



The Beauí

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:

Sally Peppitoni

Hello All!

We will hopefully present a full **slate of officers** to vote for in April We really, really need someone to take over the Membership committee from the Bopps since Ron Bopp will be taking over publishing this newsletter come next fall.

The shell-tacular artisan's will have a table at the **Sarasota County Fair** which runs from March 17th - 25th. They are struggling to find help to cover the table for all the hours. PLEASE, if you have a couple of hours for which you can volunteer to man the table, call Nancy Marini ASAP at either 758-9790 (home) or 773-7131. It's not a difficult job and they really need your help, weekends 12-11pm weekdays 5-10p.

Once again, it is time to think about our annual **end-of-year picnic**! This year it will be from 11am-??? on Saturday, April 15th, at the north, gulf-side pavilion, at Coquina Beach on Anna Maria Island.

The all-you-can-eat food will be catered by Sonny's BBQ: chicken, pulled pork, slaw, baked beans and corn on the cob. We will eat about Noon when the food arrives. The cost is \$7. Pay Nancy Marini at the meeting next week to reserve a spot.

Please bring a drink (non-alcoholic) for each person. Sign up at the meeting to bring delicious homemade desserts to share. I's by the beach, bring a chair to sit in (those picnic benches get hard). If you have an outdoor game bring it to play.

Next meeting
Thurs., March 9at 7:00.

Refreshments are served at each meeting. Bring your own beverage!

Some members will have shells for sale at the meeting.

Program:Duane Kauffmann.

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

Fossil Field Trip (Williams Shell Pit, March 18)

Ron Bopp, Fossil Trip Coordinator

Only a few spots remain If you haven't signed up do so at the March meeting. Cost: \$25, checks should be made out to Gary Schmelz and given to him at the time of the trip. We will meet at 8:30 am at the front gate of the Bermont Quarry (instructions on how-to-get-there will be given out later). We will shell at the Williams Shell Pit until noon.

Those wishing to can go to the Country Roads Café on Highway 80 for lunch. Besides good food, the chance to acquire fossil shells, sea biscuits and crystals will highlight the lunch (from Gary's personal collection). He will have his fossil book for sale at that time for a low \$20.00.

Field Trips, Etc

Sally Peppitoni



Trips must be paid for by check made out to Sarasota Shell Club. I will **always** send out an e-mail of pertinent information before the trip goes.

March 18 – Fossil trip. I will have the sign-up sheet for this trip at the March meeting. *Priority will be given to those who sign up at the meeting.* The maximum is 24 persons.

April 8 – Peanut Island, Low tide 1:20 pm, -0.16 ft. East coast in Lake Worth lagoon, snorkeling is great here too!

Rosters Are Ready for Pickup

Come to the meeting to get your current list of members, including photos when available. To get one by mail, send \$1 for postage to Mary Jo Bopp, 5207 10th Ave Dr W, Bradenton FL 34209.

Please check your roster for errors and send them to Peggy@shelltrips.com. Changes and new members are on p. 8 of this newsletter.

Get Your Shell Stamps Now!

A new set of US stamps for postcards is now available, with “iconic” seashells.



In Memoriam

Hank Schlusemann Fran's beloved husband, passed away Feb. 28 at home. A memorial service will be announced later. Those who knew him remember his jovial temper and support of “HanksFran” 's (her email address) activities.

Betty Lipe passed the same day, the day after their St. Pete shell show finished. Her husband, Bob, and their son Kenny were both at the show. Betty and Bob have been dealers at our show for many years; Bob has given us great programs, and Betty served as President of the Conchologists of America and Treasurer of the St Petersburg Shell Club. She will be missed.

What You Always Wanted to Know About Shells

Female cowries sit on top of their eggs to protect them from enemies.

Ninety-nine percent of all snail species have shell whorls that coil in a clockwise direction. (What local shell is part of the 1%?)

Shells have been used throughout history for art, jewelry, money, scientific study, buttons, ink, road gravel, and chicken feed.

The ocean quahog, *Arctica islandica*, can live to be 220 years old.

Boring clams can sink a ship! One of them, the misnamed Teredo Shipworm, earned its name by ruining wooden boats. It's actually a clam and can bore through a six inch thick plank of wood in less than one year!

On Clubs and Collectors.

by G Thomas Watters

Random thoughts:

1. I wish I had a shell club here in central Ohio, USA. I do not see how a shell club is anything but beneficial to molluscs. How can even the most inactive club possibly be better than nothing at all in terms of educating the public?

2. The idea that collecting for collecting's sake is wrong,... is wrong. Our museums are based, in large part, on the accumulation of "natural history cabinets," people who regarded shells (and anything else of a natural history nature) as a curiosity to be acquired. They acquired them before anyone else and placed them into their Curiosity Cabinets, where at some point they were described by later scholars. Had they not amassed them, for whatever reason, they may not have been recognized.

3. The idea that fulfilling a list, the "postage stamp" approach, is wrong,... is also wrong. I collect Muricidae. I attempt to collect ALL of them. I would be a happy camper if I had EVERY species. Send me your Muricidae! I would suggest that these collectors know every bit as much about their respective groups as do the professionals and probably supply the professionals with fodder to describe. How can you toss aside such knowledge?

4. The idea that professional malacologists, or at least "serious collectors," should be able to collect shells rather than amateurs is often implied in related arguments. There is nothing magical about modern malacologists. Most "amateurs" have forgotten more than "professional" malacologists will ever know, particularly geneticists. The field of malacology would be destitute without the input of amateurs, a fact that some of the Young Turks seem to have forgotten in their hegemony.

5. I work (and am paid to deal) with freshwater molluscs. I have studied them for decades. I am often asked to comment

or even testify on their behalf. The idea that collectors are responsible for decimating a species is, in my opinion, ridiculous. No species has been driven to extinction by collectors, that I am aware of. Pollution, habitat loss, impoundment, and exotics are responsible for the demise of most species. But it is much easier to arrest a shell collector than it is to arrest a huge company. And a shell collector is much easier to show to a TV camera as the bad guy than a multi-million dollar faceless company. The same is true of collectors in Sanibel or wherever... it is just not cool to collect living animals as a hobby... or a science. But the beach dredgings continue, the dams continue, the pollution continues...

6. We live in an uncomfortable time for biologists. Animal rights' advocates have put our science under our own microscopes. In my lab we infest fish with parasitic mussel larvae in an effort to save these endangered species, but the fish have more protection and surveillance than my own kids! It is not cool to collect living animals, even for the sake of science.

I guess my summary of thoughts on this matter is:

a) The more clubs the better. Any dissemination of knowledge is better than nothing.

b) Collectors, even those for non-science, are NOT the problem. They are a fart in the wind compared to the industrialization and commercialization that is ravaging molluscan habitats.

G.Thomas Watters, PhD
Curator of Molluscs
Department of Evolution, Ecology &
Organismal Biology
The Ohio State University

Xenophora Operculum

by Harry Berryman

(*Xenophora* is a Carrier Shell.) The *Xenophora*'s "perc" is not as close a fit as most other mollusks'. You might say the wear and tear of the *xenophora*'s life reshapes the perc. To begin with unlike the "strombus hop", the *Xenophora* extends to the edge of its shell and digs its perc into the sand then pulls the shell to it. With this constant action and the abrading of the sand plus the stress of the weight of the shell causes the pointed edge of the perc to wear off, the more attachments and their weight causes more wear.

The wear of the rest of its edges is caused by its use to position and placement of the objects to be glued onto its shell. It stands to reason the more active the *xenophora*, the more wear, especially in the genus *Xenophora* as they are virtual pigs when it comes to attaching objects regardless of size, coarseness and weight..

What's in a name?

If you're a tiny creature native to the Indian subcontinent, exactly 36 vowels and consonants. That's what it takes to spell (deep breath) *Prolasiopter aeschynanthusperottetii*, a primitive fly discovered by an Indian entomologist, M. S. Mani, in 1943.

The hefty name may be just about the only thing unusual about *P. aeschynanthusperottetii*, an other-wise forgettable insect. But it is hardly the most unusual name in the animal kingdom. (It isn't even the longest: another fly weighs in at 42 letters.)

Scientists may be serious people, engaged in the pursuit of objective truth. But when it comes to naming species, they often let their hair down.

So the insect world has *Heerz tooya*, *Apopyllus now* and *Pieza pi* and *Pieza rhea*, among thousands of puns and other oddities. (In science, all creatures are binomial, with a capitalized genus name followed by a lower-case species name.)

The oceans are home to *Ittibittium*, a genus of mollusks that are smaller than those named *Bittium*. There are species named for body parts and bodily functions, for celebrities, painters and writers, for cartoon characters and favorite sports. For those who find it to be all too much, there is even *Ba humbugi*, a snail from Fiji.

"We have a code of ethics - no names that could be offensive on any grounds," said Neal L. Evenhuis, an entomologist at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu and current president of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, which oversees the naming process (similar groups exist for plants and bacteria). Beyond that, and requirements for Latinizing certain words, the person naming a species has wide leeway.

Dr. Evenhuis has taken some of that leeway himself with several of the more than 500 species of insects he has named. The flies *Pieza pi* and *Pieza rhea* are his creations, as are *Pieza deresistans* (relying on an alternative pronunciation of the genus name) and his personal favorite, *Phthiria relativitae*. {"Theory o' Relativity"}

"It's not that I'm desperate," Dr. Evenhuis said. "I just have this streak of levity. Not all names have to necessarily be kind of boring."

Others, however, are desperate. The problem is there are too many species. Well over one million animal species have been described, and millions more are awaiting discovery. And there are still many known species that no one has had the time to name yet. "There are not enough taxonomists to go around," Dr. Evenhuis said.

While some scientists try to follow the traditional practice of incorporating an organism's characteristics into its name, others give up and try something else. So there are creatures from *Aa* to *Zyzzyx*. There are the palindromic names *Ababa* and *Xela alex*. There's a species for every Tom, Dick and Harry: *Ptomaspis*, *Dikenaspis* and *Ariaspsis*.

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Shell Show Winners: Scientific



Conrad Forler and Martin Tremor Jr won both the DuPont Trophy and the Mote Gold Trophy!



Ron & Mary Jo Bopp with the COA Trophy



Bob & Alice Pace won Hertweck Fossil Award



*Doug Thompson with
SSC Members' Award*



*Harry Berryman's Most
Beautiful Exhibit Ribbon*



*Carolyn Petrikin with a
Judges' Special ribbon*

Board Members

Sally Peppitoni	President
Nancy Marini	Vice President
Bruce Paulsen	Treasurer
Jeanne Corbin	Recording Sec'y
Peggy Williams	Corresponding Sec'y

Board: Donna Krusenoski-1, Roseanne Roble-1, Joanne Mancuso 2, Donna Cassin-2, Harry Berryman-3, Karen Paulsen-3

Committee Chairmen

Artisans:	Nancy Marini
Beauti:	Peggy Williams 355-2291
Historian:	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips:	Sally Peppitoni
Librarian:	Linda Greiner 993-5161
Membership:	Mary Jo Bopp
Shell Show:	Board
Sunshine:	Karen Ciffin
Webmaster	Bruce Paulsen

Calendar

Mar 9	Club meeting 7:00
Mar 9-11	Marco Island Show
Mar 18	Fossil field trip
Apr 8	Peanut Island field trip
Apr 13	Last SSC Club meeting 7:00
Apr 15	End-of-season beach party 11:00-...Coquina Beach
June 10-11	Gulf Coast Shell Show- Panama City Beach FL
Aug 13-14	COA convention field trips
Aug 15-19	Conchologists of America (COA) Convention Key West
Aug 19-20	New Jersey Shell Show
Sept 14	Sarasota Shell Club mtg 7:00
Sept 15-16	NC Shell Show, Wilmington
Oct 28-29	Philadelphia Shell Show

More info on Events call Peggy W.

To Find Sarasota Tides

<http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?>

[site=Sarasota%2C+Sarasota+Bay%2C+Florida+%282%29](http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?site=Sarasota%2C+Sarasota+Bay%2C+Florida+%282%29) Site will show the week's tides. Go to prediction options below for one-month calendar. Choose options: Suppress, Suppress, Show, Show; Start at desired year & month. Choose hour format.

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.



Dues: New Single
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.**

Sarasota Shell Club

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Editor: Peggy@Shelltrips.com
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

Shell Show Winners: Artistic



Fran Schlusemann Award -
Mary Ellen Marra



First time exhibitor
Donna Timmerman
with June Bailey Award



Special Merit Ribbon



Best of Art Motif - Mary Ellen Marra



Favorite - Vicky Cassady



Special Merit Ribbon



Commercial Best - Suzanne Dietsch

**Please check your roster
and send changes to
peggy@Shelltrips.com**

Roster changes

Photo of Matt & Dona Blaine



**NOTE: PUT THESE CHANGES AND
PHOTOS IN YOUR ROSTERS. THEY
WILL BE REPLACED NEXT MONTH
WITH NEW CHANGES!**

Add to roster

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Timmerman, Donna & David

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page to cut and paste these
names!