



# FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

DECEMBER 2012



## *Message from the President*



Seasons Greetings to All,

Tis the season for celebration--- even if we don't have any snow here in sunny Florida! Looking back over 2012, our club prospered in the sense that we enjoyed several excellent speakers and learned more about paleontology and the fabulous fossils of Florida. We had our annual auction and raised sufficient monies to fund scholarships at the University of Florida, contributions to other university projects, and to make a donation to the Calusa Nature Center. We also put on a super fossil show for our community and in terms of attendance, revenue, and club spirit, it exceeded all previous years.

Looking back, we had some great field trips. We went to Gainesville; met with Dr. Gordon Hubbell who graciously shared his personal museum of the world's largest collection of shark teeth, then on to the Museum of Natural History for a guided tour of the museum and for a tour of the vertebrate laboratory. Then of course, we had a trip to the Peace River and another super trip to the Mosaic mine. Looking ahead to 2013, we have scheduled two field trips for early in the year.

As of now our club membership stands at 170 and our old hands are busy sharing knowledge with the new members. We have excellent participation in our Show and Tell program and that of course is an excellent way for everyone to learn more about fossils.

There are many members who give a lot of their time to support the club annual auction, the annual fossil show, the newsletter, and other club functions. We appreciate their outstanding support and we thank everyone for their generous contributions of fossil specimens for the raffle table and the annual events. In summary, club enthusiasm runs high and its good to see a lot of participation in the club activities.

Our Meeting on December 20th is by tradition our Annual Dinner Meeting which consists of a few announcements, token gift exchange by those who wish to participate, and a lot of excellent food. A turkey, a ham and beverages are provided by the club. All you need to bring, but it is not mandatory, is a hot or cold dish or a dessert to share--- and a big appetite. Plan to be there about 6:30 pm or so and we will start our program as usual at 7 pm.

On behalf of all the officers and directors, I wish you Happy Holidays, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bill

### **Next Meeting**

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the Zion Lutheran Church at 7401 Winkler Rd. in Fort Myers. Meeting starts at 7 PM



## OFFICERS

Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694  
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Michael Siciliano, Vice President,  
239-980-1406  
Pam Plummer, Treasurer, 239-246-5993  
Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary, 239-267-6130

## DIRECTORS

Dean Hart, 941-979-8217  
Gunther Lobish, 941-268-7506  
Charles O'Connor, 239-246-5526  
Joshua Frank, 239-248-5094  
Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921

## COMMITTEES

Cherie Neat, Newsletter  
Curt Klug, Web Master  
Bill Shaver, Speakers  
Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer  
Kathy Pawlowski, Club Merchandise  
Pam Plummer, Club Badges  
Pam Plummer, Membership  
Joshua Frank, Refreshments  
Dean Hart, Refreshments co-chairman  
Gunther Lobish, Pit Trips  
Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips  
Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director  
Hollie Tiner, Club Photographer  
Gunther Lobish, Invertebrate Education  
Louis Stieffel, Vertebrate Education

## WELCOME MEMBERS

Joseph and Tara Larkin  
Paul Chapman  
Mark Terrell

## FOSSIL SHOW

### GRAND RAFFLE WINNERS

This year, the club raffled four great items. The first place drawing was for a large megalodon shark tooth, which was won by nine year old Dominick Smith from Leigh High Acres. Second place was a real fine wood specimen display case that was hand-crafted by Jim Hale. The case was won by Jonathan Druskis of Fort Myers. The third item was an elegant specimen of Rose Coral (*manicina aerolata*), which was won by Holly Hamilton of Naples. The fourth item was a basket of calcite crystal clam shells donated by Mike Siciliano. The winner was present for the drawing and left the scene before we recorded his name.

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

Date: November 15th, 2012  
Place: Calusa Nature Center  
Attendance: 61  
Presided by: Bill Shaver, Club President

Bill opened the meeting welcoming all members and thanking them for their support of the upcoming Fossil Show

Coby Pawlowski volunteered to advertise the Show on Craig's List

Sign-up sheets for show set-up and show work were completed

The speaker was Austin Hendy from UF talked about his paleontology work at the Panama Canal

Gunther Lobish is trying to set up a field trip to the Vulcan mine in January and the club will set a tentative date at the next meeting for a trip in January to the Peace River.

The December meeting will be the annual Holiday Dinner meeting with the club providing the a turkey and a ham. Members will bring in hot/cold dishes and desserts. Pat and David Rosenquist will bring the beverages.

Show and Tell participants were Amiee Hankel, Gunther Lobish, Maurice Guy, Cindi Bateman, and Coby Pawlowski.

Submitted by: Kathy Pawlowski

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & SPEAKERS

December 1 <sup>st</sup>	FCOLC Fossil Show
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Dinner at Zion Lutheran Church
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	FCOLC Meeting
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Speaker: Dr. Robin C. Brown
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	FCOLC Meeting
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Vacancy for speaker
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	FCOLC Annual Auction
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	FCOLC Meeting
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Speaker: Steve Koski

## CLUB REFRESHMENTS

The Club, your Club, certainly appreciates Joshua Frank and Dean Hart, who chair the Refreshments Committee, for organizing and managing the refreshments program.

The club also appreciates all the members who volunteered 2012 to bring in the refreshments.

*Thank  
You*



## MERRY FOSSIL CHRISTMAS!!

Each year the Fossil Club of Lee County holds the December meeting as a Christmas get together, rather than an actual meeting. As one part of the festivities, we have a gift exchange. I will explain how this works, as it's a fun activity and we encourage as many members (and guests) to participate as possible:

**GIVE A GIFT—GET A GIFT** -- It's that simple!! If you bring one, you get one. If you decide to NOT bring a gift, well, then you can watch other members unwrap theirs! SO, bring a gift!!

**Rules:** ( simple!)-wrap your gift, but put NO name on it. Please mark a F or a NF on it, somewhere, so we can place it in the F (fossil) or the NF (non-fossil) area. So, if you bring a fossil gift, then choose a fossil gift. And the same thing if you bring a gift that is NOT fossil related, then chose THAT type in exchange, OK? This way, we will have a fair and equal balance of gifts, and EVERYONE will be happy!!

Try to give a gift that YOU would want...nothing expensive, but one that will put a smile on someone's face!!

**PLEASE** remember what paper you wrapped your own gift in!! (Yes, I know!! J)

You can bring more than one gift, if you choose. If you bring two—then you get two.

This gift exchange event arrival time will be announced—at the party—so do NOT exchange (take) a gift before it is time.

See all of you at the Christmas meeting!!

Louis



## FCOLC HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

The Club will have its Holiday Dinner meeting at the Zion Lutheran Church on December 20th. As is our tradition, the club provides a turkey and a ham. Condiments, plates, cutlery, cups, rolls, butter and beverages are also provided.

Members bring in hot dishes or cold dishes or desserts of their choosing.

Our volunteer to prepare the turkey this year is Marcia Simon, probably with some help from husband Charles. Chuck Ferber, who has provided the ham for us in previous years volunteered to do it again this year. Pat and Dave Rosenquist volunteered to bring in the beverages.

Our dinner meeting is set up as a social gathering and no club business is scheduled. Just enjoy the great food and the opportunity to get to know everyone a little better. There will be a few announcements and there will be sign-up sheets for tentative club trips and for the refreshment schedule for the near term months of 2013. Christmas gift giving is done at this meeting and members are asked to read a separate article in this newsletter that explains how the exchange is done.

We will have a variety of riker cases and a few

books at the meeting. There will be no formal Show and Tell, but everyone who has just found special something and can't wait until January is welcome to show it off.

There is no dinner coordinator, so if there is too much pumpkin pie we will ask for volunteers to solve the problem. Come and have a great time!

The Zion Lutheran Church is located at 7401 Winkler Road in Fort Myers. Directions: RT 41 going south, turn west on Cypress Lake Drive, then south on Winkler Road. Go a couple of miles, the church will be on your left just before the traffic light. From RT 41 going north, turn west on Gladiolus, go under the overpass, and turn north on Winkler, the church will be on your right just past the Sweet Bay Market. Call 239-834-0694 (Bill) or 239-980-1406 (Mike) if you have any questions or need help.





## FOSSIL SHOW 2012



**The Admissions Crew**

From all indications, this was the best show yet! We had higher attendance, realized more income, pleased a lot of our vendors, and most certainly pleased more children (fossil enthusiasts in the making) than ever before. We will announce the financial breakdowns and related stats at the December 20th Dinner Meeting.



**Silent Auction Team**



**Fossil Gifts for Kid's**

Putting on a Show of this magnitude takes a lot planning and a lot of execution. Every member can be proud of their contributions that went into making this a great event for our community. So let's congratulate each other and bask in the short lived moments of greatness. (Our next big event is just a few months away when we hold our Annual Auction on the third Thursday of March 2013.)



**The Spin & Win Team**



**The Kid's Dig**

We distribute our club newsletter to all of our members and a host of others including vendors, schools, the Calusa Nature Center, the Imaginarium Science Center, the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, the Southwest Florida Gem and Mineral Club, and other organizations and friends of our club. So to all of our newsletter readers, we say thank you for supporting our show.



**The Grand Raffle**

And to all of our members, thanks for supporting your club so well and thanks for supporting the science and hobby of paleontology!

## REFRESHMENTS HONOR ROLL FOR 2012

January	Pat and Ted Oakes & Sally Jane Moore	July	Leslie and Louis Stieffell
February	Gunther Lobish, Mike Siciliano and Bill Shaver	August	Gunther Lobish and Pam Plummer
March	The Bonita Beachcombers	September	Anne and Emily McIltrout
April	Jack Boyce and BobbyJoe Sherrill	October	Marc Cantos and Cathy Behrle
May	Charles "Chuck" Ferber	November	Marcia and Charles Simon
June	Dean Hart and Joshua Frank	December	Pat and David Rosenquist (beverages)

Joshua and Dean will have a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer for the months of 2013. Every member is invited to participate. The club will reimburse you for reasonable expenses (usually about \$40.00) for what you spend on refreshments. The club has the coolers for the beverages and the coolers are handed off from volunteer to volunteer. Thanks for supporting your club!



## THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY, INC.

As of now Club membership stands at 170 members and it is that time of the year for all to renew their membership for 2013. (If you joined in October, November, or December 2012, you are considered paid up for 2013.)

Our club has several members who have been with the club a long time and several who are fairly recent members. The common bond is of course; the many aspects of the science and hobby of paleontology. The intent of the following paragraphs is to provide everyone with an overview of the club.

The history of our club starts back in 1993 when the club was organized as the Paleontological Society of Lee County. Mark Renz was elected as its first President. Many of you know of Mark Renz as the author of several books about fossiling in Florida. Also, Dr. Robin C. Brown, author of the book "Fossils of Florida" was one of the original founders of our club. In 2004, it was decided to simplify the name of the club, perhaps because it was sort of a "mouthful" when you met people on the river and they asked "What club do you belong to?" So the name was changed to The Fossil Club of Lee County. In 2012, the club became incorporated and Inc. was added to the name.

The club has four Lifetime Members; people who made significant contributions to the club or to the science of paleontology. Those members are:

Barbara Toomey  
Dr. Robin C. Brown  
Louis Stieffel  
Ray Seguin

We are very fortunate to have these people in our club!

Often, the club gets requests to make presentations about fossils to schools, summer camps and civic organizations. We have several people who volunteer to give these type of talks and make "Show and Tell" presentations. We also do exhibits at several of the libraries in Lee County.

Our club has fossil exhibits at the Calusa Nature Center and at the Imaginarium Science Center in Fort Myers. The club also established the Tom Allen Mu-

seum at the Nature Center in 2010. It houses Tom's collection of fossils, rocks and minerals, Indian artifacts, sea shells, books he authored, and prints of some of his paintings. In the early years of our club, several of our members, led mainly by Mark Renz, participated in the recovery of a trove of splendid Pliocene fossils at a site in nearby LaBelle. Those fossils are now at the University of Florida Museum of Natural History and in the Clewiston Museum.

Our club has an excellent working relationship with staff personnel at the University of Florida and the University of South Florida. Both universities support our club by providing exceptional speakers on topics of paleontology and geology as part of our educational programs. Our club in turn, provides funds for the Ken Erickson Scholarship Fund at the University of Florida, provides funds to the Invertebrate laboratory at UF and the paleontology and geology departments at the University of South Florida.

The source of club monies comes from membership dues, sale of club merchandise, raffles, an Annual Fossil Show, and an Annual Club Auction. Club expenses are nominal and include refreshments, rent, speaker fees where applicable, purchase of materials for the auction and fossil show, newsletter costs, and club trips. As one member put it, "we are an all volunteer force and no member gets paid." The club often receives donations from its members in the form of fossil specimens or other appropriate items for the monthly raffle, auction or annual show. It is the generosity of those members that allows the club to be successful and do good things for its community.

The club is a not-for-profit organization with a charter, by-laws, and a slate of officers and directors. Elections are held annually and all members in good standing are eligible for office. Many members volunteer to serve on committees and it is the participation of all members that keeps our club viable and gives it real purpose.



### CLUB TRIPS

Gunther Lobish is arranging for a club trip in January to the Vulcan Mine in the Brooksville area.

A club trip is planned for Saturday, January 19th, 2013 to the Peace River and another trip is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd. There will sign-up sheets available at our December Dinner Meeting. Both trips will be "walk-in." You can bring a kayak or canoe if you want to explore beyond the walk-in area. Wet suits are recommended.



## ANOTHER SUPER TRIP TO MOSAIC

It was an absolutely gorgeous day on November 10th, 2012 and everyone was in high spirits---you know that feeling of great expectations.

We arrived at the Mosaic gate on time at 8:30 am and our host guided us to their training room for a briefing and orientation. There we learned about the geology of the area and a whole lot about phosphate mining. Everyone was quite interested and at the same time eager to go on a guided fossil hunt. The next step was to issue 30 hard hats and safety glasses.



Ready to go Hunt!

there just waiting to be picked up. The morning sun was hot and we drank a lot of water as we hunted from about 9 am to a little after noon.



Mary Southall and Daughter Jennifer

We thanked our hosts, Jon Courtney and Joe Alex for their hospitality and cleverly told them that we looked forward to seeing them again real soon. They are great guys and in all sincerity, we do look forward to seeing them again. Thanks again Jon and Joe. The world needs more good people like you two.

We followed our guide truck out to the hunt site, dismounted, and got a quick field safety briefing. Then everyone geared up and within minutes it looked like ants going out to find some tender leaves. This was surface hunting and many sharp eyes were working overtime. It was just a beautiful day and the sun twinkled off the shark teeth and other fossils that lay

But all good things must come to an end and there will be other days and all those kinds of sayings that mean the hunt is officially over.

As is the custom, the hunters showed off their finds and there was a lot of "oohing and aahing" as some had more luck than others. There were several excellent megalodon teeth found that day and that always creates a lot of excitement and even sparks off stories of yester-year. Other real nice specimens included several shark vertebra, a whale vertebra with tell-tale shark teeth bites, a variety of shark teeth, ray dermal plates and ray pavement teeth, three-toes horse teeth, deer astragalus, ray barbs, and of course, a few dugong rib sections. And as is the custom, we took a few pictures of happy hunters.



Whale Vertebra Showing Signs of Shark Bite Marks---found by Aimee Hankel



Jennifer Southall and Joshua Frank Compere "Megs"



Hosts Joe Alex and Jon Courtney with Bill Shaver

### NEW DINOSAUR FIND!!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20594147>



## SEEKING A PREDATOR

When I kayak on the Peace River looking for a likely fossil location, I frequently have a desire locked deep in my subconscious that says this could be the day. This could be the day when I find a special fossil: maybe a mastodon tooth; maybe a sloth claw; or maybe an extremely rare predator fossil from a dire wolf or saber cat. One fossil buddy has a very large Jaguar canine and another has a Dire Wolf carnassial. In the spring of 2012, I found a broken Jaguar carnassial and I returned to a close location on November 8th as the water depth receded. On this day I was "prospecting", seeking a new location as I was probing for gravel about 8 feet off the east bank of the Peace River. A couple of inches of sand covers about 8 inches of gravel which is on top of 8 inches of gray clay. Usually I put 4 or 5 shovels full of gravel in each sieve-load, but on the 3rd shovel of the 1st sieve, there was a odd looking bone. I stopped and then danced around the river with glee: it was a perfect 3 inch Sloth claw, likely from *Megalonyx leptostomus*. But that is another story for another article. Naturally, I returned to the same hole to find more, but after another 3 hours, I had found a few small shark teeth, and one small odd looking bone which was complete and heavily mineralized. The size is 1.25 inches or about 40 millimeters. One end reminded me of a raptor toe bone which I had found in 2011. (Photo #1 below)



For any fossil that I do not recognize, I ask Louis Steiffel at the next FCOLC meeting OR I take a couple of photos and ask the experts on TheFossilForum.org. For new fossil seekers, this is a great resource to Florida fossil experts, rapid identification of fossil finds, and free registration. It took "Prehistoric Florida" ([www.prehistoricFlorida.com](http://www.prehistoricFlorida.com)) less than 3 hours to see my post and identify my find as a Jaguar Phalanx (a toe bone that attaches to the cat's claw). This was just the start of my education on feline phalanx bones. Prehistoric Florida added some details: "The bone is a medial phalanx; this bone is located directly behind the claw. The reason it is offset a little bit is allow the claw to retract." He also gave me some web pointers to Medial Phalanx fossils from *Smilodon Fatalis* (Photo #2) and *Panthera Onca* both on his website.

Another Fossil Forum expert "Harry Pristis" provide a photo of numerous Jaguar Proximal Phalanx fossils and a pointer to a very special articulated line drawing of feline foot bones (Figure #1) I have shown my Jaguar Phalanx to a fossil buddy who has been searching the Peace River for 40 years and he gave me one more insight. This bone came from a left paw. So did the Saber Cat fossil Phalanx in Photo #2.



I am very pleased not only with this fossil but also with everything I have learned with help from my friends. If you are internet savvy, take a look at The Fossil Forum and [PrehistoricFlorida.com](http://PrehistoricFlorida.com). You will find a lot of pictures to aid identification and you might even find some fossils for sale.

By: Jack Boyce

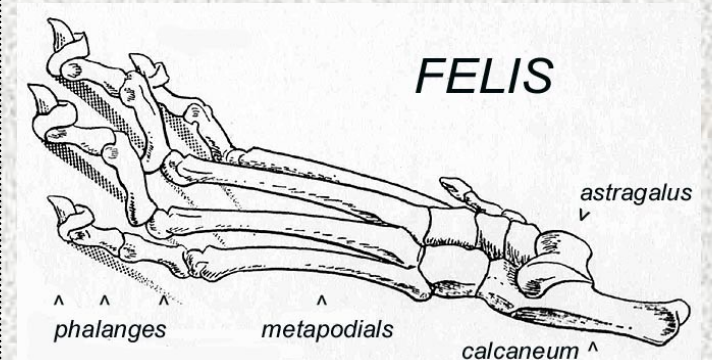


Figure #1 has been adapted under "fair use" of the copyright laws from THE FOSSIL CARNIVORE *Amphicyon longiramus* FROM THE THOMAS FARM MIOCENE by Stanley J. Olson; Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Volume 123, No. 1; July, 1960. I may use this sketch for identification again.

**Merry Christmas**

**&**

**Happy New Year**