

Fossil Club of Lee County

December 2008

Message from the President



A few more of our members have left the cold climates and we welcome them back to sunny Florida. Also, we have some new members and we welcome them as well. The big news is that we put on a really great Fossil Show. We had about 500 people attend and we well did well financially, which allows us to continue to make contributions to organizations in our community and to sponsor scholarships. Congratulations to all of you who worked so hard to put on our show. One of our show attendees was Dr. Robin Brown who is a founding father of our club. He is also our illustrious author and has published two books that I recommend all serious "fossiler" have in their collection. One is titled Florida's Fossils and the other is Florida's First People. We carry both in our inventory.

Congratulations to Kelly Galls who won our grand raffle at the show. The prize was a carving of a saber-tooth cat skull carved from Indonesian cherry wood.

Our field trips to the Quality mine are producing some real good finds lately--mainly mammoth and mastodon isolated finds. Also, Gunther, our pit trip director, (Megman1711@hotmail.com and 941-268-7506) found a quite beautiful meg there as well as the parking problems. One suggestion is for some of you to make arrangements to meet at the shopping centers with other club members and come in one car. Let's give it a try.

(continued next page.....)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on December 18, 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

\$1.00 Raffle: Mike Siciliano

Auction: Louis Stieffel

Web Master: Curtis Klug

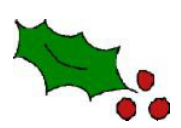
Pit Trip Director: Gunther Lobish

(continued from page 1, Presidents Report)

The Nature Center still needs volunteers to assist in the work associated with the Festival (i.e. putting up lights, directing traffic, taking lights down, etc.)

We will have our Show and Tell program at the next meeting so bring in some of your fossils to share with others. Also, we need to have some "mystery fossils" to be identified by our resident paleontologist. If you have some, bring them in.

Thank You For Your Help



Congratulations to everyone who helped so much to make this a really great show.

We received a lot of positive comments from visitors and vendors as well. I think we all can be proud of ourselves for putting on a show that had wide appeal to our "fossiling" friends and to the parents and children of our community. I thank each of you for a job well done. In looking ahead, should we decide to do another show, I would appreciate your observations and comments as to what we might do to make things run a little smoother/better. For instance, some people felt that we were not able to get more visitors up to the Iona house.

With regard to our vendors, some of them did very well and a few did not do well. I am not sure that our club can fix the problem for those who didn't sell. Our best estimate is that we had about 500 visitors---that is a very good turn-out. I think we can be proud of ourselves for putting on a good show. Again, I thank all of you and I appreciate your loyalty to your club.

Bill Shaver



Sudoku Puzzle - (Solution on pg. 3)

6				7			3	
	4			3	9	2	1	
	8	1	2			4		
5	6			2		3		
	7		1		5		8	
		8		4			2	7
		6			1	9	4	
	2	9	5	6			3	
4			9					5

Message For the Festive Season

Author: P.J. Oszmann, 2005

Whatever be the colour of your eye,
 Whatever be the colour of your hair,
 Whatever position you occupy,
 Whatever religion you might declare,
 Whatever be the colour of your skin,
 Whatever be your political thought,
 Virtue be in your heart, or deadly sin,
 Whether you have treasures, or possess nought,
 In this Festive Season please turn your face
 Towards a stranger and hold out your hand,
 Offer him, or her a friendly embrace
 And try to make him, or her understand,
 That we are all of the same family.
 There is no place for violence, or hate,
 There is no need for quarrel, or enmity,
 That a just, peaceful world we must create
 And we must learn to live in harmony,
 Putting behind us all our bloody past,
 Securing safety for our progeny,
 For them to live on Earth in peace at last.



Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

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: November 20, 2008

MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

Number in attendance: 42

Presided by: Club President Bill Shaver

Bill welcomed the snowbirds back!

Bill thanked Cheryl Mitchell for being our newsletter editor.

Discussed next month's Christmas party meeting. Members are asked to bring a dish to share. The club will provide a ham and also a turkey which Sandy will cook.

The club discussed upcoming field trips.

The speaker was Mike Meyer, from USF, who gave a nice presentation on the Preservation of Articulated Bivalves.

The upcoming Fossil Show was discussed in detail.

January Refreshments: Sally Jane Moore, Ted & Pat Oakes and Suzie Sprout.

Dollar raffle and door prize drawing were held.

Many members participated in Show & Tell

By: Leslie Stieffel, Secretary

6	9	2	4	1	7	8	5	3
7	4	5	8	3	9	2	1	6
3	8	1	2	5	6	4	7	9
5	6	4	7	2	8	3	9	1
2	7	3	1	9	5	6	8	4
9	1	8	6	4	3	5	2	7
8	5	6	3	7	1	9	4	2
1	2	9	5	6	4	7	3	8
4	3	7	9	8	2	1	6	5

Coming Events

Just a reminder!!!



Dues are due on January 1, 2009. Anyone who joined since September is set for the next year. If you would like to mail in, go to the web site : www.FCOLC.com and print out a membership application. On the application, be sure to PRINT the e-mail address.

A congratulations to our new members:

Tabitha Preast— Tabellasphoto@aol.com

Bob Pawlowski— BOBKAT@comcast.net

Michael Gesel— Ges433@aol.com



Holiday Dinner

Our Dec 18th meeting will be our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner with the club providing a turkey, soft drinks and another meat. Everyone attending will bring a dish to share. We will have plastic eating utensils, if you would like to bring your own, please do. If you would like to exchange presents, it is optional. Bring a gift, get a gift. The gift can either be a fossil or non-fossil. It will be a fun time, hope to see you there.

**Fossil Fair Held on Dec. 6th, 2008 -
Calusa Nature Center
Submitted by Donna Johnson**

The Fossil Fair on December 6th was an exciting event that proved educational as well as inspirational to many. After finding a parking spot, each participant was greeted by Ray, Dave or Herb at the admissions table. Adults were given a door prize raffle ticket and a warm greeting.

Upon entering the porch area, Mike S. had a spot to deposit door prize tickets and the display of the “redwood saber skull” special raffle tickets that could be purchased. There was another hourly raffle that tickets could be purchased for as well. Throughout the day, winning numbers were called out for door prizes and raffles. Sometimes Jake would be roaming around calling out the numbers trying to find those lucky winners that didn’t hear the initial call.

The rest of the porch area had various club members with displays explaining fossilizing and how the club works, a spin for fossils and a dig for fossils children’s area, and several outside vendors including the present president of the SW Fossil Club, Ollie Tipton and past president, Debra Powell. I saw excited children finding buried treasure, Rick and Gunther talking fossils to possible future members, Ollie giving out free “grab bags” to about 150 children during the course of the event, and amazed adults looking at fossils found right in our backyard.

Even many artifacts were displayed and for sale. Further along the ramp to the Iona House, another children’s area was set up for face painting and a craft table manned by Leslie and Mike O. Fun little animal stickers were a hit!

Continuing on to the Iona House, you reached another group of vendor’s with an assortment of goodies to buy. From great stocking stuffers like bags of small shark’s teeth and vials of gold to wonders of the mineral world and complete skulls of various animals. Our own past president, Louis, was one of the vendors.

Finally, a couple times during the day,

you could head up to the auditorium and hear our club member, Dr. Charles O’Connor’s inspired fossil presentation.

All in all, it was a day of fun, and education. I think our club put on an impressive event thanks to Bill Shaver’s leadership and all the members who helped plan and execute the event. A big applause to each of you!!!



This is Pam. She worked all over the Fest. Here she is at the club table with carved saber tooth tiger skull made out of cherry wood. This prize was much coveted and was given away by raffle at 4:00 pm by Michael Siciliano. This lucky person happened to be a club member, Kelly Gala.



Missy Cosme and her friend did face painting. The painting was great, the kids and parents were delighted. One woman walked out with a great face, maybe going grocery shopping?



The shark has landed!



Fellow fossiliers!!

It's Christmas season, again, and that means we should have more time on our hands, with the holidays, to go fossil collecting!! The Peace River is low, low, low, and very hunt able!! The first step into the water is cold, for sure, brrrrrr, but you get used to it and forget all about it soon enough. For those of you who didn't get your fossil fix at our recent Fossil Show 2008, then you need to go find them yourself. We have a few opportunities available to club members for pit hunting, as well as the river being the right time to go. Almost every Sunday, Gunther Lobich takes a trip into Quality Mining. You need to sign up, in advance, at the meeting, but if there is room, you can get to hunt a pit. Mostly what has been found there has been echinoids, pecten, barnacles and sand dollars, along with a few sprinkling of shells, but they have recently dug into a vertebrate horizon. The members who have gone, and dug earnestly, have been rewarded with some nice finds, Lots of Mammoth material, some Horse, Tapir, Camel, and a few other animals have been found. This is not easy hunting, but it is rewarding. When I recently went I found a mammoth patella (kneecap), a large toe bone, a couple of vertebrae, rib sections, a section of

Tapir maxilla with 2 teeth, the proximal end of a femur from a carnivore (fairly large), and a great big ol'e horse tooth. Other folks found other fossils, including a couple of mammoth teeth. The Sunday after the Fossil Show, Sandy, Donna and Pam hunted it, and I heard they did pretty well. I was not there, but knowing those three, I'm sure it was a giggle-fest!!

Another opportunity to pit hunt, for members, and you must sign up in advance, is the JJJ pit on Farabee road in Charlotte Co., by hwy 31. This is mostly shells, but there are some good ones to be had. If you are a sheller, you need to try and hunt this pit. It is one of the few still active, so they are always exposing more material. Unfortunately, the pit owner only allows access on Monday and Friday, so if you cannot get off work on one of those days, you may not be able to go.

Pits are a difficult place to get access in to hunt, especially for a group. Bill, our esteemed president, has done a bang up job of getting us access to these pits and he is trying for more. If you hear of an opportunity that may work for the club, please let us know. A fossil club needs places to hunt!! How else are we to have great show and tell presentations unless we find great fossils?? !! So, let's all do our best to get these old bones and shells before they turn into road fill!! And then give them to me!!!!

Happy hunting!!

Louis



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

Contact Cheryl Mitchell at kayakpeaceriver@yahoo.com if you have any suggested additions to our web site in the interest column