

# FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

DECEMBER 2010



## *Message from the President*

Seasons Greetings to all. Its that time of the year when we get together for our Holiday Dinner Meeting. We look forward to this social event and hope that everyone will bring in their favorite dish or dessert to share with their fellow fossil enthusiasts. As in the past the Club will provide the hams and a turkey. Bob Bridges has volunteered to bring in beverages for all. The meeting will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church (same place as last year) on 7401 Winkler Road in Fort Myers on December 16th beginning at 7pm.

As just about everyone knows, we put on a very successful Fossil Show this month. In terms of income, we exceeded all previous years. In terms of making a contribution to our community, we certainly made a lot of young people very happy with our program and perhaps we inspired some children to pursue a career in paleontology. I thank everyone for helping to make this a great show. We also need to thank the Calusa Nature Center for their help. They publicized our event on their electronic sign board, repaired all the light fixtures, opened their facility to us, and in gen-

eral made the building quite presentable. I encourage all of our members to consider being a volunteer at the Nature Center. They could use our help.

This year we established the Tom Allen Exhibit at the Calusa Nature Center. He gave his collection of fossils, rocks and minerals, and Indian artifacts to his Club (our Club) so we could display them as a means to inspire young naturalists. Tom passed away in August. I think he would be pleased with what we did in his honor. Try to see the exhibit sometime when you get a chance and also see the collection of fossils our Club keeps on display at the Nature Center. We also have a pretty good exhibit of fossils at the Imaginarium in Fort Myers.

We added a few new members this month. We welcome each of you hope you will enjoy taking part in the Club activities.

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In January, we are fortunate to have Dr. Bruce McFaden from the University of Florida as our speaker. He has done extensive paleontological work in Florida and is an expert on many of our extinct species. We look forward to having him with us.

We will hold our January and February meeting in the Planetarium and our annual auction in March will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church. In April, we plan on returning to the Iona House.

With respect to our annual auction, which is our biggest fund raiser, we are asking our members to donate items for the auction. We need to start collecting now so if you have something to offer we would appreciate it. Also, let's thank Mark Renz for the mammoth tooth he gave us at the Fossil Show for our auction. Thanks, it was generous of you to do that. Incidentally, Mark sold and signed his books all day at the Fossil Show and gave all his proceeds to the Nature Center. That was also very generous. Mark was the first President of our Club when it was established in 1993.

From my point of view, 2010 was a very good year for our Club. Let's work together to make 2011 a good year as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Dinner Meeting. Best wishes to all. Bill



## OFFICERS

Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694

[billshaverpeace@river@hotmail.com](mailto:billshaverpeace@river@hotmail.com)

Michael Siciliano, Vice President, 239-980-1406

Ray Seguin, Treasurer, 239-939-1921

Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

## DIRECTORS

Dean Hart, 941-979-8217

Gunther Lobish, 941-268-7506

Charles OConnor, 239-246-5526

Michael Orchin, 239-574-6318

## COMMITTEES

Cherie Neat, Newsletter

Curt Klug, Web Master

Bill Shaver, Speakers

Michael Orchin, Auctioneer

Kathy Arnold, Club Merchandise

Ray Seguin, Membership

Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Hollie Tiner, Club Photographer

Gunther Lobish, Invertebrate Education

Louis Steiffel, Vertebrate Education

## REFRESHMENTS COMMITTEE

The Club needs volunteers to bring in snacks and beverages for the January and February meetings. Please sign up. You will be reimbursed for your expenses. Please see one of the Directors or Officers to volunteer. You will be appreciated.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Fossil Club of Lee County is pleased to welcome the following named people as Club Members:

Kitty Ringland

P.R. Smith

Wayne Simmons

Ben Taylor

Chris and Sheila McQuade

## MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: November 18, 2010

Place: Iona House at Calusa Nature Center

Attendance: 84

Presided by: Bill Shaver, President

Welcome to members and guests and introduction of officers and directors to the members in attendance. Bill spoke about the Fossil Show and the need for help. Over 30 people signed up.

It was announced that the Club's insurance coverage policy was renewed.

The December Holiday meeting will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church on Winkler Road in Fort Myers on December 16th. The hams and turkey will be provided by the Club and Bob Bridges volunteered to bring in the beverages. Members are requested to bring in dishes of their choice for the holiday feast.

Bill thanked Ray Seguin, Treasurer, for the wood bowls he makes for door prizes. He also thanked Dean Hart for doing the refreshments for November.

Fliers for the Fossil Show were widely distributed to all local libraries, schools, and nature organizations.

Mark Renz was the featured speaker for the evening and talked about his trip to Peru and showed several photos of rivers in the local area.

The Club received a letter from the University of Florida thanking us for our donation to the scholarship fund.

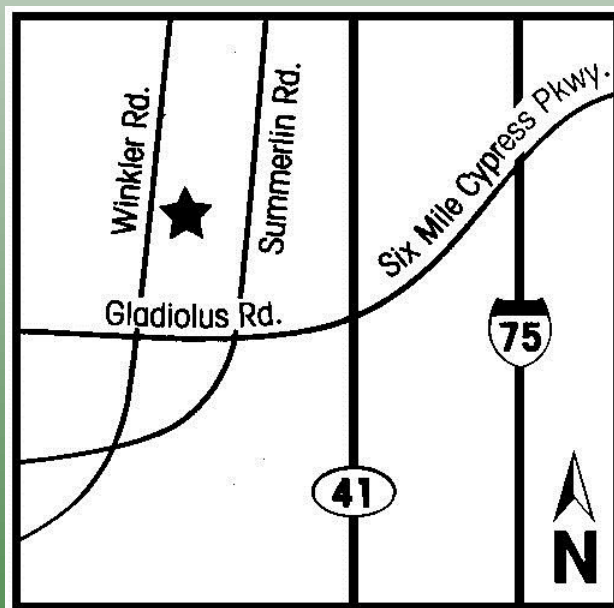
Show and Tell participants were Louis Steiffel, Gunther Lobish, Coby Pawlowski, Ron Seavey and Don Legree. The monthly raffle was held and the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Submitted by: Kathy Pawlowski, Club Secretary

# December's

## Holiday Meeting

The Club will have its annual Holiday Meeting on December 16th. It will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall located at 7401 Winkler Road in Ft. Myers. This is the same location we used last year for the December Club meeting and also where we held our Annual Auction in March 2010. The Fellowship Hall is located on Winkler Road south of Cypress Lake Drive and North of Gladiolus. If you coming from Cape Coral and come out on College, turn right on Winkler, cross Cypress Lake Drive, go about a mile and the church will be on your left.



### DECEMBER REFRESHMENTS

Holiday Dinner--Members bring in a dish or dessert and the Club will provide a ham and a turkey as well as beverages.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### January

We are pleased to have Dr. Bruce McFadden from the University of Florida Museum of Natural History as our speaker for the January 2011 Club Meeting.

### February

The Burrowing Owl Festival will be held at Rotary Park in Cape Coral on February 26th 2011.



## FOSSIL SHOW 2010

Hello to Fellow Members and Vendors. Thanks for your hard work, donations of specimens, devoting your time to work at the Show, and in general for participating to help make the Show a real success. Everyone that attended the Show seemed to be very satisfied with what we had to offer and we certainly made a lot of children Happy. That is quite rewarding in itself. So again thanks to all of you for supporting such a fine event. Bill

## WEB SITES & LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

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Fossil Club of Lee County: [www.fcolc.com](http://www.fcolc.com)

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville  
[www.flmnh.ufl.edu/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/)

Florida Vertebrate Fossil Permit <http://flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>

Southwest Florida Fossil Club  
[www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com](http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com)

Orlando Fossil Club  
[www.floridafossilhunters.com](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com)

PEACE RIVER Water Levels  
[www.canoeoutpost.com](http://www.canoeoutpost.com)

Mark Renz's Fossil Expeditions  
[www.fossilx@earthlink.net](http://www.fossilx@earthlink.net)

Smithsonian Natural History Museum  
[www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu)  
Florida Fossil Clubs  
[www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com](http://www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com)

Picking Up Isolated Native American Artifacts  
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/underwater/finds>

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

Imaginarium 200 Cranford Ave, 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  
[www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC/)

Cracker Museum at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs, FL Tel 863.735.0119

Lost in Time, 4719 69th Street, N. St Petersburg, FL 33709, Tel. 727-541-2567 Owner Brian Evensen

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

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owls  
[www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org)



## DISPLAY CASE

### FLORIDA'S FABULOUS FOSSILS

Florida is rich with fossils because its land mass experienced so many geologic and environmental changes over the past 35 million years. The landmass was above and below sea level many times as a result of global icing and subsequent warming periods. Some of the remains of the ancient life that inhabited Florida during those changing times became fossilized. Some of these land species that inhabited Florida when it was above sea level included saber-toothed cats, dire wolves, rhinoceros, bison, camels, mammoths, mastodons, three-toed horses, giant beavers, giant armadillos, glyptodonts and giant sloths.



So what is a fossil? It is evidence of ancient life that can exist in the form of a fish, plant or footprint in rock and wood, as well as bones and/or teeth that have turned to stone. Fossils are formed under rare conditions, and that is why billions of dead organisms did not become fossilized. But, here in Florida, many of these rare circumstances must have occurred because we have an abundance of fossils.

Most of the fossils that are found in Florida range in age from about 10,000 years old (the youngest) to several million years old. They are found in pits, mines, rivers, and streams and off the coast in relatively shallow depths. The most common fossils and probably the most sought after are shark teeth, especially the megalodon shark teeth, which can be up to seven inches long.

The fossils now on display in Lakes Regional Library are mainly from the Pleistocene Epoch that covered a period of time from about 1.8 million years ago to 10,000 years ago. Most of the fossils were collected within a range of 50 miles of Fort Myers.

This display is from the personal collection of Bill Shaver, president of the Fossil Club of Lee County. The club has over 150 members, and each year they put on a Fossil Show to raise money for scholarships and to provide a wholesome event for young people. One of their goals is to inspire young people to appreciate nature and the history of the wonderful world of fossils.

## Fossil Find at Charley Creek

**HARDEE COUNTY** - Sarasota attorney Bill Harrison was walking his 700-acre ranch after a summer rain when something peculiar caught his eye. Erosion had sheared the face from a 6-foot sandy clay embankment overlooking a exposed a true mystery.

"When I saw that thing sticking out, I thought, 'What in the world would Indians have been doing so deep down in those layers?' It made me think maybe it was a piece of a big bull that had washed down the creek and bleached out." Harrison began digging around, and soon found another bone.

After he e-mailed photos to family members, friends and the University of Florida, his discovery in August was confirmed as the massive molar and scapula -- part of the bony shoulder girdle -- of a mammoth species believed to have died off 11,000 years ago.

For paleontologist Dr. Richard Hulbert, who has been recovering Florida fossils for 30 years, the find was a first.

"I've worked on mastodon digs and on much older sites," said Hulbert, taking a break Wednesday afternoon beside a small stack of huge ribs embedded in the banks of the Peace River tributary meandering near Zolfo Springs in Hardee County. "And I've found mammoth bones here and there. But this is my first mammoth skeleton."

A Columbian mammoth, to be exact, and among the last of the native North American elephants to go extinct.

Hulbert, collections manager of vertebrate paleontology with the Florida Museum of Natural History, visited the site in August, and Harrison agreed to donate the discovery to science.

Excavation began Oct. 18, after the water levels in Charlie Creek began to recede.

Information from: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20101029/ARTICLE/10291043>



## COBY'S COLUMN



This little beauty of a tooth came from a surprising location. It's a *Isurus hastalis* to be exact. It all started when I helped Dr. Charles O'Connor with his speech about fossils in Barefoot Beach, Northern Collier County. When he was done with his speech, we talked with some of the volunteers. They told us about finding fossils and indian artifacts along the beach. One man brought in a baby mammoth tusk that he found walking the beach! He didn't even know what it was! After talking to the volunteers, we walked the beach with no luck. A few weeks later, we walked the beach down towards the pass, and produced this little guy. I go there every once in a while, and the sea will give up a few of her treasures, but only at the right tide. So next time your at the beach, keep an eye glued to the ground, you'll never know what might turn up. Coby Pawlowski



## " FOSSILING ON THE RIVER"

MEG PICTURES BY HOLLIE TINER FROM SEPTEMBER DIG

