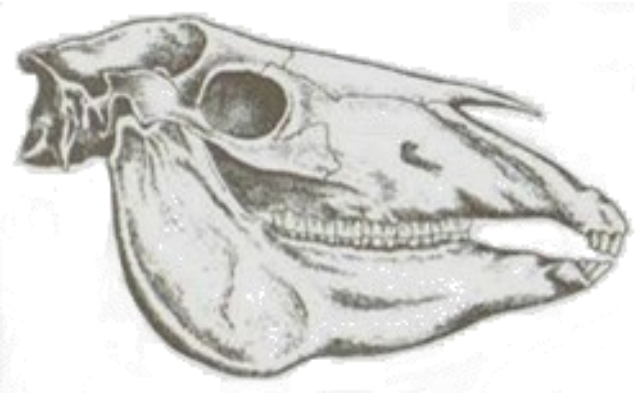

Fossil Club of Lee County

October 2015

Letter from the President

Another autumn is fast approaching, and with the cooler, dryer air comes a desire to get out in the field, and the rivers and creeks, and hunt for fossils!! I know I'M ready ! Soon, but not soon enough!, the Peace River and adjoining creeks will be low enough to collect in, but we are still a couple months away. In the meantime, enjoy the improving weather, and Halloween, and Thanksgiving, and the Orlando show, and get your gear ready.

The regular scheduled November meeting of the FCOLC will be moved to the Shell Factory. Due to the annual harvest festival, our regular meeting place, the Zion Lutheran Church fellowship Hall will not be available for us to meet. Please mark this on your Calendar:
November 19--Shell Factory , Dolphin Room.

November 7 and 8 is the dates for the Orlando Fossil Show. It's a good one, and I recommend you to try and attend. The Orlando area is world famous for tourism and there is a lot to do if you spend the weekend there. Check out the flyer at the back of this newsletter.

The SWFFS will be holding their 2nd annual fossil fair on November 14, in Punta Gorda. Check out the flyer at the back of this newsletter.

The Fossil Club of Lee County will be holding their annual fossil festival on February 13, 2016, at the Shell factory. Staci Marshen is working hard organizing this and it promises to be a good one!! More updates to come in the months ahead! Check out the flyer at the back of this newsletter.

The FCOLC board has decided on a new rule to be enacted in the upcoming 2016 year concerning fossil trips. All members who participate in a club sponsored trip that will take place on state lands or water-bottoms, (Peace River trips and canoe trips, especially) will be required to show proof of a current fossil permit. Information about the permit can be found on the "Websites and Locations of Interest" page in this newsletter. I suggest, if you have not yet applied , or renewed, a fossil permit, to please do so soon. Only $5 yearly, but you need to take the time and do it! Yes, it's THAT important! Also, in the VERY, VERY RARE instance that you discover a fossil that can help advance the science of paleontology and is requested by the FLMNH to be donated to the state's collection, I implore you to do so. Again, it's THAT important!

Our September meeting enjoyed a great presentation on fossil diving, by three fossil divers in the club! They were Zack Deyo, Jack Boyce and Mike Siciliano. They did a terrific job, and I think anyone attending left with all their curiosity satisfied. Thanks Zack and Jack and Mike!!

The speaker this month will be Dr Rick Batt. He will be speaking on fossil Eurypterids, "sea scorpions". These are rare creatures from way, WAY back and Rick is an expert on them, so please come and listen and learn.

November's speaker will be Eleanor Gardner, the Fossil Project Coordinator, from the FLMNH. She specializes in fossil birds, something we have not had as a topic before. Shaping up to be a very interesting presentation, and I urge you to mark the date on your calendar and come and see her! Also, that meeting will be at the Shell Factory.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

December has no speaker. It's the annual Christmas pot luck dinner meeting!! I'm getting hungry already!!

Walter Stein will be presenting in January. More Dinosaur adventures!!

Our newsletter developer, Cherie Neat, who works at Zion Lutheran in the office, has decided to up and get married!! I believe September 27 is the magical day, so she's well married by the time you read this. Congratulations Cherie Jacobs! It couldn't have happened to a nicer person!

Dave and Jeanne Seehaver have put a lot of effort into having a well stocked, highly functional club store. Please help them with any suggestions you may have of items we can carry, as well as purchasing current items. Both of these members are also directors on the board, and Jeanne is helping a lot with the festival. I want to thank both of these members for a job well done.

The annual Mosaic Phosphate Mine trip is Oct 10. As usual the list is full. As usual lots of anticipation is in the air for collecting the Bone Valley fossils found in the mines. Please submit your finds to the newsletter, as well as bring in for show and tell!

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County

Best Face Book comment I've seen so far!

"This is one of those hobbies that if you want to be successful you have to leave your comfort zone".

General information and request for club donations!

Hi Louis,
I hope all is well with you and yours, and do please extend my greetings to the rest of the FCOLC also. I appreciate you inviting me to give a presentation last year, and I was wondering if I might pursue some of the enthusiasm your members had for sharks. I am looking to gather fossil shark teeth to extend my work in food-web studies into the past, and I was wondering if your members might have some they would like to contribute. The teeth need not be complete or in pristine condition, I can use fragments so long as they are identifiable and can be assigned to a location. I'm particularly interested in sand tiger, tiger, sandbar, lemon, bull and white, but any shark teeth from the Pliocene-modern would be great. I've had some interesting results from early tests on some teeth recovered from Sarasota, and would love to see how other localities compare. If anyone would like more information, or would like to contribute, they can email me at this address.
mbhayes@mail.usf.edu

Thank you again and best regards,
Matt Hayes
Paleoecology Lab
School of Geosciences
University of South Florida

HAPPY HOLLOWEEN!!

OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President
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239-980-1406
Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer
239-910-2339

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Dean Hart……941-979-8217
Dave Seehaver
Jeanne Seehaver
Jim Manderfield
Staci Marshen

Club mailing address:

c/o Al Govin, secretary/treasurer:
3584 Middletown St., Pt. Charlotte , FL 33952

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Badges, Membership
Al Govin, Club Trips Director
Charles O'Connor, Speakers
Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer
Cindy Bateman Librarian
Curt Klug, Web Master
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise
Dean Hart, Refreshment
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Newsletter editor, FOSSIL project representative
Louis Stieffel FCOLC Face Book page administrator
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips
Mike Cox Co-trips director
Staci Marshen FCOLC Face Book page developer and administrator
Staci Marshen Fossil festival chairman

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 3584 Middletown St., Pt. Charlotte , FL 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/

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.

Of Interest--contributed by a FCOLC member

Complete left tusk of an ice-age Woolly Mammoth (Mammuthus primigenius) from the Siberian Arctic on the Taimyr Peninsula. Each individual discovery increases our knowledge about the past distribution of these Ice Age giants.
Credit: © R.-D. Kahlke/ Senckenberg Weimar
Close

Ice Age paleontologist Prof. Dr. Ralf-Dietrich Kahlke of the Senckenberg Research Station for Quaternary Paleontology in Weimar recorded the maximum geographic distribution of the woolly mammoth during the last Ice Age and published the most accurate global map in this regard. The ice-age pachyderms populated a total area of 33,301,000 square kilometers and may thus be called the most successful large mammals of this era. The study, recently published online in the scientific journal *Quaternary International,* determined that the distribution was limited by a number of climate-driven as well as climate-independent factors.

The mammoth is the quintessential symbol of the Ice Age -- and the status of these shaggy pachyderms has now been confirmed scientifically. "The recent research findings show that during the last Ice Age, mammoths were the most widely distributed large mammals, thus rightfully serving as a flagship species of the glacial era," according to Prof. Dr. Ralf-Dietrich Kahlke, an Ice Age researcher at the Senckenberg Research Station for Quaternary Paleontology in Weimar.

Kahlke has summarized the mammoth's distribution during the most recent Ice Age, i.e., the period between approx. 110,000 and 12,000 years ago, on a worldwide map. All in all, the Weimar paleontologist determined a total distribution area of 33,301,000 square kilometers for these large mammals -- almost 100 times the area of Germany today. From Portugal in the southwest across Central and Eastern Europe, Mongolia, Northern China, South Korea and Japan up to Northeastern Siberia, and thence to the American Midwest and Eastern Canada, from the shelf regions of the Arctic Ocean and Northwestern Europe to the bottom of the Adriatic Sea and to the mountains of Crimea: the fossil remains of woolly mammoths have been found everywhere.

"We related the computed distribution area to the real land surface at that time, thus generating the most precise map to date regarding the global habitats of the woolly mammoth," explains Kahlke, and he adds, "Such detailed knowledge regarding the distribution area is not even available for many species of animals alive today."

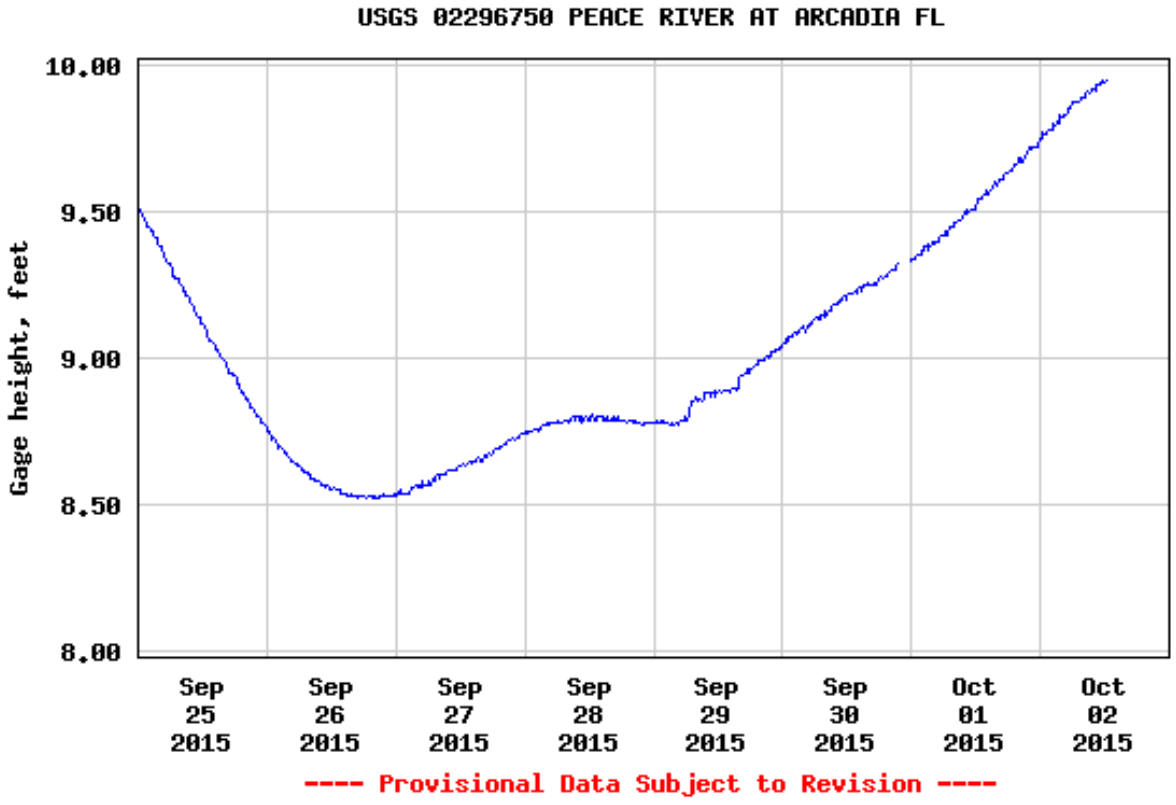
The generated map is based on decades of surveys of thousands of excavation sites on three continents. "Even sites under water, off the North American Atlantic shore and the North Sea, were taken into account. Due to the lower sea levels during the Ice Age -- a large volume of water was bound in glaciers -- these areas had fallen dry and were also inhabited by*Mammuthus primigenius*," according to Kahlke.

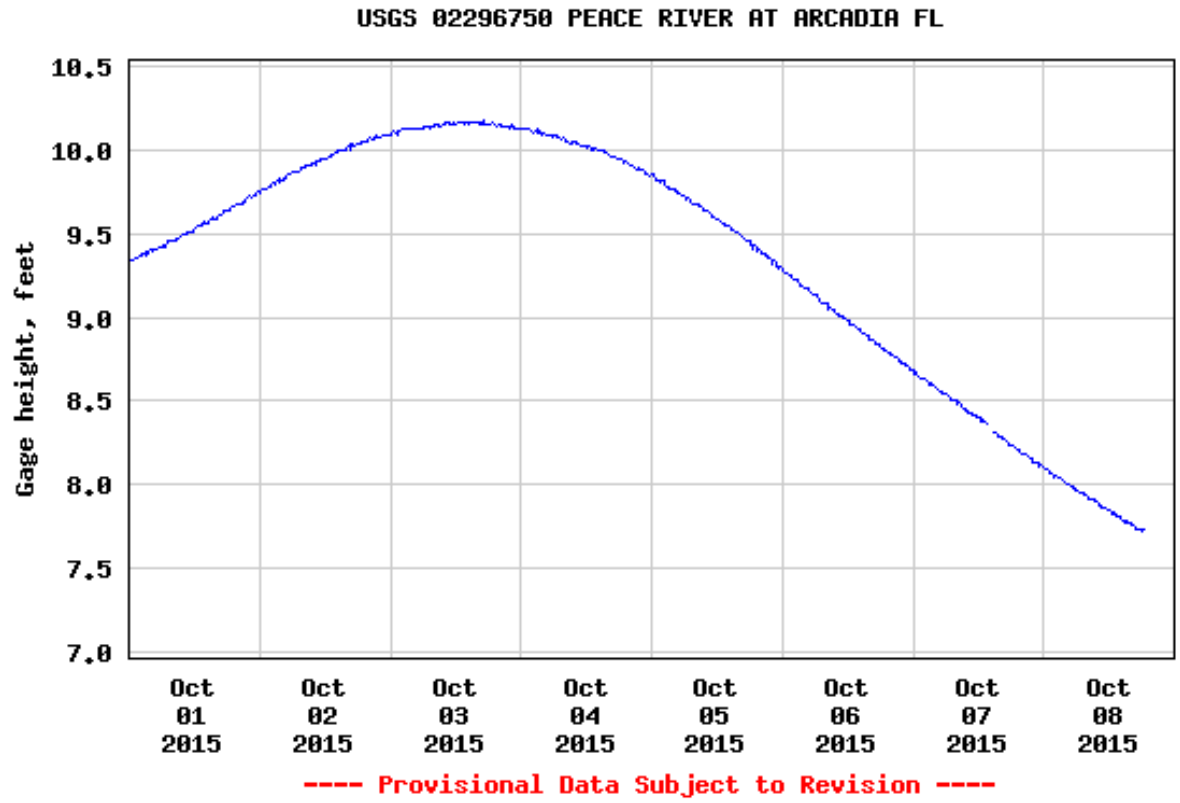
Only the ice-age bison (*Bison priscus*) had a widespread distribution similar to that of the mammoths. Kahlke explains, "The bison were clearly more variable than the woolly mammoths. Obviously, the mammoths had a higher tolerance toward various environmental factors and they were able to successfully settle in a variety of rather different open landscapes."

But there were certain factors that limited the distribution of the hirsute pachyderms: glaciers, mountain chains, semi-deserts and deserts, as well as changes in sea level and shifts in vegetation placed restrictions on the mammoths' distribution area. "The analysis of these limiting factors is useful in understanding the distribution of fossil species and their extinction -- as with the mammoths toward the end of the last Ice Age. In addition, the data aid in comprehending current changes in the distribution areas of recent animal species," offers Kahlke in summary.

River levels!!

As you can see from these two graphs, once the rains finally stop, the river falls pretty quickly. So, don't despair. Historically the water doesn't get right until close to December, so we are still ok. Let's up that this year we don't get so much unseasonal rains to keep the river levels rising. Hopefully our river trips and canoe trips will work out better this year than last!





Extinct Hippo like Creature Was Prehistoric Vacuum Cleaner

by Laura Geggel, Staff Writer | October 07, 2015 07:36am ET

About 23 million years ago, an ancient hippo-size mammal used its long snout like a vacuum cleaner, suctioning up food from the heavily vegetated shoreline whenever it was hungry, a newstudy finds.

Fossils of the newfound species — found on the Aleutian Islands' Unalaska, the location of the popular reality TV show "Deadliest Catch" — show that it had a long snout and tusks. Its unique tooth and jaw structure indicates it was a vegetarian, said study co-author Louis Jacobs, a vertebrate paleontologist at Southern Methodist University in Texas.

"They were marine mammals, but they were not completely marine, like whales," Jacobs said in a video about his research. It's likely they lived both on land and in water, like seals, and could move around on land like a "big, lumbering, clumsy sort of giant sloth," he said. [The 12 Weirdest Animal Discoveries]

"But when they were in the water, they swam like polar bears," Jacobs said. "They were front-limb-powered swimmers."

An illustration of the newfound species of hippopotamus-size mammals from Unalaska that suction-fed on shoreline vegetation.
Credit: Ray Troll

Researchers named the new species *Ounalashkastylus tomidai*. The word *Ounalashka* translates to "near the peninsula" in the Aleut language of the indigenous Aleutian Island people, and *stylus* is Latin for "column," a reference to the creatures' column-shaped teeth. The species name *tomidai*honors the Japanese vertebrate paleontologist Yukimitsu Tomida.

O. tomidai belongs to the order Desmostylia — the only known order of marine mammals to go completely extinct, the researchers said. Desmostylians lived between about 33 million and 10 million years ago along the coastline of the North Pacific Ocean, and the new specimens show that the order was more diverse than previously thought, said co-researcher Anthony Fiorillo, chief curator at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Texas.

The creature's odd, columnar teeth and suction-style feeding have never been seen in any other mammal, the researchers said. When *O. tomidai* ate, it would have buttressed its lower jaw and teeth against the upper jaw, and then used its powerful muscles to slurp up vegetation — such as marine algae, sea grass and other near-shore plants — from the coastal area, the researchers said.

"The new animal — when compared to one of a different species from Japan — made us realize that Desmos [Desmostylians] do not chew like any other animal," Jacobs said in a statement. "They clench their teeth, root up plants and suck them in."

Paleontologists Louis Jacobs (right), of Southern Methodist University, and Anthony Fiorillo (left), of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, examine the 23-million-year-old Desmostylia fossils from the Aleutian Islands.
Credit: Hillsman Jackson | SMU

"No other mammal eats like that," he added. "The enamel rings on the teeth show wear and polish, but they don't reveal consistent patterns related to habitual chewing motions."

The fossils represent four *O. tomidai*, including one baby, the researchers said.

"The baby tells us they had a breeding population up there," Jacobs said. "They must have stayed in sheltered areas to protect the young from surf and currents."

So, what would a group of *O. tomidai* be called? Rather than a pack, herd or gaggle, for example, they decided on a "troll," in honor of the Alaskan artist Ray Troll, who frequently illustrates Desmostylia animals.

Want to see images of the new findings? You can download 3D renderings of the fossils. The study was published online Oct. 1 in the journal Historical Biology.

Follow Laura Geggel on Twitter @LauraGeggel. Follow Live Science @livescience, Facebook &Google+. Original article on Live Science.

New Dinosaur Species That Lived Above Arctic Circle Is Discovered

By NICHOLAS BAKALAR SEPT. 28, 2015

A handful of juvenile neckbones of U. kuukpikensis, which were found in northern Alaska. Credit Pat Druckenmiller/Museum of the North

Researchers have found a new species of dinosaur that lived 69 million years ago above the Arctic Circle, the farthest north dinosaurs have ever been found.

The animal, a plant eater about 30 feet long, has been named Ugrunaaluk kuukpikensis — ancient grazer of the Colville River, in the Inupiaq language of the Inuit natives of Alaska.

“It had crests along its back like Godzilla,” said one of its discoverers, Gregory M. Erickson, a professor of biological sciences at Florida State University. The dinosaur’s jaw was lined with at least 1,000 teeth with coarse surfaces perfect for pulverizing plants.

U. kuukpikensis belongs to the hadrosaur group of duck-billed dinosaurs. It was 25 to 30 feet long, six or seven feet high at the hip, and probably covered with scales. While its front legs were much shorter than its back legs, it could walk on all fours.

The paleontologists who work the site have, to put it mildly, a difficult commute. It begins with a 500-mile drive north from the University of Alaska Fairbanks along the oil pipeline to Prudhoe Bay.

“From there we fly a few hundred miles to the river in a plane with balloon tires that can land on gravel bars,” Dr. Erickson said. “Then we use inflatable boats to get around. It takes seven or eight flights to get all the equipment in.”

The climate when U. kuukpikensis flourished was much warmer than today, with average temperatures in the low 40s.

“These animals were living in a very strange world,” said another member of the team, Patrick Druckenmiller, earth sciences curator at the University of Alaska Museum of the North in Fairbanks. “They probably had freezing and snow in the winter, and they had to survive four months of complete darkness. Finding food would be difficult. The plants are not growing at this time, and they would have to live on low-quality forage: ferns, twigs and bark.”

The find was described in the journal Acta Palaeontologica Polonica.

“The neatest thing is that our work is showing that there were dinosaurs thriving above the Arctic Circle, and all the ones we’re finding are unique to Alaska,” Dr. Druckenmiller said. “These are not the same species as at lower latitudes. What we have is a unique community of dinosaurs that lived in the polar regions when the world was a very different place.”

A version of this article appears in print on September 29, 2015, on page D5 of the New York edition with the headline: A Dinosaur Species That Lived Above the Arctic Circle.

November 19--Shell Factory , Dolphin Room, 7 pm

The regular scheduled November meeting of the FCOLC will be moved to the Shell Factory. Due to their annual fall harvest festival, our regular meeting place, the Zion Lutheran Church fellowship Hall will not be available for us to meet. Please mark this on your Calendar:

Find us on: facebook®

Link to Fossil Club of Lee County Face Book page and Zack Deyo's video fossil post:

Please check out the FCOLC site and if not a member, please join.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/378838762286864/permalink/396634263840647/

Club Outreach!!

Monday evening 10/6/15 at 7:00 P.M. Al Govin representing the Fossil Club of Lee County spoke to the VVA Chapter 1037 in Port Charlotte, FL (American Legion). This was done as a outreach project for the club. He addressed approximately 45 people. An invitation was extended to take military veterans for a one day fossil to the Peace River. This would be in late December or later, after the water levels have receded. An explanation was given as to how a fossil hunt is held in the river and what equipment was used. For this first time hunt, equipment would be provided. If the veteran decided this was something he would like to pursue in the future, than joining the FCOLC was encouraged. There was a brief discussion period. Also the veterans were told of some of the many fossils that can be found in Florida.

The members warmly received the talk and blank membership forms were left. It is strongly encouraged that we all reach out to other organizations and share our beloved hobby and passion.

Catalina's shark teeth research, condensed

http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/panama-pire/archived-enews/2015/v5i6r2/

From: Charles O'Connor

Barbara Fite posted in Tampa Bay Fossil Club

AAPS Association of Applied
Paleontological Sciences
AAPS, Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences
96 East 700 South, Logan, UT 84321-5555, Phone:(435)752-7145

Fossil Ivory Ban Notification

Dear Fossil Collector,
AAPS Member John McNamara sent me the following, and I wish to share it with all AAPS members. - George Winters, Administrative Director

My thoughts on this are as follows. This legislation is not limited to tusks and ivory as many John Q Public voters would think it is. Every state bill and law defines ivory rather loosely with most declaring ivory to be "ANY tooth or tusk from ANY animal". Massachusetts defines ivory as any tooth or tusk from, BUT NOT LIMITED TO....., which means legally, this could encompass ANY tooth of any vertebrate, extinct or extant. The objective of the law is to stop not just elephant slaughter but any illegal wildlife trafficking, as most bills declare. Therefore, ANY fossil remains of animals.... ALL animals, are open to future bans since most fossils are of "wildlife" and based on the dangerous precedent set with the inclusion of fossils in these current bills and laws. Currently, all wildlife remains are regulated or banned. If we are declaring that it is difficult to determine fossil from modern remains of certain animals, then the case is made that ALL fossil remains should be included in such regulations or bans. More dangerous is the fact that legal precedent is already set to make this a reality as preposterous as it seems. One of the stated objectives of including fossils in said bans is that it relieves law enforcement of the burden to discern modern vs. prehistoric remains. That's ludicrous as the very essence and duty of law enforcement is to discern legal from illegal. By including fossils in the way these laws are being justified, then ANY fossil that might possibly be confused or believed to be modern, would be fair game to outlaw.

For those that consider themselves safe in that they do not deal in fossils that would apply here, understand this is the tip of the iceberg and no one is safe. Wording in some of these bills identifies fossils as "precious artifacts that need protection" (Rhode Island). So we now have legislation being drafted and establishing fossils as precious and needing protection, where could this go? Rhode Island words their bill as follows that fossils are "(4) Precious artifacts from prehistoric mammoths are also not safe and need protection from illegal ivory traffickers;". If fossils are classified as "precious artifacts" that need protection, how much into the future is the general U.S. public made to believe that ALL fossils found in the United States are "precious artifacts" that need protection and therefore, are made illegal? We are already seeing U.S. federal law enforcement pressing down heavily over all fossil and artifact trade under the auspices that this market funds illicit activities and terrorist organizations. With the incredulous bans of mammoth remains from 100,000 years ago being necessary to protect modern elephants, anything is possible with ignorance at the helm of U.S. law-making.

The effect of these laws are sure to be catastrophic to commercial paleontology in America. Moreover, they would pose a serious blow to U.S. public education in a country that is already grappling with poor educational scores on a global level in comparison to other countries. The historical awareness that comes with the private ownership of fossils like the ones here in the bans, is a priceless reward we cannot afford to see squandered by the misguided few. How many teachers and students have brought in their own fossils to school or to a civic group to show a multitude of people that may otherwise never see a real fossil? How many kids and adults are made aware of the value of paleontology by the dissemination of fossils amongst individual private collections? All this would end abruptly should the ridiculous legislation continue on the course it is on now.

A basic knowledge of the U.S. legal system is all that is needed to know that laws lead to more laws and, precedent comes easily but is overturned rarely. It also goes without saying that a trend in state level legislation motivates national legislation.

I believe the AAPS should be behind a "grass roots" campaign for all members to contact their lawmakers and push for the exemption of ALL fossil material from

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

these laws before we are further demonized on a public and national level as being complicit in illegal activities that "fund the military operations of notorious terrorist groups" as one bill reads.

See this http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/african-elephant-4d-proposed-changes.pdf#page5, Comments for a national law revision per the link above, ends on Sept 28, 20days! There should be comments to the feds that request a total exemption on fossils. I found a link the other day (have to find it) where a paleontologist is being interviewed and other scientific professionals are chiming in that they want to see bans on fossils made under the umbrella of wildlife protection laws, just as I commented to you. I found that article AFTER I wrote so it may come sooner than we think. One paleontologist is quoted as saying such a law would end any amateur cooperation so there are academics that would argue in favor of the commercial side, to the US but action is needed NOW.

We are at a moment of enormous legal ramifications with regards to commercial paleontology right now. These laws are the FIRST laws in America that ban the sale, possession with intent to deliver, import and export of common fossils.

Even a simple form letter that can be sent to all state and federal representatives, would be nice. If you woud liek to work on a committee to address these issues, please contactgeorge@stonejungle.com

Sincerely,
John McNamara, President
Paleo Direct, Inc.

A.A.P.S. DIRECTORY

www.fws.gov

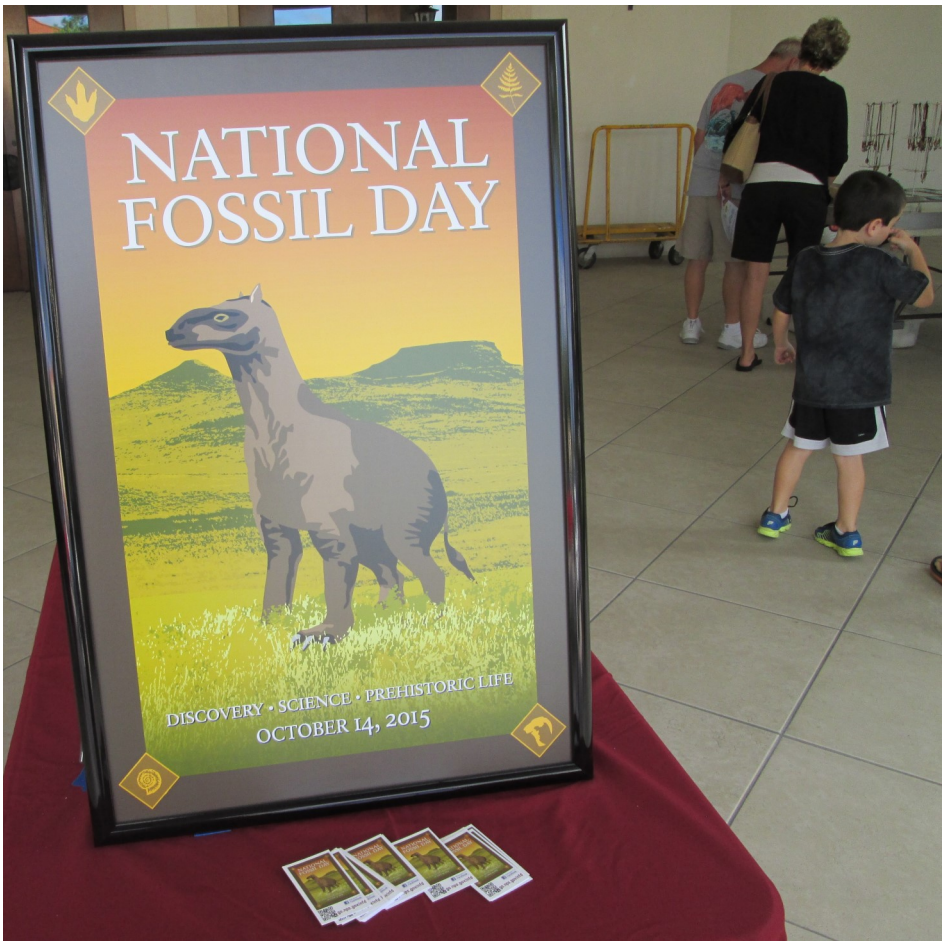
ALSO:

Section 2022 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to read:
2022.
(a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:
(1) “Bona fide educational or scientific institution” means an institution that establishes through documentation either of the following:
(A) Educational or scientific tax exemption, from the federal Internal Revenue Service or the institution’s national, state, or local tax authority.
(B) Accreditation as an educational or scientific institution, from a qualified national, regional, state, or local authority for the institution’s location.
“Ivory” means a tooth or tusk from a species of elephant, hippopotamus, mammoth, mastodon, walrus, warthog, whale, or narwhal, or a piece thereof, whether raw ivory or worked ivory, and includes a product containing, or advertised as containing, ivory.

Posted to the Tampa Bay Fossil Club facebook page. Reprinted with permission.

Fossil Club of Lee County Meetings
Are held the third Thursday of the month, at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. 7pm.
7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, Florida.

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY!!



Saturday, October 3, 2015 marked the day of local celebration for National Fossil Day. This event , organized by Paul Roth and Pam Plummer, was held at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton, Florida. Attended by fossil clubs, FLMNH paleontologists, Fossil Project representatives, fossil dealers, and various speakers and presenters, this event was a roaring success! Great weather, again this year, helped keep the crowds coming to see fossils and learn about their history.

The FCOLC participated with a nice club display, and information about our club, as well as had a member, Gunther Lobisch display his excellent collection of mostly invertebrate fossils. We also had our own Zack Deyo give a terrific power point presentation, along with many of his actual fossils, to a large number of younger participants.

Club attendees were Dean Hart, Al Govin, Staci Marshen, Zack and Dave Deyo, Leslie and Louis Stieffel, and Gunther Lobisch, Jack Boyce.

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY!!

SMR pit trip !!

A trip to the world famous fossil beds of the SMR aggregates pit in Sarasota, Florida, was offered to some of the participants in the National Fossil Day celebration, held in Bradenton on Oct 3. Our club was offered four spots and Dean Hart, Louis Stieffel, Jack Boyce and Staci Marshen were the fossil hunters joining the group. We traveled back to the museum the next morning and after all the paperwork was completed everyone followed each other the 18 miles to the pit. Once in the actual collecting area, most decided to head down into the pit floor where the material was dug from. looking at the ground and searching for shells and bones. Lots of great fossil shells, many now extinct, were available as well as a goodly amount of fossil bone. Most was busted whale material, but a few sections of skull and some vertebrae was collected along with rib fragments and some ear bones. I also saw two whale teeth and a few shark teeth that were found. Here's a couple pictures of a few of the fossils I collected.

Over too soon, it was still a fantastic opportunity to collect in a world class site, and I can hardly wait for the chance to do it again!

sMR pit trip !!

FCOLC fossil collecting trips

I want to mention that it is a big deal to acquire and organize a fossil collecting trip. As hard as it is for you do so on your own, it is WAY harder to do as a group. So, I ask, if you sign up for a trip--make sure you can go!, AND, if your status changes--let us know!! Most of these few trips we manage to do, have a limited number of participants, so if you cannot go, please give that opportunity to someone else. As soon as possible, please.

Also, there are rules, You MUST agree to them, and you MUST follow them. If there is paperwork that you must fill out, or information you need to supply, it is **your** obligation to do so. These are usually not OUR rules, but are from the place allowing us to hunt. Long pants means--yes!!--LONG pants! Hard soled, solid enclosed shoes are not sneakers or crocs, or flip-flops.. And so on. Remember, someone is a volunteer doing the job of organizing the trip and spends a LOT of time involved with it, so please help out by doing what is asked of you.

It should not take four or five emails to pry out information needed. If you are not allowed to go because of not helping with needed information, then you have no one to blame but yourself. Also, write CLEARLY! Every single letter, space and number on an email address is important, and must be able to be read, or it's useless. None of this message should be necessary, but we have had too many issues, with too many members, not following directions. If you don't like the rules or conditions, please refrain from signing up for a trip.

If you do go, enjoy it. Take pictures. Submit to the newsletter! Show and tell your fossils at the meeting! And, consider helping by volunteering to lead a trip in the future!

And, thank Al Govin for so much work organizing these trips. Thank you AL!

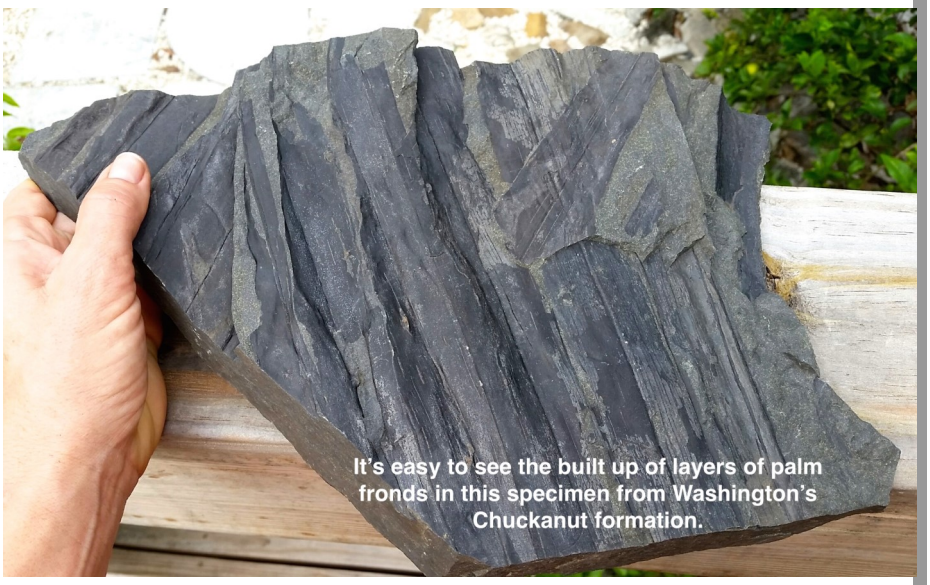
Extinct Giant Ground Sloth

This is the 16-foot tall specimen at the Fernbank Natural History Museum in Atlanta.

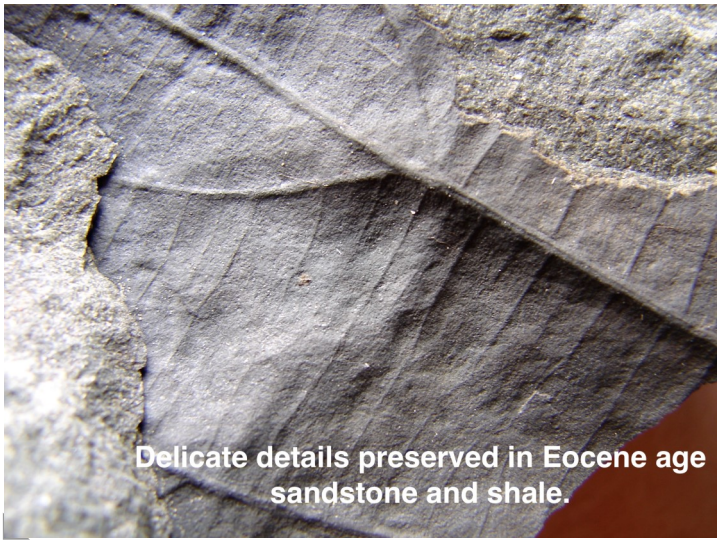
Aimeee's Corner!!

Aimee Hankel with a 20 lb chunk of Eocene palm frond.

I've been trying to work a fossil-hunting excursion into every trip I take and it's not always easy. I just completed a group trip to Washington state which involved 3 days of paddling 22' kayaks through choppy waves and killer whales. Thank goodness I had just enough strength left in my arms to split shale for several hours. I loaded my economy rental car with a copy of Gem Trails of Washington by Garret Romaine, a bottle of Washington wine, and one of my friends, and headed to Glacier, Washington, at the foot of Mt. Baker to search for fossilized palm fronds. If you ever need a review on how well little rental cars can take abuse, just ask. I took a Nissan Versa up a twisting mountain road which wasn't too bad, even though my passenger clutched at her seat belt and refused to open her eyes, but when we turned onto a steep, rutted gravel path and the tires started spinning out, I wondered if we should walk the rest of the way. Naww! I downshifted to "L" (that was my only choice) and pushed on to our final destination: an old quarry which had exposed part of the Chuckanut formation and its Eocene age fossils (approx. 54-34 Ma) deposited in sedimentary formations when it was a low-lying coastal plain with a subtropical climate. The dark shale was very fragile and even though I had a rock hammer and chisel, my friend had no problem collecting specimens with the cheap hammer and screwdriver we bought at a convenience store. We were surrounded by palm fronds and it was easy to see in the rocks how they had fallen on each other, layer upon layer, for millions of years. The shale also contained a wide variety of deciduous tree leaves, ferns, twigs, etc. As I always say, I wish I had more time! My original plan was to ship the larger pieces by flat rate but it was Labor Day Monday when we collected and we flew out early Tuesday morning, so I jettisoned most of my other belongings and loaded my suitcases to the limit (literally to the weight limit!) with fossils. Everything made it home intact, including 2 slabs that weigh 20 lbs. each. Now, if only TSA offered a "geology" pass so I could skip the hand search every time I travel with rocks…



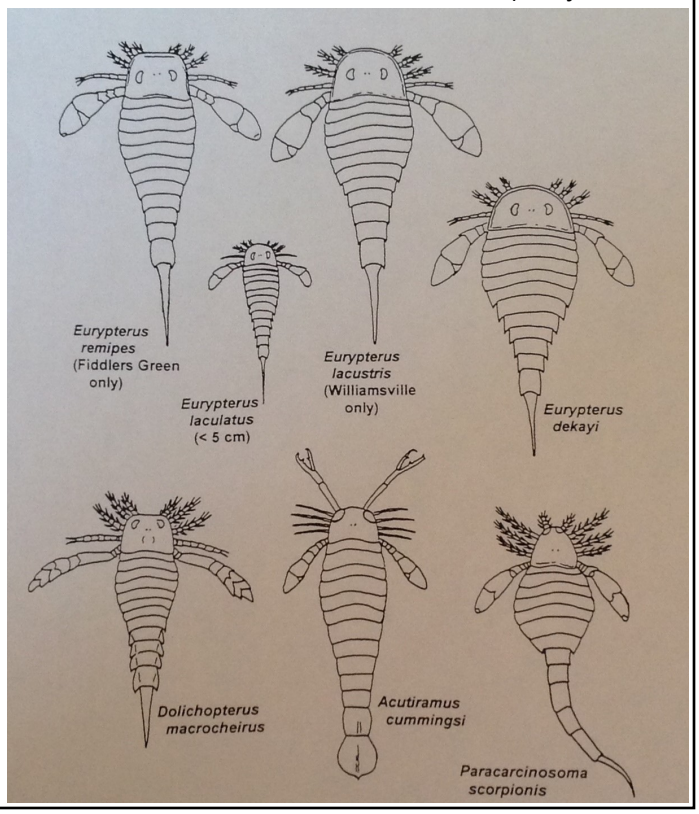
It's easy to see the built up of layers of palm fronds in this specimen from Washington's Chuckanut formation.



Delicate details preserved in Eocene age sandstone and shale.

October Fossil Club Talk

Club member and recently retired geology professor Dr. Rick Batt will talk about Eurypterids, commonly called “sea scorpions”. These bizarre-looking arthropods, close relatives of the modern horseshoe crabs, lived throughout much of the Paleozoic Era. The oldest definite fossil eurypterids come from Ordovician rocks and include the newly described Pentecopterus from Iowa, which may have reached a length of close to six feet. Eurypterids reached their peak during the latter part of the Silurian Period, and well-preserved fossils from that time are especially well-known from the Bertie Group dolostones of New York State and adjacent Ontario. One common species, Eurypterus remipes, is even the official “StateFossil” of New York State. The same rocks contain the giant streamlined predators Acutiramus and Pterygotus, both with prominent “pincers” and estimated lengths reaching more than 6 feet. Eurypterids underwent a major decline after the Silurian, at the same time undergoing a general habitat change from marine to freshwater and finally terrestrial environments before finally becoming extinct. Because eurypterids, like horseshoe crabs today, had an organic outer skeleton, well-preserved fossils are rare except in local rock units deposited under conditions uniquely favorable to preservation. Even so, eurypterid fossils have been discovered in several states, including New York, Indiana, Iowa, and even Florida (but you won’t be able to collect them here!). Rick had the opportunity to collect and study eurypterid specimens from the Bertie Group, and will focus on his experiences with their collection, preparation, identification, and interpretations of their life habits and the environment in which they lived.



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

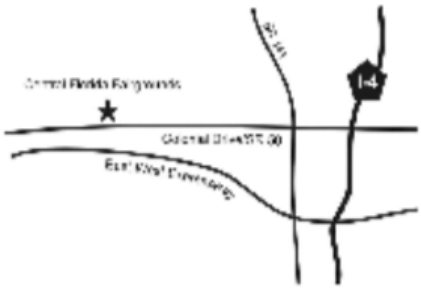
4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

$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 Dig Pit $1

Educational Displays

Air-conditioned! INDOORS!

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FOSSIL SOCIETY

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

2nd Annual Fossil EXPO

Saturday, November 14, 2015
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 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 SPACE SHOULD CONTACT:
CHUCK FERRARA at 941-769-2725 or 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

11th ANNUAL SAT.FEB.13.2016. 9AM-5pm

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