



# Shell and Tell



The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Shell Club

## WHAT'S INSIDE

PROGRAMS  
& EVENTS  
PAGE 2

BLACK'S  
ISLAND  
PAGE 3-4

LABOR  
OF LOVE  
PAGE 5

SEEING THE  
NUMBERS  
PAGE 6

SHELL  
RECYCLING  
PAGE 7

TIDES  
PAGE 8



**PRESIDENT**  
Dave Clausen

I know many of you are already members of the Conchologists of America (COA). For those who aren't, I strongly encourage you to become members. Membership is only \$25/year. As a member, you will receive the quarterly magazine, "American Conchologist" and support the world of

Malacology (scientific study of mollusks), and shell collecting in the United States. COA is a non-profit organization that each year holds an annual convention that among other things, raises funds supporting student research projects on mollusks. I always look forward to receiving the COA magazine, and although some of the articles are sometimes a little technical, there are usually some general articles, and great photos of shells, and also news about other American shell clubs. See: <https://conchologistsofamerica.org/>



- GCSC Special Meeting  
May 27th
- Next Shell Sale  
May 31st
- Annual Picnic  
June 7th
- COA Convention  
July 7th -12th
- GCSC's 26th Shell Show  
November 1st - 2nd

*Happy Birthday!*

**MAY**  
**DJ MOORE**  
**ANGELA CUMMINGS**

**JUNE**  
**KATHY DILBECK**

## **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
May	Guest Speaker	No Refreshments
June	Annual Picnic	Bring a Side Dish

## EVENTS

### **GULF COAST SHELL CLUB SPECIAL MEETING**

May 27th. GCSC will combine with the Historical Society for a special guest speaker. Doors open at 5:00pm. Speaker begins at 6:00. Brief shell club meeting following the event.

### **NEXT MARKET SHELL SALE (TENTATIVE)**

May 31st. McKenzie Park. 218 Harrison Ave, Panama City, FL 32401.

### **ANNUAL PICNIC**

June 7th. Luke Cooley's House in Cape San Blas. 10AM Central Time.

### **COA CONVENTION**

July 7th -12th. Omni Corpus Christi Hotel. 900 North Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX. 78401.

### **GULF COAST SHELL CLUB'S 26TH SHELL SHOW**

November 1st - 2nd.

# Exploring BLACK'S ISLAND



March 10<sup>th</sup> was a sunny, but comfortably cool day. Perfect for a boat ride. Several members of the shell club climbed aboard the Brianna Maria with Captain, Scott Dilbeck at the helm. Black's Island was on the agenda. It's location not fully known, it seemed as if we simply ventured east. Being in the crook of Cape San Blas, it was nearly impossible to get lost anyway. The boat ride seemed to stretch on, but as the island began to appear on the horizon, our excitement grew.

Upon approach, Black's Island gave the impression it had been abandoned for some time. Broken sun-bleached shells aligned in rows, showed evidence of multiple tides come, and gone. Discarded exoskeletons of horseshoe crabs scattered about. Dilapidated bungalows, broken glass, and metal strewn randomly, but the island wasn't abandoned at all. A sole occupant appeared, and simply asked that we stay in the water for our search. Our group, excited about the possible finds, readily obliged. Success came early and often, and all-in-all, the trip was a delight.



*Brianna Marie*







*Happy  
Birthday  
Brant and Samuel*





# LABOR OF LOVE



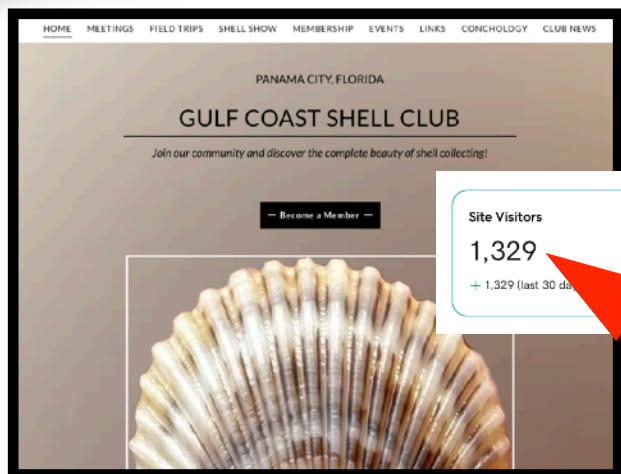
## FARMER'S MARKET SHELL SALE

LIKE A MOLLUSK, INFLATION IS SLOWING SLURPING UP THE CLUB'S SAVINGS. MULTIPLE MEMBERS SELFLESSLY DONATED THEIR PERFECTLY GOOD, SHELL-HUNTING SATURDAY TO WARD OFF BEING PREY.

THE CLUB SET UP THEIR FIRST BOOTH AT THE PORT ST. JOE, FARMERS MARKET. THEY SOLD SHELLS, HANDMADE CRAFTS, AND THE CLUB'S BOOK, SEASHELLS OF THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE. THERE SEEMED TO BE A LOT OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, AND EVERYONE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN FUTURE MARKETS!

MANY OF YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO UPDATE OUR WEBSITE, AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. IT'S PART OF AN EFFORT TO MODERNIZE OUR ONLINE PRESENCE, AND BETTER CONNECT WITH PEOPLE WHERE THEY ALREADY ARE - ON SOCIAL MEDIA. IT IS KEY TO STAYING RELEVANT, AND ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY. THE RESULTS OF THAT EFFORT ARE ENCOURAGING, AND I WANTED TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU.

-ANGELA



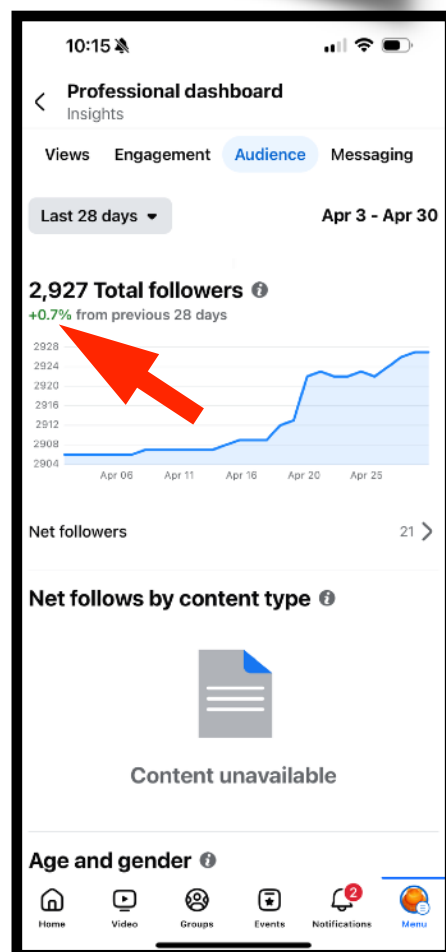
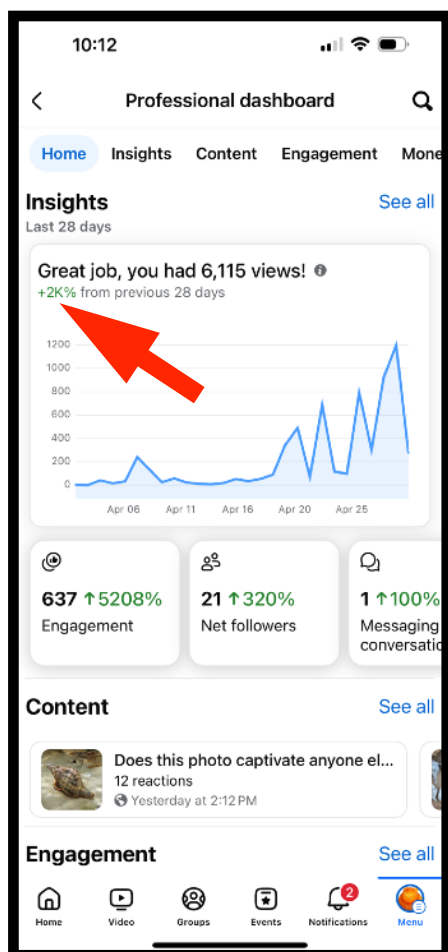
[www.gulfcoastshellclub.com](http://www.gulfcoastshellclub.com)

## WANT TO HELP?

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT:  
GULF COAST SHELL CLUB

LIKE, COMMENT, OR SHARE OUR  
FACEBOOK POST IF YOU SEE IT.

Engagement lets Facebook's  
algorithm know we are relevant.





# **Giving Back to the Ocean: The Rise of Oyster Shell Recycling**

Recently, I read an article by the New York Times on oyster shell recycling. My imagination quickly jumped ahead before I could even read the first sentence. What on earth can you do with an empty oyster shell? Apparently, a great deal of good. Oysters do more than just sit on a half shell waiting to be eaten. These slippery little mollusks are environmental powerhouses, by filtering water, protecting coastlines, and creating habitats for marine life, and surprisingly after being discarded by hungry patrons, they can continue being a powerful force.

## **What Is Oyster Shell Recycling?**

Every year, millions of oyster shells are discarded as waste by restaurants and consumers. But those shells can serve a crucial second life: they're ideal foundations for baby oysters, called spat, to latch onto and grow. Recycling programs collect used shells, cure them (typically by sun-drying to remove contaminants), and then place them back into coastal waters where they become the building blocks of new oyster reefs.

## **Why Does It Matter?**

Oyster populations have plummeted due to over-harvesting, pollution, and habitat destruction. Recycled shells help rebuild reefs that:

- **Filter and clean water** - One oyster can filter up to 50 gallons a day.
- **Protect shorelines** - Oyster reefs act as natural buffers against storm surges and erosion.
- **Support biodiversity** - Reefs attract fish, crabs, and other marine species, revitalizing coastal ecosystems.

## **Who's Leading the Charge?**

Nonprofits, local governments, and environmental groups are partnering with restaurants to make shell recycling routine. Programs like the **Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana**, **Billion Oyster Project in New York**, and others across states like Maryland and South Carolina have collected millions of pounds of shells to restore natural oyster beds.

Some coastal cities now even offer curbside shell pickup for participating businesses, turning what was once waste into an ecological resource.

## **We Have Our Own!**

I'm proud to share that our own city is part of this important movement, with the **Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance** leading our local oyster shell recycling efforts.

Oyster shell recycling is a simple, sustainable way to give back to the ocean. Whether you live on the coast or just love seafood, every shell has the potential to rebuild what's been lost—and protect our waters for future generations.



## TIDES



### **Tide Report for the month of May 2025 Provided by Don & Charity Kotval**

PER THE MOST RELIABLE TIDE FORECAST FOR PORT ST. JOE AND MEXICO BEACH, THE BEST LOW TIDES FOR SHELLING ARE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IN MAY (TIMES AFTER MIDNIGHT AND BEFORE 4AM). HOWEVER, PER THE SNAPSHOT BELOW, THERE ARE A FEW LATE AFTERNOON LOW TIDES WORTH THE TRIP TO PORT ST. JOE OR MEXICO BEACH.

THE BEST LOW TIDES IN MAY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ARE MAY 10 (SATURDAY) THROUGH MAY 13 (TUESDAY) AT TIMES BETWEEN 4:46 PM (CENTRAL TIME) AND 5:57PM (CENTRAL). MONDAY (MAY 12) OFFERS A ZERO TIDE AT 6:19PM AND TUESDAY (MAY 13) OFFERS MINUS .01 AT 6:54PM.

#### **Snapshot of Low Tide Forecast (Eastern times)**

Date		High				Low						
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
10	Sat	9:12	1.4					5:56	0.2	6:49	8:25	
11	Sun	9:47	1.6					6:41	0.1	6:49	8:26	
12	Mon	10:11	1.7					7:19	0.0	6:48	8:26	
13	Tue	10:26	1.8					7:54	-0.1	6:47	8:27	