

Tidelines

Special Summer Issue 2020

St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc.

Web site: 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.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES



Cheryl: Blue-ring octopus, John: Giant Pacific octopus



A MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PRESIDENT

Hi all,

We've decided to do a special issue of the Tidelines so that you know what is happening in the shell world. The COVID-19 virus has caused most of you to stay in, what with closures of parks and beaches, and cancellations of multiple events that we all might otherwise be visiting and participating in. Even though we have submitted our meeting dates to the Seminole Recreation Center, nothing is guaranteed. All of us can only hope that all our family members and friends remain well.

Some of you may have already heard that the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel is now open, as is the Florida Aquarium. I encourage responsible visitation, and check their respective web sites for any details regarding visitor rules. Reservations may be required.

The next shell show is scheduled for October hosted by the Seashell Searchers of Brazoria County in Port Jackson, Texas. I am slated to be a judge at this show, and am looking forward to returning to the Lone Star state. If the show happens, I expect a good turnout.

I hope to see you all on September 4th at the next club meeting, provided we are able to have the meeting.

Be safe, my friends.

John

Tides are for Mullet Key Channel (Skyway). 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 Tamara Hein; Newsletter Editor Cheryl Jacobs; Directors at Large: Carolyn Petrikin, Peggy Dill, Jane McKinney, Otis Taylor; COA Representative John Jacobs; Refreshments open; Photographer John Jacobs; Field Trips Entire Board; Corresponding Secretary Pat Linn, Shell Show Cheryl Jacobs; Annual Picnic the Board; Raffle/Door Prizes Cheryl Jacobs & Peggy Dill; Facebook Cheryl Jacobs; Webmaster Cheryl Jacobs.

Forecast Minus Tides

May

- 1 Fri 2:02AM -0.2
- 2 Sat 3:00AM -0.1
- 6 Wed 6:42PM -0.2
- 7 Thu 7:30PM -0.4
- 8 Fri 8:19PM -0.5
- 9 Sat 9:10PM -0.5
- 10 Sun 10:04PM -0.4
- 11 Mon 11:01PM -0.3
- 13 Wed 12:02AM -0.1
- 21 Thu 6:56PM -0.1
- 22 Fri 7:31PM -0.2
- 23 Sat 8:09PM -0.3
- 24 Sun 8:50PM -0.4
- 25 Mon 9:38PM -0.4
- 26 Tue 10:30PM -0.3
- 27 Wed 11:27PM -0.3
- 29 Fri 12:24AM -0.2

Jun

- 3 Wed 5:51PM -0.2
- 4 Thu 6:40PM -0.4
- 5 Fri 7:28PM -0.5
- 6 Sat 8:15PM -0.5
- 7 Sun 9:01PM -0.5
- 8 Mon 9:48PM -0.4
- 9 Tue 10:34PM -0.2
- 10 Wed 11:21PM -0.1
- 18 Thu 6:04PM -0.1
- 19 Fri 6:43PM -0.2
- 20 Sat 7:23PM -0.3
- 21 Sun 8:03PM -0.4
- 22 Mon 8:45PM -0.4
- 23 Tue 9:30PM -0.4
- 24 Wed 10:15PM -0.3
- 25 Thu 11:02PM -0.2

Jul

- 2 Thu 5:49PM -0.3
- 3 Fri 6:39PM -0.4
- 4 Sat 7:25PM -0.4
- 5 Sun 8:07PM -0.4
- 6 Mon 8:46PM -0.3
- 7 Tue 9:23PM -0.2
- 18 Sat 6:29PM -0.2
- 19 Sun 7:11PM -0.3
- 20 Mon 7:51PM -0.3
- 21 Tue 8:31PM -0.3
- 22 Wed 9:10PM -0.2
- 23 Thu 9:49PM -0.1
- 31 Fri 5:46PM -0.1

Aug

- 1 Sat 6:33PM -0.2
- 2 Sun 7:13PM -0.1
- 3 Mon 7:48PM -0.1
- 17 Mon 6:48PM -0.1
- 18 Tue 7:26PM -0.1

No more minus tides thru Sep

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

Schedule is tentative

Sep 1 Suncoast Conchologists meeting
Sep 4 Regular meeting
Oct 2 Regular meeting
Oct 6 Suncoast Conchologists meeting
Nov 3 Suncoast Conchologists meeting
Nov 6 Regular meeting

UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS

There are no shell shows or events scheduled until October when the Seashell Searchers of Brazoria County, Texas hopefully has their show.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of uncertainty around the world, and, in particular, with our own shelling interests. Event after event has been cancelled or postponed, with even the postponements being in doubt that they will actually occur. While our club, and other clubs, have tentatively scheduled club meetings starting in September, these may not happen. I encourage every one of you to follow the guidelines that will help keep you safe during these trying times. Wear a mask when entering any retail establishment. Observe the 6-foot distance rule as much as possible. Please be patient with everyone you meet. My own philosophy is that time doesn't matter, it's not important, so no need to be in a hurry.

Take care, my friends, be safe out there.

John

In the March issue of the Tidelines, we highlighted our field trip to Emerson Point. The false limpet I called *Siphonaria pectinata* (Linnaeus, 1758) had a name change due to a study which clearly showed that there is actually more than one species, and that our western Atlantic species is actually *Siphonaria naufragum* Stearns, 1872.

S. pectinata is found in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

Ref: Giribet, Gonzalo & Gisele Y. Kawachi. 2016. How many species of *Siphonaria pectinata* (Gastropoda: Heterobranchia) are there? *Journal of Mollusca Studies* 82:137-143



Siphonaria naufragum Stearns, 1872, photo by John Jacobs

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.

Argonauts

by John Jacobs

Argonaut “shells” are highly prized but misunderstood by many. First, they are not a shell as we usually accept the term. The female argonaut secretes a paper-thin egg nest which has a superficial resemblance to a nautilus shell. The animals are more akin to octopods. The male can be less than an inch long, but the female can be more than 15 inches. The male has a specialized arm called a hectocotylus containing its sperm. This separates from the male and stays with the female. The shell is crated from a calcite secretion produced by two of the females arms. When the shell is complete, the eggs are layed into it, followed by the female.

The shells are normally collected from beaches, and can be found worldwide including our own Florida. If you are lucky enough to find one of these beautiful shells, be careful with it, because they are very fragile.

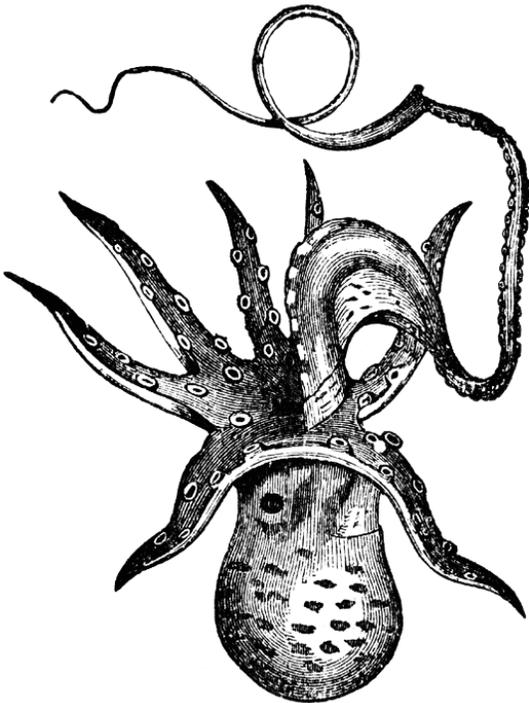
Like most cephalopods, argonauts have a short lifespan, living about 1 year on average. The female produces her only clutch of eggs in her life. When the hatchlings depart, the female dies, and the shell either floats away or sinks to the bottom.

There are several species of *Argonauta* with the largest being *A. argo* (see pic to left). The World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) recognizes only four species. *A. hians*, *nodosa*, and *nouryi* are the other three. Numerous synonyms exist. Two other species names which are out there are considered synonyms, but there is some evidence that they are valid species. *A. boettgeri* is said to be *A. hians*. *A. cornuta* is said to be *A. nouryi*. I don't know what animal comparisons have been done, so I don't have an opinion at this time. See the composite pic below for shell comparisons.

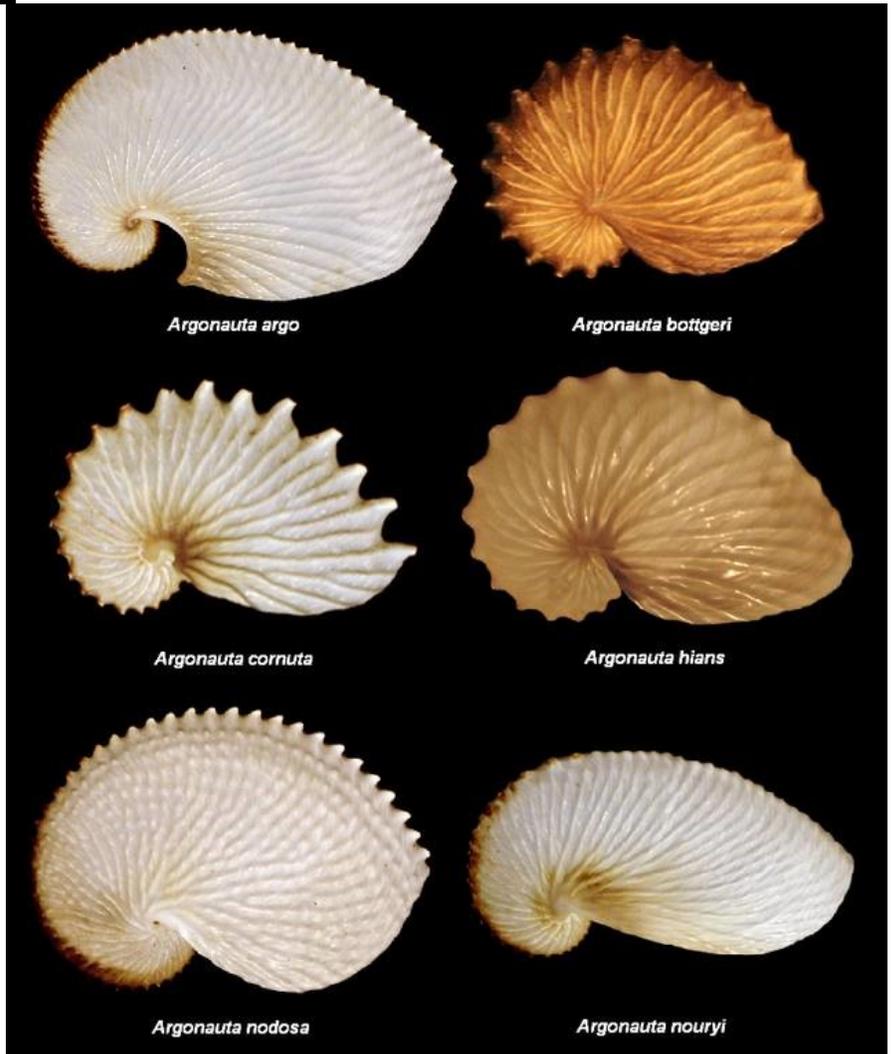


Photo: Fred Bavendam, Minden Pictures, National Geographic Image Collection

Photo: Sofjan Effendy, Solaris Shell Club



Argonauta argo line drawing, William Dwight Whitney 1902



An Ancient Mollusc
Story & Pics by John Jacobs

Many of you know that the ammonites' history ended along with that of the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago after the asteroid impact off what is now the Yucatan Peninsula in the Gulf of Mexico. They had a long history of speciation, developing some of the wildest forms known within the Mollusca. Presented here is a species as yet unidentified by me, but fascinating nonetheless.

This is a type of ammonite called a heteromorph, meaning that the shell has become uncoiled. There are modern examples of molluscs which have shells displaying an uncoiling aspect both naturally for the species and in an abnormal way.

The specimens here are in the genus *Ancyloceras* within the family Ancyloceratidae. I call these "paperclip" ammonites. They are from Morocco, and existed during the Barremian Stage of the Cretaceous Period 117-113 million years ago. How these cephalopods moved about in such a strange shell is unknown. Some ammonite species lived close to the bottom, while others were more pelagic. Specimens shown are from my personal collection.



79.83mm

88.59mm

If you want to learn more about heteromorph ammonites, I highly recommend the book *Heteromorph: the rarest fossil ammonites* by Wolfgang Grulke.

65.48mm



Molluscs on Stamps

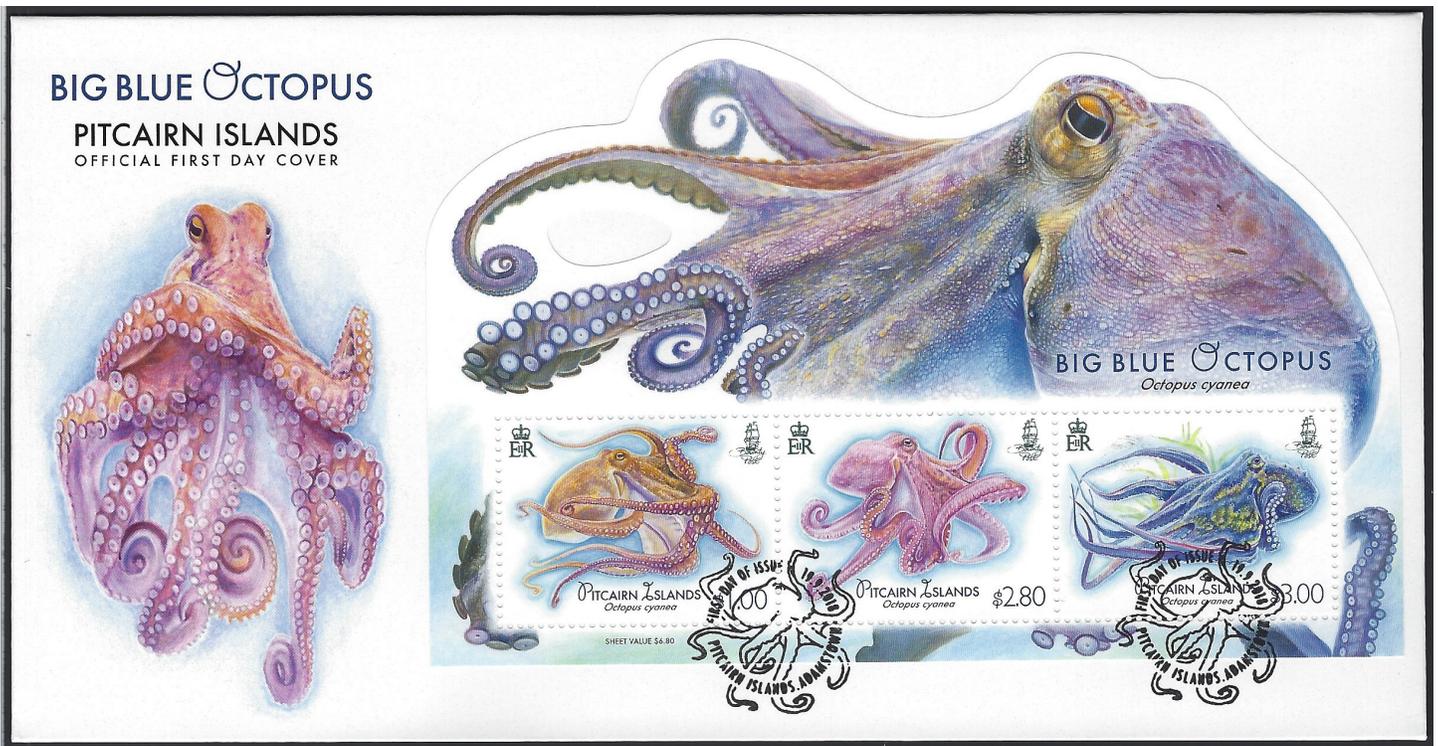
Story by John Jacobs

On September 19, 2018, the Pitcairn Islands issued this miniature sheet containing three stamps depicting the cephalopod *Octopus cyanea* Gray, 1849. The common name is the Big Blue octopus. *O. cyanea* is found in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, inhabiting dens within crevices or coral rubble within coral reefs. It grows to about 96 centimeters including its arms. It is a diurnal species active at dawn and dusk. Like most octopods, the animal is short-lived surviving for 12-15 months and breeds only once.



The First Day Cover (this is a souvenir of the first day of issue) depicts an illustration of the animal in the cachet portion of the envelope and in the cancellation of the stamps.

This is a fine example of an irregularly-shaped stamp issue which follows the contour of the octopus. All in all, a wonderful addition to my collection.



MEMBER NEWS

If you would like your picture in the Directory. Ask John to take it or send us one.

johncheryl@earthlink.net

Got a shell question???
Send me an email. I will try to answer it in the Tidelines.

Send in any member news to Cheryl Jacobs
Email stpeteshellclub@gmail.com

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Happy Birthdays

July

11 – Elaine Smith
24 – Cynthia Beck
26 – David Ward
28 - Peggiann Ankrom
28 – Melanie Thoenes

Aug

1 – Gene Howard
3 – William Turner
11 – Gloria Gould
15 – Bob Linn
24 – Steve Geiger
29 - Cheryl Jacobs

Sep

2 – Otis Taylor
10 – Linda Taylor
11 – Pam Burrows
11 - Sharlene Totten
19 – Neil Gilmore
20 – Robert Marchiselli

Would you like to help the club by sending out Birthday cards and more.
Contact Cheryl Jacobs at johncheryl@earthlink.net

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
 Web site: stpeteshellclub.org
 Like us on Facebook

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.



HAVE I RENEWED ?



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

Contact Cheryl & John Jacobs
johncheryl@earthlink.net
 or 813-309-2608