



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Turkey day is coming fast!! It's hard to believe how fast the year has flown by! And also how fast the rivers and creeks are going down, even after all that water we had this rainy season! Every day it seems that I talk to a club member who is heading up to fossil hunt the Peace River. It is usually pushing the envelope to try and get on the river in October. Several who have gone have told me that the water is still a tad high and the current is moving hard, and they have not found much. But the bug is biting hard this year, and more and more of you will be river hunting soon! Good luck! And, bring your finds in for show and tell!

The big news is the **FCOLC Fossil Show** is fast approaching!! December 7th will be here before you know it! We have put in a lot of work towards making this a success, but we need everyone's help. Please consider signing up to volunteer. We can use the help. We will have the signup sheets at the meeting again this month and will talk more about the show. November 14th is our last meeting before the show, and we will be going over final plans and staffing needs. For those who are new to the club, or just have not been to a fossil show, let me tell you that it is much more enjoyable if you participate and be a part of it. For those old hands who have been around a while, you know exactly what I mean. This year's show promises to be the best and biggest we have ever attempted and I ask you to patronize the vendors and dealers who will be there. Without them the show can't happen. Many are traveling from out of town and can use your help, so make us proud and be a big part of the show! Also, Christmas is just around the corner and this is a great way to help fill those stockings!

FCOLC supports several display tables at the show, with club fossils. A volunteer member will be stationed there to answer questions. If any club member would like to bring some of their own fossils

and display them also, we feel they will be safe and watched over. Just bring them when you come and make sure to take them home with you. After the show is over we must remove all of our things from the building. If you ever wanted to "show off" some of your fossils, this is the time! Try to make a label of some sort, though, to help visitors with identification.

For those of you who went to Payne Creek Park for the National Fossil Day show, you enjoyed a nice day. Pam Plummer, our club treasurer, spearheaded the show and she did a great job. Zack Deyo gave two talks. (He will also give a talk at our December show). Our club was the sponsor and she made sure that the show did us proud! Thank you, Pam.

We have a Mosaic Phosphate Mine trip on the 25th of January. I will put out a signup sheet at November and December meetings. Since we will get more volunteers than the 30 that we are allowed, we will hold a lottery drawing for participants at the January meeting. Anyone helping at the fossil show will get an extra entry into the drawing. Any active board member will get an automatic entry if they want to go. The rest of the spots will be filled by the lottery drawing.

- ★ **Remember, the meeting date for this month has been changed to November 14.**
- ★ **Please do not try to go on the 21st! Please mark the 14th on your calendar!!**

See you at the meeting!
Louis Stieffel

President, Fossil Club of
Lee County



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Pam Plummer, 133 NE 20th St., Cape Coral, FL, 33909

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/

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

If you find an Indian artifact, such as an arrowhead, on Florida state lands or river bottom, be aware that possession of an Indian artifact found on state lands after 2004 is a Class 3 Felony.



OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President, 239-851-7499

cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406

Pamela Plummer, Treasurer, 239-246-5993

fcolctreasures@yahoo.com

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

DIRECTORS

Jack Boyce, 239-281-2416

Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094

Joe Larkin, 239-265-6772

Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526

Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus

COMMITTEES

Jack Boyce, Newsletter Publisher, Photographer

Joshua Frank, Coby Pawlowski, Mike Siciliano, Louis Stieffel
Fossil Show Committee

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Pam Plummer, Badges, Membership

Gunther Lobisch, Pit Trips, Invertebrate Education

Ray Sequin, Merchandise

David Sheehy, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Speakers

Minutes of October meeting
THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: October 17th, Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Presided by: Louis Stieffel, President

Club president Louis Stieffel welcomed all current/new members and called the meeting to order. Members were informed of club merchandise being sold by Ray Sequin, the \$1 raffle table manned by Mike Siciliano, and everyone was handed a ticket for the door prizes. 38 members were in attendance tonight.

Kudos, thanks, and a round of applause for Gunther Lobisch for providing refreshments, another round for Curt Klug for updating and maintaining the FCOLC website, and another round to David Sheehey for keeping our library up to date. All members are encouraged to check out the library during the break.

Announcements:

- **November meeting is rescheduled to November 14th**
- We had a great day at the National Fossil Day event last Saturday. The state park management team has offered us to do a primitive camping opportunity sometime soon at Payne's Creek. Pam Plummer is setting it up with them and she will keep us informed on progress.
- Treasurer Report: The club has been spending money on preparations for the December 7th Fossil Show. Current Balance is \$740.
- Ft Myers Beach Library has requested that FCOLC members provide a fossil display and has arranged a display case for us in November and December. Any member can show off their collection: just let Louis know. Plus we are in need of speakers at the library for a proposed date in January. Just ask Louis for details.
- Good News: Joe Larkin has been elected to the Board of Directors.
- There are signup sheets on the front tables for the annual FCOLC fossil show, to be held this year on December 7th, at the Araba Shriners hall. Please support our fossil show by signing up for the various Fossil Show jobs. A call to members and nonprofit groups has gone out to help fill available tables. The cost of a table is \$20 for members.
- Reminder: Get your fossil permits if you want to hunt vertebrae fossils in Florida. Be sure to get your permit which only costs \$5 a year.
- Charles O'Conner is our speaker tonight: Charles he is talking on his summer vacation and "Panama Megalodon Teeth".
- Show & Tell presenters were Rick Piper who showed a large section of a Mastodon Tusk, a seal shoulder bone, a complete baby mammoth tooth, and a juvenile Walrus tusk. Bill Howat showed riker boxes of shark teeth from the Netherlands that he traded for with Florida teeth. Mike Cox showed some land finds including layers of rock, sand, and fossils.
- Finished the night with door prizes raffle and the dollar raffle.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Club Secretary Kathy Pawlowski

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

November 14th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

November 14th Speaker **Marc Cantos**, FCOLC member and volunteer, owner of The Turtle Source, and well known local Herpetologist, will discuss phosphate mine hunting and finds.

November Refreshments: Cathy Behrle & Marc Cantos

December 7th 2013 FCOLC Fossil Show 9am to 5pm @ The Araba Shriner's Hall, 2010 Hanson Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901

December 19th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

No Speaker

Our Meeting on December 19th is by tradition our annual Holiday Dinner Meeting which consists of a few announcements, token gift exchange by those who wish to participate, and a lot of excellent food.

A turkey, a ham and beverages are provided by the club.

All you need to bring, but it is not mandatory, is a hot or cold dish or a dessert to share --- and a big appetite.

Plan to be there about 6:30 pm or so and we will start our program as usual at 7 pm.

FCOLC Fossil of the Month - November, 2013



Fossil: Carcharocles Megalodon, over 2.25 inches (estimated whole), 2 million years old

Date found: August 25th 2013.

Location: In a small creek, Nantucket Island, Massachusetts.

How it was found: Every year, the countdown to our annual Peace River trip begins the minute we return home from Florida and set our feet upon Vermont soil. I guess you could say our family is a bit obsessed with Florida fossils. Over the years, our family of four has amassed an amazing array of Florida fossils. Glyptodont scutes, bison teeth, mastodon tusks and a highly coveted alligator jaw are safely nestled into the “treasure table” that sits prominently in our living room. Our treasure table has served as a mini museum which has educated many friends about the wonders of the Peace River and its former inhabitants.

As an environmental educator, I hold monthly workshops for young children at local libraries and schools. This summer, in conjunction with the national Public Libraries’ summer theme, “Dig Into Reading”, I ran a “Fascinating Fossils” workshop in which our Peace River fossils were the highlight. Children and parents were fascinated by the variety of fossils we’d uncovered and the adventures we shared as we paddled, sifted and searched.

Most children knew little about Ice Age fossils and were thrilled to have full, hands-on access to many of our finds. However, in every workshop when I mentioned the Megalodon shark, the inevitable question was asked: “Have you ever found one?” and I tried to answer as brightly as I could, “Not yet, but maybe next year!”

Meg teeth appear easy to find—we watched a man dig up a whopper just a few feet away from us one year at the Peace River Campground. And though we’d tried just about every spot and technique we knew, the Meg had eluded us.

So imagine our shock this past August, while poking around some creeks on Nantucket Island, when our ten year-old son, Charlie, came rushing at us with something large and dark in his flattened palm. “Mom! A shark’s tooth! A shark’s tooth!” Charlie screeched. I was expecting a tiny tooth, perhaps fossilized, perhaps not. But nothing prepared me for the sheer size of the tooth I witnessed in Charlie’s outstretched hand. This tooth was a whopper!

We still have not positively identified the tooth as Megalodon. We are fairly certain that it is either from an extinct Giant White or perhaps another species we are not familiar with. Either way, our whole family was thrilled to add such an amazing specimen to our collection.

And the best bit? We didn’t have to wait eight months to find a really cool treasure. It found us.

Written & Submitted by Kristen Littlefield

Speaker

Marc Cantos: **FCOLC member and volunteer, owner of The Turtle Source, and well known local Herpetologist**

Presentation Topic



Phosphate Mine Hunting

This presentation is a journey through the FCOLC memory lane of fossil hunts in phosphate mines. What were the small and large, rare and common, fossils that were found? What were the stories of the lucky fossil hunters who did the finding?

Marc Cantos will be our speaker this month. Marc is a long time member and has wanted to share a special fossil hunting experience, with the club, for a long time. That time is now. He has put together a presentation, along with show and tell fossils, of a phosphate mine series of hunts, where he discovered a rich site and repeatedly went back to discover more and more fossils. I believe all of you will enjoy his experience and should make a special effort to attend this month's meeting.

Marc is also known for both the quantity and quality of his "spread" when providing the meeting refreshments, and this month he has also agreed to do that, with critical assistance from Cathy Behrle, as well as speak. SO, another reason to attend this meeting and, as Marc says— **come hungry!**

Refreshments



A big THANKS to **Gunther Lobisch & Louis Stieffel** who provided refreshments for the October meeting. This is a great and painless way to giveback to FCOLC in a way that is greatly appreciated by the membership. Once again, thanks to all those volunteers who are critical to our club's success.

Please Welcome these New Members

Jake, Reese, Monika, and Jesse Haven
Kristen & Charlie Littlefield
Georgis, Efrain, Marcos, and Veronica Santiago



Yearly dues

FCOLC yearly dues should be paid by the end of January, 2014. The renewal form is at the end of this newsletter. Please see Pam Plummer at a meeting or send her a check through the mail.

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, November 14th, 2013 at Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers Meeting starts at 7 PM.

NEXT

Vendors @ Fossil show—2013!!

This month we showcase 2 dealers who are supporting the FCOLC Fossil Show.

Bill Eberlein is a professional fossil diver, specializing in Megalodon teeth. He has an amazing collection of high quality Megalodon teeth and other fossils, which will be available for purchase at our fossil show on December 7th, 2013. Bill finds his teeth, while scuba diving in near zero visibility, in waters inhabited by alligators and sharks. There are also sting rays and crabs for him to contend with, while crawling blindly along the river bottom. Some of his other fossils for sale include whale bone with shark bite marks, and mammoth and mastodon teeth.



Bill also maintains an outstanding website www.megateeth.com where you can find fossils for sale and stories on how & where they were found. One example is this beautiful 6.92 inch Megalodon found in 2010.

Another vendor at our show will be Al Coffey. If you have been to a fossil show in Florida, you've seen people wearing his t shirts. He has many different stunning designs. His designs include the evolution of the Megalodon shark's tooth, Bone Valley, Mammoths and Sabre-toothed cats. Al also has a nice collection of fossils for sale. Al has a great website <http://www.meghunter.net/> featuring T-shirts, Hats, Tools, and Fossils. The drawing of a Mammoth above is an example of Al's work.

So, make sure you stop by both vendor's booth at the fossil show and tell them "Hi" ask for details, and do a little business with them! We are excited both Bill & Al will be part of our show!

National Fossil Day on October 12th was a lot of fun.

Thanks Pam, Great Job!!!!

National Fossil Day was a great success! We had about 500 guests. I want to thank all the volunteers, without you this day would not have been possible. I also want to thank everyone that donated to the kids dig. The children had a great time and found a variety of fossils. I also want to thank the Southwest Florida Gem, Mineral and Fossil club and the Southwest Florida Fossil club for their participation. Presentations by Frank Garcia and Zack Deyo highlighted the day. The South Florida Museum was also present. JM Rollinsmoke served a pulled pork sandwich that melted in your mouth. A good time was had by all. The park was so pleased with the day they offered us a free primitive camping weekend at the park. The park has a separate area that has about 50 tent sites on it. It has a private entrance for us to use. I'll be meeting with the park to secure a date and let everyone know the date. I've already started to plan National Fossil Day 2014 and look forward to seeing all of you there!

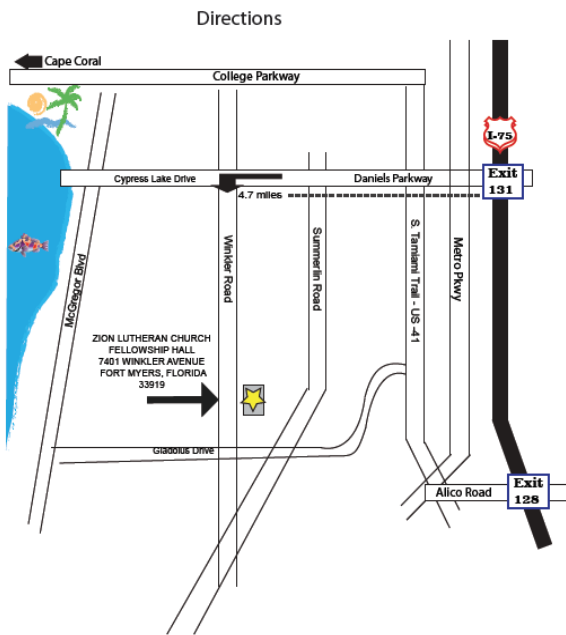
Pam Plummer, FCOLC NFD Chairperson

KidsSmiles@Dig



FCOLC Volunteers





FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY



FLORIDA

From North of Fort Myers take I-75 South to exit 131, go West on Daniels Pkwy. about 4.7 miles to Winkler Road. Go South on Winkler to Church.

From south of Fort Myers take I-75 North to exit 128, Allico Rd West to US-41, then North to Gladiolus Dr. then West to Winkler Road and North to Church.



*The Fossil Club of Lee
County is an
organization of people
interested in the fossils of
southern Florida and
all points beyond.*

Meetings are held at the

*ZION Lutheran
Church
Fellowship Hall
7401 Winkler Ave.*

Fort Myers, FL 33919

on the
Third Thursday
of every month
from
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Officers

Louis Stieffel President
(239)-458-9818
cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice-President
(239)-980-1406

Pam Plummer, Treasurer
(239)-246-5993
fcolctreasures@yahoo.com

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary
(239)-267-6130

Committees

Cherie Neat: Newsletter Developer
Jack Boyce: Newsletter Publisher &
Club Photographer
Curtis Klug: Web Master
Louis Stieffel: Vertebrate Education,
Speakers, Auctioneer
Ray Seguin: Club Merchandise
Pam Plummer: Membership & Club
Badges
Gunther Lobish: Pit Trips
Michael Siciliano: Raffle and Dive
Trips
Coby Pawlowski: Youth Activities Director
Gunther Lobish: Invertebrate Education

www.fcolc.com

Membership Information-

Date: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

phone _____

Yearly Dues ~\$20.00

Dues are due the first day
of January.

Payable to :

The Fossil Club of Lee County
133 NE 20th Street
Cape Coral, FL
33909

FOSSIL SHOW

Sponsored by

The Fossil Club of Lee County

December 7, 2013 9am-5pm

At the Araba Shriner's Hall

2010 Hanson St. Ft. Myers, FL 33901



Fossil Exhibits

Children's Dig

Fossils and Minerals for Sale

Fossil Talks

Silent Auctions

Admission \$3 (children under 12
FREE)

www.fcolc.com