

# FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2018

## Letter from the President

**NO hurricanes for us! So far!!** But—we have daily rains. Also fish kills at the beach, green slime in the canals, and LOTS of hot temperatures! So, maybe a hurricane—nearby in the gulf—could help clear our weather up and let us get back to fossil hunting! Better to stick it out than take that chance, though.

With so much construction going on in our area, there are lots of new places to land hunt. I see new piles and diggings everywhere, and it is getting washed by the daily rains. I stop and look sometimes, and frequently find a few treasures. This is a good opportunity for you guys to do some quick hunts. Inside are a couple of my finds.

We will do a Ruck's Crystal Mine hunt in the near future. It is a mine, near Lake Okeechobee, that has large fossil Mercenaria clams filled with dog-toothed calcite crystals. Cost per hunter will be \$50 per person. A good crystal clam is easily worth that, or much more. Most finds are not the best ones, of course, but they are there.

More info on this trip as we get closer to putting this together.

The red tide is not killing much more sea-life. But, it's still here. There is just very little sea-life left to kill! This has been a disaster for our area. Many hundreds (to tons!) of turtles, dolphins, manatees, tarpon, goliath grouper, snook, redfish, trout, crabs, shellfish, millions of small fish killed. It has been really terrible. So, even though I have seen that some people have tried, beach collecting shark teeth is not doing well at this time. Just as with the hurricanes, we hope for the best and try to be patient.

This month Terry Sellari will be our speaker. (More info inside).

I'm still in the market for a newsletter editor. Anyone willing to try it, let me know. It is not as difficult and time consuming as you may think it is. It's just that I wear a lot of hats and any I can get away from I am trying to do.

I also encourage all member to strongly consider taking an office in the club next year. Elections are in March, and the new year starts in April. Please see me about ANY interest you may have in this.

Last month, with vacations, heavy rains, etc, we had a small turnout for the meeting. (Thanks go to Edgar for refreshments, Ray for door prizes, and Linda for the \$1 raffle!!) (And, belated thanks to Maurice Guy for fossil donations). I expect a bigger group this month. I hope to see you there!!

Louis Stieffel  
President  
Fossil Club of Lee County



**OFFICERS**

Louis Stieffel, President  
239-851-7499, [cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:cape187@earthlink.net)  
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President  
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Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer  
239-910-2339, [algovin1@hotmail.com](mailto:algovin1@hotmail.com)

**DIRECTORS**

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217  
Dave Seehaver  
Jeanne Seehaver  
Dr. John Taraska  
Travis Willis

**COMMITTEES**

Al Govin, Club Trips Director  
Curt Klug, Web Master  
Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer  
Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips  
Travis Willis , Club Trips  
Linda Simmons, Librarian  
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise  
Edgar Jestes, Refreshments  
Victoria O'Toole, Linda Simmons, \$1 Raffle  
Dawn Linda Borys Markoski, Festival Organizers  
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project  
representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers,  
Vertebrate Education

**September Meeting Speaker**

This month we will have a speaker at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting! It will be Terry Selari. He is a past president of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club, and has been a fixture as a very good, longtime fossil dealer at many of the shows! Please come and listen to him tell us about Florida fossil finding and some of his diving adventures!

Terry will have some of his fossils offered to club members at great pricing if you are interested in acquiring something for your collections!

Here is a site that has every river and creek mapped **for the whole state**, separated by county. Click on the zoomify tab below each map to zoom in. Enjoy !

Save to your desktop so you can find and use it often!

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/hydrography/index.php>

**Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church , 7401 Winker Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919**

## Websites & Locations of Interest

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

FCOLC Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. c/o AL GOVIN  
TREASURER  
3584 MIDDLETOWN ST. PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33952

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/)

[The Fossil Project](#) [www.myFOSSIL.org](http://www.myFOSSIL.org)

[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.**

## **FCOLC Meeting Minutes 8/16/18**

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order,

22 members present

Store will be closed this evening as Dave & Jeanne Seehaver not present.

\$1 raffle conducted by Linda Simmons.

Refreshments provided by Edger Jeste.

September 29th National Fossil Day.

Louis discussed possible trip to Gainesville. Potential collections tour, Gordon Hubble exhibit, hunting in a near-by creek. It would be an overnite trip with hotel stay.

Orlando fossil show on Oct 20 & 21. SWFFS show on November 10. Our club fossil show is February 13, 2019 FCOLC Fossil Fest at the Shell Factory.

No fossil hunting presently due to high water levels and no private property to hunt.

Cary Schmeltz not doing land trips presently due to loss of access.

The club can do a crystal hunt at Ft Drum for 10 or more people with a \$50.00 per person fee.

No one knows of location of partial elephant leg bone found during Cape Coral sewer extension.

Tom Granada has offered to sell minerals to the club.

Louis discussed club direction and need for new officers if club to continue.

Door prizes were awarded.

Louis was evening's speaker. Spoke about various experiences and encounters over the last 25 years of fossil hunting. He also did some various ID's of fossils he brought.

Dollar raffle was held.

Minutes by Al Govin  
Secretary/Treasurer

# Cape Coral Mammoth!!

Mammoth bone found in Cape Coral, during water and sewer line installation. Found 17 feet deep. Bone was presented and donated to the Cape Coral Historical Museum. Attending the presentation, besides museum staff, was the mayor, city director, and other officials, along with a good crowd of locals.



Here is a terrific idea, brought to the club's attention by Valerie Rahn! Seems that Amazon will donate a portion of any purchase you make—to the Fossil Club of Lee County!! But, you need to register with Amazon, to be able to have this work. It cost you nothing, and you still shop exactly the same as you normally would. Valerie posted these instructions on our FCOLC Facebook page. I copied them here. **THIS IS A GOOD THING!! PLEASE do this!** Thank you VALERIE!!



Please Help Us with our Community Outreach and our scholarships  
by  
Making us Your **AMAZON Smile** Contribution

1. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
2. Select: **Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc.** as your Non-profit.
3. Use [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) every time you shop Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to us.
4. It costs nothing but can mean everything.
5. **THANK YOU!!**



I found these in some new construction diggings in the area. It always pays to look!

One is a HUGE complete fossil oyster and the other is the tip of a Baleen whale jaw bone.

Louis



**Tracing the Ancestry...**

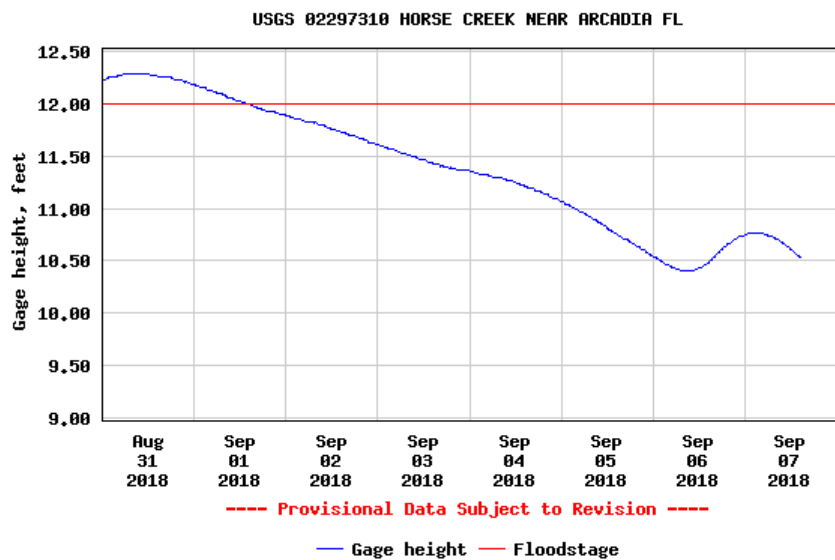
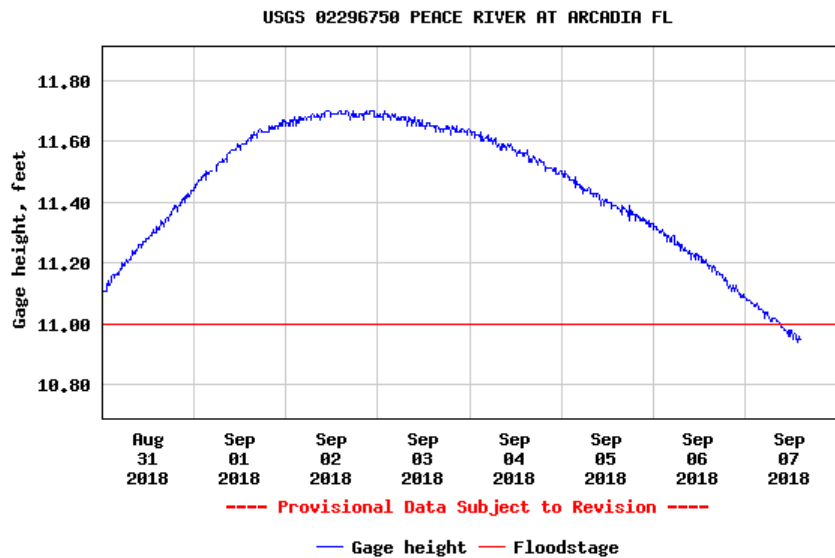
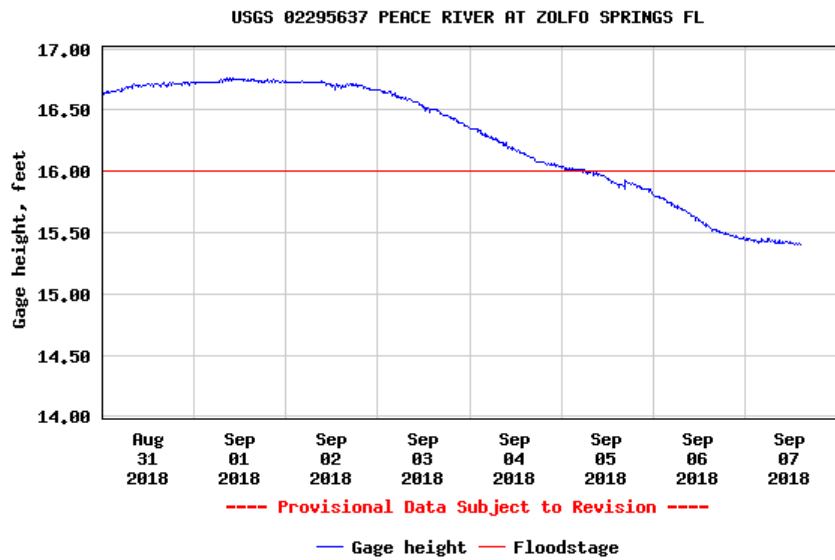
**Tracing the Ancestry of the Great White Shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*,  
Using Morphometric Analyses of Fossil Teeth**

**Abstract**

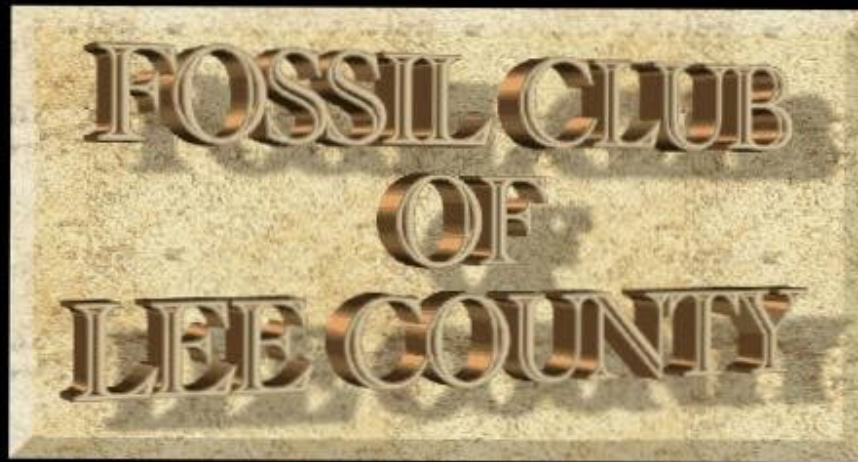
The evolutionary origin of the great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) is unclear, with debate centering around two principal hypotheses. The first, based on similarity in tooth shape, claims that *C. carcharias* originated from a group of extinct mako sharks that includes *Isurus hastalis*. The second hypothesis, based mostly on cladistic evidence, claims that *C. carcharias* originated from the same lineage as the giant megatoothed sharks, sharing a close evolutionary ancestor with the extinct *Carcharodon megalodon*. To distinguish between the two hypotheses we performed several morphometric analyses. In the first analysis, we used Procrustes method and principal components analysis to quantify variation between *C. carcharias*, *I. hastalis*, and *C. megalodon* in four different positions within the dentition. The results indicate no significant difference in tooth shape between *C. carcharias* and *I. hastalis*. In the second analysis, correlating tooth size with age, we analyzed teeth from upper anterior and lower anterior positions. For both tooth positions, we show that the growth rate of *C. carcharias* is more congruent with the growth rate of *I. hastalis* than that of *C. megalodon*. Finally, we used scanning electron microscopy to show that the tooth serrations of *C. carcharias* are distinct from those of the megatooths and more similar in size to those of slightly serrated mako teeth. Taken together, these results indicate that *C. carcharias* originated from an extinct group of mako sharks and not from the megatoothed sharks.

# RIVER WATER LEVELS

Fossil hunting in the Peace River, as well as adjoining creeks, is still not possible. At present, the end of the first week of September, the water would be about ten feet over your head. So, no—not yet!!





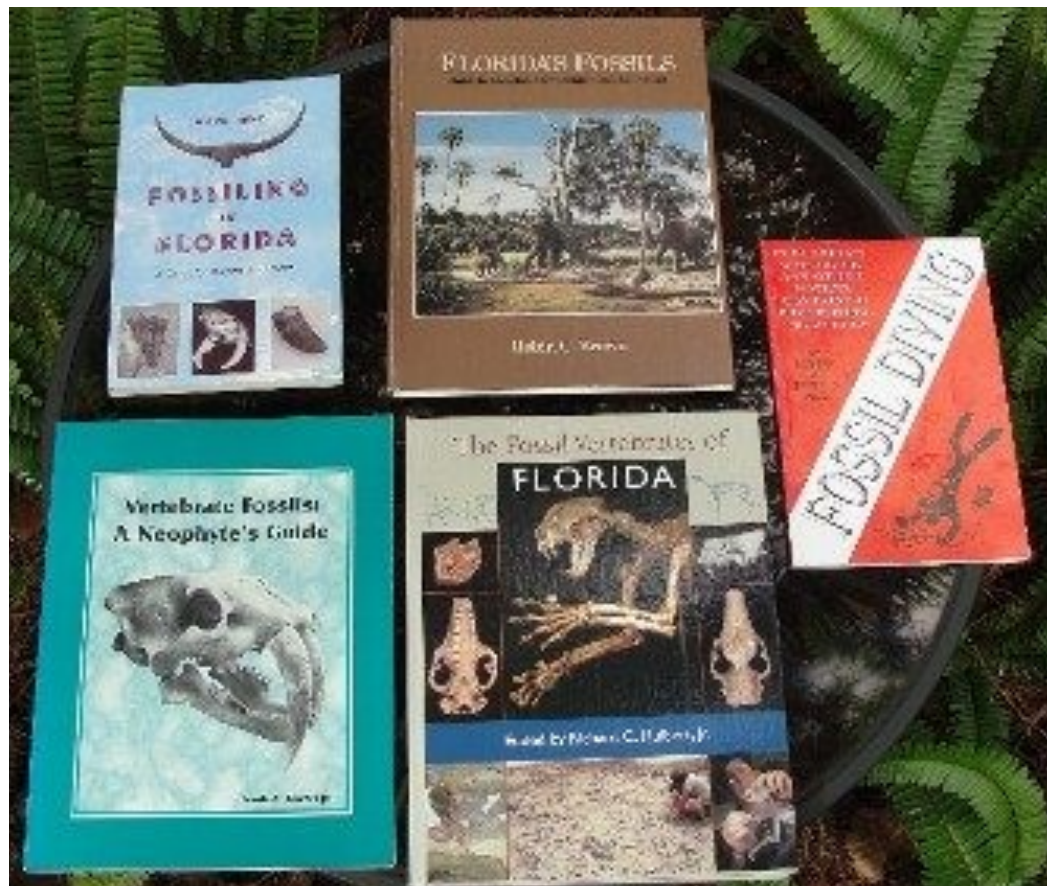


The Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. is an organization of people interested in the fossils of southern Florida and all points beyond. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall is located at: 7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, FL 33919.

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

For those of you who ask what books to get-- here's a great group!

We offer most, if not all, in the club store at the meetings.





**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
FOSSIL SOCIETY**

**PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE**

**5th Annual Fossil EXPO**

**Saturday, November 10, 2018  
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**Punta Gorda Women's Club and Historical Society Building  
118 Sullivan Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950**



**This exciting event will have vendors from all over Florida selling magnificent Dinosaur fossils, minerals, Shark Teeth Books and Beautiful Custom made Fossil Jewelry**  
*A portion of proceeds from the EXPO will be used to fund student scholarships & research grants*  
**Many other activities including;**

- ▶ **Free Children's area to dig for fossils**
- ▶ **Refreshments and more!**
- ▶ **Silent auctions for great items will go on all day**

**VENDORS and COLLECTORS INTERESTED IN TABLES  
SPACE SHOULD CONTACT: JAY LEV at 941-575-9981**

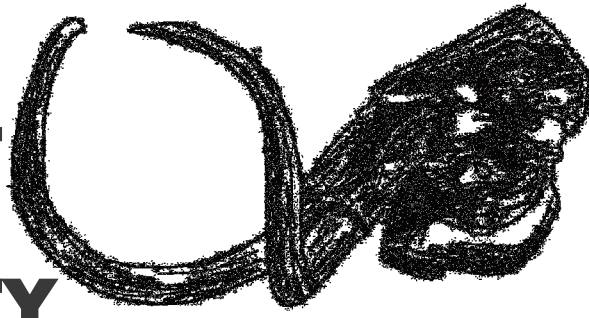


**Admission for Adults \$3.00 Children under 12 years are Free!**

*Presented by the Southwest Florida Fossil Society Inc. A 501c (3) Non Profit Society*



# THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY PRESENTS THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FOSSIL FESTIVAL



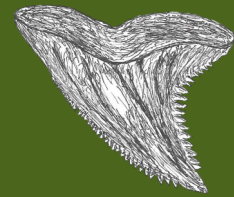
Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 at the Shell Factory

Come to the Shell Factory to learn about Florida's pre-historic past, learn how to collect and identify your local fossils and maybe even get to take home a piece of the past! Talk with the local experienced fossil hunters, shop, explore all that Florida's past has to offer! There is something for everyone! Kids fossil dig, vendors with magnificent fossils of all shapes and sizes, minerals, literature for the novice all the way up to the experienced hunter!



Feb. 23, 2019  
9AM to 5PM  
At the Shell Factory  
& Nature Park

Silent Auction  
Grand Prize Raffle  
Vendors & Fossil  
Dealers  
KIDS DIG!!  
Games & Prizes  
Free Fossil Museum  
& Exhibits



There's something  
for everyone at the  
Fossil Festival!

Join us!

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

The Shell Factory

2747 N Tamiami Trail

Fort Myers, FL 33903

232-995-2141

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

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

9AM until 5PM

# 2018 FOSSIL FAIR

Florida Fossil Hunters

Twenty-sixth Annual  
**Fossils, Rocks,  
Gems & Minerals**

Saturday, October 20, 2018  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
Sunday, October 21, 2018  
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 2018 Fossil Fair contact us by email at  
[info@floridafossilhunters.com](mailto:info@floridafossilhunters.com), call 407-699-9274, or check the website at

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

**Raffles**

**Vendors**

**Silent  
Auctions**

**Kids \$1  
Dig Pit**

**Educational  
Displays**

**Airconditioned  
INDOORS!**