

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2018

Letter from the President

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!! Yes, hard to believe that it's already November! Soon it will be Christmas. What a fast moving year this has been.

The river water levels have fallen quickly this year. The last hurricane sucked up all the rains and they've hardly come back since!! I see Facebook posts of collectors already, by the end of October!! hunting the Peace. This is highly unusual as historically December was the month to start.

Jeanne Seehaver is heading up a trip to Rucks Crystal mine on December 1st. Article about it is inside this newsletter.

Joshua Slattery will be speaking to us this month. His topic and Bio is inside.

Last month's speaker Beth Meyer was very interesting! Thanks Beth!

Our December meeting is the annual Christmas meeting. It is a pot luck event, with those attending bringing a dish to share. Like last year, we will have the club provide the turkey and ham. The turkey chef will be Sue Rhodes! The ham cooker will be Gordi Ahl. These same two members did this last year, and we thank them in advance for doing it again!!

The club provides plates, eating utensils, and water and soda. (If you bring a serving spoon, put your name on it so you make sure to get it back).

The Christmas meeting also has a gift exchange. If you bring one (or more) you get to swap it out for another one (or more). Just mark fossil or non fossil.

Our annual fossil festival is February 23. Get ready to sign up for a volunteer position. We need everyone in the club to participate. It's fun and you will be glad you did!

The annual fossil auction is at our March meeting. Elections also take place this night, just before the auction. Please!!! Consider running for an office!

The club can use any donations you can spare for the fossil festival silent auction, and also the annual club auction. Bring them in as soon as you can, and give to Louis.

I really hope to see many of you at this month's meeting!!

Happy hunting!!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County



OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President
239-851-7499, cape187@earthlink.net
Leslie Stieffel, Vice President
239-980-6311, cape187@earthlink.net
Al Govin, Secretary, Treasurer
239-910-2339, algovin1@hotmail.com

DIRECTORS

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217
Dave Seehaver
Jeanne Seehaver
Dr. John Taraska

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director
Curt Klug, Web Master
Cherie Jacobs, Newsletter Developer
Al Govin, Badges, Membership, Trips
Linda Simmons, Librarian
Dave and Jeanne Seehaver, Merchandise
Edgar Jestes, Refreshments
Victoria O'Toole, Linda Simmons, \$1 Raffle
Dawn Linda Borys Markoski, Festival Organizers
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, FOSSIL project
representative, Newsletter editor, Speakers,
Vertebrate Education

FCOLC presentation for November meeting !!

EARLY CRETACEOUS TO PALEOCENE PALEOGEOGRAPHY OF THE WESTERN INTERIOR SEAWAY:
THE INTERACTION OF EUSTASY, TECTONISM, AND SEDIMENTATION

Joshua Slattery was born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming and received a BS in Geology and a minor in Zoology from the University of Wyoming. He became interested in geology and paleontology during high school when he began to actively collect fossils in southeastern Wyoming and northern Colorado. During his time in college, he developed a passion for investigating the paleontology of Late Cretaceous macroinvertebrate faunas. After graduating from college, he spent one year working for Uinta Paleontological Associates, Inc. of Vernal, Utah, as a geologist monitoring sites (e.g., gas and petroleum pipelines, coal mines) in Wyoming and Colorado for paleontological resources endangered by energy development.

Joshua's interest eventually led him to the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa to work on questions related to the paleontology of Mesozoic and Cenozoic marine invertebrate faunas for his graduate research. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the USF working on an NSF-funded project examining the influence ice- and greenhouse climatic modes have on evolutionary patterns. In addition to this research, he is also interested in stratigraphic paleobiology, paleogeography, ammonites, and the paleontology of the Western Interior Seaway as well as the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to these interests, he has also partaken in geological and paleontological field work in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, Denmark, and Colombia.



FIELD TRIP!!!

A fossil collecting trip is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st!!! This will be at the **Ft Drum** Crystal mine, otherwise also known as Ruck's Pit. It is north of Lake Okeechobee several miles, and is a nice ride out in the country! Cost of \$60 per person has been reduced for the club to \$50 per person. Start time is 9am. But you can show up , and leave, whenever you want—after 9am.

Jeanne Seehaver is organizing the trip and a sign-up sheet will be at the November meeting. If you want to google directions, try **FT DRUM CRYSTAL MINE @**
Address: 28320 NE 55th Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34972
Phone: (863) 634-4579
Directions will be given to those who may need them.

The targeted fossil will be the Mercenaria clams filled with dog-toothed calcite crystals. Very beautiful, and valuable if you find a good one!, these are prized by collectors throughout the world. **Ft Drum** is the only place where these have been collected in any appreciable quantities. Anyone with determination and desire can find these. It's a bit of work, digging, scraping and washing the piles but the rewards can well be worth the efforts.

This is a fairly primitive site. There is bathroom facilities, but not much else. Bring your own food and drink, and wear clothes and shoes that can get muddy and possibly wet. Bring a potato rake or equivalent to scrape the piles. Bring your camera. This is in the boonies, so cell phone reception may be spotty. And, please do not try riding the cows.

Crystal clams found at Ft Drum Crystal Mine



Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm,
in the Fellowship Hall at
Zion Lutheran Church , 7401 Winker Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. c/o AL GOVIN
TREASURER
3584 MIDDLETOWN ST. PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33952

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/

The Fossil Project www.myFOSSIL.org

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

Manasota Fossil Club www.manasotafossil.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

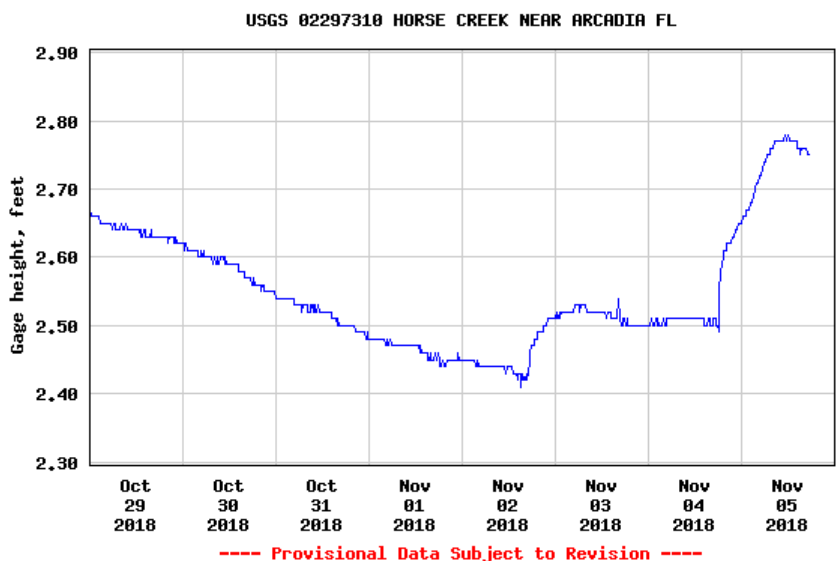
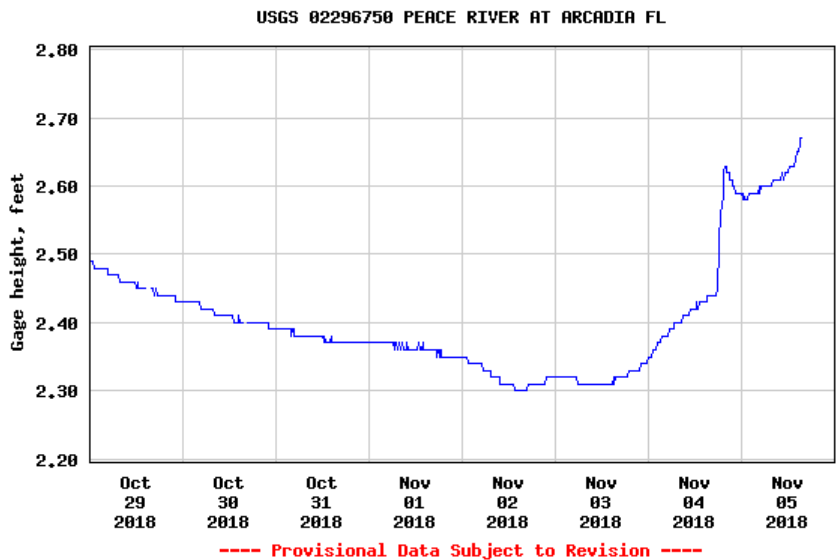
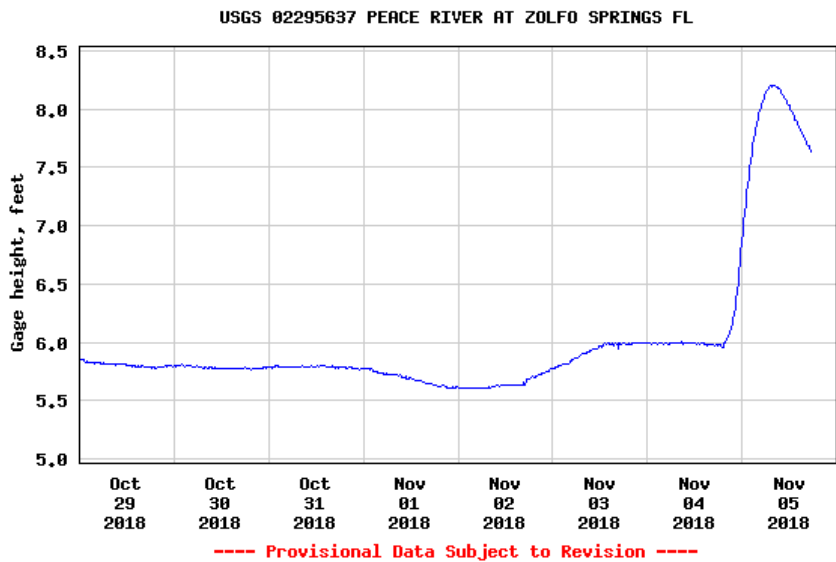
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/rt>

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.

RIVER WATER LEVELS

It's coming
down folks!
Lots of
hunters are
heading out
there
already!!



Recent finds!

Some finds by members and followers this past month.

Meg tooth by Staci Marshen.



Nurse shark tooth by Lou Kiesling.



Dolphin skullcap showing blowhole, collected at a fossil show by Louis Stieffel.

And, river finds by John Rowley.



**Two recent land site finds! Toe-bone found by Al Govin.
Echinoid found by Louis Stieffel**



A picture from many years ago
of Frank Garcia
at the Leisey dig,
with Marc and Jason Cantos,
and Louis & Leslie Stieffel.



SOFTSHELL TURTLE—MODERN

Underside showing the arrangement of the tail Vertebrae as well as how the Vertebrae attach to the inside of the shell.



Here is a site that has every river and creek mapped **for the whole state**, separated by county. Click on the zoomify tab below each map to zoom in. Enjoy !

Save to your desktop so you can find and use it often!

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/hydrography/index.php>

Here's a link to the Aurora Fossil Museum (North Carolina) and a chance to sign up for a free digital newsletter from them.

<http://aurorafossilmuseum.org/post/36/newsletter.html>

Al Govin wrote to Mosaic Phosphate mine, asking about us collecting there. We keep trying, guys!, Here's the response!

Thanks, AL!

Louis

From: Al Govin [mailto:algovin1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 11:07 PM
To: Louis & Leslie Stieffel
Cc: NYBoss@comcast.net; chuck zietsma; 'jeanne seehaver'
Subject: Fw: Mosaic Trips

From: Foster, Nichelle <Nichelle.Foster@mosaicco.com>
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 8:52 PM
To: Al Govin
Subject: RE: Mosaic Trips

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Hello – thanks for checking in. We have not changed our decision to open our mines back up to tours.

Best,

Nikki



Nikki Foster |Public Affairs Manager
The Mosaic Company | 13830 Circa Crossing Drive | Lithia, FL 33547
P: 813.775.2977 | C: 813.295.1925
E: nichelle.foster@mosaicco.com | www.mosaicco.com
We help the world grow the food it needs.

From: Al Govin [mailto:algovin1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 12:08 PM
To: Foster, Nikki - Riverview <Nichelle.Foster@mosaicco.com>
Subject: Mosaic Trips

Dear Michelle:

We've had no trips to Mosaic for a while as they had decided to cancel them.

Has or is Mosaic considering resuming the Saturday trips to one of you pits. We are a club of approximately 125 members in the Fort Myers area. You trips were always eagerly looked forward to.

We were allowed 30 members once a year and of course I had requested two trips a year so we could get more members to experience the trip.

Please update me as to the current thinking of Mosaic.

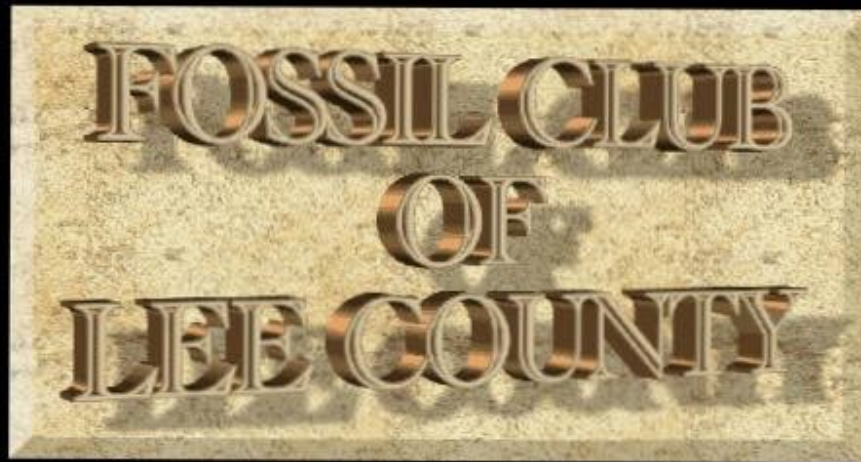
We had also offered to pay a small fee of \$10.00-\$15.00 per person to help offset the cost of the two employees who acted as guides.

Sincerely

Fossil Club of Lee County (FCOLC)

Sec/Treasure

Al Govin



The Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. is an organization of people interested in the fossils of southern Florida and all points beyond. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall is located at: 7401 Winkler Road, Ft Myers, FL 33919.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378838762286864/>

For those of you who ask what books to get-- here's a great group!

We offer most, if not all, in the club store at the meetings.





**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
FOSSIL SOCIETY**

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

5th Annual Fossil EXPO

**Saturday, November 10, 2018
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**Punta Gorda Women's Club and Historical Society Building
118 Sullivan Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950**



This exciting event will have vendors from all over Florida selling magnificent Dinosaur fossils, minerals, Shark Teeth Books and Beautiful Custom made Fossil Jewelry
A portion of proceeds from the EXPO will be used to fund student scholarships & research grants
Many other activities including;

- ▶ **Free Children's area to dig for fossils**
- ▶ **Refreshments and more!**
- ▶ **Silent auctions for great items will go on all day**

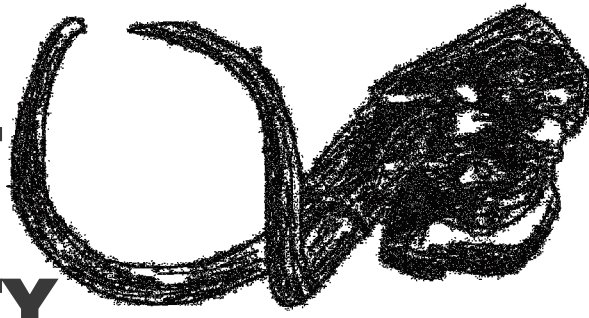
**VENDORS and COLLECTORS INTERESTED IN TABLES
SPACE SHOULD CONTACT: JAY LEV at 941-575-9981**



Admission for Adults \$3.00 Children under 12 years are Free!

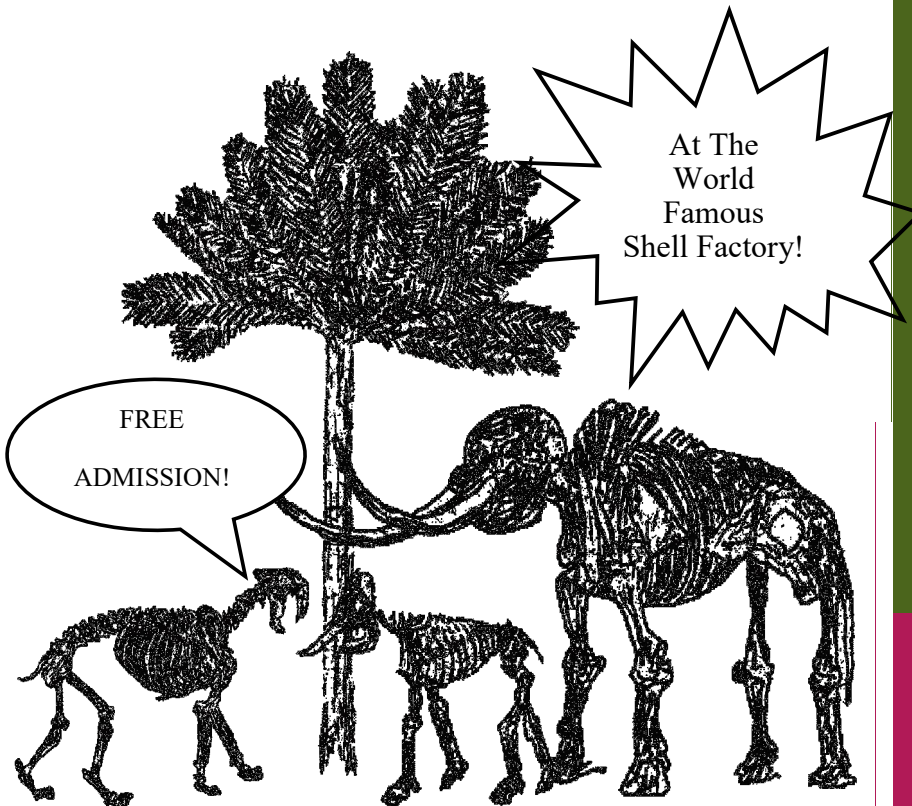
Presented by the Southwest Florida Fossil Society Inc. A 501c (3) Non Profit Society

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY PRESENTS THE 15TH ANNUAL FOSSIL FESTIVAL



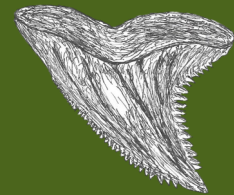
Saturday, February 23rd 2019 at the Shell Factory

Come to the Shell Factory to learn about Florida's pre-historic past, learn how to collect and identify your local fossils and maybe even get to take home a piece of the past! Talk with the local experienced fossil hunters, shop, explore all that Florida's past has to offer! There is something for everyone! Kids fossil dig, vendors with magnificent fossils of all shapes and sizes, minerals, literature for the novice all the way up to the experienced hunter!



Feb. 23, 2019
9AM to 5PM
At the Shell Factory
& Nature Park

Silent Auction
Grand Prize Raffle
Vendors & Fossil
Dealers
KIDS DIG!!
Games & Prizes
Free Fossil Museum
& Exhibits



There's something
for everyone at the
Fossil Festival!

Join us!

www.FCOLC.com

The Shell Factory

2747 N Tamiami Trail

Fort Myers, FL 33903

232-995-2141

www.theshellfactory.com

Feb. 23rd, 2019

9AM until 5PM