

#### **Letter from the President**

#### Watch out!!! Get down!! Fossils are flying around!! Hurricane winds are blowing and you need to take cover!!

Not really any flying fossils, but we DID experience a heck of a storm. Lots of people evacuated and were glad they did. And--We all give thanks that hurricane IRMA veered to the East, and went more inland than its' projected path west of us and traveling up the coast. As bad as it was, it would have been a LOT worse! However, even though most folks experienced power outages and some minor tree damage, some people really got clobbered. Especially many of those to the south of us. I visited long time member Marc Cantos at his house in southern San Carlos Park, and his whole neighborhood had a lot of damage. Marc spent a solid week cutting trees, repairing fences, etc, and all while waiting for power to come back on! As of this writing, almost a month after the storm's passage, there are still some people living in shelters in Collier County. We wish them the best in recovering from this terrible storm.

My wife, Leslie and I, traveled through Orlando, to Cocoa beach about two weeks after the storm had passed. We saw damage the entire way! That's when I realized the tremendously large scope and range of this hurricane! I've been through many of these storms, but this just may be the most widespread of any I've encountered. The hurricane was hitting both coasts at the same time! The Florida Keys, with a direct hit between Big Pine Key to Islamorada took on massive damage. Marco Island was heavily damaged, as was large parts of Naples, Bonita, Lehigh Acres, Labelle, etc. It's amazing what one day can do to change your life!

For the first time ever--and our club is now 25 years old!--we had to cancel a meeting. And also no newsletter. It was a difficult decision for me to make, but the hurricane messed up things too bad. A digital newsletter requires electricity! And the Fellowship Hall where we meet was converted into a supply and distribution center for needy hurricane victims. To try and find another venue and then contact folks was too much of an obstacle, so I had to be the first club president to cancel a meeting. But, things have improved and we have the okay for a meeting to be held in October, so we're back at it again! We surely won't have much in the way of fossils for show and tell, but we WILL have a great meeting anyway!

This month will be our annual Fossil Matrix Hunt!! I have acquired a quantity of fossil rich matrix from Aurora, home of the Lee Creek Phosphate mine in North Carolina. As well as a small amount of shelley matrix from inside large shells. If you have it, bring a magnifier and a tweezers. We provide everything else! And--OH!! you KEEP WHAT YOU FIND! See you there!

Our Last meeting--August--was an opportunity to see a lot of great fossils found and collected by one of our members, and newsletter contributor,-and speaker for the evening-Aimee Hankel. She and Tom King have traveled extensively collecting fossils and are always willing to share their experiences. They also share many of the fossils to the club, which we use for the \$1 raffle, door prizes, and auction items. The club greatly appreciates all they do! Thanks guys!

Lou and Val have been putting in a lot of effort towards organizing our next Fossil Festival! Dealers have been signing up and things are falling into place. Lou will tell us all about it at this meeting.

Water levels are at a VERY high level. Check out the USGS graphs inside.

The Orlando Fossil Club, The Florida Fossil Hunters, will be putting on their annual fossil show on October 28 and 29. See Flyer in the newsletter for more info!

The Southwest Florida Fossil Society will host their annual Fossil Expo, in Punta Gorda, on November 11. Time is 9am-4pm

Twyla Leigh, of the IFAS Extension, Collier County, will be having a Fossil presentation on December 9. Location will be The Orange Blossom Library which has graciously offered to co-host the event at their location off Airport Road.

The National Fossil day Celebration this year will be held on November 4, 2017. Location is at the Florida Museum of Natural History, in Gainesville, Fl. which is celebrating its' 100 year anniversary!! The FCOLC will have a presentation table there, and Jeanne Seehaver is putting a trip together for all those club member who are interested in a memorable weekend fossil outing! Details will be at the meeting!

Dr. Rick Batt will be our speaker at the November meeting. His bio is inside this newsletter.

Refreshments this month will be by none other than our esteemed FCOLC store proprietors and board members, Dave and Jeanne Seehaver! These guys do a lot for the club, and we very much appreciate them!

Don't forget to stop in at the Shell Factory and check out the Fossil Museum!

It may be time to renew your fossil permits! This is a great time of year to take care of that. Also, check your gear for river hunting now, so when it's time, you're ready!

See you at the meeting!!

Louis Stieffel President Fossil Club of Lee County



OFFICERS	COMMITTEES
Louis Stieffel, President	Al Govin, Club Trips Director
239-851-7499, <u>cape187@earthlink.net</u>	Curt Klug, Web Master
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President	Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer
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Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer	Cindy Bateman, Librarian
239-910-2339, algovin1@hotmail.com	Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise
	Dean Hart, Refreshment
DIRECTORS	Joe Larkin, \$1 Raffle
Dean Hart 941-979-8217	Lou and Valerie Rahn, Festival Organizers
Dave Seehaver	Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project
Jeanne Seehaver	representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers,
Dr. John Taraska	Vertebrate Education

Here is a site that has <u>every river and creek</u> mapped <u>for the whole state</u>, 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 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/ 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

Note: Since the September meeting was cancelled, these are the minutes of our last meeting, held in August.

# Minutes of FCOLC Meeting 8/17/2017

Louis Stieffel called the meeting to order

Members running merchandise sales, badge making and dollar raffle were introduced.

Thanked people doing refreshments.

Asked for volunteers for refreshments for September and October meetings. Jeanne and Dave Seehaver volunteered for the September meeting. No volunteers for October.

Louis talked about the trip in July to Rucks pit and brought in some show-n-tell, as did other members. Announced a **potential trip** on November 4<sup>th</sup> to Gainesville. Trip to include Gainesville museum, Hubble museum, fossil hunting at Montbrook as well as a local creek for hunting. Jeanne and Dave Seehaver volunteered to organize the trip.

Fossil show in Orlando October 28-39<sup>th</sup>.

Louis talked about the Gainesville Museum of Natural History and it's benefits.

Upcoming display and talk in December in Collier County.

Mentioned the FCOLC show in February at the Shell Factory. Lou Kiesling also discussed the upcoming show.

September meeting to consist of micro fossil hunting with magnifying glasses and tweezers.

Bring your own tweezers and magnifying glass if you have one. You get to keep your finds.

Pam Plumber requested alligator fossils if you have them for a project of hers.

Door Prizes were awarded.

Amy Hankel spoke about fossil wood hunting in Wyoming and showed slides.

Snack break taken.

Show-n-tell held

Dollar Auction held

Minutes by: Secretary/Treasurer Al Govin

# **October Speaker!!**

NO speaker this month. The October meeting will be micro-matrix fossil hunting!! Fossil rich matrix will be provided by the club and you keep what you find!" "This is one of those hobbies that if you want to be successful you have to leave your comfort zone".



# Aimeee's Corner!!

#### The usual topic this time of year: things to do until the Peace River goes down.

I know I'll probably have to eat my words, but surely it can't get much hotter. I'm trying to be more accepting of the constant rain since I imagine it washing fossils out of the banks and into the rivers but I do have my fingers crossed that things dry out in the early fall.

Tom and I, to keep ourselves busy, headed back to northwest Georgia for the 4th of July weekend and hightailed it right over to the old coal mine spoil hills on Durham road. I've written about this location a couple times and I never tire of it. It's relatively close to us, even in south Florida, and easy to find. You don't have to hike or drive off road.

I will, however, make a suggestion: early fall might be the better time to go. The Peace River water level is usually still too high to dig and the weather in northwest Georgia will have cooled down a bit.

This time, we were prepared with shovels and hammers, boxes and bubble wrap. The only thing we forgot?

#### **INSECT REPELLANT!**

Forgetting insect repellant in the south in the summer is tantamount to heading into the desert without water. I'm a trooper but I only stuck it out for a couple of hours. That was all the time we needed to find several nice fern fossils and a big chunk of lepidodendron bark.

I could spend my off season organizing my fossil cabinet but it's so much more fun to fossil hunt year round.

### Aimeee's Corner!!







# November speaker, Dr. Rick Batt

(Here's some information for the November talk I'll plan on doing for the club. I included a couple pictures if there's room, too. I'll plan to bring my UV light like you suggested for afterward - only problem with it is that it's an old one that needs to be plugged into an outlet - not a battery-operated one (a friend gave it to me back in 1975 or so).

#### Seashells through Geologic Time: A look at Fossil Mollusks and their Modern Counterparts

- Dr. Rick Batt

The shells made by living mollusks are the culmination of more than 500 million years of evolution, from humble beginnings near the start of the Cambrian Period of Earth history. Because seashells are typically heavily mineralized with calcium carbonate (the minerals calcite and/or aragonite), they tend to have a high preservation potential, rendering them some of the more common remains of organisms that are found in the fossil record. We'll consider how the diverse classes of mollusks may have developed from simple worm-like forms early in the Paleozoic Era, and then we'll focus on fossil seashells from a few selected intervals: the Middle Devonian of western New York State; the Cretaceous of the Western Interior and Texas; and the Late Cenozoic (Pliocene and Pleistocene) of southern Florida. We'll consider overall diversity, how the animals lived, the organisms they interacted with, and the question of what constitutes a species (the question of being a "lumper" or a "splitter") as it applies to fossil shells. Also, we'll see that some fossil shells fluoresce under an ultraviolet light: if you have some fossils you'd like to try, Rick will plan on bringing his light.

Dr. Rick Batt taught a wide variety of geology courses for more than 25 years. In addition to pursuing research in paleontology and stratigraphy, he has been an avid collector of modern seashells for more than 50 years. He and his wife, Dr. Robin Harris, a retired science education professor, have been involved in local and national organizations that study and collect modern shells as well as fossils, and have participated in field experiences to the Bahamas, Texas, Colorado, New York, and Florida to collect and study modern and fossil mollusks.

# November speaker, Dr. Rick Batt (con't)





## **Basilosaurus Whale jaw!!**

This is a picture of a very early toothed whale, collected in North Africa. It is believed that it is the link between Baleen Whales and Toothed whales. Also, some thoughts are that the serrated teeth acted like baleen, filtering the plankton from the seawater.





#### Ginormous, 70-Ton Titanosaur Is the Largest Dinosaur on Record

By Laura Geggel, Senior Writer | August 8, 2017 07:51pm ET

About 100 million years ago, when Earth was uncommonly warm and flowering plants had diversified into an array of bountiful blooms, the largest land-living animal on record — a massive, long-necked titanosaur — stomped around, searching for plants it could eat to fuel its enormous body, a new study finds.

The newly identified titanosaur was so immense — 69 tons (62 metric tons), which is equivalent to the weight of nearly one dozen Asian elephants — that it has claimed the title as the largest dinosaur on record, surpassing the previous record holder, another titanosaur known as <u>Argentinosaurus hiunculensis</u>.

Although it's exciting to discover the world's largest land-dwelling beast, the researchers said they're even more thrilled about the vast number of fossilized bones they uncovered, belonging to at least six of the giants. By comparing these newfound bones with those of other titanosaurs, the researchers were able to construct a comprehensive titanosaur family tree, they said. [See Images of the Titanosaur, the Largest Known Dinosaur to Live on Earth]

This family tree shows that some of Patagonia's giant titanosaurs — including *Argentinosaurus*, *Puertasaurus*, *Notocolossus* and the newly identified dinosaur — are part of the same evolutionary group, known as a clade.

This clade indicates that "extreme gigantism evolved once in the history of sauropods" rather than multiple times, said study lead researcher José Luis Carballido, a researcher with the Argentine National Research Council (CONICET) who works at the Museum of Paleontology Egidio Feruglio in Trelew, a city in the Chubut province of Argentina.

### Colossal discovery

The modern story of the <u>mid-Cretaceous</u> titanosaur began in 2012, when Aurelio Hernandez, a worker on La Flecha ranch in Patagonia, Argentina, found some fossils one day while managing the ranch's sheep. Hernandez showed the spot to one of the ranch's owners, Oscar Mayo, who immediately realized that the specimens were likely dinosaur remains.

Mayo invited paleontologists at the museum to see the site, and they spent a total of 18 months excavating the bones, including an 8-foot-tall (2.4 meters) femur, or thighbone. An analysis revealed that the site contained the remains of at least six different individuals, Carballido told Live Science.

The finding was so momentous that the researchers allowed the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to <u>display a cast of the dinosaur's skeleton</u> in 2016, before the beast was even named. At 122 feet (37 m) long, the reconstructed dinosaur was so huge it couldn't fit into one room, and so museum curators positioned its long neck and tiny head to poke out into the museum's hallway, welcoming guests.

Now that researchers have had time to analyze the titanosaur's bones, they've formally named it <u>Patagotitan</u> <u>mayorum</u>. The genus name references Patagonia, where the dinosaur was found, and "titan" recalls Greek divinities, known for their strength and large size. The species name honors the Mayo family for their hospitality during the excavation, the researchers said in the study.

#### Superbig

Although all six of the *P. mayorum* were massive, an analysis of five femur bones and one humerus (a forelimb bone between the shoulder and elbow) revealed that these individuals "had not stopped growing," the researchers wrote in the study.

Even so, they were quite tall, and could likely reach almost 50 feet (15 m) high if their necks were pointing straight up, Carballido said. [Photos: Enormous Titanosaur Invades New York Museum]



The dinosaur model is larger than the exhibition area, so it welcomes guests to the museum at the elevators, as they enter the hall.

Credit: Copyright AMNH/D. Finnin

Given that these dinosaurs were not fully grown, "this means that there are even bigger dinosaurs out there to discover," said Kristina Curry Rogers, a paleontologist at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, who was not involved with the study.

Still, it's important to note that *P. mayorum* isn't the largest animal by weight in the world. That honor goes to the <u>blue whale</u> (*Balaenoptera musculus*), which can weigh up to 200 tons (180 metric tons).

#### Vanishing lake

The six individuals were recovered from three different layers, or time periods. Perhaps so many individuals died there because there was once a lake in the region, prompting the titanosaurs to return time and again to drink from its waters, Carballido said. This is the first time that this concept, known as site fidelity, has been documented for such large animals, Carballido said.

It's possible that this lake dried out during droughts, and that these six titanosaurs <u>died</u>, <u>in part</u>, <u>from</u> <u>thirst</u> during those times, said Stephen Poropat, a paleontologist at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, who was not involved in the study.

"The stench of their rotting carcasses would have attracted carnivorous theropods [such as] *Tyrannotitan*, who lost teeth as they fed," Poropat told Live Science in an email. As the theropods chowed down, some of the *P*. *mayorum* bones could have been "pushed deeply into the mud," ultimately fossilizing, he added. [Dinosaur Detective: Find Out What You Really Know]

"It will be interesting to see if any of the bones have tooth marks on them," Poropat said.

#### Humungous thighs

The *P. mayorum* fossils are "very impressive" because they are so well-preserved and enormous, Poropat said. For instance, "the thighbones they have discovered equal or exceed every other thighbone in the fossil record in size," he said.

"There is no doubt that it was pushing at the upper limits of body size, and it will be interesting to see what adaptations it developed to cope with all of the pressures that went with being so big, [such as] acquiring enough food [and] finding a mate," Poropat said.



Patagotitan mayorum, an herbivore, is the largest dinosaur on record.

Credit: G. Lio

Poropat noted that the largest titanosaurs lived within a fairly narrow time span during the mid-Cretaceous, between 113 million and 83 million years ago, in southern South America.

Perhaps the long necks and tails of these titanosaurs helped them lose excess heat, as this period had warmerthan-usual temperatures, Poropat said.

The study will be published online Wednesday (Aug. 9) in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B. *Original article on Live Science*.

#### Water levels, 10 days after the storm

The heavy storm rains caused the water levels to rise above flood stage in SW Florida. Even ten days after the storm they are falling, but still very high. Some fluctuations back up since then, but are again coming back down.







#### Crews Park, Heard bridge, Wauchula

#### The second picture shows where we usually park!!





# **SHOW AND TELL!!**

#### **DURING THE HURRICANE!!**



#### THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER HURRICANE IRMA!!





# FABULOUS COLLIER COUNTY FLORIDA FOSSILS at UF IFAS EXTENSION, COLLIER COUNTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

Speakers: Mr. Bill McDaniel--Finding Fossils in Collier County.

Dr. Gary Schmelz--Invertebrates, collecting and display information.

Mr. Louis Stieffel--Vertebrates of SW Florida. Collecting, Identification, display, permits, history.

**Door Prizes** 

**Displays** 

**Speakers** 

Fossils!!

# INSIDE THE JAWS OF A GREAT WHITE!!!!

(YES, IT'S that SCARY!!!)



#### **FLMNH Database search tutorial**

Here's the tutorial for the search function my talk was based on. This should help navigate the database and look at fossils.

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To view images of vertebrate fossils from the Florida Museum of Natural History collections:

- 1. Go to floridamuseum.ufl.edu/vertpaleo-search
- 2. To see images check the "Only Results With Images" box at the top of the search
- 3. Enter your search terms of interest:
  - Taxonomic terms (e.g., Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)

• These are all latinized names, so you will need to know (generally) what you are looking for. Good resources include "The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida" -Richard Hulbert, the taxonomic lists on the FLMNH Vertebrate Fossil Sites pages (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/sites/), FLMNH species accounts (floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/species/), or simply by using Google.

• Locality terms (e.g., County, Site, Formation, Land Mammal Age, Epoch)

• Again, some of these terms may be unfamiliar to a general collection, such as the Hemphillian North American Land Mammal Age, but resources on the FLMNH website (e.g., floridamuse-um.ufl.edu/florida-vertebrate-fossils/land-mammal-ages/) should be able to provide some help.

- Collection terms (e.g., Collector, Donor Name, Date Collected)
  - These should be fairly self-explanatory.
- Anatomical terms (Nature of Specimen)

• This will perhaps be the most commonly used search field, but also the trickiest to navigate without familiarity of the terms used. I would recommend changing the drop-down menu from "Equals" to "Contains" so that search returns all results with the search term entered. Most anatomical terms will bring back the terms you will likely be looking for. For example, typing in "ulna" in the Nature of Specimen field and changing the drop-down to contains will return all ulnae from our collection that have been imaged, "femur" will return all femora, "vertebra" all vertebrae, "skull" all skulls, "mandible" all lower jaws, etc.

However, due to our identification system, searching on "tooth" will only return a subset of all the photos of our teeth. This because our teeth are labeled as C, I, P, or M (for canine, incisor, premolar, or molar, respectively) for mammals and then given a number that pertains to which exact tooth it is (1 through 4). So, a P4, left upper would be a left upper fourth premolar while a m3, right lower would be a right lower third molar. If you simply switch the drop-down to "Contains" and type "p1" then "p2" then "p3" then "p4" into the Nature of Specimen field you should all images that contain a premolar in them or "m1", "m2", "m3" for specimens that contain a molar. It's a little tricky, but feel free to email me at<u>smmoran@ufl.edu</u> if you can't get it figured out. Hopefully, in the future the database search function will be a little more user-friendly.

- 4. Click the blue "Submit Query" button
  - This will return all the images at the bottom of the page for the search you typed in above.

Other useful hints include switching between the table and list option in results box, clicking the "Display" box for a field that may not show up by default, sorting by a particular field using the "Sort Direction" drop-down menu, and exporting the results as a .csv file.



# **2017 FOSSIL FAIR** Hunters

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

Saturday, October 28, 2017 9:00am - 5:00pm Sunday, October 29, 2017 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

ossil

opido

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

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



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

www.floridafossilhunters.com

Raffles

Vendors

Silent Auctions



Educational Displays

Airconditionedi INDOORSI



#### PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

**4th Annual Fossil EXPO** 

#### Saturday, November 11, 2017 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Punta Gorda Women's Club and Historical Society Building I 18 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

# The 32st Annual Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show

November 17th - 19th

Free Admission and Parking



See folks just like you making jewelry with skills learned in one of our classes!



#### Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society PO Box 4654, Marietta, GA 30061-4654

Society Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at, 516 W. Atlanta Street, Marietta, Georgia. Dues are \$30/YR (E-Mailed Newsletter) or \$40/YR (Mailed Newsletter), Family or Single. For more information, visit our web site at www.cobbcountyminentl.org.