



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FOSSIL CLUB NEWSLETTER



Founded in  
1983

August 2010  
Volume 27, Number 08  
Editor: Roxane Wilson

**Prez Sez**  
By: Chuck Ferrara

Hello Members and Friends,

Well Summer is here - the river is up - it's raining every day - the relentless heat is upon us - we had a rough Spring for field trips ..... but all is not lost ! The fun is just starting. Come one come all to our end of season Summer Picnic. Where you ask -at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs at the intersection of US Hwy. 17 & SR 64 on Sunday, August 15 at 11:00 am till ? in the pavilion building (see page 3 for map). Come have a day of fun, food, games, door prizes and fossil friends. Show off your best find of the year. There will be Shark Bingo, door prizes and a fossil dig for the kids. The museum will be open from 11:00 to 1:30 which has some of Mitchell Hope's fossils he found in Hardee County. He is a founding member of our club that he started with the Brayfields. The museum is transdimensionally dimensional "bigger on the inside than on the outside ". The out buildings will be open - the Hart Cabin, Bryant Blacksmith Shop & the Cracker Trail Post Office. There's fishing and nature trails, and a playground. There is also an animal refuge with a bear, panther, deer, ostrich and more! (see pics to right). There is a small donation to help keep the animals fed. The club will provide the meat and drinks. All you need to do is call Elida at [239-829-0570](tel:239-829-0570) or [727-829-6432](tel:727-829-6432). This is important to let her know how many are coming and what covered dish you're bringing, so we don't have too much of the same thing. So don't miss out on this good time to spend with your fossil friends.

If you do.... more for me to eat! So be there or be square. This will be a fun time for the whole family.

Remember, keep your head up high but look down too you don't know what you're steppin' on!



**August "Meeting"**

**Instead of our normal August meeting we will have our Annual Summer Party on Sunday, August 15th at 11:00 am at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs.**

**See page 3 for IMPORTANT INFO and a map. There will be good food, prizes and a lot of good fossil fun. We will have an air conditioned room.**

We plan to eat around 1:30 pm.

**SWFFC  
Executive Board  
& Committee  
Phone Roster**

**President:** Chuck Ferrara  
(941) 769-2725

**Vice President:** Jim Davis  
(941) 379-3286

**Treasurer & Editor:** Roxane Wilson  
(863) 993-1649  
e-mail: fossilfreaks2@yahoo.com OR  
idigfossils13@embarqmail.com

**Secretary:** Kathy Caldwell  
(941) 629-5952

**Directors**

Tracy Wilson (863) 993-1649	Steve Wilson (863) 993-1649
George Gooding (941) 697-2662	Ollie Tipton (941) 979-2791
Lydia Lloyd	

**Field Trip**

Chuck Ferrara -**Director**  
(941) 769-2725  
email: ferrara\_307@hotmail.com  
Steve Wilson & Cay Small—**Trip Guides**

**Education**

Steve Wilson (863) 993-1649	Robert Wilk (863) 491-8513
--------------------------------	-------------------------------

**Raffle:** Jim Davis

**Club Website:** Jane Gooding  
(941) 697-2662

**Club Photographer:** George Gooding  
(941) 697-2662

**Membership:** Kathy Caldwell  
(941) 629-5952  
e-mail: blondie1638@comcast.net

**Dues:**  
\$15.00 Individual  
\$20.00 Family  
\$ 4.00 Child joining indepent.

**Make check payable to:**  
Southwest Florida Fossil Club (SWFFC)

Send to: Kathy Caldwell  
1540 Schenley St.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

---

**Web Sites**

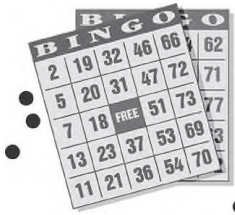
The **SWFFC** Web site  
can be found at:  
<http://www.southwestfloridafossilclub.com>

**Gainesville Museum** Web Site is at:  
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>

**Smithsonian (Natural History Museum)**  
[www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu)

**Canoe Outpost in Arcadia**  
(gives info on Canoe rentals and peace river wa-  
ter levels)  
[http://www.canoepost.com/Peace/  
prwaterlevel.htm](http://www.canoepost.com/Peace/prwaterlevel.htm)

**Florida Vertebrate Fossil Permit**  
[http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/  
vppermit.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm)



# POTLOCK



FUN

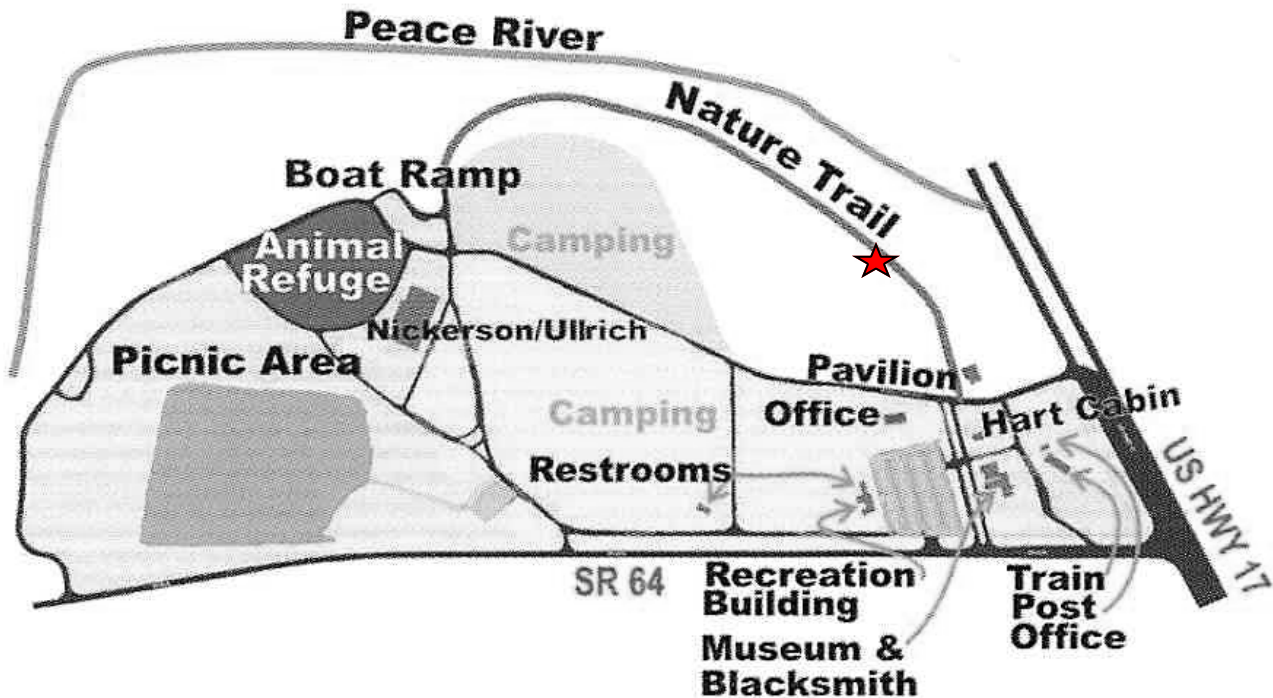
We're having a Summer Party!!!

Sunday, August 15th Time: 11am-????

Please join us.

PRIZES

FOOD



**Contact person: Elida Byard**  
**(239) 829-0570 or cell # (727) 829-6432**

The Club will provide meat and beverages. Just call the contact person listed above and let her know how many will be attending and what dish(es) you want to bring to accompany the meat. This will help us to be sure we buy enough meat and drinks. If you are bringing your own beverages, please be aware the Park DOES NOT allow alcoholic beverages.

**Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs at the intersection of Highway 17 and Highway 64**

## SUGGESTIONS??

We encourage members to let us know what changes or additions you would like to see—speakers—fieldtrips—raffle—anything you think should be changed or ideas for meetings or projects we want to hear them (BE NICE). Seriously, we do want your input. If there's anything in particular you like about the club or meetings, let us know that too, so we'll know how we're doing. This is your club too and we want to make it enjoyable for ALL.

## ARE YOU GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER???

If you are on the email listing, you should be receiving your newsletter via the internet. You should get it by the Monday before the meeting. Whenever you don't receive a newsletter, if you will email or call me to let me know, I will try again. We don't want you to miss out on any of your newsletter copies. If you should change your email address, be sure to email me your new address. You can reach me at either [idigfossils13@embarqmail.com](mailto:idigfossils13@embarqmail.com) or [fossilfreaks2@yahoo.com](mailto:fossilfreaks2@yahoo.com)



**Jerry Licklitter**  
**W. Ray McVay & Carrie O'Brien**  
**Burke Mooney**  
**Greg Mooney**  
**Ryan Routh & Julie Price**

## MINUTES from July 10th Meeting

By: Kathy Caldwell, Secretary

Meeting was called to order by President Chuck Ferrara with 53 in attendance.

The Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$4569.04

New members and guests were introduced.

## OLD BUSINESS

Our annual summer picnic will be August 15, 11:00 at Pioneer Park.

We will not have a regular meeting in August.

We have many items on the sale table: hats, T-shirts, club patches, books and rikers

## NEW BUSINESS

We had a discussion about fossil related TV segments and the latest news.

The new club hats are here.

We will be working on some new designs for club T shirts.

The club will be purchasing a book on Mammalian Osteology. It will be offered for sale at the September meeting.

## FIELD TRIPS

Quality pit

Family Beach trip July 18

## GUEST SPEAKER

Geraldine Vest - President of Gulf Coast Mineral, Fossil & Gem Club.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Not only will we have the new books for purchase at the September meeting, we will also have new club t-shirts with the brand new design!!**

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

By Chuck Ferrara

Today we're talking to Gary Rowe. He has been a club member for 19 years. He is an avid diver and works at Florida West Scuba in Venice and part time for Megalodon Charters in Venice. He has been diving since 1984 and of course he started diving to hunt for shark teeth!

**SO WHEN DID YOU GET STARTED INTO FOSSILS** – I started in 1977 when I came down on vacation from Maine to Venice Florida. I had relatives that lived here so I would stay for a couple of weeks. My aunt and uncle were early shark tooth rakers on Venice Beach and they would find them by the pounds! My cousin still has all his teeth; he never sold any.

**DID YOU JUST PRIMARLY HUNT VENICE BEACH IN THOSE EARLY DAYS-** Yes, at that time you could snorkel 30 ft from the beach. That's where the fossil bed started. It was only 7 ft deep ! Once in a while I will do a land site.

**YOUR FAVORITE FOSSIL IS SHARK TEETH-** Yes, but I do have other fossils too. In those early days after I got certified they didn't have charters for fossil diving. The interest was not there. They wanted to take you spear fishing further out on the deeper ledges. They were afraid "that people would be disappointed if they didn't find any teeth ". I was told this by a boat captain years ago! We have since discovered in the late 90's the bottom is covered with teeth, bones and other goodies. That early diver made the discovery and he made it known to Captain Steve and the rest is history!!

**GOOD OR BAD ARE THE FOSSILS GOING AWAY-**No you just have more people looking for them. They're always going to be there. Access to the beach won't go away. Storms will change things enough to keep new fossils coming up to the surface; also there could be more further out in the gulf. There is so much unexplored area.

**WHAT IS YOUR BEST DAY HUNTING-** It would have to be after I moved down here around

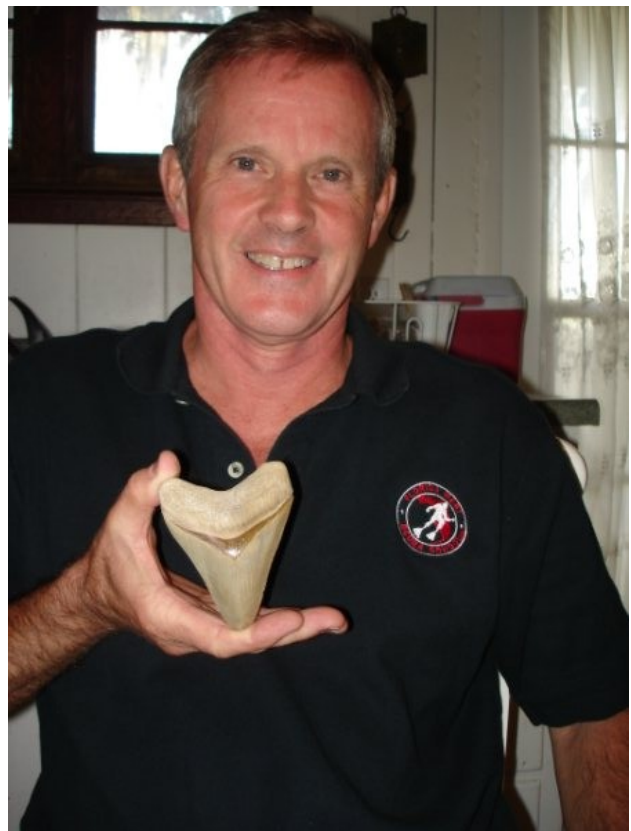
2005 diving off Venice Beach and I found one meg over 4 inches, tan color, and a smaller meg pathological about 2 1/2 inches, tan also with a twist in it.

In the 90's diving off Venice I found two 4 inch megs and one 5 inch meg all on the same dive. That was a good dive.

**WHERE DO YOU SEE THE FOSSIL HOBBY GOING FOR THE FUTURE-** I think it will stay strong but we may be limited on places to go. It all depends on how the fossil hunters conduct themselves now.

**IS THERE ANY OTHER PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO FOSSIL HUNTING-**I would love to go to Aurora even during the Fossil Festival when you and Lydia go, or when the club gets slots to go into PCS. There is a lot to be found up there. I enjoy this hobby very much and hope to keep doing this as long as I can.

Thank you Gary for your time. What great history you told us today. I know you will be diving for a long time to come. Keep up the good work!



## Cracker Trail Museum Zolfo Springs, FL

Organized in 1964 and chartered in 1966, the Peace River Valley Historical Society met monthly at the Woman's Club in Wauchula and plans were very quickly discussed for the "beginning" of an historical museum to be located at Pioneer Park. A grant was obtained through the Fish and Game Commission for \$20,000 and the rest "is history".

Dedication of the "Pioneer Park Museum" was held on June 24, 1967 with the Honorable William H. "Bill" Bevis as Master of Ceremonies. Minutes from the Peace River Historical Society noted that more than 650 individuals signed the guest book that afternoon and there was a constant line at the front door.

Forty-three years have passed since "Cracker Trail Museum" had its dedication in 1967. Twenty-four years after its inception, the Peace River Valley Historical Society disbanded in 1988 and the museum located within Pioneer Park was operated as a county entity.

During the course of these 43 years, Cracker Trail Museum has been the recipient of literally thousands of historical items primarily used in Hardee County. These items were donated to the museum and are on display for public view, each having an identifying mark referencing the donor and in many cases including the history associated with the item.

In addition to the museum building, several other buildings have been donated to Pioneer Park which make up what we refer to as Pioneer Village. On display for outside viewing are the 1850's Hart Cabin, C.A. Bryant Blacksmith Shop and Post Office. These buildings are opened once a year during Pioneer Park Days where blacksmith techniques are demonstrated, tours through the tiny Hart Cabin by the great grandson of Mr. Hart are given and the town of Zolfo operates the post office from which mail can be postmarked.

The lovely Peace River flows through Pioneer

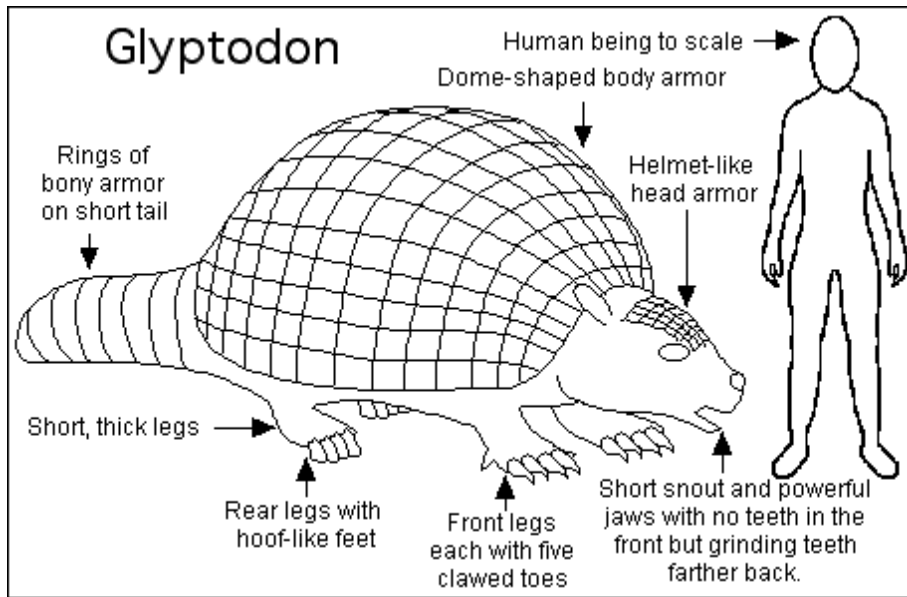
Park which enables visitors to excavate a vast number of fossils, many of which have been donated to the museum and are displayed in six glass cases.

Almost two years ago, the Hardee County Builders Association announced that they would take on a project of constructing an addition to the museum, which would double its present size. The plans are on display inside the museum and the group is working on projects to raise funds for the building materials. This addition hopefully will begin sometime next year.

In the meantime, Cracker Trail Museum is just as active, if not more so, as it was 43 years ago. Approximately 400 school children pass through the front doors during the school year and they leave with a better understanding of what it was like during pioneer times versus the present to which they are accustomed.

Please contact the museum at 863-735-0119 for any other information or visit our website at [www.hardeecounty.net](http://www.hardeecounty.net). Just follow the boxes to Cracker Trail Museum and get a glimpse of what we are all about.





## THEM BONES

### Word Search

S L L C E T S R E A N U  
 L C L P E L V I S A A R  
 A L A A L L R B S S P A  
 S L A P R A C A T E M D  
 R F B U U T L I L G C I  
 A R H O A L A U V L S U  
 T O U U N C A R P A L S  
 A N M M M E T S S N L T  
 T T E U A E S S A A H C  
 E A R B E T R E V H L E  
 M L C R A N I U M P A S  
 C A M U N R E T S E E A

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| BONES       | CARPALS     |
| CLAVICLE    | CRANIUM     |
| FRONTAL     | HUMERUS     |
| METACARPALS | METATARSALS |
| NASAL       | PELVIS      |
| PHALANGES   | RADIUS      |
| RIB         | SCAPULA     |
| STERNUM     | TARSALS     |
| ULNA        | VERTEBRAE   |



Roxane Wilson  
P.O. Box 1308  
Arcadia, FL 34265

## Directions to Pioneer Park Zolfo Springs

**From U.S.41 southbound** turn left on U.S. Highway 17 North in Punta Gorda. Continue North about 50 miles to the Park entrance.

**From U.S.41 northbound** turn right on U.S. Highway 17 North. Continue North about 50 miles to the Park entrance.

**From I-75 northbound** exit at Exit 164. Go North on Highway 17.

**From I-75 southbound** exit at Exit 164. Go North on Highway 17.

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR IMPORTANT INFO & MAP.**