



# Shell and Tell



The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Shell Club

## WHAT'S INSIDE

PROGRAMS  
& EVENTS  
PAGE 2

SCOTT  
& KATHY  
PAGE 3

SCIENTIFIC  
AWARDS  
PAGE 4

SCIENTIFIC  
RIBBONS  
PAGE 5

ARTISTIC AWARDS  
& RIBBONS  
PAGE 6

GARY  
GORDON  
PAGE 7

ALBINO HORSE  
CONCH  
PAGE 8



Although I haven't been a Shell Club member for as long as many others, I think this is the fifth Shell Show that I have been involved with. At the close of each show, I've always had the same response. After all the excitement of setting up, participating in the show, and viewing all the great exhibits and dealer offerings, I find myself feeling sad and rather depressed late on

Sunday afternoon when the exhibitors and dealers start taking down their displays. Do any of you have this emotion too?

I think we can all agree that this year's show was a success. Kathy and Scott Dilbeck did a great job chairing the show and I especially thank them for their efforts. There were three things that I think were particularly successful. 1). We increased the entry fee for adults from the previous \$2 to \$5. I don't think this affected attendance at all. Based on my rough calculation, this brought in about \$500 extra which helped to defray the large increase in Lyndell Center rental fees. 2). Advertising on Facebook (thanks to our Facebook administrator Angela Cummings) was a great success. At the entry table, we asked nearly everyone how they heard about the show, and about half said "Facebook". 3). I was manning the entry table late on Sunday, and I counted 19 individuals or families who paid to become new club members. This is much more than I remember in previous years. Although it's likely some of these will not become active members, this indicates that our club is growing.

As a final indication of the show's success, all the dealers I talked to said that they were very happy with their sales and it was well worth their time and effort to participate. The scientific judges said the show compared favorably with other shell shows, and the "hard-core" exhibitors from out-of-town with big displays also expressed that it was a great show. All of us in the club can congratulate ourselves on a job well done!

- Dave Clausen, President



- Regular Club Meeting  
November 12th
- Annual Christmas Party  
December 7th
- Space Coast Seashell Fest  
January 17th & 18th
- Sanibel Shell Show  
March 5th - 7th

## CLUB OFFICERS:

President - Dave Clausen  
Vice President - Leanne Shell  
Secretary - Angela Cummings  
Correspondence - DJ Moore  
Treasurer - Janis Laycock  
Tides - Don Kotval  
Membership - Gerry Lowther  
Librarian - Kathy Dilbeck  
Newsletter - Angela Cummings

# PROGRAMS AND REFRESHMENTS



"Ways to expand your mind and waistline simultaneously!"

| Month    | Program                      | Refreshments |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------|
| December | White Elephant Gift Exchange | Potluck      |

## **EVENTS**

### **REGULAR CLUB MEETING**

Wednesday, November 12th @ 7PM. Mix & Mingle @6:30PM  
Bay County Library 898 W. 11th Street, Panama City, FL.

### **GULF COAST SHELL CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Sunday, December 7th @1PM. Parkway Presbyterian Church. Bring a side dish or dessert.  
505 S. Tyndall Parkway, Panama City, FL.

### **ENGLEWOOD SHELL CLUB FOSSIL DIG**

Thursday, December 11th from 8:30 - 1:00. Cost \$125. Location: TBD  
R.S.V.P. [ESCexcursions@gmail.com](mailto:ESCexcursions@gmail.com)

### **45TH ANNUAL SPACE COAST SEASHELL FESTIVAL**

January 17th & 18th from 9:30 - 4:00 (Eastern Time) at the Wickham Park Community Center.  
2815 Leisure Way, Melbourne, FL.

### **89TH ANNUAL SANIBEL SHELL SHOW & FESTIVAL**

March 5th-7th. Thursday & Friday 9AM-3PM, Saturday 9AM-4PM (Eastern Time)  
2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL. (239) 472-2155 [sanibelcommunityhouse.net](http://sanibelcommunityhouse.net)

\* All times posted are Central Standard Time unless otherwise noted.

# *Scott & Kathy Dilbeck*

## THANK YOU!



I CAN STILL REMEMBER SCOTT'S NERVOUS CHUCKLE, AND THE MOVEMENT OF HIS SHOULDERS RISING AND FALLING INTO A SHRUG THAT I'VE NOW SEEN DOZENS OF TIMES. HE HAD JUST INFORMED ME THAT HE WOULD BE CHAIRING THE NEXT SHELL SHOW. ALTHOUGH IT WAS A YEAR AWAY, BEWILDERMENT WAS WRITTEN ACROSS HIS FACE. WE HAD JUST MET, AND I WANTED TO REASSURE HIM, SO I FOOLISHLY EQUATED IT TO CHAIRING THE BOOKFAIR AT MY SON'S SCHOOL... LET ME TELL YOU, IT DOESN'T EVEN COME CLOSE.

AS THE SHELL SHOW COUNTER RELEASED THE DAYS ONE-BY-ONE, I WATCHED SCOTT AND HIS WONDERFUL WIFE KATHY PUT PURE HEART AND EFFORT INTO MAKING THIS EVENT HAPPEN. I KNOW EACH OF YOU HAVE PERSONALLY WITNESSED THOSE MOMENTS YOURSELF. I REALIZED HOW RARE IT IS TO SEE SUCH GENUINE DEVOTION.

A WEEK BEFORE THE SHOW, I CHECKED IN WITH SCOTT TO SEE HOW HE WAS FEELING ABOUT IT. HIS DEMEANOR GAVE OFF NO SIGNS OF FEAR THIS TIME. HE LISTED OFF SOME THINGS THAT HAD BEEN DONE, AND FINISHED WITH HIS FAMILIAR SHRUG, IMPLYING IT-IS-WHAT-IT-IS NOW. I REMINDED HIM THAT IF FALLS APART, AT LEAST IT WILL BE FUN.

WELL, HERE WE ARE. I'M SURE I CAN SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE SHELL CLUB WHEN I SAY, JOB WELL DONE SCOTT & KATHY DILBECK! THANK YOU A MILLION TIMES FOR YOUR HARD WORK, AND DEVOTION OVER THIS LAST YEAR. ARE YOU READY TO DO IT AGAIN? :) -ANGELA



# Scientific Winners

## DUPONT AWARD

**GENE EVERSON FOR "FASCIOLARIIDAE"**

## CONCHOLOGIST OF AMERICA

**LINDA ZYLMAN FOR "SHELLS OF THE VAVA'U GROUP TONGA"**

## VOKES AWARD

**RON BOPP FOR "CHIPOLA FORMATION"**

## HELEN NORTON AWARD

**KATHY DILBECK FOR "MY FAVORITE SHELL"**

## MOST EDUCATIONAL

**DAVID & LINDA GREEN FOR "COLORS & PATTERNS OF CONUS MAGUS"**

## FROZEN DIP NET

**VICKY WALL FOR "PRIZES FROM THE PANHANDLE"**

## SHELL OF THE SHOW

**DAVID BERSCHAUER FOR "ZACATROPHON GOLIATH"**

## SELF-COLLECTED SHELL OF THE SHOW

**VICKY WALL FOR "TROPHON GEVERSIANUS"**

## MEMBER COLLECTED SHELL OF THE SHOW

**LINDA ZYLMAN FOR "MALLEUS ANATINUS"**

## STUDENT AWARD

**LOLA, EVIE, & INDY AMSHOFF FOR "HORSES OF THE SEA"**

## FOUNDERS AWARD

**WANDER COKER FOR "ABALONES FROM THE HALIOTIS FAMILY"**

## EXHIBITORS AWARD

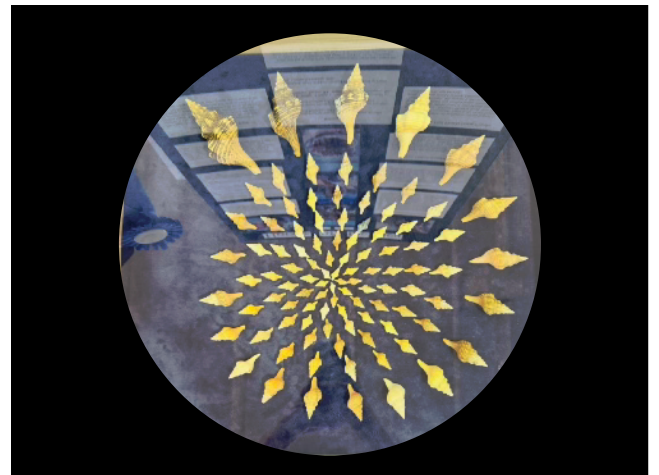
**RON BOPP FOR "THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SEA URCHINS" (POPULAR VOTE BY EXHIBITORS)**



**WANDA COKER**



**LINDA ZYLMAN**





# *Scientific Ribbon Winners*

## MEMBER COLLECTED SHELL OF THE SHOW

**LINDA ZYLMAN 1ST, INDY AMSHOFF 2ND**

## EDUCATIONAL

**DAVID & LINDA GREEN 1ST, LOLA AMSHOFF 2ND, DAVE BERSCHAUER 3RD**

## SELF-COLLECTED JUDGES SPECIAL AWARD

**KATHY DILBECK**

## SINGLE SPECIMEN, ANY SOURCE

**STEVEN COKER 1ST, GENE EVERSON 2ND, DAVE BERSCHAUER 3RD**

## MINIATURE

**STEVEN COKER 1ST**

## STUDENT

**LOLA, EVIE, & INDY AMSHOFF 1ST**

## SEA LIFE

**RON BOPP 1ST, LOLA AMSHOFF 2ND, D.J. MOORE 3RD**

## FREAKS

**KATHY DILBECK 1ST, EVIE AMSHOFF 2ND**

## ONE SMALL FAMILY

**GENE EVERSON 1ST, WANDA COKER 2ND, DAVE BERSCHAUER 3RD**

## NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**VICKY WALL 1ST**

## FOSSILS

**RON BOPP 1ST, CAROL MITCHELL 2ND, KARLYNN MORGAN 3RD**

## CREATIVE

**CAROL MITCHELL 1ST, KARLYNN MORGAN 2ND**

## NON-MARINE MOLLUSKS

**BOB GRANDA 1ST**

## FLORIDA-CARIBBEAN

**DAVE BERSCHAUER 1ST, LOLA AMSHOFF 2ND**

## WORLDWIDE MULTI-FAMILY

**DAVE BERSCHAUER 1ST**

## ONE GENUS

**KATHY DILBECK 1ST, BOB GRANDA 2ND, EVIE AMSHOFF 3RD**

## SELF-COLLECTED

**LINDA ZYLMAN 1ST, VICKY WALL 2ND**

## BEACH SHELLS

**BRANT HOLMAN 1ST, LOLA AMSHOFF 2ND**

## SINGLE SPECIMEN SELF-COLLECTED

**VICKY WALL 1ST, GENE EVERSON 2ND, EVIE AMSHOFF 3RD**



**BOB GRANDA**



**STEVEN COKER**

**PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL AWARDS AND SHELL SHOW PICTURES.**

**[WWW.GULFCOASTSHELLCLUB.COM](http://WWW.GULFCOASTSHELLCLUB.COM)**

# Artistic Awards

1. STUDENT AWARD - LOLA AMSHOFF FOR SHELLS SEWN ON FABRIC

2. ARTISTIC AWARD - JANIS LAYCOCK FOR SEA SHELL QUILT

3. ORIGINALITY AWARD - JEANNETTE HOWARD FOR OCTOPUS MADE WITH OYSTER SHELLS



## Artistic Ribbons

### SHELLCRAFT

JAMES TIDMORE 1ST, JULIE POUNDERS 2ND,  
JEANNETTE HOWARD - JUDGE'S SPECIAL

### NEEDLEWORK

JANIS LAYCOCK 1ST, LINDA GREEN 2ND,  
D.J. MOORE - JUDGE'S SPECIAL, WANDA  
COKER - HONORABLE MENTION

### SHELL PHOTO

CHARITY KOTVAL 1ST, KATELYN ISBELL 2ND

### WREATHS & WALL HANGINGS

ANGELA CUMMINGS 1ST, SUSAN RILEY 2ND

### SHELL MIRRORS

KATELYN ISABELL 1ST, JULIE POUNDERS 2ND

### SHELL DECORATED OBJECTS

KATELYN HOWARD 1ST, JEANNETTE HOWARD  
2ND

### HOLIDAY RELATED ITEMS

SUSAN RILEY 1ST, D.J. MOORE 2ND

### JEWELRY & PERSONAL ITEMS

KATHY DILBECK 1ST & 2ND, LINDA  
BRUNNER 3RD

### CREATED SHELLS

KATLYN ISABELL 1ST

### DRAWING

LOLA AMSHOFF 1ST, EVIE AMSHOFF 2ND



KATELYN ISBELL & CHARITY KOTVAL



D.J. MOORE



## GARY GORDON

Bright blue display cases, “Monsters of The Deep”, “Tigers of the Sea”, articles of shelling adventures and the smiling face and polite soft spoken demeanor of the classic southern gentlemen all help to paint a picture of one of our most supportive and loyal club members, Gary Dave Gordon. GCSC member and exhibitor, Gary Gordon, passed away in December of 2024. His passing leaves a void impossible to fill.

Gary was born in Kansas, but spent much of his life in Warner Robins, GA. He was one of the founding members of the Georgia Shell Club. We first met him when we attended one of their shows. He and Earlene traveled to our show as members and exhibitors, and always had family members join in on the festivities. Gary and Earlene were married for 62 years, and he wrote of their family shelling adventures in the panhandle (“Port St Joe Shelling”, **SHELL AND TELL**, July - August, 2021). Gary was a wonderful letter writer as well. We have kept several of his letters and reprints of many of his articles and reread them often. Attached is an article Gary wrote about searching for an albino Horse Conch along the Northeast Coast of Florida.



We will miss Gary and the stories he shared of his shelling adventures as well as his wonderful displays. He made us all want to exhibit our finds and share our adventures. I know his spirit will be with us in November. Our thoughts are with Earlene and their daughters as they remember Gary.

-Linda Brunner



JIM AND GARY SHARING A JOKE.



SHELDON, GARY, AND EARLENE WITH SPECIAL RIBBONS WON AT THE GCSS!



EARLENE WITH RIBBONS WON BY “MONSTERS OF THE DEEP”



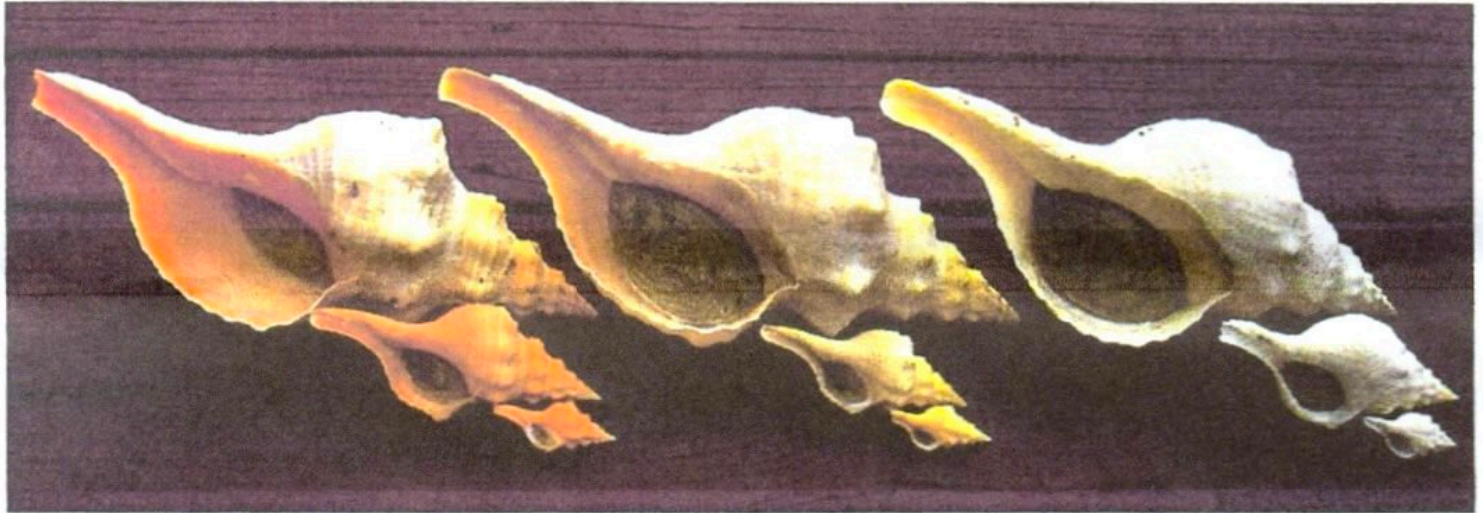
GARY ALWAYS QUICK WITH A QUIP.



# In Search Of An Albino Horse Conch

By Gary Gordon

The Florida Horse Conch [*Triplofusus giganteus* (Kiener, 1840)] is a favorite of Florida shell collectors - which fact led to it being designated the official Florida state shell in 1969. The species normally has nodules on its whorls, but sometimes, however rarely, it is found with smooth shoulders. This form has been informally dubbed a "Knobless Wonder." The shell is also rarely found as a beautiful albino specimen with the shell being of a white porcelain color. The albino form has been found in several areas around Florida, and I had looked for many years, and never found one, to my disappointment.



Pictured above is a selection of *Triplofusus giganteus* (including three albinos on the right) from the area visited by Fred and Gary during 1980. The illustrated specimens were collected by Brian Marshall during late 2007/early 2008.

At the 1980 Jacksonville Shell Show, the famous shell collector Fred Chauvin won the Self-collected Shell of the Show Trophy with a fantastic albino, smooth-shouldered Florida Horse Conch. The shell was of good size and in gem condition. This shell was a dream-come-true for any collector and it made me dream of the day I too would find one. However, I dared not hope that it would be a "Knobless Wonder" like Fred's.

At the show I talked to Fred at some length about trying to find an albino horse conch. I knew he was an expert on finding shells along the N.E. Coast of Florida, and he can entertain a shell collector for hours with his exciting shelling stories. I finally talked him into taking me shelling that weekend in my boat.

Low tide was around noon so we met early at the boat dock. Soon Fred was directing me to go this way and that way until we landed on a large exposed sand bar. I kept wondering to myself, "Has Fred brought me to one of his secret shelling spots and will he help me find an albino horse conch?" My mind raced on and thought that even if Fred had brought me to a good spot, the chances of finding an albino might be one in a thousand. So far, we had not seen even one horse conch. I dared not ask Fred if this was his secret spot for fear of jinxing the trip, so I simply walked along, exploring the tide pools and finding a shell here and there.

The tide started back in and I knew it would soon be time to go, and my hopes of finding the shell of my dreams were pretty low at that point. Fred told me to go around one way, while he went another way back towards the boat. I had walked along maybe 200 feet or so when there to my delight, in a tide pool, was a fantastic albino horse conch! It was not a "Knobless Wonder" but it was a beautiful 12 1/2 inch specimen. It was one of the best finds I had made in several years and the shell is a real prize in my collection.

When Fred sent me in one direction and he took another, did Fred know that the shell was there waiting for me, or was it all a big coincidence? I would like to think that Fred knew all along there would be an albino horse conch in that tide pool. After all, Fred had shelled that area for years. You can decide for yourself. I just want to say THANKS FRED for a wonderful shell and a wonderful shelling trip.