



The Beauí

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

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



From the Prez

by Dennis Sargent

The month of October was filled with family issues, some of which still are not resolved.

On a positive note, we are hosting a visitor from the Slovak Republic who lives only forty miles from the town where my grandparents came from. This has been a remarkable experience.

Bev Dolzeal, aka, Bahama Bev, has helped me to solve a long standing mystery. *Strombus samba*, Clench has been synonymized with *Strombus gigas* for years. After receiving a specimen from Bev and comparing it with the original description in Johnsonia, it is definitely a heavy, Milk Conch, *Macrostrombus costatus*, with a dark stained base and a dark animal. I will bring it to the meeting as an interesting show and tell item.

See you at the meeting!

Best wishes,

Dennis M. Sargent

Don't Drive at Night?

If you need a ride to the meetings, or are willing to drive someone to them, please call one of the Board members.

Our Library is Growing!

We have been given about a dozen boxes full of shell books by a former dealer who was a member of our club. We will add quite a few books to our library, but many are duplicates or not needed, so they will be for sale in the next months at the meetings. Check them out and add to your own library!

This month's meeting is November 14 7:00 pm at the Waldemere Fire Station.

Program by John Colagrande on Scientific Names.

**This year's shell show is
Feb. 14-16, 2014**

The Board will meet at 4:00 before our regular meeting in Nov., Jan. and Mar.

Board Members

Dennis Sargent

President

Sally Pepitone

Vice President

Bruce Paulsen

Treasurer

Donna Bartels

Recording Secretary

Peggy Williams

Corresponding Secretary

Board: Terry Jones, Roseane Roble,

Nancy Marini, Rich Cirrintano, Anni Ferretti

Committee Chairmen:

Artisans

Nancy Marini

Librarian:

Linda Greiner

Field Trips & Membership: Lynn Gaulin

Historian:

Duane Kauffmann

Shell Show:

Donna Cassin

Sunshine:

Suzanne Valdez

A New Librarian

Our library is being moved to the SSC storage unit. **Linda Greiner** will take over as librarian. If you need a book, or want to browse the library, call her (941-355-0586) or email her (luvseashells@gmail.com.)

December Activities

The Holiday Party and Auction will be on December 6 at the Marriott in Bradenton. Cost \$25. If you have any items to donate for the auction, please bring them to the meeting.

ALSO

We will have a regular meeting on Dec. 12. No speaker, but bring a Shoebox Exhibit!

November, 2013



Field Trips

Lynn Gaulin Co-Coordinator

The **November 24th** trip to Marco is full so our next outing is **Dec. 3rd** on the Carefree Learner leaving Marina Jack's at

7:00 AM promptly. A sign up sheet is available at the club meeting and be sure to pick up the information sheet with directions and what to bring. Cost for this trip is \$5 cash, **no checks please.**

December 31 is an overnight trip to Cedar Key (4 hours north of us) staying Dec. 30th and shelling on the 31st. We should be home late afternoon in time to celebrate the New Year with friends and family. Trip requires a stay in a local motel. Sign up and directions available at the Nov. and Dec club meetings.

January, 2014 we have two trips on the Carefree Learner this month. One on **January 16th** departing at 7:00 A.M. and the other **January 30th** departing at 6:45 A.M. All Carefree Learner trips leave from Marina Jack's on Sarasota Bay. Sign up will be available at the November and December meetings for these trips. Cost for each trip is \$5 cash, **no checks please.**

I am open to suggestions the first part of February. We generally don't do trips this month due to the Shell Show, February 14 - 16. If you have a suggestion please share it with me and I'll consider it.

Membership

Lynn Gaulin

Our By-laws state the membership year for our club is Sept. 1 to Aug 31st. At this time we have about 40 people who have not renewed for this year. You're supposed to pay up Nov 1.

I will accept membership applications at the Nov. 14th club meeting. After that date unpaid members will be dropped from our roster. You can renew your membership later but your personal info will not appear in either of our rosters. Applications for membership are on the club website sarasotashellclub.com or at club meetings on the membership table. Checks for dues can be made out to SSC, **no cash please.**

Be sure to check on the membership form if you want the roster with photos of members for \$4 extra. Otherwise you will receive a paper copy with members names, addresses, phone and email addresses but no photos.

Many renewing members are sending checks but no new membership form. Please fill out a new membership form as your information might have changed. Also, we need a current signed liability form by each member to go on field trips.

We will be passing out the new rosters at the **December 12th** club meeting. Be sure to attend to pick up yours!

A New Club Benefit for Our Members

Beginning in November, we will have educational sessions about shells. They will be held in a public facility, alternating between south county and north (we're researching some), during the week after our regular meetings. An "expert" will pick a topic to discuss and we hope to make the sessions fun as well as educational. John Colagrande, Peggy Williams, Duane Kauffmann and Lynn Gaulin have volunteered to lend expertise.

Meeting place suggestions welcome!

Please fill out the following questionnaire if you're interested so we can best choose our topics and times!

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Best time for me _____

Best day for me _____

Topics I'd like covered _____

Please bring to the meeting or mail to

Lynn Gaulin

4407 33rd Ct E

Bradenton FL 34203

Shellhunter@gmail.com

November, 2013

Step Up and Help!

Most organizations have a core of members who do all the chores necessary to keep the interest and fun going. The Sarasota Shell Club is no exception!

For instance, I have been Corresponding Secretary (whose duty it is to create this newsletter) for more years than I care to think of, with about 5 years off when I was President. Very few others ever offer articles for inclusion, and I end up writing two to three pages all by myself every month.

Lynn Gaulin is ready to hand the baton to someone else to run field trips. Many of you take advantage of the field trips, but none has come forward to say he/she would take them over. Please think about doing so and volunteer. She (and I) will offer advice and ideas for your guidance.

Another job that will go begging next year is Shell Show Chairman. Some are talking about giving up the Shell Show...what a terrible thing that would be! We have lost two other shows in Florida in the last five years and our hobby is much diminished by the loss.

Admittedly, the show is a big job, but as with any job it's the support that carries the day, and we have lots of people who will support anyone who loves our club enough to take on the challenge.

Why shouldn't we quit?

- As a new official Charitable Institution, we need to pursue our mission of educating the public about mollusks, and the show is the best education we can offer.

- It also forces members who participate with exhibits to learn more as well!

- The money we make, even if it's not a lot, allows us to support other institutions and people who are working to understand mollusks better and/or educate about them.

- The Show brings us together in a common purpose to learn and help the club and each other. We give back to the club some of the benefits we have received.

- It's a great recruiting tool. How else will so many people become aware of us and our mission, our hobby and our passion and discover they want to join us?

Whoever takes over does not have to be an "expert" on either shells or crafts. She/he only needs organizing ability and attention to

detail. Don't think you're not qualified because you don't have a "scientific" collection or have never mounted an exhibit of shells. Anyone who has been a teacher, manager, self-employed, or a leader in any other capacity can do this job...and even if you don't fit in any of these categories you could still do it!

Suppose we didn't have field trips, or a newsletter, or a shell show. Would you still be interested in being a member of our club?

THINK ABOUT IT!

Peggy Williams

And While You're Thinking... URGENTLY NEEDED

by Donna Cassin



We urgently need a person to handle the publicity for the Shell Club....and Shell Show.

Rachel Mann (last year's publicist) is unable to continue due to health issues. She has generously provided us with her

complete list of contacts and information needed to get going on this. She will also mentor anyone who is willing to take this position on. We need to start NOW with various aspects of publicity. You DO NOT need to have a back-ground in this sort of work....just a willingness to learn and contact people by phone and computer. Please, Please consider taking this position.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!!!!

by Shell Show Chairperson: Donna Cassin

This season's Shell Show will be held February 14, 15 and 16 in 2014 at the Bradenton Area Convention Center. As some of us know very well....this show does NOT run itself!! We need volunteers to do the numerous jobs that are needed at the show. Please clear your calendar for that weekend and volunteer generously with you time and talents. This is a fantastic way for our new members to really get to know our long-time members. It is fun and exhausting and rewarding.

More information will follow in the next Beau and at the December and January meetings. Please make it a point to come and be involved!!!!

Contact at dcassin9411@verizon.net or 941-362-3302

November, 2013

A Day of Shelling in the Florida Keys

Photos & text by Don Kittsmiller

My friend Marty Mara and I set off for a shelling trip about 9 A.M. on October 15, 2013 knowing the low tide was about 1 P.M. and the seas were calm.

We loaded up our gear along with lobster tackle, just in case, and headed out, past Little Palm Island. I chose an area that was away from any homes and that had not been overrun with tourist and persons looking for lobster. We anchored in about 5 feet of water and started our quest for shells. The water was crystal clear and the sea bottom was rocky with occasional sandy areas and mostly covered in sea grass and various types of sea fans and sponges.

Some of the shells found, included Milk Conchs (*Strombus costatus*), Hawk-wing Conchs (*Strombus raninus*), True Tulip (*Fasciolaria tulipa*), Banded Tulip (*Fasciolaria hunteria*), Orange Marginella (*Prunum carneum*), Florida Lucine (*Stewartia floridana*), Yellow Egg Cockle (*Laevicardium mortonii*), Florida Prickly Cockle (*Trachycardium egmontianum*), Cross-barred Venus (*Chione elevata*), Long Spined Star Shell (*Astraliu phoebium*), American Star Shell (*Lithopoma americanum*) Tinted Cantharus (*Pollia tinctoria*) Caribbean Vase Shell (*Vasum muricatum*) and Queen Conchs (*Strombus gigas*). Most of the



above shells were admired and returned to the seabed. I always return the more common or less than perfect shells. But the hunt is the fun.

My friend Marty is new to shelling so I took time to point out what to look for because he was finding little. By the end of the day he was having a blast after he got the hang of it. Each time we returned to the boat he would show me all his finds. We discussed the types and returned those that we did not want to keep. It was sure hard for him to return a Large Spectacular Queen Conch he found. I explained that Queen Conchs are a protected species. We also encountered numerous Lobsters and caught only one large enough to

keep. We also saw many large Stone Crabs, all kinds of tropical fish including Parrot fish, Hog Fish, Barracuda, sting rays and numerous other tropical fish.

After taking a rest back on the boat and grabbing a bite to eat, we moved to a little deeper water to do some drift diving. You throw lines overboard and let the winds move the boat. We used the lines to keep us with the boat and dove for whatever we saw. It's great fun and you cover a lot of ground. We found Florida Horse Conchs (*Pleuroploca gigantea*) and Flamingo Tongues (*Cyphoma gibbosum*). I brought to the surface one of the numerous Flamingo tongues in the area and showed Marty what they look like with the mantle exposed and then returned it to its sea fan.

Before returning home I told Marty I would like to look for another Carrier shell (*Xenophora conchyliophora*) like the one I found the previous week. I had the spot marked on my GPS. This area is alongside a deep channel, 5-8 feet deep with some sea grass and basket sponges on the bottom, but is mostly sand silt. I found a dead *Conus atlanticus* and 4 Carrier shells (*Xenophora conchyliophora*) in 30 minutes. This shell is without a doubt the most difficult shell to spot in its natural environment. You can see from the photo the difficulty I have spotting them when I just lay them in the rocks in my backyard. Imagine how hard they are to spot



when snorkeling at these depths when the shell is covered with sand and silt along with its natural camouflage and lying on a sandy bottom of the same colors. I can't tell you how many times I dove down to what I hoped was a Carrier shell only to find some debris or bottom mush.

It was now time to head back home. My wife prepared home-made Ham and Potato Soup with her special Cornbread. This topped off a very successful and enjoyable day of snorkeling in my back yard in the Florida Keys.

November, 2013

Field Trip Report

by Beverly Root

On Saturday, October 19, six SSC members went to Fort De Soto (Maynard Kaplan, Pat Amsel, Rachel Mann, Vickie Ginter, Beverly Root, and Lynn Gaulin).

Although our shell trip to Shell Island got derailed, our trip was very educational and entertaining. Lynn arranged for a park volunteer, Phil, to meet with us. Phil is the park historian. He loves Fort De Soto and has studied and read everything he could find on the subject. He ad-libbed the entire time, no memorized spiel. Fascinating. We learned when the Fort De Soto Park was created the county created a causeway to Mullet Key by filling in and constructing bridges across several small islets to connect the park to the mainland. When the fort was created it was on an island similar to Fort Dade on Egmont Key.

A brief history of the fort I've extracted from "Historic Guide to Fort De Soto": Egmont and Mullet Keys were surveyed as early as 1849 for future military use by the then unknown US Army Brevet Colonel Robert E. Lee. In 1898 the United States became involved in the conflict in Cuba with Spain which is now known as the Spanish-American War. Construction of gun batteries on Mullet Key was begun in February 1898 to protect the important Port of Tampa. It wasn't until April 1900 that Fort De Soto was named as a sub-post of Fort Dade on Egmont Key but didn't have any guns until the summer of 1902 when the two batteries of four 12-inch mortars were finally installed. About a year later a battery of two 15-pounder 3-inch rapid-fire cannons were installed.

These eight huge guns and their crews were protected by earthen walls from 8 to 20 feet thick. The mortars were capable of hurling an 800 to 1,000 pound explosive projectile almost 7 miles out into the Gulf of Mexico without being exposed to direct enemy return fire. The guns were electric and each gun had a crew of 12 men.

After touring the battery we went to the museum which is a replica of the quartermaster storehouse. Much information and pictures were available in the museum. All together we were on tour for nearly 2 hours. My hat's off to

Lynn for arranging this tour and especially for having Phil as our guide.



After the tour we all went separate ways. Vickie and I stayed and explored a lot of Ft. De Soto Park and had lunch at the pier next to the battery. It was a beautiful day to explore the park.

Fabulous Holiday Party

The 2013 Annual Holiday Party will be held on December 6th. Please plan on coming as last year's event was a HUGE success. It will again be held at the **Courtyard by Marriott** in Bradenton at 100 Riverfront Drive.

This fun evening includes time to visit and get to know our club members and catch up with all that's happened while the "snowbirds" were away. Last year there were rave reviews about the food which was an excellent dinner of Chicken Marsala or Fish with a citrus Buerre Blanc sauce, followed by a wonderful auction of shells and shell related items all donated by club members; the proceeds go for donations to educational facilities specializing in the preservation of marine environment and/or the study of mollusks.

We especially encourage all NEW members to attend!!! Bring a guest/spouse/friend...anyone who is fun-loving and might be interested in shells... Or generally just wants to see what we are all about. Tickets are \$25 each and includes the tip and tax. Please see Nancy Marini at the November meeting to obtain your tickets (this is the last meeting before the party.)

Holiday Auction

The Holiday party usually includes an auction. Please bring anything you wish to donate for the auction **to the November meeting**. It is helpful if you include an index card or similar size paper with a description and approximate value and perhaps what you think should be the starting bid. This saves time when we are setting up the auction.

November, 2013

Great Nudibranch Video

by Joyce Matthys

from Junonia, Sanibel Shell Club newsletter

A great video made by Nat Geo Wild that shows a Blue Dragon (a pelagic nudibranch) feeding on a Portuguese Man o' War. Close-up footage of the nudibranch's head shows its open mouth sucking on a tentacle. You can even see one of its eyes. You can watch it by going to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHg536CII2M>

Shoebox Exhibits Wanted

Our December 12 meeting will not have a speaker, but we'll have a fun activity (you'll get a free shell) and Shoebox Exhibits. To make a Shoebox Exhibit, choose any box (it can be open topped) and put shells in it. You should have a theme for your shells and label them as

you would in a shell show. The members present will vote on their favorite exhibits and you might go home with a ribbon! We've had some very original exhibits in the past... see what you can do!



November's Low Tides

6 Sun 8:43a .10	19 Sa 8:06a .07
7 Mon 9:30a .03	20 Su 8:45a .03
8 Tu 10:22 .01	21 M 9:25a .04
9 W 11:21 .05	22 Tu 10:08 .08
10 Th 12:29 .13	23 W 10:54 .15



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 February 14-16, 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).

DID YOU KNOW...

Some shells can swim! For instance, Olivellas ("rice shells") that live in the surf have a very large foot which can be spread in both directions and flaps to swim higher on the beach when they are dislodged from under the sand by wave action.



Sarasota Shell Club

P.O. Box 575

Tallevast, FL 34270

Peggy@Shelltrips.com

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

November, 2013

SARASOTA SHELL CLUB MEETING, October 10, 2013

Sally Peppitoni, vice-president, opened the meeting at 7:05p.m. She welcomed one new member.

Sally reported that dealer tables at the annual shell show will now be priced at \$125.00.

A program with a set of projected photos about chitons was presented by Peggy Williams.

Minutes from September meeting were ready and approved with one correction made.

Treasurers reported stated a balance of \$11,179.40 in our account.

Bruce Paulsen stated that secondary to our status as a 501(C)3 club the board has passed and will operate by a "Code of Ethics". This will hold our club to a higher standard.

Donna Cassin, Shell show chairperson, continues to negotiate with the venue for food service. The show will be February 14th, 15th and 16th. Sally requested a volunteer for the publicity chair and asked if anyone knew a person outside the club who might be willing to help us. The former publicity person will assist with providing all contacts and other information.

Next month's program will be provided by John Colagrande with a talk about scientific names.

No report was available from the Nominating committee.

Librarian, Linda Greiner reported the library books were moved from Peggy's home to the new storage space. A fossil invertebrates book was donated by Maynard.

Historian's (Duane Kauffman) report was read by Lynn Gaulin. The October 1963 meeting held at the Palmer Bank Building Arcade reported 10 members attended.

Lynn Gaulin, Membership chair, reported 28 members have paid new dues. Members need to pay by November 1 so your name will be added to club roster.

Lynn Gaulin, Field Trips chair, reviewed changes made to 2 of the field trips. For details of all trips please see Lynn.

Peggy Williams requested that she would like any members to write articles that can be included in the newsletter.

Sally requested a volunteer for an Education position to help with coordinating and organizing ideas for programs outside the club and presenting the Shell Club to communities to gain more members.

Nancy Marini gave a report on the Artisans, she noted all of the talent and fun we have creating. We will be having a show at the Bayfest in Sarasota on Nov. 2nd. Discussion of the club having a booth at specific education shows. It was also mentioned that we could do permanent displays at the beaches. Other venues would be airport, libraries and visitors bureau. Discussion will happen at the next board meeting and decision will be made if a committee is needed to support and formulate these ideas.

Nancy gave a reminder about the Christmas Party December 6th at the Courtyard by Marriott (Bradenton). Ticket cost \$25.00 for meal with open bar.

OLD BUSINESS

Peggy reported that income from COA meeting was \$65,230.00, after expenses and profit of \$31,841.00 will be given out for grants. These monies are all in control of the COA.

Sally passed out copies of a future brochure for all members to review and make suggestion for a final draft.

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Bopp inquired if we will have a shoe box exhibit. It was decided we will have a meeting in December and have the shoe box exhibits then with no other program.

No further business was discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Donna Bartels

Recording Secretary