



# 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 shell lovers!

I'm excited about our guest speaker this month! Captain Doug Jeffries has spoken with us before about shelling at his other home in the Philippines and shown us wonderful

photos. This time he is going to speak to us about how unscrupulous people alter ordinary shells to make them look like more valuable species and how we can spot them. I can't wait to hear it!

A number of our members went on the Beach and Breakfast trip to the north end of Longboat Key on October 25th and had a great time. According to Bruce Paulson there were LOTS of live olives crawling around the beach. If you've never seen a gathering of olives, it is pretty neat. The trails they leave make the beach look as if someone has been trying to write messages on the sand in a weird alphabet!

Just this last Tuesday some of the artisans and guests met and made beautiful shell Christmas ornaments to sell at our booth at the Mixon's festival at the end of November. Even I joined in the fun and made a bunch of ornaments!

We still have spots on a number of upcoming fieldtrips (see fieldtrips column in this issue) and some new ones for January will have sign-up sheets at this upcoming meeting. The board will also meet at 5pm Nov. 13 and then at 6pm we will have a shell show meeting before the regular meeting begins at 7pm. All members are free to sit in and listen at these meetings.

**Next meeting November 13**  
**Program: Doug Jeffries on**  
**"How to Spot Fake Shells"**  
**Some members will have shells**  
**for sale at the November**  
**meeting. Bring cash or checks!**  
**Shell Show Feb. 13-15, 2015**  
**[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)**

Even if you don't want to sit in on the meetings, don't forget our marketplace before the 7pm meeting! There will be lots to see and buy! Also don't forget to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage to enjoy with our refreshments.

The annual Christmas banquet and auction will be December 5th at the Courtyard Marriot on the river in downtown Bradenton. This meeting is your last opportunity to buy tickets. The food will be fabulous! You can get either fish or chicken for \$25 per person or you might try filet mignon for \$35 per person. After the dinner we'll have a fun auction with a great auctioneer and loads of wonderful goodies to bid on. Don't miss out! Bring cash or checkbook to get your tickets at the meeting.

Lastly, the shell show is right around the corner and I can't believe it is already November! Be thinking of how you would like to help with the show this year. I will have some preliminary sign-up sheets for various jobs that will need doing at this meeting. Please do your part as a member and help make this show a HUGE success.

November, 2014



## 2014-15 Membership Information

Lynn Gaulin, Membership  
chair

The **November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting is the deadline** for members' to renew their membership for the 2014-2015 club year. If membership forms are received after that date, your name will not appear in the roster but you can still join the club. If your permission was given on the membership form for your personal information to be included in our club's roster booklet, your name will appear along with this information.

Any membership forms received after that date, your name will not be in the roster. Exceptions to this deadline are those members who joined our club after the Shell Show last February, 2014 and whose membership continues through August, 2015.

If you are not sure, see Lynn at the club meeting. Be sure to bring a check just in case your membership is due. Membership forms are available on our club's website, [SarasotaShellClub.com](http://SarasotaShellClub.com) or from Lynn at the club meetings. Roster booklets should be available in December, 2014.

If you joined our club after February 1, 2013 your membership is current through August 2015.

## Field Trips, Etc

Sally Peppitoni

Please remember that Carefree Learner trips must be paid for in CASH! Thank you!

### November 24<sup>th</sup> - Beach & Breakfast

Sarasota Bay, where Indian Beach Drive turns north and becomes Bay Shore Rd, in Sarasota. We will meet at 7:45 am and have breakfast later at the Toasted Mango Café on Hwy 41 just north of the Fruitville Rd intersection.

### November 29<sup>th</sup> – Anclote Key Trip #2

Windsong Charters, 5015 US Highway 19, New Port Richey, boat leaves at 9am so be at the marina between 8:30 and 8:45am. At this time I only have 7 members signed up so I am reserving a smaller boat than last time for cost effectiveness.

### December 5<sup>th</sup> – Carefree Learner

The *Carefree Learner* will leave from Marina Jack's in Sarasota at 7 am. The cost is \$5 per person and I will have a sign-up sheet for this at the November meeting. We will try some new locations in and around Sarasota Bay for shelling.

### December 6<sup>th</sup> – Beach and Breakfast

We will meet at Nokomis Beach, in Nokomis, at 7am. Breakfast location TBA later.

### December 13<sup>th</sup> – Big Hickory Key

Big Hickory Key is just south of Fort Myers Beach and Lover's Key State Park. I will have a sign-up sheet for those interested in this trip at the October meeting to see how many would go. I cannot give a cost until I see how big a pontoon boat we need to rent. We've only got 15 signed up at this time and that is not enough to get the big boat. I'm going to see what else they have available.

### December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Carefree Learner

The *Carefree Learner* will leave from Marina Jack's in Sarasota at 7 am. The cost is \$5 per person and I will have a sign-up sheet for this at the November meeting. We will try some new locations in and around Sarasota Bay for shelling.

### January 7<sup>th</sup> - Carefree Learner

The *Carefree Learner* will leave from Marina Jack's in Sarasota at 8 am. The cost is \$5 per person and I will have a sign-up sheet for this at the November meeting. We will try some new locations in and around Sarasota Bay for shelling.

### January 10<sup>th</sup> - Shell Island Shoal

More information about this trip will be available at the November meeting.

### January 20<sup>th</sup> - Carefree Learner

The *Carefree Learner* will leave from Marina Jack's in Sarasota at 8 am. The cost is \$5 per person and I will have a sign-up sheet for this at the November meeting. We will try some new locations in and around Sarasota Bay for shelling.

November, 2014



## October Historian's Report

by Duane Kauffmann

### 50 YEARS AGO

Sixteen members and guests attended the October 18, 1964 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club in the Palmer Bank Building; President Jack Oberle presiding.

Minutes from an October 1 meeting of the Board were noted. Shell show dates March 19-21 at the Lido Beach Sunrise Room.

Since Margie Moore, Vice President, had resigned there was discussion of a replacement. After discussion, it was agreed attendance at this meeting was low and action was tabled.

Secretary Byron Riggle gave an illustrated program on "phases of shell collecting"

### 25 Years Ago

The meeting of October 12, 1989 was held at the Mote Marine facility.

A trip on the Carefree Learner was announced. The planned date had a -.9 tide.

Dick Forbush gave an educational talk on "Shell Reproduction." Gert Mueller gave the slide program entitled "World of Shells."

## Holiday Party and Auction

The event will take place December 5, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Bradenton. It's just off Manatee Ave (SR64) on the bay front.

Food choices are: Chicken or Fish (Salmon) for \$25 or Filet Mignon for \$35. Price includes taxes and tips.

The Auction is always lots of fun and will include shells and shell related items, including several works by the Artisans. Bring your checkbooks!

Pay for your place at this month's meeting!



## Librarian

Linda Greiner, Librarian

The list of books in our library are now on [sarasotashell-club.com](http://sarasotashell-club.com)!

If you want to check out a book or just browse our

library at Hwy. 70 in Bradenton, call me at 941-355-0586 or email me at [luvseashells@gmail.com](mailto:luvseashells@gmail.com).

You may want a book to help with your exhibit at our Shell Show. For more information on some of our books, go to [mdmbooks.com](http://mdmbooks.com).

Lots of exciting books to study and read!



## Educational

by Peggy Williams

We are thinking of having a two-part educational program for January/February. "Grunge" is sand picked up from beach high wash or underwater that

contains miniature shells. You go through it with the air of magnification to pick out the shells.

One session would be picking out the shells, and the other identifying them.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lynn Gaulin at [shellhunter@gmail.com](mailto:shellhunter@gmail.com) or (585) 671-2103 (cell) or (941) 755-1270. We need to have an idea of how many will be coming.



**"Wipe Your Tummy"**



November, 2014

## Successful Shelling

by Peggy Williams

At the end of October I led a group to Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico (on the Sea of Cortez). There were eight of us, and I wrestled a 15-passenger van for a week.

The shells were so abundant that the group decided they didn't have room for any more in the luggage and we shouldn't go shelling on the last day!

The day we landed we visited a bay near Hermosillo in the afternoon. We got about 15 species of shells there, most of them dead. This is an area that shell fishermen use for their boat storage, so some of the species fell off the boats and have been reproducing ever since; others are native to that environment.

After a rather long drive to San Carlos, a suburb of Guaymas, we registered at our hotel, a Best Western, and fell into bed.

The next day we visited a beach popular during the weekends but nearly deserted on weekdays. A few people live there, but most of the buildings are weekend getaway homes and restaurants. There was no one else on the beach and our group walked along, happily finding sundial shells, turret shells, big yellow cockle shells, coquinas, and many other species.

Later we met other shellers, two of whom have a home in San Carlos, and another visiting them, to join them going to an isolated beach on a long, winding and rutted dirt road. This beach had been changed during the hurricane that brushed the area in the fall, so there wasn't much on it, but I got to talking to a guy who lives there and has a clever solar panel arrangement that powers his music, refrigerator, lighting and TV. He's just a fisherman, but quite a hard worker, it seems!

He told me about a pile of black murex down another dirt road (left by fishermen), so we went there and got several nice, 5-7" specimens, plus large crown conchs. There was also a turtle carapace, which of course we left there. We drove back squinting into the sun as it set over a beautiful sea and mountains. We had a wonderful meal (mine was fresh caught shrimp) to celebrate.

The next day we went to a village (down another dirt road) where I have bought a few shells in the past. To my delight, there were at least six tables set up selling shells, including

Tent Olives (which are the largest olives in the world), Grinning Tuns, Three species of Strombus (conch), Pacific Horse Conchs, sea life, and more, including Lion's Paws (though not pairs).



On subsequent days we returned to the village and beach, visited others, and waded in bays. We found another bonanza of dumped shells, including small Helmets (they look like Scotch Bonnets) and Pink-mouthed Murex. The shelling was phenomenal!

Next year, on Thanksgiving week, I have another trip planned to the same area. Cost



to shell club members will be \$2125-\$2565, depending on how many sign up, and that price includes airfare from Tampa. A deposit of \$1000 will save you a place. Don't wait too long!



*Purchased shells*

November, 2014

## A Discovery

by Peggy Williams

The Bahamian island of Eleuthera has several salt ponds. These ponds have been in existence for possibly hundreds of years and have an outlet to the sea far underwater. I'm told that someone went down to 80 feet deep in one and didn't find the outlet.

There are very few organisms in the ponds because of their isolation, and those that are there have been there for a long time. Some of them have developed into new species unique to the pond they live in.

Three species of mollusk have been named from there in recent years. The first was *Chicoreus dunni*, a murex that evolved from *Chicoreus florifer*, the West Indian Lacey Murex, which is related to our own *Chicoreus dilectus*, the Florida Lacey Murex. Named by Ed Petuch in 1987, in its best state it is pure black and reaches about 3 inches in size. However, because so many collectors have been taking these shells in recent years, it is hard to find a full sized live one any more, and few are found less than one inch.



*Chicoreus dunni*  
Petuch, 1987

I recently took a group to Eleuthera, and among the group was Jason Hall, who is primarily interested in Marginellas (like our 1/2 inch common Marginella). He had me make him a hand dredge to use for these sometimes tiny species and was quite successful in finding them with the dredge.

Of course, he was especially interested in the salt ponds because two new species of Marginella were recently named from them:



*Volvarina jimcordyi* and *Volvarina cordyorum*, both named by Cossignani in 2009 and 2007. I had been aware of these shells for about 20 years, but Jim Cordy had only recently become

aware of them and found the right pond! He got them to Cossignani, so they were named for him and him and his wife (*cordyorum* means more than one Cordy).

Since Jim takes groups to Eleuthera at least twice a year, and since he has been aware of the pond since at least 2006, and since Jim likes to collect shells to trade, I was afraid these Marginellas would have been overcollected, and I was correct. We did find quite a few of the *cordyorum* but not nearly as many as I had seen in prior trips.

I had only ever collected one of the *jimcordyi*, however, and it was feeding on a dead crab. The crabs in the pond are large spider-type animals, and some people eat them.

I found five dead crabs, and I gently blew away the soft sand inside the carapace of one, and I found seven of the *jimcordyi*! I called Jason and together we spent time demolishing some of the other crabs to search for more. In one crab I found about 30 marginellas and also some *Caecum* (about 2 mm in size!)

The crabs stank, and so did my hands! I discovered that the shells also stank! I put them in alcohol in Fuji film cans (which don't leak) to take them home, and they still smelled when I took them out!

## A Chuckle Online

Check out this animated film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=badHUNI2HXU&list=PL7B811C9587F0595A>

## First Trip Coming Up

The first of the discounted-to-members shelling trips is in January! I have some others interested, and you should be too!

The trip is to the Yucatan Peninsula, and includes a visit (if wanted) to a Mayan ruin and market of items for sale from across Mexico.

Nearly all the shells you find will be beach, dead shells, or possibly shells you can purchase. A few of them are the same as those we find in Florida, but many are different, and one is endemic (only found there) to the Yucatan.

Dates: **Jan 16-23**; price: Deposit **\$900**, total **\$1150-1600**, depending on how many.

November, 2014

## Board Members

Sally Peppitoni President  
Nancy Marini Vice President  
Bruce Paulsen Treasurer  
Donna Bartels Recording Secretary  
Peggy Williams Corresponding Sec'y  
**Board:** Donna Cassin, JoAnn Mancuso, Terry Jones, Rosanne Roble, Deborah Deam, Harry Berryman

### Committee Chairmen:

Artisans: Nancy Marini  
*Beau*: Peggy Williams 355-2291  
Historian: Duane Kauffmann  
Field Trips: Sally Peppitoni  
Librarian: Linda Greiner 941-993-5161  
Membership: Lynn Gaulin  
Shell Show: Board  
Sunshine: Karen Ciffin

### November's Low Tides

Nov 7 Fri 7:18 -.22	Nov 23 Su 7:46 -.36
Nov 8 Sat 8:00 -.23	Nov 24 M 8:30 -.38
Nov 9 Sun 8:45 -.17	Nov 25 Tu 9:17 -.35
Nov 10 M 9:27 -.09	Nov 26 W 10:07 -.26
Nov 22 Sa 7:05 -.29	Nov 27 Th 10:58 -.12

## Calendar

Please note dates on your own calendars!

**Nov 8 1 pm** Book auction/sale at Seminole Rec Center (St Pete)  
**Nov 13, 7 pm** regular meeting, Waldemere  
**program: Doug Jeffries on "How to Spot Fake Shells"**  
**6 pm** sales of shells, etc.  
**Nov 24 7:45 am** Beach & Breakfast, Sara.  
**Dec 5, 7 am** Carefree Learner Trip  
**Dec 5, 5-9 pm** Holiday Party & Auction, Courtyard Marriott Bradenton  
**Dec 6, 7 am** Beach & Breakfast, Nokomis  
**Dec 11, 7 pm** regular meeting, Waldemere  
**Bring Shirtbox Exhibits**  
**6 pm** sales of shells, etc.  
**Jan 9-11** Astronaut Trail Shell Show Melbourne, FL (East coast)  
**Feb 13-15** Sarasota Shell Show  
**July 14-19** Conchologists of America convention, Weston, FL (East coast)  
[www.2015coaconvention.com](http://www.2015coaconvention.com)

### 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.

The Annual **Shell Show** is February 13-15, 2014 at the Bradenton Area Convention Ctr.

**Dues:** New 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.**

**DID YOU KNOW...** Brilliant shades of blue and aqua coat the iridescent lips of giant clams, but these shiny cells aren't just for show, new research finds. The iridescent sheen directs beams of sunlight into the interior of the clam, providing light for algae housed inside. In a symbiotic return, the algae use that sunlight to power photosynthesis, resulting in energy for the giant clam.



## Sarasota Shell Club

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



*November, 2014*

SARASOTA SHELL CLUB MEETING, October 9, 2014

Sally Peppitoni called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The September Club minutes were previously sent out with the newsletter. No corrections or changes were requested. Peggy Williams asked that the minutes be accepted into the record, Karen Ciffin (2<sup>nd</sup>), members unanimous approval.

A Treasurer's report was not available, Bruce Paulsen absent.

Sally Peppitoni stated that our publicist is creating a time line that shows what and when must be released to publications we've used previously.

Duane Kaufman, Historian read 50 years ago the Shell Club met at Lido Beach Sunrise room. Program for that evening was phases of shell collecting. The meeting 25 years ago presented a meeting on Shell reproduction.

Lynn Gaulin, Membership reported 75 people have rejoined to date. There was an introduction of new members attending the meeting.

Sally Peppitoni presented additional information on upcoming field trips. She announced another trip for November 29 to Anclote Key, if there will be enough participants to make the trip a reasonable cost. Peggy Williams gave details of the long distance trips.

Education classes will be announced in the future.

Artisans report by Roseann Roble. She reviewed time and location of our weekly meetings also noting there will be a Holiday Ornament Class on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:30 for \$10.00 which includes supplies.

Old Business: Code of Ethics was voted on to be added to the Club bylaws. Peggy Williams moved we accept the Code, Donna Krusenoski (2<sup>nd</sup>), and with club members' unanimous approval it will be added to the by-laws.

New Business: Welcome Packet; a discussion took place that it would be nice for new members to receive a Welcome Packet that would include a welcome letter, calendar of events, club directory, membership card and copy of the by-laws. If any members have further ideas on this subject please announce them at the next meeting.

Holiday Party will be December 5 at the Courtyard at Marriott, Bradenton. There will be 3 dinner selections to choose from. Please see Nancy Marini for tickets. If anyone has items for the Holiday auction please bring them to the November meeting.

A break was taken for snacks, purchasing shells and related items and visiting.

Program: John Colagrande presented a wonderful program on "What is not a fossil"

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Donna Bartels  
Recording Secretary