

The Beauii



A newsletter published by the
Sarasota Shell Club

Look for us at
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

We meet on the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm
(September to April)
at Fire Station #2,
2070 Waldemere St.,
Sarasota, FL

February, 2019 Edition

From the Prez



Hello Fellow Shellers!

It's Shell Show time! I hope everyone is geared up to help make this show even better than last year's.

Remember, it takes everyone's help to pull this off. A few cannot effectively do the job of many. Please call Nancy and ask her what you can do to help.

We had a great trip to Cedar Key in January. The cell phone service there is horrible but the food, the company, the sunrise and the live shells we saw were worth it. I'm including a photo of the beautiful sunrise we saw.

We are adding in a field trip for Saturday, March 9th. We will be taking a trip down to Sanibel to visit their shell show. I will have a sign-up list at the February meeting after our shell show and more information about times. If you won't be at the February meeting but would like to go to the Sanibel show please email me so I can send you the information too.

Respectfully,
Sally Peppitoni

**The Shell Show
Has Arrived!**
(and don't forget our
regular club meeting)

Field Trips, 2018-2019

2/20/19	Carefree Learner
3/9/19	Sanibel Shell Show Trip
4/20/19	Peanut Island, West Palm Beach

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Letter to the Editor . . .

You do an outstanding job putting this together every month, and I know the work that goes into it collecting all the articles and other info, not to mention the layout and arrangement of the newsletter. It takes time. So many clubs have decreased in size over the years and their newsletter have suffered as a consequence. It is so nice to see a shell club that has an inspiring and interesting newsletter for their members. It is also so nice to see shell shows that are growing and attracting exhibits and visitors. Sarasota seems to be hitting it out of the park on all of these. It says volumes for the club, their members and all the people who work to make everything happen on a timely basis. I always read The Beauii from start to finish. I might also add that it is so nice to see pictures of events and members, especially since we live in Texas and have very few opportunities to visit with the members. Thank you for a job well done.....and sincerely appreciated.

Dave Green
Missouri City, Texas

A 2018-2019 Membership Form is on the back page—Give one to a Friend!

Concholepas concholepas (Bruguière, 1789)

February's Featured Mollusk

Concholepas concholepas is a species of gastropod (yes, it looks like a bivalve but it is a gastropod) that is native to Chile and Peru. Known as the Chilean Abalone or Barnacle Rock Snail (and sometimes, “Loco”) this mollusk is similar to the abalone. It belongs to the Muricidae family.



A topside view of the Chilean Abalone shell. Note the distinct pattern of ridges.

It is very edible and is a highly prized seafood imported into the Asian markets. In Chile the shell is sometimes used as an ashtray.



The opposite or bottom reveals space for the animal and the diminutive operculum.

It has a small operculum which is not of much use as the animal protects itself by using its muscular foot to attach to rocks, thus protecting itself from predators. An unusual physical characteristic is that the top of the shell resembles a Phrygian cap (according to *Wikipedia*: the Phrygian cap or liberty cap is a soft conical cap with the apex bent over, associated in antiquity with several peoples in Eastern Europe.



A side view of the shell detailing the Phrygian cap (highlighted in red).

Reproduction is via egg masses which have 250± egg capsules (each capsule can have from 600 to 14,000 eggs).

Much as the cone family toxins provide substance for medical use so does this mollusk. The hemocyanin (copper-containing oxygen carriers occurring in many mollusks) found in its blood has immunotherapeutic effects against bladder and prostate cancer.

An interesting video on YouTube shows fisherman boxing up a days haul of Locos to go to market: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5KeoaphvJo>



An 1831 drawing of the *Concholepas concholepas* from *le Concholepas Peruvien*.

Meet Your Member—Donna Timmermann

My husband, Dave, and I moved to Sarasota about three and a half years ago from the Chicago area. We were married at the Sarasota County Courthouse almost 26 years ago while in town to watch our beloved Chicago White Sox play some spring training games. We actually met at the first Sox Fest standing in line to get Bo Jackson's autograph. The Sox have moved to Arizona for spring training, but we love Sarasota. Dave saw the ad in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune in February 2016 for the Sarasota Shell Show, and asked if that would be something that I would be interested in going to that weekend. Of course I said yes.

I was either five or six when I saw a sea shell for the first time. My family was visiting my grandparents in the south Rio Grande Valley of Texas. They took us to South Padre Island, and I saw the Gulf of Mexico, dolphins playing, and shells for the first time. My grandma told my sister and I to not touch them because they were "dirty." Now I realize grandma didn't want to clean shells or have my parents throw them out because of the smell on that long drive back to Kansas City, where I grew up.

When my sister and I started coming to Sarasota for spring training, we would go to Lido Beach to collect shells, and picked up "pretty" ones at local shops that sold shells. When Dave and I started coming to Sarasota, shelling was always part of the trip. I knew nothing about tides but did discover that if you get out on the beach at sunrise, you have a better chance of finding the best pick, which was hard for me because I am not a morning person. We would also visit shell shops around Florida on our vacations, and bought things that were interesting, or again pretty, so we started a small collection before we moved. However, no shells were moved to Florida.

That first Sarasota Shell Show we attended gave me a chance to start a shell collection again. We also met Carol Johnston and Ed Brown at the show. They had a table set up to sell the boxes or cases that Ed makes for Sailors' Valentines. I first discovered Sailors' Valentines in Cape Cod Magazine before our first trip to Massachusetts. I bought an inexpensive, very simple valentine that catered to the tourist market. On our second trip, we visited Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and I was in love. Stunning Sailors' Valentines, with stunning prices.



So, meeting Carol and Ed gave me a chance to get acquainted with this shell art form. Carol gave me a lesson and I bought a couple of boxes from Ed, and I got started. Following the 2017 Sarasota Shell Show, I had a wonderful opportunity. A private class with Suzanne Dietsch, a Sarasota Shell Club member and nationally known shell artist who specialized in magnificent Sailors' Valentine. We have become very good friends, and I still learn so

much from her. Without her teaching, I would have never won a blue ribbon and the hobbyist "Best In Show With Shell Motif" trophy for my Sailors' Valentine at last year's show. Although I will not have a valentine in our upcoming show, February 8th, 9th, and 10th due to some health issues in the past year, I plan to start working on a new valentine this spring.

My other hobby is beading. I started beading in 2005 while I was negotiating collective bargaining agreements with 15 unions representing around 1000 employees at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, my employer for 28 years. I needed something to do for relaxation and to take my mind off work. My friends from work couldn't believe I was doing beading. With a Masters in Industrial Relations and a Law Degree and with the work I was doing, they couldn't believe that I could think with the other side of my brain! Now I combine beading and wire work with shells and make jewelry using shells and sea life. It's a good thing that pearls are considered sea life. They are not only my birthstone, but my favorite gemstone as well. I can't imagine making jewelry with shells or a valentine without pearls. I guess I am just a frustrated jewelry designer. I need one more class for a Graduate Gemologist degree from the Gemologist Institute of America. One of these days.

I have to thank Paul Lamb for introducing me to Nancy Marini and becoming a Sarasota Shell Club Artisan. There, I'm known as Donna T. since there are four artisans named Donna, and oddly enough, all of us have at some point in our lives have lived in Chicago. I have learned so much from the artisans, as well as making some very good friends. So, thank you Dave for finding that ad for the Sarasota Shell Club Show three years ago. This club has added so much to my life!

Members—want your shell story published? Send your information and photo to the editor at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com and it will appear in a future issue of *The Beauii*.

January Meeting Photos



Our Speaker was Gary Schmelz who posed for this photo with Lynn Gaulin and Gary's wife, Bernice.



Sally Peppitoni presides over a "full house" at the January membership meeting.

Broward Shell Show

The Broward Shell Club held its shell show on January 12th and 13th. Two Sarasota Shell Club members won awards with their displays: Duane Kauffman won the Betty Hamann Memorial Award for Best Sea Life; Bob and Pat Linn won the Neil Hepler Memorial award for Educational Excellence. Thousands attended the show that had many interesting displays and some artistic entries.



Duane Kauffman displays his award for sea life.



Pat Linn with her Olividae family display (and award).



An overall view of the scientific portion of the show.



The "Best of the Best" was won by Gene Everson, Louisville, KY.

Cedar Key Highlights



Two photos submitted by Nancy Cadieux: on the left, a beautiful sunrise; on the right, a dedicated sheller.
See page 11 for more Cedar Key photos (courtesy Sally Peppitoni)

Astronaut Trail Shell Club's Shell Show



Dave and Linda Green proudly display their DuPont trophy which was awarded for their abalone display.

Club members, Bernie and Carol Peterson, came to the show to see the shell entries.

February's Cartoon . . .



A Postcard from the Past . . .



February's vintage postcard is this 1914 German-produced card wishing a Happy Birthday. Since the Editor's birthday is in February, it somehow, seemed appropriate.

Why Do You Like Sea Shells?

Well, let's find out! Send the editor (rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com) your reasons for collecting sea shells and a summary will be posted in an upcoming issue of *The Beauii*. No matter what our indication is, or how trivial you think it is for participating in pursuing this fascinating hobby, it is noteworthy and worth letting others know. This should be fun.

Editor's Thoughts . . .

Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

Florida United Malacologists (FUM) 2019

February 16, 2019 | Gainesville, FL

The tenth annual meeting of Florida United Malacologists (FUM) will take place on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Florida Museum of Natural History's Dickinson Hall on the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville. This one day meeting brings together anyone with an interest in mollusks to discuss a wide variety of topics including but not limited to biology, paleontology, archaeology, ecology, and conservation of the group. This relaxed and informal venue is an excellent opportunity for students, amateurs, naturalists, and professionals to present a topic of interest to them and meet and share ideas with other people fascinated by the second largest phylum of animals. I hope you can join us this February.

John Slapcinsky
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
352-273-1829
slapcin@flmnh.ufl.edu



NEWS FLASH—The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is planning a \$6 million renovation project which will include 10 to 15 aquariums, each having live mollusks. Check out the exceptional video depicting the proposed renovation at:

<https://www.shellmuseum.org/your-museum-comes-alive>

The **2019 COA Convention** will be held at the South Seas Plantation on the island of Captiva, June 19-23 2019. Field trips will be available June 17-18. The Bourse will be held June 22-23. Reservations now being accepted—better hurry!

Information, registration, etc. are all available at
<<http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/>>

Historian's Report

Duane Kauffmann

50 Years Ago

The February 13, 1969 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club was held at the Palmer Bank Building with 36 members and guests present.

The Treasurer's report showed a bank balance of \$1055.99. The remainder of the business meeting was routine and short.

The program was entitled "Small Boat Dredging for Shells in Guaymas, West Mexico." After overcoming an equipment malfunction, the program provided information on equipment and procedures.

25 Years Ago

The Club archives contain no minutes for a meeting in February, 1994.

Library Notes

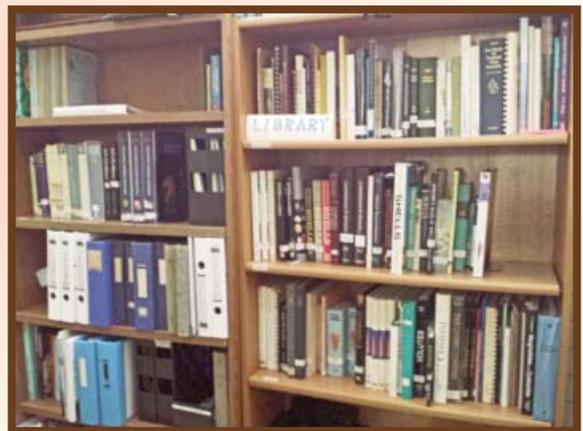
Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is on the website www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdshellbooks.com.

You may want a book to help with your scientific or artistic exhibit at our SSC Shell Show or just educate yourself about shells and marine life, as well as helping you identify shells you find.

Call me at 941-993-5161 or email me at luvseashells@gmail.com to arrange an appointment for browsing our library or requesting books you would like me to bring to our SSC meetings or just talk about our exciting library books.

There is a whole world of seashells and marine life out there !

Linda Greiner



The Artisans



The Artisans are a group of caring and talented people. We meet usually once a week on Thursday 10 to 1pm, after which we all go out for lunch. We also go on day trips, to buy shells, etc.. All of the items we make are for the Sarasota Shell Club show, as well as other venues. The monies we make (thousands each year), funds our outreach programs, as well as other educational gifts the club chooses.

Abalones: A Love Affair of Over Three Decades

Dave Green

A love affair can be defined as something that stirs your passion and desire, which in my case, is exactly what happened with abalones. My fascination and love of the Haliotidae family developed back in the mid 1980s on a trip to Sanibel Island. I was in Showcase Shells visiting with the owners and longtime friends, Al and Beverly Deynzer, and out of the blue, I became interested in this family, due to their size and so many different color variations. As with so many shell collectors, color in shells attracts my interest, usually leading to further study, and eventually collecting the various species in that family. From that initial conversation at Showcase Shells, my love for abalones took off and has continued to grow right up to this very day. After over 30 years of collecting them, I still have the passion to purchase choice specimens. My collection has grown into several thousand over the years. I see a beautiful specimen and the urge to buy it just takes over, although I probably have several of that species in my collection already. As my wife would often say, “It is just a disease,” and she was absolutely correct. I hate to admit it, but she was right. Even today, nothing has changed in my desire to grow my abalone collection, as they are at the top of my shopping list when I enter a shell shop, attend a shell show, or gather at the COA bourse. It just seems I can’t get my fill.



The *Haliotis rufescens*, showing a typical size for this species.

When I started thinking about writing this article, I initially thought I would cover all the species on the West Coast of the United States, Canada, even down into Baja California. After further consideration regarding the number of species represented in this region, reality quickly set in. I realized it was a task that would be better discussed in a series of articles to cover them individually, especially since I wanted to provide pictures and other data. So, my first article in this ongoing series will focus

on the largest abalone in the family on the West Coast of North America, *Haliotis rufescens* Swainson 1822.



A pleasant color variation of *Haliotis rufescens*, detailing both sides of the shell. Note the iridescence on the inferior aspect in the photo



As most shell collectors already know, abalones are not a new family to the malacological world. In fact, they can be traced back to Aristotle in the 4th century B. C. Abalones were reviewed and written about throughout the history of early man, including articles in medieval literature in Europe and even dating back to the Egyptians. Taxonomic publications on the family began with Linnaeus in 1758, who described the first seven species using his system of binominal nomenclature. This original work has continued over time by many well-known malacologists and continues even today. One of the best references on abalones came out just a few years ago by Daniel Geiger and Buzz Owen entitled, *Abalone: Worldwide Haliotidae* published by Conch Books. Although I am by no means a scientific scholar on abalones, this publication has become my best resource and reference, and I utilize it almost daily in my continued study of this family.



Here are four color variations of *Haliotis rufescens*; there are many, many more.

Haliotis rufescens is commonly referred to as the “Red Abalone.” It is the largest of all abalones growing to over 300 mm in size. The shell can be solid red or in stripe variations, due to the food source the animal has been feeding on. The major food source centers around algae and large kelp that grows on rocks and other sub-structures. There have also been some albino specimens recorded. It is the California State sea shell.

The distribution and range of the species is from the central Oregon coast southward through California and into Baja California in Mexico. The shell is very large, normally oblong, and becomes very heavy with age. It is raised and convex, with 3-5 open holes of medium size on the outer portion of the shell. The color in the radial bands tend to range from red, pink, white and green. On the underside, a large muscle scar can be found in the center of the shell. The species is normally found intertidally down to 20-30 meters of water.

Haliotis rufescens is certainly my favorite West Coast abalone, which is large and very colorful with many radial stripes. I might also add that it is absolutely wonderful on your dinner plate, provided it has been prepared properly. All you need to do is add a glass of good wine, and you are all set for a wonderful dining experience. Just be prepared for the bill following dinner, as it is not an inexpensive meal, but certainly worth the cost.

Going forward, I will be writing articles covering other species in the abalone family, both on the West Coast and worldwide. I would also recommend that if you do not own or have access to a copy of the book by Geiger & Owen, it would be a terrific addition to your shelling library.

Dave Green
Houston Conchology Society
Dgreen2@entouch.net



Three photos of live specimens of *Haliotis rufescens*.

Notes from Nancy

The SSC **picnic** will be on April 6th, Saturday 9:30 am to 7:30 pm. We will be at the Coquina Beach pavilion, gulf side north, the same place as last year. The barbecue will include chicken-pulled pork with buns, cole slaw, potato salad, tossed salad and dressings and sauces. Our members always donate great desserts including some homemade. Please bring your own drinks, folding chair, games etc..



Lunch will arrive approximately 12:00pm. The cost this year is \$9.00 for members & \$11.00 for non-members. Please book this at our February meeting, or you can pay by check made out to the SSC and mail to Nancy Marini, 5003 28th. Ct. E, Bradenton, Fl 34203.

There will be no speaker for the February meeting; instead we will talk about and get feedback from everyone about the show.

This may be your last chance to sign up for this extraordinary three-day **Sailor Valentine class**. Last year participants were thrilled with the results. As you know Suzanne Dietsch is a world Famous valentine artist, and this same class in Nantucket sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce is priced at \$1200. Because she is a club member she is only charging \$600.00 (it includes all material). If interested give her a call at 309-883-1590.

Our **speaker** for March is Matthew D. Woodside, Chief Curator & Director of Exhibitions for South Florida Museum & Bishop Planetarium. I've asked him to speak on what happens to a collection when donated.

The Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show is Friday, February 8th through Sunday, February 10th. The cooperation has been very good, but could still use some volunteers at the church on Tuesday at 3:00 pm to help load the truck. Then on Wednesday morning 9:00 am at the Potter building help unload the truck. Then on Sunday at 4:00 pm to help load the truck and follow it back to church to unload, so truck can be returned to the rental company. Our women also help do this but the average age of our loaders is probably 77 (egads). So if more people help it would make it a lot better.

Don't forget to bring your own drinks to the show to help slide down the wonderful sandwiches!

See you soon! It will be a blast!

Sailor's Valentine Classes

Join Suzanne in laughter, smiles and friendship while creating a treasured keepsake. This 3 day class is sponsored by the Sarasota Shell Club Artisans.

While honoring traditional techniques, we will be creating a pattern similar to the one pictured. All materials including octagon cases made by Ed Brown are included in the class fee of \$600. Class size is limited to 8.

Class is open to beginners and accomplished shell artists alike.

The 3 day class will meet from 10-2pm, Monday thru Wednesday, February 11, 12 and 13 immediately following our annual shell show.

Location - the shell club artisans workshop at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church on the corner of Proctor & McIntosh.

Contact Suzanne Dietsch - Suzanne@seashellvalentines.com or phone 309-883-1590.
www.seashellvalentines.com



Officers & Board Members

President	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-President	Nancy Marini
Treasurer	Karen Huether
Recording Secretary	Donna Cassin
Corresponding Secretary	Duane Kauffmann

Board Members: Donna Krusenoski (3), Rich Cirrantano (3), Donna Timmermann (2), Jenny Folden (2), JoAnne Mancuso (1), and Pete Steelman (1).

Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Nancy Marini
<i>The Beauii</i>	Ron Bopp
Historian	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips	Sally Peppitoni
Librarian	Linda Greiner
Membership	Donna Krusenoski
Shell Show	Board
Sunshine	Karen Ciffin
Webmaster	Bruce Paulsen

Contact the Editor - email Ron Bopp at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com or call at 918-527-0589 if you have something to include in *The Beauii*.

Calendar

Feb. 8-10	SSC's Shell Show
Feb. 14	SSC Membership Meeting
Feb. 16	FUM (Gainesville)
April 6	Club Picnic (Coquina Beach)
June 17-23	COA Convention (Captiva)

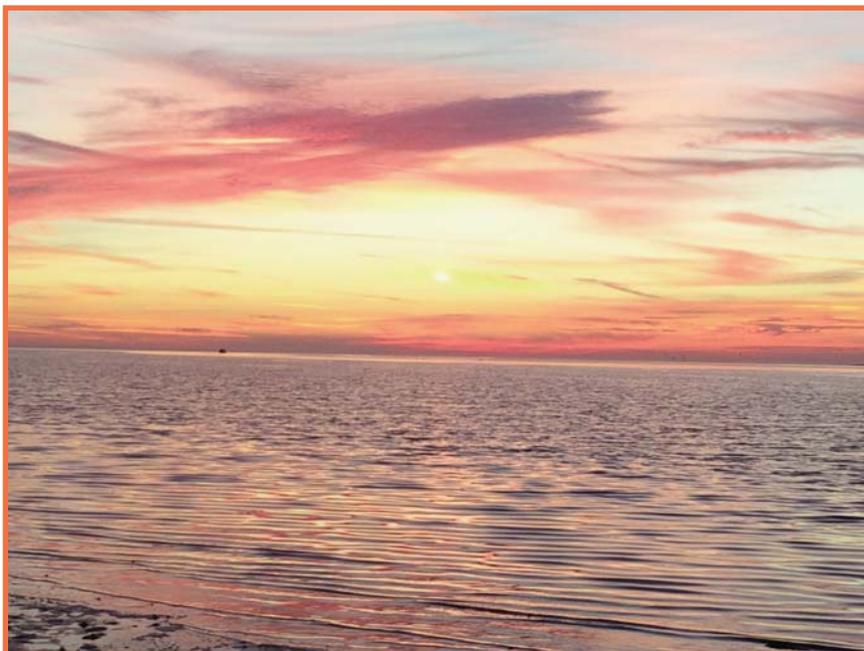
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of September through April at 7:00 pm at Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St. in Sarasota. Park in the small lot on the right or in the nursing home lot across the street.

Dues are \$21.00 for new single members and \$33.00 for family members (at the same address). **Renewals** are \$15.00 for single and \$20.00 for family.

If you want *The Beauii* printed and mailed it is an extra \$15.00 to your dues.

**The 2018-2019
Membership Application
is Attached**

**You may renew your membership
now - fill out and sign!**



Cedar Key photos submitted by Sally Peppitoni.



Sarasota Shell Club 2018 - 2019 Renewal/New Application Membership

Note: Dues include newsletters (*The Beauii*) via email, September through April. If no email address is available, add \$15 to your yearly dues if you want to receive the newsletters by mail.

Initial Dues: include cost of membership name tag:

\$21.50 single and \$33 family (living at the same address)

If no email address, add \$15 to your yearly dues

Renewal Dues: \$15 single and \$20 family (living at the same address).

If no email address add \$15 to your yearly dues.

To join, send checks only (no cash) made out to SSC to

Donna Krusenoski, Membership Chairman

3250 Ringwood Mdw

Sarasota, FL 34235

Please print legibly to help us correctly spell your name:

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Local Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email address(s): _____

Other address & phone: _____

Emergency contact & phone: _____

Birthday day & month: _____

We offer field trips to our membership and would like you to attend. Times and places will be announced at meetings or in our newsletter.

Are you interested in field trips? _____

Do you know of any good field trip location(s)? _____

If so, they are: _____

We require you to sign this Liability Release if you are interested in participating in our field trips. Every member must sign below:

Liability Release

I agree that I am individually responsible for my safety and my personal property. I will not hold the Sarasota Shell Club, its officers, field trip leader(s), or property owner liable for any damage or injury to me or my property that should occur.

Signature required for each member joining:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The SSC publishes a roster with names, address and emails for our member use only. Please check one:

_____ it is **OK** to publish my information in the roster

_____ it is **Not OK** to publish my information in the roster

You will be sent monthly newsletters starting in September through April informing you of the date and time of the next meeting held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Waldemere Fire Station off US 41 (behind Wendy's near Sarasota Memorial Hospital). Name badges can be picked up approximately 4 weeks after they are ordered.

To be filled in by the Membership Committee

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Amount paid & date _____ / _____