



Shell and Tell



The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Shell Club

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President's Message



I'd like to extend a belated welcome to everyone who has joined the Shell Club over the past two years. This growth is especially encouraging as many other shell clubs have experienced declining membership. Although nearly everyone enjoys collecting shells on the beach, organized shell collecting is less popular than it once was. This trend reflects a broader decline in traditional hobbies, perhaps because many people now spend more time on social media and the Internet. Shell clubs in cities such as Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, and Jacksonville have closed as membership declined. Today, 11 shell clubs remain in the United States: Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Sanibel, Marco Island, Broward (Fort Lauderdale), Space Coast (Melbourne), North Carolina, Texas, San Diego, Portland (Oregon), and our own Gulf Coast Shell Club. Shell Shows are the key activity for all shell clubs to keep and attract new members; 10 of the 11 shell clubs had shell shows in 2026. I hope many of our new members can assist and/or participate in next year's Shell Show on the weekend of 17-18 July 2027.



- Club Meeting
October 13th.
- Halloween Party
October 16th.
- Club Meeting
November 18th.
- Christmas Party
December 13th.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President - Dave Clausen
Vice President - Leanne Shell
Secretary - Angela Cummings
Correspondence - DJ Moore
Treasurer - Jen Goettsch
Tides - Don Kotval
Membership - Kathy O'Brien
Librarian - Kathy Dilbeck

PROGRAMS AND REFRESHMENTS



"Ways to expand your mind and waistline simultaneously!"

Month	Program	Refreshments
October	Gerry Lowther	Scott & Kathy
November		

EVENTS

REGULAR CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, October 13th, @7PM. Arrive early to shell & mingle (6:30PM).
Bay County Library - 898 W. 11th Street. Panama City, FL.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 16th. Please bring a finger food. Time and address will be given out at the October meeting.

REGULAR CLUB MEETING

Wednesday*, November 18th, @7PM. Arrive early to shell & mingle (6:30PM).
Bay County Library - 898 W. 11th Street. Panama City, FL.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 13th, @12:30PM. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$15-\$20) and quarters if you'd like to participate in the Dirty Santa game. Parkway Presbyterian Church. 505 S. Tyndall Parkway.

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

gulfcoastshellclub.com/events

Scientific Winners

CONCHOLOGIST OF AMERICA

DAVID BERSCHAUER

VOKES AWARD

VICKY WALL

MOST EDUCATIONAL

LOLA AMSHOFF

SHELL OF THE SHOW

GENE EVERSON

SELF-COLLECTED SHELL OF THE SHOW

KEN JOURDEN

MEMBER COLLECTED SHELL OF THE SHOW

DAVID BERSCHAUER

FOUNDERS AWARD

KARLYNN MORGAN

EXHIBITORS AWARD

KEN JOURDAN

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

GENE EVERSON

Scientific Ribbon Winners

EDUCATIONAL

**VICKY WALL 1ST, LOLA AMSHOFF 2ND,
DAVE WALLER 3RD**

SINGLE SPECIMEN, ANY SOURCE

**DAVID BERSCHAUER 1ST & 2ND, GENE EVERSON
3RD**

NON-MARINE MOLLUSKS

BOB GRANDA 1ST

FLORIDA-CARIBBEAN

EVIE AMSHOFF 1ST

WORLDWIDE MULTI-FAMILY

DAVID BERSCHAUER 1ST, GERRY LOWTHER 2ND

ONE GENUS

KARLYNN MORGAN 1ST, DOUGLAS SHELTON 2ND

SINGLE SPECIMEN SELF-COLLECTED

INDY AMSHOFF 1ST

ONE LARGE FAMILY

DAVE CLAUSEN 1ST, KATHY DILBECK 2ND

ONE SMALL FAMILY

GENE EVERSON 1ST, DAVE BERSCHAUER 2ND

SUB FAMILY

DAVID BERSCHAUER

SELF-COLLECTED

VICKY WALL 1ST, LOLA AMSHOFF 2ND

SPECIALIZED

GENE EVERSON 1ST, DAVID WALLER 2ND & 3RD

JUDGE'S SPECIAL AWARD RIBBON

GENE EVERSON

JUDGE'S SPECIAL AWARD RIBBON

VICKY WALL

Artistic Awards

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD - **LORENZO NECAISE**

Artistic Ribbons

SHELLCRAFT

JULIE POUNDERS 1ST, JEANNETTE HOWARD 2ND

SHELL PHOTO

**CHARITY KOTVAL 1ST, DAVID BERSCHAUER 2ND &
3RD. DAVE CLAUSEN - HONORABLE MENTION**

WREATHS & WALL HANGINGS

**LORENZO NECAISE 1ST, LOLA & MARLEY GORMAN
2ND**

SHELL MIRRORS

SUSAN RILEY 1ST, KATELYN ISBELL 2ND

SHELL DECORATED OBJECTS

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

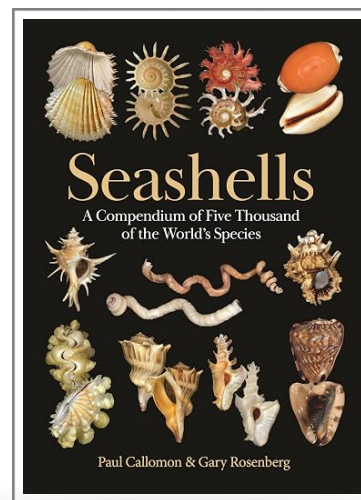
HOLIDAY RELATED ITEMS

JULIE POUNDERS 1ST

DRAWING

*****1ST, *** 2ND, INDY AMSHOFF 3RD, KATELYN**

Book Review by John Jacobs:
by Paul Callomon and Gary Rosenberg
Princeton University Press press.princeton.edu



Not since Abbott & Dance's *Compendium of Seashells* (1982) has there been a book of this magnitude. More than forty years later with improved photographic techniques and updated nomenclature, we are presented with a tome worthy of being called a compendium. This new addition to the malacological literature is not a replacement for the *Compendium of Seashells*, however.

Rather, it is a companion volume. This is also true of previous books such as Dance's *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Shells*, Wye's *The Encyclopedia of Shells*, and Rosenberg's *The Encyclopedia of Seashells*. I use all of the above, and many more, for my identifications.

The introduction has much insight and should not be ignored. Following this is a section called "Classification and Nomenclature: Organizing the Natural World". This section answers many questions the beginner and experienced might have. Topics here include taxonomy, nomenclature, geographic distribution and ranges. A glossary follows with illustrations showing parts of the shell.

The Guide to the Families section provides a short description of each family in the book. This is a very useful section which includes bibliographical references.

Each species in the book is numbered, with the index including this for convenience. The photo pages are a solid background which can present a problem when updating names. Whiteout tape is the solution here. Taxonomy is fluid with genera and species names changing as further research justifies. It's okay to write in books. I'm constantly doing this as I research newly added specimens to my collection.

While the species names are bright white, the wording below is a little more difficult to read. The font is smaller and the letters are slightly gray in color. I feel that the text should be all the same brightness.

It is refreshing to find a book of this quality that isn't going to force the buyer to take out a second mortgage in order to acquire it. I've passed up books because of the \$100, \$150, \$200 price tags. The retail price of this book is \$49.95.

I am proud to have this title in my library, and it has already proven useful as I continue to catalog my own collection and work on the auctions for the Conchologists of America conventions.

This is an excellent work produced at an affordable price that is a must have in any malacological library. The book is available directly from the publisher at press.princeton.edu and other distributors.

MUSINGS OF A SHELL COLLECTOR

By: Jim Brunner

Having been at this collecting thing since 1973, I have tons of stories to tell. Many of them involve shells I've collected only once. Often this was because the shell was rare, or I had limited time in a particular habitat, or sheer dumb luck. But this story isn't about those shells. Instead, it involves two shells that I had several opportunities to collect but only did so once.

The first revolves around *Ovula ovum* (Linnaeus, 1758), better known as the Common Egg Cowrie (although it is not in the family Cypraeidae). On 29 September 1973, I was snorkeling around Maricaban Island, Batangas Province, Luzon, Philippines (for you geography sticklers, its on the west coast of Luzon about 40 miles SSW of Manila). As I came around a series of large boulders I found myself in a current channel. Fifty feet later (and down current) I got out of the flow and worked my way back to the rocks. Peering cautiously around them to look into the channel I saw these three shells just sitting in the open. They had their mantels out and were gorgeous -- jet black with flecks of gold. I had to have them! But how? Dive knife to the rescue! The rocks were porous and I could jab the blade in enough to serve as an anchor. It wasn't easy, but I got them.

The second involves *Lucapina suffusa* (Reeve, 1850), the Cancellate Fleshy Limpet. Its collection occurred during a trip to the Caribbean island of Grenada in August of 1988 at a place called, Lance Aux Pines. I was snorkeling on a reef at 4 feet and turned over a coral slab and found this one inch limpet. No current, no dramatics, just normal collecting.



Ovula ovum (Before)



Ovula ovum (After)

As I said earlier, I had the chance to collect these shells several more times but always passed them by. Why? I think if you scratch any shell collector you will find some kind of balance between scientific curiosity and esthetic appreciation of the beauty involved. In that current channel and under that coral slab, I found mine.



Lucapina suffusa (Before)



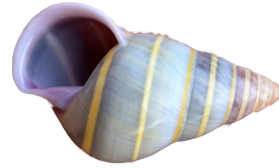
Lucapina suffusa (After)

FAREWELL SHELLMATE



BOB GRANDA

NOVEMBER 6, 1947 - AUGUST 22, 2026



**BOB GRANDA WILL BE REMEMBERED WITH
FONDNESS AND GRATITUDE FOR THE YEARS HE
SHARED WITH US. HIS PRESENCE, FRIENDSHIP, AND
CONTRIBUTIONS WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN. WE
EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO HIS FAMILY
AND LOVED ONES AND WILL CARRY HIS MEMORY
WITH US IN THE YEARS AHEAD.**

KINDRED SPIRITS

**I ADAMANTLY TOLD BOB I WOULD ONLY BE ADDING TWO SPECIES OF LAND
SNAILS TO MY MARINE COLLECTION, BECAUSE I WAS NOT A FAN.**

HE QUIETLY GRINNED.

**I INSISTED MY RECENT PURCHASE OF A THIRD SPECIES (AN AMPHIDROMUS
NONETHELESS) WAS IN NO WAY EVIDENCE THAT I WAS STARTING TO LIKE
THEM... AND SIMPLY BECAUSE HE JUST WITNESSED ME ADDING A FOURTH
SPECIES (ONLY DUE TO THE IMPRESSIVENESS OF THEIR VARIATION), IT
MEANT NOTHING.**

HE QUIETLY GRINNED.

**I COMPLAINED THAT I NOW HAD TO DEDICATE TWO DRAWERS TO LAND
SNAILS, AND I WOULD NOT EXPAND BEYOND THAT POINT.**

HE QUIETLY, KNOWINGLY GRINNED.

**YESTERDAY, AS I SET ASIDE MY EIGHTH AND ABSOLUTE FINAL SPECIES
(YEAH RIGHT), I COULD NOT CONTAIN MY LAUGHTER, AND I'M ALMOST
CERTAIN I COULD HEAR BOB ROARING WITH DELIGHT ALL THE WAY FROM
HEAVEN.**

I'LL TAKE THE WATCH NOW MY FRIEND.

- ANGELA