

**Fossil Club  
Of Lee County  
Newsletter  
November 2005**

**Message from the President**

Hello guys, girls and fellow fossilers!!, Time again for another monthly meeting of the Fossil Club of Lee County, and those of you who survived hurricane Wilma are obligated to attend!!! We will have another great speaker this month, Richard Hulbert, the Fossil Collections Manager of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. He will give a very informative talk and then will be available to identify your fossils that have stumped you until now. So please bring any interesting and unusual and unidentified fossils, especially from Florida so Richard can tell you what you have. He will also autograph copies of his book, if you have it. I will try to get Richard to bring additional copies for those of you who would like to get this fine fossil book.. Of course, as always, bring in your newly acquired fossils for show and tell.

Last month Lenny Canterbury spoke of his collecting out west and those members who missed the meeting, missed out on some good story telling. The meeting last month, October, was one of the least attended I remember of any of our fossil club meetings. Hurricane Wilma had lots of folks heading to higher ground. I hope everyone escaped with little or no damage or injury. My wife and I, along with fellow club members Rick and Lori Piper, were out west in Arizona on a trip planned prior to the storm. We spent most of a night and early morning watching the hurricane on the weather channel, on our TV in Flagstaff. Rick and Lori live in Naples, about where it made landfall, and were justifiably worried. It's hard to be a couple of thousand miles away, with your house all boarded up, watching a hurricane hit where you live. Believe me when I say it was a long night for us, as I'm sure it was for all of you. Hopefully, we have seen the last of these terrible storms this year.

Next month we host our Third Annual Fossil Show on Dec. 10th. I will discuss this in another article in this newsletter. Our December meeting is our annual Christmas meeting where the club provides the main course and the silverware, plates, drinks, etc., and each club member brings a covered dish, a dessert, etc..... We also have a gift exchange where you pick out a gift, wrap it, bring it, and put it in the spot for fossil gift or non fossil gift. You bring one (or more) and you get one (or more). No names, it's all in the giving.

In January our speaker will be Dr. Robert Sinibaldi, who wrote the book on fossil diving that we have available to club members. He will be glad to autograph your book. We also need a volunteer for refreshments for January and the months following. Please let me know that you are willing to bring soda, water, and maybe some light snack, like cookies or chips. The club will reimburse you, if you want, no problem. We will foot the bill up to \$25, so you should be able to do it ok on that amount. I did refreshments for several years, so believe me when I say, it's nothing to it.

Next year I would like to see us have more fossil hunting trips, as I'm sure most of you would also!! Al Govin did a lot of work this year for very little results. He booked five different river trips and all five were cancelled, due to all of the unusually high water conditions we experienced. He tried repeatedly to get us into a phosphate mine, any mine!!, but they kept turning us down. Al has a lot of other irons in the fire now, so if anyone wants to step up and fill in as trips director, I'm sure Al will help you all he can, and thank you repeatedly!!! Debra Powell stepped up and got the club into the Handi Phil pit in Englewood, and several members

took advantage of the opportunity and went fossil hunting. This is a pit that is rather erratic in its admission policy, so always check with Debra first. Some folks also went to the open house at the Ft. Drum mine, for fossil crystals. But---- next year, we will have more trips!!!!

Right now our club is financially strong with about three thousand dollars in the treasury. We had our bylaws rewritten and approved. We have our new club name, and have a good solid track record of successful meetings with excellent speakers. We are in a position to do things, such as purchase books, etc, up front, so members will have an opportunity to acquire them. We pay our speakers, our Nature Center dues, our refreshments, our supplies, etc, with no problem. Good member response to the monthly raffle, the annual auction, membership dues and purchasing of books, etc., have helped our club to stay solvent. Ray Seguin, our treasurer, has done a bang up job of keeping track of accounts and has a treasurer report for each meeting. What I'm saying here, overall, is that our little fossil club is doing well, and so now it's time to put our strength and backbone (vertebrea column) into making the third annual fossil festival a roaring success!!! I hope to see all of you at this month's meeting.  
Louis Stieffel, pres.

### **October Meeting**

Our October Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, Fl. The speaker will be Lenny Canterbury.



### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF LEE COUNTY FOSSIL CLUB**

A general meeting of the membership of the Lee County Fossil Club was held at the time, date, and place set forth below.

DATE OF MEETING: October 20, 2005

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: 15

Louis Steiffel, President, presiding.

Thanks go to Sandy, Frank and Donna for bringing refreshments.

Fossil books on sale.

Membership dues due January 1, 2005.

Thanks go to the speaker Lenny Canterbury. Next month Richard Holbrook.

Fossil festival in December. December meeting will also be Christmas party.

Start bringing auction stuff for March.

Need to get donations for raffle for Fossil Festival.

Want to have a river trip after Wilma.

Show and tell.

Secretary

### **TIME TO STEP UP!!!!!!!!!!**

**Our Third Annual Fossil Festival is coming soon, on December 10, and let's all come together for the good of the club and make this a**

**tremendous success!!!!** Lot's of work has been done already, but we need all of you guys to make it happen. We have, I believe, enough helpers for the Friday setup, but need all of you for the Saturday show. If we have too many people, then no one works overly hard and everyone can enjoy the show. Incentives offered to club members are free admission and all volunteers get a festival tee shirt, free!!!

We need helpers starting Saturday morning about 7:30-8 am, to get displays set up and the club table organized and the greeter tent put up, etc. Throughout the day we would like to see members show up to relieve others so they can enjoy the show. This is really not what you can consider work, but just an extension of your hobby. Help make this a success.

Other tasks we ask is that each member try to get something donated to either our raffle or silent auction. Gift certificates are perfect for the raffle as frequently the winner is not present and we have to mail the prize. Fossils and other interesting articles are welcome for the silent auction. Please bring it to this month's meeting preferably or bring it along when you come to the festival if necessary. Let me know if you have something for the raffle before the festival, so we can plan on including it. If each member gets a donation we should have a very good fund raising opportunity for the club.

Please take some flyers at the meeting on Thursday, and put them up somewhere or pass them out. The more promotion we do, the better attended the festival will be. Let's all do our part in this venture as this club belongs to us all and this fossil festival is an integral part of the club.

We are planning to have concessions (food) at the festival, as well as some non-profit organization displays, and books for sale and our club fossils will be displayed. Several fossil vendors will be in attendance, mostly in the Iona house, so please see if they have anything you could add to your collection. We will have kid's activities, also, so wherever you think you can fit in the best, let's do it!!!

I would like to thank a few key members who have been helping to put this thing together. Michael Orchin for filling in at the last minute as festival director, Marc Cantos for his preliminary work on dealer setup and organization, Debra Powell for helping line up speakers, t-shirts, kid's shark tooth necklaces, painted shark teeth casts, etc..., Leslie Stieffel for clerical work and taking on the kid's events, along with Michael and Cathy Orchin and Sue Lundgren, and Charles "Chuckmeister" Ferber for taking on the dealer setup on Saturday and speaker setup also, Al Govin for all his go-between with the Nature Center trying to coordinate

this activity and helping with Friday setup along with Marc Cantos, Ray Seguin, Rick Piper, and Sandra Schwartz, our stalwart newsletter editor, for important myriad details followup, and Carl and Amber Fricke for newspaper mentions and other advertisements, and designing the festival flyers, and Ray Seguin for helping run the club table and taking care of the financials. I know there are lots of others, but for now I will say I'm sorry if I don't mention you here, but know that you are needed, wanted and thanked!!!

Come to this month's meeting, get some flyers to distribute, bring in some raffle/silent auction prizes, and tell us you are ready to help make this festival the best ever!!!  
Thanks in advance, Louis

### **Club Officers**

Louis Stieffel, President: (239) 458-9818 [Cape187@earthlink.net](mailto:Cape187@earthlink.net)  
John Reilly, Vice President: 482-7787  
Ray Seguin, Treasurer: 939-1921 /936-5019  
Charles Ferber, Secretary: 489-2891  
Jerry Graham: (941) 423-0803

### **Committees**

Web Site: Curtis Klug  
Fossil Show: Marc Cantos  
Trip Director: Al Govin and Debra Powell  
Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz  
Speakers: Louis Stieffel  
\$1. Raffle: Jerry and Loretta Graham  
Auction: Louis Stieffel  
Publicity: Carl Fricke

### **Books for your library**

The club has purchased 4 interesting and informative books to make available to our members at below retail cost. These books will help you to identify your finds and give information on locating sites to hunt.

Vertebrate Fossils: A Neophyte's Guide by Frank A. Kocsis Jr.	\$15.00
Fossilized Shark's Teeth and Fossils by Bron Fink	\$ 4.75
Fossil Shark Teeth of the World by Joe Cocke	\$15.50
Fossil Diving in Florida Waters or any other waters containing Prehistoric Treasures by Dr. Robert	\$12.00

### **Intrigued by Fossils**

Florida is a wonderful state to hunt fossils in. We have a sedimentary layer that is undisturbed by earthquakes, volcanoes and other destructive natural events that occur in other localities around the world. However, I have always wondered at the high energy events of the ancient past to have the power to mix the fossil layer like it is. After experiencing the power of one of these massive hurricane storms, I can more realistically visualize the events at that time. I

frequently find land fossils mixed with corals and rock boulders and salt water seashells (some, deep water species). The unbridled power unleashed on an unprotected landscape over the eons must have been a sight to see!! I find a lot of this mixing at the end of the Pliocene, so a massive event must have contributed to that era's demise. Anyway, it's always interesting to try and figure it out. This is one of the things that makes this hobby addicting. I was talking with a friend, yesterday, about how everything is available, now, to us. Almost anything you want, and can afford, or charge can be had. (maybe that's why people tend to not appreciate their things very much.) But not fossils!!!! This is without a doubt the most interesting hobby I have ever had. I am a natural born collector (my wife says scrounger!), and have had many hobbies. I collected stamps, coins, seashell, rocks, carvings, bottles, etc, have hunted fished, trapped, shrimped, oystered, planted gardens and landscapes, built things, etc..., but I have never had a hobby that is as challenging as fossil hunting and collecting. Fossils are not, like most other things, easily and readily available. Sure, some are, but it always seems the one you want, you can't find. Hunting places to find fossils are just as difficult to locate as the fossils!! This is not an easy hobby. It is physical demanding at times, requires you to hunt for a spot before you can hunt for a fossil, causes you to drive a lot, get wet and dirty, sweaty and thirsty and then when you do find them, you don't know what you got!!!!. Maybe this is why I never get satiated by my collection, even though I'm proud of what I have accomplished. Maybe this is why my wife thinks I'm nuts!! (at times!) You guys understand--I know you do!!!  
Louis Stieffel



Sue Collier shows off a whale tympanic bulla or inner ear bone.