



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

OCTOBER 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It must be autumn down here in southwest Florida! I see the license plates changing color!! We are getting some of our traveling snowbird members back again, and just in time for the annual fossil show!

Our show this year is held on December 7, and it will be at the Araba Shriners Hall. We decided to move it away from the Nature Center for a few reasons, number one being that we wanted an indoor show. The Shriners building offers plenty of indoor room and other amenities, as well as lots of protected parking and easy accessibility to just about anywhere in the county. Located immediately off of Hwy 41, on Hanson Street, about a mile north of the Edison Mall, it is a good location and we are planning a very nice fossil show. Four of us, Mike Siciliano, Joshua Frank, Coby Pawlowski and myself, have met every month to plan and prepare for this show. Lots of preparation should help ensure that it goes on without a hitch. This just doesn't happen by itself, so I encourage all members, who are not setting up a booth, to join in and help. Sign-up sheets for volunteers were at our last monthly meeting and will continue to be so at each meeting until the show. Please participate and help make the show a success! Any club member who is a volunteer does not pay the \$3 entrance fee.

This month we lost another great club member, Linda Warner. Those who knew her knew what a truly nice person she was. I remember being astounded by some of her terrific fossils she would bring to meetings for show and tell. This has been a sad year for our club, with three admired members passing on.

Sue Collier won the logo contest. She now has even more fossils, (the prize), to add to her collection! After a few revisions and modifications to the logo to ensure it will transfer properly to letterheads, t-shirts, ball caps, etc., the logo will soon be used by the club. Sue is also helping Kathy and Coby Pawlowski with the tee-shirt project. Sue is using her artistry to help us and we sure do appreciate it.

I just checked the river gauge for the Peace River, as well as Horse Creek. The creek has "plummeted" down to 11 feet, just in the last two days! Of course, 12 feet is flood stage, so it really needed to come down. However, we are still a long ways away from river hunting. Al Govin, the newest volunteer for club trips director, has some river trips, as well as canoe trips planned for whenever the river drops to fossil hunting levels.

Please remember to bring in your show and tell fossils! It does NOT have to be fossils you found this month. We want to see any that you want to bring in and share a story about.

Dr Greg Herbert gave a very nice talk to the club in September, about early fossil mammals. Greg has always been willing to help us out with speakers and we really do appreciate it. He needs a pit or two to do some research in, though, so if any member knows of one that would let him and his students in for a few hours, that would be a great thing! Let me know if you find out about anything that could help.

Dr. Charles O'Connor will be our speaker this month. He gives a very interesting presentation. Don't miss it!

This is your monthly reminder to acquire and/or renew your fossil permits. The club website has a link to this for your convenience.

Our November monthly meeting date has been changed. The new date is November 14th, which is the SECOND Thursday of the month. The third Thursday, the 21st has now been moved a week earlier. Please mark this on your calendar!!

I hope to see you at the meeting this month.

Louis Stieffel,
President,
Fossil Club of Lee County



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Pam Plummer, 133 NE 20th 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/

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.hardeeconomy.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.



OFFICERS

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Jack Boyce, 239-281-2416

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Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus

COMMITTEES

Jack Boyce, Newsletter Publisher, Photographer

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

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Pam Plummer, Badges, Membership

Gunther Lobisch, Pit Trips, Invertebrate Education

Ray Sequin, Merchandise

David Sheehy, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Speakers

Minutes of August meeting
THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: September 19th, Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Presided by: Louis Stieffel, President

Club president Louis Stieffel welcomed all current/new members and called the meeting to order. Members were informed of club merchandise being sold by Ray Sequin, the \$1 raffle table manned by Mike Siciliano, and everyone was handed a ticket for the door prizes. 40 members were in attendance tonight.

Announcements:

- November meeting is **rescheduled** to November 14th
 - Fee is going to be \$20.00 for all Membership types starting in 2014.
 - Joe Larkin has joined the board as a new FCOLC Director. THANKS Joe.
 - A club project needs micro fossils. All contributions greatly appreciated.
 - **Fire Sale** on existing FCOLC T-shirts; \$5 Get them while they last.
 - Congratulations to Sue Collier for winning the club Logo contest. Kathy Pawlowski, Coby Pawlowski and Sue Collier are working on new T-shirts which will incorporate this Logo.
 - Pam Plummer gave a treasury report. We have \$900 in the FCOLC checkbook. Be sure to buy raffle tickets merchandise, etc to help add money to the account. 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 on Saturday, October 12th.
 - There are signup sheets on the front tables for the annual FCOLC fossil show, to be held this year on December 7th, at the Araba Shriners hall. Please support our fossil show by signing up for the various Fossil Show jobs. 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.
 - Al Govin volunteered to coordinate club trips and would like any suggestions on additional trips. We have a Mo saic Phosphate mine trip scheduled on January 25th, 2014 and will develop a sign-up process.
 - Newsletter: We are doing Fossil of the Month, so send in your best fossil finds to Jack Boyce for October's newsletter.
 - Tonight's speaker is Greg Herbert from the University of South Florida. His presentation tonight is on: "Origin of mammals from reptiles".
 - A round of applause for Mike Siciliano and Louis Stieffel who stepped up and provided refreshments tonight.
 - Show & Tell presenters were Sue Collier (Construction sites), Joe Larkin (Megs & Makos), Mike Cox (Calooshatchee River), Gunther Lobisch (Echinoids and Trilobites) and Michael (Horse Teeth from Cape Coral)
 - Finished the night with door prizes raffle and the dollar raffle
- Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Club Secretary Kathy Pawlowski

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

October 12th: 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 17th 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 14th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

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

November Refreshments: **Marc Cantos**

FCOLC Fossil of the Month - October, 2013



Fossil: **Sixgill Cow Shark** lower jaw tooth

Hexanchus griseus (Bonnaterre, 1788) aka *Hexanchus gigas* (Sismonda, 1857) *Hexanchus* is a deep ocean shark. That may explain its great rarity in Florida. This tooth is most likely Miocene (2.6 mya) and measures at 27 mm which is slightly over an inch.

Date found: August 25th 2013.

Location: Caloosahatchee, River Lee County Florida.

How it was found: On the average I will search the Caloosahatchee once a week rain or shine. I live on the water, so it's easy for me to jump in my row-yacht when I have a few hours to burn. In late August I was digging in a submerged sand bar near the mouth of Telegraph Creek. This spot has produced many small teeth of various species (sorry no Megs...yet). After digging for 20 minutes or so in about 3 ½ feet of water, which any seasoned digger knows is difficult to do in any current with a shovel, I came across this *Hexanchus* Tooth. At the time I wasn't even sure if it was a tooth. It was certainly different than anything I've ever found, so into my treasure jug it went.

Not long after, while walking up the creek for new hunting grounds, I found a large bee hive hanging from a branch that was way to close for comfort. I decided to call it a day, let the current of the creek float me back to the river and row, row, row my boat all the way back home.

It wasn't until speaking with prominent members from the Fossil Club of Lee County that I was able to identify my find. Thanks Louis & Jack, for the research and the recognition. **Dig on!**

Written & Submitted by Michael Cox

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, October 17th, 2013 at Zion Lutheran Church
7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers, Meeting starts at 7 PM.



In Memoriam Linda Warner

Linda Warner, 64, of Englewood, Fla., and formerly of Harrisburg, Pa., passed away Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013.

She was a Bell Telephone Operator. Linda came to Florida in 1983, and retired as a driver's license examiner in 2006. Her many interests included kayaking on the Peace River with her friends looking for fossils, and at home she loved working with plants in her shade house and yard. Linda helped a lot of people through tough times. She rescued many animals and nursed them back to health, and found a lot of homes for pets in need. Linda loved to enjoy the beaches and wildlife.

We will always remember her smile and laughter. We will miss her very, very much. Linda is survived by her husband, Rick; son, Jonathan; and brothers, David of Pennsylvania, and Robert of California. She will be cremated and, as per her wishes, there will be no public service. Donations may be made to the Tidewell Hospice House, 1158 Veronica St., Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Linda loved the adventure of the hunt for fossils and sharing her love of fossils with anyone who showed interest. She brought fossils to meetings for new members, gave newly found fossils to kids hunting in the river, and was happy when others had great finds. Linda was an incredible caring person with a great smile and laugh who saw good in everyone and will be missed by so many of us.



Linda Warner wearing a CF Industries hard hat and holding the prototypical Bone Valley Megalodon with white root and blue blade found in a Hardee county phosphate mine.

Written & submitted by Sue Collier

Austin Hendy and the Fossil project

Dr. Austin Hendy from the Florida Museum of Natural History came down from Gainesville to speak at the FCOLC August meeting. The primary theme of Austin's discussion was making natural history collections (fossils in particular) more accessible and valuable to wider audiences beyond just scientific researchers, such as educators, students, and other members of the public with an interest in paleontology. A point of emphasis was that the fossil club members' own personal collections also constitute important resources that could be utilized by both scientists as well as educators, if they were easily accessible. Austin introduced to the club to the iDigBio data portal which will provide access to this country's vast natural history museum collections. The web interface for the portal is currently under construction, but more data are being added all the time behind the scenes.

Austin also discussed one of the projects he coordinates, the Fossils of Panama project, which is an initiative to digitize the Florida Museum of Natural History's growing collections of fossils from Panama. With Fossils of Panama, education and outreach resources are being created that are in part driven or designed by potential users including teachers, students, and collectors.



Lastly, the club was introduced to the FOSSIL project, which was recently funded by the National Science Foundation. The objectives of FOSSIL include creation of a community of fossil club participants and professional paleontologists, breaking down the barriers between professional paleontologists and amateurs or hobbyists, assisting paleontologists in the digitization of museum and their own collections, and enhancing access to online collections throughout the U.S.

FOSSIL has just been funded, with a start date of October 1, 2013, and will soon offer benefits to its members.

One of the first benefits of the network will be funding of an FCOLC club member to attend the North American Paleontological Convention, as well as the first annual FOSSIL workshop, both in Gainesville, February 15-19, 2014. If you are interested in this role, contact Louis Stieffel or any board member.

Refreshments

A big **THANKS** to **Mike Siciliano & Louis Stieffel** who provided refreshments for the September 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.

Welcome New Members

Alicia Pershell
Michyla Pershell Wilkinson
Chole Stachowiak
Simone Stachowiak

Fossil show—2013!!

This month we showcase another fossil dealer who will be at our fossil show. His name is Craig Nesbit and he owns Fossil Treasures of Florida.

Craig has been doing this a long time and his web site www.Fossil-Treasures-of-Florida.com is very instructional and offers a lot of information to fellow fossil collectors. There are lots of facts and details on mammals (like the Gomphotheres pictured below) who left some fossils in our local area. He shares, on his web site, some personal background and you can see why Craig really knows his stuff!

“With a natural curiosity to collect, I have been hunting for things all of my life. Nature and animals have always been a high priority with me. As a kid, back in the day, when a lack of things indoors kept one looking for stuff to do outdoors, I discovered fossils. After finishing school, I became serious as a collector and haven’t stopped since; some 25+ years later.



I have been hunting for fossils all over the United States, with my wife, and a number of places with my kids. I have hunted for many invertebrate and vertebrate fossils, but I am partial to vertebrate mammal fossils and know them best.

We set up at numerous fossil shows, every year, around the country where we deal and invest in new fossil specimens. I have given several talks, over the years, to school groups, fossil and mineral clubs and anyone who would stand to listen. I have helped to identify countless fossil discoveries.”

So, make sure you stop by Craig Nesbit’s booth at the fossil show and tell him hi and do a little business with him! We are excited he will be part of our show!

Speaker

FCOLC Director **Charles O’Connor:** Charles is a Golden Apple science teacher who frequently lectures on fossils and Megalodon sharks, and who worked in the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Charles’ topic will be his summer fossil hunting trip to the Panama Canal Zone with paleontologists from UF, Panama, and South America. The presentation will include fascinating photos and 10 million year fossilized specimens.

Presentation Topic

Panama Fossil Hunting – Discoveries in the Canal Zone





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
Book signing by Frank Garcia**



Schedule of events

10:00 a.m. - Black powder Demonstration

11:00 a.m. - Zack Deyo, an up and coming paleontologist, presents "Florida Fossils" this is 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

3:30 p.m. - Black 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