

# BEHIND TIMES

## *The Fossil Club of Miami Newsletter* June 2002

Fossil Club Website: [www.geocities.com/miamifossilclub/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/miamifossilclub/index.html)

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 4, 2002**

---

### **Recap of May's Meeting**

The Fossil Club of Miami held its monthly meeting on May 7, 2002, at the Miami Museum of Science Auditorium. Seventeen members and guests were in attendance.

Members approved of a \$ 100.00 purchase of fossils from the Venice Beach Sharks Tooth Festival, which took place on May 11 & 12, 2002. Scott Prinos was volunteered (without the use of force), to purchase the fossils on behalf of the club. Look for some of these fossils to be in our upcoming June raffle.

Latonia Gillis brought in a fantastic book entitled "A Guide for Identifying Florida FOSSIL SHELLS and other Invertebrates" By Lelia and William Brayfield; Third edition. Copyright 1986 by William & Lelia Brayfield (Transferred 1993 to Florida Paleontological Society, Inc.) ISBN 1-883167-02-7. This is one of the best books on fossil shells she has in her library, and she would like for the club to order some. The book has pages of fossilized shell photographs and identification with more and more members hunting for semi local fossilized shells, this book is a must for any fossilized shell

collector. A copy of this book will be available at our June meeting, along with hundreds of fossilized shells for our June raffle. (Someone has been doing some shell hunting.) At this time we are trying to learn if these books are still for sale. If you are interested, please let us

know. The cost should not exceed \$ 7.00 to \$ 10.00.

:  
Our May raffle at the end of the evening included hundreds of fossilized shells, fossilized sharks teeth, agatized coral, and other fossils brought in by members. A total of \$ 36.00 was collected for the raffle. A note to all members, near and far, we are running low once again on fossils for the raffle, and would ask that you dig in your piles, and bring some in to the next meeting. Special thanks goes out to Latonia Gillis, Frank Perillo, Laura Pullum & Brian Mahoney, who have been bringing in fossils for the raffle, each month.

Please be reminded that Dues are Due Now, for your 2002 membership and newsletter. As of our May meeting, we have 19 paid members.

Dues are \$10.00 for individual or family. Please make checks payable to Delphine Facsina and send payment to Delphine Facsina at 11970 SW 26 Terrace, Miami, FL 33175, or you can make payment at our next upcoming meeting.

**Our next meeting will be June 4, 2002. This will be the last meeting until September 3, 2002.** Traditionally we take the summer off so our members can enjoy their vacations, and go out and collect fossils. We hope to see you all at the June 4th club meeting.

Brian Mahoney  
President



## **Members Adventures...**

**Milly & Bob Ridley** took a trip to Gainesville Florida, where they stopped by the new home of Dr. Hubbell, who was a wonderful host, and gave Milly and Bob a tour of his redesigned mini museum of fossilized sharks teeth. Then they went to the Florida Museum of Natural History. It is the largest natural history museum in the south eastern United States, housing over 16,000,000 specimens of mammals, plants, birds, reptiles, fishes, mollusks, vertebrate and invertebrate fossils. If you would like to visit the museum, they are located inside Dickinson Hall, University of Florida Campus, Museum Road, Gainesville Florida, 32611. Telephone number 352-393-1721.

**Latonia Gillis** brought in some items for our monthly raffle, which included some fossilized Great White shark teeth, pieces of obsidian, and fossilized Florida coral.

**Laura Pullum** went on a fossil hunting trip here in Miami with the Lee County Fossil Club, which she is also a member. It was an amazing trip so close to home. If you would like to apply for membership to the Paleontological Society of Lee County, please contact the club at P.O. Box 151651, Cape Coral, FL 33915-6111 (941)656-6111 .

**Brian Mahoney** brought in dozens of fossilized shells from a quarry in Palm Beach County Florida. There were boxes of fossilized shells for our May raffle.

**Frank Perillo** has been very active locating new fossil hunting areas in Pompano Beach, Ft. Lauderdale and Palm Beach Florida. Frank brought in hundreds of fossilized shells, neatly displayed, which he recently found in a Palm Beach Quarry. His lectures each meeting, combined with his shell displays, are full of information, locations, and recognition of over 65 different species of Florida fossilized shells. One of Franks most interesting displays was a group of different shells, all of which had a

small hole drilled into them. Frank explained how

the Moon Shell, or Oyster Drill Shell, uses a file like tongue to attach itself to other shells, and after drilling a hole into the shell, the Moon Shell sucks out the animal inside.

Frank was also recently in New York, visiting his mother, who we are happy to say she is recovering well from a recent sickness. While he was there, Frank visited an old barn which was on his property, dating back before the Revolutionary War. After an interesting history of the area, and the many uses of the barn, Frank produced two old horse shoes, which appeared to be from the Revolutionary War period. What a nice historic find. Now, just wait a few thousand more years, and the horses should be in their prime state for fossil hunting.

## **Members On Line ...**

More and more, Fossil Club of Miami Members have been communicating on line, with news, events, fossil finds, new books, or just to say hello. If you have a chance, please provide your e-mail address during our next meeting, and a whole new world of fossil information will be at your fingertips. I have been amazed by the clarity of some of the digital photographs of fossils which have been sent in from all over the world; Peru, Russia, Africa, and the US. Don't be left behind. If you have any news, you can send them to [bm@donmahoney.com](mailto:bm@donmahoney.com), and I will try to include them in the next news letter.

## **What's Going On ...**

**Miami Museum of Science**  
Dinosaur Expo: Through June

**Miami Metro Zoo**  
Hands on Exhibit: Features: Animals, trees and aquarium life.

## **River Watch...**

**River Table websites:**

[http://water.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/current?type=flow&group\\_k ey=county\\_cd&search\\_site\\_no\\_station\\_nm](http://water.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/current?type=flow&group_k ey=county_cd&search_site_no_station_nm)

[www.sflorida.er.usgs.gov](http://www.sflorida.er.usgs.gov)

### **Dues, Dues, Dues.....are due.**

Please remember that the fossil club does **NOT** have a checking account.

**Please make checks payable to Delphene Facsina and send payment to Delphene Facsina at 11970 SW 26 Terrace, Miami, FL 33175.** Let's avoid having to return checks that are made payable to the Fossil Club.

Thanks for your help.

President	Brian Mahoney, (305) 271-2715, (305) 553-7066 work email: <a href="mailto:bm@donmahoney.com">bm@donmahoney.com</a>
Vice President	Aaron Buchler, (305) 971-3172 email: <a href="mailto:buchlers@earthlink.net">buchlers@earthlink.net</a>
Treasurer	Delphene Facsina, (305) 226-1710
Secretary:	Brian Mahoney, See above
Editor:	Jan Sellinger (305) 468-9499, email: <a href="mailto:jansellinger@hotmail.com">jansellinger@hotmail.com</a>
Public Relations:	Scott Prinos (305) 232-7393, email: <a href="mailto:smeglodon1@aol.com">smeglodon1@aol.com</a>
Past Presidents:	Aaron Buchler, Tony Perez

THE FOSSIL CLUB OF MIAMI WAS ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF PALEONTOLOGY AND TO EDUCATE, ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST IN THE PROPER TECHNIQUES OF THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF FOSSIL REMAINS.

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE EXTENSIVE COLLECTIONS AND ARE WILLING TO ASSIST OTHERS IN IDENTIFYING THEIR FINDS. OUR MEETINGS ARE INFORMAL AND MEMBERS HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS FOSSIL SITES AND PLAN FIELD TRIPS. EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOSSIL CLUB OF MIAMI IS OPEN TO ANYONE WITH A SINCERE INTEREST IN THE ENJOYMENT OF COLLECTING FOSSILS. DUES ARE \$10.00 A YEAR PER FAMILY. MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, 3280 SOUTH MIAMI AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LAPIDARY WORKSHOP.

### **Upcoming Events...**

#### **The Fossil Club of Miami Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, June 4, 2002 - 7:30pm

Miami Museum of Science

3280 S. Miami Ave, Miami

#### **Paleo Preserve**

Tampa Fossil Hunting: Most Saturdays, call for details

#### **So. Florida Museum of Natural History**

(Formally Graves Museum) Dinosaur preservation classes starting now

#### **Bone Valley Fossil Society's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Fair**

"Year of the Deer"

Saturday, October 5, 2002

Sunday, October 6, 2002

Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland

#### **Florida Fossil Hunters 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Fair**

"Florida's River Fossils"

Saturday, November 9, 2002

Sunday, November 10, 2002

Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando

### **Articles...**

Remember the club needs fossil articles for the news letter, so bring them in to the club meetings, or email them to [bm@donmahoney.com](mailto:bm@donmahoney.com).

**Latonia Gillis** sent in this article "Old Partners" about insects in amber from the Natural History magazine, June 2002.

Organisms preserved in amber are prized by paleontologists because of the fine details they retain. David Grimaldi, of the American Museum of Natural History, recently broke open several pieces of amber to reach 8 primitive termites that had been trapped within the resin 15-20 million years ago, in what is now the Dominican Republic. After dissecting the termites, he gave their guts to Andrew Wier, of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, to examine under an electron microscope. Grimaldi and Wier were hoping to find preserved remains of tiny wood-digesting organisms and then determine how similar they were to microorganisms that live today in the hindguts of *Mastotermes darwiniensis*, the only surviving cousin of the amber prisoners. The researchers were not disappointed. The fossil microbes were strikingly like the modern-day gut residents that break down the wood eaten by *M.*

*darwiniensis* – a sign of remarkable stability in the evolutionary story of this ancient partnership.















