



The Beautiful

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

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



From the Prez

by Dennis Sargent

The first meeting of the season is fast approaching and the much awaited COA Convention is now history. It was a resounding success, thanks to the many club members and volunteers from COA and neighboring shell clubs. I am tempted to give recognitions by name; however, I will wait for the club meeting to make sure that no one is missed.

The programs were interesting and informative. They covered many different subjects and mollusk families. There was only one glitch, when a power failure occurred right before the first program on Thursday morning. We just took the opportunity to give out some door prizes while we rebooted the computer and projector. Dr. Henry Chaney gave a talk about the "Greatest Shell Book Ever Written". Interestingly, the book cited is one that most of us have or have had in the past and it is not one of the great technical scientific works. I will wait until the end of this message to give you the answer. No fair peeking!

The September meeting will bring a few changes. Bruce Paulsen, our new Treasurer has been researching some of the new regulations concerning non-profit organizations and we will need to comply with tighter requirements on accountability. These will be discussed at a Board of Directors meeting at 4:00 PM on Thursday, September 12th. This will be held at our

This month's meeting is September 12 at 7:00 pm at the Waldemere Fire Sta..

Bring shells you have acquired in the past year for "Show and Tell"!

There will be a Board meeting before the regular meeting at 4:00.

**This year's shell show is
Feb. 14-16, 2014**

regular meeting place, the Waldamere Street fire station.

Many of our club members and board members have been busy preparing for the COA Convention. As soon as it was over, our core group started looking toward the February 2014 Shell Show. A few of us had the opportunity to travel. Rebecca and I left for Alaska four days after the COA. The trip was great, but there were no shells on the glaciers.

Our September 12th meeting will be here soon. I am looking forward to seeing you there and working with the new Board of Directors.

Yes, the greatest shell book ever written", did you guess it! It is "Seashells of the World" by Tucker Abbott, PhD and Herbert S. Zim, PhD. It is the little Golden Nature Guide that was published in 1962 and had a retail price of \$1.25. This book is responsible for thousands of children becoming interested in shells. I will take a survey at the club meeting to see how many of us are included in that group. I still have my copy!

Best wishes,
Dennis M. Sargent

September, 2013



Field Trips

Lynn Gaulin Co-Coordinator

Tentative Monthly Field Trips

Our field trips planned for this year are:

September - none

October 19- Ft. Desoto shelling and picnic

November - possible Marco Island

December 3 - Carefree Learner

December 17 - Cedar Key

January 16 - Carefree Learner

January 30 - Carefree Learner

February - open

March - possible canoeing trip

April - Peanut Island (East coast)

May - annual club picnic

Some trips require members to pay, cash, in advance (Carefree Learner trips). Others are free and if an overnight is needed the member will take care of reservations themselves. We try to car pool whenever possible and share expenses for gas.

Field Trip Procedures

Sarasota Shell Club members who have paid their dues for the current year and signed a release of liability may participate in field trips.

1. Members may sign up for field trips either **before or after the monthly club meetings**. If a fee is involved, the trip must be paid by **check only at the time of sign up and made out to Sarasota Shell Club (SSC)** except **Carefree Learner trips are paid cash**.

2. Members may sign up for field trips **two months** in advance except the months of Sept. and Oct. where sign up is on a first come, first served basis.

3. Members may sign up for one other member (family or not) for a field trip writing their names on individual lines on the sign up form. Payment must be received by check for both members.

4. Members selected for each trip will be based upon the order which each signed in. If the trip is completely booked a member may

sign a waiting list and will be selected in the order of the list.

5. As cancellations occur, the next person on the waiting list will be notified by the Field Trip Chair and have seven days to send in their payment by check to SSC. If it is not received within that time, the next person on the list will be notified.

6. If the minimum number needed for a trip is not met or if the trip is cancelled by the Field Trip Chair, checks will be returned to the members in a timely manner.

7. If a member is unable to go on a field trip for whatever reason they must notify the Field Trip Chair. If they can be replaced from the waiting list, their money will be refunded, if no one is available to replace them from the waiting list, the member's fee will not be refunded.

8. Carefree Learner field trips must be paid in **cash** for each trip at the time of sign up. No exceptions.

Membership

Lynn Gaulin

A new 2013-2014 membership form is now available on Sarasotashellclub.com. Our dues have not changed this year. But there has been another change. Be sure to read the 2013-14 form carefully. Our yearly membership renewal is **September 1st to November 1st**. **Membership forms received after the 2013 November meeting will not be included in either roster this year.**

Last spring the membership voted that an extra charge of \$4 will cover the cost of a roster with photographs of our members. You should include the extra in your membership check. **Be sure to check the box under the permission to have your information included.**

If your photograph hasn't been taken or if you want another one taken be sure to come to the September or October meeting to have a new one taken by Linda or Peggy, or you may send a photo of yourself to Peggy@Shelltrips.com (.jpg is best).

We hope to have rosters available at the December meeting (or activity). The information will be the same in both rosters except the \$4 one has photographs and is a booklet and the other doesn't and is a free list.

September, 2013

COA 2013

was the Greatest Shell Show on Earth!

by Peggy Williams, Convention Chair

Many attendees told me it was the best Conchologists of America convention they had attended. The only disappointment I had was that more people didn't come!

Beginning on **Sunday, July 14**, there were three days of field trips. Forty-two people came to Sarasota early to haul buckets and bags full of fossils from the SMR pit, which may soon be closed. They all pronounced it a great field trip and went home happy campers!

On **Monday**, the scuba divers were disappointed because bad weather (waterspouts the day before) cancelled their outing, but several people enjoyed their trip to the Ringling Museums.

Tuesday we had a snorkeling trip in the vicinity of our usual Carefree Learner trips at the south end of Longboat Key. Two large, beautiful horse conchs were found and a few other shells as well. About 15 people participated and enjoyed the day. There was also a trip to the South Florida Museum, which welcomed the group heartily.

Tuesday evening came the Welcome Party. We encouraged people to wear circus-themed costumes, and wear them they did! Of the 120 or so people in attendance, at least 30-40 wore

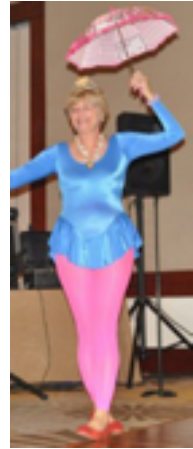


costumes and paraded around the room so all could see them, led by Ringmaster Peggy Williams. Prizes were awarded by clapping (Sally Peppitoni



provided a meter). The parade was followed by a great pasta and salad buffet and, finally, musical entertainment by Dennis Sargent and dancing.

Wednesday morning we had our Opening Ceremonies, highlighting the Sailor Circus. Jugglers, Clowns, and Unicycle riders, from age 8 and up were very professional and entranced the crowd. Special shell door



prizes were given out to encourage large attendance.

Then began three days of excellent programs by amateur and professional conchologists, all great and interesting.

There were also Silent Auctions, filled with good shells and some real bargains (Below: Is Bob wondering if someone will outbid him?).



Cheap Shells (25¢) were sold during registration and some people brought up chairs and bought lots of them.

September, 2013

Wednesday evening brought the Oral Auction with spirited bidding as usual and Jim Brunner and Paul Callomon as fast-talking auctioneers.



After another day of great programs on **Thursday**, we had the Banquet with a program by past COA president Henry Chaney.

Friday's programs ended with the Annual Meeting, for which we had more special shell prizes, bringing good attendance. The 2014 Convention Committee, from North Carolina, presented their plans for another great gathering next year. This ended the formal convention.

Finally, on **Friday**, we had a wading field trip untroubled by actual rain and with great finds at Peggy's Special Spot.

Saturday morning, as the Dealers were setting out their wares, we had a workshop on "Introduction to Shells and Shelling" and a craft



session wherein participants made flowers from shells.

And **Sunday** we had a Parking Lot Fossil trip in Cortez, where we brought in fresh shell



from the SMR pit for people to comb through in relative comfort.

Then...the **DEALER'S BOURSE!**



Many people came to drool over the 10,000 square feet of shells and related items, a marvelous sight! Beginning at 1:00 on Saturday, it went on til 9:00 and continued Sunday from 10:00 to 4:00. Many bargains were snatched up by people still looking around Sunday afternoon!

Thanks to the Committee

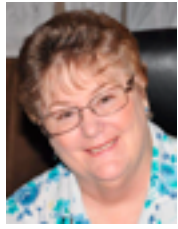
As chairman, I cannot begin to thank my committee enough for their hours of work and attendance at meetings to make this convention a success. Committee members were:

KATHIE BISHOP, a new member who jumped in at the last minute and took minutes, found a pack-n-ship company who came Friday and Saturday, and helped with many last-minute chores.

RON BOPP arranged the fossil trips and the South Florida Museum field trip, played circus music on his Organ Grinder, took great photos (including all of these), and arranged and supervised the audio-visual needs of the speakers.



September, 2013



DONNA CASSIN performed the thankless and endless task of Registration and also researched and ordered banners and the standing (cardboard) circus characters, and most of the items included in the welcome packet, like name tag holders, pens, and the bags to hold all those items. She also ordered the 2013 pins and Tee Shirts which the Club sold.

LINDA ERVIN jumped in at the last minute to head the raffle. She and her son David, an enthusiastic sheller, stayed at their post for three days selling raffle



tickets. Her family also put out fliers for the Bourse on St Armand's and Lido Keys.

LYNN GAULIN began as Bourse Chairman, a big and complicated job (she had to redo the layout of the hall about 15 times to get as many dealers as possible in because she had applications from dealers up to the week of the convention!) then added to her duties: helping with the Snorkel-ing and Wading field trips, helping Donna with stuffing convention pack-ets,



taking minutes of most of the committee meetings, and helping me with various chores.

LINDA GREINER insisted she wouldn't chair a committee but assisted Donna with printing up tickets, place cards, etc, helped take photographs of activities, and turned to whenever a small chore was needed.



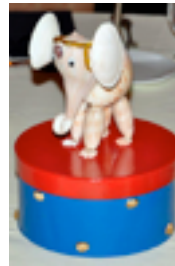
JUDY HERMAN, as Treasurer, had little to do for several months but spent most of the convention assisting Donna at the registration desk and collecting money from the Silent Auctions, Cheap Shells, Raffle, etc.

JOHN & CHERYL JACOBS came all the way from their home in St. Petersburg to committee meetings for the last couple of months before the convention, when those who were working on the Silent Auctions had to withdraw for very good reasons. They totally organized the activities, which went off without a hitch. Robin Harris and Rick Batt helped them during the convention.

DUANE KAUFFMANN organized and led the workshop for "newbies" on Introduction to Shelling and led the Wading field trip. He was assisted in this by Lynn Gaulin. When a planned speaker had heart surgery, he jumped in and spoke on Miniature Shells.



NANCY MARINI organized the Shell Artisans to make table decorations for the Welcome Party and Banquet and served as Banquet chairman. With the Paulsens she oversaw the Craft Session during Bourse setup. She and the Artisans also sold their wares at the Dealers' Bourse.



Bourse.



SALLY PEPPITONI was another last-minute addition to the committee and helped organize a great Welcome Party.



HOMER RHODE used his vast knowledge of worldwide shells to organize the Oral Auction. Auctioneers Jim Brunner and Paul Callomon moved the auction along smartly and with great humor. Matt and Dona Blaine served as runners to bring their prizes to the winners.

September, 2013

DENNIS SARGENT designed our logo, provided entertainment at the Welcome Party, and organized the speakers. He served as Master of Ceremonies throughout the convention.

DOUG THOMPSON agreed to head the Scuba field trip when the first chairman was unable to continue. It was disappointing that the field trip had to be cancelled because of weather in the Gulf.

I, PEGGY WILLIAMS, was chairman of the committee and arranged the Snorkelling field trip, helped by Lynn Gaulin. I also did a little towards publicity, prepared agendas for and chaired the meetings, advised where needed, kept in touch with COA leadership, "put out fires", and attended most of the events. It was a busy time!



Check it out: GlassShell.com

Did you ever think that your hermit crab could have a mobile home he could see out of and you could see into? Artist/designer Robert DuGrenier has been making glass Hermit Crab shells and "crabitats" (large hand blown tanks) for hermit crabs to live in for more than fifteen years.



You can buy them online at GlassShell.com!

September's Low Tides

8 Su	9:40 am .37ft	20 Fr	08:15 am .37ft
9 Mo	10:31 am .31ft	21 Sa	08:59 am .30ft
10 Tu	11:30 am .29ft	22 Su	09:43 am .27ft
11 We	12:42 pm .30ft	23 Mo	10:30 am .30ft
12 Th	02:03 pm .30ft	24 Tu	11:22 am .36ft
13 Fr	03:26 pm .27ft	25 We	12:23 pm .43ft

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 (two+ at same address).

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



DID YOU KNOW



Some marine molluscs, including Harp Shells, Octopi, and some Cowries are able to shed part of their foot when a hungry fish or big ray decides they'd make a choice snack. The process is called *autotomizing*, which is defined as "self-amputation."

Sarasota Shell Club

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