



The Beau

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

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

Historian's Report

by Duane Kauffmann

The following information was reported at the Nov. 14, 2013 by club historian Duane Kauffman.

50 Years Ago:

A "large turnout" attended the November 10, 1963 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club in the Palmer Bank Building Arcade. The meeting was called to order at 8:10. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A motion for adjournment was made at 8:20 so they could get to the "meat of the meeting."

The anticipated program was by Mr. and Mrs. John Proeltz of Lake Worth. They showed colored slides of shells accompanied by a tape-recorded description. "It was a wonderful program and well received by a standing ovation."

25 Years Ago:

President Peggy Williams called the meeting of November 10, 1988 to order.

Shell show chair Vi Hertweck urged all members to volunteer and to exhibit at the show.

Among the several announcements: (1) a Carefree Learner field trip, (2) the shell pit at Arcadia was open for a fee of \$2.50 per day. (3) Dick Forbush was surprised by finding Pacific shells in the Sarasota Bay. He wondered who dumped them.

Peggy Williams gave an educational talk on tide charts. Dick and Jane Forbush gave the program on shelling in Micronesia.

Video of a Florida Shell!

The body of *Natica tedbayeri* Rehder, 1986, the "Florida Moonshell," is as beautiful



Holiday Party December 6 at
Courtyard by Marriott, Bradenton,
This month's meeting is December 12
7:00 pm at the Waldemere Fire Station.
Program: Shoebox exhibits.
**This year's shell show is
Feb. 14-16, 2014**

as its shell. The Jackson-ville Shell Club's website has a great video of this very active mollusk. Diane Randolph captured this footage during a night dive at the Blue Heron Bridge, Palm Beach County Florida on August 20th, 2013.



*Photo credit: Association
Francaise de Conchyliologie*

To see this great video go to:

<http://www.jaxshells.org/tedbay.htm!>

New email for Bev Snyder:

tanmyhide@outlook.com

Board Members

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

Committee Chairmen:

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



Field Trips

by Lynn Gaulin

December 3rd, (Thursday) is the first of our Carefree Learner trip out to the sand bar in **Sarasota Bay** this winter.

Departure will be at 7:00 A.M. **Cost for this trip is \$5 per person in cash, please.** At this time there is room for a few more members to go. If you are interested please call Lynn asap.

December 30 is our rescheduled overnight trip to **Cedar Key** with shelling on December 31. The *very low negative tide* is Sunday, about 7:00 A.M. We will arrive back in town late afternoon in time to celebrate the New Year with family and friends.

January 16, 2014 (Thursday) is our second trip on the **Carefree Learner**. We will need many members to sign up for this trip or it will need to be cancelled. I need about 6-8 members to make this trip go. Departure will be at 7:00 A.M. and **cost** is the usual **\$5 per person in cash**. Sign up at either the December or January meetings for this trip. Be sure to pick up the information sheet also at the club meetings.

January 30, 2014 (Thursday) is our last trip out to **Sarasota Bay** on the Carefree Learner this winter. Departure is at 6:45 A.M. and cost is the same, **\$5 per person in cash**. Sign up at the club meeting in December or January.

Membership Report

by Lynn Gaulin

As of this date we have *120 paid members* of the Sarasota Shell Club. This includes 93 single members, and 27 family members or people living at same address. We also have 3 lifetime members.

New membership rosters, both those with photographs (those paid \$4 extra) or those receiving regular rosters on (4), will be available at the December 12th club meeting. Be sure to pick yours up and sign for it.

Recent joke on Conch-L

President Barak Obama went to a costume party while giving a piggy back ride to our First Lady. The host said, "Welcome Mr. President, but what are you dressed as?" Barak replied, "I'm a snail, can't you see that's Michelle (my shell) on my back?"

- **More:** "Certainly some aspects of the US gov't have been sluggish lately.
- Not much evidence of a more perfect Unio, either. More Mercenaria in attitude.

LAST, LAST CALL!

Don't miss this wonderful time to get together, have fun, have a GREAT meal and to participate!!!!

The annual Holiday Party is December 6th at the **Courtyard by Marriott**, 100 Riverfront Dr. in Bradenton.

Cash bar at 5:00PM. Visit, mingle and review the great auction items.

Dinner is at 6:00PM followed by our annual auction with a "surprise auctioneer".

We guarantee a good time!!!!

For tickets contact Nancy Marini at 941-758-9790.

If you want to come, but need a ride. Call Nancy....we will make sure it happens!!



Shell Show

by Donna Cassin

The SSC 51st Annual Shell Show is February 14, 15 and 16 of 2014.

Please clear your calendar and consider being generous with your time and talents. With your **HELP**

We will **"ROCK IT THIS YEAR"**.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available starting with the December 12th club meeting.

Shell Show Meeting

The next Shell Show committee meeting will be December 9th at 1:00 PM at Fire Station #1 in downtown Sarasota.

This is located at 1445 4th St. Plenty of parking is available in the lot across the street and behind the fire station.

Join us if you would like to be involved!!!

We would welcome your ideas, questions and participation.

December, 2013

Shoebox Exhibits Wanted

Our December 12 meeting will not have a speaker, but we'll have a fun activity (you'll get a free shell) and Shoebox Exhibits. To make a Shoebox Exhibit, choose any box (it can be open topped) and put shells in it. You should have a theme for your shells and label them as you would in a shell show. The members present will vote on their favorite exhibits and you might go home with a ribbon! We've had some very original exhibits in the past... see what you can do!



Educational Meeting

by Sandy Pillow-Johnson

We had our first Educational Meeting on November 20 at the new Goodwill Center's community building on North US 41. It was led by Peggy Williams.

The subject was the taxonomy of shells. She reviewed the information John Colegrande presented at the November meeting and then led the group through the process of finding the names of several shells using the book, *American Seashells* by Tucker Abbot.

The group was then asked to make up a name for a shell using a list of some name meanings. Peggy's idea was to get them to make up the actual name of the shell, but many of the guesses were far out! Discussion of a more appropriate name was fruitful.

Seven people attended this 1 ½ hour session. Everyone who attended marveled at Peggy's expertise and said they had learned much just in that session. All are planning to attend the next meeting in January and encourage others to join this opportunity to learn about shell taxonomy, Latin names as well as common names. Peggy will again lead the next session. Hope to see you there.

The next meeting will be January 21 at the new Goodwill in Sarasota on North US 41, beginning at 1:30 pm and lasting about an hour and a half. The topics will be: 1) How to make an exhibit by Harry Berryman and 2) Parts of a shell by Peggy Williams.

Guess What the Names Mean:

Can you guess what these scientific names mean? (All are *species*, or *specific* names)

- bidentata (hint: bi-dentata)
- brevifrons
- floridana
- ftampaensis
- globosus
- pseudospira
- abbotti
- albida
- angulosa
- bella
- canaliculata
- caribaensis
- circumcincta
- contracta
- contraria
- flammea
- lactea
- longa
- lucida
- magnifica
- magna
- minima
- oblonga
- pulchra
- pustulata
- spinosa
- stella

Go to the last page for answers!

December, 2013



Lady Gaga in London

Ming, the clam, was the oldest animal ever — then scientists killed it

Scientists found out a clam they discovered a few years ago was the OLDEST LIVING ANIMAL EVER – hurray! But they've also confessed that they accidentally killed it when they opened it up to see how old it was. Ming, the clam, was thought to be around 405 years old when it was found by researchers in Iceland in 2006, but more recent dating methods have determined that Ming was actually 507 years old. That means the mollusk made its way into the world around 1499, which explains how it got its posthumous name (Ming was the Chinese dynasty in power when the clam was born).

Unfortunately, Ming's life came to an unglamorous end when it was opened up for scrutiny the first time around — a move researchers wouldn't have made if they had suspected how old it really was.



*Ming is an *Arctica islandica* (Linnaeus, 1767) - which can also be found on beaches. –Editor*

Upcoming 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!

- **Jan 11-12, Space Coast Seashell Festival**, The Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, FL
- **Jan 18-19, 49th Annual Broward Shell Show**, Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL.
- **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.



How about this hairdo?!

December, 2013

Those Were the Days

by Peggy Williams

In the 1980's there was a lot of scallop fishing going on and the scallop factories, after taking out the scallops, had to get rid of the shells. There was also a lot of bycatch.

Bycatch is extra animals and plants that are incidentally gathered up when fishing for a specific animal (like scallops). In this case, it included sea stars, crabs, some bottom fish, shrimps, and mollusks, virtually anything that lives on the bottom the sea.

There was a place near Cape Canaveral which was going to be developed into a parking lot for a coming cruise ship industry, but it was marsh at the time (really black, mucky muck). The idea was to fill it with the scallop shells, bulldoze them flat, and eventually pave it over.

Shell collectors (and others) discovered it and began going there to look for specimens. There were even some people who gathered up rock shrimps and then sold them on the side of the road (I wouldn't have wanted them, since they had been exposed to sun for awhile and probably spoiling!)



Jim Cordy, who worked for NASA at Cape Canaveral (then Cape Kennedy) and lived on the other side of the landfill (called "The Dump"), stopped on his way home almost daily and was known

in shell club circles as "The Mayor of the Dump." He ended up with some amazing specimens and traded a lot of them with dealers and individuals for very nice shells.

Enthusiasm among shellers was great, and there are stories of people falling into the muck while pursuing a particularly delectable Horse Conch (*Triplofusus gigantea*) or Junonia (*Scaphella junonia*). It was said that one hefty lady had to be removed with a crane! Others stood so near the dump trucks that they were in danger of being buried in the shells. But it was apparently public land, and there were no fences erected to keep people out.

Visiting the dump was quite an experience. The rotting animals created quite a stink that

hit you as soon as you opened the car door. After awhile you got used to it, and just went with the flow.

Other drawbacks were heat, the flies and birds. They, of course, were drawn to the dead



and dying animals. If you approached a pile of shells the birds feeding would take off and you had to be sure you weren't in their way, since they always defecate when they take off!

I made the trip several times across the state to visit the site and was able to find quite a few good shells while there (though not, unfortunately, a Junonia). Some I managed to get home alive and put in my aquariums to



That's me on the right!

watch, including Scotch Bonnets (*Phalium granulosa*), Distorsios (*Distorsio clathrata*), Sundials, (*Architectonica nobles*) and Giant Atlantic Murex (*Hexaplex fulvescens*).

I did get some very good shells there, plus samples of sea life (which I was collecting at the time). And I managed to avoid the birds, though the stench stayed with me all the way home!

What is Conch-L?

Conch-L is a user group associated with, but not limited to, the Conchologists of America. It's a way to communicate with others who are passionate about shells.

Selling stuff is forbidden, but announcements of shell shows and articles are OK.

The users are extremely varied. Some are rank amateurs and others are professionals.

Common questions include where to look for shells when one is going a seacoast, getting someone's address, how to clean and preserve shells, problems of storage or labeling, etc. The most basic questions will be answered. So sign up at <http://www.listserv.uga.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=conch-L&A=1>

December's Low Tides

1 Sun 12:26 pm -.43	17 Tu 2:05 pm -.43
2 Mon 1:20 pm -.55	18 W 2:30 pm -.40
3 Tu 2:12 pm -.63	19 Th 2:53 pm -.36
4 W 3:02 pm -.62	20 F 3:18 pm -.30
5 Th 3:47 pm -.54	21 Sa 3:45 pm -.22
6 Sa 4:27 pm -.39	28 Sa 10:45 am -.22
14 Sa 12:22 pm -.30	29 Su 11:54 am -.47
15 Su 1:04 pm -.39	30 M 12:44 pm -.67
16 Mo 1:38 pm -.42	31 Tu 1:25 pm -.79

• WHAT THE NAMES MEAN

• bidentata	with two teeth
• brevifrons	with short fronds (spines)
• floridana	from Florida
• tampaensis	from Tampa
• globosus	round (like a globe)
• pseudospira	false spired
• abbotti	named for Tucker Abbott
• albida	white (as in <i>albinol</i>)
• angulosa	angled
• bella	pretty
• canaliculata	channeled
• caribaensis	from the Caribbean
• circumcincta	like a belt, tied around
• contracta	contracted, narrow
• contraria	backwards, left-handed
• flammea	with a pattern of flames
• lactea	milk-white
• longa, elongate	long
• lucida	shining, lucid
• magnifica	magnificent
• magna	big, very big
• minima	small
• oblonga	oblong in shape
• pulchra	beautiful (as in <i>pulchritude</i>)
• pustulata	pustulated, pimpled
• spinosa	spiny
• stella	like a star, star-shaped



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).

DID YOU KNOW...

The "Pacific Ugly Clam" (*Entodesma navicula*) lives nestled among rocks and gets up to four or more inches in size. It has a thick periostracum that covers the shell. However, if you collect one and don't treat it properly, the periostracum will shrink and CRACK the shell! You need to treat it with glycerine to moisten the periostracum and continue to add more from time to time!



Sarasota Shell Club

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