

# Fossil Club of Lee County

December, 2009

## Message from the President



### Holiday Edition



To all of our new members, Season's Greetings, and a warm welcome. We have a great club and I am sure our new members will enjoy being part of a group that looks forward as well as looking way back in time! As this year comes to a close, we remember some of the highlights and club accomplishments. We presented an excellent Fossil Show, a wonderful community event for the young and old alike. We established a Club Library with the paleontology books and various documents given to us by Dr. Robin Brown. We bought a digital projector and a wireless microphone unit and Charles O'Connor donated a screen so we are self-sufficient for our speaker programs. Our Club made a monetary donation to our host, the Calusa Nature Center and we further established our mutually beneficial relationship. We provided scholarship funds to the University of Florida and University of South Florida for deserving students pursuing degrees in paleontology. Looking back, we had some great speaker programs, great field trips, and shared our knowledge and specimens with others in our monthly "Show and Tell" sessions. Looking ahead, our January 2010 speaker is Richard C. Hulbert, author of "The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida" and our February speaker is Dr. Robin C. Brown, a Lifetime Member of the Club and author of a super book entitled "Florida's Fossils" and "Florida's First People". In March, we will hold our annual auction to help us raise monies for scholarships and to give our club members an opportunity to acquire some great fossil specimens at reasonable prices. (cont'd pg. 2)

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall (see driving instructions inside the newsletter)

## Officers

Bill Shaver, President (239)834-0694 / [billshaverpeaceriver@hotmail.com](mailto:billshaverpeaceriver@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

## President's Message Continued from page 1.

As we all know our club is getting bigger in terms of membership and needs. We depend on volunteers to "get things done" and keep the club going. We had people volunteer to help with the Fossil Show and make that a successful event. We had members volunteering to bring in refreshments each month this year, and as a way of expressing our appreciation, we are recognizing our 2009 volunteers in this issue. We are ready to start our 2010 list and are looking for a volunteer/s for January. Who wants to be first? While we are on the subject of volunteers, all of us truly appreciate those members who gave so much of their time and energy to put on this year's Fossil Show. We thank everyone who volunteered and those on standby. We thank everyone for coming to the show and for help

publicizing the show in spite of the inclement weather. Great job! This year we are having our Holiday Dinner at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Winkler Road in Fort Myers on December 17th. We changed the location to avoid a conflict for parking spaces because the Nature Center is holding their Festival of Lights on the 17th. We will send out an email reminder with directions (or call those with no email) a few days before the dinner. Since all of us are into fossils, bring in some Show and Tell items. From my point of view, it's been a great year, I enjoyed the fellowship and the chance to meet and work with so many wonderful people. I look forward to seeing you at the Dinner. Enjoy the Holidays and Best Wishes to all for the New Year. Bill



### FCOLC COMING ATTRACTIONS

**JANUARY:** Speaker: Richard C. Hulbert Jr. Author of "The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida". Topic: Dating Fossils of Bone Valley


**FEBRUARY:** Speaker: Dr. Robin Brown, Author of "Florida Fossils" & "Florida First People".

**MARCH:** ANNUAL AUCTION



### Inside this issue:



Holiday Dinner Location and December Minutes	3
Upcoming Field Trips	
Web Sites of Interest and Local Attractions	4
Facts on Fossils: Extremes in the Fossil World	5
Refreshment Honor Roll, Refreshments, & New Members	6
Fossil Show 2009 & Who Found the 1st Dinosaur Fossil? ABCDerian by Maurice Guy	7
A World of Crocodiles 	8 and 9
Members and Friends Picture Album Fossil Show Picture Album and Raffle Winners	10 and 11



A very special thank you for their dedication to the Fossil Club of Lee County:

Bill Shaver, Board of Directors & Staff

All past Board of Directors, Staff,

Photographers, Volunteers, Members, Field Guides, Speakers, Committees and Life Members



### 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 inconvenience 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.



### MINUTES OF MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY, DECEMBER , 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: 11/19/2009

TIME: 7PM

ATTENDANCE: 65

PLACE: Calusa Nature Center

PRESIDED BY: Bill Shaver, President

The President called the meeting to order and introduced Jennifer Cleary, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Calusa Nature Center. He also gave special thanks to Lori Mandos for rebinding two of the library books. Also, he thanked Jack Boyce and Billy Joe Sherrill for bringing in the refreshments, and thanked Jack for taking several photos of club activities.

The speaker program was presented by Walter Stein on the subject of "Beasts of the Cretaceous". Bill gave an overview status of the Fossil Show and asked for volunteers to help with show setup and work some of the positions on show day. Several members volunteered. Members brought in their show and tell items and there was a brief recap of the latest field trips. Mike Siciliano conducted the raffle and talked about his trip to Rucks Pit for calcite crystals. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Drake, Secretary



#### Upcoming Field Trips

Please see Gunther for **land** sign-up trips.

For **water** trips, check in with Mike Sicilano



## WEB SITES OF INTEREST

FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY:  
[www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**PEACE RIVER WATER LEVELS:**  
<http://www.canoeoutpost.com>

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

Contact Cheryl at [kayak-peaceriver@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



Merry Christmas,  
Cheryl

## • LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium  
3450 Ortiz Av, Fort Myers  
Tel 239-275-3435  
[www.calusanature.com](http://www.calusanature.com)

Imaginarium  
200 Cranford Av, Fort Myers  
[www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium](http://www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium)

Southwest Florida Museum of History  
2300 Peck St., Fort Myers  
[www.swflmuseumofhistory.com](http://www.swflmuseumofhistory.com)

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum  
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL  
[www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org)

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

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

Peace River Wildlife Center  
3400 West Marion Avenue (Ponce De Leon Park)  
Punta Gorda, Florida  
[www.peaceriverwildlifecenter.com](http://www.peaceriverwildlifecenter.com)



Peace River at  
Sunset





## Facts on Fossils - Extremes in the Fossil World (<http://www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com>)

Read through these Fun facts on fossils and find the biggest, oldest, longest fossils ever found!

### Facts on Fossils - Invertebrates



#### **The Largest Ammonites**

**Titanites** are often 2 feet (53 centimeters) in diameter. They are found in southern England and come from the Jurassic Period.

**Pachydiscus seppenradensis** sometimes reach a diameter of 6 ½ feet (2 meters). They are found in Germany from the Cretaceous Period.

**Parapuzosia bradyi** can be 4 ½ feet (137 centimeters) in diameter. They are found in North American, from the Cretaceous Period.

#### **The Largest Nautiloids**

The largest nautiloid on record is called **Endoceras**. It is from the Ordovician Period and has been measured up to 13 feet (3 ½ meters) long.



#### **The Biggest Trilobites**

**Isotelus rex** is the largest known species of trilobite. It was found in northern Manitoba. This humongous arthropod measures about 28 inches (72 centimeters) long. *Isotelus rex* is now on display at the Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg.



#### **Earth's Oldest Fossils**

The evidence of microscopic life forms has been detected as old as 3,700 to 3,800 million years ago. This evidence was found in Isua greenstone in Greenland. There have been claims of evidence dating back as far as 3,850 million years ago but these are not universally accepted. Scientists continue to refine dating methods to get reliable data on the earliest life on earth.

### Facts on Fossils – Vertebrates - The Oldest Fish Fossils

The oldest fish fossils on record were found at Chengjiang, in Yunnan Province, China. Two species have been found dating from about 530 million years ago. **Haikouichthys ercaicunensis**, and **Mylokunmingia fengjiao**, are recent finds. If verified these finds will rewrite the fish chapter of evolution.

#### **Largest Dinosaur**

**Sauroposeidon** may have been the largest dinosaur ever to walk the face of the earth. Scientists believe this gigantic dinosaur would have stood 60 feet tall (18 meters) and weighed 60 tonnes! *Sauroposeidon* means "earthquake god lizard". This dinosaur may also hold the record for having the longest neck!

#### **Biggest Shark**

**Megalodon** is estimated to have been 40 to 50 feet long and weighed 48 tons!

### Facts on Fossils – Places - Oldest Fossil Beds

The oldest fossils of multicelled animals come from just two places on earth. The **Burgess Shale** formation in Canada was long regarded as the oldest fossil bed. The Burgess Shale was formed about 530 million years ago during the Cambrian period. Many early Cambrian Period fossils have been found there. The **Chengjiang Deposits** of China are thought to be even older than Canada's Burgess Shale. The fossils are found near the town of Chengjiang, in the Yunnan Province of China. This area appears to be about 15 million years older than the Burgess Shale formation.





2009

## THE REFRESHMENT HONOR ROLL

JANUARY: Pat and Ted Oakes, Sally Jane Moore, Skip Friend, and Suzie Sprout

FEBRUARY: Gisele Myers, and Helma and Herb Rudolf

MARCH: Sharon Drake and Family and Missy Cosme and Alex Cosme

APRIL: Leslie and Louis Steiffel

MAY: Al Govin and Stefanie Crandell

JUNE: Linda and Dick Kemper

JULY: Kathy, Bob and Coby Powlowski

AUGUST: Bill Shaver

SEPTEMBER: Lori and Bill Mandos and Gunther Lobish

OCTOBER: Lori and Bill Mandos and Mary Southall

NOVEMBER: Jack Boyce and Bobby Joe Sherrill

DECEMBER: Bob Bridges (beverages)

## REFRESHMENTS

DECEMBER: Sandy Schwartz will bring a turkey. Chuck Ferber will bring a ham. All others please bring a covered dish.

JANUARY: NEED VOLUNTEERS



**NOTE:** Volunteers that sign up to provide refreshments, which includes bringing in iced beverages, will need to take home 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. 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. Thanks!



## FOSSIL SHOW 2009

The members of the Fossil Club of Lee County presented a wonderful show and a wholesome event for their community. Congratulations to all of you. In spite of the heavy rain, the show was well attended and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. There was a lot of interest in the games, the raffles, the kid's dig, the large variety of fossils and other merchandise, and many wanting to know how and where to find fossils.

Talks given by Charles O'Connor were well attended and we got a lot of positive feedback. Several people joined the Club and many brought specimens to the Show for identification. With respect to how well our vendors/dealers did at the Show, the feedback was quite positive. Only one dealer said he didn't do that well, but all the others said they did well to very well and "save them a space" for next year! As to how well our club did in terms of revenue, our esteemed treasurer, Mr. Ray Seguin is working out the numbers and will have a report at the Christmas/Holiday dinner meeting. In gross terms, we did well.

Jack Boyce, our designated photographer, took some excellent shots at the show and has sent them to our editor for inclusion in our newsletter.

We also need to thank our host, the Calusa Nature Center for their support of our event. They publicized our event in their monthly program flyer, put us on their electronic flasher board, made sure we had use of all their facilities. They are always very cooperative and supportive of our club---just nice people to work with. ~ Bill



## ABCDerian.

These are poems in which each word starts with a letter of the alphabet in normal order.

### Holiday Ecstasy

Aromatic, bedeviled Christmas dishes,  
Excessively fragrant,  
Generate heavenly incense  
Jarring kindly, lusciously, my nostrils.  
Our papillae, quivering ravishingly,  
Surrender taste-buds unto venison with X-  
mas Yuletide zests.

### Sophistication

Always be calm, Debonair.  
Eat flavorful, genuinely healthy ingredients.  
Joke. Kiss lovely Mademoiselles.  
Negotiate one pricey quality restaurant;  
Sit, tasting unusual vintage wine:  
X-tremely yummy zinfandel.

Cheers, Maurice



### Who found the first dinosaur fossil?

It's hard to say who discovered the first fossil, because many discoveries were obviously just not reported. However, the ancient Chinese were known to use ground-up fossils of dinosaurs in a type of medicine starting about 300 B.C.E. with the belief that they were actually dragon bones (not surprisingly, considering the shape of the bone). However, the first reported dinosaur fossil ever discovered was discovered by John Woodward in 1728, who was the first to do cataloging of a dinosaur bone. The bone was probably a bone from the Megalosaurus. The fossil record later on became much more complete.



## **New fossils reveal a world full of crocodiles**

Thu Nov 19, 10:52 am ET

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – New fossils unearthed in what is now the Sahara desert reveal a once-swampy world divided up among a half-dozen species of unusual and perhaps intelligent crocodiles, researchers reported on Thursday. They have given some of the new species snappy names -- **BoarCroc**, **RatCroc**, **DogCroc**, **DuckCroc** and **PancakeCroc** -- but say their findings help build an understanding of how crocodilians were and remain such a successful life form. They lived during the Cretaceous period 145 million to 65 million years ago, when the continents were closer together and the world warmer and wetter than it is now. "We were surprised to find so many species from the same time in the same place," said paleontologist Hans Larsson of McGill University in Montreal who worked on the study. "Each of the crocs apparently had different diets, different behaviors. It appears they had divided up the ecosystem, each species taking advantage of it in its own way." Larsson and Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago, funded by National Geographic, studied the jaws, teeth and what few bones they had of the crocodiles. They also did CT scans, which are computer-enhanced x-rays, to see inside the skulls. Two of the species, DogCroc and DuckCroc, had brains that looked different from those of modern crocodiles.

"They may have had slightly more sophisticated brain function than living crocs because active hunting on land usually requires more brain power than merely waiting for prey to show up," Larsson said in a statement. RatCroc, a new species formally named *Araripesuchus ratoides*, was found in Morocco and would have used its buck-toothed lower jaw to grub for food. PancakeCroc, known scientifically as *Laganosuchus thaumastos*, was 20 feet (6 metres) long with a big, flat head. DuckCroc represents new fossils found in Niger from a previously known species called *Anatosuchus minor*. It would have eaten grubs and frogs with its broad snout. The more ferocious BoarCroc was also 20 feet long but ran upright and had a jaw built for ramming, with three pairs of knife-like teeth. Some walked upright with their legs under the body like a land mammal instead of sprawled out to the sides, bellies touching the ground. "Their amphibious talents in the past may be the key to understanding how they flourished in, and ultimately survived, the dinosaur era," Sereno wrote in a separate article for National Geographic. (Editing by Sandra Maler)

**Boar Croc** It's a striking image; a dinosaur-killer with speed and agility both in and out of the water. Boar croc's head was outfitted with impressive weaponry — not only the oversized triple set of canines, but a massive armored nose. These features could indicate the croc would use its teeth to shred the unfortunate dino that crossed its path. Unlike the bulky 10-ton Super croc, Boar croc could also hunt by surprise attack. By using their dynamic tails, Boar croc could propel itself forward over a short distance at almost ten miles an hour. Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/expedition-week/4280/Overview01#tab-boar-croc#ixzz0YUOzJYMf>

**Dog Croc** These were strange, lanky creatures, looking like armored dogs on the trail of prey, sniffing the ground as they go, testing the air with fleshy noses. Dog crocs were skittish escape artists — ready to swim away from dinosaurs or race away from other crocs. Like the Duck croc, Dog croc had a large fore brain — the thinking, sensing part of the brain.

Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/expedition-week/4280/Overview03#tab-dog-croc#ixzz0YUPNMJPZ>



**Pancake Croc** At 20 feet long, Pancake croc was as big as the largest crocs alive today. But its three-foot-long set of jaws were actually thin, fragile, and underpowered. Since its jaws weren't strong enough to battle with prey, Paul Sereno believes it fed underwater, by just opening its mouth and hoping something would swim inside. Its body was certainly well-equipped to lurk motionless in one place for hours, possibly days. Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/expedition-week/4280/Overview04#tab-pancake-croc#ixzzoYUPkEqIr>

**Rat Croc** Like Dog and Duck croc, Rat croc was built to move on land. A little buck-toothed, this snub-nosed creature was probably well-suited to find food burrowed in the ground. Rat croc was smaller in size, about two feet long. Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/expedition-week/4280/Overview05#tab-rat-croc#ixzzoYUPuUuIZ>

**Super Croc** There's a pretty good reason it's named Super croc. This was a 40 foot long, 10-ton nightmare. Super croc was a hidden predator of the dinosaurs. Its teeth were strong, hook-like cylinders that could grab a dinosaur's limb or neck and pull it into the water. But its massive size also made it too heavy to operate on land and it probably moved similar to most living crocodiles today. Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/expedition-week/4280/Overview06#tab-super-croc#ixzzoYUQ4fxRA>

**Duck Croc** Built to move on land, Duck croc may have been quick-witted, as well as quick on its feet. Scans of Duck croc's brain shows it surrounded by air pockets — signs that it was a turbocharged organ in need of cooling. Dog croc also shared similar characteristics. You might call them the corvettes of crocodiles. But Duck croc had an even bigger fore brain that was connected to a very specialized nose - perhaps something like a duck-billed platypus. Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/expedition-week/4280/Overview02#tab-duck-croc#ixzzoYUQQpGL9>

**When Crocodiles Ate Dinosaurs:** It was the height of the age of the dinosaurs, when no creature dared take on the world's greatest predators. It was a time when *T. rex*-sized dinosaurs walked the Earth unchallenged, or so we thought. Now, science is hot on the trail of strange ancient crocodiles that rubbed shoulders with the dinosaurs and some that even ate them. But how did these weird and terrifying creatures look, move, and hunt? Join us as we recreate a forgotten world when crocodiles ate dinosaurs. One of the most massive crocodilians ever to inhabit Earth, the *Sarcosuchus imperator*, was 40 feet long and weighed about ten tons. Scientists have determined that this gargantuan reptile lived about 110 million years ago. Saltwater crocodiles are the largest living crocodilians, growing up to 20 feet long and weighing over 2,000 pounds. These crocodiles have been known to eat humans who wandered onto their territory. The extinction event occurring at the end of the Triassic killed off more than half of the species on Earth. But the smaller crocodiles survived, likely having been able to hold their breath in the poisonous atmosphere and survive without eating for months or years. Present-day crocodiles possess the ability to walk—some can even gallop in an almost upright position. Crocodiles can move at speeds of 7 to 8 mph, but their muscular tail allows them to accelerate even faster in order to catch prey within a short distance. Although crocodiles have tiny brains in comparison with the size of their bodies, they demonstrate a surprising level of intelligence and curiosity. In captivity they have been reported to recognize an individual, become accustomed to daily routines, beg for food, and even allow others to pet them. Most reptiles have hearts that mix oxygenated and deoxygenated blood, while crocodiles have separated ventricles in their hearts that can keep the two apart. Crocodiles are able to digest substances like bones, horns, fur, hooves, and even shells. Their highly developed metabolism allows them to convert almost all of an organism into usable energy. Crocodiles have the ability to derive warmth from the sun, which combined with their high digestive ability, can allow crocodiles to live for up to a year without eating. Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/expedition-week/4280/Overview31#tab-facts#ixzzoYUQqp6Lt>



## Members and Friends





## Fossil Show ~ Saturday, December 5, 2009 held at the Calusa Nature Center

### THE BIG WINNERS!

The **Grand Raffle** was a full size cast of a sabre tooth cat.

**WON** by Coby Powlowski

The **Super Raffle** was a collection of fossils in a display case.

**WON** by Jack Wilson



The Fossil Show serves several purposes. The event serves as an important way for us to make money which allows us to provide scholarship grants to deserving paleontology students at UF and the 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 enjoyed seeing friends and family at this years' show. We want to thank all volunteers, members, vendors, photographers, speakers, friends, family, and the banana man for their dedication to this wonderful event. Thank you once again.