

# Tidelines

May 2017

St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc.

Web site: [stpeteshellclub.org](http://stpeteshellclub.org)

Shell Club meetings are held on the first Friday of the month, except June, July and August, at the **Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th Street North, Seminole**. The doors open at 6:30p.m. and the meetings start at 7:00 p.m. The public is always invited.



## Scientists find a new crustacean

A newly discovered species of shrimp found off Panama's Pacific coast that uses a bright pink claw to create a sound loud enough to kill small fish has been named for Pink Floyd., dubbed *Synalpheus pinkfloydi*. Researchers Sammy De Grave says the description of the shrimp was "the perfect opportunity to finally give a nod to my favorite band".

Now there's a new species of shrimp, named after Pink Floyd, that can kill fish by making a loud noise. *Synalpheus pinkfloydi* rapidly opens then snaps closed its large claw, creating a sound that can reach up to 210 decibels — louder than a typical rock concert and loud enough to kill small fish nearby. Dr. Sammy DeGrave, head of research at Oxford University Museum of Natural History, says the inspiration for the shrimp's name was really the color of its claw: pink.

### References:

Tampa Bay Time April 14, 2017

NPR Music April 12, 2017 WUSF



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello fellow collectors.

With our May meeting on the 5th we are closing out our current season. We have had some great times, as well as, some sad times. I want to thank Tamara Holzworth for stepping up and assuming the Treasurer's duties. She has already begun sorting out everything, and we are on the right track towards financial stability. Thank you, Tamara!

We'll be voting for our new slate of officers at the May meeting, so I hope you can make the meeting.

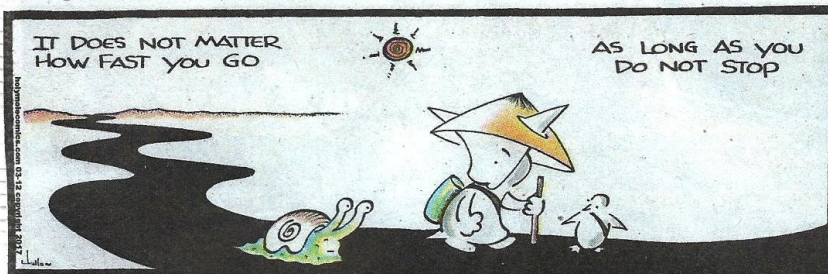
With our summer break, I hope you all have a great and safe 3 months before our September meeting rolls around. Find great shells in the sea, freshwater, and on land. Then write about them for the *Tidelines*. We all want to know what treasures you found for your collection.

Cheryl and I are looking forward to the Key West COA convention in August. We are busy selecting items for the 5 Silent Auctions during this great event. Even if you are not registered for the convention you can still participate in what is going to be a great Oral Auction, and, of course, the Dealers Bourse. Hope to see you there!

Keep shelling, my friends.

**John**

## Holy Mole | by Rick Hotton



### Club Officers and Committees

President John Jacobs; Vice President Robert Gould; Recording Secretary Sandy Boddy & Cheryl Jacobs; Treasurer Betty Lipe; Newsletter Editor Cheryl Jacobs; Directors at Large: Peggy Dill, Marilyn Wall, Jane McKinney, Meredith Myers; COA Representative John Jacobs; Refreshments Open; Photographer John Jacobs; Field Trips Entire Board; Corresponding Secretary John Jacobs; E-mail contacts John Jacobs; Director of Education Open; Shell Show Cheryl Jacobs & Betty Lipe; Webmaster Bill Hoefer; Annual Picnic open; Raffle/Door Prizes Cheryl Jacobs & Peggy Dill; Facebook Cheryl Jacobs & Betty Lipe.

Tides are for Mullet Key Channel (Skyway). Other specific locations may be up to 2 hours later or earlier. Listings from [saltwatertides.com](http://saltwatertides.com).

## Forecast Minus Tides

### May

2 Tue 12:16AM -0.2  
3 Wed 1:25AM -0.1  
10 Wed 7:20PM -0.1  
11 Thu 7:53PM -0.2  
12 Fri 8:28PM -0.2  
13 Sat 9:06PM -0.2  
14 Sun 9:46PM -0.2  
15 Mon 10:37PM -0.1  
24 Wed 6:30PM -0.3  
25 Thu 7:15PM -0.5  
26 Fri 8:10PM -0.5  
27 Sat 9:02PM -0.5  
28 Sun 9:56PM -0.4  
29 Mon 10:51PM -0.3  
30 Tue 11:46PM -0.1

### June

7 Wed 6:36PM -0.1  
8 Thu 7:10PM -0.1  
9 Fri 7:43PM -0.2  
10 Sat 8:17PM -0.2  
11 Sun 8:53PM -0.2  
12 Mon 9:31PM -0.2  
13 Tue 10:11PM -0.2  
21 Wed 5:33PM -0.2  
22 Thu 6:25PM -0.4  
23 Fri 7:16PM -0.5  
24 Sat 8:05PM -0.5  
25 Sun 8:52PM -0.4  
26 Mon 9:38PM -0.3  
27 Tue 10:23PM -0.1

### July

8 Sat 7:29PM -0.1  
9 Sun 8:02PM -0.1  
10 Mon 8:34PM -0.1  
11 Tue 9:07PM -0.1  
20 Thu 5:26PM -0.1  
21 Fri 6:19PM -0.3  
22 Sat 7:07PM -0.3  
23 Sun 7:51PM -0.3  
24 Mon 8:31PM -0.1

The last minus low tide till Fall

### UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS

Mar 2-4 **80th ANNUAL SANIBEL SHELL FAIR** Sanibel Community Center. Mary Burton—marybsanibel@hotmail.com

Mar 9-11 **MARCO ISLAND SHELL SHOW XXXV** United Church of Marco Island. Jae Kellogg—pjsailkw@gmail.com

Mar 11-12 **TAMPA BAY FOSSIL CLUB FOSSIL FEST** Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL

Jun. 10-11 **GULF COAST SHELL SHOW** Panama City Beach, Panama City Beach Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane. Jim Brunner - jili@knology.net

Jul 16-21 **AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING** Newark, DE, University of Delaware, Newark E-mail—akittle@delmnh.org <http://www.delmnh.org/ams2017>

Aug 15-19 **CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA CONVENTION** Key West, FL Double Tree by Hilton—Grand Key Resort 3990 S. Roosevelt Blvd. Greg Curry—beechnutkw@aol.com or Ed Shuller - eshuller@mindspring.com

Aug 26-27 **2nd ANNUAL WEST COAST SHELL SHOW** San Diego, CA Casa Del Prado Rm 101, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park David Berschauer—shellcollection@hotmail.com

Courtesy of Donald Dan and others

#### *Upcoming Club Meetings*

6:30pm Meet and Greet, 7pm Meeting

**May 2** Meeting of Suncoast Conchologists

**May 5** Regular Meeting TBA The May meeting is our last meeting of the season and we will start back up in September.

**May 26** Field trip We are having a night time field trip to South Skyway Bridge area. Meet at 7pm see more on page

**June 24** Field trip We are having a night time field trip to South Skyway Bridge area. Meet at 7pm, see more on page

### **In Memorium: A Loss to the Shell World.**

Peggy Williams passed away on March 16.

A lifelong Floridian, she collected shells for over 45 years by wading, snorkeling and diving. She has won many awards at Shell Shows, judged shows, written articles for popular shelling magazines, travelled extensively to collect shells, and her business has been guiding shell collecting trips for well over 35 years. She has been a dealer at our Shell Show for many years. I took this picture from her latest trip flyer.



### **Member News:**

Roni Mucci has moved up to Ohio. She will be closer to her children and grand children. We wish her well and happiness. Shelling will be a challenge, but she will find a way. Good Luck.

### **THE SHELL COLLECTOR'S CODE OF ETHICS**

I realize that molluscs are part of our precious national wildlife resources, therefore:

I WILL make every effort to protect and preserve them not only for my own future enjoyment, but for the benefit of generations to come.

I WILL always leave every shelling spot as undisturbed as possible.

I WILL take only those specimens needed for my collection and for exchange at the time... Shells in a box cannot reproduce while I am waiting for a place to send them.

I WILL leave behind the damaged and the young specimens so that they may live and multiply.

I WILL **NOT** collect live egg cases unless they are to be used for study, and then, only in small quantities.

I WILL **NEVER** "clean out a colony" of shells.

I WILL practice and promote these conservation rules in every way possible.



## Club Field Trip Information:

We are scheduling 2 night time field trips. They will both be -0.5 low tides at around 8pm. We will be meeting at the same location and time for both. The first one is on **Friday May 26** and the second is **Saturday June 24**.

**Location:** South end of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, by the picnic table at the entrance to the parking lot for the rest area.

**Time:** meet at 7pm so we have about an hour to shell before the low tide returns.

If you wish to bring a picnic dinner and eat before we go out there is room there, be sure to arrive before 7 so we can go out at 7pm. I don't know what we will find since this is our first night time trip. But bring **Flashlights** and the usual, bucket or bag, gloves if you don't like touching things, old tennis shoes or beach shoes to walk in sand and muck, and **bug spray**. A change of clothes in case you get wet.

Contact John at [johncheryl@earthlink.net](mailto:johncheryl@earthlink.net) to sign up or sign up at meeting..

**Williams Farm Field trip in April 2018.** We will have more info later.

## The Pinto Abalone Family: Haliotidae *Haliotis kamtschatkana* By Sandy Boddy



After purchasing an abalone shell from Alaska, at our recent St. Petersburg Shell Show, I was curious to know more about the holes in the shell, why it has so many colors in it, and how does the abalone protect itself from predators when the animal would be so exposed.



Adfg.alaska.gov image

It's not your typical spiraling gastropod, nor is it a bivalve that would have 2 shell sides for added protection. In fact, it has no operculum. It is a one piece shell, a gastropod, from the family Haliotidae.

The oval shell has generally 3-6 holes in it, and can grow up to 6", although 4" is more common. The low open spiral shell has several open raised respiratory pores in a row near the shells outer edge. They are used for venting water from the gills and for releasing sperm and eggs into the water. Older holes are gradually sealed up as the shell grows and new holes are formed. This shell has 3 raised open pores and 8 sealed pores.

The pebbly appearing surface or exterior of the shell is striated and has mottled dull colors, similar to their habitat. The color of the abalone shell varies from species to species and is a result of the animals diet. The color banding is due to changes in the types of algae eaten. Abalone larvae feed on plankton until the shell begins to form. The juveniles feed on rock-encrusting coralline algae and on diatom and bacterial films. The adult molluscs are herbivorous, and feed on macroalgae with their radula. The abalone prefer red and brown algae such as giant kelp, elk kelp, bull kelp and seaweed. They also scrape pieces of algae and other plant material from rock surfaces and eat loose algae drifting with the ocean's current.

The adult abalone cling solidly with their large muscular foot to rocky surfaces. It takes a special tool to pry them off the rock. They do not move around a lot. They are eaten by sea otters, sea stars, crabs, and octopus.

Abalone can only be taken from April through November, but not in July when they spawn. A 1-1/2" abalone may spawn 10,000 eggs at one time. An 8" abalone may spawn 11 million at one time. The diver needs breath holding or snorkeling equipment to get abalone. Scuba diving is prohibited. The limit is 3 abalone at one time.

In 2014, the Pinto abalone was put on the endangered list. It may become extinct in 200 years because of carbon dioxide production. The reduced pH erodes their shells.

Farming abalone began in the 1950's and 1960's in Japan and China. Since the 1990's, abalone is farmed in Canada, United States, Australia, France, South Africa, and other countries because of the high demand for both the meat and mother-of-pearl. The mother-of-pearl is used in decorative objects such as furniture and table items, jewelry, buttons, inlay for guitars, and other items.

The Flesh of abalone is eaten raw or cooked. In 1920 a serving of abalone would cost \$7.00, by 2004 \$75.00! The Pinto abalone is one of the smallest species of abalones living about 15 years. It is the only abalone found in Alaska.

# Pigbutt worm

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **pigbutt worm** or **flying buttocks** (*Chaetopterus pugaporcinus*) is a species of worm found by scientists at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. The worm is round in shape, approximately 10 to 20 millimeters in length (roughly the size of a hazelnut), and bears a strong resemblance to a disembodied pair of buttocks. Because of this, it was given a Latin species name that roughly translates to "resembling a pig's rear."

The worm has been observed residing just below the oxygen minimum zone (OMZ) between 875 and 1,200 meters (2,800 to 4,000 feet) deep — even when the sea floor is significantly deeper. The worms are neutrally buoyant, and have been observed floating along with their mouth parts facing downward, and their hind parts towards the ocean surface. As these worms have shown no ability to swim or otherwise propel



Pinterest.com image

themselves through the water, and have no long, protruding appendages to catch prey with, they must rely on filter feeding to survive. Current theories suggest that they reside in the oxygen minimum zone because of its cornucopia of detritus and marine snow, and that the worms produce clouds of mucous to capture particles of food and "snow," which they later draw into their mouths and ingest. *C. pugaporcinus* has been found to feed mainly on pelagic phytoplankton, as well as pelagic foraminiferans, silicoflagellates, dinoflagellates, and marine protists.

The worm has a segmented body, but the middle segments are highly inflated, giving the animal a round shape. These morphological characteristics are unique among chaetopterids. It is unknown whether the specimens found to date were adult or larval forms. As chaetopterid worms do not spend a predetermined amount of time as planktonic larva, it is possible that the specimens found were actually larva that had simply been unable to settle in an appropriate benthic habitat for their species. Their unusual size (five to ten times larger than any known chaetopterid larvae) might indicate they were adults, but all currently known species of chaetopterid adults prefer to live in the benthic environment, and live in parchment-like tubes on the sea floor. Comparison to larval morphology has indicated that the specimens have a close relationship to either genus *Chaetopterus* or genus *Mesochaetopterus*, and a phylogenetic tree constructed from mitochondrial and ribosomal DNA sequences from twelve different Chaetopteridae worms found them to be most closely related to other worms of the *Chaetopterus* genus.

In laboratory settings, *C. pugaporcinus* has been found to produce bioluminescence when physically stimulated. This bioluminescence is produced as a bright blue light that endures for 3 to 6 seconds. Additionally, the worm will produce very small bioluminescent green particles that are dispersed into its mucous cloud, and glow for 1 to 2 seconds before fading



Quietimg.com image



Wired.com image

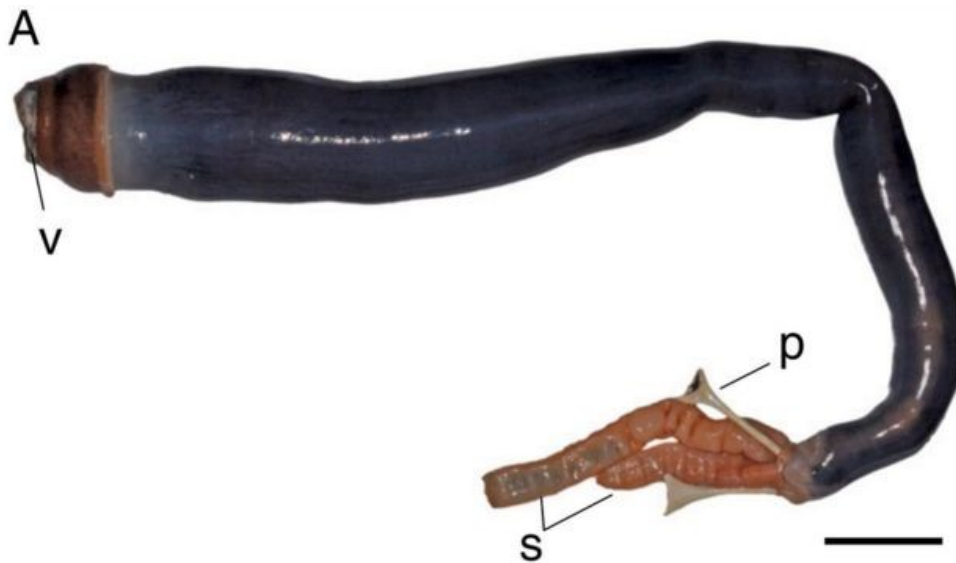
## References:

- Halanych, Kenneth M.; Cox, L. Nicole; Struck, Torsten H. (2007). "A brief review of holopelagic annelids". *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. **47** (6): 872–9. doi:10.1093/icb/icm086. PMID21669766.
- Osborn, Karen J.; Rouse, Greg W.; Goffredi, Shana K.; Robison, Bruce H. (2007). "Description and Relationships of *Chaetopterus pugaporcinus*, an Unusual Pelagic Polychaete (Annelida, Chaetopteridae)". *The Biological Bulletin*. **212** (1): 40–54. doi:10.2307/25066579. PMID 17301330. Lay summary – Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (7 March 2007).

# Live, long and black giant shipworm found in Philippines

BBC NEWS Posted on Facebook by Jose Coltro April 18, 2018

Scientists have found live specimens of the rare giant shipworm for the first time, in the Philippines. Details of the creature, which can reach up to 1.55m (5ft) in length and 6cm (2.3in) in diameter, were published in a US science journal (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences). The giant shipworm spends its life encased in a hard shell, submerged head-down in mud, which it feeds on. Though its existence has been known for years, no living specimen had been studied until now. Despite its name, the giant shipworm is actually a bivalve—the same group as clams and mussels. The worms were once found all over the globe, but the team does not know how many are left. A TV station aired a short documentary segment about strange shellfish living in a lagoon. The video shows the scientists cutting off one end of a shipworm's shell, before gently shaking it out. A long slimy black creature is seen sliding out of the tube-like shell. Surprised by its jet-black color because most bivalves are light cream color. Previously, the best information they had was based off drawings of a poorly-preserved dead specimen from the 1960's. The creature belongs to the shipworm family, whose members are usually much smaller. They burrow in and feed on rotting wood. The giant shipworm is unique not just for its size, but also for feeding on mud and marine sediment instead, using a type of bacteria. The worm has bacteria that live inside its shell, converting chemicals from the nearby rotting wood into energy and nutrients, similar to what plants do with sunlight.



Also from a Facebook post by The Washington Post April 17, 2017

*Kuphus polythalamia* The giant shipworm feed from a valve (marked V) and has two siphons at its tail (marked S) to take in and expel water.



## Field Trip to Bailey-Matthews

On April 17, there were 11 club members from Suncoast and St Pete that traveled down to Sanibel to visit the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum. We



Tamara and mom Heidi

More on page 7





WOW!  
Check this  
Out

## We have a new e-mail

We set up a gmail account for the club. We can use this email for any and all club business. It will be put on all of our membership forms and other club flyers.

Stpeteshellclub@gmail.com

## Field trip continued:

had a great time visiting with Dr. Jose Leal. He gave us a behind the scenes tour. We learned about how they catalogue shells, an ever changing and improving system. We spent time exploring all the new exhibits downstairs on the main floor. John and I also went downstairs for the last Tank talk of the day. And don't forget the gift shop, you always have to stop and shop or just look at all the beautiful items.

## Shells – Crafts – Bags – Florida Books



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Robert, Betty and Ken Lipe

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premises

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**Monday thru Saturday**

### May

1 – Jerry Puigdomenech, Jr.  
16 – Tina Murders  
20 – Roger Smith  
23 – Mary Ellen Akers

### June

5 – Sandy Boddy  
7 – Maureen Keefe  
12 – Julie Benedict-Dolney  
13 – Karla Mason  
17 – Roni Mucci

### July

11 – Elaine Smith  
28 – Peggiann Ankrom  
28 – Melanie Thoenes

### Aug

3 – William Turner  
11 – Gloria Gould  
15 – Bob Linn  
27 – Wayne Humbird  
28 – Linda Spiegel  
29 – Cheryl Jacobs

# Happy Birthdays



**St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc.**  
**Founded 1936**  
**Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00**  
**Family \$20 (1 copy of TIDELINES per household)**

Meetings are held on the 1st Friday of the month, except June, July and August, at the **Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th Street North, Seminole**. Meetings start at 7:00p.m. and include educational short programs, social times, opportunities to identify shells, and a main program on some aspect of the shell collecting hobby. The club publishes "**TIDELINES**" 5-6 times a year with a special edition at Shell Show time. The membership year begins Jan 1st and dues are delinquent after Apr 1st. Please make your check payable to the St. Petersburg Shell Club.

Return the application to the membership chairperson at the address below.

Please complete—Detach and Return

New Member: Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_  
Renewal: Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Shell Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

If you use another address part of the year, please list where & when here:

**Donation to the Awards and Ribbons Fund for the Shell Show**

Print as you want to be listed.

Return to: Membership Chairperson  
P. O. Box 3472  
Seminole, FL 33775-3472

Total Enclosed:

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Awards and Ribbons Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: [stpeteshellclub@gmail.com](mailto:stpeteshellclub@gmail.com)  
Web site: [stpeteshellclub.org](http://stpeteshellclub.org)  
Like us on Facebook

## New Post card rate stamps

On January 28, 2017 the US Post Office issued a new set of seashell stamps. They are the post card rate (34c currently) but one can't let that stop us from using them and adding the extra postage necessary to send a letter.

Whimsical and lighthearted, the stamp art features stylized depictions of four seashells: the alphabet cone, the zebra nerite, the Pacific calico scallop, and the Queen conch, frequently called the pink conch. The horizontal swaths of white and blue in the background suggest waves washing the shells onto a beach.



## Show 'n Tell

Bring that special shell to the meeting and talk for a few minutes about it. What was it that appealed to you about that specimen? Was it the color, the family, the location it came from?

Do you have a question on the identification of a shell?

Whatever the reason, Blow your horn, show it off.

