



# The Beauí

## Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)

Meetings 2nd Thursdays, September-April at Fire Station #2, 2070 Waldemere St Sarasota.



### From the Prez

Hello fellow shell lovers!

This year is already off to a great start! We had a wonderful response at our September meeting for Show-and-Tell! Several members have found very interesting

items during their shelling excursions. It's always great to see members actively taking part and sharing our interest of shells. Don't be shy! We all learn from each other's experiences and findings!

A number of us also had a great time at the last Beach & Breakfast trip to Casperson Beach in Venice. Even though we didn't find too many intact shells, those of us who snorkeled saw lots of great tropical fish. I saw several snook and was wishing for a fishing rod! Actually, we made a fabulous ground-breaking discovery while at Casperson...



mermaids DO exist! This little cutie was posing

**This month's meeting is October 9.**

**Program: John Colagrande, "Fossils Shells NOT found in Florida".**

**This year's shell show is  
Feb. 13-15, 2014**

**Check out our new website:  
[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)**

in her costume for her mom nearby and we couldn't resist a photo.

I recently received an e-mail from SHARE Home School Co-op. They are interested in bringing their K-6th graders to the shell show this year. Isn't that great!

Working hard to get noticed is paying off and I hope that will mean increased attendance at the show this year.

Also, if you haven't yet picked up the new SSC business cards, make sure you get a few at the October meeting. These are good for passing out to people when you strike up a conversation and find out they like shells. The cards contain all the pertinent information about when and where we meet and they are beautiful, very professional.

Our speaker this month will be John Colagrande who will talk to us about "Fossil Shells NOT Found in Florida". Sounds pretty cool to me!

The last thing I want to mention is that the Artisans will be offering a one-time two hour class on making shell Christmas ornaments. This class will be Tuesday, November 4th, at 6:30 pm, at our storage facility on State Rd 70 in Bradenton. The cost will be \$10 for materials. If you've ever wanted to see how you can make your own ornaments then this is your chance! Call Nancy Marini (758-9790) for a spot.

## 2014-15

### Membership Information



*Lynn Gaulin, Membership chair*

The 2014-15 membership renewal for our club is due prior to November 1st. After November 1st your name will be dropped from our membership list. New forms are available on the club's website ([sarasotashellclub.com](http://sarasotashellclub.com)) or at club meetings. Each year we request all members to fill out a new membership form so information can be verified or changed. Please bring this completed form to club meetings or mail it to me.

Dues remain the same for renewing members single is \$15, family is \$20. New membership fees are single \$21.50 and family is \$33. This fee includes your membership badge.

New 2014-15 Membership cards will be available at club meetings. Perhaps even the same night if I have time to sign them.

If you joined our club after February 1, 2013 your membership is current through August 2015.

### Librarian



*Linda Greiner, Librarian*

The list of books in our library are now on our website, [sarasotashell-club.com](http://sarasotashell-club.com)!

If you would like to check out a book or just browse our library, you can come to Hwy.

70 in Bradenton with me, call me at 355-0586; email [luvseashells@gmail.com](mailto:luvseashells@gmail.com).

You may want a book to help with your exhibit at our Shell Show. For more information on some of our books, go to [mdmbooks.com](http://mdmbooks.com).

Lots of exciting books to see!

### 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. Email [johncheryl@earthlink.net](mailto:johncheryl@earthlink.net) for more information.



### Field Trips, Etc

*Sally Peppitoni*

October 11th – Anclote Key. This trip is already filled. If there are twelve members who would like to go who couldn't on this one, I could create another trip in November. I will have an interest sheet for sign-up at the October meeting to see who would be interested in going in November.

#### October 25th – Beach & Breakfast

We will meet at 8am at the dead end of North Shore Rd by the beach on the north end of Longboat Key. Afterward we will breakfast at the Gulf Drive Café on Anna Maria Island just north of Cortez Rd. Try to carpool if you can as there is not a lot of parking space at the dead end.

#### November 24th - Beach & Breakfast

Sarasota Bay, where Indian Beach Drive turns north and becomes Bay Shore Rd, in Sarasota. We will meet at 7:45 am and have breakfast later at the Toasted Mango Café on Hwy 41 just north of the Fruitville Rd intersection.

#### December 6th – Beach and Breakfast

We will meet at Nokomis Beach, in Nokomis, at 7am. Breakfast location TBA later.

#### December 13th – Big Hickory Key

Big Hickory Key is just south of Fort Myers Beach and Lover's Key State Park. I will have a sign-up sheet for those interested in this trip at the October meeting to see how many would go. I cannot give a cost until I see how big a pontoon boat we need to rent. The pontoon boats at the marina we leave from go all the way up to party-hearty size.

#### December 22nd – Carefree Learner

The Carefree Learner will leave from Marina Jack's in Sarasota at 7 am. The cost is \$5 per person and I will have a sign-up sheet for this at the October meeting. We will try some new locations in and around Sarasota Bay for shelling.



October, 2014

## Holiday Party & Auction

Friday, December 5, 2014

Courtyard by Marriott in Bradenton



All new menu!  
Salmon, Chicken  
Piccata for \$25  
each, and Filet  
Mignon for \$35  
each, tax and  
gratuity included.  
Cash Bar 5:00,  
Dinner 6:00.

Tickets may be  
purchased at the

October and November meetings, or call  
Nancy Marini at 758-9790.

*Ornament on Seashells.com*

## Donations Wanted

Please consider donating a tax-  
deductible shell or shell-related item for the  
auction, which will be held after dinner. Please  
bring these items to the October or November  
meeting and give them to Nancy.

## Anybody Sick?

If you know a member who is feeling  
poorly or has had a relative pass away, please  
tell Sunshine Committee Karen Ciffin (810)  
373-5203. She will send out a card on the  
Club's behalf.

## Refreshments

will be available at the meetings, but you  
must bring your own non-alcoholic beverages.

## For Fossil Fans

It's Fossil Day at the South Florida  
Museum in Bradenton on Sat., Oct. 4, 10 am-8  
pm. Clubs and vendor displays 11 am-5 pm.  
Ron Bopp will show a shell display. Features:  
speakers (including Ron Bopp), Kids Fossil Dig  
Pit, Movie on Sea Monsters at 4:15. \$9 adults,  
\$8 seniors, \$7 children.



## Cleaning Your Shells

by Peggy Williams

Since only four people were able to  
attend my workshop on cleaning shells, I'll  
repeat what I told them.

This assumes you have collected (or  
bought or been given) shells that may have  
been alive when you got them or shells that  
have coverings of algae, dirt, barnacles, or  
coralline algae.

### Removing the animal

To kill the animal you can boil the shell,  
but do not do this with shiny shells (cowries,  
olives, and conchs will get hairline cracks.);

or Microwave: do not use with shiny  
shells. This is the best method. Listen for a  
"pop" and it's done. The Operculum will lift off  
easily.

Or you can freeze the animal or put it in  
alcohol for later removal. Later, soak in water a  
day, then blow out

small shells with a  
Dental Water Jet Oral  
Irrigator Flosser (that  
attaches to a spigot-  
available on EBay.)

Hold down into a  
bucket so you don't  
lose it down the drain!  
Take off and save the  
operculum.



If the animal is  
not entirely removed, use water, shaking  
frequently. You may need to soak, use water  
again, shake, etc. Sometimes hydrogen  
peroxide will do.

### To remove algae and periostracum

Chlorox: may be full strength or even  
pool chlorine. Wear old clothes or white  
clothes (or no clothes?!) If you want to save  
the periostracum, use a toothbrush after light  
soaking to remove algae.

Do not use Chlorox on shells with  
mother-of-pearl (pen shells, pearl oysters)

### Getting off encrustations

Dental pics. You can buy these at the flea  
market. Get fairly sturdy ones. for light  
encrustations.





October, 2014

Dremel Rotary Tools are available for under \$100 on Amazon, also at Home Depot, etc. Get diamond bits with point on end if possible. (I like bit #7144).



Use this tool especially for heavy encrustation, but also for finishing if you don't have anything else.

Ultrasonic scalers are available for under \$150 on Amazon. Get one with extra ends if you're going to use it a lot. The scaler must be attached to a water source and electricity. Use the tip lightly by holding it to small encrustations or push harder (with a higher power setting) for heavy stuff like barnacles and attached shells.



For murex with sharp spines hold the shell with a glove on your hand!

For small shells, hold the shell down in a bucket with the aperture to one side so the shell will not fall in the drain and be lost if you drop it! The operculum will fall into the bucket. Look for it; you may need to pour most of the water out of the bucket and put the rest in a small container you can search for the tiny operculum!

I don't like to admit it, but I occasionally use Lime Away (a very mild acid) to get the last little bits off or take off a "foggy" look. Do not use muriatic acid! It will eat the shell.

Apply with tooth brush; you can scrub. Have water running & rinse often. Do not use on shells with mother-of-pearl. Wash your hands after use.



### Finishing

Oil with 1/2 mineral oil, 1/2 lighter fluid. (Do not use vegetable oil... it will attract insects.) I apply the mixture with a squirt bottle. The lighter fluid will evaporate and leave the oil

less sticky. Wash your hands when done.

To preserve the periostracum, apply "Goop": 1/2 glycerine, 1/2 alcohol. This doesn't mix well but... Glycerine is available at pharmacies. It is expensive, but can be reused and lasts a long time.



Insert a plug of cotton into the aperture and glue the operculum to it. Use Elmer's water-soluble glue. For tiny opercs put glue on paper and use tweezers to dip the operc into the glue.



**BE SURE YOU HAVE THE OPERCULUM RIGHT SIDE UP!**

The operculum is generally roughened on the side where the animal holds it, and it often has a raised margin on that side. The outside may have algae or encrustations on it and is usually more or less smooth.



It fits into the shell one way only...it may have a straight side

that goes next to the inside of the mouth of the shell. It may have a whorl with a center to it, and that is generally

at the open end of the aperture. It's best to look at the operculum when the animal is still in the shell so you can tell how to put it back in.



As a judge, I have taken off points if the operculum is improperly positioned.

## 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, Deborah Deam, Harry Berryman

### Committee Chairmen:

Artisans	Nancy Marini 758-9790
<i>Beau</i>	Peggy Williams 355-2291
Historian:	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips:	Sally Peppitoni
Librarian:	Linda Greiner 355-0586
Membership:	Lynn Gaulin
Shell Show:	Board
Sunshine:	Karen Ciffin 810-373-5203

### October'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

## Calendar

Please note dates on your own calendars!

- Oct 9, 7 pm** regular meeting, Waldemere  
**6 pm** sales of shells, shell related items.
- Oct 11** Field trip to Anclote Key
- Oct 25** Beach & Breakfast N Longboat
- Nov 8 1 pm** Book auction/sale at  
Seminole Rec Center (St Pete)
- Nov 13, 7 pm** regular meeting, Waldemere  
**program: Doug Jeffries on**  
**"How to Spot Fake Shells"**  
**6 pm** sales of shells, shell related items.
- Nov. 24** Beach & Breakfast Indian Bch Dr
- Dec. 5, 5-9** Holiday Party and Auction
- Dec 6** Beach & Breakfast Nokomis Beach
- Dec 11, 7 pm** regular meeting, Waldemere  
**Bring Shoebox Exhibits**  
**6 pm** sales of shells, shell related items.
- Jan 9-11** Astronaut Trail Shell Show  
Melbourne, FL (East coast)
- Feb 13-15** **Sarasota Shell Show**
- July 14-19** Conchologists of America  
convention, Weston, FL (East coast)  
[www.2015coaconvention.com](http://www.2015coaconvention.com)

### 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  
13-15, 2015 at the  
Bradenton Area  
Convention Center

**Dues:** New  
members \$21.50 New  
Family members (2+ at  
same address) \$33.00.

**Renewals:** \$15.00  
for Single, \$20.00 for  
Family (two+ at same  
address).

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

### DID YOU KNOW...

Sometimes mollusks have the ability to practice autotomy - to discard parts of their body, and later regenerate those parts. The purpose is to attract predators to the discarded part while the mollusk leaves! The Rosy Razor Clam can slough off rings of its siphon when threatened. Harp shells can leave part of their foot and it is partly because the genus *Morum* does the same that it has been moved from the family Cassidae to Harpidae.



## Sarasota Shell Club

P.O. Box 4124  
Sarasota, FL 34230-4124  
[Peggy@Shelltrips.com](mailto:Peggy@Shelltrips.com)  
[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)

*October, 2014*

## **SARASOTA SHELL CLUB MEETING**

September 11, 2014

Sally Peppitoni called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

Program included several members bringing "Show and Tell" from summer trips and finds on the beaches. October meeting will be a presentation by John Cologrande; November meeting a program will be given by Doug Jeffries on Fake Shells.

Treasurer reported bank balance is \$11,420.61. Bruce Paulsen noted we have a better balance in our account at this time than last year since some of the 2015 Shell Show bills have already been paid.

Sally Peppitoni announced that the Artisan rules for the 2015 Shell Show have been reorganized. There will be new categories and ribbons. There also will be a new student's division for Sarasota and Manatee high school science classes. The classes that register will be allowed to display a classroom exhibit at the show with the top three winners receiving financial awards for the teachers to spend on additional educational supplies. By the first of October the information should be on the website and information out to all the teachers involved.

A long break was given, with snacks and members being able to purchase Shell Club items as well as shells from other members.

Linda Greiner, Librarian, reminded the members if you need any books to use as reference for your exhibits please call her at 941-355-0586

Bruce reminded members that membership fees are now due. The Club has new membership cards and also business cards for members to carry and pass out to people who are interested in the Club.

Sally Peppitoni read the upcoming field trips. These are also printed in our newsletter and information is always present at the monthly meetings.

Nancy Marini volunteered to take care of any Sunshine greetings that need to be sent out until Karen Ciffin returns.

Nancy Marini noted we have welcomed several new artisans over the summer and new people are always invited to join us. The Artisans donated some of their projects to fund raisers for the Turtle Watch and Mote Marine.

Sally Peppitoni announced that the Board has recommended a Code of Ethics by which all members should abide by. Copies of the Code were available to be read and will be voted on at the October meeting.

No further business was discussed. Sally Peppitoni adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Donna Bartels, Recording Secretary