



The Beauí

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

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

**The Sarasota Shell Club's
51st Shell Show
February 14, 15, and 16, 2014
Bradenton Area Convention
Center
One Haben Blvd.
Palmetto, Florida**

Congratulations, Ron!

Ron Bopp won three trophies at the first shell show of the year, the Astronaut Trail Shell Show, with his outstanding exhibit of fossils. The trophies: DuPont, Best Fossil Exhibit, and Self-Collected Shell of the Show.

Show Committee Meets

Feb 10 at 1:00 pm at the Fire Station on 4th St in downtown Sarasota.

Other Shell Shows

It's fun to go to other shell shows and see how they do things! Get together with some friends and go to some of these shows!

- **Feb 22-23, St Petersburg Sea Shell Show**, Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St N, Seminole, FL.
- **Mar 6-8, Sanibel Shell Festival**, Sanibel Community Center, 2173 Periwinkle Way
- **Mar 13-15, Marco Island Shell Club Show**, United Church of Marco Island, 320 N Barfield.

Next meeting Feb. 12 at 7:00. No program... last-minute preps for the shell show!

Educational Session *none this month.*

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

Board Members

Dennis Sargent	President
Sally Peppitoni	Vice President
Bruce Paulsen	Treasurer
Donna Bartels	Recording Secretary
Peggy Williams	Corresponding Secretary
Board: Terry Jones, Rosanne Roble, Nancy Marini, Rich Cirrintano, Anni Ferretti, Harry Berryman	

Committee Chairmen:

Artisans	Nancy Marini
Librarian:	Linda Greiner
Field Trips & Membership:	Lynn Gaulin
Historian:	Duane Kauffmann
Shell Show:	Donna Cassin
Sunshine:	

Letter To a Shell Dealer

Dear Madam, I am in need of a seashell to serve as a washbasin in the bathroom of my new house. I don't want one of those heavy white ones with the big wavy ridges on the edge. Instead I want a round one with a smooth, beautiful greenish iridescent inside. [an abalone - ed] I saw one like it some time ago but it was too small and it had holes along the top. The one I need must be at least 3 feet in diameter and without holes.

The shell dealer, Veronica Parker Johns, wrote in answer: "Dear Madam, I am afraid that the Lord, when he created the world, did not foresee your needs. Sorry."

January, 2014



Field Trips

by Lynn Gaulin

Unfortunately the early morning trip Jan. 16th on the Carefree Learner had to be cancelled due to weather. Judd has given us a new date of February 28th with the boat leaving Marina Jack's at 6:30 A.M. Some January trip people have moved to this new opportunity to shell in Sarasota Bay. There is still room for others if you'd like to come along. Be sure to pick up the "What to Bring and Direction Sheet" inside the sign up folder. Bring \$5 cash to the club meeting to sign up for the trip. Duane Kauffman will be manning the membership table for me at the February meeting.

This is my last year as Field Trip Chair.

After about 10 years I need a break. I will gladly help my successor with planning and anything else they might need. Speak up if you are interested.

Membership Report

by Lynn Gaulin

Should you need a new membership card for the show, Duane Kauffman will be able to issue a new one at the February club meeting. Many members haven't picked up this year's membership card. You can pick them up at the show at the membership table also. Pick up your roster: either the one with photographs (for a \$4 charge) or the paper roster with just names. Both will be available at the show at the membership table.

New member labels will be available monthly at the meeting after joining.

Shell Show Reminders

1) You must have your 2014 Membership card with you to get into the shell show at no cost. **If you wear your badge but do not have a current membership card....**you will be asked to pay the \$5.00 fee.

2) Please remember to bring any food items that you have signed up for.

3) We WILL be able to get into the Convention Center on Thursday the 13th. We will meet there at noon to place table coverings and measure for exhibits. From the convention center we will go to the storage unit to load the truck.

There is a shell club meeting at 7PM but it should be shorter than most due to the early entry into the convention center on Friday (7:00am).

Historian's Report

50 Years Ago

Twelve members and five guests attended the January 9, 1964 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club. Membership cards and copies of the Constitution and By-laws were distributed to all members. After the costs for these materials were paid, a balance of \$18.87 remained in the Club treasury.

Plans for a field trip to "some islands that lie off the coast of Naples" were moved forward.

There was "quite a little discussion" about shells and their Latin names.

A motion to have a shell show in April was made and "after some discussion," approved.

A raffle was held for "some beautiful shells" donated by Mrs. Oberle.

25 Years Ago

The meeting of January 12 1989 was held at Mote Marine and called to order by Peggy Williams. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$7390.98.

Fieldtrips on the Carefree Learner and to the "Newburn fossil pit" were noted.

Shell show announcements included: Dates: Feb 17-19; Needs: food for hospitality room and shells to give to children; Publicity: several members interviewed on TV; Judges' dinner at Crown House.

Program was given by Peggy Williams on her "exciting trip to Tobago."

Shells Fall from Sky

from *The Best of the Nautilus*, p. 268

A report from the Boston Globe "Sea Gull Drops Clam on Policeman. The habit of sea gulls to carry clams in their talons a considerable height and drop them on a hard surface to break, so that the bird can feed on the bivalve, nearly proved disastrous to Abe Locke..." Locke was walking along the Boardwalk when one of the gulls flew high above him and dropped the clam directly on the man's head. He fell and had to be carried into a nearby drug store for treatment.

January, 2014

Youths Reaping Big From Collecting Seashells

By Joyce Matthys

From The Junonia, newsletter of the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club

A recent article from Uganda's leading daily newspaper *New Vision* tells about two young men who have gone into business for themselves selling snails. This is not the usual venture of selling shells to tourists, but rather to farmers.

Jonas Murongo and Jeptar Osinge, both seashell collectors, pack 150 sacks of snails on three trucks to sell them in Gulu, Kampala and some parts of West Nile every week. Each sack sells at 150,000 Ugandan Shillings (\$60.56).

The article said that initially, the two were rearing birds (hens), but when it became difficult to feed the poultry, they thought out an idea to feed the hens on ground seashells.

Egg shells are made of 94% calcium carbonate. Chickens need a certain amount of calcium for the eggs to develop with a strong shell although the article doesn't relate this. It just refers to them sell the shells as feed.

They started off by selling a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of their new-found potential wealth at sh100 (4 cents) in Nebbi. And as the demand soared, they turned to selling in sacks.

"They use their hands to gather the shells of freshwater snails from within the thick water-weed.

They gather as much as their hands can handle into basins before heaping them on the

shore, where the shells are spread on the ground for drying and later for grinding." The article goes on to say, "they have to shield themselves from the powdery puffs released from the shells."

The shell business is comes with an advantage since there are no off-peak seasons for harvesting the shells unlike other businesses. In fact, a number of fishermen have abandoned fishing for the seashell venture. The Panyimur fishermen are poor, so that they always look to other ways of supporting themselves.

The money is paying for their education and their families' subsistence. To read more about them and see photographs go to:

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/651724-youths-reaping-big-from-seashell-collecting.html>

Shelling Style



Lynn Gaulin and Bob Pace strike poses.



So what if it's cold? There's shells out there!

Pat Brady and (?) at Cedar Key

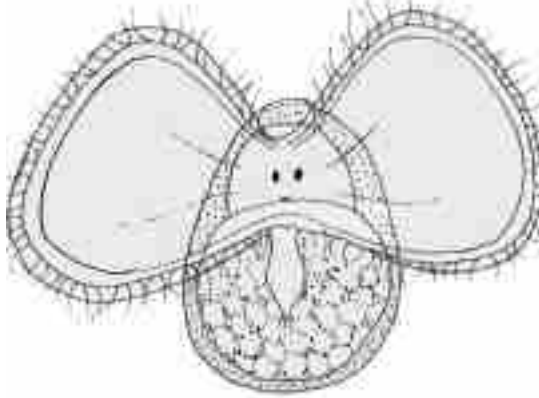


January, 2014

Conchs Growing Up

by Peggy Williams

Conchs (Strombs) begin life as tiny veligers, which swim in the plankton of warm tropical waters. Soon they get too heavy to



float and settle to the bottom. If it's sandy and has tiny plants for the animal to eat, it then grows into a cone-shaped shell for one to five years. Then the lip begins to flare out to the



Photo by Bill Frank, Jacksonville Shell Club

familiar Stromb shape.

Strombs develop the flared lip at maturity, then never grow larger. (A notch in the outer lip accommodates one of the long eyestalks so the animal may peek out without exposing its body to predators.) However, as the animal moves around, the shiny, smooth lip abrades on the sand and becomes uncomfortable for the animal whose body is often in contact with it, so the mantle secretes more shell material



Photo by Peggy Williams

over the lip. As time goes by, the lip gets thicker and thicker, and since the nacre is not really clear, as the layers add up it begins to look darker until the oldest shells have very thick, gray lips (called "samba" in some species).

If any algae manages to grow on the lip, the next layer will cover it over, making green patches, usually around the edges. Of course, these are poor specimens and should be left to breed.

This additional shell material makes less room for the animal in the shell, so it loses weight and becomes smaller as it ages. Therefore, the largest meat-to-shell ratio occurs just before the lip forms, while the animal is still immature (not yet breeding age), and many conch fishermen prefer to collect their conchs at this stage, thus decimating the breeding stock. That's why it's against the law in the Bahamas and several other countries to collect conchs that haven't turned the lip.

Daffynition

For those who may be confused about pronunciation of the family name BUCCINIDAE and the genus *Buccinum*, it might help to think of Carl Withrow's "Conchological Daffynition":

"There's money in them that shells!" (Bucks in 'em.)

January, 2014

Those Were the Days

by Peggy Williams

In 1970, I started scuba diving (but didn't get certified until 1974). I had collected shells as a child in Sarasota, but threw them all away when I went to college.

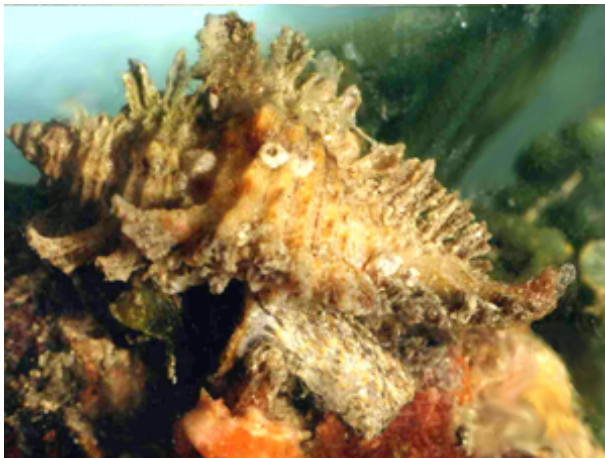
I started seeing shells on dives but resisted taking any until one day, in the Florida Keys, I found what turned out to be a deep-water shell, probably dropped off a shrimp boat... a large white turrid. I realized it was unusual, and kept it. So, I had one... and now I have thousands.

I kept several aquaria and my husband and I went down to the Keys to collect fish to put in them; I also began putting in live shells. I had an under gravel filter, and I decided to use Keys sand/rubble in it, since it has a high calcium content.

I would collect the sand near reefs, and wash it in fresh water before adding it to the filters. One day I noticed some tiny red things, and, looking closer, they were shells! Well, then I had to look through the sand (which I learned to call "grunge") before adding it to the aquarium, for miniature shells.

I did most of my diving off Venice at first, because reefs were close to shore and we could use buildings and such to find them. Later, with Loran, I dove more off Sarasota and Bradenton. The Venice reefs were at about 30' and the northern reefs at 45-55', about 9 miles offshore.

I quickly learned what I could easily find on the reefs: Lace Murex, *Siratus dilectus*. In fact, if, near the end of a dive, I hadn't found one, I began looking and always came up triumphant. The reef shells are much more lacey and delicate than the ones found in our bays.



We dove also on a couple of wrecks at 100' and it was there that I got Spiny Oysters, *Spondylus americanus*. On one dive, my buddy found one and tried to get it off. She worked the entire dive on that one shell (20 minutes) and never did get it; meanwhile, I was ranging above, below and left and right of her (always within sight) and got nine of them! You had to know how to get them off the wreck.

There were lots of shells to be found in our waters, and I got specimens that few people have seen, because they don't bother to dive around here. Our reefs are not spectacular: they're rock reefs, ancient limestone coral. They aren't high, because crabs and fish live beneath them and excavate the sand under them, and eventually the weight of the rock causes it to break off.

I learned that Red Tide kills some shells: I once found a line of small Carrier Shells (*Xenophora conchyliophora*) in sand above a reef, and on my husband's checkout dive he found several Deer Cowries, *Cypraea cervus* fresh dead from Red Tide. However, some shells benefit from Red Tide: the True Tulips (*Fasciolaria tulipa*) get big eating the dead fish on the bottom, as do the Stone Crabs.



On one dive I found several Lion's Paws, *Nodipecten fragosus*. One was in the bowl of a barrel sponge.

I discovered by accident that there are beautiful Turrids living on the reef, but you have to fan the sand to find them. Once, diving with a friend who had learned to dive in the Pacific, I thought the water was awfully murky; turned out she



January, 2014

was fanning the sand, which doesn't settle out as well as it does where she used to dive.

I even found a new species, right off Bradenton. It's a small shell, usually covered with coralline algal growth, and I didn't realize it was different until I cleaned one... I thought it was merely a common shell as found in the Keys and Caribbean. It is going to be named for me. You can see one at the Shell Show.



One year I made 50 dives off Sarasota/Bradenton, and another time I dove on New Year's Day. I wish I were still diving... I miss it and the beautiful and wonderful animals that are out there right off our beaches (well, several miles off!)

Right: *Aequipecten muscosus*, Rough Scallop.



December's Low Tides

1 Sun	12:26 pm	-.40	16 Mo	1:38 pm	-.42
2 Mon	1:20 pm	-.55	17 Tu	2:05 pm	-.43
3 Tu	2:12 pm	-.63	18 W	2:30 pm	-.40
4 W	3:02 pm	-.62	19 Th	2:53 pm	-.36
5 Th	3:47 pm	-.54	20 F	3:18 pm	-.30
6 Sa	4:27 pm	-.39	21 Sa	3:45 pm	-.22
14 Sa	12:22 pm	-.30	28 Sa	10:45 am	-.22
15 Su	1:04 pm	-.39	29 Su	11:54 am	-.47

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).

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



DID YOU KNOW...

Afrovoluta pringlei is so large it was thought to be a volute when it was first described by John Read Tomlin in 1947. It was only after the animal's anatomy and radula were examined that it was determined to be a *Marginella*.

Sarasota Shell Club

P.O. Box 4124
Sarasota, FL 34230-4124
Peggy@Shelltrips.com
www.Sarasotashellclub.com



January, 2014

SARASOTA SHELL CLUB MEETING, December 12, 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:03p.m. by Sally Peppitone, at the Waldemere Firehouse in Sarasota. 23 members and 1 guest were present.

Donna Bartels, Recording Secretary read the November meeting minutes. They were filed with one correction with adding Terri's name as Goz Gosselin's wife.

Treasurers' Report – Bruce Paulsen announced total of bank account is \$12,187.92. The Holiday auction brought income of \$939.00. Bruce reminded everyone that there are events and classes going on at the Chamber of Commerce. We can access their website and be entitled to attend now that we are members. Bruce went to an educational meeting at the Chamber that gave information on how smaller businesses and clubs can have a higher visibility. Bruce is also looking into having a Facebook page to help promote the club.

The program for the evening was "Shoe Box Displays" which were viewed and voted on during our break. Linda Greiner received a ribbon for 1st place, Lyn Gaulin for 2nd place and Sally Peppitone for 3rd place.

Shell Show Report – Donna Cassin requested members to be thinking about their displays and to fill out entry forms and get them submitted so further planning can be done. The committee has purchased new black table coverings for all of the Scientific area. She is requesting if anyone has a bullhorn or karaoke machine we can use for the show to make announcements please contact her. 1500 shell bags have been completed to pass out at the entry with admission. Lynn Gaulin will look into approved food vendors after the holidays. Donna said she is looking for volunteers for specific positions during the 3 day show and will have signup sheets at the January meeting. She is also in need of bottled water and canned soda (individual servings) to make available to all when setting up the show. Volunteer Sponsors for four of the awards are needed, information will be at the January meeting. Tickets for the Awards banquet will be available at the January meeting. It will again be at the Marriott Courtyard and the final deadline for a dinner count is 1-31-14.

Programs- Sally Peppitone announced that January's meeting our program will be put on by Jim Wedge on "What else is down there?"

Nominating Committee- Jim Wedge announced there was one candidate for the open two year seat on the board. Further nominations were opened at the meeting with no further results. Harry Berryman had previously agreed to take the seat and was approved unanimously by the members.

Librarian – Linda Greiner announced that the library is set up and ready for anyone who would like to view or check out books. Please call her and she will arrange a time for your visit.

Historian – Duane Kaufman's report read by Lynn Gaulin reported 56 years ago, 26 members attended with decisions to meet once a month in the evening. 25 years ago spoke to the Christmas party and auction that had been held. Duane has reviewed all minutes available to him and has put them on a disc. Anni Ferretti suggested we put a copy of that disc in our Library.

Membership – Lynn Gaulin noted we currently have 127 members. She also explained the difference between the new membership rosters and booklets that were handed out.

Field Trips – Lynn Gaulin reported 9 members went to Marco Island, the trip was very successful with the beach being full of shells. December 30 will be the trip to Cedar Key. Further information on future trips please contact Lynn.

Educational Group – Lynn Gaulin reported the group met at the north Tamiami Trail Goodwill and had a good time learning all about scientific names. The next meeting will be January 20th, 2014 at the same location from 2.p.m. – 4p.m. and will include how to set up a scientific exhibit

Newsletter – Please remember to submit any articles you would like to see printed in the next newsletter to Peggy Williams as soon as possible.

Artisans – Bruce Paulsen reported that 2/3s of the items on the Holiday auction came from the Artisans group. Peggy and Dennis also donated some items for the auction along with some other miscellaneous donations. The next Artisans meeting will be January 2nd at 9a.m., Southern Storage.

New Business – Sally reviewed ideas for the new brochure and passed out colored samples for the final approval. It was suggested that we leave an open space on the back of the brochure where we can attach a sticker with new or yearly shell show information. Costs of printing will be discussed at the January board meeting.

No further business was discussed and Sally closed the meeting at 8:20p.m.

Donna Bartels, Recording Secretary