

Fossil Club of Lee County

November 2006

Message from the President

FELLOW FOSSILIERS!!!

Another month has positively flown by!! It seems we just had our October meeting and it's time already for our November meeting. If this keeps up we may soon have two meetings at once!! The big news is the water level in the rivers and creeks. It's LOW!!! I went to the Peace River yesterday, with Al Govin, and the water level is way down for this time of the year. All the rains we had earlier must not have happened upriver, because it had sure dropped fast. The water is clear, yet very dark stained with tannin. I was able to snorkel and the water is not yet cold. I did not use a wet suit, but did get a little chilled after a few hours. Of course, if I had taken a few breaks and warmed up it would have been better, but breaks don't find the fossils!!! As it was, I didn't find the fossils anyway. Neither did Al, no matter what he tells you! Actually I found a 3" meg tooth, a capybara tooth, and some huge dugong ribs, and Al found, heck, I can't remember what Al found, so it couldn't have been much!! Anyway, the point is-- the river is getting right, so go do some fossil hunting!!

This month our speaker will be coming from the Randell Research Center on Pine Island. We have had a speaker from there a few years ago, and it was very interesting. Bring any Indian artifacts for identification and further information, as those guys are very knowledgeable on that subject. Next month is our Christmas Pot Luck (already) and "Show and Tell meeting." For that meeting, you bring in a covered dish to share. Also bring in your 5-10 best fossils to show and tell. This is a little different than the usual show and tell, in as much as we usually tell of finds from the last month, but this time we want to see your best stuff!!! Show off and tell time!!! Don't be shy. We will set up tables around the sides of the room for you to lay out and display your stuff. It can be fossils you found, bought, traded for, or tripped over!

November Meeting

Our November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd.

Our speaker will be Dr. Worth from the Randell Research Center on Pine Island. He will be speaking about the domain of the Calusa, the Archaeological site in Pineland. He will also speak about future plans for the Research Center and he will have examples of shells and tools (replicas) from the Calusa Indians.

be from here in Florida or anywhere else in the world. We want to see it!!!

Our annual auction also is fast approaching. March will be here sooner than you think. I need time to organize the items and do the bidder sheets, so don't wait until the last minute to bring in your donated items.

A reminder on our Calusa Nature Center volunteer duty. Do it!! We need 4 hours per member, per year, as part of our obligation for meeting there. We have had problems communicating with them but now Kim Pierce is coordinating the Holiday Lites Program and they are in need of volunteer help doing all sorts of things. All proceeds from the Holiday event helps fund environmental education and the care and feeding of the Nature Center's animals. It's a good cause and provides us with a meeting place. You can reach Kim at (239) 275-3435.

Michael Orchin, our trips director, has decided to take a much needed vacation. He will try to line up a trip or two when he returns.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jose Langone for handling the \$1. raffle at our meetings. He has jumped in there and has done an outstanding job. It seems that our younger members are some of our most enthusiastic. Jose is doing a great job.

Jason Cantos is another youngster that always has his show and tell to share and is willing to help out when needed. Our youngest member, Dillon Crandell is also always at the meetings and will out hunt you if you don't watch out!!! He also is not shy about showing his finds. All three of these younger members are getting very knowledgeable about the hobby and soon will be taking my place identifying members finds. These members are part of the future of this club.

While I am thanking folks, I absolutely must thank Sandy Schwartz. She has faithfully put this newsletter together every month, without giving anyone a hard time except me! She also takes on other tasks as they come up and we need someone to do it. Sandy has the fossil hunting passion needed to be good at it and soon will have a collection we all wish we had. (I really need to keep her out of my fossil room.)

See you at the meeting.

Louis Stieffel, President, F.C.O.L.C.

Officers

Louis Stieffel, President (239) 458-9818
or e-mail: Cape 187@earthlink.net

Al Govin, Vice President 541-2845
and cell 910-2339

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 989-1921 or
936-5019

Chuck Ferber, Secretary 489-2891

Michael Orchin 574-6318

Board Members

Leslie Stieffel 458-9818

Sandy Schwartz 772-8015

Trip Director: Michael Orchin

Committees

Newsletter: Sandy Schwartz

Speakers: Louis Stieffel

\$1. raffle: Jose Langone

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

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

DATE OF MEETING: October 19, 2005

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: A lot.

Louis Steiffel, President, presiding.

Butvar and books for sale at meeting.

Thanks to Mike for bringing refreshments.

December is pot luck meeting.

Peace River water level is low.

Treasury is sound, \$4,239.64.

Members have to volunteer 4 hours per year to Calusa Nature Center as part of Club membership

Gunther spoke on Carboniferous fossil plants and quartz crystals. Thank you for the excellent talk.

Show and tell.

If there is any interest in having a Club fossil festival in 2007, we need someone to volunteer to be in charge of it. If no one is interested in taking on the responsibility of heading the festival, we won't have one.

The Club fossil auction is in March.

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Owl Festival is on February 17, 2007. We need volunteers for a booth at the festival for two or three hours to cover the day.

Secretary

Our Treasurer is a Treasure

I think it's time for the members of this club to know what a great member we have in our treasurer, Ray Seguin. He has been with this fossil club since the very first meeting!! Ray is our oldest member that I am aware of, and still continues to be a productive member with only the club's best interest in mind. I feel you guys should be aware of all the good he does for you, as Ray is a quiet guy and many members don't know much about him. He brings many items, every single meeting, for our \$1 raffle and he makes and donates the items for the door prize. Ray always gives generously to our annual auction, bringing in funds for the good of the club. Ray has taken it upon himself to handle the name tags at each meeting, as well as collect for the books, t-shirts, butvar, and membership renewals. He keeps up with the club's treasury and always has an up to date report. Ray has a framing business, yet never hesitates to frame donated items to sell at our auction, and never will take anything for it!! He has made all of our display cases, that the club uses in public displays, at no charge. He also makes things for members, usually at cheaper prices than anywhere else. Many pounds of material over the years for the kid's digs have come from Ray's collection. Who can forget, a couple of years back, when he showed up with a completely reconstructed bison, mounted on a wheeled stand, for show and tell!! He was one of the first members to donate his time to the Nature Center, when the club was asked to do this in return for our meeting there. The only meeting, in all those years that Ray has missed was when he had a knee replacement surgery. I get tired just from thinking of all the contributions to the Fossil Club of Lee County that Ray Seguin has done and continues to do!!! In case you guys don't know-- Ray is now 82 years old!!!! That is why we joke with him about him being an old fossil!!! Wow!! I just hope I can follow his footsteps!! Thank you Ray, for all you do!!

Louis

Volunteer Hours

Call **Kim Pierce at 275-3435** to volunteer at the **Calusa Nature Center**.

Donna Johnson, Katie Rosenkranz and I dressed up as owls and handed out candy to small children in the **Friendly Forest at the Calusa Nature Center** for Halloween. We had fun and even managed to scare a few small kids.

They are now looking for **Holiday Helpers** for the **5th Annual Wink/Lite 93.7 Holiday Arbor Lites Program**. There will be 100,000 holiday lights strung along 1/2 mile of cypress boardwalk with a Santa, cookies, hot chocolate, music and more. It sounds like a great way to get the volunteer hours in and have a good time as well. Helper positions are; boardwalk attendants, face painters, laser show attendants, parking attendants, children's craft table, hot chocolate servers, membership/admissions table and Santa. These are fun things to do.

Please send volunteer hours along with the date to me.

Our total club hours stand at 82.5. Sandy

National Geographic

Found Earliest Child

3.3-million-year old bones discovered

Meet the Dikika Baby, a three-year-old from the dawn of Humanity. Her discovery holds clues to the origin of childhood. A model of the ancient youngster was made life-size from a skull and other bones found in Ethiopia. She is the most complete ancient infant found to date and the best fossil of her species, Australopithecus afarensis. Lucy is a 3.2 million year old adult of the same species found close by in 1974. Unlike Lucy, the baby has fingers, a foot, a complete torso and a face. Outside of it's completeness, the major importance of this find is the light it will shed on how this species lived and grew. The baby was still nursing and is the beginning of our long, dependent childhood, when we grow

our large brains. The remains offer clues about how this human ancestor blurred the line between ape and human. The shape of her shoulders resembles a young gorilla's suggesting she could climb trees. But the angle of her femur from knee to hip is close to that of a modern human, implying she walked efficiently on two legs.

It is unknown how Dikika baby died but she was buried rapidly in the river by pebbles and sand, protecting her from scavengers and weather before gradually hardening into rock. The fossil was discovered in 2000 and it took 5 years so far (not completed) to remove it from



(artist's rendition)

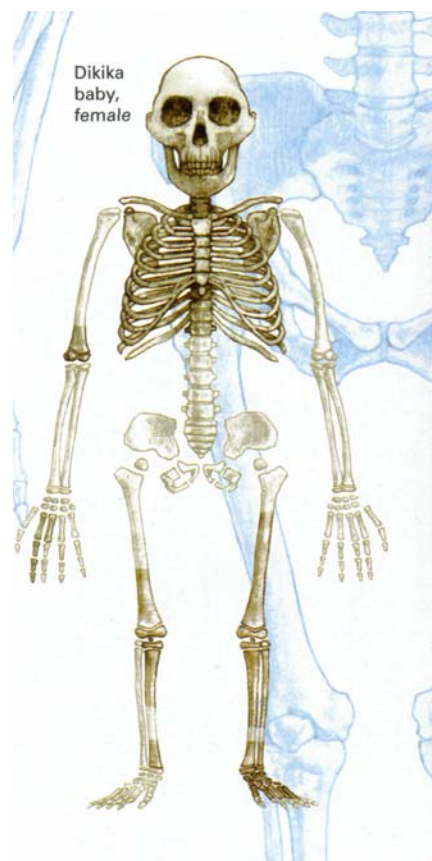
sandstone with a dentist's drill.

This find was made and excavated by Zeresenay Alemseged who sees *A. afarensis* as foraging bipeds but able to climb trees when necessary. Also found with the tiny skeleton was a hyoid bone, which is crucial to human speech.

From the waist down, the Dikika baby looked like us. But her upper body had many apelike features. Her brain was small, her nose flat like a chimpanzee's and her face was long and projecting. Her finger bones were curved and almost as long as a chimp's. Her two complete shoulder blades were similar to those of a young gorilla.

The Dikika baby was a distinctly different creature from the apes that her ancestors had diverged from several million years earlier.

This is a very interesting article on the evolution of man. You can read the entire article in **the November issue of National Geographic.**



Refreshments

November **Stephanie Crandell**

December No speaker, pot luck dinner. Everyone bring something.

January Volunteer needed

Florida Fossil Permit Application

This application is for a permit that will entitle the person named on the permit to collect, for the period of one (1) year, vertebrate fossils on land owned or leased by the State of Florida. The permittee must abide by all the provisions contained in Florida Statutes § 240.516 and the University of Florida Regulation implementing this law.

Print out and mail completed application to:

Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611-7800, USA

The following are to be enclosed with the application:

1. Copy of applicant's identification, either a copy of your driver's license, birth certificate, social security card or passport.
2. Check or money order for \$5.00 in U.S. currency payable to the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

Applicant's Name _____

Address: _____

Telephone (include area code):

I, the undersigned, affirm that I will abide by Florida Statutes § 240.516 and the Regulations of the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, University of Florida Rule 6C1-7.541 F.A.C.

Signature: _____

Date: _____