



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

OCTOBER 2012



Message from the President

Greetings to members and friends and a warm welcome to our new members.

October is usually the month that signals our return to the rivers, however that doesn't appear to be the case this year. At last check, the Peace River at Zolfo Springs is about ten feet higher than normal and we are still getting rain on a daily basis. That means those of us who love to hunt for fossils in the Peace will need to find other activities for several more weeks. One such alternative was going to the museum in Clewiston, which we did in September. It was a great field trip especially from the aspect of learning much more about Florida's megafauna fossils. We plan to have another trip when several more seasonal members return to sunny Florida. Another alternative is diving in the Gulf and a few of our members have been doing just that. Our divers were showing off some very nice megas at the last meeting!

We are pleased to have two speakers from the Florida University Museum of Natural History. Dr. Klompmaker will speak about ammonites at our October meeting and Dr. Hendy is making a presentation in November about fossil sea shells especially those from his work in the Panama Canal Zone. Our club



is fortunate to have such good support from the University of Florida and from the University of South Florida as well.

Everyone is encouraged to bring in some invertebrate fossils for "Show and Tell" this month. I am sure our speaker will appreciate seeing some of our fossil sea shells and echinoids. Also, one of our members, Anita Evers, has an article with great pictures on echinoids. Anita is planning to develop a book on echinoids and is looking for constructive comments on her article, which is part of her manuscript.

Our program this month features a speaker; a "Show and Tell" session; an update on the status of our Annual Fossil Show, which will be held on December 1st; refreshments and socializing, and our monthly raffle. Everyone is encouraged to take part.

Best regards, Bill

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday October 18th at the Iona House, Calusa Nature Center. Meeting starts at 7 PM.

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COMMITTEES

Cherie Neat, Newsletter
Curt Klug, Web Master
Bill Shaver, Speakers
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer
Kathy Pawlowski, Club Merchandise
Pam Plummer, Club Badges
Pam Plummer, Membership
Joshua Frank, Refreshments
Dean Hart, Refreshments co-chairman
Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips
Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director
Hollie Tiner, Club Photographer
Gunther Lobish, Invertebrate Education
Louis Stieffel, Vertebrate Education

SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER

Dr. Adiel Klompmaker **"Ammonites for Dinner"**

Synopsis: "They are very well-known from the fossil record, used for relative dating of sedimentary marine rocks, and many fossil collectors have at least one in their collection. However, finding a complete Paleozoic or Mesozoic ammonite is not easy. Many shells are broken, in part due to the activities of a shell-breaking predators. Recognizing the traces that these predators left behind on the shell is challenging, but paleontologists made some key discoveries in the last decades. This talk will focus mostly on an abundant, recently discovered damage found on ammonite shells. What does this damage look like? And, perhaps even more interesting, who did it?"

Bio: Adiel Klompmaker got his combined BSc/MSc leading to the MSc from the Utrecht University in the Netherlands where he focused his research on Cretaceous plants, Miocene rodents, but mostly on Mesozoic ammonites that were fatally attacked by squids and fish. He then did a PhD at Kent State University in Ohio on the relationship between Mesozoic reefs and decapod crustaceans such as crabs, lobsters, and shrimp. At the same time he developed a research program on predation as seen on a variety of fossil invertebrates from the Cenozoic. Since August, he works as the Jon L. and Beverly A. Thompson Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Florida Museum of Natural History of the University of Florida.

WELCOME MEMBERS

Patricia Frost
Aimee Hankel
Jimmie Harper
Christine Murphy
Patrick Murphy

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: September 20th, 2012

Place: Calusa Nature Center

Attendance: 36

Presided by: Bill Shaver, Club President

Bill opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their generous support of the monthly raffle.

Speaker was Dr. Brian Andres, Professor at USF.

Gunther Lobish provided the refreshments.

Bill thanked Donna Johnson for preparing the Fossil Show flyer. The Show will be held on December 1st at the Calusa Nature Center.

Field trips to the Clewiston Museum and the Mosaic Phosphate mine were announced. The Mosaic trip is on November 10th.

Refreshments were provided by Dennis, Anne, and Emily McIltrout.

Show and Tell by: Gunther Lobish, Louis Stieffel, Maurice Guy, Bill Howat and Ron Seavey.

Minutes submitted by: Bill Shaver

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & SPEAKERS

October 13th-14th Fossil Fair in Orlando

October 18th Speaker: Dr. Adiel Klompmaker, UF

November 10th Field Trip to Mosaic Mine

November 15th Speaker Dr. Austin Hendy, UF

December 1st FCOLC Fossil Show

December 10th Holiday Dinner

VOLUNTEERS FOR REFRESHMENTS

The schedule for 2012 is as follows:

October Mark Cantos

November Marcia and Charles Simons

December Pat and David Rosenquist
(beverages only) for Holiday Dinner Meeting

Many thanks to all of you . . .
your support is truly appreciated.

Websites & 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

Mark Renz's Fossil Expeditions
www.fossilx@earthlink.net

Smithsonian Natural History Museum
www.mnh.si.edu

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

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.com

Imaginarium 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers
www.i-sci.org

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

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

Tampa Bay Fossil Club
www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/> underwater/
finds

CLEWISTON MUSEUM

This month, some of our members visited the Clewiston Museum which houses several excellent fossil specimens that were recovered from the Labelle site. Our host was Museum Curator Butch Wilson. Our guide was Mark Renz. Mark provided us with a list of the many volunteers that helped with the excavation and identification of the famous fossils from the Labelle site. The list includes several people that are well recognized for their contributions to the science and hobby of paleontology.

They are as follows:

Ray Seguin	Mark Davis
Mark Renz	Marge Fantozzi
Louis Steiffel	Fred Mazza
Al Govin	Barbara Toomey
Marc Cantos	Jim Toomey
Chris McQuade	Roger Portell
Bill Davis	Richard Hulbert
Honey Davis	Marcia Wright
Rhys and Brandy Llewellyn	



"A galeocerdo mayumbensis tiger shark tooth from Dr. Gordon Hubbell's collection photographed by Mark Renz".

Anita Evers Echinoid Book Writer Invites Club Input

I grew up on Boca Grande along the Gulf of Mexico. As many of you may know, Boca Grande is a great place to go shelling. I really didn't enjoy collecting seashells, but I was fascinated by the sand dollars that washed ashore. So I would walk the beach looking for them, often collecting many really great specimens. Unfortunately if I managed to pick up 20 perfect ones on the beach, I was lucky to get home with even one that wasn't broken. I always wished my favorite was not so fragile.

Then I discovered there were fossilized sand dollars! They weren't so fragile and I could get them home intact. A new love was born. Now I am an Echinoidimaniac!

Ever since, I have truly loved to collect echinoids of all kinds. If it is an echinoid, I liked it no matter where it came from, but I have done most of my collecting here in Florida. When I first started my collection as a real novice, I didn't know much except that some of the fossilized echinoids were like sand dollars, some were like sea urchins and some were like sea biscuits. I knew there were differences, but I didn't know how to identify them.

So I looked in books. I found loads of books on many different types of fossilized remains and artifacts – sharks teeth, mammoth bones, sea shells – but I couldn't find much on just my echinoids. What little I did find was often about echinoids from outside of Florida. And regardless, the information was presented in formats that I, as a novice amateur collector, found very complicated and 'scientific'. I wanted something that I could use to identify my specimens without having to flip through three different sections of a book. Why couldn't someone just write a book for beginning collectors?

Years of collecting later and still bemoaning the lack of readily available information about my echinoids, one day a friend just said, "Well, why don't you write your own book then?" What an idea! Maybe with the help of some friends and other collectors, I could put out something that would be of benefit to beginning echinoid collectors.

So that is the idea. At this point, I am well underway to put together a book written in layman's terms along with scientific jargon. It is going to be a book that will demonstrate with photos and diagrams what to look for to know the difference between similar-looking echinoids. For example, an echinoid that is located in the area of Hardee and DeSoto counties is the *Abertella dingleri*. This echinoid has often been misidentified as an *Abertella aberti*.



ABERTELLIDAE *Abertella aberti*

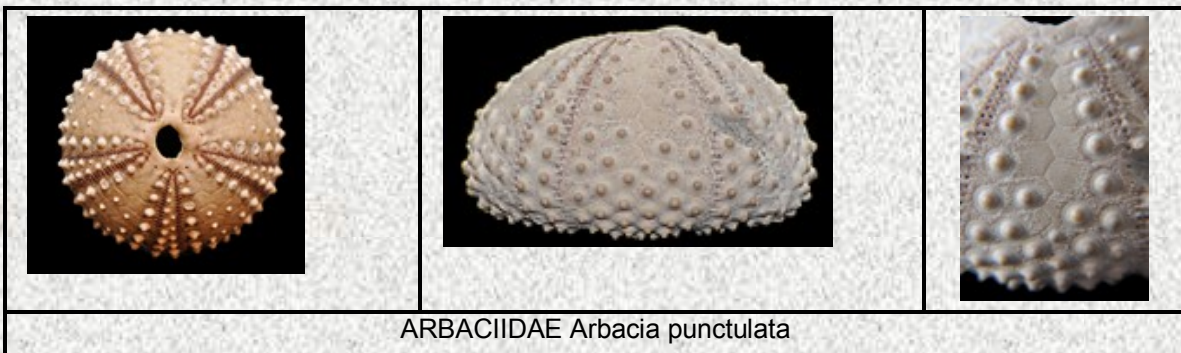


ABERTELLIDAE *Abertella dingleri*

As you can see, even though they are perhaps similar, the overall shape of each is different. The number of dingleri's I had originally labeled as aberti's!

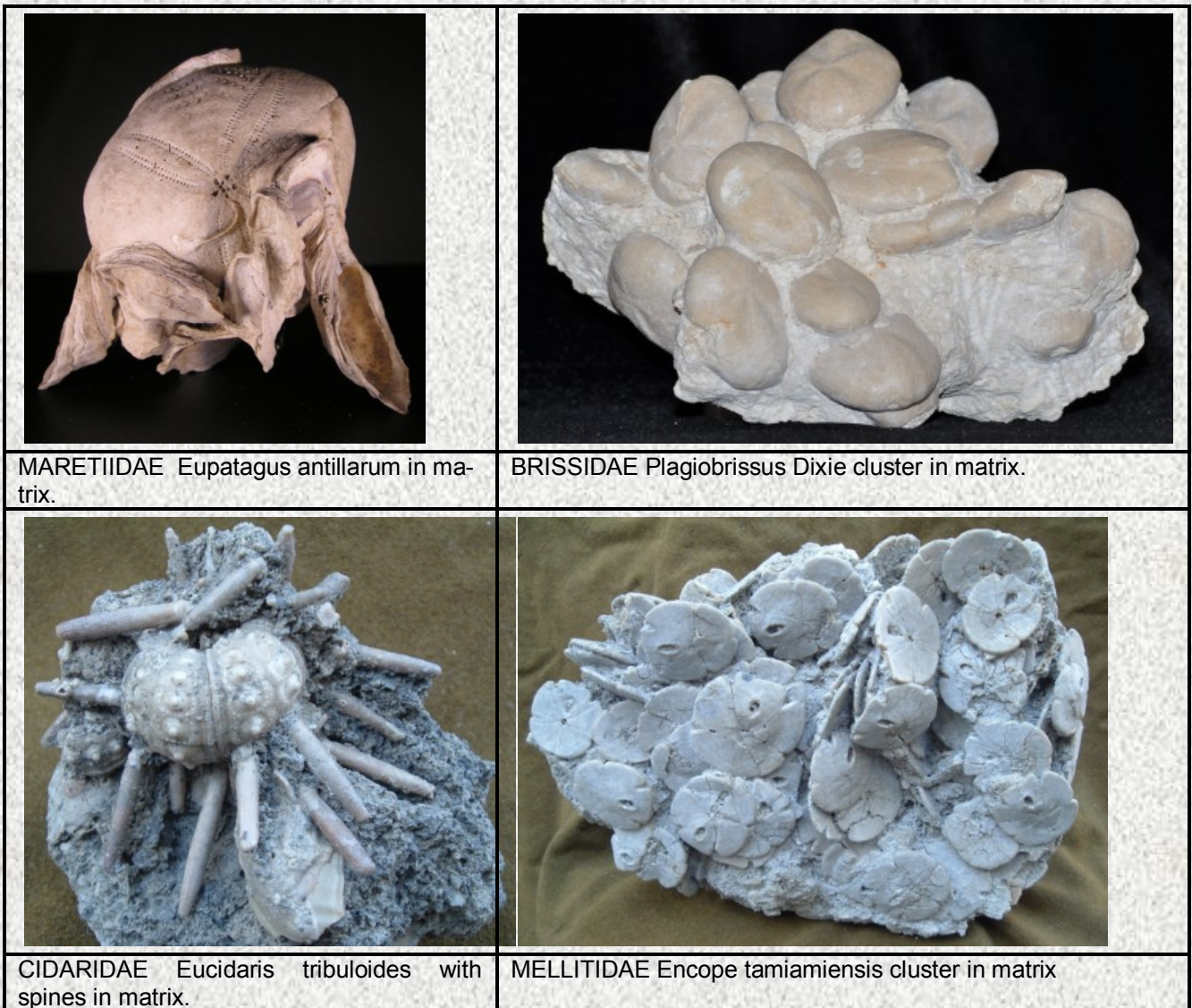
Another examples would be how to tell the difference between an *Arbacia improcera* and an *Arbacia punctulata*.





While the tops of these two specimens appear very similar, you can tell by looking at the sides that there are more tubercles (bumps) in the interambularcruel area (space between the petals) of the punctulata than there are in the improcera.

In addition to the main identification sections, I am planning to have a section on echinoids in matrix, hunting trips, deformities and anything else you would like to suggest. No, I am not planning to reveal anyone's special secret hunting places. Just general information.



But I would like your input, too. I am interested in learning what YOU would like to see in a book. Do you have specific questions you would like addressed?

I would love to hear from members of the group. I would invite anyone who has questions for me or photos they wouldn't mind sharing with me to email me at: skeeteralanita@gmail.com. But hurry. Time is ticking by and I would like to complete this book soon.

-Anita Bowe Evers

Club Trip to Clewiston Museum

by Jack Boyce

The **Clewiston Museum** is located at 109 Central Avenue, Clewiston Florida. It houses exhibits highlighting the local area, including: Fossils, Sugar, Cattle Industry First, Commercial Fishing, Flying Brits, Killer Hurricanes and Seminole Indians. The curator is Butch Wilson, retired from the Big Sugar Industry in the area.

The Board of Directors at the Clewiston Museum has erected a plaque in the museum calling it the Mark and Marisa Renz Fossil Exhibit. The exhibit houses many of the fossils found at the LaBelle Retention pond site <http://www.paleopress.net/labelle.htm> and also many fossils that Mark has donated from his lifetime collection. Marisa has her Native American art exhibited permanently at the museum. Usually when I visit a fossil museum, the displays are dusty and dated. The fossil displays are impressive and extensive based on the large amount of material retrieved from the Labelle site, and the expertise invested in the accuracy of the display. Butch is a very gracious host providing insights on local geology and events. He has also picked up quite a bit of expertise on his exhibits. That's what happens when school children visit the museum and ask most conceivable fossil related questions. Two club members, Ray Sequin and Mark Renz, actually participated in the Labelle dig and provided invaluable insight and knowledge on recovering the fossils. One interesting fact is that the layer at the Labelle site that contained all the fossils ranged from 6 to 30 inches in depth.

There were Horse, Peccary, Sabercat, Giant Beaver, Bear, and numerous other fossils but the exhibits that grabbed my attention were the complete skull and tusks of a male Mastodon, a perfect tusk from a female Mammoth, the complete skeleton of a Dugong including skull and teeth. There were lots of discussions on the geology of the Labelle site, and the fossils found there, including a rather detailed discussion on how Mastodon teeth dynamics actually worked. We retired to the China Buffet to continue the fossil discussions. This was a real price performer that included self scooped Ice Cream from tubs as one of the desert choices.

This was a great field trip, enjoyed by all who participated. Many Thanks to Butch Wilson and Mark Renz.

Long Gone Dugong



Big Teeth

At the 5 Star Museum



FOSSIL SHOW 2012

Presented by:

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

**FOSSIL SHARK TEETH, VERTEBRATE FOSSILS,
ROCKS & MINERALS, INDIAN ARTIFACTS, BOTTLES, GEMSTONES,
FOSSIL SHELLS, UNIQUE JEWELRY, FOSSIL BOOKS, & EXHIBITS**

**MEET LOCAL FOSSIL COLLECTORS
FIND OUT WHERE & HOW TO HUNT FOR FOSSILS**

**FEATURING MANY WELL KNOWN FLORIDA VENDORS
KIDS' FOSSIL DIG – KEEP WHAT YOU FIND
RAFFLES, GAMES, DOOR PRIZES, SILENT AUCTIONS**

FOSSIL TALKS BY DR. CHARLES O'CONNOR

11:00 AM – *FLORIDA'S FOSSILS*

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

2:30 PM – *SHARKS*

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



**SATURDAY, DEC 1st
9AM to 5PM**

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium

CORNER OF COLONIAL BLVD. & ORTIZ AVE.

ENTRANCE: 3450 ORTIZ AVE.

Ft. Myers, I-75 Exit 136 – Go West to 1st Light,

Turn Right. Entrance 500 Feet on Left

WWW.FCOLC.COM

ADMISSION \$3 (children under 12 FREE)

