

Southwest Florida Fossil Society Inc



SUMMARY

Mission

The purpose of the Southwest Florida Fossil Society ,Inc. is to promote and foster the science of paleontology through the collection, identification and preservation of fossil remains and provide a regional forum for education, training and experience in the scientific field.

Contact Information

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General Information

Nonprofit	Southwest Florida Fossil Society Inc
Tax Exempt Status	Public Supported Charity
Incorporation Year	2014
State Charitable Solicitations Permit	Yes Aug 2018
State Registration	Yes 0

BACKGROUND & NEEDS

Impact Statement

2017 Accomplishments:

1. Conducted community outreach sessions on fossils: Promote the study and interest in fossils by providing hands-on fossil presentations to local area schools, libraries for summer programs, Girl and Boy Scout troops, etc. Fossil presentations include an introduction to paleontology and Florida's prehistoric geology, what animals, plants and fish lived in prehistoric Florida, fossil coloring/worksheets, interactive displays and a computer presentation showing what the animals looked like and how big they were. Each child also receives a fossil grab bag to take home and enjoy. It is our hope that a spark of interest is ignited during one of these sessions that will lead to further study of fossils and science by some of the attending children.
2. Promoted the study of professional paleontology by granting two \$1000 graduate student scholarships for the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. (ongoing, annual contribution)
3. Promote the study and celebration of fossils by participating in the National Fossil Day Celebration at the University of Florida.
4. Hosted an annual Fossil Expo celebration to include fossil vendors, auctions, children's dig zones, etc. to promote our fossil society and the wonder and study of fossils in general.
5. Presented a paleontological abstract at the Southeastern Geological Society of America, a professional national geological organization.

Needs Statement

Scholarship fund - we give two (2) scholarships every year one in vertebrae paleontology, and one in invertebrate paleontology to deserving grad students in paleontology university of Florida Gainesville since 1997. Last year the board voted to raise the scholarship amount from \$500 to \$1,000 each annually. We also maintain a reserve to build on for the future use. Our funding is separated into three categories: Grant funding, Operations funding and Scholarship funding. The Grant fund – is something we are building to help publish a scientific book authored by the society, or sponsor a scientific publication the museum in Gainesville Florida may publish, or a larger donation to a related interest or research (shark tagging research), etc. The grant fund is a growth fund and not meant to be awarded every year. Our scholarship fund is used annually to provide our two \$1000 annual scholarships. Our operating fund allows us to provide services to our club members, such as monthly presentations from speakers, presentation equipment, credit card processing for members for society purchases of books, riker cases, etc.

Background Statement

The membership of the Southwest Florida Fossil Society [SFFS] is comprised of fossil enthusiasts across Florida, other U.S. states, Canada and Europe, and includes professional paleontologists, geologists and museum curators. Our purpose is to promote and foster the science of paleontology through the collection, identification and preservation of fossil remains. We provide a regional forum for education, training and experience in paleontology in an educational, fun, family-friendly atmosphere. We meet the second Saturday of every month at the Punta Gorda Women's Club: 118 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda, Florida. At each meeting, a professional or highly qualified avocational paleontologist gives a lecture, slide show, or update on current research. Other activities include monthly field trips, raffles, and participation in regional education and outreach events such as National Fossil Day, among others.

In 1983, Mitchell Hope and Bill and Lelia Brayfield formed the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Paleontological Society. Within that first year, the name was changed to the Southwest Florida Fossil Club. The Brayfields lived in Charlotte County, Florida, where (with assistance from the Royal Ontario Museum) they built a facility called the "Brayfield Research Lab" on the back of their property.

In 1997, we initiated a scholarship fund with two scholarships awarded to graduate students in paleontology at the University of Florida/Florida Museum of Natural History.

In 2014 the Southwest Florida Fossil Society incorporated as a not for profit organization under 501 (c). This

allows us to continue our mission of fossil education within our surrounding communities.

Statement from the Board Chair

Our society has served the surrounding areas of southwest Florida for over 30 years. We promote the science of paleontology through the collection, identification and preservation of fossils and provide a regional forum for education, training and experience in paleontology in an educational, fun, family-friendly atmosphere. We work to inspire both children and adults to discover and become interested in the study of fossils as a life time passion. Our monthly meetings provide a forum for us to meet and learn about our prehistoric past with other fossil enthusiasts.

Statement from the CEO/Executive Director

Areas Served

FL

FL- Charlotte

FL- DeSoto

FL- Lee

FL- Sarasota

We have members primarily from Charlotte, Sarasota, Desoto and Lee Counties in Florida, but also have members from other parts of Florida and around the U.S. We also have a small number of members from other countries. Our current membership stands at over 250+ members (this includes family memberships) and we meet monthly in Punta Gorda, Florida. Our monthly meeting consist of guest speakers giving presentations on paleontology, archaeology/paleontology and geology. We also have a youth zone for kids of all ages, a monthly fossil raffle and offer a large variety of fossil reference books suitable for children and adults. Individuals are always welcome at our meetings to come and meet our society members and learn something about fossils and Florida's prehistoric past.

Service Categories

Primary Organization Type

Science & Technology

PROGRAMS

Outreach

Description	Our outreach consist of talks to other organizations (schools, scout troops, etc.) that have an interest in Florida fossil history. Our goal is to inspire these groups (with a particular focus on youth and families) to become interested and pursue that interest in Florida's fossil history. Our outreaches use static displays, fossil giveaways and grab bags for kids as additional items of interest to take home and continue fossil their studies. We also use STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math] tools for outreach sessions to continue to grow society membership for the future.
Budget	\$200.00
Category	Science & Technology, General/Other Science & Technology, General/Other
Program Linked to Organizational Strategy	Yes
Population Served	K-12 (5-19 years) Adults Families
Short Term Success	Changes were made to talk to youth with there parents present to inspire the parents also the parents bring the youth to society meetings and then it turns into a family affair learning together. Outreach could be Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, other organizations who want an interesting talk on megalodon sharks and Florida fossil history, technology has been a distraction to get youth interested in the sciences, smartphone video games. We are constantly evolving our program to attract youth engage their participation.
Long Term Success	Long term success is achieved when we see new members at meetings join the society as a direct result from outreach talks given, also if the outreach talk inspires youth to pursue any interest in the science and we had some influence on that youths career choice. Outreach is always a continuing and ongoing program to reach all groups of any age but to focus on youth and family as much as possible .youth are the future of paleontology.
Program Success Monitoring	We ask how new members heard about the society to gauge all outreach.
Program Success Examples	After the presentation, if they attend a meeting and join the society as a member. Asking all new members at meetings to introduce themselves and tell what fossil interest they have and how they heard about the society. We have seen more new membership talking to youth with the parents, also the introduction of the society youth zone is helping.

MANAGEMENT

CEO/Executive Director

CEO/Executive Director	No Executive Director
CEO Email	N/A

Staff & Volunteer Statistics

Full Time Staff	0
Part Time Staff	0
Staff Retention Rate %	N/A
Professional Development	No
Contractors	0
Volunteers	240
Management Reports to Board	
CEO/Executive Director Formal Evaluation	N/A
Senior Management Formal Evaluation	N/A
NonManagement Formal Evaluation	No

Collaborations

The Aurora Museum (also an educational not for profit organization):
Support and volunteer with the Aurora Fossil museum in Aurora, North Carolina. Cynthia Crane is the executive director of the museum.

Also collaborate with another not for profit organization, "Friends of the Aurora Fossil Museum. This is a fossil support club for the Aurora Fossil Museum. Current president is Lee Cone.

The collaboration between the Southwest Florida Fossil Society and both of the Aurora organizations has been ongoing for over eleven years, due to a shared interest in North American paleontology.

GOVERNANCE

Board Chair

Board Chair	Leslie Newberry
Company Affiliation	BISK Education
Board Term	Jan 2018 to Dec 2019
Board Chair Email	leslie_newberry@hotmail.com

Board Members

Name	Affiliation	Status
Jim Davis	UPS	Voting
Mike Koslowski	Community Volunteer	Voting
Jay Lev	Retired	Voting
Leslie Newberry	BISK Education	
Rich Roettenbacher	Community Volunteer	Voting
Scott Tucker	Contracter	Voting
Roxane Wilson	suntrust	Voting

Board Demographics - Ethnicity

African American/Black	0
Asian American/Pacific Islander	0
Caucasian	7
Hispanic/Latino	0
Native American/American Indian	0
Other	0.0

Board Demographics - Gender

Male	5
Female	2
Not Specified	0

Governance

Board Term Lengths	2
Board Term Limits	99
Board Orientation	Yes
Number of Full Board Meetings Annually	3
Board Meeting Attendance %	95
Board Self-Evaluation	Yes

Written Board Selection Criteria	No
Percentage of Board Making Monetary Contributions	50
Percentage of Board Making In-Kind Contributions	80
Constituency Includes Client Representation	No

Standing Committees

Youth

Education

FINANCIALS

Current Financial Info

Fiscal Year Begins	2018
Fiscal Year Ends	2018
Projected Revenue	\$14,000.00
Projected Expenses	\$11,000.00
Total Projected Revenue includes "in-kind" contributions/ donations	
Endowment Value	\$0.00
Spending Policy Percentage	0

Capital Campaign

In a Capital Campaign	No
Campaign Goal	0

IRS Form 990s

990-N 2016 & 2017

2015 990N

2014 990N

Audit/Financial Documents

Financials

Financials

2015 Financials

2014 Financials

Solvency

Short Term Solvency

Fiscal Year	2017	2016	2015
Current Ratio: Current Assets/Current Liabilities	34.36	11.99	7.20

Long Term Solvency

Fiscal Year	2017	2016	2015
Long-Term Liabilities/Total Assets	0%	0%	0%

Historical Financial Review

Revenue and Expenses

Fiscal Year	2017	2016	2015
Total Revenue	\$8,728	\$17,189	\$10,171
Total Expenses	\$9,101	\$8,716	\$8,549

Revenue Sources

Fiscal Year	2017	2016	2015
Foundation and Corporation Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Government Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0
State	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unspecified	\$0	\$0	\$0
Individual Contributions	\$0	\$6,791	\$360
Indirect Public Support	\$0	\$0	\$0
Earned Revenue	\$6,603	\$6,928	\$8,371
Investment Income, Net of Losses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Membership Dues	\$2,125	\$3,470	\$1,440
Special Events	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue In-Kind	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0

Expense Allocation

Fiscal Year	2017	2016	2015
Program Expense	\$3,436	\$3,396	\$1,425
Administration Expense	\$5,665	\$5,320	\$7,124
Fundraising Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Payments to Affiliates	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue/Total Expenses	0.96	1.97	1.19
Program Expense/Total Expenses	38%	39%	17%
Fundraising Expense/Contributed Revenue	--	0%	0%

Assets and Liabilities

Fiscal Year	2017	2016	2015
Total Assets	\$18,059	\$19,430	\$10,865
Current Assets	\$16,423	\$17,699	\$9,965
Long-Term Liabilities	--	\$0	\$0
Current Liabilities	\$478	\$1,476	\$1,384
Total Net Assets	\$17,581	\$17,954	\$9,481

Top Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2017	2016	2015
Top Funding Source & Dollar Amount	Program Service Revenue \$6,603	Program Service Revenue \$6,928	Sales \$8,371
Second Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	Membership Dues \$2,125	Contributions, gifts, grants \$6,791	Membership Dues \$1,440
Third Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	0 \$0	Membership Dues \$3,470	Contributions, gifts, grants \$360

Comments

Financial Comments by Organization

Our biggest challenge as a small non-profit organization has been to provide the funding necessary to cover the expenses for our events throughout each year. One of our goals in participating in the giving challenge is to be able to establish reserves in our existing funds (grants, scholarship, operating) to plan for additional events and increase our scholarship and outreach programs with a focus on inspiring the study of sciences within our community youth.

Financial Comments by Foundation

Financial information taken from unaudited compilations as the organization files a 990-N. Contributions may include foundation and corporate support as they are not separately stated in the compilations.

PLANS, POLICIES & LICENSES

Plans

Fundraising Plan	No
Communication Plan	No
Strategic Plan	No
Management Succession Plan	No
Continuity of Operations Plan	No

Policies

Written Conflict of Interest Policy	
Nondiscrimination Policy	
Directors and Officers Insurance Policy	No
Whistle Blower Policy	No
Document Destruction Policy	No

Government Licenses

Is your organization licensed by the Government?	No
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Planning & Policies Comments

Planning & Policies Comments by Organization

Our two major annual fundraisers for the fossil society are a fossil auction in February and a fossil exposition in November renting table space to vendors open to the public to purchase fossil items. All funds raised are divided between our three accounts: Scholarships, Grant, Operations. We are a small not for profit organization - all of our board positions are volunteer only.

Planning & Policies Comments by Foundation