



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

DECEMBER 2014

Letter from the President

Merry Christmas!! Yes, it's THAT time again. Seems like it was here just a short while ago. I must be getting old! Anyway, it is also that month which we have our annual December Christmas meeting, a pot luck dinner, with turkey. Marcia Simmons will be baking her traditional annual club meeting turkey and I can tell you--she cooks a mean bird! So, bring a dish to share and make it to the meeting!

Last month we met at the Dolphin Room at the Shell Factory. It was a different type of meeting for us, with catered hot food and beautiful linen draped banquet tables! We started the meeting with a tour of the Fossil Museum, and followed that up with a great talk from Herbert Knodel, of Rotunda rock, on Baltic amber. He showed some beautiful slides of beautiful amber and told us a lot of things about amber that we didn't know!

This month we are back at the Fellowship hall.

We just had our 10th annual Fossil Festival! It was held at the Shell Factory this year. We had a lot of fun and I think all our visitors left with a new appreciation of fossils. Many were directed to visit the museum, either at the show or at a future visit. I saw lots of our members participating at the festival, and most everyone had a smile! Pam Plummer, Dean Hart, and Mike Siciliano worked extra hard at putting on a great show. The Shell Factory was very easy to work with and we appreciate all they have done.

The FCOLC board recently met and set some goals and plans for the club's ongoing operations and future. Some of this is to help take a little of the load off of my shoulders. The club belongs to all of us, so I ask that all of you help out. If everyone does just a little bit, we get a lot done as a group! The board also discussed fossil trips, our new t-shirts, speakers, the upcoming auction, and other operational aspects of the club. We do not have many board meetings, as we mostly communicate

online, but several times a year we meet as a group and hash things out. If any member is interested in being a board member, let me know.

Pam and Dean acted as co-chairmen for this year's fossil festival. Both, however, would like to step down from that role, but be willing to help out. If any member has a desire to head up the next show, let me know. We have done 11 of these shows, so most of the details are known, but someone has to be in charge to put it all together. Let me know if you are that person.

We will not have the \$1 raffle at this month's pot luck dinner meeting.

The annual FCOLC auction will be held, as usual, at the March meeting. Please try to donate something to the auction. Bring it to this meeting, or the next, if possible. Along with the Fossil festival, the auction is one of our major fundraising events. If you would like a donation receipt, now that we are a legal non-profit, we can supply you with one for your donation. So, help make the auction a success!

Walter Stein will be our speaker in January. he was the guy at the Fossil festival with the Dinosaur bones! Walter will tell us all about these critters! Victor Perez, from the FLMNH will speak in February, about fossil sharks. The annual auction will be in March.

We are having an influx of snow birds. Please be careful driving as many are unfamiliar with our roads. And we want you to be safe and sound to be able to come to the meeting this month! See you there!

Louis Stieffel
President
Fossil Club of Lee County





Christmas Meeting!!

This month's December meeting is our annual Christmas pot luck meeting!! Bring a dish to share.

The club will provide a turkey, cooked again by Marcia Simmons, and provide the drinks as well.

If you bring a serving spoon or fork, please mark it somehow, so you can retrieve it before you leave.

We provide napkins. plates and utensils. But-- you MUST bring an appetite!! No calorie counting!!

Fossil gift exchange.

If you want to participate in the gift exchange, you must bring a gift. The rule is simple: bring a gift-get a gift!

If you bring two-you get two. If you do NOT bring a gift, you do not pick a gift, so, don't be disappointed, bring a gift.

The other rule is: mark it fossil or NON fossil. They go in two separate places and you must pick the type of gift that you brought.

If you want a fossil gift, then BRING a fossil gift.

This is a mostly social meeting, but we will have a short business meeting before eating. No official show and tell this month, but bring 'em if you got 'em!

Next month the featured fossil for show and tell is TAPIR.

See you soon!

OFFICERS

Louis Stieffel, President

239-851-7499, cape187@earthlink.net

Michael Siciliano, Vice President

239-980-1406

Sandra Schwartz, Treasurer

239-772-8015, sschwartz@embarqmail.com

Al Govin, Secretary

239-910-2339

DIRECTORS

Joe Larkin.....239-265-6772

Charles O'Connor....239-246-5526

Pamela Plummer.....239-246-5993

Ray Seguin.....239-939-1921, Emeritus

Dean Hart.....941-979-8217

COMMITTEES

Al Govin, Club Trips Director

Curt Klug, Web Master

Phil Briskin, Land trips/Invertebrate Education

Cherie Neat, Newsletter Developer

Pam Plummer and Dean Hart, 2014 Fossil Show

Sandy Schwartz, Badges, Membership

Dave and Jeanne Seehavey, Merchandise

David Sheehey, Librarian

Michael Siciliano, Raffle and Dive Trips

Louis Stieffel, Auctioneer, Vertebrate Education,

Speakers, Newsletter editor, FOSSIL project

representative

Mosaic Trip

January 3, 2015 is the date we were assigned to go to the Mosaic mine for a fossil hunting trip. The sign-up sheet has been out for the last two meetings and we also advertised the fact that you get another sign-up on the sheet if you were a working volunteer at the fossil festival. As usual, we have too many members who want to go for the allotted number of allowed spaces, so a lottery was done to pick names. Of course, the more sign-ups on the sheet, the better chance, so those volunteering had a slightly better odds of getting picked.

The people picked to go will be sent an email, along with the permission/consent form which needs to be filled out and brought to the Christmas meeting. If you do not see an email with the form, you are an alternate. If anyone chosen can NOT go, please notify me as soon as possible so another person can then go.

Remember, you had to be signed up to be picked. If you did not make the last few meetings, there is a good chance your name did not get on the list. Sorry, but until we get more than one trip into Mosaic, the spots are limited and the rules are strict.

You will need hard soled shoes, and long pants to be allowed into the mine property. And the filled-in consent form. And must be on time.

Al Govin, trips coordinator
algovin1@hotmail.com

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!



Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

FCOLC, c/o Sandra Schwartz, 1821 SE 5th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL, 33990

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.hardeecounty.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/vpppermit.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.

She's Back!

A T-Rex Named Sue will be opening on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 10am to 3pm at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Ireland

Center for Science Learning

Florida Museum of Natural History

352-273-2061

tireland@flmnh.ufl.edu

www.flmnh.ufl.edu

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/megalodon-celebration/>



FOSSIL FESTIVAL, 2014!!

December 6, 2014 was the date for this year's Fossil Festival! Held at the world famous Shell Factory in north Ft Myers, it was a good time enjoyed by all who came!

Lots of children had a good time, both at the club craft table and the Imaginarium table as well as the kid's fossil dig! The adults had lots of fossils, minerals, jewelry and dinosaurs to look at and shop for!

A knapper was present, demonstrating the skillful craft of stone knapping Indian arrowheads, and music filled the air all day! The weather was beautiful and the food at the Fishbones Restaurant was just perfect

for those hunger pains! Many folks visited the big Shell Factory store and were able to get a few early Christmas presents, as well as see the new fossil museum.

We had lots of club members participate and everything went smoothly and enjoyably.

Pam Plummer and Dean Hart, board members and festival co-chairmen as well as Mike Siciliano, club Vice president and volunteer coordinator, worked very hard to put this show on, and set-up, the ongoing show, and tear-down all went off without a hitch! Even with a couple of late minute vendor cancellations, all of the advance planning helped smooth the way and the show went on. We had lots of club members participate and everything went smoothly and enjoyably.

About the only thing we could wish for would be a larger turnout. The early December date conflicts with many folk's plans it seems, so we may consider a change in date for a future show!

The Shell Factory is a CLASS organization, and bent over backwards to help make this Fossil Festival a success. The FCOLC highly recommends everyone to do business with this organization; the store, Nature Park, Restaurant, and events!

We have not, at this time, had final accounting, but we hope to have made enough money to jumpstart our scholarship fund. The other big fundraiser for us, the annual fossil auction, in March, helps determine how many scholarships we can do for the year. So, the club thanks all the people involved: members, dealers, organizers, and the Shell Factory for their huge help!



Entrance to our Fossil Festival!



**2014 Fossil Festival co-chairmen!
Dean Hart, working hard at set-up.**



**Pam Plummer, taking a much needed
break, visiting Leslie Stieffel and Rita
Bass at the kid's project table!**



Our busy vice-president, Mike Siciliano!



Children having fun in the kid's fossil dig!!

Yes, we decorate ANYTHING for Christmas!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

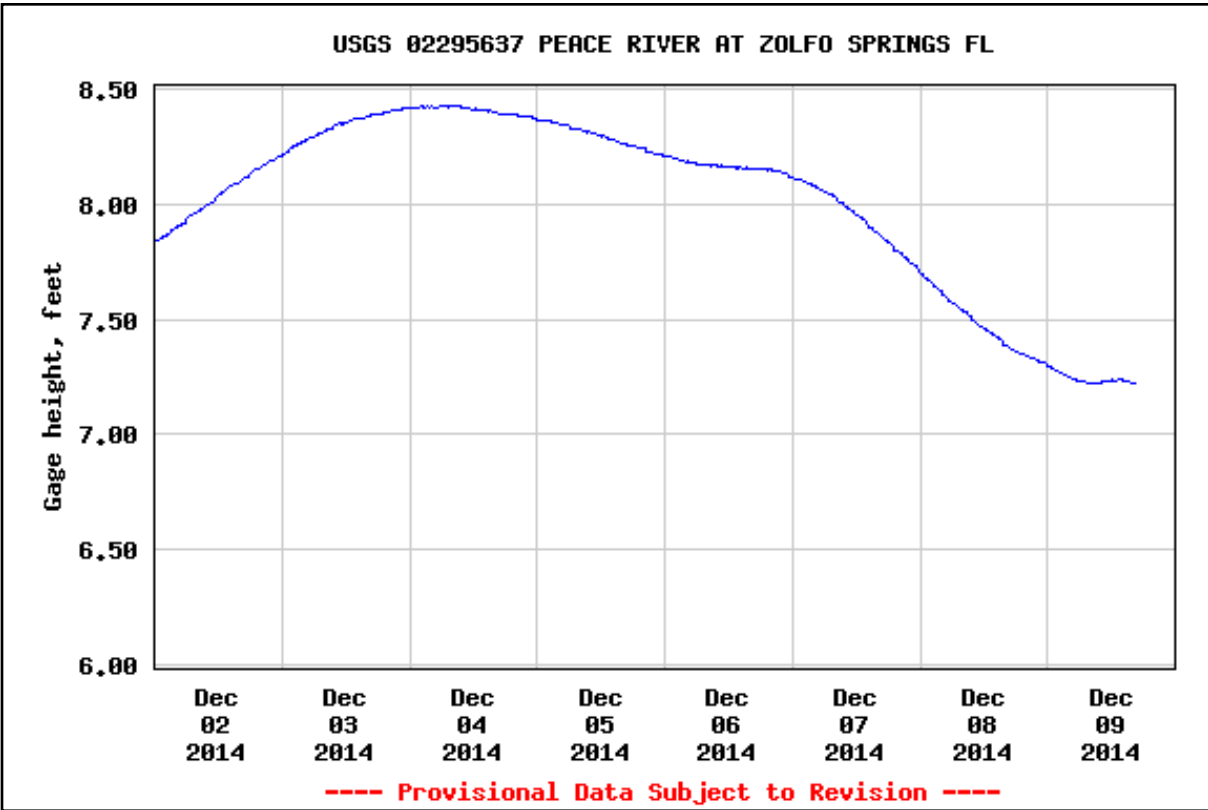
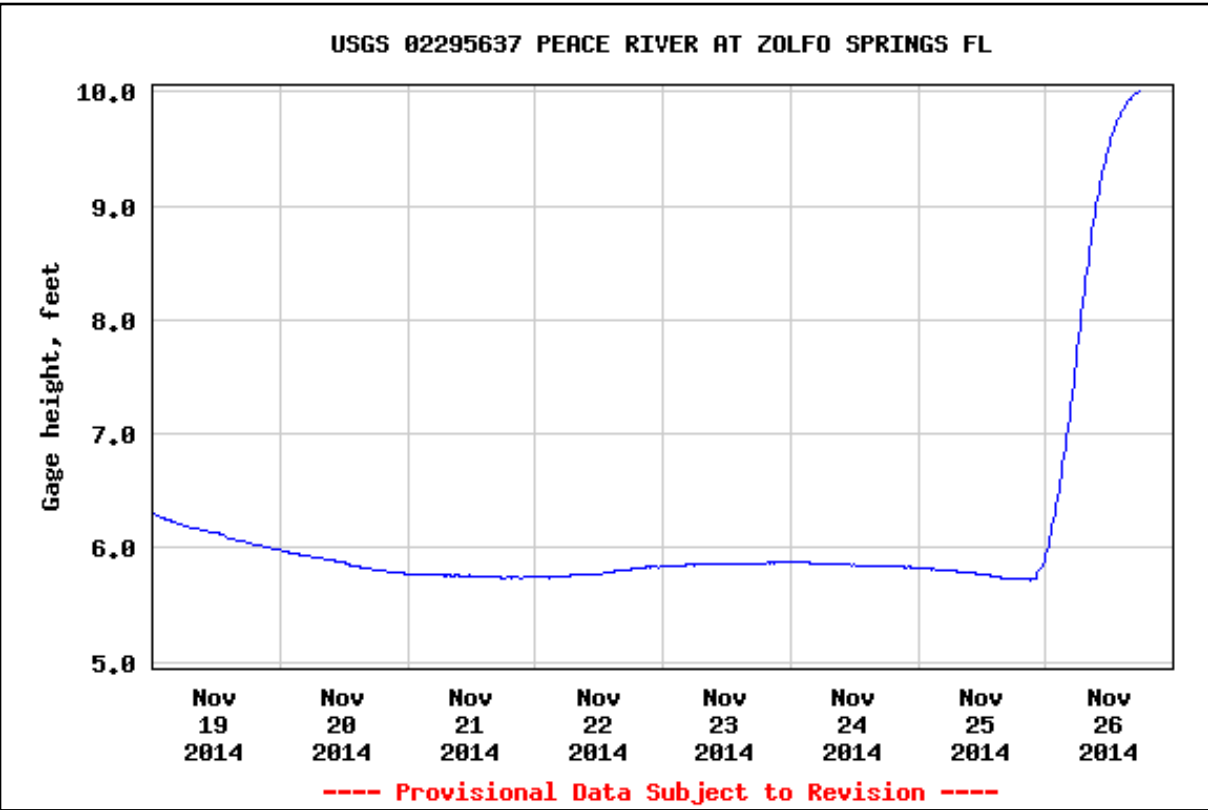
Taken at Salty Sam's Marina, Ft Myers Beach, 2014





MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
With an absence of snow, we use sand! From the annual sand sculpting contest
at Ft Myers Beach, 2014.

Peace River fossil hunting looks to be on track like it used to be, where we cannot get in the river until late December or early January. This was the trend for many years, however, the last few years saw an earlier drop in the water level, allowing us access to the river in November. But, as you can see here, just when it was starting to get right, which is about 5' at the Zolfo gage, we had a big rain event and it shot up. I had 4" of rain, at my house in Cape Coral, unprecedented for this time of year! Several small rains since then has kept it from dropping quickly and it is still way too high. Patience, grasshopper! We will get in soon!



Fossil Find of the Month

This fine BATMEG,
found diving in Venice.
Mike Siciliano





Joe Larkin, a club board member, in the river just before it shot up again. He found a shallow place, but not for long! His lucky hat could not keep the river from rising!

And, even though the water was cold that day and fairly swift, it was a lot better than it is at present. Joe is a very determined fossil hunter and is continually trying to explore and find places to hunt.

Good luck, Joe.

