



Fossil Club of Lee County

November 2008

Message from the President



Many of our club members are busy preparing for our Fossil Show to be held on December 6th, and as we near that date, I hope that everyone will go into high gear to spread the word to their friends, family, and acquaintances. We have sent our show flyer to many clubs, organizations, and schools. A special thanks to Carl and Amber Fricke for making up the flyer. We will have fliers available at our next meeting and, of course, its on our web site: www.fcolc.com courtesy of our web master, Curt Klug. Pam Plummer has made up a work schedule form for the show and we thank her for always being ready to help out. We will discuss more details at our next meeting and we will also convene another fossil show committee meeting before the show.

Several well known Florida dealers have signed up for our show and will offer a wide array of fossil vertebrate specimens, unique fossil jewelry, beads, shark teeth, Indian artifacts, animal skulls, and of course there will be lots of fossil shells. In addition to the kid's dig, games, silent auction, and raffles, we will have a grand raffle of a beautiful carved cherry wood saber tooth cat skull. It is valued at over \$200 and would make someone a very special addition to their collection.

For those of you who were unable to make our last meeting, we had a special event---our Club made Sanders Lewallen, Executive Director of the Calusa Nature Center, an honorary member. He is a very good host and is very supportive of our club.

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on November 20, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd.

Officers

Bill Shaver, President (239)834-0694 /
billshaverpeace river@hotmail.com

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

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 939-1921 or
936-5019

Leslie Stieffel, Secretary

Board Members

Director---Louis Stieffel, 458-9818

Michael Orchin, 574-6318

Sandy Schwartz, 772-8015

Trip Director, Bill Shaver

Dive Trip Director, Mike Siciliano ,
980-1406

Committees

Newsletter: Cheryl Mitchell

Speakers: Bill Shaver

\$1. Raffle: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

Pit Trip Director: Gunther Lobisch

Our speaker last month was Phil Briskin who gave us a lot of insight into the Florida geologic formations and the correlation of fossil shells to those formations. Thanks to Phil for a well done presentation. Our speaker for November is Mike Meyer from the University of South Florida who will talk about micro-fossil shells that can be found in larger shells in the Pleistocene/Pliocene layers.

This month Linda and Dick Kemper are doing the refreshments, which is their second tour this year. We all appreciate their support of the club. I am hopeful that others will volunteer to help out in the coming year. The club provides the drink cooler and reimburses you for your cost.

Last month the Peace River was pretty high and it was difficult to screen in some places, but that has changed drastically. Two days ago the water was so low we had to do a lot of canoe dragging, but the water temp was perfect and it was a beautiful day.. It will be a rather sparse "Show and Tell" for me this month as I didn't find much, but that's OK.

As you know from the last meeting I showed off a very nice 4 and 1/4 inch megalodon tooth from the Peace, so how good is that? Gunter has been doing quite well on the pit trips and our club goes to the Quality Material pit just about every Sunday. Make sure if you sign up and then can't make it that you call Gunter: Megman1711@hotmail.com and [941-268-7506](tel:941-268-7506), because we most always have a waiting list. We are exploring some new leads and hope to get a sign up sheet at our next meeting for a new area. Talking about the pits!! Gunther is working on a trip to the Vulcan mine in Brookville in November. Louis has a mystery fossil for us to identify at our next meeting, however we did

not get a picture so he will pass it around.

(Rare prehistoric-age, reptile— See page 4)



Be sure to bring in your Show and Tell items, especially fossil shells, which is our speaker's field of expertise.

It's that time of year when some of our members find their way back to Florida---we welcome you back and look forward to having you participate in the Fossil Show. We also welcome our new members and we are receptive to any new ideas or field trip sites you may know of, or care to share with your club. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting. Bill Shaver, President

Speaker of the Month - My name is Mike Meyer and I am originally from Palatine, Illinois, which is just outside Chicago. I have majored in geology since 2005 while attending Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin. I am currently working on my Master's degree at the University of South Florida in Tampa. My thesis is on the pre-Cambrian fossil Pteridinium, a fossil that has no extant biological affinities. I have been working in the shell pits of Florida since the summer of 2006 while I was part of a National Science funded grant run out of USF.

Being a graduate student I have little money and time, so my hobbies have dwindled in the last year, but I still manage to find time to kayak, mountain bike, and ride my Harley Sportster. Here is short summary of my discussion. Articulated bivalves of the Plio-Pleistocene

The articulated bivalves of Florida are some of the best preservational environments in the state's fossil record. Their shells not only preserve a record of past climate of other organizations in pristine condition. From the almost microscopic benthic foraminifera to the fairly large *Mercenaria campechensis*. These inner shells can tell you about water velocity, nutrients, and possibly the shells placement in time. Mike

Minutes

A 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 16, 2008

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: 37

Club President, Bill Shaver presiding.

Bill made Sanders Lewellen, executive director of the Calusa Nature Center, an honorary member of the F.C.O.L.C. Bill presented him a plaque in recognition of his support to our club. Volunteers are welcome at the nature center.

The October speaker was Phil Briskin, who gave an interesting presentation on Paleooceanography of the Everglades & Florida by Petuch & Roberts. November speaker: Mike Meyers, from USF, topic fossil shells.

The upcoming Fossil Show was discussed in detail, including the flyers, silent auction, press releases, the kids dig and the grand raffle, which will be a saber cat skull.

We will have ongoing field trips on Sundays at Quality Mine. November Refreshments: Linda Kemper & Pat Oakes.

For Show & Tell **Mike Siciliano** showed yet another nice Meg tooth he found diving. **Ian B.** showed nice arrowheads, artifacts, minerals & other fossils he got at the Orlando show. **Louis Stieffel** showed a huge stingray mouthpart, dermal scutes & tail spine & more. **Leslie Stieffel** showed an unusual cob bottle that Louis purchased from Terry Solari at the Orlando show. **Gunther** showed a nice tulip, rose coral, horse conch, pecten & murex shells. **Phil Briskin** showed nice shells including strombus & olives. **Pam Plummer** showed nice recent finds including sloth tooth, bison & horse teeth.

Bill Shaver had a nice 4 1/4" Meg tooth.

Bill thanked Faydra Hernandez for the great refreshments.

Dollar raffle and door prize drawing were held.

By: Leslie Stieffel, Secretary

Coming Events

FOSSIL SHOW 2008

PRESENTED BY

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

FOSSIL SHARK TEETH, VERTEBRATE FOSSILS, ROCKS & MINERALS, INDIAN ARTIFACTS, TRADE BEADS, BOTTLES, GEMSTONES, FOSSIL SHELLS, AND UNIQUE JEWELRY.

MEET LOCAL FOSSIL COLLECTORS

FIND OUT WHERE AND HOW TO HUNT FOR FOSSILS, SEE THE EXHIBITS

FEATURING SEVERAL WELL KNOWN FLORIDA VENDORS

KIDS FOSSIL DIG - KEEP WHAT YOU FIND

RAFFLES, GAMES

DOOR PRIZES, SILENT AUCTIONS

FOSSIL TALKS BY DR. CHARLES O'CONNOR

10:00 AM - FLORIDA'S FOSSILS

FOSSILIZATION, SABER-TOOTH CATS, MAMMOTS, GIANT GROUND SLOTHS, HUGE SHARKS, HOW TO HUNT FOSSILS, & MUCH MORE! MANY FOSSILS ON DISPLAY.

2:00 PM - SHARKS

BIOLOGY, FOSSIL TEETH, & MEGALODONS - THE LARGEST SHARK OF ALL TIME! MANY TEETH ON DISPLAY.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

9 AM TO 5 PM

AT THE

CALUSA NATURE CENTER & PLANETARIUM

CORNER OF COLONIAL BLVD & ORTIZ AVE.

ENTRANCE ON ORTIZ AVE

FT. MYERS, I-75 EXIT 136 - GO WEST TO 1ST LIGHT,

TURN RIGHT, ENTRANCE 500 FT ON LEFT

WWW.FCOLC.COM

ADULTS \$2 CHILDREN \$1



7" Megalodon Shark Tooth
Univ. of Florida



Refreshments

November : Linda and Dick Kemper

Ted and Pat Oakes

December : POTLUCK

Bring your own dish to share



ND researchers hope to find complete croc skeleton

FoxNews.com—SciTech
Wed Sep 17, 9:19 PM ET

N.D. - Researchers are hoping a large cache of ancient crocodile bones in western North Dakota will yield the state's first complete croc skeleton. "In all the years we've been working out there, we've never found a complete crocodile skeleton," said state paleontologist John Hoganson, of the North Dakota Geological Survey. "It's one of the things we'd like to find, for sure."

Crocodiles lived in what is now North Dakota about 60 million years ago. Many bones and teeth have been unearthed through the years, but never a complete crocodile to put on display at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

This summer, participants in a public fossil dig on U.S. Forest Service land in southwestern North Dakota found bones and a skull, Hoganson said. They also found preserved crocodile tracks.

"You can actually see the footprints of this crocodile walking across what would have been a silty mud surface," he said.

The ancient crocodiles were similar to those that live in warm climates today, Hoganson said. One big difference is that they would have been at the top of the food chain 60 million years ago, after the demise of the dinosaur, he said.

Geological Survey paleontologist Jeff Person said crocodile fossils are common, but "finding a complete skeleton would be a little more rare anywhere in the world."

The site west of Theodore Roosevelt National Park was discovered several years ago by officials from the Science Museum of Minnesota who no longer are researching the area, said Larry Melvin, a minerals program manager for the Forest Service's Dakota Prairie Grasslands office. "Any time you go into a spot like that ... we're always hopeful that we can find a totally articulated skeleton," Melvin said.

This summer was the first time Geological Survey officials worked at the site, Hoganson said. The Geological Survey, the Forest Service and the Marmarth Research Foundation sponsored the

public dig.

"There are so many fossil bones there — it's a site we'll return to for several years," Hoganson said. "We're hoping we'll find a complete crocodile skeleton at some point. We're kind of pumped about this."

Under terms of the permit the state Geological Survey has with the Forest Service to excavate on property controlled by the federal agency, whatever is found goes into the state fossil collection, which is housed at the Heritage Center on the state Capitol grounds.

"It's public property, not just of the Forest Service," Melvin said.

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Rare Prehistoric-age reptile in New Zealand

Friday, October 31, 2008 7:31 AM EDT

The Associated Press

By RAY LILLEY Associated Press Writer

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) ? A rare reptile with lineage dating back to the dinosaur age has been found nesting on the New Zealand mainland for the first time in about 200 years, officials said Friday. Four leathery, white eggs from an indigenous tuatara were found by staff at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in the capital, Wellington, during routine maintenance work Friday, conservation manager Rouen Epton said.

"The nest was uncovered by accident and is the first concrete proof we have that our tuatara are breeding," Epton said. "It suggests that there may be other nests in the sanctuary we don't know of." Tuatara, dragon-like reptiles that grow to up to 32 inches, are the last descendants of a species that walked the earth with the dinosaurs 225 million years ago, zoologists say.

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DECEMBER Pot Luck and GIFT exchange

In December we will have our annual potluck dinner. There will be a turkey and some other meats. Please bring a dish to pass. If anyone would like to coordinate the dishes, please volunteer at the November meeting. We will again have our gift giving. If you wish to participate, bring a gift. It may be fossil or not a fossil. You will then select a fossil or not a fossil gift in exchange.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership for 2009 is again due on January 1st. You may give Ray a check or cash or send your dues by snail mail. The address is on the application. Now is the time to update your phone or address. Please print your e-mail address. Anyone who joined at the September meeting in 2008 or after is covered for the year 2009. For an application, go to www.fcolc.com and scroll down until you see the application to

(Rare: continued from page 4)

They have unique characteristics, such as two rows of top teeth closing over one row at the bottom. They also have a pronounced parietal eye, a light-sensitive pineal gland on the top of the skull. This white patch of skin ? called its "third eye" ? slowly disappears as they mature. A native species to New Zealand, tuatara were nearly extinct on the country's three main islands by the late 1700s due to the introduction of predators such as rats. They still live in the wild on 32 small offshore islands cleared of predators.

A population of 70 tuatara was established at the Karori Sanctuary in 2005. Another 130 were released in the sanctuary in 2007. The sanctuary, a 620-acre wilderness minutes from downtown Wellington, was established to breed native birds, insects and other creatures securely behind a predator-proof fence. Empson said that the four eggs ? the size of ping pong balls ? were unearthed Friday but that there were likely more because the average nest contains around ten eggs. The eggs were immediately covered up again to avoid disturbing incubation. If all goes well, juvenile tuatara could hatch any time between now and March, she said.

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WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.fcolc.com FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

<http://www.flmn.h.ufl.edu/> MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY @ GAINSVILLE

<http://flmn.h.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm> FLORIDA VERTEBRATE FOSSIL PERMIT

<http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com> SOUTH-WEST FLORIDA FOSSIL CLUB

<http://www.floridafossilhunters.com> ORLANDO FOSSIL CLUB

<http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com> TAMPA BAY FOSSIL CLUB

Contact Cheryl Mitchell at

kayakpeace@river@yahoo.com if you have any suggested or additions to our web site of interest column

FOSSIL SHOW: ALL MEMBERS MAY DONATE FOSSIL SPECIMENS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ITEMS SUCH AS MINERALS/MINERAL SPECIMENS, GEM STONE, INDIAN ARTIFACTS, OR PERTINENT BOOKS FOR THE HOURLY RAFFLE, SILENT AUCTION, OR SPIN-THE-POINTER GAME. ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER BUYING AT A PRICE OF \$.50 UP TO 5.00. NUMBER OF ITEMS IS UPTO THE MEMBER----IT MAY BE ONE OR 20--ITEMS NOT USED WILL BE RETURNED. IF POSSIBLE, PUT THE ITEM IN A STORAGE BAG OR OTHER CLEAR PLASTIC BAG, WITH AN IDENTIFICATION LABEL. PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO THE NEXT MEETING. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO BRING DONATIONS TO THE MEETING, CONTACT BILL SHAVER OR RAY SEGUIN TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.