



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2015

Letter from the President

We can toss one of our popular phrases " we need some rain" far, far away!! We need it to STOP! What a conundrum. We are getting too much, and the west coast is in a drought! One of our favorite places on the Peace River, the beautiful old town of Arcadia, is actually concerned about possible flooding. The river is near the top, the creeks are busting out, the ground is saturated and IT JUST KEEPS RAINING!! At my house in Cape Coral, my rain gauge recorded 3 1/4 " of rain --in just 45 minutes-- from a recent thunderstorm. That, folks is a LOT of rain!! Folks are busting at the seams to fossil hunt the river, but we are several long months away. Time to renew the fossil permits and organize the fossils we have and get the equipment ready. And dry off!

I want to announce that Staci Marshen has agreed to be the 2016 Fossil Festival chairperson. She will be handling the details and organization to put on a successful show. Staci has the support of all of us who have helped in the past, and will enlist volunteer efforts from our new members as well. It is a group effort, and Staci will make sure we are all on the same track to a fun and eventful festival! She already has the festival flyer designed, courtesy of Andrew Burns, and official announcements will be sent out shortly to dealers. Staci has also designed a face book page for the Fossil Club of Lee County. The intent of this site is to spread awareness of the club and have others who do not live in our area share their finds and questions and input and spread the learning and interest of paleontology. I encourage all of our members to join and be a part of the online portion of the club. Post your fossils. Help answer questions. Especially in this high water period when you can't hunt!

Our summer meetings are attended by a lot fewer members than most other times of the year, and we are considering whether to possibly not have meetings during the months of June, July and August. I would like input from you guys on your thoughts about this.

Last month we had our annual show and tell and trade and sell meeting. We had over 30 members and it was an informal, spirited meeting. Al Govin provided refreshments. We had several new members come to the meeting and join. And between the door prizes, the \$1 raffle and all the fossils available, I think mostly everyone went home with something new!

I want to thank Ray Seguin for again bringing handmade wood turnings to donate for the door prizes. Ray, at 91 years young, is the oldest member of a fossil club in Florida, and probably one of the oldest in the United States! It's been an honor to know Ray all these years. He was one of the original founding members of the club.

Some upcoming events are the National Fossil Show, in Bradenton, **Oct 3**. Our club will have a couple of tables there for us to participate. The following weekend, **October 10**, is the annual Mosaic Phosphate mines trip. We are limited as to the amount of participants and between the last two meetings I think we have reached that limit already. Sign-ups from here on will be for alternate spots, in case of a cancellation. Presently we are trying to gain access to the SMR pit in Sarasota, and if successful, will announce that to everyone. The Orlando Fossil Club will be hosting their annual fossil show on **November 7 and 8**. This is a very nice, big, fossil show and I recommend that you try to attend. Orlando is 3 hours away and as you know, has MANY different things to see and enjoy, so plan on spending the weekend and after seeing the fossil show, enjoy Orlando.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

This month we are trying something new! We will have some of the members who are divers give a presentation about fossil diving. From requirements and certifications, to tank-less diving (hookah), to diving for fossils and the finds and stories within! So, attend and learn and ask questions! Now is the time to get those answers you've been curious about.

We have a unique club. There are only a small amount of fossil clubs in the entire country and ours has been around for over 23 years. I ask that you consider participating in the club as much as you can. Being active will add to the enjoyment. We are a bunch of folks with the same hobby, that most "outsiders" don't even know about, so enjoy the uniqueness and teach others about the wonderful world of paleontology!

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel
president
Fossil Club of Lee County



A BIG one!! Largest amethyst crystal concretion I've ever seen!!

Submitted by Joe Larkin



Fossil Club Meeting Minutes

8/20/2015

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order.

34 members were present.

New members were introduced

Membership benefits were discussed such as club store, dollar raffle, library & trips.

Mosaic trip for October 10th was discussed in detail.

November meeting will not be held at church due to conflicting event.

Copies of other clubs news letters were available for members who wanted to see them.

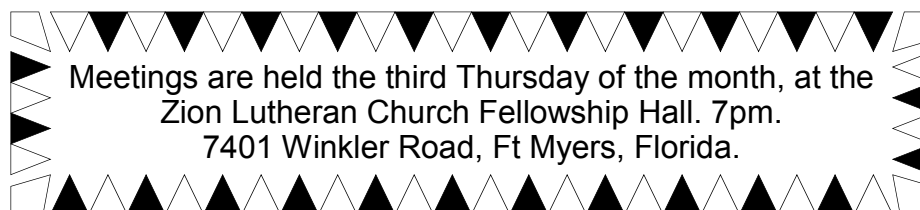
Door prizes were awarded.

Show "N" Tell was held.

Break for refreshments provided by Al Govin.

Fossils were available by members to other members interested.

Minutes by Secretary/Treasurer Al Govin.Minutes



OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President
239-851-7499,

cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice President
239-980-1406

Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer
239-910-2339

DIRECTORS

Charles O'Connor....239-246-5526

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217

Dave Seehaver

Jeanne Seehaver

Don Lindsey

Jim Manderfield

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Al Govin, Badges, Membership

Dave and Jeanne Seehaver,
Merchandise

Dean Hart, Refreshment

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive
Trips

Charles O'Connor, Speakers

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer,
Vertebrate Education, Newsletter
editor, FOSSIL project
representative

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

[FCOLC c/o Al Govin 16331 Estuary Ct., Bokeelia, FL, 33922](http://www.fcolc.com)

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/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Smithsonian Natural History Museum www.mnh.si.edu

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers www.MUSEUMofHISTORY.org

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

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

www.hardeecounty.net/crackertrailmuseum/about.html

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls

www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org

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

www.calusanature.org

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers

www.i-sci.org

Florida Fossil Clubs

Southwest Florida Fossil Club

www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Fossil Club

www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club

www.floridafossilhunters.com

The Fossil Forum

www.thefossilforum.com/index.php

Fossil Treasures of Florida

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>

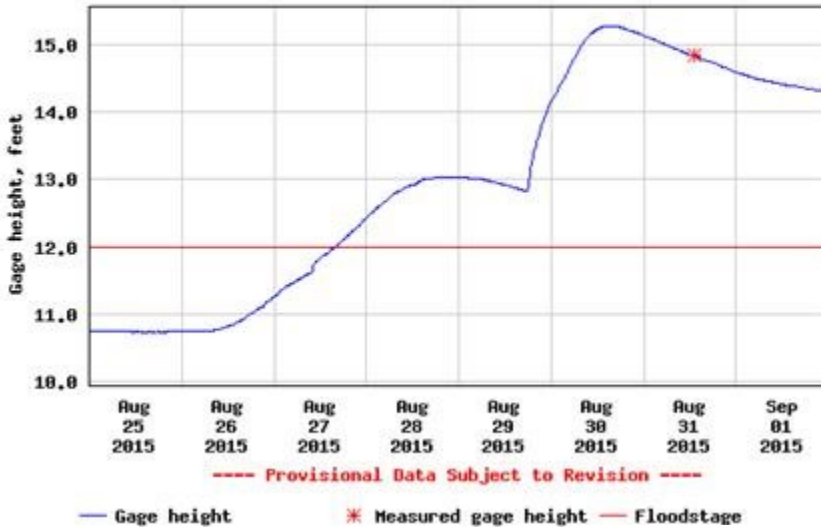
Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts www.flheritage.com/news/faq.cfm

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.

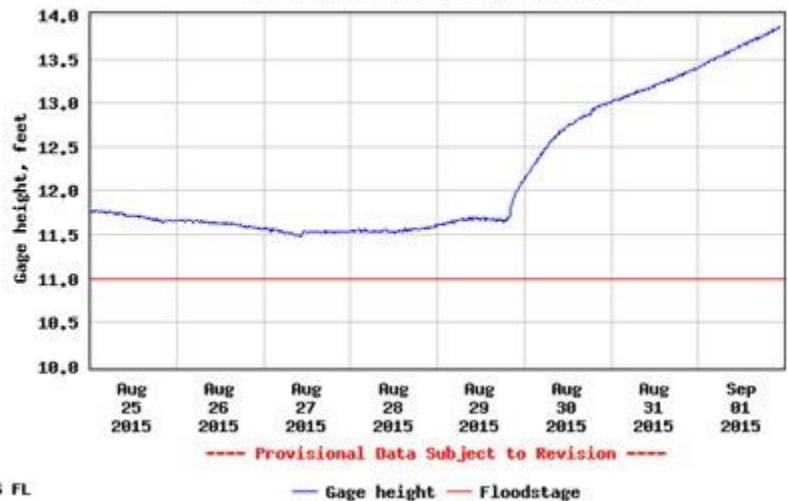
Peace River Water Levels!!

These USGS images show how high the water has gotten in the Peace river, to start the month of September! Flood watches have gone out to towns along the river. At my house in Cape Coral, we had 3 1/4 " of rain in just 45 minutes several days ago! My rain gauge is getting a workout this year! If the rains stop, the water will fall and we should see lower levels by the end of November, or into early December, as usual. But, if we get more tropical depressions and hurricane activity, all bets are off!

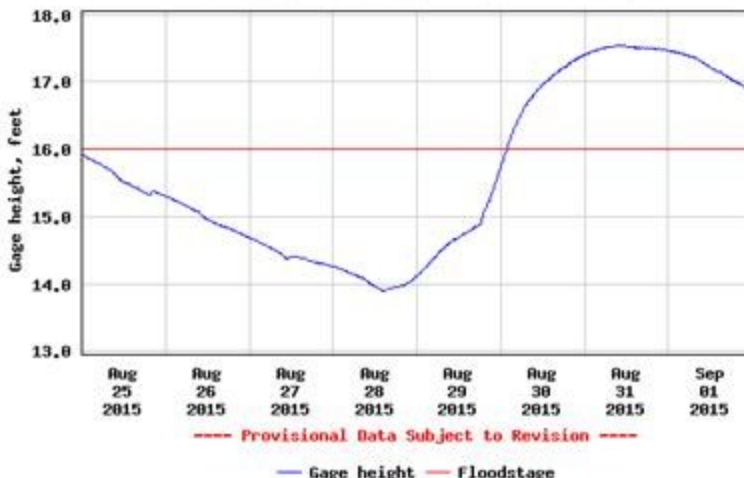
USGS 02297310 HORSE CREEK NEAR ARCADIA FL



USGS 02296750 PEACE RIVER AT ARCADIA FL



USGS 02295637 PEACE RIVER AT ZOLFO SPRINGS FL

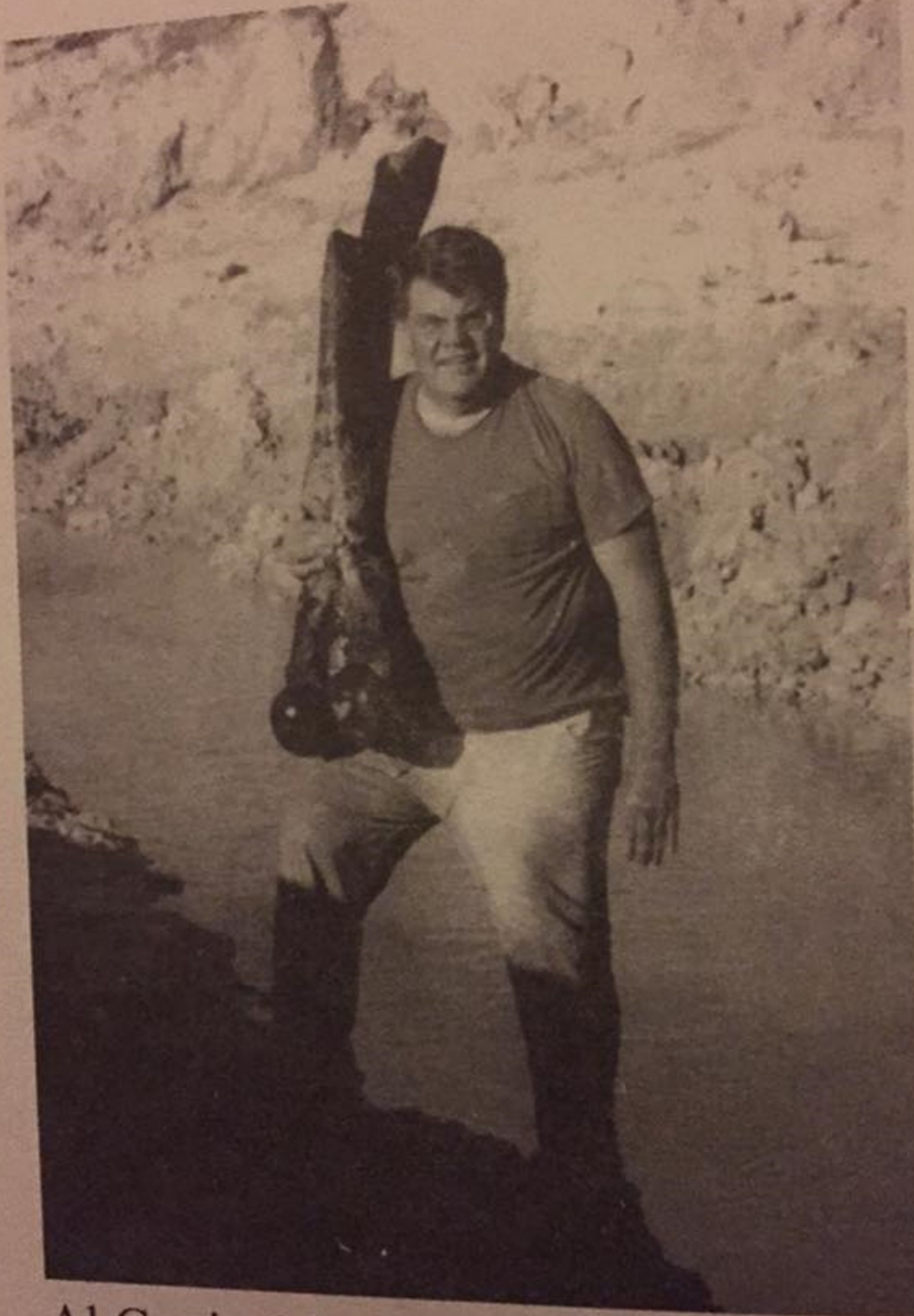


**Staci Marshen has started a new venue for our club to interact with each other,
as well as the public !!**

One of the pictures on our new Face Book site, the Fossil Club of Lee County!

Go see the site and join . Then post pictures of your fossils!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378838762286864/>



Al Govin (aka Great Jovial Hunter)

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HIGH WATER!!

Believe it or not--this is the boat ramp for the peace River, in Arcadia!! What boat ramp, you say??
Exactly!! It's under about 20 feet of water!



This is the Peace River at Arcadia yesterday with the reading at 14.17 feet. The water was all the way up to the end of the boat ramp where you park. The cliff by big tree is about 3 inches to the water. While I was talking to a homeless man he said he saw a fin in the water. Bull sharks have been seen this far up river before.

By Ronald Seavey

Fossil eurypterids

Even though we do not have these eurypterids, "sea Scorpions", here in the fossil record of Florida, they are still very interesting and this link will give you some information of new discoveries.

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/bizarre-human-size-sea-scorpion-found-in-meteorite-crater/ar-AAdPlwD>



Fossil Tortoise ID

We find a good amount of fossil Giant Tortoise leg spurs. I've seen them called all sorts of things, from mating spurs to teeth to horns. However, if you look at these pictures of a giant land tortoise, which is very similar to the fossil tortoise we find, showing the front and the rear leg, you can easily see that they are dermal spines protecting the legs. Since the animal cannot withdraw the legs into the shell, it has these bony spurs to act as passive defensive armor.

The spurs have lots of different shapes, so you may find a lot that do not look alike. Some are pointy, some are pyramid shaped and some are flattened. The easiest way to tell it is a spur is the slight ring around the bottom edge. This is the part that the skin attaches to. Sometimes it's worn and hard to see, so you must look carefully. I've found them as small as 1/4" up to almost 3", so size is not the positive indicator. After you have seen a few, it's fairly easy to identify. Good luck!

Louis



FOSSIL FINDS OF THE MONTH

Just a few of the fossil shark teeth found by our vice-president Mike Sicialano, diving the North Carolina ledges. This was about 40 miles off the coast and almost 100 feet down! Mike can hold his breath pretty good, heh??!!



Toothy sharks

BULL SHARK !!!



**I found
this
humerus**



ARTWORK BY STACI MARSHEN





Michael Leach Megalodon Shark Teeth And fossils.

Pam and Aimee went to the Sue exhibit in Gainesville this weekend



Let's get in that river!!

Trouble is, those red lines represent flood stage!!



Fossils of the month:

Some mammoth from the museum of MIKE



Fossils of the month:

Some mammoth from the museum of MIKE



ID help:

These claws are modern, not fossil, and the nail portion rarely, if ever fossilizes, but this may help in the ID of fossil claw cores you may have found.



United States and Canada Fossil Sites List

<http://www.fossilsites.com/index.html>

Hunting for Woolly Mammoths Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD49w9PYpwo>

Driveway fossil hunting!!

Mike Siciliano, our illustrious, and hard working VP, recently took a diving trip to the offshore Atlantic ledges of North Carolina. He was successful in finding many shark teeth, with a good bit being the larger Megalodon teeth. But, Mike says, close to the actual underwater ledge, was a gravel layer, with beautiful brown teeth in it. So, Mike filled a couple of mesh bags with gravel, brought them p on the boat, and carried them home with him. He showed up at my house a few days later and said "let's hunt!". Then after showing me the bags of unsearched gravel, we proceeded to break out the screens and wash gravel in the flooded part of my driveway. (The heavy rains are good for something!) It was fun. So much, that Leslie, even though hobbled by a recent foot surgery, joined in. We found a lot of beautiful small teeth, urchin spines and fossil corals, but even found a real nice Mako and a beautiful Meg!

This was an unexpected surprise and I never thought I would be searching fossil gravel that came from 40 miles out in the eastern Atlantic and almost 100 foot down at the bottom! Thank you Mike, for making our day!

Louis and Leslie



Aimeee's Corner!!

Slab It!

The process of identifying fossils can often be aided by a look at the inside structure of the piece in question and I don't seem to have any trouble finding broken fossils to study, but there is a clarity of detail that can only come from a perfectly smooth surface that nature rarely give us.

Enter the slab saw: a powerful, simple tool with a diamond blade that can slice through...well, EVERYTHING! The initial cost of a slab saw can put a hitch in your stride but there are plenty of used saws on the market or you can commission slabs from saw owners. I recently bought a used slab saw and every time I slice into a rock it's like unwrapping a Christmas present: a shabby fragment of mammoth tooth becomes a work of art; septarian nodules reveal their intricacies; fossil coral goes from rough to ravishing in minutes! (see photos)

Better make that "several minutes." The main requirement for slabbing is a boat-load of patience because each slice on a 14" blade requires 5-20 minutes, depending on the size of the rock. My saw is outside in a shed so I use a baby monitor to keep track of it and that way I can work on other projects while slabbing.

There are several sizes of slab saws available for home use but the biggest I've heard of belonged to club member Gunther Lobisch. He used to work a 36" saw by lowering rocks onto it with the aid of a chain hoist. He estimated the saw's motor to weigh half a ton. That's a lotta saw! Gunther slabbed nephrite jade, sodalite and dumortierite with that monster machine but too bad he didn't have a mastodon skull to cross-section for a lesson in extinct anatomy.



**Coral
outside**



**Coral
inside**



**Mammoth
outside**



**Mammoth
inside**



Thin coral slab



Septarian nodule before



Septarian nodule after

MOSAIC TRIP

Everyone who has signed up for the Mosaic trip on October 10, needs to print out a release form and send to Al Govin. If you can sign it and send it digitally, his email is: al-govin1@hotmail.com Otherwise, please print it out and mail to **AL Govin, 3584 Mid-dletown St, Pt Charlotte, FL, 33952**. His phone is 239- 257- 5869.

Below is the announcement and rules from Mosaic. Please read. Please obey the safety requirements. Since I can't seem to copy the release form from the attachment, so that you can print it from here, you must go to last month's newsletter to do so. It is in that newsletter. If you do not have that, then go to the website www.fcolc.com and go to archived newsletters, and print from there. Sorry for the trouble. We do what we can!

Also, you must wear HARD shoes, not crocs, or flip flops, etc. Preferably boots of some kind. And LONG pants. Shorts are not allowed. Bring a hat! And a collecting tool, such as a screwdriver or something to pry a fossil out of the ground, and a collecting apron or bag or small bucket. A camera would be good. Take pictures. Post in the newsletter!

We are pleased to share that our management will accommodate the *Fossil Club of Lee County's* request for a fossil hunt on Mosaic's *Fort Green* property on **Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015**. This opportunity is a special privilege only for selected fossil clubs in Central & South-west Florida. Please read this entire email carefully and let me know if you have any further questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION: At least one week prior to the hunt, you are required to electronically send (in either the body of an email, or attached as an MS Excel spreadsheet or Word document) a list of all the participants including contact information for each participant to sherri.partain@mosaicco.com.

Please include:

- First & Last Name
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Age (if 13-17 years old)

We understand that sometimes there are last minute illnesses or changes to the participant list, so we request you email sherri.partain@mosaicco.com an electronic copy of the final list of participants the week after your trip. These two steps will be done by Al.

Contact information for all participants is being requested by our Public Relations department as part of our public education campaign – where they'll receive periodic mailings, emails and communications (no more than once monthly – usually less). Participants may “opt out” of the e-mail newsletter electronically once they receive an issue.

WAIVER & RELEASE: All participants will be required to sign the attached “MOSAIC VISITOR AGREEMENT- WAIVER RELEASE.pdf.” Hard copies of the attached form may NOT be available onsite, so please bring your copy with you. Participants ages 13-17 will be required to bring their signed form with them (or email a scanned copy to Sherri prior to trip) if their parent/guardian is not accompanying them.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Before being allowed to dig onsite, participants will be given a safety orientation. Mosaic cannot guarantee the quality or number of fossils, nor can we specify the exact location, type of land forms or materials you'll be digging in prior to the trip.

DRINKS/FOOD: Participants are responsible for bringing their own drinks and food. They will have an opportunity to eat their lunch while enjoying a presentation after the fossil hunt.

ZERO TOLERANCE: A zero tolerance policy will be in effect. If one person knowingly breaks the rules that person will be removed and sent home. Depending on the situation, your fossil club may be sent home early and/or not be allowed to dig the following year.

SIGNIFICANT FINDS: Mosaic strongly encourages that any scientifically significant fossils found on our property be shared with a museum or research institution, where they can benefit the scientific community as a whole as well as future generations.

DATE: *October 10, 2015*

TIME: 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Pavilion at the Fort Green Mine entrance road east off SR 37 in Polk County (see attached and link below)

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=27.672317,-82.038774&spn=0.017407,0.032744&t=h&z=15>

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sherri Partain | Senior Administrative Assistant | Public Affairs | Land Development
The Mosaic Company | 13830 Circa Crossing Drive | Lithia, Florida 33547
P: 813.500.6492 | F: 813.571.6912 | E: sherri.partain@mosaicco.com | W: www.mosaicco.com

11th ANNUAL

SAT.FEB.13.2016. 9^{AM}-5^{PM}

FOSSIL FESTIVAL

THE SHELL FACTORY 2787 N.TAMIAMI TRAIL
FORT MYERS.FL.33903

- Silent Auction and Grand Raffle
- Fossils and Minerals for Sale
- Kids Dig
- Games
- Food and Fun
- Free Fossil Museum & Exhibits



The
Fossil Club
of
Lee County

www.fcolc.com

2015 FOSSIL FAIR

Florida Fossil Hunters

Twenty-fourth Annual Fossils, Rocks, Gems & Minerals

Saturday, November 7, 2015

9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, November 8, 2015

10:00am - 4:00pm



Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

\$4.00 Adults | \$1.00 Children

**Learn to dig in Florida and
see what can be discovered!**

Directions:
I-4 to Orlando, Exit 84,
West Hwy 50/Colonial Drive
exit Westbound.

The fairgrounds will be
on the right side, just past
Mercy Drive.



For more information on the 2015 Fossil Fair contact us by email at
info@floridafossilhunters.com, call 407-699-9274, or check the website at

www.floridafossilhunters.com

Raffles

Vendors

**Silent
Auctions**

**Kids \$1
Dig Pit**

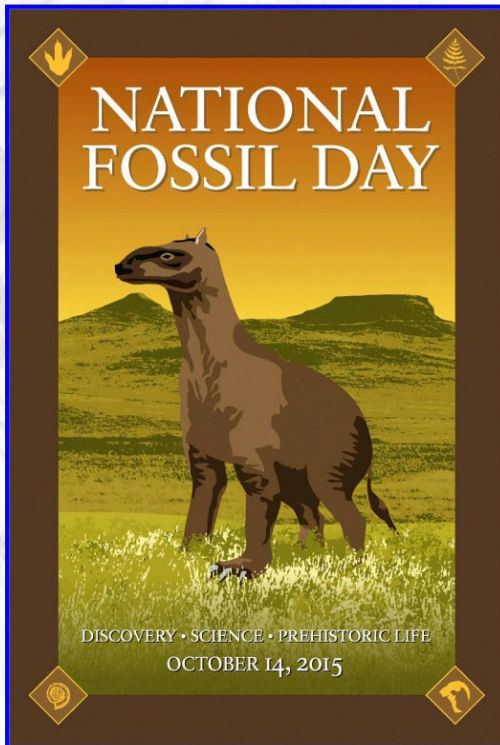
**Educational
Displays**

**Airconditioned
INDOORS!**

Mark Your Calendar!

Please Join us in Celebrating National Fossil Day 2015!!!

“Fossils at the Museum – Part 2!”



National Fossil Day Celebration!

Saturday, October 3rd, 2015

South Florida Museum
Bradenton, Florida



Come join us in celebrating this year's National Fossil Day. The South Florida Museum is excited to be a host institution this year and to partner with local and state agencies, organizations and clubs. Guests can come and meet real paleontologists and geologists who work everyday to uncover the secrets fossils reveal about our ancient Earth.

Location: South Florida Museum, 201 - 10th St. West, Bradenton, FL 34205

Time: Museum hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Special Family Night Event extended hours.

Clubs and Vendor Displays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special 1/2 price admission to museum all day! \$9 adults, \$8 Seniors 65+, \$7 children, kids under 4 FREE. Fossil Display Tables & and a Free Kids Dig Pit Sponsored by Mosaic.

Activities: Speakers, Fossil Displays, Fossil Giveaways, Kids Fossil Dig Pit, Junior Paleontologist Badge Program presented by the De Soto National Memorial Park Rangers, Special family friendly Movie Screening in the Bishop Planetarium (TBA), Meteorite Display, Special Coprolite Display, Stone Knapping Demonstrations, and so much more!

Updates at: NFD.FLGEO.COM

National Fossil Day Florida Sponsored by:

