



The Beau

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

Meetings 2nd Thursdays, September-April at Fire Station #2, 2070 Waldemere St Sarasota.



From the Prez

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday season and that you've made your New Year's resolutions! We will have to help each other keep

those resolutions. There were so many activities this last month with two Carefree Learner trips (can't wait to tell you about those!), the trip to Big Hickory Island and the Beach and Breakfast trip to Nokomis Beach. All were fabulous trips and I found interesting and wonderful things on each one that I will share with you at our upcoming January meeting.

At the meeting I will also have the sign-up sheets for the help we need at the shell show in February. Please remember that without YOUR help the show won't be as good as it could be! I know everyone can find something he/she can do to help make our show a great success!

We still have several upcoming field trips so keep your eye on the dates so you don't forget anything!

One last item before I sign off...right after Christmas, my cousin from Connecticut came down to Clearwater to visit her in-laws and Frank and I went up on that Sunday to visit for lunch. We ate at the Sandpearl Hotel and Resort. The photo you see is one of the chandeliers in the lobby...and, yes, they are real. I had to share!

See you soon!
Sally Peppitoni

Next meeting January 8

Program: Dr Jose Leal

Some members will have shells for sale at the meeting. Cash or checks!

**NO MEETING IN FEB;
COME WORK AT THE
Shell Show Feb. 13-15**

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

Shell Show Needs

We need shells to sell at the show's club table. Please bring contributions to the January meeting!

Calendar

Check the calendar on the last page for field trips and other events.

Show Judges' Dinner

You can still get tickets for the Saturday February 14 Judges' Dinner (program by Charlotte Thorpe) at the January meeting. Bring a check!



Field Trips, Etc

Sally Peppitoni

Members, please remember that the Carefree Learner trips must be paid for in CASH! Other trips may be paid for by check made out to Sarasota Shell Club. I will **always** send out an e-mail of pertinent information several days ahead of time to each person on a trip's sign up list, so please do not worry about not receiving information unless you didn't sign up for a trip and have decided to do so. E-mail me only if you want to add your name to a list. My phone # is 941.720.3810 and my e-mail is: shellmaniac8@gmail.com

January 7 – Carefree Learner

The *Carefree Learner* will leave from Marina Jack's in Sarasota at 8 am. The



cost is \$5 per person CASH.

January 10 - Shell Island Shoal

Shell Island Shoal is just south of Pass-A-Grille in Pinellas County and is reachable only by ferry. We will meet at the ferry marina in St. Pete Beach at 9:30 am to purchase our tickets (you're responsible for your own purchase when you get there). The cost is \$25 + tax. The boat leaves the dock at 10 am and there are three different return trips depending on how long you wish to stay. More info will be available at the December meeting.

January 20 - Carefree Learner

The *Carefree Learner* will leave from Marina Jack's in Sarasota at 8 am. The cost is \$5 per person CASH and I will have a sign-up sheet for this at the December meeting. We will try some new locations in and around Sarasota Bay for shelling.

January 31 - Beach & Breakfast trip

Let's try the south end of Coquina Beach by the jetty on Anna Maria this month. There's plenty of parking available and we could try shelling the gulf side, the pass side and the inter-coastal side. We can meet at 8:30 am and, afterwards, we can have breakfast at one of my favorite places, the Sage Biscuit on Cortez Rd.

Trip to Kice Island (below Marco):

I am working on a date for this trip with the captain who has taken us there before. This trip will probably be pushed to February after the show.

We will have no other field trips in February due to the shell show and wee hour low tides.

2014-15 Membership Information



Lynn Gaulin,
Membership chair

At last month's club meeting, our new rosters were available for pickup.

These rosters are free this year and if you didn't get yours please pick it up this month from the membership table. New members who have joined recently will have their information copied and added to these booklets at the monthly club meetings. Sally will project this information on the wall for you to copy.

The Shell Show is next month in mid February and **members must have the current membership card**. Your membership cards were given out at the time you paid your dues this past fall. If you haven't been to a club meeting this fall, please pick up your card.

A name badge, (while nice to know your name), will not allow you free access to the show. Only showing your membership card at the registration table will allow club members to get in free.

if you need and want a new name badge with the magnet backing, please let me know. The cost varies and depends on the number made at that time; about \$7.00 to \$7.50 for the replacement. Our new vendor's turn around time is about 5 days.

Educational

Peggy Williams

"Grunge" is sand picked up from beach high wash or underwater that contains miniature shells. You go through it with the aid of magnification to pick out the shells.

One session will be picking out the shells, and the other identifying them.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lynn Gaulin at shellhunter@gmail.com or (585) 545-8005 (cell) or (941) 755-1270 or me at (941) 355-2291. We need to have an idea of how many will be coming.

Grunge picking Jan. 12, 2:00-3:30 at Goodwill, north US 41 and at my house, 6:30-8:00 pm. Identification session Jan. 19, time and place to be announced.

Discovery of shell stash from an ancient society

by Meredith Alexander, Stanford Univ.

John Rick arrived in Lima, Peru, this summer with quite a fanfare. Literally.

After a talk at the National Museum in Lima, Rick and a large audience were serenaded with the sounds of 12 Strombus trumpets -- instruments made from large sea-snail shells. But these weren't just any shells. They were nearly 3,000-year-old artifacts that archaeologist Rick and his team had unearthed at the ancient Peruvian center Chavin de Huanter. He describes the sound of people playing the shells as "a quite substantial throaty roar."

"This was not a quiet concert," Rick recalls. "It was a din. It was literally wall-shaking. The large audience was stunned," he says.

But surely not as stunned as Rick and his colleagues were when they came across the stash of shells in an underground gallery at Chavin, the seat of a culture that began to gain prominence around 1200 to 1400 B.C. and faded around 400 B.C. This early pre-Columbian site...always has been known to Peruvians, and archaeologists have worked there for decades. But only this

July did Rick excavate a room that may have been used for storage of ritual paraphernalia. Rick...says he believes the 20 newly discovered shells, which date back to 600 to 1000 B.C, were deposited there deliberately, perhaps as an offering.

Before Rick's discovery, only one other decorated Strombus shell had been unearthed in all of Peru -- from an irrigation ditch. In contrast, many of the shells Rick found have intricate patterns incised onto them...20 shells, each weighing 3 to 5 pounds and measuring some 10 inches.

It's obvious the shells were used as musical instruments, Rick says, because they'd had their spires carefully cut off and shaped into mouthpieces. "It's a clear cultural modification with only one reasonable reason," he says. There have been numerous artistic representations found at Chavin of shells being carried and played. There is also a long cultural tradition in Peru of playing shell trumpets that continues to this day.



A deeply engraved Strombus shell, discovered by John Rick at Chavin, appears to show trophy heads of sacrifice victims and spear-like weapons. Photo courtesy of: John Rick





Cognates

by Peggy Williams

We all know that many eons ago what is now the Caribbean Sea was open to both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and, with expanding glaciers was closed off from the Pacific by the Isthmus of Panama.

During the former time, marine life moved freely from one side to the other and was more or less homogenous. The genus *Jenneria*, for instance, now only

as *recognize*. It's interesting to collect both forms...



Two *Lima* species, from the Caribbean and the Pacific

I have many such pairs in my collection.



found in the Pacific, can be found as fossils here in Florida.

After the closing and creation of the Caribbean, molluscs on both sides began to evolve differently. You can see definite similarities between many species on the east and west coasts of the Isthmus, but the shells have evolve so



Pleuroploca princeps from the Pacific and *Triplofusus gigantea* from the Caribbean are very similar, except that the operculae are different.



There are a few shells that are the same (and the same worldwide). These are due to 1) a long veliger (larval) stage, during which the animal drifts with the currents for as long as a year, and



Cypraea cervinetta (Pacific) and *Cypraea zebra* (Caribbean)

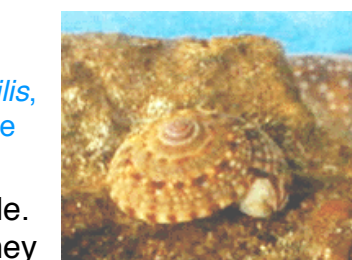
far that they now have different species names. We suppose that, were they to mingle again, they could not reproduce with one another.

These pairs of molluscs are known as *cognates*, a word with the same root

An example of 1) is *Architectonica nobilis*, which has worldwide distribution.

2) a pelagic lifestyle. This means that they spend their lives drifting in the ocean.

2) *Janthina janthina* and *Spirula spirula* (below) drift.



He Cleans Up Nicely!

Ron Bopp took this photo in December. Rich Cirrintano was a greeter for the Sarasota Orchestra.



In Memoriam



Joe Todaro, husband of Barbara Smith, died last month. We will remember his ready smile and effervescent personality. Our condolences to Barbara and we hope she will rejoin us soon.

A German Conch Band



Members of Club Conchylia, a German shell club, played songs ("Lied") on their shell instruments in 1971. Hear the songs at <http://www.club-conchylia.de/journal/chor/index.html>

Thanks to Ron Bopp for making me aware of this! NOTE: the titles of the song include shell names!

What can you do for the Shell Show?

There are lots of jobs for the shell show, and every member should be there to work! You can: **sell tickets at the door** (sit down), **sell raffle tickets** (sit down), **guard artistic exhibits** (keep people from touching), **sell shells and stuff at the Club Table**, **check with dealers to see if they need a break**, **wander around and answer questions from the public** ("where's the bathroom", "are the shells painted?" [NO!]; for more complicated questions refer to a member or someone else who knows about shells), **help man the membership table** (sit down; many people join first at the show!) and **more**.

We need **SHELLS** for the club table.

But **the best thing you can do is EXHIBIT!** It's not too late to enter an exhibit, and the public loves exhibits of local finds and expertise from our members.

Board Members

Sally Peppitoni President
Nancy Marini Vice President
Bruce Paulsen Treasurer
Donna Bartels Recording Secretary
Peggy Williams Corresponding Sec'y
Board: Donna Cassin, JoAnn Mancuso, Terry Jones, Rosanne Roble, Deborah Deam, Harry Berryman

Committee Chairmen:

Artisans: Nancy Marini
Beauti: Peggy Williams 355-2291
Historian: Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips: Sally Peppitoni
Librarian: Linda Greiner 993-5161
Membership: Lynn Gaulin
Shell Show: Board
Sunshine: Karen Ciffin

Calendar

Please note dates on your own calendars!

Jan 7, 8 am Carefree Learner Trip
Jan 9-11 Astronaut Trail Shell Show
Melbourne, FL (East coast)
Jan 10 Shell Island Shoal field trip
Jan 20, 8 am Carefree Learner Trip
Jan 31, 8:30 Beach & Breakfast Coquina
Feb 13-15 **Sarasota Shell Show**
Feb. 21-22 St Pete Shell Show Seminole
Mar. 5-7 Sanibel Shell Show
Mar. 12-14 Marco Island Shell Show
Mar 14 Beach & Breakfast Anna Maria
Mar 28: Field Trip to Sanibel,
Bailey-Matthews Shell
Museum and beach
April 9 Last meeting before Sept.
Apr 18 Field trip to Peanut Island
(east coast)
Jun 13-14 Gulf Coast Show, Panama City
July 14-19 Conchologists of America
convention, Weston, FL
(East coast)

www.2015coaconvention.com

**THERE WILL NOT BE A
MEETING IN FEBRUARY;
COME TO THE SHELL SHOW!**

Meetings on the

second

Thursday of
Sept through
April at 7:00
p.m., at
Waldemere
Fire Station, 2070
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 13-15,
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).

**If you want your
newsletter printed and
mailed add \$15.00.**



January's Low Tides

1/4 Sun	07:03 -.54	1/20 Tu	07:22 -.76
1/5 Mon	07:36 -.51	1/21 Wed	08:02 -.70
1/6 Tu	08:07 -.46.	1/22 Th	08:41 -.56
1/7 Wed	08:39 -.39	1/23 Fri	09:18 -.37
1/8 Th	09:10 -.29	1/24 Sa	09:54 -.14
1/9 Fri	09:43.-.18		

Sarasota Shell Club

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SARASOTA SHELL CLUB MEETING, December 8, 2014

Sally Peppitoni called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. at the Waldemere Firehouse. 26 members attended.

The program for the evening consisted of shoe box showings. Only two entries were brought to view. Peter Steelman won first place and Karen Paulsen won second place.

Minutes of the November meeting had been sent out with last month's Newsletter. No corrections were made. Ron Bopp made a move that the minutes be entered as written, Donna Cassin (2nd).

Treasurer's Report – Bruce Paulsen reported current checking balance is \$14,604.02.

Shell Show – Sally Peppitoni said she received 2 entries from teachers for exhibit by the deadline. She had given all the information to the principals at the schools and it was their responsibility to pass it on to their teachers. Sally is also asking for volunteers for the Shell Show. She noted that it takes many volunteers and the more hands the less each one of us has to do. There will be sign-up sheets at the January meeting. There are many different jobs so please ask and join in all the fun.

Artisans – Nancy Marini announced that we have a couple of new members. We entered in two small shows and made approximately \$600.

Librarian – Linda Greiner announced that there may be books in our library to help with your exhibits. Please give her a call and she will assist you.

Historian – Duane Kaufman was out of town. His monthly report is in the Beauui Newsletter.

Membership – Lynn Gaulin reported that we have 130 paid members. Membership photo books were passed out and will be available at the January meeting also.

Field Trips – Sally gave a reminder that any trip on the Carefree Learner has to be paid for in cash. Also if you sign up for any trip you will be responsible for your timely payment and your space if you have to cancel too close to the time of the trip.

Education – Please speak up if you are interested in any classes and have any suggestions. Peggy Williams will be giving a class on finding miniatures in beach so let her know if you'd like to attend.

Programs – At the January meeting one of the Scientific judges for our show will be giving a program.

Old Business:

501c3 status and donations. If you take in a donation for the club, it is tax deductible. Bruce can give you a receipt for the person to include in their taxes. Also the club needs to have documentation from you in general what was received as it needs to be recorded in the club in case there is an IRS audit. Anyone who accepts a donation is not to put a monetary amount on the donation that is up to the donor.

The meeting continued with social time, shopping for shells and having some Holiday treats. Sally P. handmade and brought in "Sugar Plums" which were delicious. She made them from a recipe that has been in her family for 300 years.

Sally adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Donna Bartels
Recording Secretary