



The Beauí

Newsletter of the Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

Meetings 2nd Thursdays, September-April at Fire Station #2, 2070 Waldemere St Sarasota.

This Month's Program
is by Jim Wedge, award-
winning photographer.

Holiday Party and Auction
This Friday, December 2
Bird Key Yacht Club 5:30

The featured auction item at the Friday evening Holiday party will be a Waterford Conch Shell donated by Dave and Donna Timmerman.

There are many other attractive items to bid on....and it is expected to be an exciting and fun time.

Videos to Check Out
[Sea Shell Collecting in Panama.](#)
[part 1 mov](#)

[Sea shell cleaning in](#)
[Panama.mov part 2](#)

Deep ocean remote dive in Hawaii finds tumbling snail (copy and paste)
<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/oceanos/explorations/ex1504/logs/dive4/dive4.html>

Did You Know...

Strategies mollusks use to avoid being eaten include:

- A slippery surface (Olives, Cowries).
- Thickening part of the shell for strength, for instance, at the aperture (Distorsios, many land shells).

Next meeting
Thursday, December 8
at 7:00.

Refreshments are served at each meeting. Bring your own beverage!

Some members will have shells for sale at the meeting.

Program:

by Jim Wedge.

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

- Spines increase the effective size of the shell without adding much weight (Murex).

More cold water species (20%) than warm (2%) have an umbilicus (belly button). It weakens the shell.

Sundials brood their young in their umbilicus.

Lambis females' digits (spines) curl up; males' curl down.

Terebras (Augers) can withdraw deep into their long shells.

Littorinas (Periwinkles) point their spire toward the sun so sunlight doesn't hit much of the shell.

Artisans

The Artisans exhibited and sold several items at the "Recipe Box Restaurant" in September and October.

We have been invited back for the month of March and will be making new creations to display. We are also busy making items for the Shell Show.

The Make and Take and Cake gathering in November was very successful with 9 people attending. Everyone made lovely ornaments and were able to take home several creations. We enjoyed refreshments and laughter.

The artisans will be selling their shelled trees at the holiday party as well as at the December meeting.

A "one time only" opportunity to purchase Christmas Tree ornaments will be at the December meeting. These are all hand made individual, one-of-a-kind creations.

You can help the Artisans by bringing any old, unwanted jewelry in good repair or broken. We can use the pieces in our creations and perhaps we can actually sell some pieces to sell at the Shell Show.

Remember us when you are going through your unused items. Thanks.

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.

Dec. 16 – Carefree Learner, the boat will leave the dock about 8 am. Low tide is 9:04 am at -.6'.

Jan. 12 – Carefree Learner, the boat will leave the dock about 6:15 am. Low tide is 7:12 am at -.8 ft.

Jan. 27 – Carefree Learner, the boat will leave the dock about 6:15 am. Low tide is 7:15 am at -.6 ft.

March 18 – Fossil trip, more info to come.

Beach Walk

Carol Mae

When: **Saturday, January, 14th.**

Where: **Skyway Bridge, first exit**

Time **7 A. M.**

RSVP: **Carol Mae** at carolmclc@hotmail.com or
TEXT 608-692-9985

Late breakfast or early lunch at the Recipe Box



Librarian

Linda Greiner

Our SSC Library is at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota.

You can view a list of our great books on our website

www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of them 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 some shellcraft books to show how you can be creative using seashells. Let's see your creativity at our shell show!**

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

2017 Shell Show

Our 54th annual Sarasota Shell Show will be held February 3-5, 2017 at the Bradenton Area Convention Center. Please clear your calendars for this event and consider donating time to keep this show running. Lots of help is needed and closer to the time we will have sign-up sheets with the needed volunteer slots.

[The Artistic & Scientific entry forms and categories are posted on the website.](#)

Show Awards Banquet

At the December meeting we will be selling tickets to the Awards Banquet to be held on February 4th after the show closes for the day.

This is a great time to get to know other people in the shell world from other clubs as well as our vendors.

We encourage anyone who is exhibiting in either Artistic or Scientific to attend.....as you may actually be receiving an award!

The entrees include a Chicken dish, a Salmon dish or Filet Mignon. All of the entrees include the accompaniments, bread and butter, salad, dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage. The Chicken and fish are \$25 each and the Filet is \$35. The price is all inclusive of tip and tax. A very good value and a fun evening.

All checks for this should be made to the Sarasota Shell Club.

Brushing off the dust: New snail species found lying in a museum since the 19th century

Having been collected back in the 19th century during an expedition in South America, a rather small snail species has been sitting around on the shelves of Madrid's National Museum of Natural Sciences ever since. Covered in more than

a century-old dust, it was described as new only recently when an obscure specimen placed in the long tail of a historical collection drew the attention of Drs. Breure and Araujo.

The small snail species, called *P. cecepeus*, had been staying 'undercover' for more than a century and a half among the numerous specimens, that formed a total of 20 new species when they were gathered during the historical 'Comisión Científica del Pacífico' expedition in South America. With the average undescribed museum invertebrate's 'shelf life' being



20.7 years, it comes as no surprise that the herein described mollusc attracted the attention of the scientists.

"Although description of new species that have remained unnoticed for more than a century remains a rare event, it highlights the need for revisions of museum collections and especially the historical parts of these," conclude the researchers.

Materials provided by Pensoft Publishers.

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More about the Shell Art reported by Ron & MaryJo Bopp, found in a museum in St Augustine

by Audrey O'Donnell

[Editor's note: Audrey sells shell art and enters our shell show]

Article on next page!

The bouquet of shell flowers, under glass ,c.1860's. It is comprised of hundreds of time consuming shell flowers. Quite a popular art in the Victorian era. Usually displayed in pairs on the mantelpiece in their parlor. All of the shell flowers were inspired by real flowers;

wealthy women would be able to purchase these rice shells, from sea captains from their voyages. That's why you will only see the Victorian gold silk, and wired Sailor Valentine's, shell baskets and elaborate shell art made in Europe. It was not a cottage industry such as the Barbados sailor Valentines.

This wedding basket has only been exposed to the air a few times. Because it was exposed to the air when entering the Sanibel show, it has started to deteriorate, but I thought it was really important for the general public to see this exquisite basket. The description tells it all. Because the wedding



roses, sweet peas, dahlias & etc.

Cross; c.1855. Comprised of sterling silver wire and gold silk, with rice shells. The centers typically had shell flowers, with the top & sides with the wheat pattern rice shells.

Baskets; mid 1800's- early 19th century. They were made for a wedding gift, taking several years to complete.

It is quite rare to see these treasures in a museum. They are priceless, and a rare opportunity to view. The fascination started in England and France. Only very

Taking 4 years to complete, a wealthy women from England made the basket with her servant. (who learned the trade which was quite popular from her mother in the 1700's, and went back to England after the basket was finished to teach) The basket passed down thru many generations, and was made in a Watch Hill, Rhode Island, where it stayed til the mansion was sold. The Silk, that is wrapped around the shell flowers was purchased at Cheney Silk Mills, in Manchester, CT. The silk cohoons were shipped from China to the mill. The yellow in the center of the flowers is also silk. The rice shells are from Barbado's. The glass dome and stand were custom made for the basket.



baskets are made with sterling silver wire and pure gold silk, they break down, THAT is why you see them featured under glass.

The last picture is a double snowflake wrap on the top of the handle, on a late early 1800's hand made wire basket, that I made. It took me 6 months.

Lonely 'lefty' snail seeks mate for love, genetic

Scientists at The University of Nottingham hoping to study the genetics of an ultra-rare garden snail are asking the public for its help in finding the lonely mollusc a mate. The snail's unique qualities make it a one in a million find -- but also impossible for it to mate with its more common counterparts.

At first glance, the brown garden snail may look like any other but closer inspection of the snail's shell reveals exactly why this creature is so special. While the shells of this common species spiral in a right-handed, clockwise direction -- known as *dextral* ... The Nottingham snail is sinistral, with a left-handed anti-clockwise spiraling shell. In essence, the 'lefty' snail is a mirror image of its other shell-dwelling friends.

Dr Angus Davison, associate professor and reader in evolutionary genetics in the University's School of Life Sciences, said: "This really is an exciting find -- I have been studying snails for more than 20 years and I have never seen one of these before. We are very keen to study the snail's genetics to find out whether this is a result of a developmental glitch or whether this is a genuine inherited genetic trait."

However, for Nottingham's 'lefty' snail being special comes with a unique set of problems. In addition to its mirror-image shell, the snail's genitals are also on the opposite side to the more common dextral snails -- making it very difficult for the two types of snails to mate...Snails are hermaphrodites meaning that if they want to they can reproduce on their own without the need for another mate. However, they don't really like doing this and from our perspective, the genetic data from

offspring of two lefty snails would be far richer and more valuable to us."

Jeremy the snail was originally found around a compost heap in Rayne's Park, South West London by a retired scientist from the Natural History Museum, who spotted its unique traits. Having heard about Dr Davison's interest in snail genetics, he contacted the Nottingham scientist before sending it on -- by snail mail.

Earlier this year, in research published in the journal *Current Biology*, Dr

Davison and colleagues revealed they had discovered a gene that determines whether a snail's shell twists in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction. The same gene also affects body asymmetry in other animals -- including



humans -- and research using these snails could offer the chance to develop our understanding of how organs are placed in the body and why this process can sometimes go wrong when some or all of the major internal organs are reversed from their normal placement.

Now the hunt is on for a second sinistral brown garden snail to mate...and Dr Davison is appealing to the public to get involved by searching hedgerows, borders and plant pots for this rare variety of the common snail. "This is something which everyone can get involved with and which you can easily do on your own doorstep. It is an example of citizen science at its best. There is a chance, because it is such a rare thing, that anyone who can find and identify another of these sinistral snails may even find themselves named as a contributor on a research paper we publish in the future as a result of this."

MORE NEXT MONTH!

Board Members

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Sally Peppitoni | President |
| Nancy Marini | Vice President |
| Bruce Paulsen | Treasurer |
| Jeanne Corbin | Recording Sec'y |
| Peggy Williams | Corresponding Sec'y |

Board: Donna Krusenoski-1, Roseanne Roble-1, Joanne Mancuso 2, Donna Cassin-2, Harry Berryman-3, Karen Paulsen-3

Committee Chairmen

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Artisans: | Nancy Marini |
| Beauti: | 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 |
| Webmaster | Bruce Paulsen |

Calendar

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|------------------|--------------------------|
| Dec 2 | Holiday Party 5:30 |
| Dec 8 | Club meeting |
| Dec. 16 | Carefree Learner 8 am. |
| Jan. 12 | Carefree Learner 6:15 am |
| Jan 12 | Club meeting |
| Jan 14-15 | Broward Shell Show |
| Jan 21-22 | Astronaut Trail Show |
| Jan. 27 | Carefree Learner 6:15 am |
| Feb 3-5 | Sarasota Shell Show |
| Feb 25-26 | St Pete Shell Show |
| Mar 2-4 | Sanibel Shell Show |
| Mar 9 | Club meeting |
| Mar 9-11 | Marco Island Show |
| Mar 18 | Fossil field trip |

More info on Events call Peggy W.

To Find Sarasota Tides

<http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?site=Sarasota%2C+Sarasota+Bay%2C+Florida+%282%29> Site will show the week's tides. Go to prediction options below for one-month calendar. Choose options: Suppress, Suppress, Show, Show; Start at desired year & month. Choose hour format, show day.

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

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