



FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

MAY 2012



Message from the President

Greetings to all members and friends and a warm welcome to our new members. We are always pleased to have new members and we encourage everyone to join in the club activities.

This month we are honored to have Dr. Bruce MacFadden from the University of Florida as our guest speaker. Earlier this year we had a club trip to the Museum of Natural History and Dr. MacFadden was kind enough to give us a VIP tour. Its a long drive from Gainesville and we appreciate him for coming to Fort Myers to tell us about a program he calls Fossils in the Clouds.

At our last meeting we introduced Mary Rawl, the new Executive Director of the Calusa Nature Center. She told me she enjoyed the club activities that evening and she especially liked Cindy Bear's program about the Calusa Indians. Since then, Mary has joined our club and we are pleased to welcome her to our organization.

Our good friend Ray Seguin, Club Treasurer, has resigned and will now serve as a Director. Ray is a lifetime member and was one of the original founders of the club. He served as Treasurer for several years and we all

appreciate how well and honorably he served us. Thanks for a job well done!

In accordance with the club's by-laws, elections were held in April and elected officers and directors were installed on May 1st. Pam Plummer, who was serving as a director, was elected as club treasurer. We wish her well in her new position.

Last month, our club became incorporated in the State of Florida and is now officially know as The Fossil Club of Lee County, Inc. We appreciate our club member, Charles (Chuck) Ferber, who is a practicing attorney, for developing the articles of incorporation and processing all the necessary documents.

Our program for May includes a guest speaker, a "show and tell" event to promote fossil identification, the monthly raffle, refreshments, club merchandise for sale, and an opportunity to socialize with some really fine people. Hope to see everyone there. Regards, Bill

Next Meeting

FCOLC next meeting is on Thursday
May 17th at the Iona House, Calusa Nature
Center. Meeting starts at 7 PM.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Amy Colacello
Anne Mciltrot
Emily Mciltrot
Mary Rawl

OFFICERS

Bill Shaver, President, 239-834-0694
billshaverpeacriver@hotmail.com
Michael Siciliano, Vice President,
239-980-1406
Pam Plummer, Treasurer, 239-573-7807
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

MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY

Date: April 19th, 2012
Place: Iona House, Calusa Nature Center
Attendance: 41
Presided by: Bill Shaver, President

Bill opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests. He introduced Mary Rawl, Executive Director of the Calusa Nature Center (CNC) and Bob Soder, CNC Board Member.

Bill announced that Ray Seguin resigned as Club Treasurer and will serve as a Board Director. Annual elections were held and Pam Plummer was elected to the position of Treasurer. All incumbent officers and directors were re-elected and will serve from May 1st 2012 to April 30th, 2013.

The speaker for the April meeting was Cindy Bear, Randell Research Center. Her presentation was the Legacy of the Calusa Indians.

It was announced that the speaker for May will be Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Professor and Curator, University of Florida Museum of Natural History.

It was announced that Saturday, December 1st would be the best date to hold the Annual Fossil Show.

Show and Tell was presented by Gunter Lobish, Coby Pawlowski, Marc Cantos and Louis Stieffel.

REFRESHMENTS FOR MAY

The Club thanks Chuck Ferber for volunteering to bring in refreshments for the May meeting. Joshua Frank, who is co-chair on the Refreshments Committee will address the club at the May meeting. He is trying to line up members to volunteer to bring in refreshments/snacks for some of the future months. All members are invited to participate and the club will reimburse you for your expenses. You will be appreciated.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

May 17 th	FCOCL Monthly Meeting @ Iona House
May 17 th	Speaker: Dr. Bruce MacFadden, University of Florida Paleontologist
June 14 th	FCOCL Monthly Meeting @ Iona House
June 14 th	No Speaker; Members Exhibits/Show & Tell/Buy/Sell/Swap Meet
July 19 th	FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Iona House
July 19 th	Speaker: Dr. Brian Andres, USF Geology/Paleontology
August 16 th	FCOLC Monthly Meeting @ Iona House
August 16 th	Speaker: Ian Bartoszek, Florida Tortoise/Turtle

Websites & Locations of Interest

Fossil Club of Lee County: www.fcolc.com

Museum of Natural History @ Gainesville
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/

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

Southwest Florida Fossil Club
www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com

Orlando Fossil Club
www.floridafossilhunters.com

PEACE RIVER Water Levels
www.canoeoutpost.com

Mark Renz's Fossil Expeditions
www.fossilx@earthlink.net

Smithsonian Natural History Museum
www.mnh.si.edu

Florida Fossil Clubs
www.fossil-treasures-of-florida.com

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.com

Imaginarium 200 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers
www.cityftmyers.com/imaginarium

Southwest Florida Museum of History 2300 Peck St., Fort Myers www.swflmuseumofhistory.com

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL www.shellmuseum.org

Randell Research Center PO Box 608, Pineland, FL
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

Tampa Bay Fossil Club
www.tampabayfossilclub.com

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

REQUESTS FOR SPEAKERS

The Fossil Club often gets requests from schools and summer camps asking if we can give a talk on fossils. Normally there is no compensation for your efforts. The reward is knowing that you and your club did a good thing for the young people in your community. If you are willing to give a talk or assist in a presentation, please contact Bill Shaver.

INCORPORATION OF FCOLC

The Fossil Club of Lee County was incorporated on April 3rd 2012 by the Florida Department of State. The club's official name is:

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF LEE COUNTY, INC.

The act of incorporation of social clubs is a prudent measure to indemnify club officers and members from potential lawsuits as individuals. The club is grateful to Charles (Chuck) Ferber, a past Club Secretary and a practicing attorney in Fort Myers who developed and processed the Articles of Incorporation for us without charge.

2012 CLUB ELECTIONS

In accordance with club by-laws, elections were held in April with persons elected taking office on the first day of May. This year, all club officers and directors volunteered to stay on for another year and no other members expressed their desire to seek office. The club membership in attendance at the April meeting voted unanimously to seat all incumbents.

There was one change in positions on the executive committee; Ray Seguin, who served as Treasurer for several years resigned and will serve as a Director. Pam Plummer, who was serving as a Director was voted in as Treasurer.

In January, 2013, the club will appoint a nomination committee. Members who wish to serve as a Club Officer or Director should make their intentions known to the committee at that time.

Happy Mother's Day!

FOSSILS IN THE CLOUDS

BY DR. BRUCE MACFADDEN

About 100 million fossils are stored in research collections in the US. Only a tiny fraction of these are ever placed on exhibit for the public to appreciate. Many of these remain behind closed doors, limiting access. This talk will describe the new *iDigBio* program located at the University of Florida. Over the next 10 years, *iDigBio* will coordinate the uploading of natural history specimen images (including fossils) and associated data from over 500 U.S. institutions to a cloud portal (like iCloud, or Dropbox, or other virtual storage). In so doing, fossils, and other natural history specimens, will become more widely available to scientists, educators, and the general public.

Brief Bio

Bruce MacFadden is a Curator and Professor at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF). He has been on the faculty at UF for 35 years and has published more than 150 scientific articles and the book entitled "Fossil Horses." Bruce received his B.S. at Cornell University and Ph.D. at Columbia University. Bruce and his research team have an active field program collecting fossils along the newly expanded Panama Canal. In 2009-2010 he worked at the National Science Foundation where he managed projects that enhance how children and families learn about science via museum exhibits. Bruce is a frequent speaker at fossil clubs, in Florida and elsewhere.

FLORIDA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

This year's Spring meeting and field trip included some social activities, dinners, speakers, meetings and a field trip into 2 sections of Haile Quarries. This limerock quarry is large and active, with exposures of the Eocene Ocala Limestone, some residual Suwannee Limestone and numerous solution features. Many echinoids, some crabs, moldic mollusks, marine vertebrates and some terrestrial vertebrates were found by the 50+ attendees. Specifically: neolaganum durhami, oligopygus hal-demani, oligopygus phelani and one rare amblypygus americanus (echinoids); calappilia brooksi and some claws in matrix (crabs); coral, cowrie and bivalves (shells); Lithopaision ocalae (trace sponge fossil); algae, 1 three toed horse tooth; 1 rhino tooth; 1 whale vertebrae; 1 dolphin vertebrae; 1 complete fish mouth plate; burrow tubes.

In addition to the field trip, many people enjoyed a trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History. We (Pam Plummer and Donna Johnson) decided to explore Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park off 441. This great Alachua savannah has a nice visitor center with displays and short film on its' history. And, although the observation tower was 50' high, you were still under the live oak canopy. The savannah is home to bison, wild Spanish horses, Florida cows, wild turkeys as well as many local and migratory birds. There are many hiking trails and camping. It was a great side trip.

Submitted by Donna Johnson

COBY'S COLUMN Fossil Hunting

A few weeks ago the club took a trip to the Peace River near Wauchula. With the river being so low, we found some nice gravel bars that we hoped held some good finds. We started digging early and found quite a few megalodon teeth fragments along with some various finds like camel teeth and horse tooth fragments. Most people found some large lemon shark teeth and I found quite a few snaggletooth shark teeth that were in fairly good shape. So after searching for hours, we ended the day at about 3:00 with the rain telling us to go. Coby



CLUB FIELD TRIP TO WAUCHULA

Another beautiful day to hunt for fossils on the Peace River. Perfect water temperature coupled with clear water on a sunny day--it doesn't get any better than that. Some members took their kayaks, but since the water level was low most chose to wade to the digging spots. After a few hours of digging, everyone found enough fossils to say it was worth getting up early and making the long drive up to Wauchula. If the rain holds off for a few more weeks, we will plan to take another river trip in May. Sign up sheets will be available at the May 17th meeting.



Dean Hart



Cindy Bateman



Coby and Jack Boyce



Bill Shaver

FOSSILING PHILOSOPHY

"It is not what you find, it's what you find out!" Quote by Dr. Robin C. Brown

Early North Americans Lived With Extinct Giant Beasts, Study Shows

The study published online May 3 in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* addresses the century-long debate among scientists about whether human and mammal remains found at Vero Beach in the early 1900s date to the same time period. Using rare earth element analysis to measure the concentration of naturally occurring metals absorbed during fossilization, researchers show modern humans in North America co-existed with large extinct mammals about 13,000 years ago, including mammoths, mastodons and giant ground sloths.

"The Vero site is still the only site where there was an abundance of actual human bones, not just artifacts, associated with the animals," said co-author Barbara Purdy, UF anthropology professor emeritus and archaeology curator emeritus at the Florida Museum of Natural History on the UF campus. "Scientists who disputed the age of the human remains in the early 20th century just did not want to believe that people were in the Western Hemisphere that early. And 100 years later, every single book written about the pre-history of North America includes this site and the controversy that still exists."

Following discovery of the fossils in South Florida between 1913 and 1916, some prominent scientists convinced researchers the human skeletons were from more recent burials and not as old as the animals, a question that remained unanswered because no dating methods existed.

"The uptake of rare earth elements is time-dependent, so an old fossil is going to have very different concentrations of rare earth elements than bones from a more recent human burial," said lead author Bruce MacFadden, Florida Museum vertebrate paleontology curator. "We found the human remains have statistically the same concentrations of rare earth elements as the fossils."

The little information known about the first humans to appear in North America is primarily based on bone fragments and artifacts, such as stone points used for hunting. Other sites in California, Montana and Texas show human presence around the same time period based on artifacts, but two nearly complete human skeletons were discovered at the Vero Beach site.

As bones begin to fossilize they absorb elements from the surrounding sediment, and analysis is effective in distinguishing different-aged fossils deposited in the same locality. Instead of radiocarbon dating, which requires the presence of collagen in bones, researchers used mass spectrometry to compare rare earth elements in the specimens because a lack of

collagen in the Vero Beach specimens made radiocarbon dating impossible, Purdy said.

Researchers analyzed samples from 24 human bones and 48 animal fossils in the Florida Museum's collections and determined the specimens were all from the late Pleistocene epoch about 13,000 years ago. While rare earth element analysis method is not as precise as radiocarbon dating, Purdy said the significance of human skeletons found in Vero Beach is unquestionable in terms of their presence in the Western Hemisphere.

"It is important to note that they [the authors] did not provide an absolute or chronometric date, rather the geochemistry shows that the trace elemental geochemistry is the same, thus the bones must be of the same age," said Kenneth Tankersley, an assistant professor in the University of Cincinnati anthropology and geology departments.

Native fauna during the last ice age ranged from extinct jaguars and saber-toothed cats to shrews, mice and squirrels still present in Florida. Researchers speculate humans would have been wanderers much like the animals because there was less fresh water than in later years, Purdy said.

"Humans would have been following the animals for a food supply, but that's about all we know," Purdy said. "We know what some of their tools looked like and we know they were hunting the extinct animals but we know practically nothing about their family life, such as how these ancient people raised their children and grieved for their dead."

Study co-authors include Krista Church of UF and the University of Texas, and Thomas Stafford Jr., of Stafford Research in Colorado and the University of Copenhagen.

"Vero is a historical context for the development of archaeology -- these are the beginnings of the people of America," MacFadden said. "The site is well-known in the literature but has been discounted, so we're sort of reviving an understanding of this important locality and using newer techniques to revive the question about the antiquity of the humans."

reprint from Science Daily May 5th, 2012

ScienceDaily (May 3, 2012) — A new University of Florida study that determined the age of skeletal remains provides evidence humans reached the Western Hemisphere during the last ice age and lived alongside giant extinct mammals.

The Fossil Club of Lee County

CODE OF ETHICS

All Club members will fully comply with the rules, regulations, and policies of the host landowner or company.

Members will not enter any property or facility, public or private, without permission.

Members will respect the host's property and be good guests. They will not litter or cause any damage.

Members will respect the host's concern regarding safety and ensure full compliance with safety rules. The Club trip leader will ensure that all members receive a safety briefing prior to entering the fossil hunting area.

Members will wear protective clothing and shoes, safety glasses and hard hats as may be required.

Members will not use alcoholic beverages or carry firearms when participating in a field trip.

Members will agree to sign liability waivers as may be required by the host before engaging in field trips.

Members will possess fossil permits where required and fully comply with all applicable laws and rules.