



# FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2013

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Hello all!!

Another month has flown by and yet it's still hot and rainy. I have received an average of over an inch of rain at my house in Cape Coral almost every day this month! The rivers and creeks are still up to the top and I see no river hunting for several more months. Land hunting is all that is available, but only if you have a place to hunt. I was finally able to secure a solid date at Mosaic phosphate mine! It will be January 25. We are only allowed one date per season. I have not been able to secure a date to the SMR pit in Sarasota, but I will resubmit a request in early December, for a possible spring trip. We're looking at other outings in the meantime, and as soon as something happens, I'll let everyone know. Any club member, who has a trip idea, please let me know.

The **club logo contest** ends the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of September. The deadline for entries is our September meeting. The board will then decide a winner. I've seen a few preliminary designs, and I think we will wind up with a very nice club logo!

The December 7<sup>th</sup> fossil show is firming up. We have some dealers signed up and are now taking commitments from certain non-profit groups and also club members interested in setting up a booth at the show. Soon we will have volunteer lists for signups to help at the show. It is shaping up to be a good one!

Now that we have the rolling library stand built, painted and in place, with books on it, our club library is officially open! We can say that we have the best, and largest, fossil club library available to members, in the entire state! Many of these books were donated by Dr. Robin Brown and others were donated by various members. Ray Seguin recently donated his paleontological library to the club, and our librarian David Sheehey is curating them into the library. Any member who would like to donate to the club library,

please do so. Just bring the book(s) to a meeting, and we will take it from there. Since many of these books are out of print and very difficult to replace, please make sure you return them by the next meeting that you took them. The club thanks you.

Jack Boyce, our hardworking newsletter editor, would like to include a fossil of the month in the newsletter. Please submit your entry to him by the first of each month, for consideration of being chosen for that month. He needs a short finder story as well as a couple of pictures. The newsletter will also showcase a participating fossil show vendor, each month until the show. This is a chance to learn more about the dealer and hopefully do some dealings with him/her.

Don't forget your *show and tell* fossils for the meeting. This is a good opportunity to share your finds/acquisitions with fellow members. We all gain from this, so please show us what you got!

Our speaker this month is Greg Herbert. He's a good 'ol fellow Louisianan and is a nice guy. I'm sure you will enjoy his talk. Come out and listen to Greg and support the club and I hope to see you all at the meeting!

Louis Stieffel  
President  
Fossil Club of Lee County



### Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at  
Zion Lutheran Church,  
7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers  
Meeting starts at 7 PM.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

September 19th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church

7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

September 19<sup>th</sup> Speaker; – **Dr. Greg Herbert**, Associate Professor of Paleobiology, Department of Geology at University of South Florida in Tampa, will discuss the Origin of mammals from mammal-like reptiles.

**Refreshments: Mary Southall**

October 5<sup>th</sup>: 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Florida Fossil Fair, Florida Fairgrounds Orlando.

October 12<sup>th</sup>: National Fossil Day Celebration will be held at Paynes Creek Historic State Park, Lake Branch Road, Bowling Green, Florida. **Pam Plummer** is leading the active participation of FCOLC as a registered partner of the National Park Service in supporting this event.

October 17th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

October 17<sup>th</sup> Speaker; FCOLC Director **Charles O'Connor**. Charles is a Science Chair, Lexington Middle School, Fort Myers who frequently lectures on fossils, and who once worked in the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Charles' topic will be his annual summer fossil hunting trip to Panama.

**October Refreshments: Gunther Lobisch & Louis Stieffel**

November 21<sup>st</sup> FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

November 21<sup>st</sup> Speaker **Marc Cantos**, FCOLC member and volunteer, owner of The Turtle Source, and well known local Herpetologist, will discuss phosphate mine hunting and finds.

**Refreshments: Marc Cantos**

### OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President, 239-851-7499  
cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406

Pamela Plummer, Treasurer, 239-246-5993  
fcolctreasures@yahoo.com

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

### DIRECTORS

Jack Boyce, 239-281-2416

Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094

Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526

Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus

### COMMITTEES

Jack Boyce, Newsletter Publisher, Photographer & Peace River Trips

Joshua Frank, Coby Pawlowski, Mike Siciliano, Louis Stieffel, Fossil Show Committee

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Pam Plummer, Badges, Membership

Gunther Lobisch, Pit Trips, Invertebrate Education

Ray Seguin, Merchandise

David Sheehey, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Speakers

### Refreshments

A big THANKS to Bill Howat who provided refreshments for the August meeting.

This is a great and painless way to giveback to FCOLC in a way that is greatly appreciated by the membership.

Once again, thanks to all those volunteers who are critical to our club's success.



**Minutes of August meeting**  
**THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY**

Date: August 15<sup>th</sup>, Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Presided by: Louis Stieffel, President

Club president Louis Stieffel welcomed the members and called the meeting to order. Members were informed of club merchandise available and being sold by Ray Sequin, the \$1 raffle table manned by Mike Siciliano, and everyone was handed a ticket for the door prizes. 31 members were in attendance tonight.

**Announcements:**

- Bill Howat was recognized with a round of applause for providing the refreshments for the August meeting.
- There are Robin Brown books on the rolling Library cart thanks to David Sheehey. Members are encouraged to check the books out during the break. Many books are old and out of print but focused on Florida fossils so you can learn a lot by reading them.
- Bill Shaver memorial scholarship will be awarded in January, 2013.
- A call for donations of kid's dig fossils was made for the annual FCOLC fossil show, to be held this year on December 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Araba Shriners hall. Soon a call to members and nonprofit groups will go out to help fill available tables. The cost of a table is \$20 for members. Please support our fossil show by signing up for the various Fossil Show jobs.
- Pam Plummer gave a treasury report. We have \$3500 in the FCOLC checkbook. Pam also reported on FCOLC participation in the National Fossil Day. She asked for volunteers and dealers to set up tables. It will be held at Payne's Creek Park, in Bowling Green, on October 12th. Pam will have an updated article in the September newsletter so the whole club will be aware of what is going on.
- Look at your Florida fossil permit to sell, hunt or buy fossils and renew if necessary. Also, be sure to log and report all fossils found.
- Curt Klug spoke last month about the fossil ID photos on our website and associated copyright issues. We will discuss at September meeting.
- September is the deadline for the Logo contest. Winner will get fossils.
- If you have a change of address or email address, *please* let us know so we can get you the newsletter. The club depends on email delivery.
- Newsletter: We are doing Fossil of the Month, so send in your best fossil finds to Jack Boyce for next month's newsletter. Also in the Newsletter we are show casing the vendors that we are going have at the fossil show.
- Our speaker is Austin Hendry with the Florida Museum of Natural History, his talk is on "Unlocking The Fossil Cabinet"
- Finished the night with door prizes raffle and the dollar raffle

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Club Secretary Kathy Pawlowski

**Speaker**

**Dr. Greg Herbert** is a paleontologist in the School of Geosciences at the University of South Florida, with research and teaching interests in evolutionary theory, conservation biology of the Gulf of Mexico, planetary geology, and cosmology.

**Presentation Topic**

*Egg-Laying Lizard Dogs*

*and the Amazing Early History of Mammals*

Greg will discuss the amazing evolutionary history of mammals, using fossils to trace their ancestry deep into the Paleozoic, over 300 million years ago. We'll examine what traits separate mammals from reptiles, when and why these traits evolved, how the intermediate steps

(therapsids or "lizard dogs") looked and behaved, and whether the great radiation of mammals that ultimately produced the human species was triggered by the end-Cretaceous extinction of dinosaurs.



## Websites & Locations of Interest

**Fossil Club of Lee County: [www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)**

**FCOLC, c/o Pam Plummer, 133 NE 20<sup>th</sup> St., Cape Coral, FL, 33909**

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/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/)

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/)

Smithsonian Natural History Museum [www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu)

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers [www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org](http://www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org)

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL [www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org)

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

[www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html](http://www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html)

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls

[www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org)

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium 3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers Tel 239-275-3435 [www.calusanature.org](http://www.calusanature.org)

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

[www.i-sci.org](http://www.i-sci.org)

Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club

[www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com](http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com)

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

[www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)

Orlando Fossil Club

[www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

The Fossil Forum

[www.thefossilforum.com/index.php](http://www.thefossilforum.com/index.php)

Fossil Treasures of Florida

[www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com](http://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](http://www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm)

***If you find an Indian artifact, such as an arrowhead, on Florida state lands or river bottom, be aware that possession of an Indian artifact found on state lands after 2004 is a Class 3 Felony.***

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### Fossil vendor support of the December FCOLC Fossil Show

Frank Garcia will be a vendor at our fossil show, held on December 7, at the Araba Shriners hall. Frank is a world famous paleontologist, a prolific author, and held the prestigious position of field collector for the Smithsonian Museum besides contributing many, many important fossils to the Florida Museum of Natural History. Frank has been a past speaker at our Fossil Club of Lee of County and continues to give talks at various venues around the state. He is responsible for discovering the Leisey site, a world famous Pleistocene fossil location, near Ruskin, Florida. In addition, Frank has led many trips out west to Nebraska in search of mammal fossils on ranches and badlands. He has collected more skulls in one trip than most fossil hunters will discover in a lifetime. Frank has several fossils named for him, from both the Phosphate mines of Central Florida, to the digs at Leisey, to the fossil beds out west.

Frank Garcia is such an interesting, knowledgeable person who will be glad to talk fossils with you at the show. We are grateful for his decision to be a dealer at our December FCOLC fossil show. Be sure to stop by his booth and see what he has!



## Summertime fossil hunting in Jax

Summer rains bring an end to the Peace River fossil season and those of us who have spent a good part of the last several months digging there have been feeling a bit lost. I sent out a query through the Fossil Forum (<http://www.thefossilforum.com>) looking for summer fossil hunting locations north of Orlando. Fossil hunters can be very tight-lipped about good digging sites so I was happily surprised when someone responded with a couple of spots in Jacksonville.

I loaded up my truck and hit the road by 4:30 am in an attempt to avoid the worst of the heat. Silly me! I arrived at my first destination, Quarantine Island in the St. John's River, shortly before 7 am and the heat was already a killer. It was a quick paddle over from the parking area under Dames Point Bridge but the island is as big as a small city, desolate and full of trash, heavy brush, and snakes. I'm not afraid of any of those things IF I have the proper gear. I did not. Brush pants, sturdy boots, and a can of industrial strength DEET are musts, as well as a raised sifting screen (easily constructed by attaching a river screen to the top of a walker purchased at a thrift store). What I had was plenty of water, sunscreen, and an obsessive need to find fossils so I did some surface hunting in a large gravel covered area directly across from my launch point. Considering that I only spent about an hour looking, the results were promising, the best being a Mako (1 and 3/8" long) with some root damage but a beautiful pearlescent color to the blade. Who knows what a full day's digging in cooler weather could turn up?



My other stop was Ponte Verde Beach. The Fossil Forum contact had given very specific instructions regarding this area as it's a neighborhood of high dollar homes and they don't want my 1995 Ford Ranger parked in their front yard. I don't really like it parked in my front yard, either, but that's another story. I parked where instructed, an easy quarter mile walk from the beach, and got to the waterline at the start of the ebb tide.

I've done my time beach combing and I don't really like to do it anymore. I was walking along the sand, mentally poo-pooing it as a waste of time, when I saw the unmistakable shape of a shark tooth root protruding from the crushed shell at the tide line. I almost couldn't believe it as I picked up a tooth from a great white shark! I've never found such a big tooth on a beach before and I've never found a tooth from a great white shark before! Measuring 1.5", it has good serrations and a worn but complete root.

So I've done a mild revision of my opinion regarding beach combing and I am sending happy thankful thoughts (and emails) to everyone who's been generous with their fossiling information and I will continue to seek summer fossil sites north of I-4, but mostly, I want this rain to stop so I can get back to the Peace River!

Written & submitted by Aimee Hankel



## Better Lucky Than Good

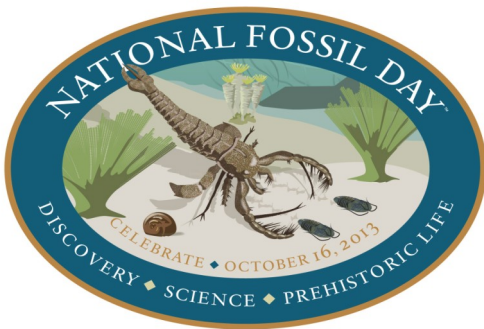
In the winter of 2008 while hunting with Louis and Leslie Stieffel I had the best day of fossil hunting in my life. I have yet to outdo my experience of that special, special day.

We were hunting the Peace River north of Arcadia in about 2 feet of water. After several hours of uneventful hunting I began to complain that while I was finding things I just wasn't doing well. Louis invited me over to the opposite bank near where he was hunting and suggested I get up tight to the bank as it probably had not been hunted before. I did so and after about an hour of clearing debris things began to emerge. Finally a perfect blue colored mastodon tooth sat on my shovel. This was my first complete mastodon tooth and still is my only complete mastodon tooth. After several more hours of digging I had two additional pieces which, when put together, made up two thirds of an un-erupted mastodon tooth. Before the day was out I also found a complete perfect mammoth tooth as well as enough keeper fossils to fill a 5 gallon bucket.



I returned the following Friday only to find out that another club beat me back to the spot and mined it out. This is relatively common occurrence because experienced fossil hunters are attracted to recent digging spots. That's why I don't divulge my honey holes when I find one. If Louis had not suggested I move to that spot I would have never found these treasures. So you can see why I say I'd rather be lucky than good.

Written & submitted by Al Govin



**National Fossil Day** is fast approaching: Saturday, October 12th.

Please bring fossils (vertebrate and invertebrate) for the kids dig to the September meeting. I'm in special need of **Meg teeth**. We can never have enough. These do not need to be perfect, broken ones are fine. Also, if you have any horse teeth, bison teeth, armadillo and glyptodont scutes or other different (other than turtle or dugong rib) vertebrate material, it would be deeply appreciated. I'm also looking for any Ruck's pit or Vulcan crystals that you might want to get rid of.

A table and tent will be set up for the club. Please bring your own chairs. We still need volunteers for any part of the day. We need help setting up (around 8 am) and break down (around 5 pm), the kids dig and club table will need someone there at all times, so if you can give an hour or so it would help out.

The flyer for the event is attached to the newsletter. Please feel free to forward it on to anyone you think would be interested. I'm having copies printed up and will have them at the meeting. We still have room for vendors and nonprofits. If you are interested in displaying your collection we have room for that too! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer don't hesitate to call me 239.246.5993. I hope to see you all there! Happy Hunting! Pam Plummer

Pam Plummer is leading FCOLC participation and needs volunteers and contributions. Pam is also looking for Speakers and Vendors on October 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have any suggestions on how to improve the experience, contact Pam.

**Paynes Creek Historic State Park invites you  
to celebrate**

# **NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY**

**Saturday, October 12, 2013**

**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## **Fossil Fun!!**

**Kids Dig - Lectures - Vendors**



### **Schedule of events**

**10:00 a.m. - Gun powder Demonstration**

**11:00 a.m. - Zack Deyo, a youthful paleontologist, presents  
"Florida Fossils", a must see presentation for all children.**

**1:00 p.m. - The famous Frank Garcia will speak on "World's Richest, Earliest Ice Age Fossil site in Ruskin, FL."**

**2:30 p.m. - Zack Deyo presents "Florida Fossils"**

**3:30 p.m. - Gun Powder Demonstration**

**Hamburgers, Hotdogs and Pulled Pork sandwiches by J&M Rollinsmoke**

**Sponsor by The Fossil Club of Lee County with additional support provided by the  
Florida Paleontological Society and the Florida Geological Foundation**



# FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

## FCOLC Fossil of the Month - September, 2013



Fossil: Lightning strike Isurus Hastalus upper tooth, 2 inches, Miocene minimally 5 mya.

Date found: July 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Location: small creek in Clearwater, in Pinellas County.

How it was found: I was walking in ankle deep water, looking for a new place to dig. I found an area where we haven't dug yet. I started scanning the area when a shiny object caught my eye. At first I thought it was a leaf, but my instinct told me it wasn't. I reached down, and picked it up, and it was a 2 inch mako. The creeks in this area don't have many fossils, but they are rare and decent. My father, my friend, and I started screaming over the best tooth of the trip.

How it measures up to my other makos: This is the biggest Isurus Hastalus I have in my collection to date, as well as the most colorful. I have found many makos before, but it was nice to find the extinct Hastalus.

Written & Submitted by Zack Deyo

I encourage all members to send photos of recent finds. During this "off season", I will include as many as possible in the Newsletters. Here is a gorgeous 2 inches plus **WoW** Hemipristis Serra, found by Sue Collier in August.

