

Fossil Club of Lee County

November, 2009

Message from the President



Greetings to all and a warm welcome to our new members!

I am sure you will enjoy our programs and the opportunity to be with others who are enthused with the many aspects of paleontology. We welcome back our members who have been away for the summer. The date for our Fossil Show (Saturday, December 5th) is rapidly approaching and we are asking everyone to support this wonderful community event by signing up to help do the many tasks involved on the day before the show and during the show date. I hope that each of you will set aside some time that day to help work the show and most certainly attend the show. See me at the November meeting or email me at (billshaverpeace river@hotmail.com) to let me know that you can help out. I hope that we will have enough volunteers so that no one will need to put in more than four hours for the day.

We will begin placing show flyers at all of the local libraries on November 20th. We need volunteers to cover the libraries in their area. Last year we placed flyers in over a dozen libraries as well as making internet contact with all the school systems. We are also underway with press releases to all local newspapers. We will discuss the show more at the monthly meeting. We could use some more fossils for some of the show games, if you would like to make a donation, please bring them to the meeting. Please make the specimen identifiable and not too large. Thanks to those of you who have already brought in some items.

The Club has a trip lined up for November 15th and members have been invited. Let us know if you want another trip in January or February. For those who have been out fossil hunting, bring in your finds, we will have a show and tell, door prizes and our monthly raffle. Also, our speaker for the month is Walter Stein, who has years of experience working with dinosaur fossils. I am sure you will enjoy his program and seeing his specimens.

Thanks to Dr. Charles O'Connor for donating a projector screen to the Club.

We now have a projector, screen, and a portable microphone unit.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting, Bill

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the Calusa Nature Center located at Ortiz and Colonial Blvd, Ft. Myers.

Officers

Bill Shaver, President (239)834-0694 / billshaverpeace river@hotmail.com
 Al Govin, Vice President (239)245-7560 and cell 910-2339
 Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 939-1921 or 936-5019
 Sharon Drake, Secretary, (239) 823-9052

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
 \$1.00 Raffle: Mike Siciliano
 Auction: Louis Stieffel
 Web Master: Curtis Klug

FCOLC COMING ATTRACTIONS



November:

Speaker: Walter Stein, Geologist, Paleontologist and Author of "The Top 256 Rules of Paleontology - Practical Advice for Fossil Technicians" and "So You Want To Dig Dinosaurs". Topic: Beasts of the Cretaceous

December:

Holiday Party and Social Gathering

January:

Speaker: Richard C. Hulbert Jr.

Collections Manager, Division Vertebrate Paleontology at UF Museum of Natural History, Manager: Florida Fossil Permits, Author of "The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida" Topic: *Dating Fossils of the Bone Valley* (horse teeth and Geochemistry)

February:

Speaker: Dr. Robin C. Brown, author of Florida's Fossil and Florida's First People.

March: Annual Auction



JUST A NOTE:

The Fossil Show serves several purposes: The event serves as an important way for us to raise money which allows us to provide us to provide scholarship grants to deserving paleontology students at the UF and USF, and to provide an annual donation to our host, the Calusa Nature Center. The show introduces other people into the wonderful world of collecting and hunting fossils, especially in Florida. We would enjoy seeing your friends and family at the show!!!

MINUTES OF MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY, SEPTEMBER, 2009

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

DATE: 10/15/2009

TIME: 7 p.m.

PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

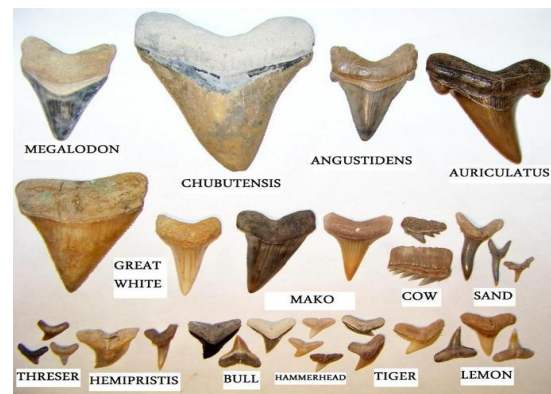
ATTENDANCE: 42

President Bill Shaver, called the meeting to order. He requested volunteers for the Fossil Show to help set up on December 4th and to work the show on December 5th. As of this date, there are four committed vendors and three tentative vendors, plus in-house and NFP tables. He also stated that the Club Library is now open and announced that a portable microphone has been purchased.

The speaker for October was Fred Mazza of PaleoDiscoveries (www.PaleoDiscoveries.com) spoke about fossils he has found in several north-east states and on tours that he conducts on the Peace River. It was announced that a club trip is set up for November 15th on the Peace River.

Refreshments were brought in by Mary Southhall and the beverages were brought in by Lori and Bill Mandos. The club thanked them for their support. Jack Boyce and Billy Joe Sherrill volunteered to do the November refreshments. Several people participated in the Show and Tell program. The monthly raffle was held and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Submitted by Sharon Drake, Club Secretary



How many teeth can you identify?

• WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.fcolc.com FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

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

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

<http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com> SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FOSSIL CLUB

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

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

PEACE RIVER WATER LEVELS:

<http://www.canoeoutpost.com>

<http://www.mnh.si.edu> SMITHSONIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Contact Cheryl at kayak-peaceriver@yahoo.com if you have any suggested additions to our web site in the interest column. Please help support the newsletter by submitting appropriate articles for publication.

• LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium
3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers
Tel 239-275-3435
www.calusanature.com

Imaginarium
200 Cranford Av, Fort Myers
www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium

Southwest Florida Museum of History
2300 Peck St., Fort Myers
www.swflmuseumofhistory.com

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL
www.shellmuseum.org

Randell Research Center
PO Box 608, Pineland, FL
(on Pine Island)
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Six Mile Cypress Drive (Between Daniels and Colonial) www.leeparks.org/fossil

Cracker Museum at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs, FL
Tel 863.735.0119

Lost in Time, St. Pete Pier, St. Petersburg, FL
Tel 727.823.7493



The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel, FL.

A Brief Biography of this month's speaker

Walter W. Stein - Walter has been exploring for, excavating, preparing, researching and writing about dinosaurs and other vertebrate fossils since 1996. He has a BS degree in Geology from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He was the former Curator and co-designer of the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center (in Woodland Park, CO), President of the Bighorn Basin Foundation, Collections Manager for the Wyoming Dinosaur Center, Field Collections Manager for Triebold Paleontology (the #1 or #2 private commercial paleontological company in the world), on the board of Directors for the Tri-State Museum (then later Interim-Director of the Museum), and is the current Chairman of the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences (AAPS) "Journal of Paleontological Sciences". Walter has worked on and/or discovered well over 25 important dinosaur skeletons including a new species of giant North American Oviraptor (head preparator/excavator) and a potentially new species of Tyrannosaur (discoverer). He has also worked on numerous other vertebrate finds including, the largest mosasaur ever found in Texas, the first ever plesiosaur bone bed from Montana and a very rare, short-necked plesiosaur (one of two of its species). In between, the big discoveries, Walter has written two books on the study of paleontology; "So You Want to Dig Dinosaurs" (2001) and another called, "The Top 256 Rules of Paleontology" (April, 2009).



Summary of the Presentation for Lee County Fossil Club

The title of the talk will be "*Hunting Cretaceous Beasts*", and will focus on some of Walter's exploits, searching for ancient dinosaurs and marine reptiles in the Western United States. Walter will discuss the methods for finding dinosaurs, the rules and ethics necessary for paleontological field work, the geology and nature of the Cretaceous ecosystems and the excavation techniques required to extract ancient fossil remains safely. Walter will also talk about the faunal diversity of that ancient ecosystem and talk about some of the many dinosaurs that can be found out west. The talk should run about 50 minutes to 1 hour and there will be time for Q & A afterward. At the end of the presentation, Walter will be available to sell and autograph his new book: "The Top 256 Rules of Paleontology- Practical Advice for Fossil Technicians".



One type of Genera that Walter Stein has worked on.

Troodon formosus

"Tooth that wounds"

(from bone bed material and teeth)

Fossilized skull of 'sea monster' pliosaur found on Dorset coast



Picture: Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Norway
Guardian.co.uk - Tuesday 27 October 2009 (Follow up for an interactive map)

The fossilized skull of a "sea monster", which may be the largest of its type ever found, has been unearthed on the Dorset coast. The skull from the ferocious prehistoric predator the pliosaur is 2.4 meters long and could belong to a creature measuring up to 16 meters in length from tip to tail and weighing up to 12 tonnes. Pliosaurus were a form of plesiosaur, a group of giant aquatic reptiles that terrorized the ocean 150m years ago, around the same time that [dinosaurs](#) roamed the Earth. They had short necks and huge, crocodile-like heads that contained immensely powerful jaws and a set of huge, razor-sharp teeth. Richard Forrest, a plesiosaur expert, said the discovery was fortunate because pliosaur skulls were generally found crushed flat. "What is fantastic about this new skull, not only is it absolutely enormous, but it is pretty much in 3D and not much distorted," he said. "You have this wonderful lower jaw – and you can just see from the depth and the thickness that this was immensely strong. "It could have taken a human in one gulp; in fact, something like a T-Rex would have been breakfast for a beast like this."

The fossil was found by a local collector on the Jurassic Coast, a 95 mile stretch of coastline covering Dorset and East Devon that spans 185m years of geological history. Dorset county council purchased it for £20,000 with money from the heritage lottery fund, and it will now be scientifically analyzed, prepared and then put on public display at Dorset County Museum. Using four paddle-like limbs to propel its bulky body through the water, the pliosaur made easy work of passing prey such as dolphin-like ichthyosaurs and even other plesiosaurs. "These creatures were monsters," said David Martill, a paleontologist from the University of Portsmouth.

"They had massive muscles on their necks, and you would have imagined that they would bite into the animal and get a good grip, and then with these massive neck muscles they probably would have thrashed the animals around and torn chunks off. "It would have been a bit of a blood bath." Experts believe it could rival recent finds made in Svalbard, an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, where beasts dubbed "the Monster" and "Predator X" were thought to have measured 15m, and in Mexico, where the "Monster of Aramberri" was discovered in 2002, and is believed to have been of similar dimensions. "We only have the head, so you cannot be absolutely precise," said Martill. "But it may be vying with the ones found in Svalbard and Mexico for the title of the worlds largest."

The exact location of the find is not being revealed, as Dorset county council does not want to encourage people to head to the spot. The area is unstable and prone to rock falls and landslides. Richard Edmonds, the council's earth science manager for the Jurassic Coast, said the rest of the creature may still be entombed in the rock but it could take decades for it to emerge.

"The ground is dipping very steeply, and as it is such a huge specimen it will be buried beneath layer upon layer of rock, so we will have to patiently wait for the next big landslide," he said.

Field Trip Report

Hey, now! The Peace river is now low enough to hunt for fossils. Members have been out, however no reports have returned on any finds, and there is a show and tell coming up.....Gunther has been leading Sunday trips to Quality Materials (vertebrate, sand dollars, and some echinoids) have been found. He also went to Vulcan mine and found many echinoids and a dugong rib. Gunther plans to set up a trip to the Vulcan in January. But the big news is this! A member from another club found a saber tooth and part of a saber tooth tiger jaw, in perfect condition. Good Luck and happy fossiling to our members.



Volunteers Needed

This is the last newsletter before the December 5th Fossil Show, and we still need volunteers to make this a great event.

Friday 1 - 6 p.m. Set up

The vendors arrive at Sat. 7 a.m. & will need assistance.

Guides

Assistants to help with answer questions, help with vendors, help with raffles, direct car parking, assist in cashier and admissions, and assist in selling club merchandise.

Distribute show fliers (at all libraries, etc.)

Volunteers will be asked to only volunteer for a few hours and then will be able to enjoy the show.

Contact Bill Shaver for further information.

The Extinct Cave Bear

([Http://www.itsnature.org](http://www.itsnature.org))

The Cave Bear was a species of bear which was related to the brown bear or [grizzly bear](#) of modern times. It lived and ranged in Europe and went extinct about the end of the ice age, which ended about 20 thousand years ago. Fossils of the bear were found primarily in caves, which is where the bear got its name. It was half again as large as a brown bear, and probably spent a great deal more time in caves than its modern counterpart, the Brown bear, which uses them to hibernate and very little else. The Cave bear was an omnivore, eating carrion, smaller animals and grass as well as berries. It apparently ate only vegetation in the summer.

The climate changes which took place at the end of the Ice age changed the plant life to the extreme, however since it had happened prior to then, it was not out of the question that Cave Bear extinction was among the first to be attributable to human intervention. Skulls found in caves show that although the bears were hunted very extensively, particularly by the hunters of the Paleolithic period, it was not them solely who ended the existence of the Cave Bear.

They were greatly affected also by the forests drawing back in the glacial periods. The cold did not provide enough food for them and they ended up dying out. Suspicions are that Cave Bears were worshipped by some of the earlier hunter gatherers, because altars and shrines to the bears have been found holding carvings of what is presumed to be a bear.

In 1985, a hunter discovered the skeletons of over 100 cave bears in a cave in Romania. In June of 2005, California DNA specialist succeeded in decoding the DNA of a cave bear skull that had lived about 40 thousand years ago. This is the very first time that researchers have been able to sequence the DNA of an extinct species which has been gone for so long. They succeeded in mapping the DNA in its entirety.



FCOLC Trip — Peace River

Sunday, November, 15th, 2009

Upcoming club trip to the Peace River. We will meet at the Arcadia boat ramp at 9:00 a.m. Louis will be leading the way to the old Girl Scout camp. Bring canoes and kayaks, shovels, screens, drinks, and lunch.

Or just wade and screen. Call Bill Shaver at (239.834.0694) or email (Billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com) to let him know if you will be participating or if you need directions.

NEW LOCATION FOR DECEMBER MEETING

The Fossil Club of Lee County will hold its December meeting at the **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH Fellowship Hall** at 7401 Winkler Road in Fort Myers. The hall is located on the section of Winkler Road between Cypress Lake Drive and Gladiolus, about 800 feet north of Gladiolus. The church tower is lit and should be very visible from the road.

From Cape Coral: take bridge to College Street, turn right (south) on to Winkler Road, cross Cypress Lake, continue going south, the church will be on your left, just north of the Gladiolus traffic light.

From Naples and other points south, take Route 41 or I-75 north. From Rt. 41: when you get to the intersection of Six Mile Cypress (Perkins Restaurant on your right) and Gladiolus (Lowes on your left), turn left on Gladiolus, go under the overpass, turn right at the next light (Winkler), the church will be on your right.

From I-75 north bound or south bound take Daniels Parkway, go west, cross Rt. 41, Daniels will become Cypress Lake Drive, go to Winkler, turn left on Winkler, continue for several blocks, well lit church tower will be only your left.

The reason we are changing location is due to parking conflicts in the past. We have traditionally had our holiday party at the Calusa Nature Center, as you well know. Last year, the center wanted us to carpool from Lowes, making an inconvenient for our members. The FCOLC has made arrangements to have a turkey, ham, plates, napkins, cutlery, and condiments. Traditionally, members bring a side dish or desserts ---this is a great chance to show off your cooking skills! We will feature a holiday raffle, door prizes, and a show and tell. If you have some specimens to display, bring them in. This is a Holiday Social event and we will have a lot of time to socialize. Be sure to set-aside the date: **December 17th, 2009**. We hope all members and their guests will be able to make our holiday event.

REFRESHMENTS

NOVEMBER - Jack Boyce and Bobby Jo Sherrill with Bill and Lori Mandos bringing in the beverages.

DECEMBER - Sandy Schwartz will bring a turkey, Chuck Ferber will bring a ham. All others please bring a covered dish or dessert.

NOTE: Volunteers that sign up to provide refreshments, which includes bringing in iced beverages, will need to take the club coolers home with them. The club bought coolers for that purpose. This has not been a problem in the past, but there have been two recent incidents where the volunteer/s forgot to get the coolers. So, please don't forget the coolers. And for all of you that have taken your turn to bring in refreshments, the Club really appreciates your support! If there is still confusion, please speak to Bill Shaver.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Bailey

Robert Brooks

Ron Seavey

Russel Brown

Bonnie Cronin

Kevin and Kathy Arnold

FOSSIL SHOW 2009

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, MAMMOTHS, 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 5TH

9 AM TO 5 PM

AT THE

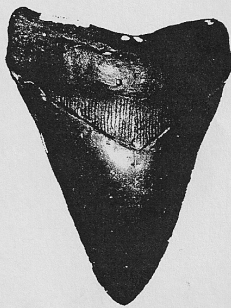
CALUSA NATURE CENTER & PLANETARIUM

CORNER OF COLONIAL BLVD & ORTIZ AVE.

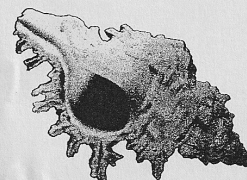
ENTRANCE ON ORTIZ AVE

FT. MYERS, I-75 EXIT 136 - GO WEST TO 1ST LIGHT, TURN RIGHT, ENTRANCE 500 FT ON LEFT

WWW.FCOLC.COM



7" Megalodon Shark Tooth
Univ. of Florida



ADULTS \$3 CHILDREN FREE UNDER 12