month, and if you don't know what it is, probably someone else will. We also have a great website, courtesy of webmaster Curtis Klug, where you can view some club trips, archived newsletters, links to other fossil related sites and the USGS river level site. ([www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com))

We have some great, world class, speakers, and lots of times they are offering fossils, etc. to members at terrific prices, or trades! Since you're reading this, then you realize another club benefit

is this great newsletter Sandy Schwartz produces each month. Take advantage of these services, please. (You may want to stock up on riker cases for the fossils next month!) We provide these opportunities, as well as fossil trips, monthly \$1 raffle table, and refreshments. All we ask is your participation and volunteering to help a little. It's YOUR club, so use it and you get more out of it!!

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel, president, F.C.O.L.C.

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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

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

DATE OF MEETING: August 16, 2007

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Caloosa Nature Center

Number in attendance: approximately 24

Louis Stieffel presiding.

Thank you to Mike for refreshments.

Treasury: \$5,497.09

No trips this month.

Peace River is getting high.

Thanks to Mr. Terry Seleri, former President of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club and fossil dealer, for his enlightening talk about his collecting experiences, identification of fossils, and pathological fossil. Thank to Terry for speaking to our club and for coming all the way from Perry to speak to us.

Secretary

**Officers**

Louis Stieffel, President (239) 458-9818  
or e-mail: Cape 187@earthlink.net  
Al Govin, Vice President 541-2845  
and cell 910-2339  
Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 989-1921 or  
936-5019  
Chuck Ferber, Secretary 489-2891

**Board Members**

Leslie Stieffel 458-9818  
Michael Orchin 574-6318  
Sandy Schwartz 772-8015  
Trip Director: Alice Thorne

**Committees**

Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz  
Speakers: Louis Stieffel  
\$1. raffle: Mike Siciliano  
Auction: Louis Stieffel  
Web Master: Curtis Klug

**Coming Events**

October 13 and 14—Florida Fossil Hunters 2007 Fossil Fair featuring fossils, rocks, gems, minerals and artifacts. Also kids dig pit \$1.00 Held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds 4603 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32808. Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4. Adults \$3, children \$1.

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**Scientists show off giant dinosaur bones**

Animals were twice as long as an average bus Brisbane, Australia- Scientists unveiled bones from two 82-foot behemoths they said were the largest dinosaurs ever found in Australia.

Fossilized bones from the two titanosaurs were found in 2005 and 2006 by ranchers near the town of Eromanga, 600 miles west of the Queensland state capital, Brisbane.

They were put on display for the first time at the Queensland Museum in May after a long period of excavation and scientific identification.

“These are the largest bones ever discovered in Australia,” museum curator Scott Hocknull told reporters. The biggest of the bones— a humerus,

from a foreleg—measures 5 feet long and weighs 220 pounds.

“They would have been about two buses in length,” Hocknull said of the animals.

Titanosaurs are among the largest of the prehistoric animals known as sauropods, long-necked, long-tailed plant-eating dinosaurs that existed during the Jurassic and Early Cretaceous periods between 100 million and 200 million years ago. Their bones are found all over the world.

Hocknull said the two recent finds - nicknamed Cooper and George—indicated the animals were about 23 feet longer than the previous biggest reported titanosaur whose remains were found in Australia, also in Queensland in 1999.

Rancher Stuart Mackenzie said he stumbled across the first bone while mustering cattle on a motorbike on his property two years ago.

“The very first bone we found was the most exciting because until you actually have it verified by the museum you don’t actually know you’ve got a bone, you just think it’s a rock,” Mackenzie said.

“From then on it’s just ballooned. We’ve found more sites and then we’ve stumbled across this one, and it was the daddy of them all,” he said, referring to the humerus find.

## Calusa Nature Center Volunteer Opportunities

I received a call the Calusa Nature Center looking for volunteers for their **Halloween Program**. They need to have a response by October 15th. People are needed for Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21 and again on October 27 and 28, also a Saturday and Sunday. The time needed is 2:15 to 6:30, the program runs from 3–6. If you would like to dress up, that would be even more fun. They will have pony rides, a craft table, face painting and a magician. I have volunteered several times, it involved sitting at the entry and taking entry fees and referring people to a membership table at times. You can choose what you want to do, including clean up. It is fun and helps us meet a goal to provide a meeting place for our club in exchange for person power. Call Kim Pierce at 275-3435 or e-mail her at [Kim@calusanature.com](mailto:Kim@calusanature.com)

### *Refreshments*

September Sandy Schwartz

October Volunteer needed