

Shell and Tell

The newsletter of the Gulf Coast Shell Club



Argopecten irradians concentricus (Say, 1822)

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President
Phyllis Bernard

September went out like a lion, with a storm that did a lot of damage but it might have brought in some great shell hunting. The show was great! The exhibits were wonderful! It is through the generosity of club members that we are able to supply such good meals for all participants in the shell show, and, for this I would like to thank you all.

Our Christmas party is soon. The club is supplying the meat and everyone is asked to bring a side dish. See details in this issue.

Phyllis



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Welcome our new members!

Leslie Beaver
Angela Cummings
Donald Dan
Terrie D. Ortiz
George & Crickett Pimentel
Peg Small
Bernadette Wallace
Linda Zylman & Dave Holzinger



Club Officers:

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

Remembering CJ Eubank

Beach in the Sky

I knew that moment was coming
When I'd have to say goodbye.
It was just too soon for you to join the beach in the sky.
Waves of tears and sorrow splash across my face
because now I know you finally finished your race.
I know we're all in pain but, wow, look at Heaven's gain.
You get to spend every day
looking for shells and washing all your worries away.
I know it's not going to be the same and I hate that life pulled this silly game.
But as I walk the beach here on Earth,
I start to feel peace, for what it's worth.
As I see the beach in the sky
I know that's where I'll find you. I know that's where you'll be.
I just hope you know I'll be picking up every flat I see.
Your laughter was contagious, your smile even more.
I know I'll always think about you while I'm shelling from the shore.

Rest easy my friend. Until we meet again.



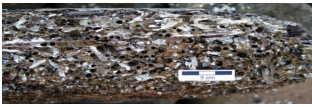
Love,
Katelyn



Seahorse
by CJ Eubank



We are all better for having had the opportunity to share a brief part of CJ's journey.



SHIPWORMS ARE OUR FRIENDS?

Sailors and pier builders of old would have violently disagreed with that idea. Indeed, members of the Teredinidae family such as *Teredo navalis* or *Bankia carinata* have long been viewed as a scourge by anyone who put wooden things into salt waters. Ships have sunk and wharfs have collapsed all due to the eating preferences of this mollusk. Its existence and effects have been known for millennia. What hasn't been known is how it goes about the process of converting lignin (the hardest element of wood) into food. Now researchers from the University of Massachusetts Amherst have identified a digestive enzyme produced by bacteria lining the gut wall that allows this to happen. This could lead to advances in pharmaceuticals and carbon capture technology. So, this tiny member of the mollusk family, long famous for its destructive powers, could aid in solutions that save us and the planet. Wow!

Some of the source data for this article was found in **The Week**, Volume 24, Issue 1190-1191, July 5-12, 2024

THE CITIZEN SCIENTIST

As much as we would like it, we can't all be professional malacologists. Yet, over the centuries, some of the most knowledgeable and astute observers of the molluscan world have been amateurs. That list would certainly include the late Harry Lee of Jacksonville as one of many individuals who have made major contributions to the science of malacology. Further down that list you would find amateurs like yourself who noticed something unusual or different and sent it off to the pros for identification and study. That happened in 1986 when club founder Bob Granda collected a *Cantharus multangulus* (now *Hesperisternia multangulus*) that didn't have multiple angles on its shell. He sent it off to Dr. R. Tucker Abbott for identification, who described it as a new species, *Hesperisternia grandanus* Abbott, 1986.

The club's species list is another example of amateurs supporting the professionals. The list is updated and republished biannually, allowing the professionals to map the broader location of species in the Florida-Caribbean. This is why shells like *Amaea mitchelli* or Mitchel's Wentletrap are now known to exist east of the Mississippi River and not just in Texas.

Recently Dr. Jose Leal, Science Director & Curator, at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel Island was involved in a project to record and photograph dextral examples of the left handed Lightning Whelk, *Sinistrofulgur sinistrum*. (Note: When you hold a shell with the spire up and the opening facing you, if the opening is on the right it has a dextral aperture. If it is on the left it is a sinistral aperture. Thus, a Lightning Whelk should have its opening on the left.)

As we had collected a dextral one in November, 1981 in St Joe Bay, we boxed it up and sent it south. The photo taken is below.

No matter your degree of interest, your hobby makes you citizen scientist.



It's Christmas Party Time!

In reviewing the past year we have been an impressive team. We braved extreme temperatures, made a trip to Cedar Key, had a working picnic, and survived another shell show. Pat yourself on the back and take a bow. It was a very good year.

Now it is time to relax and have a social gathering instead of a meeting. There will be no treasurer's report, no minutes and no motions or banging of gavels. On Sunday, December 8 we will gather at 1PM to eat and play. The place is Parkway Presbyterian Church on 505 S. Tyndall Parkway (Thanks, DJ). There is parking and the meeting room entrance at the rear of the church. The club will furnish meat and members bring side dishes. If you are unsure what to bring call Phyllis Bernard ((850) 532-5521). The club has plates, utensils, cups and napkins. If you bring a dish that needs a serving utensil, please bring one. Since everyone did not get fresh baked bread last year maybe the baker can find his way to a repeat performance?

We also have "The Game". Some call it "Yankee Trader" but if you want to play bring a wrapped gift that is shell or shell related costing \$15.00 or less. Someone will take it from you when you arrive and you will get a number to remember. If you are in to stealing someone else's gift, bring quarters for it will cost you. It is all in great fun. If you choose not to play that is fine. You may stay and watch the others .

I hope to see you on December 8th!



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

or
Ways to expand your mind and waistline simultaneously!

MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
December	Christmas party (Sunday, December 8th, 1PM Parkway Presbyterian Church, 505 S. Tyndall Pkwy) No regular meeting	Bring a covered dish
January	Dave Clausen	Jane Shepherd
February	In Club Show*	Open

Coming:

COA in Corpus Christi, July 7 - 12, 2025

*See p. 9

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR FALL WARDROBE

In case you were planning to add some woolen attire for this winters season, you might consider something made of “sea wool”. Eddie Wang of Taiwan has figured out how to convert oyster shells into a flexible fiber very similar to wool. No word on exactly how the process works, but with 176,000 tons of oyster shells being discarded every year it seems like a good idea. You shouldn’t expect it to show up on Walmart shelves anytime soon. Eddie produces only 1000 tons of thread a year.

Info in part from, **The Week** magazine, 3 September 2024



The judges with Lola Amshoff and one of her many awards.



Kathy Dilbeck loving the artistic displays.

RESULTS OF THE 2024 GULF COAST SHELL SHOW

SCIENTIFIC DIVISION AWARDS

Conchologists of America Trophy: Linda Brunner, World Wide Worms
DuPont Trophy: Jeannette Tysor & Ed Shuler, Oh Death Where is Thy Sting
Vokes Trophy: Karlynn Morgan, A Bygone Experience: The Halcyon Days of Scallop Pile Shell Collecting
Helen Norton Award: Linda Zylman, Self-Collected Cones of the Caribbean
Most Educational: Wanda Coker, Collecting Shells
Frozen Dip Net Award: Lola Amshoff, Self-collected Specimens of Southeast Florida
Founder's Award: Linda Zylman, Self-Collected Cones of the Caribbean
Student Award: Lola Amshoff, Sea Beans and Sand Dollars
Shell of the Show: Steve Coker, *Svertia gladiator*
Self-Collected Shell of the Show: Linda Zylman, *Pholadomya candida*
Member Collected Shell of the Show : Lola Amshoff, *Plicopapura patula*
Exhibitor's Award: Dave & Linda Green, Pectens Around The World in Color, Beauty & Patterns

Scientific Division Ribbon Awards

Category:

Novice: No entries

Northwest Florida:

1st: Amshoff, Lola **Frozen Dip Net Award**

One Large Family:

1st: Lowther, Gerry

2nd: Clausen, Dave

3rd: Mitchell, Carol

Subfamily: No entries

One Small Family:

1st: Coker, Steve

2nd: Coker, Wanda

3rd: Berschauer, David

Honorable Mention: Berschauer, David

Florida-Caribbean:

1st: Zylman, Linda **Helen Norton Trophy and Founder's Trophy**

2nd: Brunner, Jim

3rd: Berschauer, David

Honorable Mention: Amshoff, Lola

Worldwide Multi-Family:

1st: Brunner, Linda, **Conchologists of America Trophy**

2nd: Berschauer, David

One Genus:

1st: Jeannette Tysor/Ed Shuler, **DuPont Trophy**

Self-Collected:

1st: Holman, Brant

2nd: Mitchell, Carol

3rd: Moore, DJ

Specialized: No entries

Single Specimen (Any Source):

1st: Coker, Steven **Shell-of-the-Show** (*Svertia gladiator*)

1st: Berschauer, David

2nd: Morgan, Karlynn

3rd: Berschauer, David



A beaming COA President, Karlynn Morgan, with the judges, Richard Goldberg and Roger Portell as she accepts the Vokes Trophy.



Rich Goldberg, Lynda Zylman, and Roger Portell as she receives the self-collected shell of the show award for *Pholadomya candida*, a rare bivalve.

Honorable Mention: Jacobs, John & Cheryl Jacobs

Single Specimen (Self-Collected):

1st: Zylman, Linda **Self-collected Shell of the Show** (Pholadamyra candida)

2nd: Holzinger, David

3rd: Amshoff, Lola

Member Collected Shell of The Show:

1st: Dilbeck, Scott

2nd: Lowther, Gerry

3rd: Amshoff, Indy

Educational:

1st: Green, Dave & Linda

1st: Coker, Wanda Most Educational

2nd: Morgan, Karlynn Vokes Trophy

3rd: Berschauer, David

Minature:

1st: Amshoff, Evie

Student:

1st: Amshoff; Lola, Student Award

Non-Marine Mollusks:

1st: Granda, Bob

Sea Life:

1st: Amshoff, Lola

2nd: Dilbeck, Kathy

3rd: Hofstad, Kathy

Honorable Mention: Johnson, Al

Fossil:

1st: Jacobs, John & Cheryl

2nd: Dilbeck, Kathy

3rd: Hofstad, Kathy

Creative:

1st: Zylman, Linda

Professional: No entries

Beach Shells: No entries



Linda & Dave Green with their award winning pectens. Fellow exhibitors also awarded them the Exhibitor's Award.



The two other members of the amazing Amshoff team are Evie(left) the Indy (right).

ARTISTIC DIVISION AWARDS

Artistic Excellence Award: Julie Pounders

Originality Award: Patty Humbird

Student Artistic Award: Lola Amshoff

Artistic Division Ribbon Awards

Category:

Shellcraft:

1st: Howard, Katelyn

2nd: Pounders, Julie

3rd: Howard, Katelyn

HM: Howard, Katelyn

Shell Needlework: (NO ENTRIES)

Shell Needlework (Kit)

1st: Green, Linda

2nd: Humbird, Patty



Brant Holman and his self-collected beauties.

HM: Dyslin Charyl

HM: Moore, DJ

Shell Photography:

Professional: (No Entries)

1st: Howard, Katelyn
2nd: Jacobs, John
3rd: Howard, Katelyn
HM: Clausen, David

Wreaths/Wall Hanging (Not Christmas)

1st: Howard, Katelyn
2nd: Howard, Katelyn
3rd: Howard, Katelyn

Shell Mirrors:

HM: Howard, Katelyn

Shell Decorated Objects:

1st: Howard, Katelyn
2nd: Howard, Katelyn
3rd: Howard, Katelyn
HM: Howard, Katelyn

Christmas Related Items:

1st: Pounders, Julie
2nd: Riley, Susan

Flower Arrangements:

1st: Howard, Kathy
2nd: Howard, Kathy
3rd: Howard, Kathy

Jewelry and Personal Accessories:

1st: Howard, Kathy
2nd: Howard, Kathy
3rd: Howard, Kathy

Sailor's Valentine:

1st Dilbeck, Kathy
2nd: Howard, Kathy
3rd Pounders, Julie
HM: Howard, Kathy
HM: Howard, Kathy

Shell Paintings (No entries)

Created Shells:

1st: Humbird, Patty

Student Shell Craft:

1st: Amshoff, Lola
2nd: Amshoff, Evie

Drawing:



Hope you didn't miss Carol Mitchell display of artifacts!



The dynamic Coker Duo went back to Texas with a few more awards.



Charyl and Al and Al's display on local sealife.

The Inclub Show

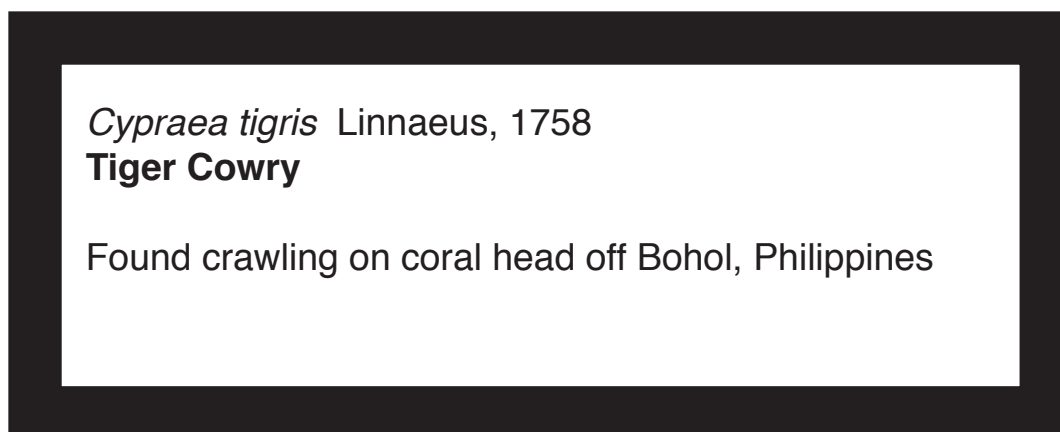
By popular demand we will have our inclub show in February at the regular meeting. So you, the members, are the program. Here is how it works. Winners in all divisions will receive ribbons (1st, 2nd & 3rd). Ballots will be provided.

Division one: This is the snail parade. See the example on the following page. Bring a created snail that you like and members will vote on their favorites.

Division two: Artistic or craft consists of objects made from shells or objects decorated with shells. This may also include paintings, jewelry, and shell stitchery. The same judging criteria will apply as in Division one. See examples on next page.

Division two: Scientific. This is a one case exhibit of shells you wish to share. It may be some you bought, found on the beach or some that fit a theme you chose. The example on the following is shells that were collected in one day. You may also exhibit shells from the dump at Ace. Each shell must be identified and have an appropriate label with the shell's scientific name, author and date with where the shell was found. The scientific name must be in italics. You may also include the common name. Use the club book for local shell identification. All the info except where you found the shells is in the book. These shells must be in a case covered with glass or plexiglass. You may or may not have a backboard. NOTE: If you do not have a case you may borrow one from a member. The Brunners have several that are not being used so just call them and pick one up to use or find one from another member.

Label example:



Please participate as the program will be what we make it to be. Good luck!
No names may appear on any exhibit before voting.



Division One

A parade of your favorite snail replicas.

We will vote for the:

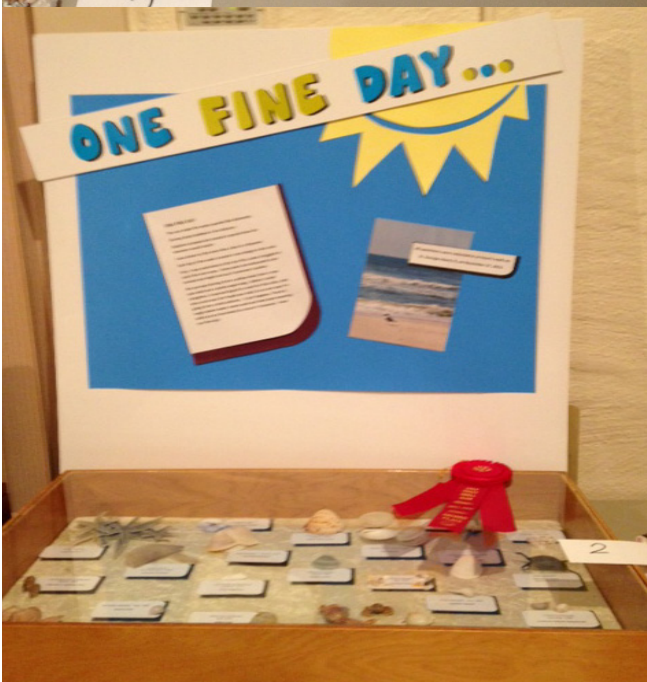
most elegant
most useful
cutest
most beautiful
ugliest
most creative
most colorful



Division Two

Artistic

Things made from shells and/or objects decorated with shells, drawings, photography, shells made from material that is not from a shell as in wire or carved from wood.



Division Three

Scientific

Take a theme and build from it.

Examples:

pink shells
hearts shaped shells
A walk on the beach
My favorite shells
Shells named for people

Each shell must have a label.



Even judges get to relax!
Meg and Rich



Ernie checking out the exhibits.



Ed and Jeannette's paralyzing award
winning exhibit.



David took an indepth look at a few spots
and a few shells.

2025 Shows coming up fast. Start making plans!

January 18-19, 2025
Astronaut Trail Shell Club Festival, Melbourne, Florida (shell show)
Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Avenue, Eau Gallie, FL 32935
Contacts: BJ Shouppé; email: bj.shouppé@yahoo.com Phone: 321-725-9991
Website: spacecoastseashells.com

January 25-26, 2025
58th Annual Broward Shell Show, Pompano Beach, FL
E. Pat Larkins Community Center, 520 NW 3rd Street, Pompano Beach, FL
Contacts: Alice Pace; Email: alicepace90@att.net Tel: 305-301-1296
Linda Sunderland; Email: klshells@mindspring.com Tel: 954-257-8701
Website: browardshellclub.org

February 7-8, 2025
61st Annual Sarasota Shell Show, Sarasota, FL
Potter Building at Roberts Arena, 2896 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL
Contact: Ron Bopp; email: rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com Tel: 918-527-0589
Website: sarasotashellclub.com

February 21-22, 2025
76th St. Petersburg Shell Show
Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th Street North, Seminole, Florida
Website: stpeteshellclub.org Facebook
Email: stpeteshellclub@gmail.com



The worms win COA!



The sun sets on another good show!