



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



Welcome back to the new season of the Sarasota Shell Club everyone! I hope you're as excited about all the new activities as I am. We've been given special permission to serve refreshments during the break between the program and business meeting but we do request that you bring your own (non-alcoholic) beverage. Make sure you bring your wallet....we will have a market set up before each meeting to sell club items, artisan items and members may bring items to sell as well (10% for the club.)

We've got lots of great programs planned including the shoe box show at the December meeting (I thought that was fun last year!). And if you like field trips, we have loads planned! We have a number of Beach & Breakfast trips planned to local beaches. A bunch of us met August 30th, out on Lido Beach and had a ball! There were live fighting conchs to watch, lots of shell piles to sift through and I even showed some of the members how to find limpets and periwinkles on the rocks. Then we ate a lovely buffet breakfast at the Sandcastle Resort right there on the beach. What a great time we had!

Our next Beach and Breakfast trip will be to Caspersen Beach park on Saturday, September 27th, at 8:30 am. We will shell a while and then have an early lunch at 11:30 am at Sharky's restaurant right beside the park. I can't wait because we can find shark's teeth as well as shells!

Next meeting September 11, 2014
Program: Show and Tell
Educational Session Sept. 15 (p. 4)
Shell Show Feb. 13-15, 2015
CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

This year, there will also be bigger trips planned to Anclote Key, Carr Island, Shell Key Shoal, Big Hickory, Peanut Island, Sanibel and maybe even Navarre Beach in the panhandle.

Peggy Williams has offered to plan out-of-the-country shelling excursions for club members at cost. How would you like to go shelling in Puerto Rico, Chub Cay in the Bahamas, Guaymas Mexico, or Panama? I'm thinking about the Panama trip myself! Anyone else up for that one?!

Preparations for this year's shell show are well under way at this time and we have a new division. This year, we are inviting Manatee and Sarasota high school science teachers to enter class exhibits to win grant money to be used in their classrooms! Isn't that awesome? We'll have more information on this at the meeting.

I hope everyone can come to the first meeting so you can see what's new and get a handle on all that's going on...I'd hate for anyone to miss out on all the fun!

Sally Peppitoni

Anybody Sick?

If you know a member who is feeling poorly or has had a relative pass away, please tell Karen Ciffen. She's the Sunshine Committee and will send out a card from the club.

September, 2014



2014-15 Membership Information

Lynn Gaulin, Membership
chair

Another year will soon start and it's time to renew your membership for the **2014-15 year**. *Dues are collected September 1st through November 1st yearly.* Any member not renewing their membership by November 1st will be dropped from our roster. This year's membership form is presently on our website, Sarasotashellclub.com. You can bring this form to the September 11th meeting and give it to Bruce or mail it to me at my address on the membership form along with a **check** made out to SSC. Please no cash. Additional forms will be available for those not having access to computers and want to fill it out and pay by check at the club meeting.

It is important for all members to fill out a new membership form yearly as information may change (address, cell, house phone, or emergency contact). Please fill out a new form each year to keep your information current.

For renewing members single dues are \$15, family memberships are \$20. Included with your dues is a paper roster with contact information pertaining to our membership. Also, for an additional charge of \$4 a membership booklet with photographs can be available.

New members' who joined at or since the 2014 Shell Show your dues are paid until August 31, 2015. Paper rosters are included also in these dues.

New members joining over the summer or after September dues are \$31.50 for *family membership* that include 2 membership badges. *Single membership* dues are \$21.50 and include a membership badge. Badges can be picked up 4-6 weeks after they are ordered at a club meeting.

Membership cards will be available either at the end of the same meeting your dues form and check is received or at the next club meeting. New rosters will be available at the December meeting.

Field Trips, Etc

NEW! Once a month join us on our **Beach and Breakfast** shelling trips. These are trips to local beaches in the mornings. We will shell for an hour or so and then go have a great breakfast together at a local eatery and discuss what we've found! Our very first trip will be to Lido Beach, Saturday, August 30th. Park at the Lido Beach pool and pavilion facility at 400 Benjamin Franklin Drive on Lido Key. Plan to arrive at 9 am.

Field trips are being planned even as you read this!! This year we thought we might try a few new places such as Anclote Key, Big Hickory Key, Carr Key, Shell Key, and Navarre Beach.

Ever been to the **Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum** on Sanibel? That's on the list for this year! Club members get in free with current membership card!

We might even return to a few popular places such as Peanut Island, Honeymoon and Caladesi Islands!!!

NEW! This year we are also offering **several special field trips to places like the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Panama.** If you've always wanted to find shells we can't find locally then these trips are for you! Come to our meetings to get all the great info!

Book Auction Coming

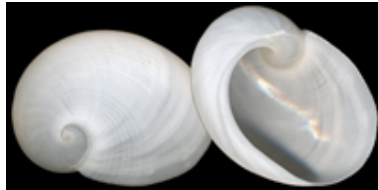
The St Pete Shell Club will be auctioning books from a deceased member on **Saturday, Nov. 8** at the Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St N, Seminole FL. Preview of books at **1:00**. See their Facebook page or email johncheryl@earthlink.net for more information.

September, 2014

Hidden Shells

by Peggy Williams

You may be familiar with the “Baby’s Ear” (*Sinum perspectivum*) found here in Florida. This is an example of what I mean by “Hidden Shells”. In this case, the animal is so big it can’t withdraw into its shell, so it “hides” the shell. Many people don’t realize they’ve come across a shell when they find



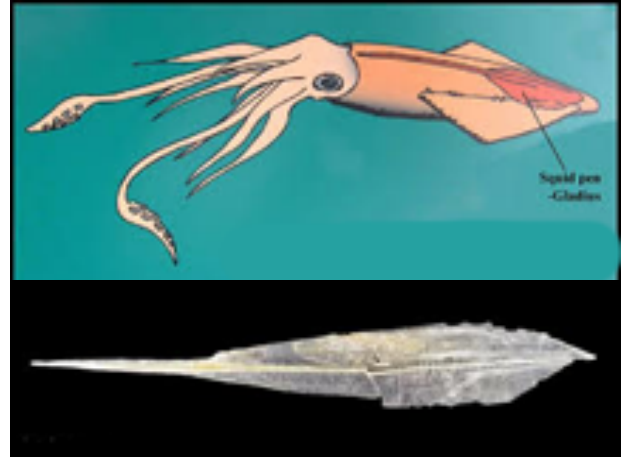
one alive, with its white, slimy animal (the slime helps it burrow quickly in sand).



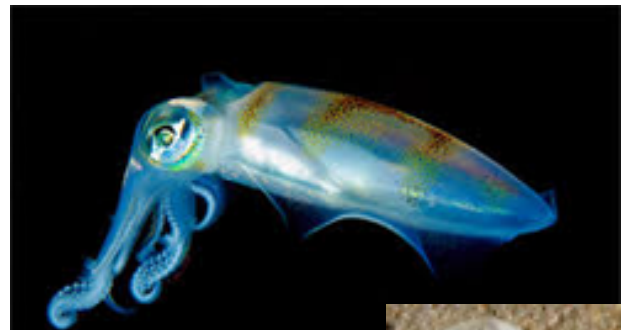
Another example of a local species is the “Raggedy Sea Hare”, *Aplisia dactylomela*. This animal has an internal shell placed between the “flaps” on its back which are used to swim. The shell is very delicate but may be pulled from a dead animal you may find on a bayside beach. It gets its common name from the two “ears” on its head, which resemble rabbits’ ears.



Also in this category are some of the Cephalopods, squids and cuttlefish. Squids have a “pen”, sort of a backbone, which I have excavated from dead animals. The Humbolt Squid’s pen was too long to put in my suitcase!



We all know that Cuttlebone is given to pet birds to help them get calcium, right? Well, the cuttlebone is an internal shell of the Cuttlefish, another Cephalopod. It, too, is placed at the back of the animal’s body.



You can find cuttlebones on beaches throughout the world. (I’ve got them from South Africa, Colombia, and Spain.) They are very fragile.

A Clam that Lights Up

Nestled in cracks and crevices in coral reefs off the Indonesian coast, so-called disco clams are busy putting on a light show. But unlike many animals in the ocean that produce their own light, a new study finds that these flashy mollusks catch and reflect ambient light for their displays.

Found throughout the Indo-Pacific, *Ctenoides ales* is a striking saltwater clam with colorful tendrils and a peculiar talent long known to divers: It produces flashes of light that at first glance look like



flickers of neon or ripples of electricity. Hence its nickname, the “electric,” or disco, clam.

The animal’s impressive light show was long thought to be an example of *bioluminescence*—or an organism’s ability to produce light through chemical reactions—until research in the 1990s discovered it was actually a matter of scattering ambient light.

The mantle edge is filled on one side with nano-size spheres made of silica. Silica is very rarely used by animals but has a high refractive index, which makes it a great reflector.

The mantle’s other side is very good at absorbing light, resulting in the alternating, or flashing, light effect when the lips flap open and closed. Bivalves are filter feeders, so their shells are constantly opening and

closing in order to let water pass over their gills to pick up food.

The key question now hanging in the air like a disco ball is *why* the clams do what they do. Researchers suspect the clam’s flashy display may serve a signaling function of some kind or may ward off predators. They are also testing to see if they use the light to lure in prey or to recruit one another to settle nearby for spawning purposes.

It’s very fascinating to think about what factors led to the development of this flashing, since no other bivalve displays light in such a manner. “[Disco clams] are pretty unique.

To read more and see a video of the clam lighting up, go to

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/25/how-the-disco-clam-lights-it-up-underwater/>

Some Interesting Art



<http://www.advancedaquarist.com/blog/hermit-crabs-in-3d-printed-cityscape-shells>

Educational Session

Peggy Williams invites you to my home to learn how to get the gunk off those live-collected shells. This includes seaweed, sponges, and coral or coralline algae. Only three at a time can fit into my shell room, so be sure to sign up with me beforehand.

Date: Tuesday, September 16

Time: 4-6, 6-8 (two sessions)

Place: 7207 12th Ct (or St) E

Sarasota FL 34243

(When you get to the school, continue on the dirt road! I promise it gets to me.)

September, 2014



COA 2015 Wilmington, NC

by Duane Kauffmann

Three members of the Sarasota Shell Club were present at the 2015 meeting of the Conchologists of America in July (view from my hotel window in photograph). Peggy Williams, Dennis Sargent, and Duane Kauffmann found their paths crossing in Wilmington, NC. Dennis gave an informative and



visually stimulating presentation on the Triton Trumpets in the genus *Charonia*. Peggy was her usual presence greeting all her many COA friends, serving as Sarasota club representative, and had her tables at the Bourse. Duane had a couple of entries in the "Mini" shell show, one a Siesta Key Beach collected *Lamellaria leucosphaera* (can you find it in the photograph?)



A good collection of papers was presented. In addition to Dennis' mentioned above, I would note those of

Gary Rosenberg, Alan Gettleman, Tom Grace, and Bill Lyons. Gary's paper gave pause to the traditional "There are 100,000 species of mollusks." After analysis of information in such sources as Malacolog and WoRMS, he concluded there are 73,000 plus or minus 3000 species. Alan gave a fascinating historical account of how two mollusk species (one a 3-valve bivalve!), never seen and never existing, came to be included in the scientific literature for a substantial period of time. Tom, when his business took him to Nevada, spent time investigating the freshwater mollusks of NV and CA. His comments about the potential future of such species in drought-stricken CA were sobering. Bill's paper addressed the Fasciolarinae. For those already frustrated by taxonomics, get ready to rename your banded tulips; *Cinctura* has arrived.

As usual there were silent auctions and one oral auction. The latter generated prices well outside the financial range of a retired college professor. The silent auctions were very competitive and good quality specimens went for significant amounts. Unfortunately for me, there were all too few minis and micros! However, such shells were to be found in the "Cheap Shells" sale on Thursday morning. I confess that although each small package was only a quarter, I managed to spend ten dollars.

The Bourse on Thursday afternoon and Friday was spread across two ballrooms. A large variety of offerings tempted those who ventured in.

Next year the COA will meet again in Florida, hosted by the Broward Shell Club. The dates are July 24-31. If you are not a member of COA, consider joining, though you can go to the convention anyway!) And mark your calendars now for this event, in a very attractive setting, only four hours from Sarasota.

Board Members

Sally Peppitoni	President
Nancy Marini	Vice President
Bruce Paulsen	Treasurer
Donna Bartels	Recording Secretary
Peggy Williams	Corresponding Sec'y

Board: Donna Cassin, JoAnn Mancuso, Terry Jones, Rosanne Roble, Rich Cirrintano, Deborah Deam, Harry Berryman

Committee Chairmen:

Artisans	Nancy Marini
<i>Beauti</i>	Peggy Williams
941-355-2291	
Historian:	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips	
Librarian:	Linda Greiner 941-993-5161
Membership:	Lynn Gaulin
Shell Show:	
Sunshine:	Karen Ciffin

September's Low Tides

5 Fri 05:48 PM / 0.15 ft
6 Sat 06:35 PM / 0.15 ft
7 Sun 07:14 PM / 0.22 ft
8 Mon 07:50 PM / 0.36 ft

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.**

Calendar

Please note dates on your own calendars!

Sep 11, 7 pm regular meeting, Waldemere
6 pm sales of shells, etc.

4:30 pm Shell Show meeting

Sep 15 4-6,6-8 pm Cleaning shells work-
shops at Peggy's house

Sep 20-21 North Carolina Shell Show

Sep 27, 8:30 am Caspersen Beachwalk/
Sharky's breakfast

Oct 9, 7 pm regular meeting, Waldemere
6 pm sales of shells, etc.

Nov 12, 7 pm regular meeting, Waldemere
6 pm sales of shells, etc.

Jan 9-11 Astronaut Trail Shell Show
Melbourne, FL

Feb 13-15 **Sarasota Shell Show**

July 14-19 Conchologists of America
convention, Weston, FL (East coast)

This Month's Program

Show and Tell. Bring any shells you
have acquired during the past year to show
them off and tell how you got them.

DID YOU KNOW...

There is a family of gastropods (which
usually have one piece of shell) which is
BIVALVED (with TWO pieces of shell)? It's the
Juliidae, related to "bubbles" and nudibranchs,
There are several species in the west Pacific
(and one in the Caribbean and Florida) which
live on local species of *Caleurpa* algae.

Sarasota Shell Club

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