

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

September, 2019 Edition

From the Prez



Hello Sarasota Shell Club!

Another season is about to begin and we have a lot to accomplish. With our loss of Nancy Marini, we need a new vice-president. We will discuss this at the September meeting and it is very important that everyone who can attend this meeting. We have new field trips forthcoming at the meeting as well. Don't forget that our program will be "Show and Tell". Please bring one or two shells you have found (bought or otherwise acquired) to show off! I will also have a brief report on this summer's COA convention which I believe you will find most enlightening. Hope to see everyone there!

Respectfully,
Sally Peppitoni, President

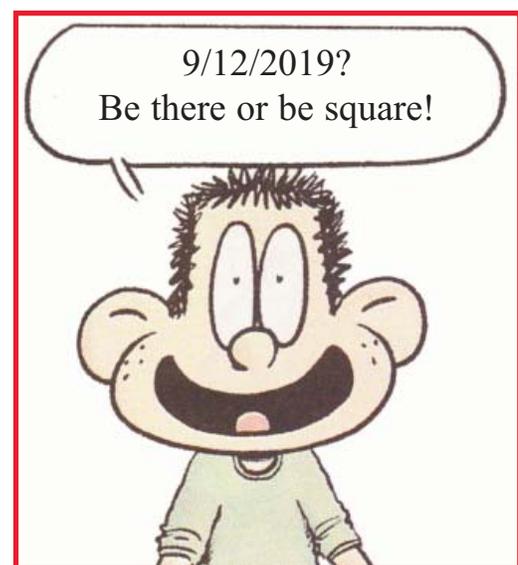
**Next Meeting:
September 12,
2019
"Show & Tell"**

Field Trips, 2019-2020

Many to be announced at the September meeting.

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

How Giant, Intelligent Snails Became a Marker of Our Age (Ages from now, giant snails could be one of the lasting signs of human influence on Earth)*

SARAH LASKOW

Giant African land snails are survivors. Big as a fist, their cone-shaped shells can reach six and a half inches in length. If the place where the snails are living becomes too dry, they can secrete a special mucus over their shell and retreat inside where they can survive in a resting state for months.



A giant African land snail.

Photo: courtesy Corrys.com

They often live on the ground, but they can also climb trees. For invertebrates, they live a long time—five to seven years—which means they're smart. They might sneak into a trap, eat the bait, and then back out, unapprehended.

They also excel at reproduction. Each giant African land snail has both male and female parts, so any time one dashing snail meets another, they can mate. In a pinch, a single snail can produce more snails on its own. The num-

ber of eggs that survive will be low, but each one of those snails, if kept in isolation, can produce another small generation of snails on its own. And as soon as two of those lonely snails get back together—boom, they'll start producing hundreds of robust eggs again.

Read the remain-

der of this interesting article in the December 4, 2018 issue of *Atlas Obscura*

(<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/giant-african-snails>).

*This article originally appeared on AtlasObscura.com. © Atlas Obscura Inc., reprinted by special permission.

Speaking of snails, Harry Lee recently posted on *Conch-L* a link to snail farming in Israel. Watch the video and see just how big a business this is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTF8fEv88yI>

Past Presidents of the Sarasota Shell Club

Jack Oberle: 1963-1965,
1968-1968, 1972-1974
Louise Danforth: 1965-1967
Franck Rinck: 1967-1968
Thomas Robertson: 1969-1970
Evelyn Bradley: 1970-1972
Charles Hertweck: 1974-1979
Peggy Williams: 1980-1982,
1988-1989, 1992-1994,
2001-2002, 2005-2007

Vi Hertweck: 1982-1984
Richard Forbush: 1984-1985
June Bailey: 1985-1987,
1995-1997, 2002-2003
Bob Hansen: 1987-1988
Beverly Chouinard: 1989-1991
Bonnie Christophel: 1990-1992
Pat Amsel: 1994-1995
Debra Ingrao: 1997-1998
Cathy Aschliman: 1998-1999

Cathy Hollar: 1999-2001
Joanne Chmielewski: 2007-2010
Ron Bopp: 2010-2012
Dennis Sargent: 2012-2014
Sally Peppitoni: 2014-2020

A “Happy Note” from Donna

Please :

- 1). **FILL OUT** the membership form (on back page of this newsletter)
- 2). **SIGN** the insurance release
- 2). **WRITE A CHECK**
- 3). **MAIL** or **BRING** it to the September Membership Meeting.

Donna Krusenoski
3250 Ringwood Mdw.,
Sarasota, FL 34235
 or
donnakrusenoski@gmail.com



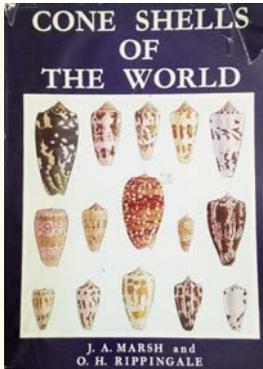
SHARE if you find the car
 (and Snails)

A recent addition to the Editor’s collection of mollusk-related items is this interesting puzzle designed to make you “find the car.” But . . . it is more interesting if I make you find and count the snails in the puzzle. Give it a try - the answer is found on page 8 (don’t sneak ahead till you try).

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 website www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdshell-books.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 (Linda) 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!

Linda Greiner
& Duane Kauffmann

Editor’s Thoughts . . .

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity.
I can't put it down.

How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?

A recent trip to a chinese restaurant with the end-of-the-meal fortune cookie had the above saying (or question) in it.

Can you answer the question? Send your comments to the Editor (rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com) and the results from members will be published in the next issue.

Conus aulicus Linnaeus, 1758 “One Large Cone and A Prize by Any Collection”

Dave Green
President, Houston Conchology Society

One of the largest and most distinctive cones in the Conidae family is *Conus aulicus*, which was first described and identified by Linnaeus in 1758. Regardless of size, *Conus aulicus* is a corner-stone in any cone collection and should be valued by the collector. Due to its size and structure, it is one of the easiest cones to identify by the amateur conchologist and a longtime favorite among collectors. Very large specimens of six or more inches in length are very uncommon in this species of cones.



Above and below: *Conus aulicus* with periosteum. Measures 90.7mm; live collected in the Bohol Island, Philippines.



C. aulicus has a wide distribution throughout the Western Pacific, down into the Southwest Pacific around the Solomon Islands, New Guinea and into Indonesia. It is also found in most of the Central Pacific island groups, including the Philippines and stretching north into the Marshall Islands, Mariana

Islands, and even as far north as southern portions of Japan. It is also found along the east coast of Africa, down into Madagascar, and in southern India. As you can see, the geographical distribution is huge covering almost the entire Indo-Pacific and the Indian Ocean. However, *C. aulicus* is not found in Hawaii



Above and below—3 patterns displayed:

Left: 93.4 mm; live collected on the Mactan Island, Philippines.

Middle: 115.9 mm; live collected in the Sulu Sea Archipelago, Philippines.

Right: 89.9 mm; live collected at Tulagi Island, Solomon Islands.



Needless to say, *C. aulicus* is a huge favorite of collectors due to its color, variable sizes and tenting white patterns. It is a prolific breeder and is often found in many different habitats. When snorkeling or scuba diving, you will most often find nice specimens of *C. aulicus* down to around 25-30 meters of water. They are also found at deeper depths in cer-

tain collecting areas. The best collecting areas are normally sandy substrates on reef flats or on a coral reef with both living and dead coral. During the day, *C. aulicus* is usually buried in the sand or partially exposed with the top of the shells showing its location. Although it is not considered one of the deadly cones to humans, care in handling a specimen should always be of first concern to a collector. All cones have the ability to sting a human and cause great pain and discomfort, which can last several days or even weeks or months in some cases.



The golden form (extremely rare) of *C. aulicus*. 94.9 mm; live collected at Rendova Island, Solomon Islands.



I have only made one trip to the Philippines but I found *C. aulicus* with every dealer I encountered during the trip. It is very common in the Philippines and every dealer will have a supply of these popular cones ready for sale. I saw numerous specimens every day with the dealers and the cost was very reasonable, even for large specimens. I actually returned to Houston with over 30 big beautiful specimens for my collection. It is just one of those shells that you just can't walk away from once you see

fresh collected specimens. In many cases during my trip, the specimens I was viewing had just been taken the day before or even during the night before our meeting. There is just something special about seeing a beautiful specimen that has just come out the water, as the color and gloss is so outstanding and clear. The tent patterns on the exterior of the shell just jumps right out at you.

C. aulicus is a moderately heavy shell with normally a high gloss finish. It is usually a brownish to red-brownish color with white tent patterns scattered along the length of the shell. Of all the tent pattern cones, *C. aulicus* is the easiest to identify. The spire is normally low to moderate in height going down to rounded shoulders. The white tent patterns can be fused into a larger group or into bands around the entire length of the shell, with a white aperture that is fairly large and open, especially in larger specimens. *C. aulicus* has a very thin, translucent periostracum that is usually yellowish to light gray and very smooth.



A large specimen (147.3 mm) of *C. aulicus* was live collected from Broome, Western Australia.



C. aulicus feeds on other gastropods and bivalves, and also on small fish that come too close. Several of the tent cones have a similar feeding habitat and prefer and use the same hunting techniques to secure food. Since it is found in areas around the reef that so many cones prefer, it is not uncommon to find other tent cones and even those cones which are known to be harmful to humans in the same areas and locations. *C. textile*, *C. geographus*, *C. episcopatus*, *C. auricomus* and *C. canonicals* can also be found in the same habitat as *C. aulicus*, so caution should be of the upmost priority to a collector.

One of the most prized cones in my cone collection is a live collected *C. aulicus* that is yellowish

golden with white tents. The animal was still alive in the shell when I saw it for the first time. It was just one of those shells that I had to have in my collection. I have included a couple of photographs of this prize in this article. *C. aulicus* in this color pattern are considered extremely rare, especially since it was taken alive and not found dead and bleached out by the sun. For those collectors who might not be familiar with *C. aulicus* or possibly own a specimen, a big beautiful specimen would be just what the doctor ordered. They make wonderful Christmas gifts for family members and friends, and they are certainly a conversation piece with guests and friends alike.



This *C. aulicus* measures 114.1 mm and was live collected from Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

Twists and Turns

Duane Kauffmann

As serious shell collectors know well, almost all snails are right-handed, meaning that when the shell is held upright and faces the collector, the opening (i.e., aperture) is on the right. A few marine shells, and a goodly number of freshwater and terrestrial shells, are left-handed. While there is on-going debate as to why, scientists continue to work on the issues involved.

Now on the May 14 website associated with the journal *Development*, scientists have reported that a single gene (with the fancy name *Lsdia2*), is responsible for direction of coiling. Working with freshwater pond snails (*Lymnaea stagnalis*) scientists used gene editing techniques to alter the gene and cause pond snails to coil in the opposite direction. The gene's effect occurs while the infant snail is a single cell. In turn, the *Lsdia2* gene causes two other genes to direct the developing animal to place its internal organs in the proper location for the direction of coil.

A brief account of this research can be found in the journal *Science News* (June 8, 2019, p. 8). [Note: For anyone interested in a digest of science from across the disciplines, I highly recommend *Science News*.]



Neptunia: sinistral & dextral examples.
Photo: Wikipedia

Historian's Report

50 Years Ago

Seventeen members attended the September 11, 1969 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club.

After a discussion about how much Helen and Jack Oberle had meant to the club since its founding, members felt they had been remiss in their expressions of appreciation. All agreed that making them life members would be appropriate.

The proposed budget was approved and committee assignments were made. The motion to incorporate was tabled.

The chair of the Shell Show announced that the Club would have the "distinct honor" of awarding the Dupont Trophy for the first time at the 1970 show.

25 Years Ago

The regular meeting of SSC was held at Mote Marine on September 8, 1994 and called to order by President Peggy Williams. Ten members were present.

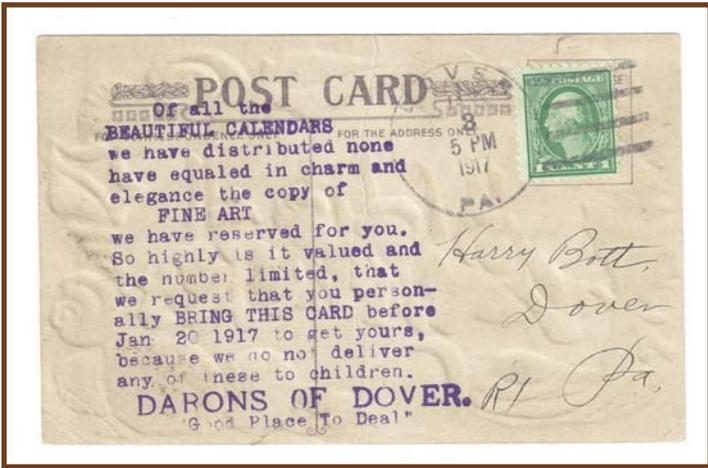
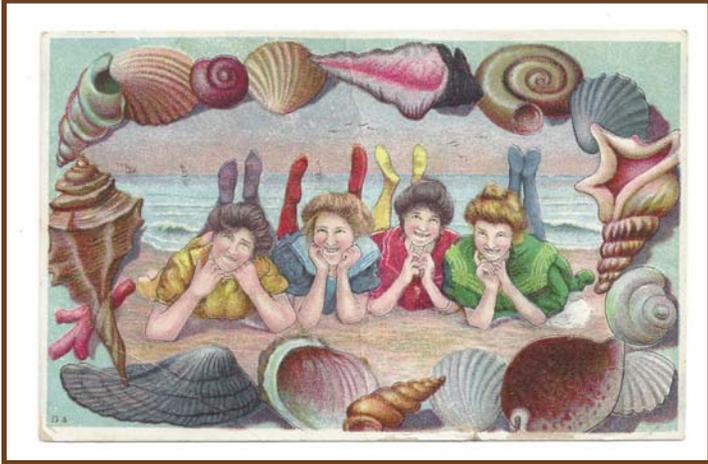
Notes: Adopt-a-shore activities will be Sept. 17 at South Lido Beach. Club news should go to Peggy W for the newsletter.

It was recommended that the Board look into changing the Constitution to made dues collection in September rather than January.

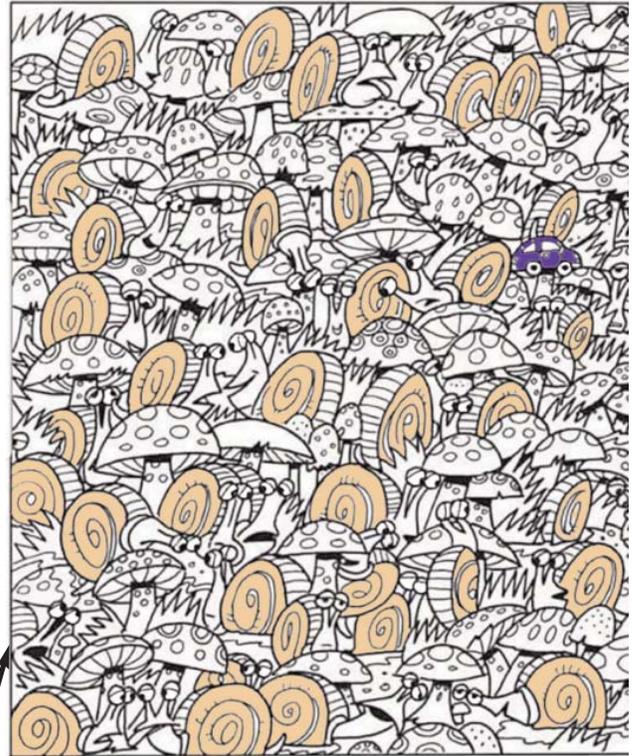
A member reported on a magazine article on efforts by Hawaii to get rid of invasive snails.

[Editorial note: Doesn't seem to have worked. I still find *Euglandina* shells in Hawaii. Ironically, *Euglandina* was deliberately introduced to control a previous invader--Duane Kauffmann].

A Postcard from the Past . . .



Here we have a 1917 postcard featuring a shell ring surrounding four ladies (could they be four “Donna’s”?). Note that the publisher of this post card must have thought this was too risqué as it notes at the end “we do not deliver any of these to children.” The card is heavily embossed as you can tell from the imprint on the reverse side.



SHARE if you find the car (and snails)

And here we are . . . the answer to the puzzle on page 3. Obviously there is but just one car (blue) and according to the orange-colored snail shells there are 36 snails. Did I miss one? Look for the arrow! Just be glad I didn’t ask you to count the toadstools.

The September Cartoon . . .



2020 Shell Show Coming Up Fast!

Now that summer vacation is over, preparation efforts are intensifying for our upcoming 57th Annual Sarasota Shell Club Shell Show, which will be here in just five short months! The show will be held from Friday, Feb. 7 through Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020 at the Potter Building, 2896 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota. The show is held right next to Robarts Arena.

Show hours are: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Price remains unchanged: only \$5 for adults, students from ages 12 to 18 are half price, and kids 11 and under are free with a paid adult admission.

Information about the show is available on the club's website, www.sarasotashellclub.com under the heading 2020 Shell Show. If you are planning on entering either a scientific or artistic exhibit, the forms are on the website, along with the Rules of the Show. Scientific Exhibitors—better hurry and get your form in, we are limited on space and have had to turn exhibits away since we moved to our new location two years ago. To help allow more exhibitors, we have added another 8-foot table on each exhibit row, plus we have limited the scientific exhibit length to no more than 24 feet. We, also, are almost full with dealer table assignments.

Education about shells is an important focus of the club, and the shell show committee is examining how we can expand our demonstration, children's area, and educational areas.

More information about the show will be provided in future newsletters, plus at our general membership meetings. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact any of the board members or send us a note at sarasotashellclub@gmail.com. So, please be thinking about which areas of the shell show you would like to help be involved in! This truly is a great time for us to showcase what our club is and help people learn more about shell life here in Southwest Florida!

By Bruce Paulsen, Shell Show Committee

The Sarasota Shell Club's Shell



This *Siratus beauii* shell was purchased at the 2019 COA auction in Captiva, FL in June, 2019 (with board approval) for use in a permanent display to be used for meetings and for our shell show. Work is in progress to make the appropriate display case as this edition of *The Beauii* is published. Once completed it will be brought to the next club meeting. This shell was adopted by the club in January, 1969.

Officers & Board Members

President	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-President	Open
Treasurer	Karen Huether
Recording Secretary	Donna Cassin
Corresponding Secretary	Duane Kauffmann

Board Members: Donna Krusenoski (3), Rich Cirrantano (3), Pete Steelman (2), Donna Timmermann (2), Jenny Folden (2), and JoAnne Mancuso (1).

Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Open
<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

September 12	Membership Meeting
February 7-9, 2020	SSC Shell Show
June 15-21, 2020	COA International, Melbourne, FL

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)**

Remember:

Fill out and sign, attached \$
and get to Donna Krusenoski
by mail or 1st meeting!

Sarasota Shell Club Renewal/New Application Membership

Note: Dues include newsletters (*The Beautii*) 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: _____

Our Insurance Requires This: 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 _____ / _____