



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

Hello Shell-a-holics!

The dog days of summer are upon us and we're starting another year of fabulous shelling and I hope everyone is as excited as I am!

We will have a number of excellent guest speakers, lots of beach and fieldtrips for shelling and socializing, opportunities to buy great shells, our wonderful annual shell show and much more.

Our first meeting is September 10th and the program will be Show 'n Tell. Bring a few interesting things you've found since last winter to share with us. I will just be getting back from shelling in Panama so I hope to have some cool shells to show you.

Also at our September meeting there will be discussion and vote on action presented by the board for our annual donations. The board recommends the following:

- Carefree Learner: \$1500
- Bailey-Matthews Museum: \$200,
- Delaware Museum: \$100
- New College Marine Biology: \$1000.

Please consider these amounts and have any questions regarding these donations ready before the vote.

Please also remember to pay your annual dues to our new membership chairman Mary Jo Bopp ASAP because we wouldn't want you to miss out on anything! I hope to see all of you at the meeting.

**This meeting
Sept.10 at 7 p.m.
Program: Show and Tell:
Bring any shell you
acquired in the last year
that you want to show off!**

Some members will have shells for sale at the meeting.
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

**Next meeting
Oct 8 at 7 p.m.
Program by Phyllis
Gray, shell show
exhibitor and judge**

What great shells did you acquire last year?

Everyone enjoys seeing your best shells each year. Let's all bring something you're especially happy with that you got last year, whether it be self-collected, a gift, or something you bought. Tell the story so we can all enjoy it!

YOU will be the program for the September meeting!

Like Us on Facebook!

We are on Facebook! Look up Sarasota Shell Club.

2015-16 Membership

Mary Jo Bopp

It's time to renew our good times at the club meetings, field trips as well as enjoy the wonderful club newsletter. This involves renewal of your membership. Renewal of your membership is **DUE NOW** and past due at the November meeting. Please fill out your form (found on our website), make a **check** out to SSC for \$15 (single) or \$20 (family) and mail both to me at

Mary Jo Bopp, Membership Chair
5207 10th Ave Dr W
Bradenton, FL 34209



Artisans, Library Have Moved

by Donna Bartels



The Shell Club Artisans located a new home this summer. We will now be in **Sarasota** at the **Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, 4826 McIntosh Road**. The new location will allow us to be able to create our art and store all the items for the Shell Show.

The library will also be in this location. We have a wonderful collection of books, come and use them!

The new location offers us air conditioning, cleanliness and room to be comfortable to work without having to set up and tear down every week. It was a huge move and took 4 weeks to pack everything and by the time you read this we should be



reorganized once again. We are fortunate to have some shell angels in our group that sponsored the moving expenses and new shelving and many other items that we need to keep growing. A big thank you to



all who came and worked hard in the heat of the storage unit.

Please come and visit us, we will be there on **Thursdays** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for now

and will be putting in more hours toward the end of the year. It is a light and bright place and we have a comfy chair for the library patrons. The church staff and congregation are excited about having us on campus and extend an invitation to anyone to attend their services on Sundays.

Library

Linda Greiner



Our SSC Library has moved to the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota.

You can view a list of our great books on our website www.sarasotashellclub.com.

For more information on some of our books go to www.mdm.com.

It would be great to have you join me to browse our library. I can also bring a book to our club meetings. You may want a book to help you with your exhibit at our SSC Shell Show or just educate yourself about shells and marine life. We even have a book "How to Prepare Molluscs for Eating" and some shellcraft books.

Just call me at 941-993-5161 or email me at luvseashells@gmail.com and we can talk about our exciting SSC library books!

Field Trips, Etc

Sally Peppitoni

Trips must be paid for by check made out to Sarasota Shell Club. I will **always** send out an e-mail of pertinent information before the trip goes.



The lineup through January:

September 19th (Sat)– BEACH AND BREAKFAST. We will meet at 9:30 am at the Helmsley's Beach Sandcastle on Lido Key for a buffet breakfast and then proceed to the South Lido Beach park where we will shell the south tip of the island. Low tide will be about 11:50 am.

October 17th (Sat) - BEACH AND BREAKFAST. We will meet at the Rod 'n Reel restaurant on the pier at the north end of Anna Maria Island at 7:30 am for breakfast. Then we will shell the north tip of the island. Low tide is about 9:15 am.

October 31st (Sat) – Either Honeymoon or Caladesi Islands just north of Clearwater. Honeymoon one can drive onto, but for Caladesi, one must take the ferry which is \$14 per person. Let me know which you prefer. The ferry for Caladesi leaves from Honeymoon.

November 28th (Sat) – Fort Desoto Park on the south end of Pinellas county.

December 14th (Mon) – 9am, **Carefree Learner** leaves out of Marina Jacks in downtown Sarasota. \$5 per person CASH ONLY.

January 11th (Mon) – 8am, **Carefree Learner** leaves out of Marina Jacks in downtown Sarasota. \$5 per person CASH ONLY.

January 23rd (Sat) – New Smyrna Dunes Park on the east coast.

January 26th (Tues) – 8am, **Carefree Learner** leaves out of Marina Jacks in downtown Sarasota. \$5 per person CASH ONLY.

Artisans Reach Out

Donna Bartels

The Artisans hosted a class making photo frames with beach shells on August 14th at the Braden River Library. We provided all of the supplies.

There were 10 participants, some even taught us some interesting techniques.

Seven Artisan members were there to teach and support participants. All commented how much fun they had. We would like to continue to do more outreach to publicize the club.



Geoducks

by Damond Benningfield

Smugglers sneak tons of it out of the country every year. Other ne'er-do-wells under-report the amount of it they've sold on their income taxes and even trade drugs for it. Is it diamonds? Gold? Lady Gaga CDs?

How about the world's largest burrowing clam -- monster with a three foot long neck that can live for more than a century. It's a delicacy on both sides of the Pacific Ocean--fetching up to \$60 a pop in parts of Asia.



The geoduck [pronounced "Goey-Duck"] is found in several spots around the world, but it's most common - and grows biggest - off the coasts of Washington and British Columbia. More than a hundred million of them live in Puget Sound alone.

The name "geoduck" comes from an American Indian name that means "digs deep". A geoduck burrows into the silty ocean floor at the age of just a few weeks --and keeps on digging. Over the years, it can burrow to a depth of about three feet.

Geoducks feed through a long rubbery neck known as a siphon, which pokes through the silt. It sucks in water through one tube in the siphon, feeds on the water's microscopic plants, then shoots out the filtered water through a second tube.

The average geoduck weighs a couple of pounds, but there are reports of a few growing up to eight pounds or more. And they may live up to 150 years.

Geoducks are harvested by divers who drop to depths of about 70 feet and blast away the silt with high-powered jets of water. They gather several million pounds of geoducks a year. Then it's off to the market - legally or illegally.

An episode of "Dirty Jobs" featured commercial production of this shell.

Biomimetics and Mollusks: From Razor Clam to RoboClam

The razor clam, *Ensis directus* (Conrad, 1843), also known as Atlantic jackknife clam or American jackknife clam (in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe), is one of the much-valued shellfish species present in New England and northern Europe. Anyone who tried to collect them at low tide in the exposed muddy-sand bars of the Atlantic coast can attest to their fast burrowing habits. Puzzled by the speed and energetic efficiency of razor-clam burrowing in relation to their muscle power, and driven by the potential for practical applications of this behavioral attribute, a group of researchers led by Amos G. Winter of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has solved the riddle.

By opening and closing its valves, a razor clam is capable of changing the physical properties of the substrate around it, "liquefying" the muddy sand and, by doing so, is able to reduce burrowing drag. The research culminated in a paper published last year in the journal *Bioinspiration & Biomimetics*, where Winter and his team explained how this is done, and presented the engineering application resulting from their research: the RoboClam. RoboClam is an underwater robot that mimics the movements and the digging efficiency of the razor clam. Potential applications include fast-deployment anchors, littoral reconnaissance, ocean sensor placement, underwater cable installation, and self-installing oil recovery equipment.



Field Notes

by Peggy Williams

Earlier this month I led a group to Belize. We went to Ambergris Cay, which is an extension of the Yucatan Peninsula (Mexico).

One day when the wind was onshore and the water in the Caribbean choppy, we went inside the Cay to San Pedro Lagoon, what we would call a shallow bay.

I expected to find a number of Marginella species there, which I did, and also the West Indian Crown Conch,



Melongena melongena. It grows larger than our Crown Conch and has a rounded shoulder and is a more robust shell than ours.

Right away we began finding small specimens, but I swam farther along the coast, looking for the other species I knew lives there, *Vokesimurex messorium*.

I had found three large Crown Conchs and was carrying them, when I came upon three more. The largest had his body wrapped around the shell of one of the smaller ones, and I knew they were mating! I watched for awhile and then swam away. I came back about ten minutes later and the smaller was moving away, probably looking for a place to lay her eggs, while the larger was ignoring the other small one.

I waited awhile but nothing happened, so, assuming one of the three I was carrying might be a male, I brought the smaller specimen, which I thought might be a female, near the group.

The largest of my three perked up and began moving, and so did the newcomer. The other three ignored each other. After an elaborate dance around each other, the two interested parties positioned themselves so the larger male could wrap his foot around the back of the female's shell and was slightly under it with his own shell.

His small head then came out and behind it his penis which he inserted into the female's shell at the margin. She waited, and they spent some time in that position. Finally he withdrew and so did I, having taken quite a few photos of the process. Unfortunately, I had only a throwaway camera, so the photos have to be sent away to process.

While all this was happening, someone else had found some of the Murex. He showed them to me, and I recognized that they were gathering to lay eggs...there were several egg cases already in the area.

In fact, I found one with five or six murex actively laying eggs and showed him. He was good about not taking the ones on eggs but managed to collect several that were moving away.

This type of murex, at least, lays eggs together to make a larger mass. Because they live in sandy areas with few hard items to attach the eggs to, they make a larger, heavier mass by doing it together. I have found that sometimes there are so many laying at once that some of them get caught in the middle of the egg mass and can't get out. They then die there.

When the eggs have hatched, the egg mass may blow to shore, and collectors can then look through it and find already-dead shells complete with operculum! Once in the Gulf of California in Mexico we found an egg mass about three feet in diameter. There were nine of us and we all took what we wanted (I got 75 in a small baggie) and left one of us gathering more to trade to others for other shells.

This lagoon at first seems to be rather poor in species of shells, but I think I gathered at least 20 species. There were also colorful fish around the rocks up against the shore.

photos by Eddie Hardy & the Jax Shell Club



Board Members

Sally Peppitoni President
 Nancy Marini Vice President
 Bruce Paulsen Treasurer
 Donna Bartels Recording Secretary
 Peggy Williams Corresponding Sec'y
Board: Terry Jones-1, Deborah Deam-1, Donna Cassin-2, JoAnn Mancuso-2, Harry Berryman-3, Karen Paulsen-3

Committee Chairmen

Artisans: Nancy Marini
Beau: Peggy Williams 355-2291
 Historian: Duane Kauffmann
 Field Trips: Sally Peppitoni
 Librarian: Linda Greiner 993-5161
 Membership: Mary Jo Bopp
 Shell Show: Board
 Sunshine: Karen Ciffin

Calendar

Please note dates on your own calendars!
Sept 10 SSC Meetings resume
Sept 19 Beach & Breakfast Lido Key
Sep 19-20 N. Carolina Shell Show
 Cape Fear Mus. Hist. & Sci.
Oct 10 SSC Meeting; speaker Phyllis Gray
Oct 17 Beach & Breakfast Anna Maria
Oct 17-18 Philadelphia Shell Show
 Am Mus Nat Hist
Oct 31 Honeymoon or Caledesi Is. field trip
Nov. 12 SSC Meeting: speaker John Colagrande
Nov 28 Ft DeSoto Park, Pinellas Cty field trip
Dec 5 Holiday party in AFTERNOON!
Dec 14 Carefree Learner field trip
Jan 11 Carefree Learner field trip
Jan 23 New Smyrna Dunes Park (east coast of Florida)
Jan 28 Carefree Learner field trip

Meetings on the

second Thursday of Sept through April at 7:00 p.m., at Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St. in Sarasota. Park in small lot on the right or in nursing home lot across the street.



Dues: New Single 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.

Sarasota Shell Club

P.O. Box 4124
 Sarasota, FL 34230-4124

Editor: Peggy@Shelltrips.com
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

Sarasota Shell Club Meeting April 9, 2015

Sally Peppitoni, President opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. at the Waldemere Fire Station. There were 30 members and 2 guests present. She announced that the program for the evening would be given by Ron Bopp on "Shells and Trade Cards".

The March meeting were minutes printed in the monthly newsletter. Linda Greiner moved to accept the minutes as printed, Angela Sampogna (2nd), motion unanimously carried. Minutes accepted and filed.

Bruce Paulsen, Treasurer gave the report. At March month end the club has \$18,873. in our account.

Sally Peppitoni thanked all for the assistance at the Shell Show. She also announced that the convention center will allow us to reserve the days of Thursday, Friday and Saturday starting Feb. 11, 2016 for the next Shell Show.

Bruce Paulsen gave a Shell Show financial report as follows:

Expenses \$14,145.59 Revenue \$16,565.20

The revenue was decreased this year secondary to lower attendance. Bruce reminded us that this is our major outreach to the community and should not be looked at as a major fund raiser.

Nancy Marini, Vice President, announced upcoming programs. October, Phyllis Gray; November, John Colegrande.

Linda Greiner, Librarian wants everyone to know the Shell Club Library will be open, please give her a call to acquire the books you would like to use.

Membership, at the start of our year totaled 134 members. Membership is now at 161. Please inform our new Membership Chairperson Mary Jo Bopp assisted by her husband, Ron Bopp of any new or changed contact information that needs to be updated in the club's records. The club was founded in 1963. Nancy Marini reminded us that Fran Schulusemann (20+ years) and Peggy Williams (41 years) will have Lifetime Membership Awards.

Field Trips: Sally reported there will be a fossil trip, Peanut Island on East Coast and Tiger tail beach on Marco Island. Kice Island was priced and proved to be too expensive for the trip. Dates to be announced later. If anyone has ideas of where a good day trip would be, please let Sally know.

Peggy Williams announced that she had a supply of COA items left over all selling for \$5.00 each. Tote bags, Name tab holders (material type with a pouch) and logo pins. If you are interested please contact Peggy.

Old Business:

Summer picnic will be at the White Sands Cabana Club, maps were available and code given out to those attending.

Election: All officers and Board Members agreed to keep their seats, the following member names were announced with no further nominations from the floor. Angela Samponga, Election chairperson requested that Donna Bartels,

Recording Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. All members accepted the ballot by saying "Aye".

Slate of Officers and Board Members were approved:

Officers: Sally Peppitoni, President
Nancy Marini, Vice-President
Bruce Paulsen, Treasurer
Donna Bartels, Recording Secretary
Peggy Williams, Corresponding Secretary

Board: Terry Jones, 1 year Rosanne Roble, 1 year
Donna Cassin, 2 years Joann Mancuso, 2 years
Harry Barryman, 3 years Karen Paulsen, 3 years

Sally announced that a sheet to sign up for bringing in refreshments at the monthly meeting was available. She is asking that members take turns and bring something simple.

Sally spoke to a fund raising idea with a design that would be a shell logo that would be attractive to all shell lovers. The wording is finalized but not the design. Please talk with any Board member if you have an artistic hand and would like to help with the design. Plans are to be placed on many wearable items, also tote bags and clings.

Sally adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Donna Bartels, Recording Secretary