

Tidelines

September 2025

St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc.

Founded 1936

Web site: stpeteshellclub.org

Celebrating
our
89th year!

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

Banded Tree Snail (*Orthalicus floridensis* Pilsbry, 1891), photographed by José Leal, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium, October 2024, at the Gumbo Limbo Trail, Everglades National Park, Florida. Tree snails feed on lichens and algae that grow on tree bark, and the Banded Tree Snail is no exception.



José H Leal

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.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PRESIDENT

Hi all,

Are you all ready for another season of club meetings and shell shows? I know I am. The exciting part of ending 2025 and entering 2026 is the celebration of our club's 90th anniversary. We've started planning some special things to help celebrate this milestone in our club's history. We're looking to have a new special pin to advertise our special year. In case you don't know, we are now the 3rd oldest existing shell club in the country. The Boston Malacological Club is the oldest, having been founded in 1910. Help us make 2026 a very special year.

Cheryl and I had a wonderful time at the Corpus Christi, Texas Conchologists of America convention this past July. I came home with a number of shell treasures (as usual) and will bring some to the meeting in September. In fact, our theme for the meeting is Summer Finds. Bring in your own treasures to show them off. I'll be doing a short presentation about the convention and what is in store for 2026.

Please think about how you can help at the 2026 Shell Show. The Admissions and Raffle tables, kitchen and Club Sales table, and show setup and teardown are the areas at the show that need your help.

Wishing you all safe and happy shelling.

John

Forecast Minus Tides

October

9 Thu 8:54AM -0.2
10 Fri 9:52AM -0.2

November

5 Wed 6:10AM -0.3
6 Thu 7:10AM -0.5
7 Fri 7:54AM -0.5
8 Sat 8:52AM -0.4
9 Sun 9:57AM -0.3
10 Mon 11:05AM -0.2
18 Tue 5:35AM -0.2
19 Wed 6:09AM -0.3
20 Thu 6:42AM -0.3
21 Fri 7:18AM -0.3
22 Sat 7:56AM -0.3
23 Sun 8:39AM -0.3
24 Mon 9:26AM -0.3
25 Tue 10:16AM -0.2

Tides are for Pass-a-Grille. Other specific locations may be up to 2 hours later or earlier. Listings from saltwatertides.com.

The club needs your help. We need a Recording Secretary to take meeting notes and a Refreshment Chair. The Recording Secretary responsibilities include taking and transcribing meeting notes and maintaining the notes.

The Refreshment Chair would create a signup list for each meeting for people to signup what they will bring to the next meeting.



The seven gods of China.



Club Officers and Committees

President John Jacobs
Vice President Robert Gould
Recording Secretary open
Treasurer Kathy Hofstad
Newsletter Editor John Jacobs
Directors at Large: Jane McKinney, Otis Taylor
COA Representative John Jacobs
Refreshments open
Photographer John Jacobs
Field Trips Entire Board
Corresponding Secretary open
Shell Show Chair Jerry Puigdomenech
Annual Picnic the Board
Raffle/Door Prizes Cheryl Jacobs
Facebook Cheryl Jacobs
Webmaster Cheryl Jacobs.

Upcoming Club Meetings
6:30PM Meet and Greet, 7PM Meeting

Sep 2: Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7PM. **Ranger Beth Reynolds** from Honeymoon Island "Hurricane Helene and Milton damage and park renewal, A peek at the shells I found"

Sep 5: St. Pete meeting 7PM. **John Jacobs** will show off a bit of the COA convention. **Mini-display: Summer Finds**

Oct 3: St. Pete meeting 7PM.

Oct 7: Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7PM.

Nov 4: Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7PM.

Nov 7: St. Pete meeting 7PM.

Dec 5: St. Pete Holiday Party.

Jan 2: St. Pete meeting 7PM.

Jan 6: Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7PM.

Feb 3: Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7PM.

Feb 6: St. Pete meeting 7PM.

Mar 6: St. Pete meeting 7PM.

Apr 3: St. Pete meeting 7PM.

May 1: St. Pete meeting 7PM.

Happy Birthday Toasts

Birthday Shells per R. Tucker Abbott



September

2 – Otis Taylor
10 – Linda Taylor
11 - Sharlene Totten
16—Meagan McCarthy
20—Robert Marchiselli
27—Tiffany Schofield

October

6 – Jemarie Cris Cajilla
11 – Barbara Fite
19 – Doug Thompson
21 – Earl Petrikin

September—Heliotrope Star Shell
(*Astrarium heliotropium*)



October—Superb gaza
(*Gaza superba*)



© Jacksonville Shell Club

UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS

Oct 4-5: Florida Fossil Hunters Fossil Fair Sanford Civic Center, 401 E. Seminole Blvd, Sanford, FL

Nov 1-2: Gulf Coast Shell Show Lyndell Senior Center, Panama City Beach, FL

Jan 17-18: Astronaut Trail Shell Show, Wickam Park Community Center, 2815 Leisure Way, Melbourne, FL

Jan 24-25: Broward Shell Show

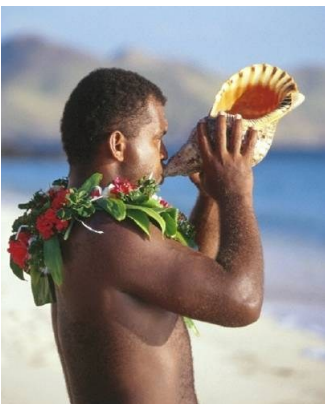
Feb 6-7: Sarasota Shell Show

Feb 13-14: St. Petersburg Shell Show Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, FL

Mar 5-7: Sanibel Shell Show

Mar 13-14: Marco Island

Apr 11: Florida United Malacologists meeting Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium. Registration required. Free event.



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 shell? 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.





Bailey-Matthews
National
Shell Museum
& Aquarium

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium

The staff of the museum is working hard to design and construct the exhibits in the Great Hall. Phase 1 has been completed and it is beautiful. Phase 2 is being worked on even as this is being written. Meanwhile, the live tanks present the opportunity to

see living molluscs you normally might not get a chance to see in the wild. This includes the new giant Pacific octopus.

Several interesting Tide Talks are being planned. Registration can be made via the museum's web site when the talks are scheduled.

Also, by becoming a member, you will be supporting this wonderful institution. Additionally, donations can be made via the Museum's website at shellmuseum.org. At the top of the home page is a **Donate** button.

This isn't just a museum. Researchers here conduct vital research expanding our knowledge of molluscs, especially in the Florida, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean areas. If you have a specific interest and wish to examine the Museum's specimens, you only have to ask.

The Bailey-Matthews is a national treasure which deserves to continue its goal of educating and bringing awareness of these fascinating animals which have a lineage going back more than 500 million years. Let's keep the Museum going for generations to come.



The giant Pacific octopus taking up residence at the Museum.



Conchologists of America, Inc.

2026 COA Convention

When: June 7-13, 2025

Where: Bradenton, Florida

To participate in the presentations and silent auctions, **you must be registered**. Registration forms will soon be available on the COA web site conchologistsofamerica.org.

The convention consists of Field Trips, the Welcome Party, Presentations/Talks, Silent Auctions, the Banquet, an Oral Auction, and the Dealers Bourse/Marketplace. No registration is required to attend the Oral Auction and the Bourse. The Bourse can consist of up to 10,000 square feet of space with dealers from around the world displaying a huge variety of shells and shell-related items.

Donations of shells for the auctions can be sent to John & Cheryl Jacobs



Molluscs on Currency

Numerous collector coins (coins not designed for general circulation) are created each year. Sometimes there is a molluscan connection such as with the 2024 Niue coin pictured here. This is a 2 ounce silver coin with a high relief of a dragon and a real pink pearl. The face value is \$5 but this is meaningless. This coin sells for around \$250. The coin is 50mm in diameter.



Wild Tigers by John Jacobs

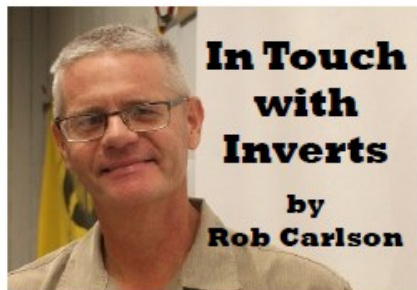
The tiger cowry (*Cypraea tigris* Linnaeus, 1758) is found throughout the Indo-Pacific region. Thousands of this species are harvested every year primarily from the Philippines and Vietnam. Very few of these are considered specimen quality with the remainder going to the decorative market. Amongst these shells, a fair number of abnormal specimens continue to appear.

The causes of the abnormalities are sometimes difficult to determine since the animals are lost to science in the harvesting. Possible causes are damage to the shell via predation or storms, pollution, or some genetic discrepancy in the animal.

Here are a few specimens that show just how wild these tigers can get.







In Touch with Inverts by Rob Carlson

Pliocene Inverts

The peninsula of Florida is well known for its extensive fossil shell beds, which extend from the Kissimmee River Valley southward to the Everglades. Deposits representing Miocene to late

Pleistocene fauna are abundant. The most heavily collected zones are those dating from the Pliocene to the present day. This is primarily due to the high-water table in this part of the state, which results in few natural exposures. Most specimens are collected from shell quarries that excavate deep into the strata using powerful pumps to remove groundwater faster than it can reenter the pits.

Over the past 80-plus years, numerous shell quarries have operated in South Florida, providing shell material to the building and transportation industries for use as road base and as a gravel substitute. Clean sand and fill have also been harvested from these quarries.

A tremendous amount of research has been conducted on the different formations in this area. Despite all this work, there remains considerable disagreement about what the various beds represent and how they should be divided. Because the environment was a coastal marine to shallow bay zone with widely fluctuating sea levels, the stratigraphy is highly variable and changes significantly over relatively short distances. Add to this the lack of abundant natural exposure, leaving studies dependent on isolated quarries, and sample sizes for research become severely restricted. Investigating the ancient environment in this region is like peering at a landscape through a tiny keyhole. We have a wealth of fossil shells from this time period but placing them into context is extremely challenging.

In 1964, Axel Olsson described an abundant shell bed from the Pliocene, approximately three million years old. He named it the Pinecrest Beds, based on the town of Pinecrest where he conducted his



research. The strata represented a significant increase in diversity compared to the beds below. The cause of this increase has been speculated to result from either rising or falling water temperatures, depending on which studies you consult.

Later, in 1984, Ed Petuch described 11 distinct beds within the Pinecrest Formation, based on his study of the APAC Quarry in Sarasota County. These beds were differentiated primarily by the abundance of specific mollusk species. Some estimates suggest that the Pinecrest contains over 1,000 mollusk species. However, this data is also debated due to the controversial practice of naming animals with very similar characteristics as separate species. In the scientific community, this is known as "splitting"; the tendency to name new species that may be natural variations within a single species. It's a hotly debated topic, best left to the experts.



Regardless of the names assigned to the strata or the individual species, the Plio-Pleistocene shell beds of Central and South Florida are among the richest mollusk deposits in the world. Many of the shells are beautifully preserved, with luster and coloration from life still intact. Numerous species are now extinct, while others are nearly indistinguishable from the modern shells found on today's Gulf beaches.

Collecting this material has become nearly impossible due to increased safety concerns in operating quarries. Most pits no longer allow public access. Fortunately, the materials produced in these quarries often end up in accessible areas. Rural roads, parking lots, and driveways are frequently "paved" with shell material. A walk through these areas after a good rain can yield some excellent specimens. Shell mulch is also popular for weed control in plantings at parks and businesses. Just be respectful, don't dig up someone's garden in search of treasures!

Have I renewed ?

Our club membership runs from January to December. If you are not sure if you have renewed, please call or email us.

Contact Cheryl & John Jacobs
stpeteshellclub@gmail.com
or 813-309-2608



“It’s
never too
early to
renew.”

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 7:00PM 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 Mar 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: _____

“Tidelines” Newsletter: Email _____ Regular Mail _____

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

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

Membership \$ _____

Shell Show Awards and Ribbons Fund \$ _____

Total \$ _____

E-mail: stpeteshellclub@gmail.com
Web site: stpeteshellclub.org
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