



# The Beauí

## Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

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

Meetings 2nd Thursdays, September-April at Fire Station #2, 2071 Waldemere St Sarasota.



### Historian's Report

by Duane Kauffmann

#### 50 Years Ago

Twenty-five members attended the March 19, 1964 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club.

The field trip on the Helevtia II was announced and 22 (one more than boat capacity!) members indicated they were planning to go.

Helen Oberle, Chair of the Shell Show, provided details concerning the show to be held April 3, 4, and 5, "in the Nixon Bldg across from this Bank." Instructions to exhibitors, particularly no names until after judging, were provided and the ribbons to be awarded were displayed.

The Club treasurer reported a balance of \$19.46. After the meeting, a raffle was held, whereafter Mr. Riggle displayed "fine cones from all over the world."

#### 25 Years Ago

The meeting of March 9, 1989 was held at Mote Marine Science Center. The treasurer's report showed a loss of \$1368.29 on the shell show (although a few bills were not yet in).

Field trip on the Carefree Learner "fell through." A fossil pit trip is to be undertaken soon.

Frank and Ruth Abramson gave a program entitled "Shells on Coins."

### Shell Questions

Two experts were evaluating a collection of a man who had just died. They told the widow it was worthless as specimens because there was no data. "What's data?" she asked. "Information telling where the shells came from." "What do you need that for?" she replied, "You're experts. You know that."

**This month's meeting (the last until September) is April 10 at 7 pm. Program by Dennis Sargent on his experiences in Australia in April.**

**A board meeting will precede the regular meeting at 5:30.**

### Board Members

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Dennis Sargent   | President               |
| Sally Peppitoni  | Vice President          |
| Bruce Paulsen  | Treasurer               |
| Donna Bartels  | Recording Secretary     |
| Peggy Williams   | Corresponding Secretary |
| Board: Terry Jones, Rosanne Roble, Nancy Marini, Rich Cirrintano, Harry Berryman |                         |

#### Committee Chairmen:

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Artisans                  | Nancy Marini    |
| Librarian:                | Linda Greiner   |
| Field Trips & Membership: | Lynn Gaulin     |
| Historian:                | Duane Kauffmann |
| Shell Show:               | Donna Cassin    |
| Sunshine:                 |                 |
| Newsletter                | Peggy Williams  |

### Board Election in April

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate for voting at the April meeting:

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| President        | Sally Peppitoni |
| Vice President   | Nancy Marini    |
| Recording Secy   | Donna Bartels   |
| Correspond. Secy | Peggy Williams  |
| Treasurer        | Bruce Paulsen   |

New Board members:

3 yr terms: Donna Cassin, JoAnn Mancuso  
1 yr term replacing Anni Ferretti: Deborah

Deam

Additional nominations may be made from the floor, providing the nominee has agreed (to the person nominating) to serve.



April, 2014



## Field Trips by Lynn Gaulin Membership by Lynn Gaulin

**Remember to pick up the new member labels at the membership table at the April meeting to add to your membership book.**

## Shell Show

Yes, we're already working on the 2015 shell show! During the summer, we want to fill about 1100 small bags with shells to be given to people who pay to visit the show, so we are **in need of small shells, up to 2" in size.** Please bring any you have to the meeting for us to pick up!

## Picnic at Siesta Beach

**Save the date: May 10**

This year our picnic will be at a private cabana on Siesta Beach on May 10 from noon to 7:00 pm. No food will be provided, so bring your own food, beverages and chairs. More info and directions will be provided at the April meeting. There won't be a newsletter in May, so you should be at the meeting in April if you want information, or call Sally Peppitoni (evenings or weekends)

## Opportunity Knocks

*by Peggy Williams*

I've had a note from a member of the Cairns (Australia) Shell Club. They want to exchange shells with members of our club! Even locally common shells would be welcome, I'm sure, and here's what you will get for the first batch: 15 shells.



These will come from an experienced exchanger, so you should try to send shells

that are not so common. **Be sure to have good data with your shells, including when and where collected, state of the tide, and who collected them.**

Contact me for the email address and Barbara Collins will respond with where you can send your shells.

## Internet Humor

Someone asked on Conch-L (a user group) for identification of this shell. Answers:

- "*Meltem icecreamum*"
- "Subspecies *candlewaxum*"
- and, from the original poster:

"AAAARGH !

"Nota bene that the sheller, or culprit, was our fellow Marcos Baena.

"So : a *Baenana split*"



## More Shell Questions

• Dear Sirs, I am just getting interested in the study of mollusks. I think these creatures are very interesting and I have a question. The question is are there any openings in the field of Malacology? If there are where are they to be found? I would appreciate a quick reply.

• Dear Sir, I am interested in malacology. Please send me some.

• Dear Sir: I am planning to write my PhD these on the prosobranchs\* of the Atlantic coast from Labrador to Tierra del Fuego. Please send me a complete bibliography and the names of all the prosobranchs and their genera to be found there. Also how to tell one from the other. I may also decide to include the opisthobranchs. So please similar information for these also. Thank you.

\*[The prosobranchs include most of the marine gastropods and also some of the land and freshwater ones – the western Atlantic ones number in the tens of thousands.]

## April Low Tides (ALL AT NIGHT!)

|       |          |      |       |         |      |
|-------|----------|------|-------|---------|------|
| 15 Tu | 8:36 pm  | -.13 | 19 Sa | 12:00am | -.25 |
| 16 W  | 9:19 pm  | -.23 | 28 M  | 8:00 pm | -.13 |
| 17 Th | 10:07 pm | -.28 | 29 Tu | 8:40 pm | -.20 |
| 18 F  | 11:00 pm | -.29 | 30 W  | 9:22 pm | -.21 |



April, 2014

## The Argonaut

by Peggy Williams

Nautilus shells are produced by an octopus the Nautilus (several species) and are a permanent "home" for the animal.

In contrast, the Argonaut, known as the "Paper Nautilus", has a temporary shell, and in fact, the tiny male of the species has no shell at all. The female may be as much as eight times the length and 600 times the weight of the male.

When of breeding age she creates the shell in which she deposits her eggs, secreting it by the greatly extended web of one pair of



arms. It is presumed that she keeps it for her lifetime of several years, making it larger as she grows.

The shell resembles extinct ammonites and it is possible the Argonaut is descended from them. There are several fossil species of Argonaut and six living ones.

The male fertilizes the eggs by inserting a long arm called the hectocotylus, which contains the sperm. During mating the arm breaks off inside the mantle of the female. When it was first noticed it was thought to be a parasitic worm and was described as such in a scientific journal, complete with supposed anatomy!

Other octopus species die after the eggs hatch, having spent all their energy keeping

water flowing over the eggs and dirt off them, but the Argonaut continues to produce eggs for many seasons, though the males die after mating.

The shell provides buoyancy for the animal, though not in the same way as the Nautilus (which produces gas and fills or empties chambers to rise or sink in the water column.) Nautilus are normally found in daytime at great depths, 1,000 feet or more, and they rise a bit to feed during the night.

The Argonaut uses air to provide buoyancy. Since it depends on air, it doesn't sink as deep as the Nautilus, going down about 10 meters. At that depth, depending on the weight of its eggs, it becomes negatively buoyant because the air compresses at depth.

A study of female Argonauts told much about how they gain access to air. A few specimens were captured and manipulated so the air was drained from the shell. They then had no buoyancy.

In the water the animals immediately headed for the surface and filled the shells with air by using their funnels to jet the shell above the surface, then rocking back and forth to expose the opening to air. They sealed the opening with their tentacles, then headed down to the depth where they were most comfortable at negative buoyancy. The animals can rise in the water column by releasing air as well.

When negative buoyant, the animals can swim in a straight line, faster than a scuba diver.

When the animal dies, the extremely light-weight shell floats until it reaches land. Since there are Argonauts in every temperate sea, they have been found on Florida's Atlantic coast (though I don't know of any from the Gulf Coast). At least five lucky shellers on my trips



to Baja California, Mexico have found Argonaut shells on the Gulf of California coast.



## Collecting Ethics

Does it harm shell populations to collect living mollusks? Just how much shell collecting is acceptable at any location?

Collecting living mollusks is acceptable if it is done in a responsible manner. Because shells rapidly deteriorate once the mollusk dies, it is often necessary to collect live specimens to get the finest examples. Here are some guidelines:

1. Collect only what you need. Do not allow yourself to be caught up in the excitement of the moment and make poor choices about which shells you need to keep. Protect the shell population.
2. Do not collect living juveniles or animals laying or brooding eggs. Do not take everything you find. Select one or two good specimens. If you're in a group, everyone collecting one or two shells amounts to one person taking a bucketful!
3. Leave the habitat as undisturbed as possible. For example, replace any rocks you turned over in their original positions. Don't wait to get back to your car to check over your specimens for flaws that you don't

want! Place the animals you don't want back in their environment.

4. Take careful notes about the environment and the behavior of the mollusk. The specimen has little scientific value without this information.

5. Learn the local regulations against taking live shells and if a fishing license is required.

6. Respect private property fronting the waters. Waters are public but the land often is not.

7. A living shell tossed ashore is dying. There is little chance that an animal returned to the water will recover. Accept the opportunity to add an especially nice shell to your collection.

Healthy mollusk populations can withstand the collection of a small portion of living individuals. As responsible shell collectors, it is important to protect the natural habitats and populations of the shells we love by avoiding over collection and destructive collecting practices.



**Meetings** on the 2nd Thursday of Sept through April at 7:00 p.m., at

Waldemere Fire Station, 2071 Waldemere St. in Sarasota. Park in small lot on the right or in nursing home lot across the street.

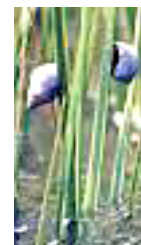
The Annual **Shell Show** is in February at the Bradenton Area Convention Ctr.

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

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

**If you want your *Beau* mailed add \$15.00.**

**DID YOU KNOW...** The Marsh Periwinkle, *Littoraria irrorata*, which lives on marsh grass, eats fungus. It practices a unique method of agriculture by depositing feces laden with fungal spores and nutrients in the grass as it crawls along, creating a "crop" it can then eat.



## Sarasota Shell Club

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

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