

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

April, 2019 Edition

From the Prez



Well, it's now the end of our regular season. We've had a great time with our guest speakers, shell show, artisans, field trips (we still have one field trip to go!). Don't forget that we have our annual election of officers at this last meeting. Please make

sure you are there so you can take part in this important club event. Let me know, anytime, what ideas or suggestions you may have, or field trips you'd like to see the club offer.

~~We have our end of year picnic at Coquina Beach on Saturday, April 6th, and we'll have a great time there.~~ (Picnic Canceled - see page 13) Our last field trip is to Peanut Island on Saturday, April 20th. Then, the third week of June is the annual COA convention on Captiva Island. I plan on being there as the official club representative and hope to see you too! Take photos of things you do, see, or find and we can share them at our first meeting this next September. Have a great summer and take care!

Love and shells to all: Sally Peppitoni
President

**Next Meeting:
April 11, 2019
Come and VOTE!**

Field Trips, 2018-2019

4/20/19 Peanut Island, West Palm Beach

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2019-2020 Officers & Board of Directors Candidates

President: Sally Peppitoni
Vice President: Nancy Marini
Corresponding Secretary: Duane Kauffmann
Recording Secretary: Jeanne Dimmick
Treasurer: Karen Huether

Directors at Large:

3 year term Donna Cassin
2 year term Pete Steelman

(The following Board Members have been contacted and have agreed to fulfill their term of office)

2 year term Rich Cirrintano
2 year term Donna Krusenoski
1 year term Jenny Golden
1 year term Donna Timmermann

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cadieux and Lynn Gaulin

A 2019-2020 Membership Form is on the back page—Give one to a Friend!

Liguus: The Flamboyant Tree Snails

A Review

Duane Kauffmann

Adrián González-Guillén and his co-authors have produced a magnum opus on a colorful and fascinating genus of tree snails, a genus to which south Florida makes a major contribution. It is by any standard one may think of the most complete, and most colorful, book on *Liguus* even published. Indeed, one must concede that the color photos of the seemingly endless forms of *Liguus fasciatus* might leave even the most interested tree snail enthusiast with a visual system yearning for a break. During that break one might wish to use the book as the weight for a series of power arm curls [the reviewer's efforts to weigh the book yielded an estimate of seven pounds].

Its considerable size and extensive photos allow for a wealth of scientific information on the genus under review. The detailed location data and the extensive information on color forms provide the foundation for improved understanding of the *Liguus* "situation." The specialist will likely be spurred to renewed study of how one species, *Liguus fasciatus*, has been able to generate such a vast diversity of color forms. But even casual shell

enthusiasts, with a mere handful of *Liguus* in their collections, can learn a wealth of information concerning exactly what they have and how they fit into the *Liguus* pantheon.



Liguus fasciatus.

Photo courtesy Pinterest

Unfortunately, as scientists embark on the research that might yield valuable data on how nature "does its thing" via genetic evolution, the live snails needed for such work are increasingly threatened. When the reader finally reaches Chapter 10 (on page 486), the conservation and prognosis discussion is depressing. The devastating loss of habitat and the destructive predatory effects of the invasive New Guinea flatworm, are causing the extinction of many of the localized populations of *Liguus* so essential to science. Indeed, *Liguus* may soon be relegated to a few isolated islands and remote hammocks.

Regardless of whether you are an artisan, have a casual fascination with shells, or a dedicated science junky, you owe it to yourself to give this book a look. Some may only look at the pictures, some may most appreciate the text, but everyone will learn something.

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/>

Meet Your Member—Ron & Mary Jo Bopp

It was a cold and stormy night . . . (oops, that’s another story) . . . The shell “bug” hit us as we made frequent trips to the West Coast of Florida during the 1990s. Our one to two week trips were centered upon trips to the beach, much like the “snowbirds” that we encounter today. In 2008 we made the decision to move to Florida permanently and upon doing so, brought with us the five boxes of beach shells we had encountered on our previous vacations.

One day in the Fall of 2008, after we had settled into our new home in Bradenton, we saw a notice in the Bradenton *Herald* about a shell club meeting held at Mote Marine. We attended and became involved with not only shells but also the Sarasota Shell Club (more on that later).

One of the first shell books we obtained at the Red Barn was a paperback about Florida seashells. There was a small section about fossil shells. Remember the fact above about us coming to this area every winter? That was in our RV that we owned at the time and we stayed at Holiday Cove RV Resort on West Cortez Road.

It so happened when we returned there to visit friends the RV Resort had just replenished all the driveways with new shell fill. Looking down while walking around we saw many of those fossil shells mentioned in the



Ron and Mary Jo Bopp with their COA award for their Caloosahatchee Formation exhibit in 2016.

book. Well, that was an epiphany of sorts as that got us (Ron, especially) interested in fossil shells and as they say, the rest is history.

Ron entered the shell show in 2010 with those 50 shells found in the driveway and won the club’s Hertweck award, the first of many.

As we expanded our interests in fossil shells we

joined the Tampa Bay Fossil Club and the Florida Paleontologists Association, of which both organizations have allowed us to find wonderful specimens on special fossil “digs” to various phosphate pits. Our own club has enjoyed several trips to the SMR pit as well as the Williams Shell Pit, again allowing for beautiful fossil shells to be acquired.

We have enjoyed trips to Chub Cay in the Berry Islands and to Guaymas in Mexico. Both have allowed us to obtain beautiful shells that we would not have found just on the Florida Beaches.

Being involved with the Sarasota Shell Club has allowed us to meet and make many new friends. Ron has been lucky enough to serve as President of this group, work with the various shell shows and recently, edit and produce *The Beauii*. Mary Jo filled the membership position for two years as well.



Playing in the driveway has allowed Ron to find many fossil shells.

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*.

Highlights of the March Membership Meeting



Matt Woodside, representing the South Florida Museum, gave a presentation on the “Museum of the 21st Century.” President Sally Peppitoni posed with him.



Always cheerful, our greeters, Lou and Rich Cirritano, take a break to listen to a joke.



Enthusiastic members, Linda Greiner, Pete Steelman, David Timmermann, Lynn Gaulin, Donna Cassin and Jim Wedge placing their bids on special shells donated for a silent auction



Mary Jo Bopp chats with Nancy Marini, Donna Krusenoski and Donna Timmermann before the meeting.

A Couple of Photos from the February Carefree Learner Trip



Young member, Riley Corrigan, inspects a 'find' on the trip.



Many specimens were found in the mud and water.

Sarasota Shell Club Members “Wow” at the Sanibel Shell Show



Pat and Bob Linn's olive display won the coveted COA trophy. They also won the People Choice Award and the Howard Sexauer Award.



Donna Timmermann won the Best Jewelry Hobbist award for her display.



A blue ribbon was awarded to Harry Barryman's harp display.



Not only was Duane Kauffmann judging the scientific portion of the show but he also answered questions.

More Photos of the Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show



Nancy Cadieux & Judy Herman welcoming the public.



Carol Mae & Bev Snyder.



Rich Cirrintano is all smiles after viewing the show.



Lining up to enter the best shell show around.



Donna Bartels & Karen Ciffin clowning around.



Sally Peppitoni hawking raffle tickets.

And More Photos



Lynn Gaulin.



Donna Cassin.



Nancy Marini with a pillow.



Donna Krusenoski also sells raffle tickets.



Linda Green smiles for the photographer.



Jo Ann Morrison and Linda Greiner.

And, Even More Photos



Dave & Donna Timmermann pose.



Kathy Schley at the Membership table.



Joan Zabor working in the artistic booth.



Dona Bigham with a new purchase.



Rae Potter working on an arrangement.

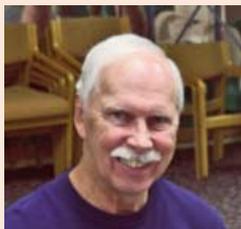


Angela Sampogna teaching a future shell club member.

Photos of the Show in general including Dealers and other photos of entries will follow in the Summer Issue of *The Beauii*!

April's Speaker—Jim Wedge

Our speaker for the April meeting is none other than SSC's Jim Wedge. His topic will be "Living Shells and Other Marine Life."



Those of us lucky enough to have heard Jim in the past will know this presentation will enlighten our senses both with knowledge and spectacular photos.

Plan to come to the upcoming April meeting to hear this interesting presentation.

The Tide is Out!

A woman gave her granddaughter a conch shell, saying if she listened carefully she would hear the sea. The girl put it to her ear for a few moments and said, "I think the tide must be out."

Contributed by Duane Kauffmann

"End of an Era"

At the close of the Sanibel Shell Show, I left with tearful eyes as it was the end of my show life. 50 plus years ago I entered my first shell show, in Philadelphia—was non-completive. I thought it was a good exhibit but realized this south Jersey country boy had a lot to learn.

I did have the desire to find out everything I could about shells and strive with that commitment. Of course I made mistakes and still did but I continued to strive for perfection. The judges that viewed my exhibits helped me with my entries as well the many show committees, fellow competitors and many others. I would not ask what was wrong with an exhibit but what could I do to improve it. Over this time I was awarded over 50 major awards

Thank you and bless you all—I will miss you . . . Harry Berryman

Historian's Report

Duane Kauffmann

50 Years Ago

The handwritten minutes of the April 10, 1969 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club are sketchy at best.

A discussion of whether to begin giving the Dupont Award was tabled; the incoming board will be tasked with bringing the matter to the Club for discussion. Elections of officers followed. Thomas Robertson was elected president.

The program was given by Louise Danforth. It consisted of slides of flowers and shells. The minutes note a link to the "Garden Club" but no details of how this combination came to be the program are given.

25 Years Ago

The Sarasota Shell Club meeting of April 14, 1994 was held in the Coast Guard Building near Mote Aquarium. The treasury balance was \$7151.86.

Donations of \$500 to Mote Marine, \$300 to the Sanibel Museum, and \$250 to Carefree Learner were approved. In addition a donation of \$100 to the "Ice Age Museum" was approved to replace some wooden cases eaten by termites.

Officers for the following year were elected.

The mini-ed program, "Armchair Collecting," was given by Esther Lewis on buying shells from dealers. The program was "lively" and included a "saucy" sense of humor.

Debbie Ingraeo have the program on "hitch-hiking mollusk colonies."

Observations and Comments from a Texas Cowboy

Dave Green

I grew up on a ranch riding horses, herding cattle, mending fences, bailing hay and riding around on a John Deere, plus all the other responsibilities associated with living on a ranch and growing up as a young man in Texas. Then I went to college and met a beautiful lady, Lucille, that I would eventually marry, and she would change my life in so many ways. Marriage normally does change your life but, in my case, it also gave me something that I had never dreamed of.....my interest in seashells and shell shows. My wife had worked at the museum in Fort Worth and had developed a love for seashells, and she tried to convert me to this love. But, being a man, that just never seemed too manly to me until I finally went to a shell club meeting with her after several years of marriage. It was something entirely new to this old country boy. I had never been around the ocean and certainly did not own a shell at the time. Since this meeting was the shell club's annual auction night, I actually bought a couple of shells and two books. From that night forward, my life was changed forever into a life-long love affair with seashells.

It was a meager beginning as my collection grew slowly and then one day, I just woke up and saw the beauty of seashells, and a new love affair was launched. I became an aggressive collector and spend large amounts of money growing that collection. In 1984,

we moved to Orlando, Florida and I attended my first shell show with the Central Florida Shell Club (CFSC). It was amazing and so very interesting. After the show, I thought.... "I can do that with my collection. I can build and design nice displays too".

The following year, I entered my first exhibit at the CFSC show in the Novice category and won the award for "Best First Time Exhibit". I was hooked at this point. I had moved from collector to exhibitor which started a new journey in shell collecting for me. I became obsessed with displaying my collection and attempting to win awards. At first, it was a game to me, proving that I could do something well and judges and people would enjoy my labors. Between 1985-1990, I became a regular exhibitor at most of the Florida shell shows, and the awards kept coming in. Although my professional career demanded so much of my time, I always found time to dream up new and exciting display themes and ideas for future competition.

In September, 1991, I accepted a new position with Compaq Computer Corporation and moved back to Houston. This move brought a wonderful life for me and my family, but it was a long way to Florida and the shell shows in the winter months. Although my career brought happiness and fulfillment to my life, there was also an empty feeling because we rarely, if ever, had shell shows in

Texas. My time off to continue my interest in exhibiting decreased drastically. I continued to grow my collection and got involved in the local shell clubs in southeast Texas, but shell shows were no longer part of my life.....just memories. I managed to enter exhibits in a few Florida shell shows prior to 2000, but then the challenges of life took me away from what I loved to do.

It wasn't until this year that I finally got back into exhibiting again. I quickly found out it wasn't the same any more for me. It no longer was about winning, but more about teaching and educating people about shells and all their beauty. My love of exhibiting had taken a new avenue and started leading me down a new path. I have two full walls of awards in my home and boxes of shell show ribbons, but the real interest now is the teaching aspect of shell collecting. Don't get me wrong, it is rewarding to win. Everyone enjoys winning. Winning today basically says to me that I am doing something well, and is recognized and appreciated by the judges. Hopefully the visitors to the shell show will see my exhibit and walk away with a different respect and interest in seashells. This educational value is what it is all about today for this old ranch hand. I can make a difference by the exhibits I do and the educational material and value-added worth I can bring to people.

During the first few months into 2019, I have been an exhibitor in several shows, plus I have been a scientific judge in one show and another coming up in late May. While wearing a Judge's ribbon, I visited with shell show visitors to get their impressions of exhibits, answer questions they may have on shells, and also determine what they enjoy seeing in exhibits when they visit a show. This newfound information is carried back and processed into future displays that I plan to create in coming years. It is almost like marketing and advertising all in one package. Their thoughts are extremely important to me and provide a new basis for improving my skills.

The most encouraging thing I have noticed during the past two years is the growing attendance at shell shows. Prior to this, several of the shell clubs had gone through tough times and declining membership due to many reasons. People talked about how shell collecting was no longer of interest to them and others, and that they no longer purchased or collected shells. Attendance at shell club meetings was down dramatically across the board in the late 1990s and going into the early 2000s. Even the membership in the Conchologists of America (COA) has been on the decline and continues to grow smaller ever year. Dealers at the COA bourse are experiencing declines in the sale of shells and revenues are down significantly from their tremendous growth and interests in the 1980s, which I call the "Golden Years" in shell collecting. I remember the COA convention in

1988 in Fort Myers which drew almost 400 visitors. It was a huge convention and money flowed freely at the bourse. People filled shopping bags full of beautiful and expensive shells and took them back to their rooms, only to return quickly and continue purchasing more shells. Those days have gone and are likely never to return.

However, the attendance at shell shows is growing once again. I judged the Sanibel Island Shell Show a few weeks ago and they had over 2200 visitors on the first day of the show, and the attendance remained high throughout the entire show. Other shell shows, including Broward, Sarasota and a couple of other clubs, are also seeing growth and interest once gain. The real value of shell shows is the educational value to people of the community about seashells, and to promote our clubs and their activities in hopes of attracting new members. In Texas, several shell clubs have closed their doors and no longer exist, while several are just barely hanging on for dear life. The shell clubs in Dallas and Austin are history now, and the Corpus Christi and Lake Jackson shell clubs are barely surviving. The Houston club is maintaining their numbers but not showing signs of significant growth.

These are hard times for our shell clubs and the people who still support these organizations, whether it be local clubs, or national and international organizations like COA and the American Malacological Union (AMU). The "Golden Days"

have gone and may never return, unless we start to take an active role in growing the interest in our hobby of shell collecting and scientific research of mollusks. So, in closing, just remember the importance of shell shows and how we can continue this growth and interest level. We are the only ones who can control our destiny of shell collecting and our love of mollusks. I hope this article will trigger a new appreciation of our shell clubs and shell shows before it is too late. Better yet, take a more active role and display your exhibits in shows, attend shows yourself and be sure to tell all your friends. Promote the aspects and the satisfaction in collecting seashells and the beauty of our hobby. We can make a difference if we all get involved and promote our organizations. Have a terrific summer on the beach collecting or out snorkeling or diving, and I hope to see all of you at COA on Captiva Island in June. This convention has the potential of restarting the "Golden Years" once again. Come and be a part of it.

Looking ahead, start planning for the shell shows in 2020 and decide to be an exhibitor, attendee, or a club volunteer. In addition, COA will be held in Melbourne, Florida in 2020. In 2021, COA will be coming to TEXAS for only the fourth time in organization history. I hope you will come out to TEXAS and give us an opportunity to show you some TEXAS hospitality that we are famous for. Regardless, step up and make a difference!

Notes from Nancy

Hi everyone! ~~This is your last chance to book the Club Picnic. Please call me if you want to come at 941-758-9790.~~

Donna Cassin chaired the 10-day county fair (it is grueling): thanks to her and all the volunteers who helped out we made \$1260.00 for the club.

I have to retire from doing the refreshments starting in September so please someone volunteer. You will be given an allowance of \$25.00 per month and be supplied with a wagon as well as supplies for the first six meetings. Please let me know if you can do this, so I can bring everything to the

April meeting. Let me know at 941-758-9790. Thank you in advance for a stepping up.

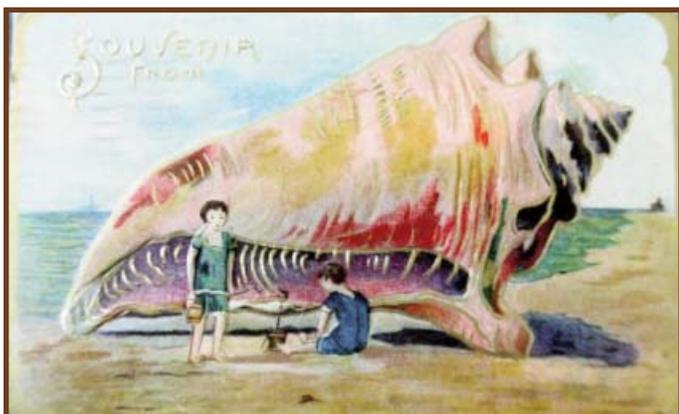
The Artisans will be working right through the summer, so if you would like to purchase a unique one-of-a-kind gift, with a cost of \$15.00 on up. Please stop by or call me and we will put out a selection for you to choose from. It helps if we know your favorite color. The Artisans want to wish everyone a healthy & happy summer.



April's Cartoon . . .



A Postcard from the Past . . .



This 1920s era postcard show two children on the beach with a menacing giant Queen Conch standing guard. This is enough to make one want to come to the beach?

Editor's Thoughts . . .

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool!

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

April 6	Club Picnic (Coquina Beach)
April 11	Last Club Meeting
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 2019-2020
Membership Application
is Attached**

**You may renew and send in after
August, 2019 (fill out and sign)**

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 web-site www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdmshellbooks.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 just talk about our exciting library books. There is a whole world of seashells and marine life out there !



THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN DURING THE SUMMER!

Linda Greiner

Attention:
The picnic has been canceled due to the construction project on the south end of Coquina Beach!



Sarasota Shell Club 2019 - 2020 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: _____

Birth 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 _____ / _____