

Fossil Club of Lee County

September 2009

Message from the President



Greetings to all and welcome to our new members. We are looking forward to having all of our out-of-town members returning to Fort Myers. We are having our Fossil Show on December 5th and we will be asking everyone to help put on a great show.

We finished printing our flyer for the Fossil Show. Thanks to Carl Fricke for helping with the layout. We will have copies at our next meeting and the flyer is included in this newsletter. At the appropriate time we will ask everyone to distribute flyers to help publicize the show.

Our library of fossil books and papers that were gifts from Dr. Robin Brown have been reviewed, organized, and catalogued by Louis Steiffel. This was a big job and we thank Louis for his efforts. We plan to have our library at the Iona House and expect to be lending material out in October. Our club facilitated the donation of two large display cases which we gave to the Calusa Nature Center. Thanks to Michael Orchin and Michael Siciliano for helping to transport these large and heavy cases to the CNC. We received a letter of appreciation from CNC and it is included in this newsletter.

Our speaker for September will talk about the sea shells of southwest Florida. We will have our usual Show and Tell segment so bring in your modern shells or fossil shells. Of course, you are always invited to bring in any fossils or artifacts for Show and Tell.

We will have our usual monthly raffle so if you want to donate some items they will be appreciated. Also, we are still asking for members to sign up to do the refreshments for October and November. Thanks to all of our volunteers who help to make our club a great club.

We look forward to seeing all everyone at our next meeting.
Bill

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd.

Officers

Bill Shaver, President (239)834-0694 /
billshaverpeace river@hotmail.com

Al Govin, Vice President (239)245-7560 and cell 910-2339

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 939-1921 or 936-5019

Sharon Drake, Secretary, (239) 823-9052

Board Members

Director—Louis Stieffel, 458-9818

Michael Orchin, 574-6318

Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015

Trip Director, Bill Shaver

Dive Trip Director, Mike Siciliano , 980-1406

Committees

Newsletter: Cheryl Mitchell

Speakers: Bill Shaver

\$1.00 Raffle: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

MINUTES OF MEETING THE 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: August 20, 2009

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE; Calusa Nature Center

ATTENDANCE; 47

PRESIDED BY: Bill Shaver, President

Meeting was called to order and the President acknowledged new members.

The speaker was Dr. Lisa Whitenack from USF. She spoke about sharks and shark teeth based on extensive analysis she had done at various places. Louis Steiffel has catalogued the library of books that Dr. Brown donated to our club. Louis said that there are about 100 items; 25 are in binders. The procedures for lending should be in place by September. Bill spoke about the upcoming Fossil Show and said we would be asking for all members to help distribute flyers at the appropriate time. There is new leadership at the Calusa Nature Center. Ralph Williams who is President of the Board of Directors is our new point of contact. CNC would be appreciative of anyone who would like to volunteer their time. Two upcoming events were mentioned: A trek through the Six Mile Cypress Slough –contact: Charles OConnor, and Tom Allen gave some details on a Honey Bee Awareness program at the Palm Nursery. Regarding trips: Gunther is still conducting trips to the Quality Materials pit on Sundays for members who have signed up. The Peace River is still too high for fossiling hunts.

Gunther volunteered to do refreshment snacks for September and Lori and Bill Mandos will bring in the beverages. The President thanked them for supporting their club and encouraged other to volunteer for future meetings.

Show and Tell participants were Coby Powloski, Louis Steiffel, Cay Small, and Gunther Lobish. The monthly raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

JOSE H. LEAL, Ph.D

José H. Leal, Ph.D., was hired as the director of The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum in February 1996. His area of specialization is systematics of marine mollusks. Dr. Leal received his Bachelors Degree of Science in Marine Biology and M.S. in Invertebrate Zoology from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He holds a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami. Dr. Leal was a Visiting Professor at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris, and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Leal holds honorary faculty positions at the University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University, and University of Alabama. He is also a Past-president (2003–2004) of the American Malacological Society and editor of *The Nautilus*.



Mollusk

mol'lusk, mol'lusc

Mollusks are invertebrates that have bilaterally symmetrical bodies, well-developed nervous and digestive systems, mantle, and muscular foot.



Marinelifephotography-Keoki&Yuko Stender

• WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.fcolc.com FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/> MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY @ GAINSVILLE

<http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm> FLORIDA VERTEBRATE FOSSIL PERMIT

<http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com> SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FOSSIL CLUB

<http://www.floridafossilhunters.com> ORLANDO FOSSIL CLUB

<http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com> TAMPA BAY FOSSIL CLUB

PEACE RIVER WATER LEVELS:

<http://www.canoeoutpost.com>

<http://www.mnh.si.edu>. SMITHSONIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Contact Cheryl at kayak-peaceriver@yahoo.com if you have any suggested additions to our web site in the interest column



• LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

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

Imaginarium
200 Cranford Av, Fort Myers
www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium

Southwest Florida Museum of History
2300 Peck St., Fort Myers
www.swflmuseumofhistory.com

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

Randell Research Center
PO Box 608, Pineland, FL
(on Pine Island)
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Six Mile Cypress Drive (Between Daniels and Colonial) www.leeparks.org/fossil

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

Lost in Time, St. Pete Pier, St. Petersburg, FL
Tel 727.823.7493



Lost in time, St.Pete Pier, St. Petersburg, Fl



Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium

September 2, 2009

Mr. Bill Shaver and Members of the Fossil Club of Lee County
3977 Vilmoor Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Dear Fossil Club Members,

I would like to thank you for your recent efforts in securing and delivering a donation of two cabinet display cases from Anderson's True Value to the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. We are currently discussing exhibit possibilities that would put these cases to their best use!

The Fossil Club has always been a valued partner of the Calusa Nature Center, and it is through generosity and consideration such as yours that the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium is able to meet our mission of developing *a greater community awareness and appreciation of the unique natural systems of Southwest Florida and to foster an understanding of earth and space sciences.*

On behalf of everyone at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, I send you special thanks for your generosity. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at (239) 275-3435.

Sincerely,

Kim Pierce
Director of Operations

KP/ah

A FOSSIL TALE...



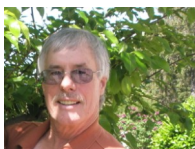
Let me tell a story. I am a novice in finding fossils. I have only been doing it since April, 2009. I went on a Peace River trip with Mark Renz 5 years ago, and remembered all he taught me. In April, I went back to the Peace and through May and Early June, found a few three toed horse teeth, a bison tooth, and numerous small shark teeth. In July and August, the Peace can be difficult, rising 4-5 feet in a couple of days. I note that the Peace River at Arcadia rose 4 feet in the last two days. Thus, I look for other fossil experiences.

On Sunday, August 30th, I connected with Gunther Lobish, who gave me directions to the Quality Materials Pit. Unfortunately Gunther could not be there, but he handed me off to Pam Plummer for basic guidance on how to survive and where to dig. I arrived at 8:30 am at the front gate. Being a novice, I brought the wrong type of cart, no shovel or hoe, nothing big to carry out whatever fossils I might find. I did have lots of water, food, a couple of small shark teeth collection bags, and one small three pronged garden tool. I received a warm welcome from Pam, and 3 other members of the fossil club who were digging in this 35 foot mound of dirt and rock, recently extracted from the pit, and dumped by the side of the lake filling the pit. I was even gifted with a couple of dirt blobs that turned out to contain arrowhead sand dollars.

After small talk, I realized that I did not have the right tools and, even if I did, digging in the Florida sun in this pit would rapidly tire me out. So, I decided to wander around looking for fossils on top of the ground and mounds that seem to contain more shells. I found additional Arrowhead sand dollars, numerous large pinkish barnacles, many shells that are common in south Florida currently and one 3 1/2 inch ancestor of a Kings Crown. I was pretty pleased although the only bone fossils I found were unknown rib pieces. Once the clouds and slight drizzles disappeared the sun turned brutal and the heat shot up. I was drinking a bottle of water every 20 minutes.

At noon, knowing I could last only another 45 minutes, I returned to the mound everyone was digging in, climbed up to about 5 feet from the top, and started excavating with my garden tool. Within 5 minutes, I struck a vein (of fossils!!!). I was finding joints and ribs and turtle shell in a imaginary small box about 2 feet wide, between 12 and 20 inches deep from the top of the dirt. The first odd looking fossil is likely an inner ear bone (1.25 x 2.5 inches) which seems very similar to a Llama bone I found searching the internet. I'll need Louis to identify for certain. Quickly thereafter out comes what I thought was a foot with toes, but turns out to be the lower mandible of a modern horse, containing 4 of the 8 teeth. I slowly sifted the dirt and found 2 additional teeth. It is a small (3 x 5 inches) mandible from a young horse and almost complete. All I can say is WOW!!! While searching for those additional teeth, I grabbed a 2 by 4 inch fossil with an odd groove down the side. Running out of time, I quickly tossed it into my bag. After cleaning, talking to Gunther, searching the internet, this last fossil is most likely three quarters of a Woolly Mammoth tooth with the top missing, a really exciting find.

Needless to say, I had a fantastic introduction, and I will return again and again. I recommend the Quality Materials Pit to all and may you all repeat the luck I had on Sunday. Thanks again to Gunther.



Jack Boyce

Supersize' lions roamed Britain

By Natalie Hancock, BBC News, Oxford

Remains of giant cats previously discovered were thought to be a species of jaguar or tiger but after DNA analysis they were proved to be lions. They were 25% bigger than the species of African lion living today, and had longer legs to chase their prey. They would have lived in icy tundra with mammoth and saber-toothed tigers. It is thought these animals would hunt over longer distances, and their longer legs would help them chase down their prey as opposed to the modern-day species which tends to ambush its victims. The Oxford team analyzed DNA from fossils and other remains gathered from Germany to Siberia, and Alaska to Wyoming. Dr Ross Barnett, who conducted the research at Oxford University's department of Zoology, said: "These ancient lions were like a super-sized version of today's lions and, in the Americas, with longer legs adapted for endurance running. "What our genetic evidence shows is that these ancient extinct lions and the lions of today were very closely related.

"Cave art also suggests that they formed prides, although the males in the pictures would not have had manes and they are depicted very realistically." Lions appear to have been very important to early man with many depictions of them in their cave paintings, as in seen in the pre-historic cave complex at Chauvet in France. Other archaeological finds in Germany include figurines which are half man, half lion, leading to the theory that lions may even have been worshipped by ancient humans. The team found that these remains from the Pleistocene Epoch (1.8 million years ago to 10,000 years ago) could be divided into two groups: the American Lion which lived in North America, and the Cave Lion which lived in northern Europe, Russia, Alaska and the Yukon. These ancient cats would have lived in an environment that was more like an icy tundra and would have shared their habitat with herds of other large animals such as mammoth, woolly rhino, saber tooth tigers and giant deer. About 13,000 years ago these species died out in a mass extinction. Figuring out the reason behind this, Dr Barnett said, was one of the last great scientific mysteries. He said: "There are a couple of different schools of thought. It could have been climate change or something to do with humans. Humans could have been killing off their prey or killing the lions themselves. "The extinction is a big question that remains unresolved. More research and more advanced genetic analysis may help answer it. "A mammoth mystery:

Many large animals disappeared about 13,000 years ago



SOURCE: Nobby Yamaguchi

COMING EVENTS

The Florida Fossil Hunters (Orlando Club) is having a Fossil Fair on October 10th and 11th at the Central Florida Fairgrounds.



Woolly mammoth hair

Visit their website
www.floridafossilhunters.com
or call 407-699-9274 for details.

FIELD TRIPS

For those of us who look forward to hunting fossils in the Peace River, we will have to wait a while for the water levels to drop.

At the time of this writing the water level is 6 feet above normal. We do plan to have a club trip in the fall when the river is back to normal.

We have had some luck in hunting the Quality Materials pit. Our trip leader, Gunther Lobish is taking members there on Sundays and they have been making some good finds. See the pictures submitted by John Boyce in this issue. We will have sign-up sheets at the next meeting. According to our Dive Trip Leader, Mike Siciliano, there has not been any diving for several days because of such poor visibility. But, don't be discouraged--it will eventually clear up, so keep your gear fit and ready.



Golf course groundskeeper finds mammoth tooth

August 23, 2009 By The Associated Press
SARANAC, Mich. (AP) — A golf course groundskeeper recently stumbled onto something unexpected on the greens: A tooth from a 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10-pound tooth Tuesday when he was on the greens about 30 miles east of [Grand Rapids](#) at Morrison Lake Country Club. The recent high school graduate told The Grand Rapids Press he knew the tooth exposed by recent rains was from an extinct elephant because he paid attention in his science classes. Research assistant Scott Beld from the University of Michigan's Museum of Paleontology visited the course and confirmed that Walker's find was a mammoth tooth. He also visited the site the tooth was found and discovered bones and a portion of a tusk — fossils that will remain in place pending further study.

REFRESHMENTS

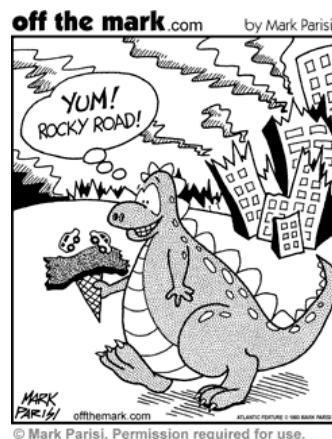
The refreshments need not be lavish, but preferred to be kept simple except on special occasions. Drinks, crackers, cookies, and chips are all that are necessary. The club provides the drink cooler and will reimburse you for what you have spent. Figure on about 50 attending each summer meeting. So be a strong club member Take a turn at doing the refreshments!

We appreciate you all!!!!

SEPTEMBER - Gunther Lobish and
Lori and Bill Mandos

OCTOBER - NEED VOLUNTEER

NOVEMBER—NEED VOLUNTEER



Welcome to our new members.....

Deborah Bouchard

Robert Bridges



FOSSIL SHOW 2009

PRESENTED BY

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

FOSSIL SHARK TEETH, VERTEBRATE FOSSILS, ROCKS & MINERALS, INDIAN ARTIFACTS, TRADE BEADS, BOTTLES, GEMSTONES, FOSSIL SHELLS, AND UNIQUE JEWELRY.

MEET LOCAL FOSSIL COLLECTORS

FIND OUT WHERE AND HOW TO HUNT FOR FOSSILS, SEE THE EXHIBITS

FEATURING SEVERAL WELL KNOWN FLORIDA VENDORS

KIDS FOSSIL DIG - KEEP WHAT YOU FIND

RAFFLES, GAMES

DOOR PRIZES, SILENT AUCTIONS

FOSSIL TALKS BY DR. CHARLES O'CONNOR

10:00 AM - FLORIDA'S FOSSILS

FOSSILIZATION, SABER-TOOTH CATS, MAMMOTHS, GIANT GROUND SLOTHS, HUGE SHARKS, HOW TO HUNT FOSSILS, & MUCH MORE! MANY FOSSILS ON DISPLAY.

2:00 PM - SHARKS

BIOLOGY, FOSSIL TEETH, & MEGALODONS - THE LARGEST SHARK OF ALL TIME!
MANY TEETH ON DISPLAY.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

9 AM TO 5 PM

AT THE

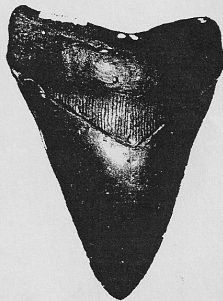
***CALUSA NATURE CENTER &
PLANETARIUM***

CORNER OF COLONIAL BLVD & ORTIZ AVE.

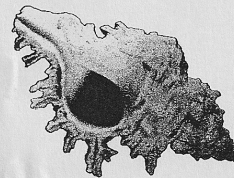
ENTRANCE ON ORTIZ AVE

FT. MYERS, I-75 EXIT 136 - GO WEST TO 1ST LIGHT,
TURN RIGHT, ENTRANCE 500 FT ON LEFT

WWW.FCOLC.COM



7" Megalodon Shark Tooth
Univ. of Florida



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