

*Everglades Geological Society*  
**BULLETIN**

Volume 12, Number 1

September 2005

September 20, 2005  
6:00 P.M. at Brixz Grill & Bistro (Tuscany Room)  
3583 McGregor Boulevard  
*(social hour starts at approximately 5:00)*

**Speaker:** Mark Renz  
Avocational Paleontologist and Author

**Topic:** Giants in the Storm:  
Mammal Skeletons in a 500,000 Year-Old Florida River Bed

Meeting Sponsored by:

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**P.O. Box 61684**  
**Fort Myers, FL 33906**  
**[www.evergladesgeologicalsociety.org](http://www.evergladesgeologicalsociety.org)**

The Everglades Geological Society is an organization which seeks to promote interest in and understanding of Geology and the related Earth Sciences, and to provide a common organization for those individuals interested in geology and the related earth sciences. The Bulletin is a publication of the Everglades Geological Society, Inc.

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**EGS MEETING THIS MONTH**  
**TUESDAY**  
**September 20, 2005**

**Brixz Grill & Bistro**  
3583 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers  
(please see map on page 6)

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***Members and Prospective Members Come Join Us!!***

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Parting Thoughts from  
Gordon Kennedy, Past President

### My City in Ruins

I believe many of you know that New Orleans is my hometown. So the devastation that occurred on the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coast has had a profound impact on family and friends (and myself). The magnitude of the devastation and near destruction of a major American city seems to have also profoundly affected many Americans. The response by the rest of the country, and world, is amazing and shows the compassion and generosity of the human family.

On a personal level, my family was pretty lucky, with hopefully limited flooding impacts. Eight family members are living at my sister's house in Covington. A number of friends have yet to return to totally flooded houses to see what, if anything, is salvageable. The mass exodus of evacuees/refugees/displaced persons, or whatever term you choose, is incredible. The farthest evacuation I know personally is from New Orleans to London! One of my best friends, a geophysicist and EGS member, evacuated to Tupelo then Nashville, and is settling in Houston for his children to attend school.

The geological community was also affected in a big way. The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) annual convention scheduled this month in New Orleans was cancelled. A few EGS members scheduled to attend or give papers won't get a chance to "let the good times roll" this year. One of my college friends, Mike Ledet, is technical chairman of the convention, and I'm sure he worked really hard to put together the program. Some GCAGS member societies, notably Houston and Lafayette Geological Societies, have offered housing, relocation, and professional assistance to displaced geoscientists. Please check out their websites to see how the geoscience community is responding: [www.hgs.org](http://www.hgs.org) and [www.lgsweb.org](http://www.lgsweb.org). I hope you all can find it in your hearts and pocketbooks to contribute to the relief effort in some way.

I would like to thank everyone, members and Executive Board alike, for making the last EGS season a successful one. The average attendance at meetings was around 20 members. We appreciate the meeting Sponsors whose generous contributions made meeting room rental possible. And of course we thank the speakers themselves who donated their time and technical expertise. Special thanks to Vice-President Mike Weinberg, for lining up a great speaker program, and best wishes for another successful year of the Everglades Geological Society.

My parting thoughts on New Orleans are borrowed from a song Bruce Springsteen wrote following 9/11, My City's in Ruins:

Come on rise up!  
Come on rise up!  
Rise up!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 2005

by Mike Weinberg

I just want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the summer break. Hopefully, the time off was spent enjoyably. We have an exciting year planned for EGS. Our new Vice-President, Curtis Klug, has lined-up Mark Renz, who is one of the premier fossil hunters and a respected author on this subject, to speak at the upcoming September 20th meeting. Be sure and bring along any rock hound friends – they should be very interested in Mark's presentation.

Al Hine from USF is also scheduled to speak this year, with the topic probably being the source and distribution of clastic deposits on the Florida carbonate platform. These sediments, which include the Miocene coarse clastics and the Long Key Formation, are targeted for water supply in some areas of southwest Florida and are also important in understanding the depositional history of our region. Curtis is also finalizing plans for EGS to visit the Winchester quarry south of Immokalee, for

the stratigraphers and fossil hunters among us.

I am also pleased to report that the other officers for the year are: Karen Cheney (Secretary/ Treasurer), Frank Winslow (Editor), Duane Dungan and David Hoffman (Directors), Craig Boomgard (AAPG Delegate), and yours truly as president.

This is also a good time for everyone to thank our outgoing officers, particularly Gordon Kennedy, for his hard work last year. Gordon is sadly relinquishing his executive duties, but will remain on the Board of Directors this year to continue assisting the Society. I look forward to seeing everyone September 20th.

Join Everglades  
Geological Society

*Application forms are  
available at meetings and  
by mail.*

## **This Month's Speaker and Topic:**

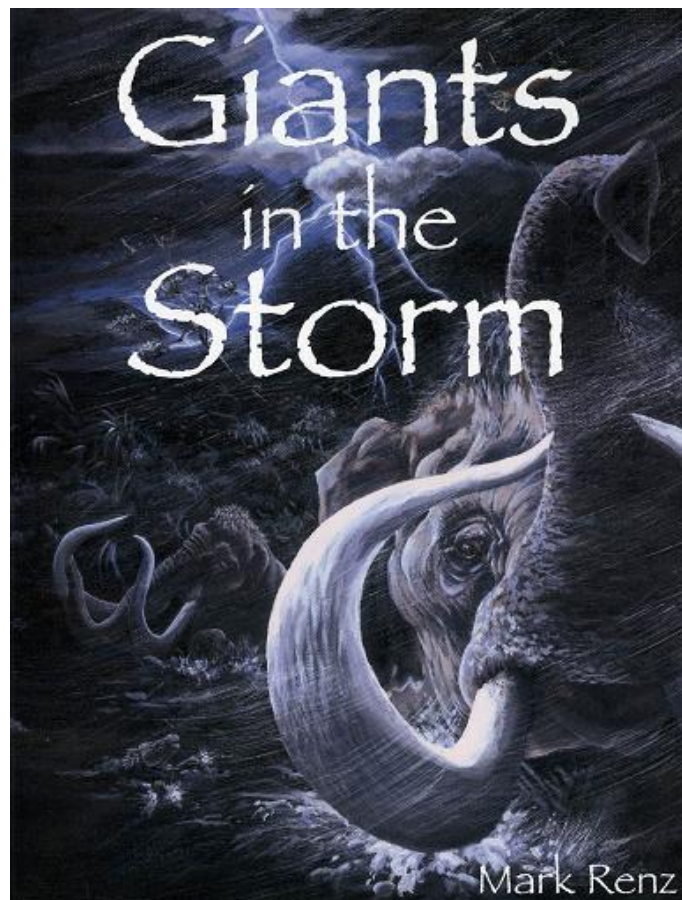
### **Giants in the Storm**

Mammal Skeletons in a 500,000 Year-Old Florida River Bed

*Mark Renz*

Avocational paleontologist Mark Renz stumbles onto a 500,000 year-old Florida river bed and discovers partial skeletons of lumbering mammoth and mastodon elephants, bull-size ground sloths, llamas, Old-World horses, pig-like peccaries, primitive wolves, bears, sabertoothed cats and deer. The discovery triggers many questions. Was it a major storm, flood, drought or plague that killed so many creatures at once? Or do their bones represent one animal dying every ten years for thousands of years? What signs do scientists look for to determine cause and time of death? What are the ethical considerations for amateur fossil hunters who come across such a site? How do you determine who to contact and how to excavate if given permission? Nearly 800 field photos offer tantalizing clues about how these animals lived and died.

From the Foreword: *"All of the dedication and hard work by Renz and his crew, so richly displayed in these pages, has paid off bountifully in fossils from an interval of geologic time that was previously poorly known in Florida. Thanks to them, we now know much more than we did before about the animals that lived in Southwest Florida approximately 500,000 years ago."* -- Dr. Richard C. Hulbert, Jr., Vertebrate Paleontology Collections Manager, Florida Museum of Natural History..



# Biography

## Mark Renz

Fort Myers native Mark Renz is an avocational paleontologist and the author of "Fossiling In Florida: A Guide for Diggers and Divers" (University Press of Florida), "MEGALODON: Hunting the Hunter" (PaleoPress), "Doug's Ark: Thinking Outside the Pile" (PaleoPress), and "Giants in the Storm" (PaleoPress). He and his illustrator wife Marisa operate a SW Florida guide service called Fossil Expeditions. See <http://www.fossilexpeditions.com>.

Mark will have books on hand if anyone would like to purchase a signed copy.



***EGS MEETING CALENDAR  
2004-2005  
November 15  
January 17  
March 21  
May 16***



**Everglades Geological Society**  
Meets on the third Tuesday every other month. Social hour starts at 5:00 PM. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM. No meetings are held in June, July or August.

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