

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2014

Letter from the President

It's fossil season!! The Peace river as well as its' tributaries are coming down and some early bird fossil hunters are already getting wet! The Gulf off of Venice is producing well, and a couple of fossil shows are fast approaching! So, as the snowbird season is upon us, the fossil season is here as well!

I've had reports of some members doing well in the Peace River, mostly by kayaking to find shallower spots, but the water level is about right for just about anyone. After this last "cold front" blew through, I heard about one dive boat trip out of Venice that scored four great Meg teeth over five inches!! That's a heck of a day! We have a picture of one of those lucky divers in this issue!

The South West Florida Fossil Society is holding their first fossil show on November 8, in Punta Gorda. It will probably be old news by the time you get this, but we wish them success. I know a bunch of our club members will be attending! Chuck and the rest of the members are sure to put on a great show! The Florida Fossil Hunters in Orlando had a great show, and I hope we had lots of members attend. These shows are a great place to enjoy the hobby, add to your collections, and also to learn a lot!

This month's speaker is Herbert Knodel, from Rotunda Rock. He will be speaking to us about Fossil Amber. As far as I know, we have never had an expert speaker on Fossil Amber, so please try to attend and listen to Herbert's interesting presentation.

The October meeting attendees did not leave hungry!! Refreshments, no--dinner!!-- was provided by long time member Marc Cantos and his #1 helper and watchdog! Cathy Behrle. They put on a feast! Marc has also established a tradition it seems, as he does this every year! We all thank

you Marc, and Cathy!

Next month is our annual December Christmas meeting and it will be a pot luck feast of a meeting. very little business but lots of food!! Marcia Simmons has volunteered to be the turkey chef again this year! She is establishing a tradition! Thank you so much, Marcia!

An exciting discovery has recently taken place--the discovery and recovery of a fossil shark skeleton! We all know that only the teeth are usually found, since the shark cartilage rarely fossilizes, but an extinct Snaggletooth shark has been found. Details inside!

Also, a great Link to research on Megalodon shark dating is inside this month's newsletter. Click on it and see what's new!

Remember, this month's meeting has been MOVED--to the Shell Factory. The annual Fall Festival at the Fellowship hall pre-empts us using the hall, since it is a official church function, and they need the place for their activities. The Dolphin Room at the Shell Factory will be the host location for this November meeting. We will be having our 10th annual Fossil Festival at this same location just a couple of weeks later, on December 6. you will be able to get a feel of the show set-up when you attend the meeting.

Our Fossil festival is shaping up to be a great one!! We expect record attendance. We can use all the help we can get, so please volunteer to help your club. It will be a hoot! Dean Hart, Pam Plummer,, as co-chairmen, and Mike Sicialano, as volunteers coordinator, as well as myself, have had many planning sessions and hopefully have solved all the little details so there will be only a smooth running show. We do need member

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participation, of course, but most of the organizational tasks have been addressed. we still have a few tables left for vendors, but at this time we have a pretty solid group. If a club member wants to participate as a vendor, see Pam or Dean at the meeting. Also, take some flyers with you and pass them out. Post them wherever you can. Thanks!

We will have a sign-up sheet available at the meeting for the trip to Mosaic Phosphate mine scheduled for January 3. If you have already signed up, do NOT do so again. We will have too many members than allowed so a lottery will be used to pick. If you volunteer to help at the Fossil Festival on December 6, and you want to try for Mosaic, you will get another entry to the lottery. other fossil collecting trips are being worked on, and you will be made aware as they are available.

We will have new club T-shirts available at this month's meeting. Al Govin has spearheaded this project and they will be ready on the day of our meeting for pickup and bringing to the meeting. they will be good quality shirts and the graphics will be very close to the existing ones which we recently sold out of. The graphics had to be redone, so the new shirts will feature different fossils than the old ones. get one to wear at the Fossil festival!! These will be the only items for sale this month. The club store will not be moved to the Shell Factory, but next month any item will be available again. Books will be sold at the Fossil Festival, however.

Let's all attend our meetings and especially our Fossil Festival!! See you there!!

Louis Stieffel

President Fossil Club of Lee County



NOTICE:

The location of the Fossil Club of Lee County general meeting--for the month of **NOVEMBER**--will be moved from the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, where we hold our monthly meetings to the Dolphin Room at the Shell Factory. The church holds its annual harvest festival in November and has asked us to not meet there on our regularly scheduled third Thursday.

The Shell Factory will be where we hold our annual Fossil Festival on December 6 and it seems like a good place to also hold the November meeting. Members attending can get a good feel of the location of our fossil festival as well as enjoy a different venue for this **one time** change. The Fish Bones restaurant, adjoined next to the Dolphin Room will be providing the refreshments.

The December meeting will be held, as usual, at the Fellowship hall.

OFFICERS

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AL Govin, Secretary

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Charles O'Connor....239-246-5526

Pamela Plummer.....239-246-5993

Ray Seguin.....239-939-1921, Emeritus

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Phil Briskin, Land trips/Invertebrate Education

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Pam Plummer and Dean Hart, 2014 Fossil Show

Sandy Schwartz, Badges, Membership

Dave and Jeanne Seehavey, Merchandise

David Sheehey, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education,

Speakers, Newsletter editor, FOSSIL project representative

FCOLC MINUTES OF 10/16/14 MEETING

President Louis Steiffel called meeting to order. 29 members present.

Confirmed and thanked Dave & Joanne Seehavey as new merchandise organizers.

National fossil day of October 4th was a success.

Reminded members of Orlando show October 18th & 19th.

FCOLC December show organization in progress. Flyers would be available for handout after the meeting.

November 1st & 2nd there is a mineral show in Plant City.

Reminder that the November meeting will be at the shell factory.

Charles O'Connor was the speaker for this meeting. He did a presentation "Florida Prehistoric Fauna" that was well received.

Marc Cantos and Kathy Behrle did an overboard meal with desserts.

Volunteers are being sought for the clubs December fossil show.

Tapir will be the featured show and tell fossil for November meeting.

Cape Coral Museum was discussed.

Anyone not getting newsletter needs to contact Sandy Schwartz.

Signup sheet was put out for the January Mosaic Pit hunt.

New club "T" shirts were discussed. Al Govin promised November Delivery.

Door prizes were drawn. Thanks to those members who donate door prizes and raffle items.

Show and Tell was held for sloth and carnivore.

Still trying to arrange club trip to Southwest Aggregate pit.

Dollar raffle was held.

By secretary Al Govin



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Sandra Schwartz, 1821 SE 5th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL, 33990

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.hardeeconomy.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.

When Did *Carcharocles Megalodon* Become Extinct?

A New Analysis of the Fossil Record

Catalina Pimiento tells us when the Megalodon became extinct

An in-depth scientific study.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0111086>

Here's a brief description of my trip to Apollo Beach the day after National Fossil Day.

By Aimee Hankel

I kept hoping for dry weather as September rolled into October, to no avail, so I revisited my credo for the summer: if I can't go Peace, I go Apollo!

I'd been wanting to revisit the spoil islands across the channel from Apollo Beach since I'd paddled there almost 3 years ago and found part of a beaver tooth and several bone fragments. It's the logistics of the journey that have kept me away. You gotta have a kayak and you gotta have wheels to get your kayak from the parking lot to the actual beach. I have an old kayak trolley that dumped my yak 3 times on the way down.

What else could go wrong? Weather! A cold front had rolled through overnight and the morning was cold and windy which made for choppy, haystack waves on the paddle across the channel. It's a short distance but it was SKETCHY.

Anyone who wants to attempt this little jaunt needs to choose a calm day, cross the water at mid-tide and wear sturdy footwear as the channel side of the spoil islands is lined with a series of cement beams that are covered with patches of sharp barnacles: it's a lot easier to get past the beams when they are covered by a few inches of water.

I did some surface hunting on a jumbled beach of broken clam shells and rocks and was rewarded with a big chunk of mammoth tooth, and 2 horse teeth, one with particularly nice color and translucency in the enamel.

Is it worth all the trouble? When in desperate need of a fossil fix, yes. It also eased my generalized hankering to hunt and gather as I found a variety of bone fragments, shells, a chunk of chert, and various other goodies.

As we head into the Peace River season, put Apollo Beach on a shelf, but don't forget to dust it off when the river levels go back up in June.



Driveway fossil hunting!!

Fossil hunting locations have not been very good lately. Although the rivers have been coming down lately, our club President Louis Stieffel seems to have found a new location right here in Cape Coral, Florida. During late October, Louis And Mike were at my (Mike's) house doing some prep work for our annual Fossil Show. He didn't even make it into my garage yet, so I turned around and there was Louis digging through my dirt and grass. He was looking for shark teeth which I had accidentally dropped there over a year ago I'm sure he found close to 50 teeth that day. Way to go Louis! I have since put up a **NO FOSSILING** sign in my driveway to keep the stragglers away!!!!

Mike Siciliano, V.P. FCOLC



Fossil Find of the Month

Dave Flinchbaugh recently found this Giant Megalodon shark tooth diving off Venice Florida...
It measured in at 5 3/4 inches....Dave was diving with Capt. Mike from Aquanutz dive
charters...Congratulations Dave, GREAT FIND !!!!!!!



First Fossil Snaggletooth Shark Skeleton Ever Found! | Southern Maryland...

For all you fossil shark tooth collectors who wonder why we only find the teeth, well here is a ray of hope! Now--go out there and find a Megalodon skeleton!!

<http://smnewsnet.com/archives/142653/first-fossil-snaggletooth-shark-skeleton-ever-found/>

FOSSIL FESTIVAL


Sponsored by

The Fossil Club of Lee County

December 6, 2014 9am-5pm

@ The Shell Factory and Nature Park

2787 N. Tamiami Trail North Ft. Myers, FL 33903



Children's Dig

Fossils and Minerals for Sale

Gemstone Cutting Demonstrations

Silent Auctions & Grand Raffle

Flint Knapping Demonstrations

Free Fossil Museum & Fossil Exhibits

Admission \$3
(children under 12 FREE)

Fun for the Whole Family !

www.fcolc.com

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