



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

DECEMBER 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WOW! What a month! Between Thanksgiving, fossil hunting and the fossil show I feel like a one-armed wall paper hanger! No, seriously, it's not THAT bad!

But, it seems everything is happening at the same time and I need more hours in the day! As I write this we are three days away from our annual fossil show. I just was rereading the newspaper article about it from the Tropicalia Magazine in the News-Press Sunday paper, (yes!) when I get a call from a reporter from Fox-4 live in the morning show (yes!, again!). Alex, the reporter, will be doing a show with us on Thursday morning, periodically throughout the 5am to 8 am live show (Fox-4 Rising)! So, now, this is great! We have put in a lot of hard work making this show happen and this should give us a big boost! I sure hope most of you guys are planning on helping out at that show. However, by the time this goes to print, the show will be history! I hope you were there!

I want to take this chance to thank the Fossil Show Committee of Mike Siciliano, Joshua Frank, Coby Pawlowski and later addition to the committee, Joe Larkin, for all their hard work with the fossil show. We all met—each and every month—to plan and prepare for this show. Without all of us, as a team, the show would not go on!

Our annual Christmas meeting will be held on December 19th at the fellowship hall of Zion Lutheran Church. The club provides a cooked turkey (Marcia Simons) and a smoked ham (Chuck Ferber), and drinks. Everyone attending is asked to bring a dish to share. We have lots of utensils and napkins and such, so don't bring that with you. If you bring a serving spoon, please mark it so you can find it later!

One of the traditions of the Christmas meeting is the gift exchange. The way it works is that if you bring a gift-you get a gift. No one is required to participate, but it's fun for those who do. However, please mark

whether it's a fossil or non-fossil gift. Then you choose one from the category you brought.

The water level is way down in the rivers and creeks. I have heard of many of you guys finding fossils already. The water is still chilly, so that first plunge is always a shock. But you get used to it quickly, especially after some energetic digging and fossil discovery. I have noticed a strong trend the last couple of years of many members using kayaks to reach places further away from the boat launch areas we put in at. Many of us, me included, have always just walked the banks or the rivers' edge to find "secret" gravel bars. But, since these areas are more popular than ever, the Kayakers are gathering the fossils which previously were too far for walking. We are thinking of having a club kayak hunt in the future. Members with kayaks or canoes will be able to do this as a group, instead of being lonely all day! The details are still being worked out.

We have a planned trip to Mosaic Phosphate Mine on January 25. Sign-up sheets will be at the Christmas meeting. Only 30 can go, and since we have so many wanting to go, a lottery will be used to decide who can go. I'm sorry, but I don't know how else to do it and be fair to everyone who wants to go. I also stated at the last meeting that some people are already on the list. This includes active board members and others who give so much of their time and themselves to the club all year long. If we can get some other trips then it will be easier for everyone to go.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, and plan on seeing you all for the Christmas meeting!

Louis Stieffel

President, Fossil Club of
Lee County



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Pam Plummer, 133 NE 20th St., Cape Coral, FL, 33909

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/

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.hardeeconomy.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

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.

OFFICERS

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Ray Seguin, 239-939-1921, Emeritus

COMMITTEES

Jack Boyce, Newsletter Publisher, Photographer

Joshua Frank, Coby Pawlowski, Mike Siciliano, Louis Stieffel

Fossil Show Committee

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Coby Pawlowski, Youth Activities Director

Pam Plummer, Badges, Membership

Gunther Lobisch, Pit Trips, Invertebrate Education

Ray Sequin, Merchandise

David Sheehey, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education, Speakers

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!



Minutes of November meeting THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: November 14th, Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Presided by: Louis Stieffel, President

Club president Louis Stieffel welcomed all current, new, and returning seasonal members and called the meeting to order. Members were informed of club merchandise being sold by Ray Sequin, the \$1 raffle table manned by Mike Siciliano, and everyone was handed a ticket for the door prizes. 52 members were in attendance tonight. Announcements:

- There are sign up sheets for the Mosaic Phosphate Mine field trip in January and also sign up sheets for volunteers at the FCOLC fossil show. Be sure to take some flyers and pass them out to any locations which might generate additional interest for the fossil show. Get the word out about the show because this is our primary fund raiser for the year.
- Don't forget to renew vertebrate fossil permits with the state of Florida.
- Please bring a dish for the December Christmas dinner meeting. Meats & beverages will be provided. We need side dishes and desserts. We will also have a gift exchange so if you bring a gift you get one. During this meeting Marcia Simons volunteered to prepare and bring the Turkey.
- Treasurer Report: The club has been spending money on preparations for the December 7th Fossil Show. Current Balance is \$600 and all is paid up. Pam Plummer is unable to continue as Club Treasurer and Sandy Schwartz is taking over as Treasurer. Thanks to Pam for all the great work including getting the designation of FCOLC as a non-profit organization. Welcome to Sandy for stepping up to the challenge going forward. Sandy is also making all the signs for the fossil show and also for our club library.
- We have a display now at Ft Myers Beach library, so please stop by the library and check it out.
- We need volunteers for 2014 refreshments so be sure and sign up please.
- Kudos, thanks, and a round of applause for Marc Cantos and Cathy Berhle for providing refreshments tonight. Italian main course with lots of pies, cakes, brownies for dessert.
- Marc Cantos is our speaker tonight and he is talking about fossil hunting experiences at the Bone Valley Phosphate mines in 2011.

Refreshment Break followed by Marc's presentation. Zack Deyo managed the audiovisual equipment.

- Show & Tell presenters were Joe Larkin, Mike Gesel, Gunther Lobisch, Barry Rogers, Jack Boyce, and Robert Perez. Phil & Louise Briskin showed a number of rare Pinecrest fossil shells found on a trip to SMR Aggregates, Bradenton.
 - Finished the evening with door prizes raffle and the dollar raffle
- Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Club Secretary Kathy Pawlowski

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SEAKERS

December 19th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Our Meeting on December 19th is by tradition the FCOLC annual Holiday 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. **Marcia Simons** is donating the Turkey. **Chuck Ferber** is providing the Ham. **Pat and David Rosenquist** will bring the beverages.

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.

January 16th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

February 20th Speaker; – Fossil Author **Bob Sinibaldi**

Refreshments: Phil and Louise Briskin

Saturday January 25th Mosaic Phosphate Mine Field Trip

February 20th FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

February 20th Speaker; – TBD



FCOLC Fossil of the Month - December, 2013



Fossil: Glyptodont (*Glyptotherium floridanum*) connected osteoderms, 11000 to 2 million years old. Glyptodonts are members of the giant Armadillo family and approximate the mass and size of a Volkswagen beetle. There are a thousand scutes or osteoderms that cover the body and tail of a Glyptodont and act as body armor. Finding a single osteoderm is relatively common. Finding 4 connected osteoderms is very rare.

Date found: November 22nd, 2013.

Location: Peace River, Wauchula, Florida.

How it was found: I was using a scoop shovel and sieve on a gravel layer of 6 to 30 inches layered over caliche rock. This was an area which I had passed over 50 times with a belief that the gravel was too shallow and had been “worked” by fossil hunters. That belief proved incorrect as I was finding some nice smaller shark teeth and an occasional Meg or mammal tooth. I was following a vein of deeper gravel when this set of Glyptodont osteoderms fell out of my scoop and into the sieve. There are lots of unique fossils left to be found. It is just of question of finding them which certainly is easier said than done.

Submitted by Dave Finchbaugh

Refreshments

A Big THANKS to **Marc Cantos and Cathy Berhle** who provided refreshments for the November meeting. This is a great and painless way to giveback to FCOLC in a way that is greatly appreciated by the membership. Once again, thanks to all these volunteers who are critical to our club’s success.

Please Welcome our New Member

Albert Friend

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday, December 19th, 2013
at Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers
This is the annual Holiday Dinner meeting
Meeting starts at 7 PM.



Yearly dues

FCOLC yearly dues should be paid by the end of January, 2014. *The renewal form is at the end of this newsletter.* Please see Pam Plummer or Sandy Schwartz at a meeting or send a check through the mail.

The 9th annual Fossil show, put on by the FCOLC—is history!!



Yep, it's all done for another year!

I think mostly everyone attending the show this year was pleased, both the vendors and the attendees. Most of the comments I heard were positive, with the majority of our club members expressing WOW! Yes—WE did it! Our little fossil club put on this great big 'ol show and it worked! Thanks to EVERYONE who participated! And, for those who couldn't make it, well, I think you missed a good one.

As of this time, I do not know the final financial accounting, but our goal was to move the location and put on a bigger and better show than we ever did before. I know we made some money, but the amount of profit is not as important as the amount of satisfaction to the club for doing this. Now that we know we can do it, we can focus a little more on the profit part of it.

There are still some loose ends to wrap up. We will have a final fossil show committee meeting, documenting the planning timelines, discuss ways to improve and help with next year's preliminary show planning. We have several hundred door prize entry forms to sort through to read the comment about how they found out about the show. We will also use these entry forms to send out postcard reminders for next year's show. And we will send out a follow-up email to all the vendors requesting any feedback they may have so as to get even better next year. Of course, any club member's opinions are also helpful.

We did well, attendance wise, considering we moved the show. We were not sure of the effect that would have, after all those years at the Nature Center. But, we wanted to get bigger and better, so we felt the move was justified, along with the additional expense. I believe the attendance will only grow in the future. I was surprised, though, at the low turnout of children. We were prepared for a much higher number. So, this is an area we will focus on more. We had live FOX TV coverage,--six different spots! -- two days before the event, as well as several newspaper mentions, including a nice article in the Tropicalia magazine of last Sunday's paper. This last article is included in this newsletter on the next page. We handed out about a thousand flyers, had the 4-h club broadcast to their membership, posted flyers in libraries, and talked about the upcoming show to everyone we met! But, next year we will do even better, I think. Now that we have a solid outline and guide for the show, our regular monthly planning meetings have turned out to be very helpful.

Again, I thank every person who participated in any way to the fossil show, and I sincerely hope you are as proud of our little fossil club as I.

Louis Stieffel,
President FCOLC

Fossil Finds: Mark your calendar for Lee County's ninth annual Fossil Show

Written by Cathy Chestnut Special to The News-Press
Dec. 02

news-press.com



A mastodon tooth / Special to The News-Press

IF YOU GO

• **What:** The Fossil Club of Lee County's ninth annual Fossil Show • **When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday • **Where:** Araba Shriner's Hall, 2010 Hanson St., Fort Myers • **Admission:** \$3 adults, free for children under 12 • **About the Club:** There are 150 members of the Fossil Club of Lee County. The group meets the third Thursday of each month in Fort Myers to hear from various experts and speakers. Membership is \$20 per family, \$17 per couple; \$15 for single; and \$8 for single youth. For details: go to fcolc.com or call 458-9818.

If you like contemplating unique vestiges of the past — without stooping and sifting mud or gravel — mark your calendar for the Fossil Club of Lee County's ninth annual Fossil Show. In addition to more than 20 exhibits and dealers, two renowned Florida experts will give talks and kids can become amateur archaeologists for the day.

But digger beware: It can become a lifelong passion.

That's what happened to club president Louis Stieffel. After moving to Southwest Florida in 1992, Stieffel began collecting specimen seashells. He learned that a particular APAC Mine in Sarasota County (now defunct) opened once a month to fossil enthusiasts, who had a heyday with the Pliocene and Pleistocene marine deposits. Stieffel's been collecting ever since, and he's involved in the club since its 1993 inception.

Stieffel, 62, of Cape Coral, says it's really human nature to want to search and discover. "We want to root around and dig something up," he says. "We have great fossils in Florida. It's a great place because there are no earthquake, volcanoes" and other natural events that disrupt fossil deposits. Rising and lowering sea levels throughout millennia helped to create new deposits or expose them, so "it's a great hobby around here."

The show's speakers are Richard Hulbert, vertebrate collections manager at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, who will speak about saber-toothed predators, and world-renowned paleontologist Frank Garcia. In 1983, Garcia discovered a fossil-rich mine near Ruskin in Hillsborough County and oversaw the excavation of 20,000 identifiable specimens over the course of a year. The finds included several new species of birds, rodents and a new genus and species of armadillo-like mammals, and the collection is catalogued and housed with the FMNH. "He's the go-to guy for identification if we can't have something that we can't figure out," Stieffel says.

*The Fossil Club of Lee
County is an
organization of people
interested in the fossils of
southern Florida and
all points beyond.*

Meetings are held at the

*ZION Lutheran
Church*

*Fellowship Hall
7401 Winkler Ave.*

Fort Myers, FL 33919

on the

*Third Thursday
of every month
from*

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Officers

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Kathy Pawlowski, Secretary
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Committees

Cherie Neat: Newsletter Developer
Jack Boyce: Newsletter Publisher &
Club Photographer

Curtis Klug: Web Master

Louis Stieffel: Vertebrate Education,
Speakers, Auctioneer

Ray Seguin: Club Merchandise

Pam Plummer: Membership & Club
Badges

Gunther Lobish: Pit Trips

Michael Siciliano: Raffle and Dive
Trips

Coby Pawlowski: Youth Activities Director

Gunther Lobish: Invertebrate Education

Membership Information-

Date: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

phone _____

Yearly Dues ~\$20.00

Dues are due the first day
of January.

Payable to :

The Fossil Club of Lee County

133 NE 20th Street

Cape Coral, Fl

33909

www.fcolc.com