

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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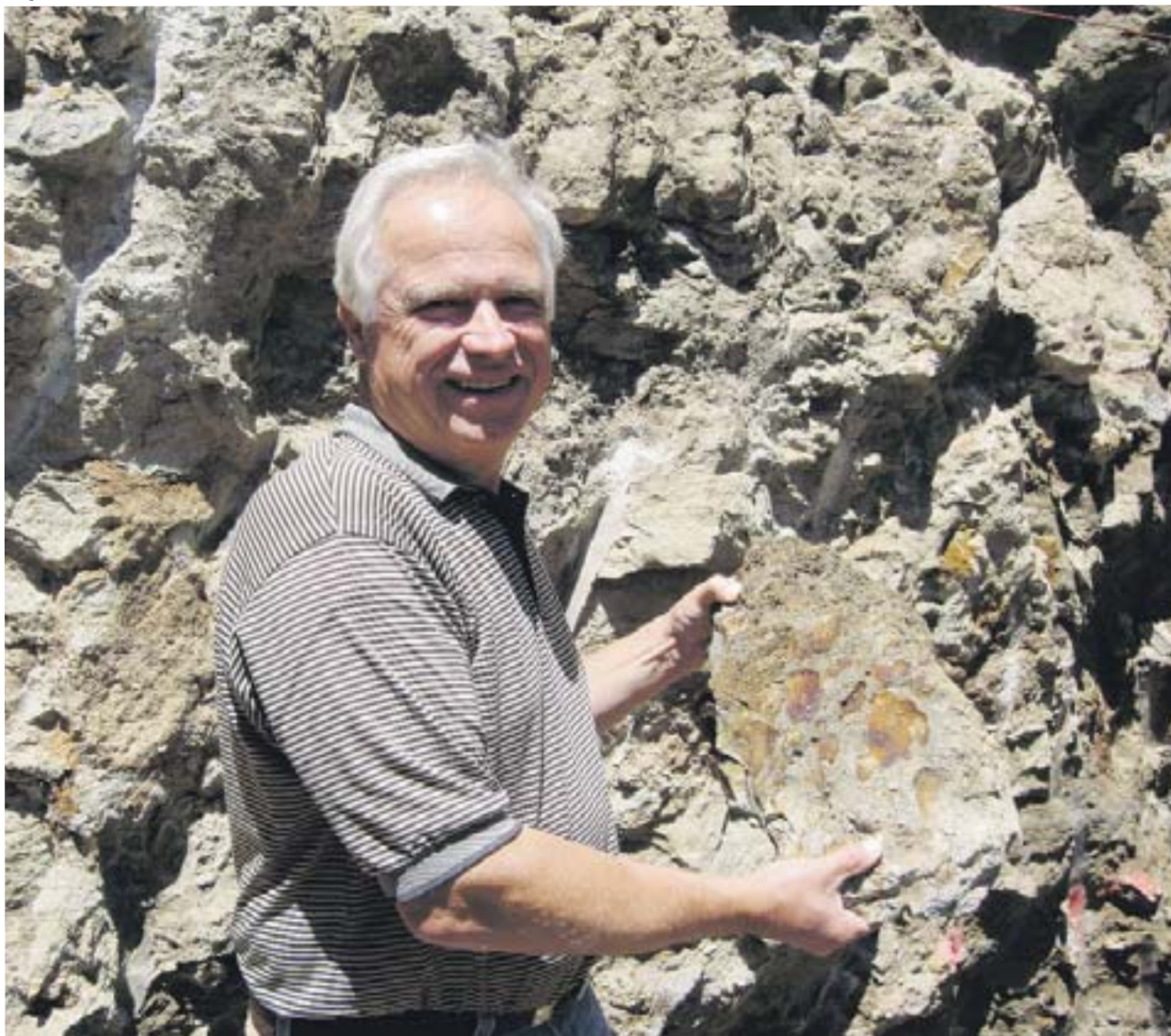
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Beachfront Vineyard in Lafayette?

Cave Dig Unearths 6-10 Million Year-Old Fossils

By Andrea A. Firth



Dave Rey holding stone embedded with marine fossils.

Photo Brett Scheiner

It's a warm day in Lafayette, the temperature is pushing 90 degrees, and Dave Rey stands next to a huge, gaping hole alongside his driveway about five car lengths from his front door. The 20-foot-deep hole is the opening for Rey's wine cave—what will eventually be a 1,000 square foot barrel room for storing and aging the wines produced by the Rey family's Reliez Valley Vineyards. "There are a lot of variables to control for," says Rey, but if all goes according to plan, the subterranean space will keep his wine in a cool 55-degree environment without the need for additional refrigeration and provide a fun space for family and friends to do some wine tasting too.

Excavation for the 30 by 20 foot room was originally estimated to take about two weeks, but about six feet into "the dig" the soil turned to rock and the process slowed significantly. As Brett Scheiner pounded through the hard earth using a hydraulic hoe ram attached to a Caterpillar excavator, he and Rey made a remarkable discovery.

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