

The Beau



A newsletter published by the
Sarasota Shell Club

Look for us at
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

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

Summer, 2017 Edition

From the Prez

Sally Peppitoni



Hello fellow shell-a-holics!
It's been a busy summer
(and as always too short)! Our
first meeting of the season will
be Thursday, September 14th.
This will be our **Show n' Tell**

meeting so remember to bring
any great finds you've made since April and tell us
about them. We also want to have some really great
field trips this year so if you have any particular
requests, send them to me by email before it's too late.
The same is true for any Beach and Breakfast locations
you would like to try.

Also, don't forget that this year our **Shell Show** is
back in Sarasota where it belongs! We will be at the
Sarasota Fair Grounds in the Potter building just over
from Robarts arena. I'm VERY excited about this and
I hope you are too! Please remember that we need
everyone's help to pull this off. If each person does a
little then no one person has to do a lot!

Finally, we will be having several auctions at our
meetings this year to dispose of several donations of
shells so bring your \$ to the meetings! You never know
what you will find!

Here's to sandy toes and full shell buckets! See
you soon!

Sally Peppitoni, President

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Local Shells Needed

As many of you know, we give a bag of local
seashells to people who come to our annual shell
show. We are low on shells and need more nice small
shells. So, if you have a couple of buckets of shells
that you've picked up on your many walks on the
beach, please bring them to either the September or
October shell club meetings. We will need to fill at
least 2,000 small 2 ½-inch by 3-inch plastic bags.
People who come to our show remember this and
love getting a memento. Thanks!

If you haven't done so yet . . .
**Pick up your
Pink 2017-2018
Directory of Members
at the next Membership meeting!**

Two Volunteers Needed

Two club members are needed to volunteer to help with the Membership position. Having two will make this job much easier—it is a position we need to fill. Please contact Sally at shellmaniac8@gmail.com if you are willing to help!

End of the Year PICNIC!

On Saturday, April 15, many Sarasota Shell Club members met at the pavillion on Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach for our yearly picnic. The food was provided by members enhanced with BBQ by Sonnys. All had a good time as evidenced by the photos below.



Meet Your Member—Duane Kauffmann

Growing up on a small farm in the middle of Illinois, seashells were geographically and cognitively distant. What was close at hand was the enticing and wonderfully complex world of nature: weather, weeds, animals, bugs, birds, planted crops, trees. And when the urge to collect (I'm convinced that it is hard-wired in the brain) struck for the first time as a rookie 4-H member, I chose entomology and started an insect collection.

Escaping the requirements of our farm (the daily demands of dairy cows meant I never had the vacation experience of walking a beach as a child), I discovered the world of higher education at Goshen College (yes, Mennonites do advanced education, Amish do not). After completing a PhD in social psychology, I returned to that small college in Indiana to teach. There I had the good fortune to become friends with two biologist faculty colleagues who had started a marine biology program.

In 1976, I had my first opportunity to visit Long Key, FL (middle Keys) and was introduced to the fascinating world of marine biology. My first boat trip resulted in a wonderfully pink Queen Conch (*Lobatus gigas*, now *Eustrombus gigas*, still legal to collect in those days). My second boat trip was to a shallow flat named Old Dan Bank, where instructor Jon Roth showed me how to take a clump of the green alga *Halimeda opuntia* and pick it apart. Inside that softball-sized clump was an entire world of life, including small snails in the genera *Hyalina* (now *Volvarina*) and *Rissoina* (now *Schwartziella*).

This amazing new (for me) world stimulated my curiosity and ignited my collecting neurons. Little did I perceive in those first days how satisfying, frustrating, exhilarating, and tedious was to be the journey I had begun. My desire to know what I had found led me naturally to Abbott's *American Seashells*. My early finds were often identified after many hours of paging through Abbott's 300+ pages of gastropods. These hours with Abbott also introduced me to many additional small species and where I might look for them. And sometimes Abbott left me frustrated

when his information was limited (e.g., see the pages of *Turbonillas*, pp. 306-308).

Now more than 40 years later my collecting neurons (or is it neurosis?) have generated a list of over 300 species of gastropods in the shallow waters around Long Key. They have also led me to collecting trips to Mexico and to the Caribbean (Thanks, Peggy) and to find beaches whenever family travels go abroad.

Never in even the most remote areas of my brain did I imagine on those below zero, 5 a.m. trips to the dairy barn that I would one day walk on warm beaches in search of millimeter seashells. I am deeply grateful than life gave me that opportunity.



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 Beauie*

In memory of . . . Ruthie Abramson

Ruth Abramson, 82 (1935-2017) passed on July 2, 2017. She was a faithful dealer, with her husband, Frank, at the Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Shows. She was a teacher and had her Master's Degree in history. She was a member of the Jacksonville Shell Club. She and her husband, Frank, were married for forty years.





PHOTOS BY JAMES A. JONES JR. jajones1@bradenton.com

George McCormick stands in his Ellenton warehouse where shells, novelties and other products are prepared for the retail market.

RETAIL

Darlene's Shells capitalizes on unique business niche

BY JAMES A. JONES JR.
jajones1@bradenton.com

MANATEE

Seashells, wind chimes, novelties and souvenirs have been the stock in trade at Ellenton wholesaler Darlene's Shells for more than three decades.

The company sells its wares around the country as decorations and art, and in some cases — like the floppy, crab-shaped refrigerator magnets —



For more about Darlene's Shells, visit Bradenton.com.

just for fun.

It also operates a bustling retail outlet, The Pearl Nautilus Shell Shop, at the Red Barn Flea Market in Bradenton.

"My wife, Darlene, and I started the company about 45 years ago in Naples, and we have been in this location about 30 years," owner George McCormick said.

At first, the business was a sideline with Darlene making crafts from shells, and George working as a liquor and wine salesman. But when Wooten's Everglades Tours in Everglades City bought \$1,200 worth of Darlene's crafts, the couple began thinking they had found a unique business niche.

"That was the beginning. We realized we had something," George McCormick said.



Little wonder that many see shells as works of art. Darlene's Shells has been a wholesale operation in Ellenton for about 30 years.

Shells for Silent Auction

Tom Williams has offered to let the club have and bid on some of Peggy Williams' shells from her last shelling trip to Baja, California. Large, specimen shells have been retained for a memorial display at our upcoming shell show but there are too many to include, so club members will have the chance to bid and win some or all of these items at club meetings this fall. These shells are displayed below.



Library Notes

The Beauï

The Beauï will be taking on a 'new look' beginning in the 2017-2018 club year. Drawing on experience from other editing positions the new Editor will be introducing some new and interesting items for *The Beauï* readers. Among these changes are:

*Meet Your Member - every month we will learn, in detail, information about a selected club member.

*Guest Articles - COA and other shell club's members will be asked to contribute an informative and related article.

*Shell of the Month - a photo and information on that shell will be featured in each issue

*Shell Cartoon - each monthly issue will feature a shell cartoon - good clean fun!

Our Sarasota Shell Club Library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is located on our club website.

For more info on our books go to www.mdmshellbooks.com.

Check out a book and relax reading about shells and marine life. You may want a book to help with your exhibit for our shell show.

Just call me at 941-993-5161 or email me at luvseashells@gmail.com to make an appointment to meet me there or just talk about exciting books.

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

Linda Greiner

Sarasota Shell Club Shell Show Returns to Sarasota!

by Bruce Paulsen, Treasurer

Sarasota—we're back!

After scouring Sarasota for two years, the Sarasota Shell Club is excited to announce that we are moving our annual shell show BACK TO SARASOTA! The show will be held in the Potter Building at the Sarasota County Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota. The Potter building is just west of Robarts Arena, all visible from Fruitville Road. We want to thank the Sarasota County Fair Association for working with us to make the Potter Building our new shell show home.

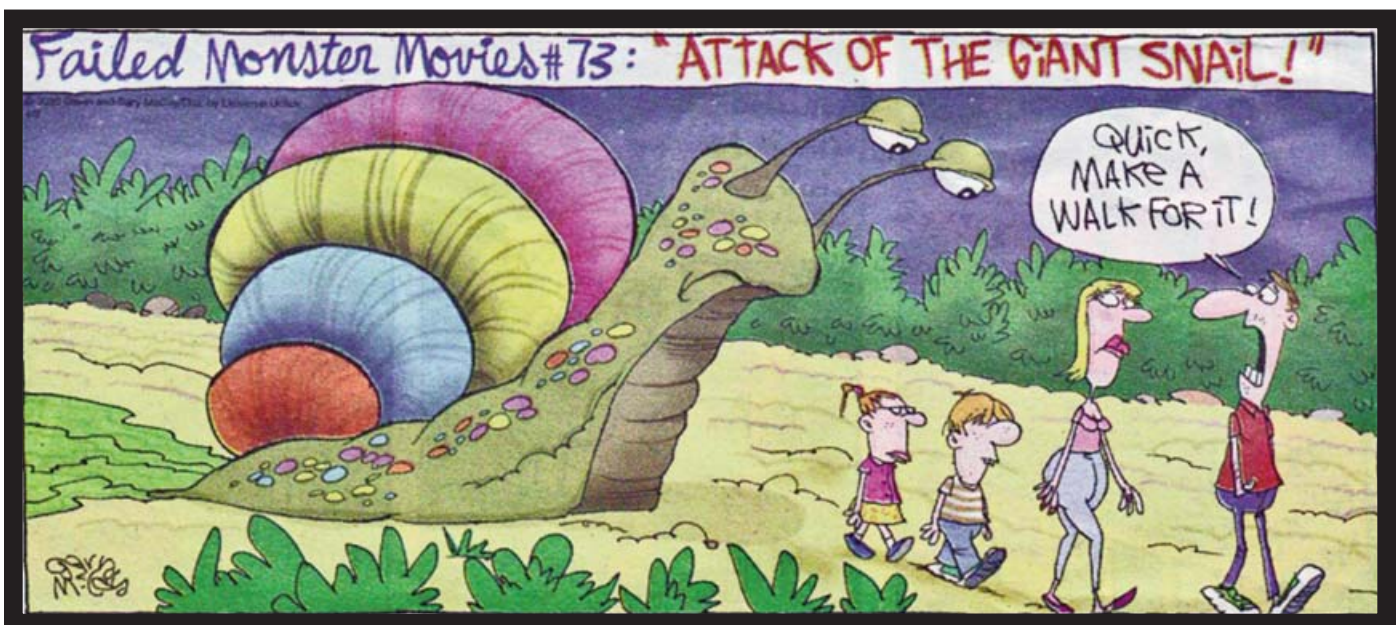
Here are some key facts about the Potter Building:

- Incredible location! Next to Robarts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Can be seen easily from Fruitville Road.
- Lots of parking CLOSE to the front entrance. Also, several doors around back for easy loading and unloading for exhibitors and vendors.
- Wonderful, Old Florida feel. Hardwood floors and colored glass in each of the back corners.
- Manageable size, about 6,600 square feet. We will be able to find each other more easily!
- Rent is better on the pocketbook. Yes, the size is much smaller than the Bradenton Area Convention center, but we have a great Sarasota location!

The 2018 Shell Show is scheduled for February 9-11, 2018. One new benefit is we can set up a full day ahead of time and not be rushed, as we have been in the past. As a result, we are able to open the show earlier on the first day. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fri., Feb. 9, and Sat., Feb. 10, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun., Feb. 11.

Continued on next page . . .

Summer Cartoon



Officers & Board Members

President	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-President	Nancy Marini
Treasurer	Bruce Paulsen
Recording Secretary	Jeanne Corbin

Board Members: Donna Krusenoski (1), Roseanne Roble (1), Joanne Mancuso (2), Donna Cassin (2), Harry Berryman (3), Karen Paulsen (3).

Committee Chairmen

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

Calendar

Aug 13-14	COA Convention field trips
Aug 15-19	COA Convention, Key West
Aug 19-20	New Jersey Shell Show
Sept 14	First SSC meeting, 7:00 pm
Sept 15-16	NC Shell Show, Wilmington
Oct 12	SSC member meeting, 7:00 pm
Oct 28-29	Philadelphia Shell Show
Nov 9	SSC member meeting, 7:00 pm
Feb 9-11	SSC Shell Show

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 Beau*i printed and mailed it is — an extra \$15.00 to your dues.

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To help ensure our premier opening at our new location is a success, we will need lots of volunteers. So please, mark your calendars. You'll be hearing more news about our show in upcoming shell club meetings. Also, we will post exhibit entry forms on our website at sarasotashellclub.com in the near future. Dealer applications already are posted online.

Powerpoint Program of the 2017 Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show

Any SSC member wishing a PDF of 95 slides featuring the 2017 Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show may have a complimentary copy of the Powerpoint slide program by emailing Ron Bopp at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com. It is only 4 mb in size so most members should be able to receive it. See your members, displays and dealers all on your own computer.

COA Annual Meeting

The annual COA meeting will be held in Key West in August. Look for a report plus many photos in the next few issues of *The Beau*i. Several SSC club members will be present and the photographer hopes to catch some of them having fun at this large shell meeting

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 Beau*i.