

Fossil Club of Lee County

September 2010

Message from the President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all members and a warm welcome to those who have recently joined us. We hope our newcomers will enjoy being part of our great club.

It's that time of the year when we are preparing for our Annual Fossil Show to be held at the Calusa Nature Center. The date is Saturday, December 4th from 9am to 5pm. Our goal is to raise additional funds to support our scholarship programs and other worthy causes. We are in need of some donated specimens to be used for the "kids dig", fossil spin game, silent auction, raffles, and gifts for all children under age 12. Please bring your items to the monthly meeting so we can collect and ready them for the Show.

We are pleased to announce that the Thomas Allen Museum will be open to the public on Tuesday, September 28th. The ribbon-cutting is scheduled for 11AM. There are several prints of Tom's paintings hung on the walls and we have his collections nicely arranged in the four display cases our Club purchased for the museum. I am sure that everyone will be quite impressed with Tom's artwork and the specimens he has collected. Tom previously donated his dinosaur specimens to the Smithsonian Institute and donated his lifetime collection of 26,000 butterflies and moths to the University of Florida Museum of Natural History.

We have some excellent speaker programs lined up for September, October, and November. And, Dr. Charles OConnor did a great job last month with his presentation on sharks and shark teeth.

With all the rain and extreme temperatures, fossiling in the field has not been good for the past few months, but I know that some of you braved the elements and will be bringing in your finds to share with your fellow members. I heard that some fine megs were found so I expect a pretty good "show and tell" session.

As usual we will have our door prize drawings, refreshments, and our monthly raffle.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, September 16th.

Best regards, Bill

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, Thursday, September 16th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd, Ft. Myers.

OFFICERS

Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694,
billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com
Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406
Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 239-939-1921
Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

DIRECTORS

Dean Hart, 941-979-8217
Gunther Lobish, 941-268-7506
Charles OConnor, 239-246-5526
Michael Orchin, 239-574-6318

COMMITTEES

Bob Wood, Newsletter Editor

sailzonandon@verizon.net

Curt Klug, Web Master

Bill Shaver, Speakers

Michael Orchin, Auctioneer

Kathy Arnold, Club Merchandise

Ray Seguin, Membership

Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Hollie Tiner, Club Photographer

MINUTES OF JULY MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: August 19, 2010

Place: Iona House at Calusa Nature Center

Attendance: 38

Presided by: Bill Shaver, President

Bill welcomed all attendees and also welcomed a new member to the club, Joyce Simpson.

Bill told us of Tom Allen passing away on August the 9th and that the rest of his things are being donated so they can be put on display at the Calusa Nature Center. Ray Seguin is making picture frames for Tom's art work and diploma's.

At our September meeting, would everyone please check with Kathy Pawlowski to make sure that she has your correct email address, home address and phone number. That would be greatly appreciated so she can finish with the membership club list.

Bill also thanked Bob Wood for the great job he does with the newsletters.

The club has purchased some more Riker Boxes and Books. We also have a new book that is called "Megalodon Hunting The Hunter". Be sure to check it out at our merchandise table along with other goodies that the club has for sale at each meeting.

Don't forget that we have a great selection of books that you can borrow from the club from the Robin Brown collection.

Bill thanked Mike Siciliano and Valerie McCausland for the wonderful refreshments this month. We are still in need for the up-coming months for volunteers to bring in the refreshments. Remember just give RaySeguin your receipt for the food and drinks that you bought and you will be reimbursed.

CLUB RAFFLE

The club holds a monthly raffle about 10 times a year for the purpose of giving members an opportunity to win interesting items for a very minimal price. The money generated goes into the treasury and adds to monies available for scholarship grants. Please support the raffle by buying tickets and also bringing in items to place into the raffle. Your support will be appreciated.

Gunther Lobish reminded us all about the trips into Quality and that it is quite hot this time of the year so he is going in a little earlier to beat the heat and as always be sure to fill out the form that is needed to enter into Quality.

This months speaker was Dr Charles O'Connor. He spoke about Sharks and Sharks teeth.

The Fossil Show has been set for December the 4th. Vendors to setup at 7:00 am and the show will be from 9:00 am till 4:00 pm.

Show and Tell participants were Coby Pawlowski and Gunther Lobish.

The club presented Ray Seguin with a lifetime membership to the Fossil Club of Lee County. He received a plaque and a "BIG" Thank You from everyone. Thank You, Ray, for all that you have done over the years!!!

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary

REFRESHMENTS

The Club is pleased that we have members signed up to provide refreshments for our monthly meetings for September and October.

In August, Valerie McCausland and Mike Siciliano did the honors and we appreciated their support.

For September, Jim and Sharon Hale will do the honors.

Honey Archey has signed up for October.

Thanks to all for supporting your Club.

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

Ian Bartoszek has been a biologist with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida in Naples for the past ten years. During this time he has been the project manager for numerous research projects focusing on biological monitoring for the Everglades Restoration initiative. He has a Wildlife and Fisheries Science degree from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Last year, Ian spoke to the FCOLC on the topic of the American alligator in the Everglades.

This year's talk will focus on BIG snakes in Florida with an overview of the snake fauna found in the fossil record of the state and an update on the current python invasion in southern Florida.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

September 16th Ian Bartoszek
Snakes and alligators of the Everglades

October 21st Dr. Gregory Herbert
Update on USF Research Programs sponsored by FCOLC

November 18th Mark Renz
Presentation on his trip to fossil hunt in Peru

INTERNET SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

WEB SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

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

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

Southwest Florida Fossil Club
www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club
www.floridafossilhunters.com

PEACE RIVER Water Levels
www.canoeoutpost.com

Smithsonian Natural History Museum
www.mnh.si.edu

Florida Fossil Clubs
www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com

PICKING UP ISOLATED NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/underwater/finds>

Suncoast Reef Rovers - Suncoast Area Dive Stores (Venice and Sarasota) - www.suncoastreefrovers.com/divestores.htm

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

Imaginarium 200 Cranford AvE, 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
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

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

Lost in Time, 4719 69th Street, N. St Petersburg, FL 33709, Tel. 727-541-2567 Owner Brian Evensen

Peace River Wildlife Center
3400 West Marion Avenue (Ponce De Leon Park)
Punta Gorda, Florida
www.peaceriverwildlifecenter.com

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls
www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

Young Fossil Collectors Coby's Column

By Coby Pawlowski



Fossiling in Florida's Rivers and Streams

Florida's Rivers are great sources for finding fossils. From the Panhandle to Southern Florida, fossil-rich rivers are abundant. Finds can range from sharks teeth to mammoth to shells.

The rivers can also differ greatly. The Peace River's flood stage in Arcadia is 11 feet and the Suwanee River's is 29 feet. We thought the Peace was deep! Florida's rivers and streams can range from 1 foot wide to around 5000 feet.

The rivers can be dangerous places. Danger can range from poisonous snakes to alligators and snapping turtles along with swift currents and murky water and changing depths.

The rivers and streams can be very rewarding; you can hit the jackpot or strike out, you just have to find that gravel. Tools for hunting the rivers and streams can range from a shovel and screen box to scuba diving gear and everything in between.

ORLANDO FOSSIL FAIR

The Orlando Fossil Club is having their Fossil Fair in Orlando on October 8th and 9th. Contact their website for details www.floridafossilhunters.com

THE TOM ALLEN MUSEUM

Tom passed away on August 9th this year and the world lost a truly unique and talented individual. Tom was a member of our Club and also was involved in several other organizations that do wonderful things for their community.

A few of us met with Tom earlier this year and he asked us if we could find a way for young people to see the many things he has collected during his lifetime and to display some of his artwork. His desire was to get young people inspired and interested in wildlife, fossils, Indian artifacts, sea shells, and all things of nature which might cause them to pursue a career as a naturalist. For those of you that didn't know much about Tom, he was a career naturalist working for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for over 33 years.

We chose to work with the Calusa Nature Center to establish a museum to honor Tom and to make his wishes a reality. The Fossil Club of Lee County bought four display cases and is now in the process of arranging his collections and artwork. We have a room dedicated to house all of his works and it will be named the Thomas Allen Museum. Appropriately, the Nature Center will conduct Naturalist Training courses in the Museum.

The planned date for opening the Museum to the public and the ribbon-cutting is Tuesday, September 28th at 11AM.

In addition to his lifetime career as a naturalist, Tom had many other interests and was a gifted artist. Tom was a wildlife painter and sculptor, as well as a wood carver, photographer, writer, author of four wildlife books, and expert on butterflies and moths, a biologist and entomologist, an illustrator, and a bee keeper.

LOST IN TIME STORE

Our good friend, Brian Evensen called to say he is still operating his store at the Pier in St. Pete and hopes that our Club members will stop in and chat with him.

Brian had an amputation of his right leg just below the knee earlier this year. He has recovered much of his mobility and said that he took his first diving trip off Venice since his surgery!

He asked that we call him if we plan to see him at the store or perhaps at his home. He has a good variety of fossils and has the best Indian artifact collection in Florida or perhaps the world. His telephone number is listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

MIKE'S MEG EXPEDITION

Just got back from diving North Carolina. We were diving In the Atlantic, at about 110 feet., approx. 50 miles from shore, in the middle of nowhere.

We were promised Megs., BIG megs, and lots of them.

Down we went, scooter in 1 hand, dive reel in another. The current was strong, Very strong. I managed to use my scooter, dig a hole, and out they came. Big, Beautiful, Fossilized, shark teeth, 3", 4", and 5"!

We booked this trip 1 year in advance because it fills up quickly. It was not easy diving, but the rewards were plentiful. Mike Siciliano



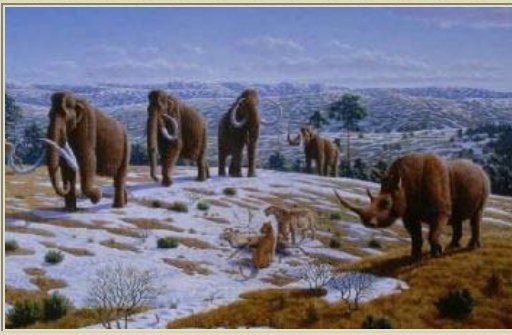
RECENT FINDS !

Hollie Tiner has been busy this year and has the results to prove it. The finds below were all taken off Venice this year. Congrats, Hollie, for persevering in less-than-perfect conditions.



PALEO NEWS

The reindeer and the mammoth already lived on the Iberian Peninsula 150,000 years ago (9/8/2010)



A team made up of members of the University of Oviedo (UO) and the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) have gathered together all findings of the woolly mammoth, the woolly rhinoceros and the reindeer in the Iberian Peninsula to show that, although in small numbers, these big mammals, prehistoric indicators of cold climates, already lived in this territory some 150,000 years ago.

The presence of the woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), the woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*), the reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*), and to a lesser extent the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), the arctic fox (*Alopex lagopus*), the musk-ox (*Ovibos moschatus*) and the Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*), has been linked to the paleoclimatic scale created on the basis of the isotopic composition of oxygen in the ice of Greenland.

The findings of cold climate fauna in the Iberian Peninsula coincide with the periods of greatest global cooling recorded in the ice of.

The study, which has been published in the journal *Quaternary International*, reveals that the oldest remains of mammals adapted to cold climates found in the Iberian Peninsula belong to great prehistoric mammals which lived in Spain 150,000 years ago.

The "glacial fauna" entered the Peninsula at that time because the environmental conditions in central and northern Europe were so extreme that the animals were obliged to migrate to the south.

44,000 years ago, these animals became more common in the Iberian Peninsula but only for periods. The cold periods alternated with milder periods.

The increase in temperatures caused a biological crisis

According to the team, the last findings of these cold species date back some 10,000 years, and coincide with the end of the glaciations.

The increase in temperatures caused a genuine biological crisis for these animals from extremely cold climates. Some species such as the reindeer and the arctic fox found their new habitat in the arctic regions of the planet, where they still survive today. Others, such as the woolly mammoth and the woolly rhinoceros weren't so lucky.

According to the studies of pollen remains associated with these findings, the landscape of the period in which the great mammals lived in the Iberian Peninsula comprised mainly of steppes, or herbaceous vegetation.

The Spanish researchers found the fossil remains of glacial climate fauna in 72 Iberian sites, the majority of which are in the north of the peninsula (Cornisa Cantabrica and Catalonia). There are also traces in inland areas and in the south, where the site of the woolly mammoths of Padul (Granada) lies.

These species lived alongside different human cultures. There is evidence in some sites of the Basque country, Navarra and Catalonia that the Neanderthals coexisted with the mammoths and the reindeer at specific times. However, the majority of evidence of these faunae coincides with the periods of the Gravettian, Solutrean and Magdalenian cultures (during the Upper Paleolithic era in West Europe).