



# The Beauí

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)

Meetings 2nd Thursdays, September-April at Fire Station #2, 2070 Waldemere St Sarasota.



## From the Prez

Hello Fellow Shellers!

The holidays are now upon us and I know we are all busy, but I want to remind all of you about our Shoe Box Shell Show at the meeting on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. Please try to bring something to share...just grab a box and arrange your favorites from a field trip in it. Or maybe arrange examples of your favorite species, genus or family. Maybe you'd like to show off shells of your favorite color or shells with unusual features. We'll all have a good time and the winner gets a special treat! Speaking of treats, I'll bring a batch of my sugarplums again for everyone to sample! The photo inset was taken just after our field trip on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>.

On the way home, some of us stopped at Blackthorn park on the Skyway causeway and Debbie Lewton discovered this giant whelk snacking on a quahog clam in about 6 inches of water on seagrass. What a whopper! I hope to see you all at the meeting!



## Check Out This Video

Pteropods are tiny planktonic mollusks. You can see them alive at <http://www.planktonchronicles.org/en/episode/pteropods-swimming-mollusks>

**This meeting  
Thursday, Dec 10  
at 7:00 pm.**

Refreshments are served at each meeting. Bring your own beverage!

Some members will have shells for sale at the meeting and the Artisans will have ornaments for sale.

**Program:**  
**Shoebox Shell Show**  
Also a Powerpoint of shelly cartoons.

[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)

## This Meeting: Shoebox Shell Show

Use your imagination! Show off your shells! Win a prize!

Choose any theme: "Pink Shells" "Shells I got at Lido Beach" "Shells with Weird Names" "Freak Shells"...any theme you want. Pop them in any box top or other container and arrange them any way you like. Put a lining or sand in the box if you want to. Add photos and comments if you want.

Other members will be the judges of your exhibits. Maybe you'll win!

## Library

Linda Greiner



Our library has moved to Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list is on the club website. For more info on some books go to [www.mdm.com](http://www.mdm.com).

We have several shell craft books that teach you how to make flowers, animals and other various types of shell art.

Come join me to browse out library. I can bring books to meetings. You may want a book to help with your exhibit at the show or just educate yourself about shells and marine life, as well as identify shells from field trips.

Just call me at 941-993-5161 or email me at [luvseashells@gmail.com](mailto:luvseashells@gmail.com) to talk about our exciting books!

## From the Artisans.....

by Peggy Williams

The Artisans are participating in an art show at Sarasota Suncoast Technical College on Wednesday, December 9 from 10 am to 7 pm. It will be a beautiful place to buy unique Christmas presents.

The college is at 4748 S Beneva Rd in Sarasota, just east of Proctor Rd and is on the north side of the road. Go to Building #3, indoors.

**If anyone wants to buy ornaments for their tree, there will be some for sale at the December meeting.**

The Artisans can use any and all jewelry, even if broken. They also need grunge (high wash sand with shells in it) from beaches and any shells washed up, broken or not. There's a special need for middle sized shells (1-1 1/2") to fill the free bags we give out to shell show attendants.

Please be generous: everything will be used to make beautiful things

## 2015-16 Membership

Mary Jo Bopp



Renewal of your membership is **PAST DUE NOW**. Please fill out your form (found on our website), make a **check** out to SSC for \$15 (single) or \$20 (family) and mail both to me at

Mary Jo Bopp, Membership Chair  
5207 10th Ave Dr W  
Bradenton, FL 34209

## The odd tale of the clever octopus

Known for assembling sea scraps into impromptu forts used for stalking prey, the veined octopus is one of the most cunning predators in the Pacific Ocean's tropical waters.

Setting the tone with a pulsing, ominous score, Jose Lachat's short nature video features a veined octopus taking cover in a clam shell in a quiet and calculating search for its next meal.

<http://aeon.co/video/science/drole-dhistoire-octopus-cleverand-clean/>

[ed. note: Watch for the two predators that miss catching the crab before the octopus is ultimately successful!]

## Unique headsets



## The Salt Ponds of Eleuthera

by Peggy Williams

There are “blue holes” throughout the Caribbean, but most are offshore.

Eleuthera, an island in the Bahamas has many of them on land, where they are called “Salt Ponds”. On my recent trip there, I explored two of these, as I usually do. On leaving the island, I met a scientist who is studying the population of sea horses in one of them.

She told me that there is a local scientist living on the island who has explored many more. I forget for sure how many she said had been visited, but I think it was 37! And there are more that haven't been seen by her.

Many of these are on private land and/or require harrowing treks through the underbrush to reach. I am hoping to do more research with these two people to learn more about the salt ponds.

These deep holes seem to be the results of sinkholes like we have in Florida except that ours are caused mostly by the underground aquifer being depleted, leaving a cavern with a thin roof above it. The roof collapses and *voila*: a sinkhole!

I don't know what causes the ones on the island, but, according to my new friend, there is no outlet in the one she is studying but instead appears to be a porous area in the seaside quadrant that causes tidal changes (and a current) in the pond as the tide changes in the ocean outside. The other pond I've visited is the same.

The animals in these ponds are restricted to a few species, some of

which have evolved to present very different characteristics than their progenitors in the outer ocean. For instance, the keyhole limpets are extremely high spired and darker than the ones outside.

In fact, three “new” species of mollusk have been recognized as such and described by scientists. *Chicoreus dunni* lives in the Great Oyster Pond. It's ancestor is obviously *Chicoreus florifer* which is common in the bays of Eleuthera.



*dunni & florifer* by G Thomas Watters

Two species of Marginella were named for Jim Cordy and Jim and his wife as *Prunum jimcordyi* and *Prunum cordyorum*. I am aware of at least one other species that I think is undescribed as well.

Unfortunately, so many shellers visiting Eleuthera have hunted these new species both for their own collections and to sell to dealers or the public that they are now much more scarce than originally. Also, murex no longer can be found as large as the originals because of culling for the largest examples. One of the marginellas, too, is getting scarce: where I originally could find twenty under a rock about 6” long I could find no more than five under any rocks this last time.



## Holiday Party

The annual Holiday Party was at the Courtyard by Marriot on the riverfront in Bradenton on Saturday, December 5th. The meals were delicious as usual, and the service was good. We had plenty of time to visit with other club members and look over the auction items before dinner began. About 40 members attended, some of whom we seldom see at our meetings.

The auction was fun, with Sally playing auctioneer and calling on her husband, Frank, when he was supposed to bid on something for her. There was spirited, determined bidding on several items, and I think the most expensive went for \$75, with others stopping at \$5. Some items did not sell for their beginning price and they will be used for raffle items at our shell show in February.

Everyone enjoyed the time together. We were especially glad to see Sandy Pillow, who had been driven down from her northern home for a stint in Florida. Her sister and husband were with her, and she looked pretty good for someone as ill as she is. Fran Schlusseman also came with her daughter Eileen Hansen. Fran and Sandy are recent recipients of honorary lifetime membership for their labor in the past in behalf of the club.

## Historian's Report

by Duane Kauffmann

### 50 Years Ago

Twenty-five members and several guests attended the November 4, 1965 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club held at the Sarasota Bank and Trust Building. A balance of \$290.22 was in the Club treasury.

The Christmas party will held December 16<sup>th</sup> at Perkins Pancake House. Those attending should bring a \$1 gift for the exchange. Members decided on the Delmonico steak entrée.



A trip to the Ft. Myers Shell Museum is planned for Nov. 14.

Roger Early gave an "enjoyable" and "enlightening" one hour program on index shells. These shells are important in understanding geological ages.

### 25 Years Ago

The archives of the SSC do not contain minutes for a November 1990 meeting.

There is however a detailed treasurer's report indicating a balance of \$4545.54.

## Field Trips, Etc

*Sally Peppitoni*



Trips must be paid for by check made out to Sarasota Shell Club. I will **always** send out an e-mail of pertinent information before the trip

goes.

**December 14 (Mon) – 8am, Carefree Learner** leaves out of Marina Jacks in downtown Sarasota. \$5 per person CASH ONLY. **TRIP FULL!**

**January 9 (Sat) Fossil Trip THIS TRIP IS FULL.** See Ron Bopp to be put on waiting list for this trip.

**January 11 (Mon) – 7am, Carefree Learner** leaves out of Marina Jacks in downtown Sarasota. \$5 per person CASH ONLY.

**January 23 (Sat) – New Smyrna Dunes Park** on the east coast.

**January 26 (Tues) – 7am, Carefree Learner** leaves out of Marina Jacks in downtown Sarasota. \$5 per person CASH ONLY.

**NO FIELD TRIPS IN FEBRUARY DUE TO SHELL SHOW**

## A Puerto Rican Journey

text & photos by Duane Kauffmann



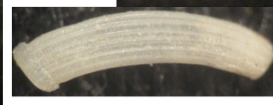
Shell Club members will remember that opportunity was provided to go on collecting trips. One of the trip options was Puerto Rico. What follows is a brief account of the spring 2015 journey to that location led by club member Peggy Williams.

After all 7 members of the group had assembled in San Juan, a late afternoon trip to a nearby beach generated a chance to begin sampling the molluscan possibilities. For this collector, the highlight of this first stop was an unbroken *Epitonium lamellosum* found wedged under a rock.

Day two began the 100-mile journey to our destination at La Parguera on the southwest coast. On the way was a stop at Jobos Beach. For me, this turned out to be the highlight stop of the trip. Across a small dune was a large expanse of beach with a drift line of immense size and it was chock-full of shells. I collected as many macro-sized shells as I could and as time drew short,



filled several containers with grunge. Ultimately I have a list of 147 species from this location. Among the mini and micro highlights were *Alvania gradata* (left), *Caecum cycloferum* (below), *Caecum lineicinctum*, *Eratoidea hematita*, *Eulithidium tessellatum* (below left), *Opalia pumilio*, *Pyramidelloides carinatus*



*Vanikoro sulcata*.

Day 3 (as well as days 5 and 6) were devoted to boat trips to a number of off-shore reef sites. The snorkelers in the group were taken to deeper water, while the walkers went to the shore. The highlight of the boat trips included time in a Bay noted for an abundance of the ornate *Chicoreus brevifrons*.



Day 4 began with a car trip to several beaches east of La Parguera. The first of these stops turned out to be my second most productive. After a hike of modest length down the beach, I found a shallow cove with some beach grunge, a few rocks of modest size in shallow water, and nearby grass beds. I found *Morum oniscus*, *Smaragdia viridis*, *Pyramidella dolabrata*, and *Rhombinella laevigata*. I was deeply involved in my collecting, and far enough away to be out of shouting range, so an emissary had to come tell me it was time to (prematurely!) leave.

The final day we drove back toward San Juan but included two stops to look for terrestrial snails. There were a good variety of species, the largest of which is the two inch specimen shown in the photo.



A fascinating cast of characters, a species rich collecting milieu, and warm tropical marine waters; it doesn't get much better than that.

## Board Members

Sally Peppitoni	President
Nancy Marini	Vice President
Bruce Paulsen	Treasurer
Donna Bartels	Recording Secretary
Peggy Williams	Corresponding Sec'y

**Board:** Donna Krusenoski-1, Deborah Deam-1, Donna Cassin-2, JoAnn Mancuso-2, Harry Berryman-3, Karen Paulsen-3

## Committee Chairmen

Artisans:	Nancy Marini
Beauti:	Peggy Williams 355-2291
Historian:	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips:	Sally Peppitoni
Librarian:	Linda Greiner 993-5161
Membership:	Mary Jo Bopp
Shell Show:	Board
Sunshine:	Karen Ciffin

## Calendar

Please note dates on your own calendars!

<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>Shell Club Meeting</b>
<b>Dec 14</b>	Carefree Learner field trip
<b>Jan 9-10</b>	Astronaut Trail Shell Show
<b>Jan 11</b>	Carefree Learner field trip
<b>Jan 14</b>	Shell Club meeting
<b>Jan 16-17</b>	Broward Shell Show
<b>Jan 23</b>	New Smyrna Dunes Park (east coast of Florida)
<b>Jan 26</b>	Carefree Learner field trip
<b>Feb 11</b>	<b>no meeting!</b>
<b>Feb 11-13</b>	<b>Sarasota Shell Show</b>
<b>Feb 20</b>	FL United Malacologists Sanib
<b>Feb 27-28</b>	St Petersburg Shell Show
<b>March 2-4</b>	Sanibel Shell Show
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Shell Club meeting</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Last Shell Club mt of season</b>
<b>April, May</b>	Shell shows in Europe
<b>June 18-19</b>	Gulf Coast Show, Panama City
<b>July 9-10</b>	Australian Shell Show

[More info on Calendar Events](#)

available from Peggy Williams.

## To Find Sarasota Tides

<http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?site=Sarasota%2C+Sarasota+Bay%2C+Florida+%282%29>

Site will show the week's tides. Go to prediction options below for one-month calendar. Choose options: Suppress, Suppress, Show, Show; Start at desired year & month. Choose hour format, show day.

### Meetings on the

second  
Thursday of  
Sept through  
April at 7:00  
p.m., at  
Waldemere



Fire Station, 2070  
Waldemere St. in  
Sarasota. Park in small  
lot on the right or in  
nursing home lot across  
the street.

**Dues:** New Single  
Members \$21.50 New  
Family Members (2+ at  
same address) \$33.00.

**Renewals:** \$15.00  
for Single, \$20.00 for  
Family (2+ at same  
address).

**If you want your  
newsletter printed and  
mailed add \$15.00.**

## Sarasota Shell Club

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Sarasota, FL 34230-4124

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[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)

Sarasota Shell Club Meeting October 8, 2015

Sally Peppitoni, President called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Waldemere Fire Station. There were 37 members and 1 guest present. She announced the program for the evening would be 'Six Winter Shell Shows' presented by Phyllis Gray.

Sally also announced that Field Trip Sign-Up Sheets were available on a table in the front of the room.

The September meeting minutes were printed in the monthly newsletter. Peggy Williams moved to accept the minutes as printed, Keith Ide (2nd), motion unanimously carried. Minutes for September accepted and filed.

Bruce Paulsen, Treasurer gave the report. The club has \$16,540.04 in our account.

Donna Cassin, Shell Show Co-Chair, called for volunteers to sign up for the Shell Show in February 2016. She also announced that Shell Show Flyers are available.

Nancy Marini, Vice President announced the November meeting program would be 'What the Heck are those shells in my back yard' presented by John Colagrande. The December meeting program will be a Shoebox Shell Show. The artisans will be participating in Bayfest on Anna Maria Island October 17, 2015; there will be lots for sale. Nancy also put out a call that donations of auction items are needed for our Holiday Party in December.

Linda Greiner, Librarian wants everyone to know the Shell Club Library is open, please give her a call to acquire the books you would like to use. Linda had 3 shell identification books at the meeting if interested. She also mentioned that Bailey Mathews Shell Museum pamphlets that identify local Florida shells are available.

Mary Jo Bopp, Membership, membership is now at 126. Please renew your membership. Mary Jo presented a new display for our members board used at the Shell Show.

Field Trips: Sally reported our next Beach Walk with breakfast would be October 17, 2015 on Anna Maria Island with breakfast at the Rod and Reel Pier, breakfast is first and than shelling after. Trip to Honeymoon/Caladesi Island is October 31, 2015, Sally will be at the Honeymoon Island Restaurant at 8:00 AM, low tide is at 9:10 AM, group will shell Honeymoon Island first and than those interested can take the ferry to Caladesi Island at 10:00 AM, there is a charge for the ferry. Trip to south end of the Skyway November 14, 2015, Sally will be in the Parking Lot at 8:00 AM and low tide is at 9:00 AM, please wear water shoes and clothes that you do not mind getting wet. Trip to Fort Desoto Park November 28, 2015, sign up sheet is available. Next Carefree Learner trip is December 14, 2015, cost is \$5 cash. There will be two more Carefree Learner trips in January 2016.

Peggy Williams, Newsletter, asked if everyone enjoyed the articles published in the Newsletter and there was an overwhelming "YES".

Sunshine, Lynn Gaulin had surgery and is recovering well. No other sunshine items reported.

Artisans, Nancy Marini, the artisans will have 5 tables at the Anna Maria Island Bayfest October 17, 2015. The artisans will be hosting an Open House at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church November 15, 2015 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM to introduce church members to the Shell Club and our new location at the Church.

Old Business – None.

New Business, Terry Jones one of our current Board Members submitted a letter of resignation as a Board Member. Donna Krusenoski was nominated as a replacement, no other nominees from the floor. Nancy Marini moved to accept Donna and Bruce Paulsen (2<sup>nd</sup>), the motion was carried, Donna Krusenoski is our new Board Member.

Sally adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Rosanne Roble for Donna Bartels, Recording Secretary.