



The Beauty

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

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

Fossil Workshop

March 20, 2014, 2-3:30 pm

**Fire Station 3, 5300 E. Laurel Rd, Venice
led by John Colagrande**

Which of these shells is the fossil? Or are they both? Or is neither? How can you be certain?

Florida is one of the few places on Earth which is abundant in both fossil and recent shells. We probably come in contact with both kinds more than anyone else in the country; the beaches, the shops, home décor, neighbors' yards, roadway medians and even the roads themselves!

In some states the fossil shells are petrified and easy to identify as such because they look different than modern shells. But how do you turn something already as hard as a shell is into stone, and why would you want to?

In this workshop we will investigate the world of fossils by means of a hands-on examination of dozens of museum quality fossil specimens from Florida and around the world.

You will learn exactly what a fossil is, how you can tell if you have found one, how 'they' know how old the fossils are, and what worth fossils have (if any) – scientific, economic, esthetic or otherwise.

Feel free to bring your own finds from Florida (or wherever) for a 'show and tell', or 'bring and brag', or just to find out exactly what you have.

Directions for Fire Station 3: From north: Rte. 75 South to Exit 195 (Laurel Rd.), then left on Laurel Rd for two miles. From south: Rte. 75 North to Exit 195 (Laurel Rd.), then right on Laurel Rd for two miles. Parking is on the right of the building.

See you there!

This month's meeting is March 13 at 7 pm. Program by Doug Jeffries on Identifying Fake Shells.

Board Members

Dennis Sargent	President
Sally Peppitoni	Vice President
Bruce Paulsen	Treasurer
Donna Bartels	Recording Secretary
Peggy Williams	Corresponding Secretary
Board: Terry Jones, Rosanne Roble, Nancy Marini, Rich Cirrintano, Harry Berryman	

Committee Chairmen:

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

2014 Sarasota Shell Show Trophy Winners

Conchologist of America...Martin Tremor & Conrad Forler

Mote Gold Trophy.....Harry Berryman

DuPont Trophy.....Carolyn Petrikin

SSC Member's Trophy.....Duane Kauffman

Best Self-Collected Exhibit...Sally Peppitoni

Best Small Scientific Exhibit.Harry Berryman

Charles & Violet Hertweck Fossil.Ron Bopp

Fran Schlusemann Best of Shell Art.....Hans Hoppenbrouwers

Best of Art with Shell Motif.....Pat Linn

June Bailey Best of Member Art.....Mary Hansher

Terri Gosselin Excellence in Shell Flowers....Fran Schlusemann

March, 2014



Field Trips

by Lynn Gaulin
Peanut Island, March 29,
2014

Our last field trip of this year will be an all day trip to Peanut Island, on Florida's east coast, Saturday, March 29th. Low tide is at 2:18 P.M. a -.66. Peanut Island is 3 hours across Florida so this is an all day trip. We car pool to this location leaving our area early Saturday morning. The trip is free except you pay for the ferry (\$10 round trip), your dinner, and money to pay for gas car pooling.

We pack our lunch and beverages in small coolers and carry it to the ferry. You must be able to carry everything you bring on the ferry. There is a safe place to swim if you'd like also. Picnic tables and benches are available under covered shelters for our use if we get there early. Long, sandy beaches are there so you can collect and sun at the same time. Shells can be found on the high tide line or on/in between rocks further down the beach. Last year, we found lots of shells not found locally.

A sign up sheet will be available at the March 13th meeting. Be sure to take the information sheet with directions and what to bring inside the sign up folder. We will arrange car pools after the club meeting, March 13th so bring your schedules and know if you can be a driver for the trip.

To new members, you can only sign up for field trips at club meetings. So if you're interested, come to the 3/13 meeting. Call me at (941) 755 1270 or shellhunter@gmail.com if you have questions.

Membership

by Lynn Gaulin

At the 2014 Shell Show, 8 new members joined our club. These included 7 single and 1 family memberships. Also, 2 former members rejoined our club. This makes our total **SSC membership at 140 + 3 lifetime members**. Those new members' names will be entered in a March drawing for several of the fossil sculptures made and donated to our club by artist, Sylvia Agachinsky.

Remember to pick up the new member labels at the membership table at the March meeting to add to your membership book.

Thoughts about the Shell Show from Donna



The 51st annual SSC Shell Show is now in our history file!

If the number of compliments that I received about the show...at the show, after the show and are still getting is any indication of how good this year's show was...it was "OFF THE CHARTS" great. The credit for this goes to an incredible committee and a ton of volunteers...all of whom I cannot begin to thank enough.

Every part of the show ran flawlessly and the exhibits were outstanding. Shell lovers from other clubs were very impressed and I often heard that ours is the "best shell show". This came from visitors, dealers and exhibitors.

Over the years we have encountered some challenges, but we have been able to overcome them and actually improve our process along the way. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to this wonderful event. You should all take a big bow for this one!!!!



Check it Out!

Ron Bopp put together a wonderful pictorial review of the Shell Show. It's too large a file for sending to most of you, so we've put it on the website.

Coquina Soup

Did you know that Coquinas make a great soup? To make it, first gather a LOT of coquinas fresh from the surf.

They will have sand inside the shells, so put them in a bucket full of fresh salt water and leave them for several hours to spit out the sand.

Then put them in a pot to boil - just long enough for them to get hot and open up. Pour off the broth and separate the meat from the shell. This will take awhile. You can eat all the meat (a good thing, too, because there's not much in each shell!)

Then add back the broth. You can make a creamy soup like clam chowder or just eat it in the broth.

Where Have All the Coquinas Gone?

by Peggy Williams



I am frequently asked that question, and I always counter it with another question: "When was the last time the beach there was renourished?"

Beach renourishment, popular with the tourist industry (and the tourists), is a death knell for many organisms. Besides Coquinas (*Donax variabilis*) and other shells like the "Channeled Duck Clams" and various *Terebra* ("Auger") and *Olivella* species, there are Mole Crabs, some-times Sand Dollars, and other organisms living in the surf. All of these creatures get covered by the sand being pumped in and die.



There are other victims besides the surf animals that are affected by beach renourishment. The sand has to be brought in from somewhere, and it's usually somewhere offshore. The dredging process brings in many mollusks and organisms that also live in the offshore sand, but they cannot survive the process any better than those being covered up.

We have all found shells in beach renourishment projects that we wouldn't have found normally on the beach. We're glad of that, of course, but just think of all the animals that are being affected by the project, just to satisfy people's desire to find a beautiful, white sandy beach!

Photos by Simone Lipscomb, Day Bredak Fishing

Where Have All the Coquinas Come From?

by Peggy Williams

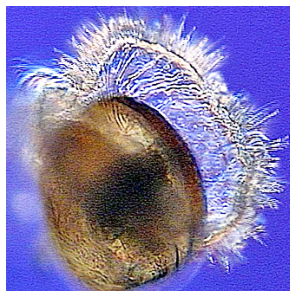
Nature has ways to heal herself, if left alone to do so!

Mollusks reproduce by creating eggs and having them fertilized. Some mollusks are hermaphroditic, meaning they can be both male and female, and these usually get together and form "daisy chains, each fertilizing the animal just ahead of them.

Most, however, have separate sexes. Gastropod males (one-shelled mollusks) have a penis with which they physically add sperm to the female's eggs. Often in breeding time you will see a large female Whelk, for instance, attended by several smaller males. They then lay the eggs in some protected spot or camouflage them so they are inconspicuous. A female Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) lays eggs for up to 10 months a year, and each egg mass has thousands of eggs.

Bivalves spew eggs and sperm into the water at the same time, in hopes that they will meet and the eggs will be fertilized.

The "birth" of the eggs takes two different forms, depending on species. The baby mollusk may emerge from the egg as a free-crawling miniature of its parent, or it may have a larval stage, called a "veliger", which has a very light-weight shell and lobes with which it can swim amongst other tiny organisms called "plankton".



These veligers mainly drift and eat other plankton until they grow too heavy to remain afloat. Some of them live a year or longer as veligers and so have drifted literally all over the world!

When they stop drifting, they sink to the bottom, and if, by chance, the conditions are right for their species, they settle in and grow. By this process our renourished beaches, after a year or two, recruit more of the animals they started out with, including coquinas!

Photo by NOAA Ocean Explorer of veliger of a mussel in the Gulf of Mexico.



Historian's Report

by Duane Kauffmann

50 Years Ago

Thirty members attended the February 13, 1964 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club, a dinner meeting at the H and H Cafeteria. Perhaps not surprisingly, the minutes were brief.

Discussion of a field trip for March 21 was held and 21 members indicated they were planning to go. A motion to have the shell show on April 3, 4, and 5, to be held in "one of the Nixon stores," was approved. The Club treasurer reported a balance of \$20.71.

After the meeting, several members displayed "beautiful shells."

25 Years Ago

The meeting of February 9, 1989 was held at Mote Marine and called to order by Vice President Vi Hertweck.

Bill Booth, a professor of marine biology, gave a program on Florida's ecosystems.

Field trip on the Carefree Learner announced for March 5.

Shell show announcements included the need for food and for better door prizes. Publicity will include radio interviews by Dick and Vi Forbush and an interview on WBRD by Peggy Williams.

Shell Questions Sent to Experts

• Dear Sirs: I found your address in a book which advised writing to you for information. However it did not clearly state what the information was. Even so, I would like any available information.

• Dear Secretary, I've never wrote a letter like this before. So I hope I'm doing it right. Well, what I wanted to ask you, is, what do clams eat? You see, I went down to the beach and found a clam alive. And also, how and where can I get the food? Please hurry because I don't want my clam to die.

Low Tides

14 Fr	7:07 am	-.06	20 Th	11:08 pm	-.19
15 Sa	7:32 am	+.02	28 F	6:25 am	-.08
18 Tu	9:30 pm	-.06	29 Sa	7:00 am	+.06
19 W	10:16 pm	-.14			



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 in February 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 Beau mailed add \$15.00.

DID YOU KNOW... Some mollusks are able to regenerate lost or injured body parts.

Marine biologist and underwater photographer Scott Johnson documented a case of a *Cypraea testudinaria* which grew a new tentacle and eye over a period of months in his aquarium. After the cowrie had "repaired" itself, Scott returned it to its original habitat.



Sarasota Shell Club

P.O. Box 575

Tallevast, FL 34270

Peggy@Shelltrips.com

www.Sarasotashellclub.com