

# The Beauvii



A newsletter published by the  
Sarasota Shell Club

Look for us at  
[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)

We meet on the 2nd Thursday  
(September to April)  
at Fire Station #2,  
2070 Waldemere St.,  
Sarasota, FL

November, 2017 Edition

## From the Prez



The holiday season is almost upon us which includes our annual holiday party with festivities. It will be the evening of December 9th at the Bird Key Yacht Club between downtown Sarasota and St Armand's circle. Don't forget to call Nancy Marini to make your reservations and purchase your tickets!

I hope everyone is thinking of ways they can help our club. We need someone to work on producing a directory. This person would work with Donna Krusenoski, our membership director. We need volunteers to help with the shell show in February as well. Like I always say, if each person does a little, then no one has to do a lot!

We've got some more upcoming field trips planned for November and December, and the Carefree Learner trips in January. Ron Bopp has kindly been working on a fossil trip for April 14th at Williams Shell Pit. So, after our late start this season, we're getting back into the swing of things.

Please let me know how I can help you make your club experience the best it can be.

Respectfully,  
Sally Peppitoni, President

## Whats in this Issue:

President's Message	Page 1
Featured shell	Page 2
Meet your Member	Page 3
Library Notes	Page 3
Historian Report	Page 4
Your Shell IQ?	Page 4-5
Holiday Party Information	Page 6
November Speaker Information	Page 6
October Meeting Highlights (photos)	Page 7
FUM Announcement	Page 8
Sailor's Valentine Class offered	Page 8
SSC Renewal Form	Page 10

## Field trips

**November 25th** (Saturday): Tiger Tail Beach, Marco Island, low tide is 10:56 am at +0.6 ft

**December 21st** (Thursday): Lover's Key State Park, low tide is 9:02 am at -0.5 ft.

### Carefree Learner Trips on Sarasota Bay:

**January 16th:** Low 7:10, -.44 ft, At the boat by 6:30 am, leave at sunrise.

**January 30th:** Low 6:40 am, -.76 ft, At the boat by 6:30 am, leave at sunrise.

There are no December trips planned because low tides are at Christmas this year! (By the way, the Carefree Learner will be turning 40. Stay tuned for special celebration in the spring.)

## To All Members of the Sarasota Shell Club:

The Sarasota Shell Club is becoming more involved in community activities and, as such, the board would like to remind all of our members that when you participate in any activity under the auspices of the SSC, you should conduct yourself in a positive, friendly and well-behaved manner that reflects a positive image of the SCC. Also, it would help if you wear your name badge at all our functions.

From the Sarasota Shell Club Board of Directors

## October's Featured Shell

### *Monetaria moneta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

When one thinks of shell money the “money cowry” comes to mind, specifically the *Monetaria* (*Cyprea*) *moneta* (Linnaeus, 1758). This cowry has been a medium of exchange, similar to our currency today. From 1,300 B.C. to the early part of this century (in some underdeveloped countries) the cowry shell has been used to buy, exchange and exhibited as a symbol of wealth. In some societies it is interchangeable with pigs and often more valuable than silver or gold.

Think of our current money, especially our coins—they are durable, convenient, recognizable, small, easy to transport and difficult to replicate. The money cowry fits all these descriptions and was available to societies long before machines were available to stamp out coins.



A necklace made from *Monetaria moneta*.  
Photo courtesy of Donna Bartels



the *Monetaria moneta* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Photo courtesy of Atoll Specimen Shells

The use of the cowry was most abundant in the Maldives Islands as well as the African coast. Often cowries were considered to be a symbol of fertility, womanhood and birth. It is reported that waistbands of strung cowries were worn around the hips to increase fertility. In Japan the money cowry was translated as

“The Easy Delivery Shell” and some women wore the cowry to aid in the delivery process.

Cowries have been used to buy a cow, a slave, or even a wife. In Africa they were used to purchase the slaves that eventually were exported to the New World. They have been considered a symbol of wealth: African masks adorned with cowries indicated great wealth. They have even been found in the Chippewa tribe of Ojibwa (around Lake Superior) who used them in ceremonies (how they obtained them is questionable but more than likely it was through trade).

An interesting video clip of about four minutes shows a reporter, Willy Millard, finding out from natives of Wandai (a small village located in the state of Extreme-Nord in Africa's Cameroon) about the value of cowries.

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/11291311?title=0&byline=0&portrait=0>

The November Cartoon fits in well with the featured shell.



#### BEFORE & AFTER PAPER

The way value has changed hands has frequently fluctuated over the course of civilization.



**CATTLE AND GRAIN**  
9000 BC

Commodities were an easy-to-exchange early form of money. Cattle particularly so because they could walk by themselves.



**COWRIE SHELLS**  
1200 BC

Shells were used as currency in many parts of the world, thanks to their durability.



**BRONZE MINIATURES**  
1100 BC

The earliest bronze “coins” in China were constructed to look like cowrie shells, other shapes followed.

Cowrie shells discussed as currently in the August, 2017 issue of *Fortune* magazine.

## Meet Your Member—

I was born and raised in New Jersey. I was an antiques dealer and appraiser for several years, when I decided to expand my business. This involved buying the complete contents of homes and apartments. I supplied the movies filmed in New York and New Jersey, as well as “Law and Order,” “The Sopranos,” “Sex and the city,” etc..

Many times we would find shells among the contents. I decided



to keep all the shells to decorate my beach house. My business was very successful.

I was busy raising a family and running a business and I did not have time to give back. I vowed if I lived long enough to retire, I would find away to give back. I feel I am doing this by volunteering with the Sarasota shell Club. It has been a very rewarding experience.

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



Pictured above are a group of fossil mollusks found by Mary Jo Bopp on a 2009 COA field trip to the SMR pit in Sarasota.

## Membership Chair

**Donna Krusenoski** is the new Membership Chairperson. Make her life easier by completing the membership renewal form at the end of this issue of *The Beauii* and either bringing it in to your next membership meeting (with a check made out to the Sarasota Shell Club) or mail it to her at the address noted on the form, again along with a check. Doing this promptly will make our membership roll accurate.

## 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.sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.sarasotashellclub.com). For more info on some of our books, go to [www.mdmsshellbooks.com](http://www.mdmsshellbooks.com).

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](mailto: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



## What is your Shell IQ?

### Bob Morrison

Bob Morrison was a former member of the Sarasota Shell Club. Bob for many years had a gem-quality shell store in Siesta Key. He was particularly interested in fossil shells and had several fossil shells named for him including *Voluta morrisoni* (Petuch, 1980), *Vokesimurex morrisoni* Petuch & Sargent, 2011 and *Murex morrisoni* Petuch & Drolshagen. Bob passed away in 2012—a tribute to him and his service to the Sarasota Shell Club consists of a permanent display at our shell show of shells named after our members as well as a shell show trophy earmarked for the outstanding student exhibit—ED

1. What is the Florida state shell?
2. What is the largest known species of mollusk?
3. What shell was once so rare that counterfeit copies were made of rice paste?
4. What shell was so rare and desirable that, into the 1960s, an international registry was kept of all known specimens?
5. What shell characteristic sets the true conchs (Strombidae) apart from all other gastropods?
6. How many cowrie species are found in Florida waters? Can you name them?
7. What member of the Volute family is considered a rare and desirable find in the Gulf of Mexico.
8. Several deaths have been attributed to what cone shell?
9. What mollusk maneuvers through the water by adjusting the amount of gas in chambers inside its shell?
10. How many cowries are known from the fossil record in Florida? a. 10; b. 20; c. 50; d. 75; e. more than 100?

**Answers on next page—don't look until you have finished!**

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## Historian's Report

### Duane Kauffmann

#### 50 Years Ago

Thirty-five members and several guests attended the November 9, 1967 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club held at the Palmer Bank Building. A balance of \$1,012.66 was in the Club treasury.

Several details concerning the upcoming Christmas party were noted: location Martines, choice of ham or chicken (\$2.95) or roast beef (\$3.75). [Prices included salad bar and tip!] One dollar gifts to be exchanged.

A motion to move starting time of meetings from 7:30 to 8:00 was defeated.

Lula Siekman of St. Pete was the program speaker. She provided a slide show of Florida shells along with commentary. The minutes note that the program was "well received" and that "she used the common names of the shells."

#### 25 Years Ago

The meeting of November 1992 was called to order by President Peggy Williams. A balance of \$4,958 was in the treasury.

An overnight field trip to Cedar Key was announced.

There was information provided for the forthcoming Christmas party and auction. Also, a banquet in conjunction with the shell show will be at Harley Sandcastle with prime rib for \$19.75 (less expensive meal options also noted).

The educational program was entitled "What makes a shell rare?"

Andrea Davis from Mote gave the program on the marine resources of Florida. Club members played parts as marine mammals.

## Answers to the Shell IQ Quiz

1. The **Florida horse Conch**, *Triplofusus giganteus* (Kiener, 1840) (until recently it was known as *Pleuroploca gigantea* Kiener, 1840).



2. The **Colossal Squid**, *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni* Robson, 1925, which grows to more than 30 feet in length and weighs more than 1,000 pounds. It is even larger than the Giant Squid.



3. The **Precious Wentletrap**, *Epitonium scalare* (Linnaeus, 1758) was once counterfeited by Chinese artisans.



4. The **Glory of the Seas cone**, *Cylinder (Conus) gloriamaris*, (Chemnitz, 1777). A major find of the species in the Solomon Islands, then in the Philippines, in the late 1960s ended the need for the registry.



5. A **notch** (called the stromboid notch) in the lower part of the outer lip.



6. **Five**: the Zebra Cowrie, *Cypraea zebra* Linnaeus, 1758; the Atlantic Deer Cowrie, *Cypraea cervus*, Linnaeus, 1771; the Atlantic Yellow Cowrie, *Cypraea acicularis*, Gmelin, 1791; the Atlantic Gray Cowrie, *Luria cinerea* (Gmelin, 1791); and rarely, the Surinam Cowrie, *Propustularia (Cypraea) surinamensis* (Perry, 1811).

7. The **Junonia**, *Scaphella junonia* (Lamarck, 1804). Several other Gulf volutes are much rarer but the Junonia is still the prize.



8. The **Geography Cone**, *Gastrium (Conus) geographicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is responsible for several documented deaths because of the deadly dose of poison it delivers through its hollow, harpoon-like radula.



9. The **Chambered Nautilus**, *Nautilus pompilius* Linnaeus, 1758. It is a close relative of the squid and octopus.



10. **e** - More than 100. Ed Petuch lists 105 in Vol 1 of his *Compendium of Florida Fossil Shells* (2011).



Photo credits: #1,3,4,5,7 and 8 from Hardy's *internet Guide to Marine Gastropods*; the remainder from general internet sources.

### Shell Flower Class at the Folk School at Florida Maritime Museum



SSC member, JoAnn Mancuso, taught a class on making shell flowers to an appreciative group of people at the Florida Maritime Museum on October 17, 2017. Three students learned a lot and also, about the SSC.

### November 9th SSC Speaker Joshua Slattery

Our speaker for the November meeting will be Joshua Slattery.

Joshua is working on his doctorate at the University of South Florida, Tampa. His Curriculum Vitae is extensive, indicating an intense interest in stratigraphic and paleoenvironmental controls on marine faunal and evolutionary records.



### Local Shells Needed

As many of you know, we give a bag of local seashells to people who come to our annual shell show. We are low on shells and need more nice small shells. So, if you have a couple of buckets of shells that you've picked up on your many walks on the beach, please bring them to either the September or October shell club meetings. We will need to fill at least 2,000 small 2 ½-inch by 3-inch plastic bags. People who come to our show remember this and love getting a memento. Thanks!

Happy Holidays



### 2017 SSC Holiday Party/Oral Auction

**Where:** Bird Key Yacht Club  
301 Bird Key Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**When:** December 9, 2017  
5:30 PM Cocktails  
6:15 PM Dinner

**Dinner Menu:**  
Fresh baked bread basket  
Ceasar salad with dressing  
**Oven roasted prime rib**, au jus,  
& horseradish cream sauce  
Yorkshire pop over,  
Roasted medley potatoes  
Asparagus  
or  
**Pan seared Atlantic salmon**  
Citrus beurre blanc  
Grilled vegetable rice pilaf  
Asparagus  
Dessert: warm molten lava cake  
Coffee, Iced Tea and Soda  
Cash Bar

**Cost:** \$25 per person  
**Also:** Silent Auction  
**Note:** Tickets on sale at the November 9th meeting (make check out to SSC please)

### Membership Health

Beverly Snyder has fully recuperated from heart surgery in August. She is pictured here at the October meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club. Glad to have you back, Beverly!





## October, 2017 Membership Meeting Photos



Shell Show Committee Meeting



The silent auction



Linda Greiner & Lynn Gaulin



Liz Bordonaro & Karen Paulsen with Pumpkins



John & Sandra Colegrande



Paul Lamb & Donna Krusenoski finishing a renewal

## Florida United Malacologists (FUM)—2018

The ninth meeting of Florida United Malacologists (FUM) will take place on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel Island, Florida. The one day gathering aims at enhancing communication among researchers, collectors, citizen scientists, and students interested in a broad swath of mollusk-related topics.

FUM follows the pattern of similar gatherings such as BAM (Bay Area Malacologists), SCUM (Southern California United Malacologists), MAM (Mid-Atlantic Malacologists), and OVUM (Ohio Valley United Malacologists). There is no formal membership and there are no dues, officers, nor publications. Presentations are limited to 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

Presenters are required to submit a simple abstract limited to 150 words or less. Seating is limited and registration is free, but mandatory. Deadline for registrations and abstract submissions will be December 31, 2017. Registration information will follow soon.

Visits to the Shell Museum collection and library will be limited to two days prior to the gathering, Thursday, January 25, and Friday, January 26. The collection area will be closed during the event. Courtesy box lunches and beverages will be provided to all participants.

And make sure you join the group dinner at a local seafood restaurant (your own expense). I hope to see you at FUM 2018!

José H. Leal, Ph.D.  
Science Director & Curator  
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum

## Renewing a Membership

***Renewing members need to remember:  
You have to fill out the renewal  
form and SIGN IT! Club Rules!***

***For your convenience, an renewal form  
is the last page of this newsletter.***

## Sailor's Valentine Class



Suzanne Marie Dietsch, award winning shell artist, will be holding classes this coming February for those interested in exploring the art form of Sailor's Valentines. Suzanne has won many awards at Shell Shows from Sarasota, Sanibel to Philadelphia. Her valentines can be seen in Kathleen's Nantucket Art Gallery on Four India Street and in the published book - Sailor's Valentines, Romance Revisited by Pamela Boynton. This book can be viewed in our club's library. At our shell artisan's workshop, Suzanne class is a one day, 4 hour class Friday February 16, or Saturday February 17, 2018. 10-2pm & bring a snack. Her class will emphasize the techniques used by the 1800's Barbados crafters. The class fee includes all materials to complete the basic octagon shell mosaic shown. This is your chance to learn the basics for a great price. Class Fee - \$100. Advanced registration required. Contact Nancy Marini or Suzanne ph. 309-883-1590 or visit Suzanne's website blog for more details and additional class options.

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





## Officers & Board Members

President	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-President	Nancy Marini
Treasurer	Bruce Paulsen
Recording Secretary	Jeanne Corbin

Board Members: Donna Krusenoski (1), Donna Timmermann (3), JoAnne Mancuso (2), Donna Cassin (2), Harry Berryman (3), Karen Paulsen (3).

## 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

## Ornament Class

On November 1st, 6 to 8 pm, the artisans are going to have a class on making your own ornaments. The cost will be \$10. You can make up to three ornaments. We will be supplying all the necessary equipment. You may bring a snack, if you like. Please call Nancy Marini 941-758-9790 to reserve a spot. Limited to 12 people. Sorry no walk-ins.

### *In Memory of...*

Martin Tremor, 83, passed away on October 14, 2017. Martin was a member of the St. Pete Shell Club and was a regular exhibitor at the Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Club. Martin, and his partner for 40 years, Conrad Forler, more often than not were awarded the Mote Gold trophy for their expellant shell displays. In 2017 Martin and Conrad not only won the Mote Gold but also the Dupont trophy for their display of cockles.



**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*.

## Calender

Nov 9	SSC member meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec 9	SSC Holiday Party, 5:00 pm
Jan 13/14	Broward County Shell Show
Jan 20-21	ATSC Shell Show
Jan 27	FUM (Bailey-Matthews)
Feb 9-11	SSC Shell Show
Feb 23-24	St. Pete Shell Show
Mar 1-3	Sanibel Shell Show

## Notes from Nancy (Marini)

Please try to donate small shells to the club. We have to fill 3000 bags, to give away at our show as well as the 10-day county fair.

The artisans will be bringing beautiful one-of-a-kind shell ornaments as well as one-of-a-kind signed by the artist small lovely items, that will make very impressive gifts for the holidays. Please support the club by buying these items. As you know every penny the artisans make goes directly to the Sarasota Shell Club. The artisans are self supporting, and receive no funds from the club.

We will also be having a silent auction at this meeting—a donation that we picked up this summer. The shells are unique and beautiful.

The word must have gotten out about what a great holiday party we had last year, response has been great, please sign up at the November meeting. See page six of this newsletter for the menu, etc..

**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.

## Sarasota Shell Club 2017—2018 Renewal/New Application Membership

Note: Dues include newsletters (*The Beautii*) 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 Krusenowski, 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(es): \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_