

Shell and Tell

The newsletter of the Gulf Coast Shell Club



Argopecten irradians concentricus (Say, 1822)

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President
Phyllis Bernard

Be aware that these Spring winds bring treasures from the the sea that we don't often see. Already we have found *Janthina* washing ashore with Portuguese Man o' War, (*Physalia physalis*) which we refer to as a stinging jellyfish. It is also the season we often find Scotch Bonnets (*Semicassis granulata*) washing ashore.

Keep your eyes open as you take your beach walks and enjoy thie warm weather before it gets HOT!

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Welcome our new member!

Christine "Chris" Liddle



Daylight Saving Time begins
(March 10)
St. Particks Day (March 17)
April Fool's Day(April 1)
Tax Day (April 15)

Club Officers:

President - Phyllis Bernard
Vice President - Dave Clausen
Secretary - Luke Cooley
Corresponding Secretary - DJ Moore
Treasurer - Brant Holman
Tides - Scott Dilbeck
Membership - Phyllis Bernard
Librarian - Kathy Dilbeck
Newsletter - Linda Brunner
Raffle - Don Kittsmiller
Nametags - D. J. Moore/Carol Mitchell

Daniel “Dan” Lee Pyle



Our club has lost a friend and supporter. Daniel was the owner of Dan's Shells on Panama City Beach. He shared information, sold the club's book, and supported the club in any way he could. He was fun to talk with and once, when we were signing books for him to sell, related that he had to keep his book supply out of sight as some customers would "take" them without paying.

His family lovingly knew him as the "Cookie Monster", "Dan the Man", and "Uncle Danny". Like many shellers he was trained in a different profession before shells became his passion. He earned a degree in horticulture and was a decorated veteran.

We will miss Daniel and our visits to his store.

* * * * *

Our Latest Club Adventure

We all know what a seahorse is but have you ever been to Seahorse Key? Well, nine intrepid club members took off in early February for Cedar Key and a nautical journey to Seahorse Key. We traveled in ones, twos and threes all arriving at Park Place on 2nd Street in the village of Cedar Key. This was a different lodging as our customary one was still under repair following the hurricane that hit the island last year. We were all there in search of shells and, in particular, angel wings.

Our new digs overlooked the municipal park where families and locals gathered. We each had a porch or balcony where we could sit outside and enjoy the warm afternoon weather and view people and the water. After a short rest we all met at a local restaurant for dinner. The reviews were mixed. Most of us walked back to the motel and prepared for our early morning outing.

We were to meet our boat captain at 7 AM the following morning. It was still dark but by the time we arrived at the dock there was light in the east, not much but a glimmer. Some of us walked to the ramp and others, anticipating buckets of shells, drove so they would not have to carry those heavy, shell laden buckets two blocks back to our lodging.

The sunrise was breathtaking as we sat "On the Dock of the Bay". (I know, that was bad but I couldn't resist). As the boat capacity was limited two trips to the key were made. The first load left the dock and the remaining passengers waited for its return. The pelicans entertained us with their staturelike perches on pilings and their sudden flights. A few gulls were awake and flew about. Joggers were out and one stopped to inquire what we had caught or what was running. Sometimes it is difficult to explain that you were not fishing but were instead going shelling. Not everyone is understanding.

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**GULF COAST SHELL CLUB
2024 PROGRAMS AND REFRESHMENTS**

or
Ways to expand your mind and waistline simultaneously!

MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
March	DJ Moore & Jim Brunner	Luke Cooley & Kathy Brewton
April	Dave Clausen	Open
May	Open	Open

Coming Events

March 8-9, 2024

86th Annual Sanibel Shell Festival (Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club)
Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort
17260 Harbour Point Drive, Ft. Myers, FL

March 12, 7 PM Bay County Library
Gulf Coast Shell Club meets

April 13, 2024

FUM, Florida United Malacologists
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum
3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957
Website: <https://www.shellmuseum.org>
Contact: Dr. Jose Leal: jleal@shellmuseum.org

May 3-5, 2024

North Carolina Shell Show
Crystal Coast Civic Center
2505 Arendell St., Morehead City, NC 28557
All exhibits are full!
Website: www.ncshellclub.com

It is not too late to make reservations for COA in June!
The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is now *OPEN* !

Gulf Coast Shell Club Minutes
February 13, 2024

The Club meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Phyllis Bernard.

OLD BUSINESS

DJ Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as they were and sent out via email. LeAnne Shell seconded and they were accepted and approved by club members.

The Treasurer's Report was posted on the screen and reviewed by Jim Brunner. He requested a reimbursement for his payment for the show venue reservation, postage and our Florida incorporation fee. This totaled \$395.42. Ernie Bernard made a motion to approve reimbursement and Brant Holman seconded that motion. The motion was approved.

Discussion of the CD resulted in DJ Moore making a motion to add \$3,000 to the current CD that matures on 27 February. That will bring the CD total to \$8,000. It will mature in October, providing the club additional funds to cover expenses for the Shell Show. Luke Cooley made a motion to approve additional funds. Dave Clausen seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Brant Holman then made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as posted and Linda Brunner seconded. The report was approved.

25th Annual Shell Show dates are November 8-10, 2024. There is no chairperson(s) at this time.

The current rental storage shed has been checked for size. It is still unclear if it will accommodate our growing needs but as shells and other items are added we may need to reassess. For now, it is good to go. Jim Brunner purchased a new lock with 3 sets of keys at his own expense since the current lock had only 1 key. DJ Moore will take some storage bins to Luke Cooley for the shells that were donated to the club. Luke Cooley brought a large number of shells that have been donated for the show and need cleaning to the meeting. Members will clean them and return to her.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers was conducted. The following officers were elected:

President: Phyllis Bernard

Vice President: Dave Clausen

Secretary: Luke Cooley

Treasurer: Jim Brunner, Brant Holoman is still in training (per Brant)

Corresponding Secretary: DJ Moore

The following positions were filled by Presidential appointment:

Name Tags: DJ Moore will make them, Carol Mitchell will transport to and from meetings

Tides: Open

Book Sales: Scott Dilbeck

Membership: Phyllis Bernard

Librarian: Kathy Dilbeck

Raffle: Don Kittsmiller with assistance from Brant Holoman

Newsletter: Linda Brunner

Publicity for 2024 shell show: Jane Shepard

There was a discussion about the secretarial position. Luke Cooley agreed to accept the position and Gerry Lowther will publish the minutes. Thank you for stepping up. Gerry Lowther made a motion that the slate for club positions be approved and LeAnne Shell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

REFRESHMENTS: Provided by Phylis and Ernie Bernard.

NEXTMONTH: Program on Cedar Key trip by DJ Moore. Refreshments: Kathy Brewton and Luke Cooley.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Brunner.

PROGRAM: Shell labeling information made fun. Jim Brunner brought small cases filled with shells. Incomplete ID slips were provided and small plastic bags were given to attendees. The ID slips were incomplete. Members were required to go through the stack of non-sorted ID slips, locate the correct one to match the shells in the cases, fill in the blanks, and upon completing the tags, were allowed to select a shell from the case, place it in their provided bag and keep the shell. Members were given 20 minutes to complete the task. Learning scientific names was the goal.

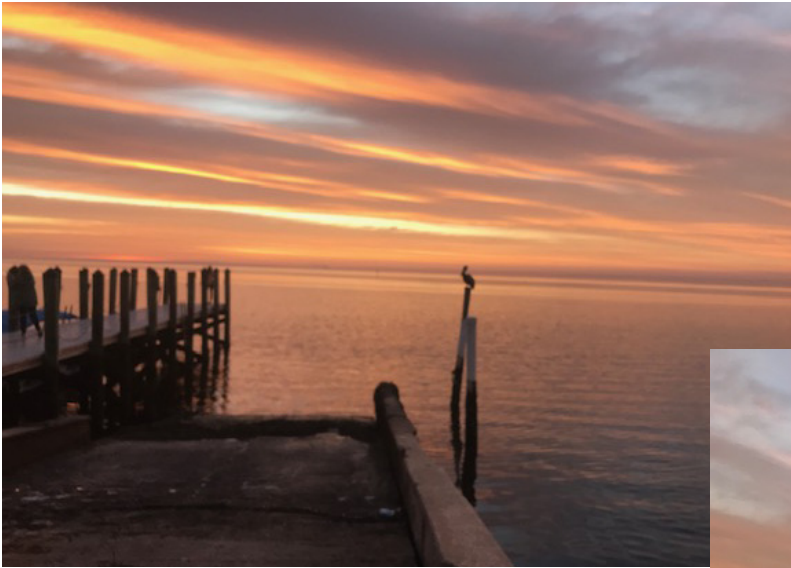
Respectfully submitted,
DJ Moore, Secretary (outgoing)

Rainy Afternoons

Need something to do on a rainy afternoon? Jim Brunner spent one such afternoon matching and glueing 225 valves together. And, yes, one was left over. The shell is *Lirophora latilirata* (Conrad, 1841), the Imperial Venus. These were collected during the scallop dredging here in the late 1980s.



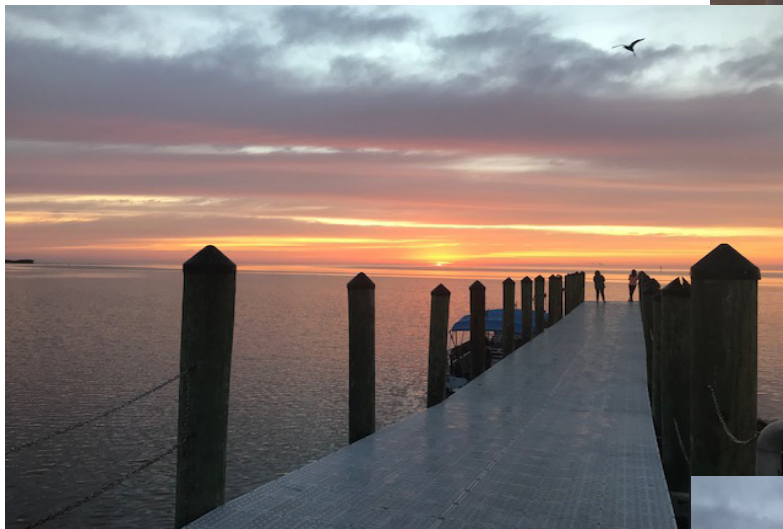
The sun rises as we wait on the dock.



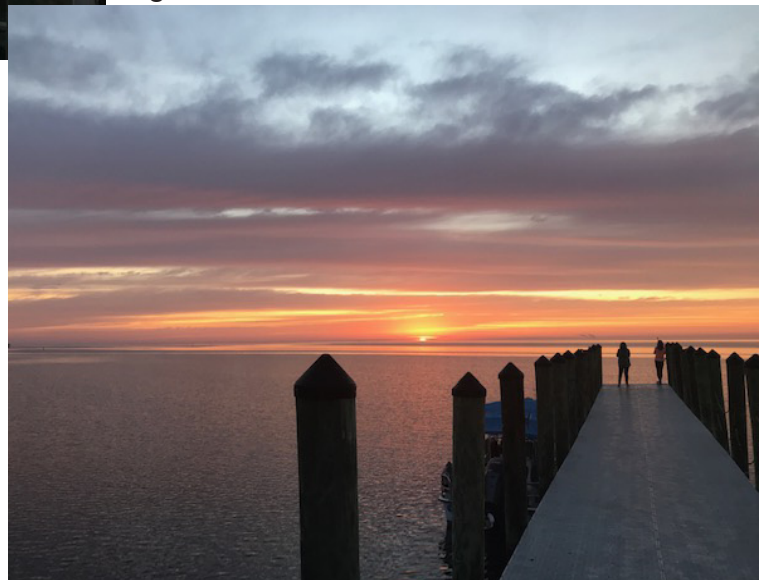
It's getting brighter, three pelicans are waiting.....



There's part of it.....



It's out and we can see our boat coming round the bend!





We arrive at Seahorse Key and the tide is still going out. Perfect! If you look in the upper right of the photo you can see Cedar Key in the distance.



As we disembark, not always in a graceful manner, the tide gets further out and shells can be found. Notice the trail in the center foreground.

The bottom was different two years ago. There was more grass in this area. Hurricanes do make changes.



Trails and shells are not the only things we found. I want to know who left their cheerio on the key! Did they think the shells needed breakfast?



Bundled against the early morning elements we prowled the bar. One of us was lucky enough to find a seat on which to rest.

Right: Back on the dock we are greeted by our mascot "Boo".



We compared finds. The tide is coming in and it is time to call the captain.

Carol won with her nice whelk (*Sinistrofulgur sinistrum*).



We found several different species. The Pear Whelk (*Fulguopsis spirata*) was found by Carol.

Only one angel wing was dug. Come to the meeting on Tuesday if you want to know who the lucky person was and see more about the trip.



We bid farewell to Cedar Key until the next trip.

Birthday shells:

March. Your shell sign is an olive. You are active and courageous, intuitive and kind.

April. Your shell sign is a wentletrap, a symbol of eternity. You possess a clear mind and quick wit.