

Tidelines

Celebrating
our
88th year!

November 2024

St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc.

Founded 1936

Web site: stpeteshellclub.org

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.



Photo posted by Marcus Coltro facebook

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

Hello friends,

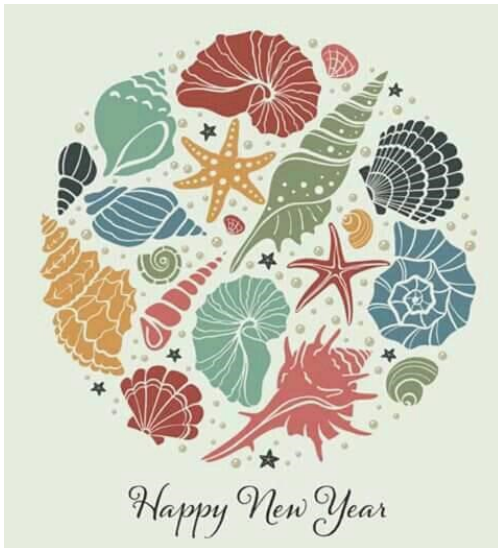
We just had a one-two punch here in Florida with Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Some of you were still recovering from Helene when Milton showed up. As power restoration and cleanup continues, I urge you to be careful when on the roads and don't do more than you can handle. Safety first.

On a lighter note, the Gulf Coast Shell Show is coming up this month in Panama City. This is a great show and I hope you can attend. See page 5 for detailed info.

Jerry Puigdomenech gave a wonderful presentation on trilobites during our October meeting. These critters dominated the early oceans with the largest known species being about 3 feet long.

Whichever holidays you celebrate this season, I wish only the best and a safe and healthy New Year in 2025.

John



Forecast Minus Tides

November

- 3 Sun 7:32AM -0.2
- 4 Mon 8:15AM -0.2
- 14 Thu 5:14AM -0.3
- 15 Fri 6:03AM -0.4
- 16 Sat 6:51AM -0.6
- 17 Sun 7:41AM -0.6
- 18 Mon 8:32AM -0.5
- 19 Tue 9:27AM -0.3
- 20 Wed 10:23AM -0.2
- 29 Fri 5:37AM -0.3
- 30 Sat 6:13AM -0.3

December

- 1 Sun 6:50AM -0.4
- 2 Mon 7:31AM -0.4
- 3 Tue 8:14AM -0.4
- 4 Wed 9:02AM -0.4
- 5 Thu 9:53AM -0.3
- 6 Fri 10:44AM -0.3
- 7 Sat 11:35AM -0.2
- 12 Thu 4:22AM -0.4
- 13 Fri 5:14AM -0.6
- 14 Sat 6:04AM -0.8
- 15 Sun 6:52AM -0.8
- 16 Mon 7:39AM -0.8
- 17 Tue 8:24AM -0.6
- 18 Wed 9:06AM -0.5
- 19 Thu 9:47AM -0.3
- 20 Fri 10:26AM -0.2
- 26 Thu 3:57AM -0.3
- 27 Fri 4:43AM -0.4
- 28 Sat 5:26AM -0.5
- 29 Sun 6:07AM -0.6
- 30 Mon 6:48AM -0.7
- 31 Tue 7:28AM -0.7

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

Club Officers and Committees

President John Jacobs; Vice President Robert Gould; Recording Secretary open; Treasurer Kathy Hofstad; Newsletter Editor John Jacobs; Directors at Large: Carolyn Petrikin, 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*

- Nov 1:** St. Pete meeting 7PM
Jerry Puigdomenech: "Shell sound vibrations or how Sea Shells saved the Castaways on Gilligan's Island"
- Nov 5:** Suncoast meeting 7PM
Dr. José Leal: Cowries
- Dec 6:** Holiday Party 5-8PM Seminole Recreation Center
- Jan 3:** St. Pete meeting 7PM
John Jacobs: The Superfamily Stromboidea Updated
- Jan 7:** Suncoast meeting 7PM

Happy Birthday Toasts

Birthday Shells per R. Tucker Abbott



November

- 4 – Rob Geater
- 7 – Isabel McKinney
- 9 – Carolyn Petrikin
- 13 – Marilyn Myers

November—Thorny oyster/
Chrysanthemum shell
(*Spondylus* any species such as *S. americanus*)



December

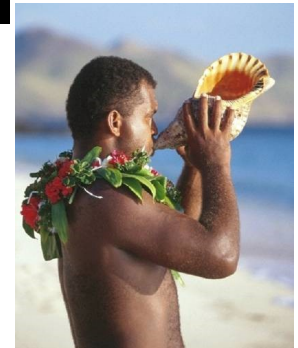
- 12 – Robert Gould

December—Abalone
(*Haliotis* any species)



UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS

- Nov 8-10: Gulf Coast Shell Show,**
Panama City, FL
- Nov 23-24: Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead & Fossil Show**
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL
- Dec 6-8: Withlacoochee Rockhounds Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show**
Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Rd., Hudson, FL
- Jan 18-19: ATSC Shell Festival**
Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Avenue, Eau Gallie, FL
- Jan 25-26: Broward Shell Show**
E. Pat Larkins Community Center, 520 NW 3rd St., Pompano Beach, FL
- Feb 7-8: Sarasota Shell Show**
- Feb 21-22: St. Petersburg Shell Show**
Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St., Seminole, FL
- Mar 6-8: Sanibel Shell Show**
Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa
17260 Harbour Point Drive, Ft. Myers, FL
- March 14-15: Marco Island Shell Club Spring Expo & Sale**
New Life Community Church, 489 W. Elkcam Circle, Marco Island, FL
- March 15-16: Tampa Bay Fossil Club Fossil Fest**
Tampa State Fairgrounds
- April: Florida United Malacologists (FUM) Meeting**
- July 7-12: COA Convention Corpus Christi, Texas**



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 Living Gallery of Aquariums is now open at a reduced admission as of March 1st. This is great news! There is still a lot of work to be done before opening completely, but progress is being made. The gift shop is also open.

As of May 1, 2023, the museum was closed (after being open in a limited mode) to renovate the damage caused by Hurricane Ian which is now complete. Museum staff will also incorporate a number of upgrades to existing exhibits. So when the Museum reopens completely, things will be different from pre-hurricane status. I encourage you all to visit the Museum then. 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.



Conchologists of America, Inc.

2025 Convention

When: July 7-12, 2025
Where: Corpus Christi, Texas

To attend the convention and 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 the Welcome Party, Presentations/Talks, Silent Auctions, the Banquet, an Oral Auction, and the Dealers Bourse. 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.



Gulf Coast Shell Club
presents its
25th Shell Show
Saturday
November 9, 2024
9AM until 5PM CST
and
Sunday
November 10, 2024
10AM to 5PM CST
Lyndell Conference Center
423 Lyndell Lane
Panama City Beach, Florida

Children's Activities, Art exhibits,
Scientific Exhibits and Vendors

Admission: Adults \$2.00
Children under 12 \$1.00

The Rise and Fall of *Strombus alatus* Gmelin, 1791

The last time I was not happy with a name change for an iconic species was when *Brontosaurus* became *Apatosaurus*. But that's the way of science. When newer information is discovered, things change. And so it is with sadness that we say goodbye to the Florida fighting conch's scientific name of *Strombus alatus* as it becomes a synonym to *Strombus pugilis* Linnaeus, 1758. The July 2024 paper **Molecular phylogenetics of the superfamily Stromboidea (Caenogastropoda): New insights from increased taxon sampling** by Irwin and others reasoned why the change is justified. The World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) has already adjusted its data to reflect this.

Club Meetings: September & October



In September, John Jacobs showed pictures and talked about the Conchologists of America convention held this past June in Melbourne, Florida. There were many great talks, and thousands of shells were available at the Silent and Oral Auctions, as well as, the Bourse.

For our October meeting, Jerry Puigdomenech gave us a wonderful multimedia presentation on Trilobites. While they are extinct now, they once dominated the ancient ocean. These arthropod fossils are found worldwide (but not in Florida). Numerous species have been named and they range in size from a few millimeters to over a meter in length.

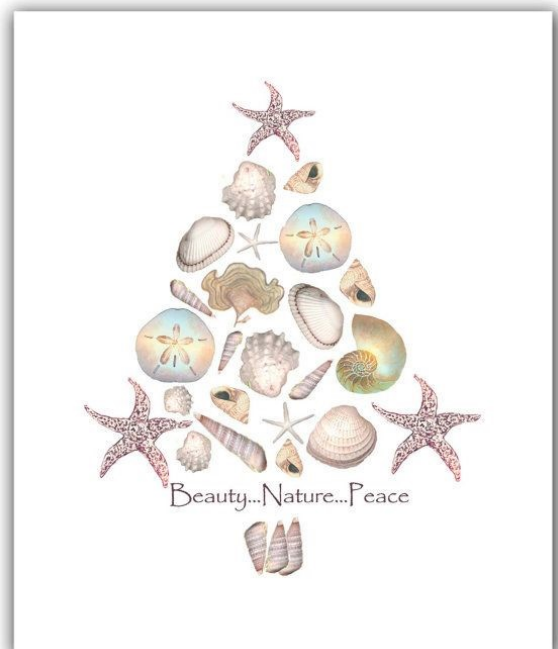
Jerry brought specimens and posters to augment his talk. Thanks, Jerry, for an outstanding talk on a little known subject.

Holiday Party

Are you ready to get together and have a great time? Come to our Holiday Party on December 6th starting at 5PM. We're having a potluck at the Seminole Recreation Center in our regular meeting room. There will be a gift exchange (please limit value to \$15 maximum), a few rounds of CROWN (shell-themed BINGO), and general mirth and merriment.

After all the bad weather and damage that resulted from it, I hope you can find some time to unwind and relax a bit with friends.

Please let us know how many in your group and what you'll be bringing for food/drink. You can sign up at the meeting on November 1st or email us at stpeteshellclub@gmail.com.



The First Mollusk

presented by Jerry Puigdomenech

As I've stated before, I feel the Shell Club is a great opportunity for members to explore and discuss all disciplines of science as they may relate to the study of mollusks and life itself. The study of any scientific field will invariably result a multitude of knowledge trails and pathways littered with questions seeking clues to answers.

My question is simply when and what was the First Mollusk? A quick literature search resulted in the following article from Science News dated Feb 6, 2017. This article is in unaltered entirety with citations as noted.

Ordovician Fossil Sheds New Light on Early Evolution of Mollusks

Paleontologists have unearthed the remains of a previously unknown slug-like creature that lived during the Early Ordovician epoch, 478 million years ago. The discovery, reported in the journal Nature, sheds new light on the earliest stages in the evolution of mollusks, a group of invertebrates that includes clams, snails and squids.

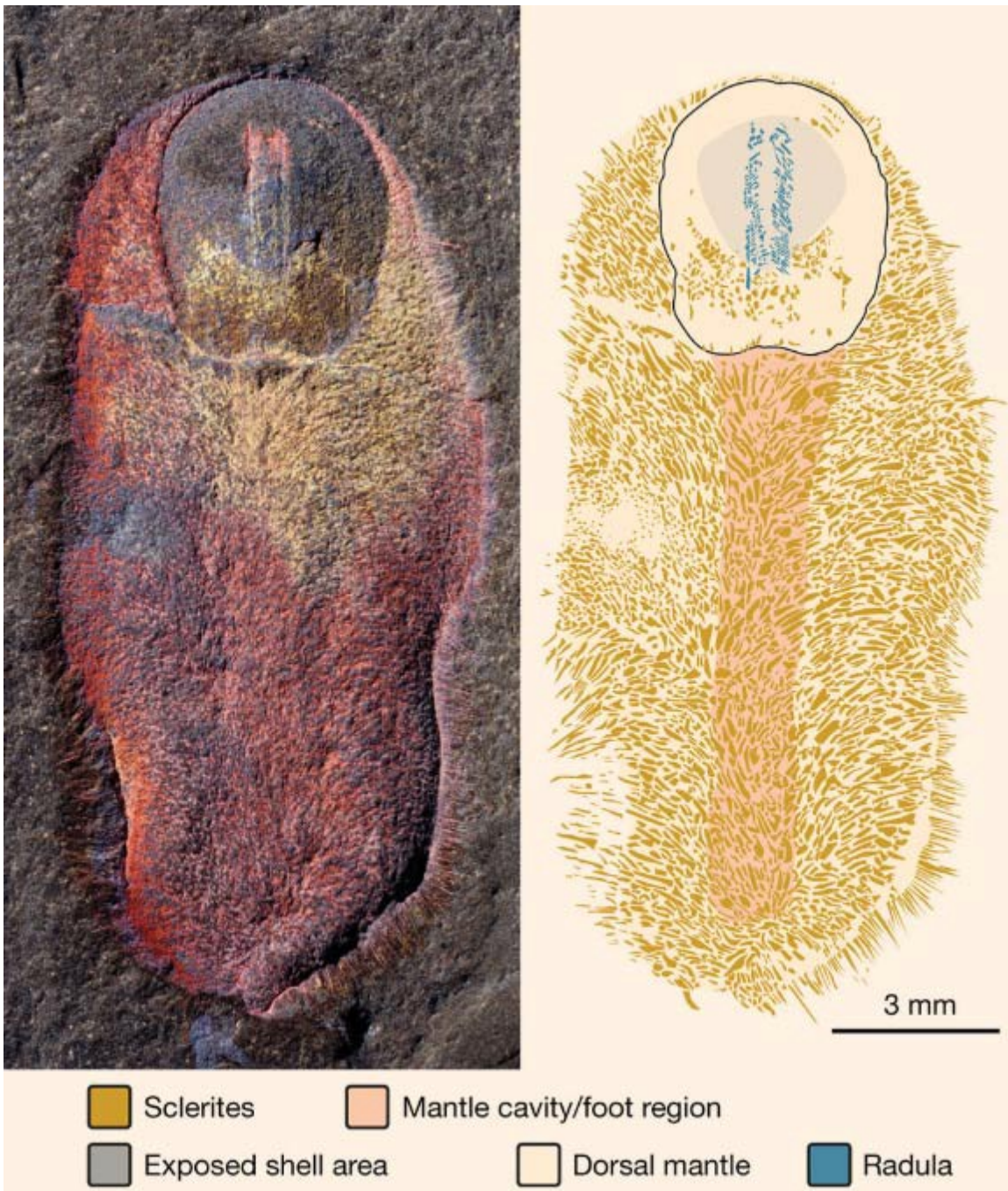


Figure 1.
Calvapilosa kroegeri
from the Lower
Ordovician epoch
(Tremadocian age)
Fezouta Formation,
near Zagora,
Morocco: part,
imaged and
illuminated from
north west (left),
interpretive drawing
(right). Image credit:
Jakob Vinther et al,
doi: 10.1038/
nature21055.

“Mollusks consist of a multitude of distinct groups, which all originated about 520 million years ago in a very short period of time, probably less than 20 million years,” said Yale’s Professor Derek Briggs, a co-author on the study.

“Their evolutionary history is squeezed into a brief interval of evolutionary time called the Cambrian explosion, which makes the sequence of events difficult to piece together.”

“The mollusks are amongst the earliest animals identifiable in the fossil record, however determining what their ancestor looked like is difficult since many of the groups appear within a small window of time, making the sequence of evolutionary events difficult to piece together,” added lead author Dr. Jakob Vinther, from the University of Bristol, UK.

One of the defining characteristics of mollusks is the possession of a radula, a kind of toothed-tongue which is used to rake up or rasp food.

The radula houses hundreds of teeth, the patterns of which can be used to determine diet and identify species. Whilst not all mollusks have a radula, a radula cannot be found in any other group of animals.

The newly-discovered species, *Calvapilosa kroegeri*, resembles a slug covered with short spines all over its upper body and with a large ‘fingernail-like shell’ over its head.

In the center of the head of this new species are two rows of teeth which the researchers demonstrate is a radula. The discovery of this structure firmly identifies *Calvapilosa kroegeri* as a mollusk.

Additionally, it suggests that similar fossil forms from the Burgess Shale in Canada (Orthrozanclus) and Sirius Passet in Greenland (Halkieria) are also mollusks and possessed a radula.

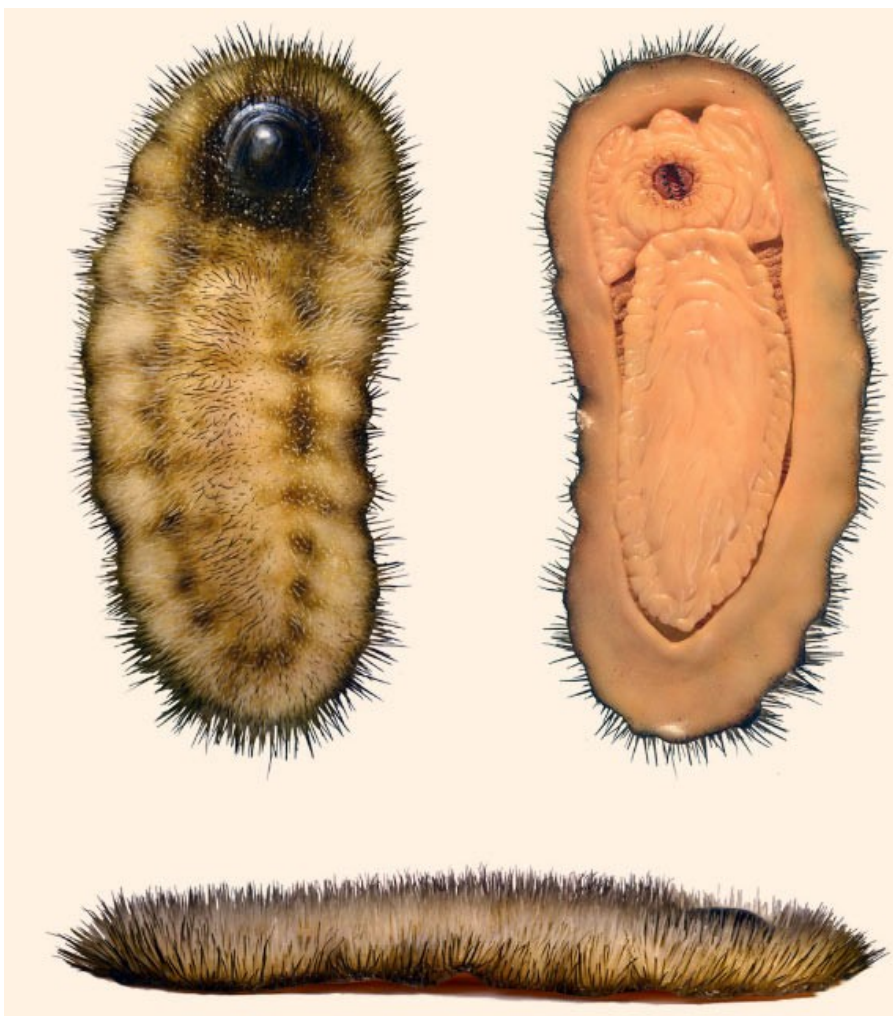


Figure 2. Reconstruction of *Calvapilosa kroegeri*, juvenile. Color scheme is speculative, whereas soft tissues are inferred by phylogenetic bracketing. Image credit: Jakob Vinther et al, doi: 10.1038/nature21055.

Following an analysis to determine the family tree of the mollusks, *Calvapilosa kroegeri* was revealed to be the most primitive member of the lineage leading to chitons.

Chitons can still be found today and are characterized by their possession of eight shell plates and spines around their margin, similar to what is seen covering the body of the new species.

“If we trace back the evolution of chitons, we can see that the number of their shells has increased with time,” Dr. Vinther said. “

It is therefore likely that the ancestor to all mollusks was single-shelled and covered in bristle-like spines, not dissimilar to *Calvapilosa kroegeri*.”

Calvapilosa kroegeri came from a fossil-rich deposit near Zagora in southeastern Morocco known as the

Ordovician Fezouata Formation.

“Morocco has revealed itself as a fossil treasure trove for ancient life,” said co-author Dr. Peter Van Roy, of Ghent University in Belgium.

Citation: Jakob Vinther et al. Ancestral morphology of crown group molluscs revealed by a new Ordovician stem aculiferan. Nature, published online February 6, 2017; doi: 10.1038/nature21055

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 7:00p.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 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: _____

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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