

# The Beauii



A newsletter published by the  
Sarasota Shell Club

Look for us at  
[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)

We meet on the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm  
(September to April)  
~~at Fire Station #2,~~  
~~2070 Waldemere St.,~~  
Sarasota, FL

Summer, 2021 Edition



Hello Fellow Shellinators!

I hope every is having a great summer and enjoying the loosening of our COVID restrictions. We do plan on in-person meetings this season BUT we do have some changes. **Change #1:** We will no longer be able to meet at the Waldemere Fire Station's conference room. The

upper echelons in the Sarasota County Fire Dept have decided that they will no longer be allowing public or private groups to meet in any of their conference rooms. I was given no reason for this ruling. So now, we have been looking for a suitable location for our monthly meetings. We are hoping to be able to use the fellowship room at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church where our artisan's meet and are, at this point, waiting to receive permission. This would be a great location as it would keep all our interests in one location. We wouldn't have to drag supplies back and forth, lots of parking, kitchen available, dumpsters for garbage and lots of easy parking. As soon as we find out if we can do this we will let you know.

**Change #2:** Due to rising costs for pretty much everything as well as our need to be able to keep up our donations, the board has decided that our annual initial and renewal dues must be increased. This was discussed at length by the board and we feel there is no other option. Right now the website and the membership form are being redone to reflect the new dues. Please DO NOT send in dues at this time! Our membership and dues drive will start in AUGUST at which point the new materials will be available on the website for you to print out. Initial dues for a new single membership will be \$30 for the year with renewal dues after that of \$25 per year. Initial dues for new family membership will be \$40 for the year with renewal dues after that \$30 per year. Please remember when you send in your dues that the waiver on the membership form MUST be signed by all members for insurance purposes.

## What's in this Issue:

President's message	Page 1
"Lightning Whelk" (Lynn Gaulin)	Page 2-3
"Shellabration"	Page 4
Club Picnic Photo	Page 5
Postcards & a cartoon	Page 6
Club members at the COA	Page 7
COA Photos	Page 8-9
A vintage caricature	Page 10
Miscellaneous	Page 11
Advertisements	Page 12
Club Info	Page 13

We are hoping to have a special field trip in September to Cedar Key up at the big bend. Gary Martinez is looking into costs of renting a boat/captain to take those interested from Cedar Key to Seahorse Key in the outer islands for shelling. Please stay tuned for more information in the August edition of *The Beauii*. If you are especially interested in this fieldtrip please email Gary at [yonsider@msn.com](mailto:yonsider@msn.com) and let him know as numbers of people who want to go will, I'm sure, play into costs.

We have a LOT of guest speakers (including yours truly) planned for this year as well as a number of fun activities we would like to plan. A "survey monkey" will be sent via email to you before long and we would greatly appreciate as many responses to this survey as possible. (Survey Monkey is just a simple survey platform on computer. Click, answer, submit.)

Hope to see everyone in September!

Sally Peppitoni, President

**August is time for membership renewal**

## “Lightning Whelk” aka *Sinistrofulgur perversum* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Lynn Gaulin

Lightning whelk sea snails belong to the *Busyconidae* Family; commonly known as *Busycon* whelks. These mollusks are an edible, predatory, sea snail found along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from New Jersey to Texas. Their scientific name is *Sinistrofulgur perversum* named by C. Linnaeus in 1758.



Figure 1. Left-side view of a Lightning Whelk. Photo: jaxshells.org

the aperture is on the left side of the shell coiling to the left side of the shell or in a counterclockwise direction. As a juvenile, they have chestnut or apricot brown colored stripes continuing around its shell in a zigzag pattern. These stripes resemble lightning bolts. Thus, their name lightning whelk. As they age, lightning whelks begin to turn white and lose their brown color. During their 20–30-year life, they can grow a shell 10-16 inches in length. It takes 8-10 years for a lightning whelk to grow an 8-inch shell. They live in shallow water in sandy or muddy bottoms coming out at night to feed.

**Figures 1 & 2**



Figure 2. A photo of dextral and sinistral lightning whelks. Photo: jaxshells.org

This mollusk is different from *Siratus beauii*, *Aliger gigas*, *Melongena corona*, and *Triplofusus giganteus* I’ve written about in *The Beauii*. Those mollusks all coil in a clockwise direction and are called dextral shells, meaning they coil to the right. (When holding the mollusk in your hand with the spire up, their aperture, or large opening where the body comes out, is on the right of the shell). *Sinistrofulgur perversum* is a sinistral mollusk, meaning

These mollusks are primarily carnivores, preferring a diet of bivalves; especially oysters and clams. However, they will eat live or dead carrion too. During the day, they bury themselves with their siphon (proboscis) sticking out of the sand or mud smelling for any meal that may come by. An adult lightning whelk will usually eat one clam a month. After capturing a bivalve, they open it by wedging their foot at the edge of the bivalves’ shell, slowly prying it open. Its proboscis is then inserted into the small opening of the bivalves’ shell and starts to feed on the soft meat inside the shell using its tongue like radula. This process of feeding may take as long as one week for the mollusk to digest its captured bivalve.

Male lightning whelks are much smaller in size than females. They mate in the fall’s cooler months. Females will mate with different groups of males, often at the same time. This spawning process may take as long as 8-10 days. Their egg cases are then laid in long, waxy amber colored snake like strings attached by a leathery anchor deep into the water’s bottom. **Figure 3**



Figure 3. A Lightning Whelk laying eggs.

Photo: floridamuseum.ufl.edu

Each egg string may have 50 to 175 disks with as many as 20-50 eggs in each disc the size of a quarter. Any eggs that don’t hatch become food for the developing larvae growing within each disc. The eggs inside are nour-



Figure 4. Lightning Whelk egg casing.

Photo: Sanibel Sea School by Nicole Finnicum



Figure 5. Lightning Whelk baby shells.

Photo: Shellbelleestikihut.com

ished and protected by embryonic fluid within each disc. In late spring the miniature shells hatch and escape through a hole in their egg capsule's disc and swim away.

**Figures 4 & 5**

Early Native Americans had many uses for a lightning whelk mollusk. For thousands of years, they were an important food source. Discarded shell pieces were made into tools such as scrapers, gouges, hammers or net sinkers. **Figure 6**

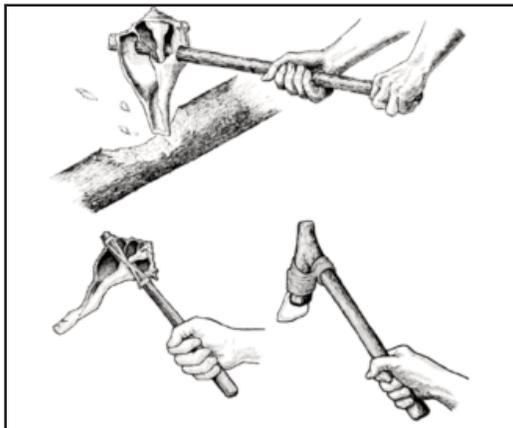


Figure 6. Shelltools.

Other parts of the shell became cups, bowls and other food implements. Beads were drilled and used as jewelry items also. They have also been found as burial items and used in important ceremonies and rituals. **Figure 7**

Experts think because of the sinistral nature of their shell they were used for religious purposes. Lightning whelk shells have been uncovered in Florida's fossil pits. These lightning whelk fossils are known by another name. They are identified as *Busycon contrarium* by Conrad, 1840. It is rare to unearth an intact specimen of this species in a fossil pit.



Figure 7. A shell gorget.

Photo: sites.utexas.edu

**References**

Abbott, R. Tucker, *American Seashells* (Second Edition), Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York, NY, 1974

Abbott, R. Tucker and Dance, S. Peter. *Compendium of Seashells*, American Malacologists, Inc., Melbourne, FL, 1976

Abbott, R. Tucker and Morris, Percy A. *Shells of The Atlantic & Gulf Coasts & The West Indies*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA, 1995

Andrews, Jean, *Sea Shells of The Texas Coast*, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX, 1971

Andrews, Jean, *A Field Guide of Shells Of The Florida Coast*, Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, TX, 1994

Chestnut, Cathy, "Common Lightning Whelk Has Extraordinary History", *New-press.com*, July, 2028

Emerson, William K. and Jacobson, Morris K. *The American Museum Of Natural History Guide To Shells*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY, 1976

Hollister, Solomon C. A review of the genus *Busycon* and its allies, Pt. 1, *Palaeontographical Americana*, 4, no. 28, 1958

Janiskee, Robert, "A Lightning Whelk Knows What to Do with a Clam", *National Park Traveler*. 2010

Marquardt, W. M. "Shell Artifacts from the Caloosahatchee Area." *In Culture and Environment in Domain of the Calusa. Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironmental Studies, Monograph 1*, University of Florida, Gainesville. 1992

# *Shellabrate Getting Back Together* (The Sarasota's 2022 Shell Show)

Let's all come together to celebrate and to put on a wonderful Shell Show in February, 2022

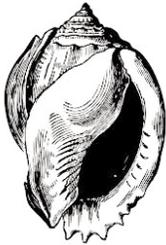
- \* Dates: February 9th (set-up and judging)  
February 10 - 11th (Shell Show)
- \* Where: Potter Building (Sarasota Fair Grounds)
- \* What: Scientific Displays  
Artistic Displays  
Dealer Tables  
Club Table  
Raffle Table
  
- \* Ways to help . . . members are needed for many of the following categories . . . step forward and let Donna Cassin (show coordinator) know that you can help . . . if we all pitch in it will be fun and we will have a great show
- \* Categories: Artistic, Scientific, Food, Raffles, Admissions, Publicity, Admissions, Publicity plus many other positions.

Remember . . . we are

# *Shellabrate Getting Back Together*



Members enjoying the club's annual picnic, held April 17th, 2021 at the Coquina Beach pavillion.



#### Classified Ads

Classified advertising rates (per issue): \$10.00 per ad (non-Sarasota Shell Club member, \$20 per ad). Ads will be no more than 35 words per ad, the first few words in **bold print** (see example below). Ads shall be limited to shell or shell-related material.

All classified ad material plus payment (a check made out to Sarasota Shell Club) should be mailed two weeks before the upcoming issue (to be sure it is included in that issue) to the Editor at 2608 67th St. W, Bradenton, FL 34209.

### Historian's Report

50 Years Ago

25 Years Ago

**No Report  
this issue!**

Duane Kauffmann

## A Postcard from the Past . . . a circa 1910 postcard . . . “funny things”



On the left is a circa 1910 postcard showing a nice-appearing lady listening to what appears to be a conch. She doesn't necessarily equate what she hears to the sound of the sea.

Below, however, is a rare 1884 trade card advertising the Crump Label Company that apparently prints showcards, labels and advertising cards. Note that the cocky fellow leaning to the Strombus is “Listening to the ceaseless roar of the mighty deep.”



## Summer's Cartoon . . .

Contributed by Linda Greiner



*Editor's Thoughts . . .  
I like to hold hands at the  
movies... which always  
seems to startle strangers.*

## Club Members at the Space Coast COA—June, 2021



There we are . . . posing outside the Bourse room.



Paul Lamb at the bourse



Duane Kauffmann caught at the silent auction



Bernie & Carol Peterson (at home before the meeting)



Lynn Gaulin with her prized door prize - a neat slit shell

## More Convention Photos—June, 2021



A wide-angle view of the Bourse



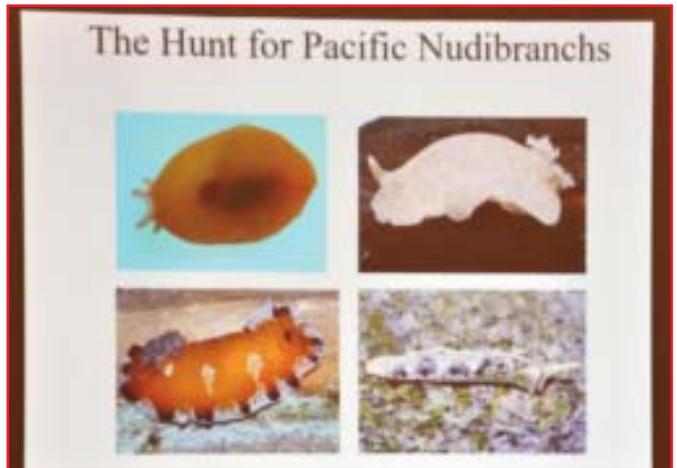
Workshops were well attended



Alan Gettleman presided over the convention



Just one of the hundreds of interesting photos at the workshops



Gary Schmelz gave an interesting program on Nudibranchs



Carol Mae is shocked by the presence of these aliens



Now past-President, Harry Lee, came as a "bucket" alien

## And, Even More Convention Photos—June, 2021



The oral auction provided a chance to acquire that special shell



Just another fantastic photo from the workshops



An optional excursion was a trip to the NASA facility



Your Editor and Mary Jo toast the convention

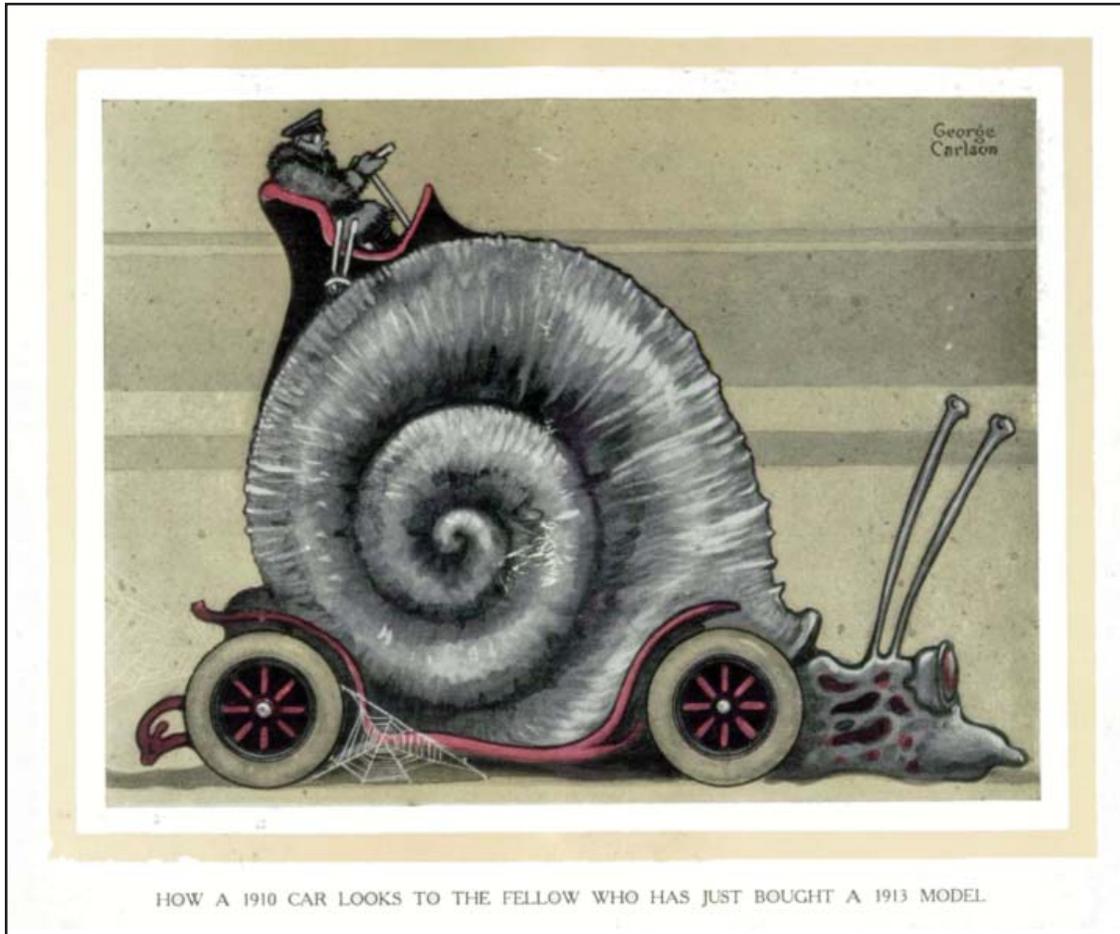
### *Advance Warning!* September's Program

The September's program will be a combination of

- \* Show and Tell
- \* "Shoe Box Exhibits"
- \* Powerpoint program on  
"Hints to putting together a Shell Show Entry"

All good reason for you to be there - get your shell(s) you found this summer and/or prepare a Shoe Box Exhibit and then be prepared to learn the "ins and outs" of entering a shell show.

## *A Vintage Caricature . . .*



This illustration was found in a January, 1913 edition of *Judge* magazine. Obviously, one would want a car faster than was similar to the slow snail. Note the cobweb forming on the back wheel. Wonder if it runs on slime?



### **What's up?**

- 1. A new meeting place (to be announced soon)**
- 2. New dues structure (the first in many, many years)**
- 3. Our Shell Show is back**
- 4. Several exciting programs for our upcoming meetings**
- 5. A new membership renewal form (coming soon)**

**All these and much more . . . all making for an exciting 2021-2022 club year.**

# Note: The Membership Drive begins in August!

Find the form on our website, fill it out and with a check  
[to “SSC”] send it to Donna Krusenoski at  
3250 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota FL 34235

**Business Cards:** placing a business card  
in *The Beauii* for a mere \$25 for 9-10  
issues not only puts your name in front  
of members but helps the club!

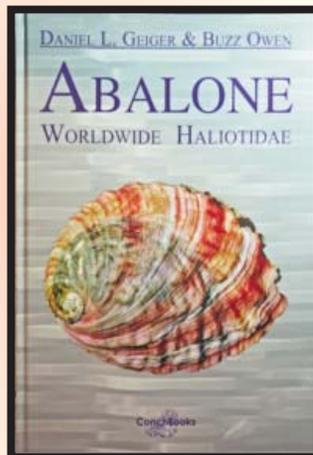
## Library Notes

Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is on our website [www.sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.sarasotashellclub.com). For more info on some of our books, go to [www.mdshellbooks.com](http://www.mdshellbooks.com)

Books in the Sarasota Shell Club Library can be accessed by contacting Duane Kauffmann at 574-238-4554 or [duanerk@goshen.edu](mailto:duanerk@goshen.edu). In addition persons needing information about shells and shelling can be assisted in contacting club members with relevant expertise.

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

Duane Kauffmann  
Linda Greiner (librarian Emeritus/summer contact)



Donna Cassin was recognized for her work with the Artisans display at the County Fair. Flowers and a card were presented at the Club Picnic in April.

# Business Card Advertising:

It is time to renew, or insert, your business card. Only \$25 for an entire year! Contact the Editor now!

**Randy Allmand**  
DEALER OF QUALITY  
Specimen SHELLS  
FOR OVER 15 YEARS

• appraisal and purchase of old collections •

2308 Palm Kay Court  
Sebring, FL 33870-1611  
863 835 1962  
rallmand@comcast.net

**Mdm Shell Books**  
mdmshellbooks.com

Robert Janowsky  
proprietor  
mal@mdmshellbooks.com

2029 Greenview Cove Drive  
Wellington, FL 33494

**COASTAL FLOW**  
Beach Decor and Apparel

18 Local Artists and Crafters Display their  
Love for the Ocean and Beach Inspired Lifestyle

7216 S Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, FL 34231  
Wed-Fri 11-4  
Sat 9-1 · Sun 11-2

Follow us to view more one of a kind items!

**PERTH SHELL DISTRIBUTORS**  
Showroom: 12 Ambrose St. Rockingham Western Australia 6168  
Ph: (08) 9528 2722 Fax: (08) 9528 2733 Mobile: 0417 07 0010  
Email: merv@perthshells.com Website: www.perthshells.com

PO Box 7037 Safety Bay  
Western Australia 6169  
**Merv Cooper**  
Conchologist  
- Diver -

*Livonia mervcooperi*

Buyer & Seller of Worldwide Seashells  
Complete Collections Purchased

**Ron Bopp—Collector/Shell Show Displays**  
Interests: Bursidae, Conidae, Halotidae & FL Fossil Shells  
918-527-0589 rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com

**Business Card Advertisements**

Business cards (shell-related) may be used as advertising at a rate of \$25.00 per club year (up to nine issues). If you wish your business card to appear in each issue of *The Beauii*, please send it, along with a check (for \$25.00), made out to the Sarasota Shell Club, to the Editor, 2608 67th St. W, Bradenton, FL 34209.

To clarify, the \$25.00 pays for your card to appear in each issue of the 2021 - 2022 *The Beauii*.

**Dave & Linda Green**  
Conchologists

Dave: 713-435-9971  
dgreen2@entouch.net

Linda: 407-810-8437  
lindakgreen@entouch.net

3522 Bassett Ct.  
Missouri City, TX 77459

## Officers & Board Members

President	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-President	Duane Kauffmann
Treasurer	Karen Huether
Recording Secretary	Lynn Gaulin
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Parker

## Calendar

Club Meeting	Sept. 9, 2021
Texas Shellers Jamboree	Oct. 15-17, 2021
COA Convention	May 31 - June 4, 2022

Board Members: Donna Krusenowski (3); Rich Cirrantano (3); Ron Bopp (2); Nancy Cadieux (2); Carol May (1); and Donna Cassin (1)

## Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Open
<i>The Beauii</i>	Ron Bopp
Historian	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips	Sally Peppitoni
Librarian	Duane Kauffmann
Membership	Donna Krusenowski
Shell Show	Board
Sunshine	Frankie Grover
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*.

**Meetings** are held on the second Thursday of September through April at 7:00 pm. Location to be announced.

**Dues** are \$30.00 for new single members and \$40.00 for family members (at the same address). **Renewals** are \$25.00 for single and \$30.00 for family.

If you want *The Beauii* printed and mailed it is an extra \$15.00 to your dues.

**A 2021  
Membership application  
is not attached to this  
Newsletter**

## Past Presidents of the Sarasota Shell Club

Jack Oberle: 1963-1965, 1968-1968, 1972-1974	Vi Hertweck: 1982-1984	Cathy Hollar: 1999-2001
Louise Danforth: 1965-1967	Richard Forbush: 1984-1985	Joanne Chmielewski: 2007-2010
Franck Rinck: 1967-1968	June Bailey: 1985-1987, 1995-1997, 2002-2003	Ron Bopp: 2010-2012
Thomas Robertson: 1969-1970	Bob Hansen: 1987-1988	Dennis Sargent: 2012-2014
Evelyn Bradley: 1970-1972	Beverly Chouinard: 1989-1991	Sally Peppitoni: 2014-2022
Charles Hertweck: 1974-1979	Bonnie Christophel: 1990-1992	
Peggy Williams: 1980-1982, 1988-1989, 1992-1994, 2001-2002, 2005-2007	Pat Amsel: 1994-1995	
	Debra Ingrao: 1997-1998	
	Cathy Aschliman: 1998-1999	

## WANTED!

Any activity, show-and-tell, or anything else you would like to share for members. Since we can't get together in person, perhaps we can do it via "*The Beauii*," your favorite club newsletter. Send in your stories, photos or what-have-you to the Editor at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com. We look forward to your submission!