

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

March, 2019 Edition

From the Prez



Hello Fellow Shellers!

Greetings! Our shell show was fabulous this year! The scientific exhibits were better than ever and the artisans really out did themselves! I hope you were able to make it and see and the great exhibits not to mention our wonderful vendors and their wares. I went way over my budget this year but I figure you can't take it with you. We're winding down the season now. The Sanibel Shell Show is next weekend as I write this and we will travel down for a visit. Then in April is our last field trip...Peanut Island, here we come! Also, our nominating committee will be presenting a slate of next year's board members at our March meeting. The election will be at the April meeting. Please plan to be there and show your support for our board. See you soon!

Respectfully,
Sally Peppitoni

Club Picnic
April 6, 2019
at
Coquina Beach
See ya there!

Field Trips, 2018-2019

3/9/19 Sanibel Shell Show Trip
4/20/19 Peanut Island, West Palm Beach

Whats in this Issue:

President's Message	Page 1
Featured Mollusk	Page 2
Meet your Member	Page 3
Shell Show Award Winners	Page 4 - 8
Club News	Pages 9 - 10
Historian Report	Page 11
Key West Conch-Blowing Contest	Page 12
Club Information	Page 13
2018-2019 Renewal Form	Page 14

2019-2020 Officers & Board of Directors Candidates

President: Sally Peppitoni
Vice President: Nancy Marini
Corresponding Secretary: Duane Kauffmann
Recording Secretary: Jeanne Dimmick
Treasurer: Karen Huether

Directors at Large:

3 year term Donna Cassin
2 year term Pete Steelman

(The following Board Members have been contacted
and have agreed to fulfill their term of office)

2 year term Rich Cirrintano
2 year term Donna Krusenoski
1 year term Jenny Golden
1 year term Donna Timmermann

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cadieux and Lynn Gaulin

A 2018-2019 Membership Form is on the back page—Give one to a Friend!

Pecten jacobaeus
(Linnaeus, 1758)
March's Featured Mollusk



The *Pecten jacobaeus* - both valves viewed.

Photo courtesy Sue Dobbs

The *Pecten jacobaeus*, otherwise known as the Mediterranean scallop (sometimes the Great Mediterranean Scallop), is primarily known to the Mediterranean Sea. It is edible as are most scallops. An interesting characteristic is the difference in the two valves. The bottom or lower valve is convex in shape and lies on the bottom surface where as the top valve is totally flat.

The scallop has about 60 blue eyes and like most scallops, can move quickly to avoid predators by quickly closing the valves.

According to Wikipedia this species is associated with Saint James—(also known as James, son of Zebedee and also known as Saint Jacob, therefore giving the species name of *jacobaeus*). It is also noted that it was known as the Pilgrims Scallop, as the shells were used by Middle Ages pilgrims as a cup.



A photo of a live *Pecten jacobaeus*.

Photo: Natuurlijkmoool.net



Vintage anatomy from Poli's 1827 *Testacea vtrivsqve Siciliae eorumqve historia et anatome*. Also known as "Sicily Shells: History and Anatomy."



Lost! - Rickey Gaulin's artistic exhibit. This 11-year old artistic exhibitor was going to give this wonderful entry to his mother on Valentine's Day but alas . . . it wasn't found when the show was over. Please give any information to his grandmother, Lynn Gaulin, if you accidentally packed it when picking up.

Meet Your Member—Bernie and Carol Peterson

Carol is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, and moved to the east coast of Florida in 1993. In 1996 she began working for FDLE as a forensic chemist. She remembers going with her family on Sunday outings to collect shells and beach rocks in California that had fossil shells embedded in them. Bernie has lived in Brevard County since 1957. He spent his working life in the horticulture trade. As a teenager he collected vertebrate fossil fragments from spoil islands in the Indian River Lagoon.



Soon after we married in 2000 we went on our first vertebrate fossil collecting trip to the Peace River. We found a complete mammoth tooth and various other remains on the very first day and assumed we would have an entire mammoth before long. We joined the Florida Paleontological Society (FPS) and the Tampa Bay Fossil Club to participate in their field trips and spent many weekends looking for the rest of our mammoth in various rivers, shell pits and limestone mines. We never found another mammoth tooth, but we did notice that there were many other kinds of fossils called invertebrates.

We began to collect fossil mollusks and echinoderms and gradually drifted away from vertebrate fossils. Around 2003-4 we participated in some field trips offered by well-known guide and author Mark Renz. On a number of occasions Mark took us to the Brantley Shell Pit near Arcadia, which was a wonderful place to collect fossil shells of the Caloosahatchee Formation. Apparently we impressed Mark with our enthusiasm, and he encouraged us to put together a field guide for identifying some of the

fossil shells. At that point we had been collecting fossil shells for two or three years and we decided to include only the shells that we had found and identified up to that point. Our thinking was, we were beginners and a typical beginner would probably find much the same array of fossils that we had. We had gone to the SMR pit near Sarasota several times with FPS and some shell pits in the Miami and Palm Beach areas to add to our original collection. With the help of some actual experts, whose advice we didn't always follow, our book *Southern Florida's Fossil Seashells* was published in 2007.

We joined the Sarasota Shell Club a year or two later and met our good friends Mary Jo and Ron Bopp, with whom we have collected on many occasions. Unfortunately, living on the Atlantic coast in Titusville makes it difficult to attend very many club events, but we always enjoy it when we can. We still like to collect fossils, although it is not easy to gain entrance into shell pits or limestone mines these days. We occasionally travel to north Florida where there are some good exposures on riverbanks.

Members—want your shell story published? Send your information and photo to the editor at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com and it will appear in a future issue of *The Beauii*.

Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show Scientific Winners



The Conchologists of America Award was given to Vicky Wall.



Pat and Bob Linn were awarded the DuPont Award.



Dave and Linda Green won the coveted Mote Gold Award.



Duane Kauffmann won the Peggy Williams Award.



John and Sandy won not one but two Judges Special Merit Ribbons.



Ron Bopp won the Hertweck Award.

Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show Scientific Winners



The Best Small Scientific Exhibit award went to Harry Barryman.



Duane Kauffmann won the Sarasota Shell Club Members Award.

Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show Artistic Winners



Donna Timmermann won the Fran Schlusemann Best of Shell Art.



Donna Timmermann's award and display.



The June Bailey Best of Member's Art was given to Karen Paulsen.



Patricia Latva won the Best of Art with Shell Motif.

Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show Artistic Winners



Cheryl Witten won the Hank Schlusemann Award.



A Judges Special Merit Ribbon was given to Cheryl Witten.



Donna Krusenoski won the Donna and Tom Cassin Award.



Karen Paulsen won the Nancy and Armand Marini Award.



Donna Krusenoski's award winning "Diva" entry.

Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show Artistic Winners



A Judge's Special Merit ribbon was given to Carol Renz.



The Best of Commercial Art Ribbon was awarded to Carol Renz.

Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show Snail Parade



Mary Jo Bopp shows off her Snail Parade ribbons.



Some of the entries in the Snail Parade.

Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show Judges & Misc.



Scientific Judges Dr. Harry Lee and Dr. José Leal.



Artistic Judges Jae Kellogg and Sharleen Totten.



The awards table waiting distribution to the winning entries.



A close-up of the major awards to be given out.



The Robert Morrison memorial display.



The Peggy Williams memorial display.

Photos of the Show in general including Dealers, Members and other photos of entries will follow in the next Issue of *The Beauii*!

The **2019 COA Convention** will be held at the South Seas Plantation on the island of Captiva, June 19-23 2019. Field trips will be available June 17-18. The Bourse will be held June 22-23. Reservations now being accepted—better hurry!

Information, registration, etc. are all available at <<http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/>>

FUM

SSC members Duane Kauffmann and Matt and Dona Blaine (nonresident) attended the annual meeting of Florida United Malacologists (FUM) in Gainesville on February 19. This well attended meeting was hosted by John Slapcinsky at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

The rich tapestry of 15 papers ranged from analysis of the current status of Hawaiian tree snails, to analysis of material dredged from the deeper waters of the Gulf, the decline of oyster beds, the relationship between turkey wings (*Arca zebra*) and hard corals and a report on *Junonias* (with pictures of a live snail).

FUM has no dues nor membership application and the meeting cost was \$10 (for donuts and lunch). It meets every January or February. A one-day meeting, the pace is unlike most professional meetings with a maximum of 20 minutes for a paper plus questions. Club members with interest in the science of malacology might wish to consider attending. Contact Duane K for more information.

March's Cartoon . . .



A Postcard from the Past . . .



The postcard for March is this vintage, 1950s card depicting a pile of conch shells somewhere in the Caribbean.

Why Do You Like Sea Shells?

Well, let's find out! Send the editor (rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com) your reasons for collecting sea shells and a summary will be posted in an upcoming issue of *The Beauii*. No matter what our indication is, or how trivial you think it is for participating in pursuing this fascinating hobby, it is noteworthy and worth letting others know. This should be fun.

Editor's Thoughts . . .

Broken pencils are pointless!

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.sarasotashelleclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdmshellbooks.com.

The SSC library has an exciting new book entitled *The Liguus: The Flamboyant Tree Snails* prepared by Adrián Gonzalez-Guillén, Frederick Krull, Luis A. Lajonchere-Ponce de León- with CD - 2018

This new book has very extensive information about tree snails from South Florida, Cuba, & Hispaniola. It is the most colorful and complete book ever written about this intriguing genus. Among the many topics covered are distribution, color forms, ecology, and conservation. An extensive bibliography (and a CD) are included for those who might want even more information.



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 at luvseashells@gmail.com to arrange an appointment for browsing our library or requesting books you would like me to bring to our SSC meetings or just talk about our exciting library books. There is a whole world of seashells and marine life out there !

Linda Greiner

Club Picnic

The Club Picnic is April 6th at the same Coquina Beach Pavilion that we've used in the past. The menu is Barbeque Chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, tossed salad plus dressings, and buns (for the pork). We will have a couple of gallons of ice tea but we suggest you bring your own drinks. Members are asked to donate desserts. The cost is \$9.00 for members and \$11.00 for non-members. Please bring a chair or cushion as well as a fun game and suntan lotion . . . and a Smile!

You may pay for the picnic at the upcoming meeting but if you can't make it, send a check, payable to the SSC, to Nancy Marini at 5003 28th Ct. E, Bradenton, FL 34203

Historian's Report

Duane Kauffmann

50 Years Ago

The March 20, 1969 meeting of the Club was held in the Community Room of the Palmer First National Bank with 30 members in attendance.

Discussion about the Shell Show focused on the generally positive comments received, but also on such practical matters as shell show hours and strategies for increasing income. Contact with Tucker Abbott indicated he would be willing to come to the Show to present a major award, but that his fee was \$300 (plus expenses for travel and lodging),

The minutes note a call for volunteers for the nominating committee. Although the minutes do not record how long the process took, the wording is that three persons were “finally named.” [Sounds familiar!]

25 Years Ago

The Club archives contain no minutes for a March 1994 meeting.

Notes from Nancy

Again for this show we had a lot of our members step up to volunteer inc: Nancy Abramson, Doris Averill, Karen & Allan Banko, Donna Bigham, Nancy Cadieux, Donna Cassin, Karen Ciffin, Rich & Lou Cirrintano, Sheila Crosby, Theresa Dobberstein, Cindy Elitzer, Don & Delores Elsasser, Jenny Folden, Linda Foreman, Frankie & Jim Glover, Judy Herman, Glenda Kantor, Carol Mae, Marilyn Parker, Rae Potter, Jo Schmidt, Bev Snyder, Gus Steneck, Rae Sweet, Marian Teplin, Jayne Toppi, Jim & Judy Wedge, Kathleen Whyte, Crystal Wickham, Donna Winkler as well as our Chairs and Co-Chairs including Donna Bartels, Ron Bopp, Linda Greiner, Karen Huether, Duane Kauffmann, Donna Krusenoski, Kathy Schley, Liz Murray, Pet Steneck, Sally & Frank Peppitoni, Rosanne Roble, Angela Sampogna, Donna & Dave Timmermann, Joan Zabor, Jo Schmidt, Rae Sweet, Marian Teplin and last but not least, Karin Ehlers who was there two Saturdays. Gus and Peg's friend from England who loaded and unloaded our truck. Also “Nigel Gain” and a



special mention to people who stood on street corners in downtown sarasota at the Farmer's Market as well as the art show, etc. Without you volunteers there would be no show—our very deepest thanks, Bruce and Nancy.

The artisans voted by a slim vote to give the County Fair one more chance, so we will be doing 10 days. They have gone out of their way for us and are giving us a 30'x10' booth, including tables and table cloths. We need members to help us out, you'll never be alone, an artisan will be there too. I'll pass out Fair flyers at the meeting so you can see the times the Fair is open. If your not coming to the meeting you can call Donna Cassin at home at 941-362-3302 or cell at 941-313-1326 or Nancy Marini at home 941-758-9790 or cell at 941-773-7131, if you'd like to Volunteer.

You will have a chance to see some very nice shells AND books at 6:00 pm at our silent auction at our upcoming meeting.

Information about the Club Picnic is in the box at the bottom of page 10. Read and plan to enjoy the good time at the beach!

The Key West CONCH SHELL BLOWING CONTEST

Upon reading my first (and free) copy of the March edition of *Reader's Digest* your editor was impressed with this magazine's interest in conchology as an article from a

Mary Lou Race appeared about the Key West Conch Shell Blowing Contest.

Looking it up on the internet I found the following information (box below):

Preserving a bit of Key West color and history, Old Island holds this annual celebration at the Oldest House, 322 Duval Street. The next contest will be held on March 2, 2019 at the Oldest House, and is open to children and adults of all ages.

This annual Contest celebrates the historic importance of the conch in the Keys, where the far-reaching sounds from conch shells were used by the Calusa Indians for communication, by sailors as fog horns, and by early Key West citizens to signal salvagers that a sinking ship was spotted offshore. The conch itself, a sturdy sea mollusk, is deeply entwined in the Key West's heritage and tradition. As well as savoring conch meat in fritters and chowder, native-born islanders proudly call themselves Conchs (pronounced "Konk"). Their island home is known as the Conch Republic. Entrants are judged on the quality, duration and loudness, and novelty of the sound they produce. Mercifully, for most contestants, musical ability is not a requirement. The winners take home trophies; ribbons are awarded to those who take second place.

Blowing the conch (sometimes other shells as well) in Hawaii is often used for weddings. There is is called the Pū or "Poo."

A conch shell is said to have been blown signifying the end of slavery during the colonial era of the Virgin islands.



Typical conch blowing.



The top of the spire cut off to form a mouthpiece.

Photos from the internet relating to the "Blowing of the Conch"



A record 327 conch-blowing people at one time at an event in Long Beach, California.

Officers & Board Members

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

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

Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Nancy Marini
<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

April 6	Club Picnic (Coquina Beach)
June 17-23	COA Convention (Captiva)

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 2018-2019
Membership Application
is Attached**

**You may renew your membership
now - fill out and sign!**



and



Sarasota Shell Club 2018 - 2019 Renewal/New Application Membership

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

Birthday 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: _____

We require you to sign this Liability Release if you are interested in participating in our field trips. Every member must sign below:

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 _____ / _____