

# Tidelines

January 2023

St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc.  
Founded 1936

Web site: stpeteshellclub.org

HAPPY NEW 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 5:30p.m. and the meetings start at 6:00p.m. The public is always invited.

## The Giant Black Sea Hare submitted by Steve Geiger

*Aplysia vaccaria* Winkler, 1955 has a lifecycle of one year. They grow very quickly, at an average rate of 4.9 g/day. This high rate of growth allows *A. vaccaria* to become the largest known species of sea slug at 750mm/29in. It is a herbivore that feeds on brown algae, but its close relative *A. californica* feeds almost exclusively on red algae. This difference in food sources likely minimizes competition between the two species, which share much of the same habitat. *A. vaccaria* is found in the intertidal and upper-subtidal zone, meaning that it can survive exposure to air while the tide is out. It is rarely preyed upon by other organisms, which has made it the subject of various experiments testing for a secreted biotoxin that discourages predation. The large size of *A. vaccaria* also contributes to its lack of predators. It is simply too big for many predators to attack or consume.

*Aplysia vaccaria* is a simultaneous hermaphrodite; it has both male and female sex organs that are able to contribute to sexual reproduction at the same time, which is distinct from nonsimultaneous (or sequential) hermaphrodites, which only have one sex organ present or functional at any one time. Being simultaneously hermaphroditic is advantageous because any two individuals are able to reproduce with one another, which facilitates them finding mates. Despite having both sex organs functional during reproduction, only one *Aplysia vaccaria* acts as a sperm donor during the mating encounter, which is determined by the relative sizes of the two individuals. The smaller individual most often acts as the sperm donor, while the larger individual acts as the sperm recipient. Because the reproductive role of *A. vaccaria* is dependent on the relative sizes between a mating pair, one individual can act as both a sperm donor and a sperm recipient during a mating season. Larger individuals are suggested to be preferentially selected for mating, and they act as the sperm recipient to avoid the competition present between smaller individuals to be sperm donors. This mechanism of size-assortative mating is common among gastropods. Some circumstantial evidence suggests cross-fertilization between *A. vaccaria* and smaller teroirl slugs in stagnant rock pools, though this is based on anecdotal evidence and has never been independently verified.



Live animal

Egg mass

pics: Timothy Arehart



## 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

Happy New Year!

I hope you are all as excited as I am to attend the upcoming Florida Shell Shows. The shows are a wonderful opportunity to see marvelous shells from around the world and to learn about them and the places they are from. You also have a chance to talk with exhibitors and others about shells. If you have a mystery shell you want identified, the shows are a great place for this.

Looking to add to your collection? How about attending a field trip? We've had two field trips recently that were very different from each other: Fred Howard Park and Pass-a-Grille Beach. You can not only see and learn about live shells but other marine life as well. See pics inside this issue.

To end the year, we had our first Holiday Party since 2019. It was a fun event with lots of food, gift exchanges, and playing CROWN and winning great shells.

We're looking for volunteers to help man the club table at the Fossil Fest March 18-19. If you can do this, please contact me.

And lastly, I want to wish all of you a safe and Shelly New Year.

**John**

Postcard used in 1907



### Club Officers and Committees

President John Jacobs; Vice President Robert Gould; Recording Secretary open; Treasurer open; 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 open, Shell Show Cheryl Jacobs; Annual Picnic the Board; Raffle/Door Prizes Cheryl Jacobs & Peggy Dill; Facebook Cheryl Jacobs; Webmaster Cheryl Jacobs.

## Forecast Minus Tides

### January

- 1 Sun 3:08AM -0.2
- 2 Mon 4:04AM -0.3
- 3 Tue 4:52AM -0.5
- 4 Wed 5:35AM -0.6
- 5 Thu 6:14AM -0.6
- 6 Fri 6:50AM -0.6
- 7 Sat 7:24AM -0.6
- 8 Sun 7:57AM -0.5
- 9 Mon 8:28AM -0.5
- 10 Tue 8:58AM -0.4
- 11 Wed 9:28AM -0.3
- 17 Tue 3:11AM -0.3
- 18 Wed 4:14AM -0.6
- 19 Thu 5:11AM -0.9
- 20 Fri 6:04AM -1.0
- 21 Sat 6:53AM -1.0
- 22 Sun 7:38AM -1.0
- 23 Mon 8:19AM -0.8
- 24 Tue 8:56AM -0.6
- 25 Wed 9:29AM -0.3
- 30 Mon 2:41AM -0.3
- 31 Tue 3:45AM -0.4

### February

- 1 Wed 4:39AM -0.5
- 2 Thu 5:24AM -0.6
- 3 Fri 6:03AM -0.6
- 4 Sat 6:36AM -0.6
- 5 Sun 7:05AM -0.5
- 6 Mon 7:30AM -0.4
- 7 Tue 7:53AM -0.3
- 8 Wed 8:15AM -0.3
- 14 Tue 1:33AM -0.3
- 15 Wed 2:57AM -0.4
- 16 Thu 4:07AM -0.7
- 17 Fri 5:05AM -0.8
- 18 Sat 5:54AM -0.9
- 19 Sun 6:35AM -0.8
- 20 Mon 7:12AM -0.6
- 21 Tue 7:43AM -0.4
- 22 Wed 8:09AM -0.2
- 25 Sat 11:20PM -0.2
- 27 Mon 12:40AM -0.2
- 28 Tue 2:04AM -0.3

**Tides are for Pass-a-Grille.** Other specific locations may be up to 2 hours later or earlier. Listings from [saltwatertides.com](http://saltwatertides.com).

**Upcoming Club Meetings**  
5:30pm Meet and Greet, 6pm Meeting

- Jan 3 Suncoast Conchologists meeting
- Jan 6 John presenting "How to display at a shell show"
- Feb 3 Member's Shell Show
- Feb 7 Suncoast Conchologists meeting

**Birthday Shells per R. Tucker Abbott**



January—Orange banded cowry  
(*Lyncina carneola*)

**January**

- 6 – Tamara Holzworth
- 9 – Robert McCreary
- 25 – John Jacobs
- 28 – Vicky Wall



February—Purple sea snail  
(*Janthina janthina*)

**Happy Birthday**

**UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS**

**Jan 14-15 Broward Shell Show**, Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL

**Jan 21-22 ATSC Shell Show**, Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave, Melbourne, FL

**Feb 10-11 Sarasota Shell Show**, 2896 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL

**Mar 18-19, 2023 Fossil Fest**, Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 US-301, Tampa, FL

**April 15-16, 2023 Gulf Coast Shell Show**, Panama City Beach Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane, Panama Beach, FL

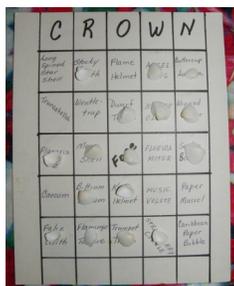
**February**

- 7 – Kathy Hofstad
- 11 – Laura Carr
- 17 – Sandra Gann
- 25 – Pat Linn



**2022 Holiday Party**

This was our first Holiday Party since 2019. We decided to hold it at the Seminole Recreation Center in the same room our meetings are held. The club provided teriyaki chicken and meatballs cooked by Cheryl. Members brought side dishes and desserts to enjoy with the meal. We played a round of CROWN where everyone was a winner and wonderful shells were the prizes. And then the gift exchange with wonderful surprises. Here are some pictures from Dec 2nd.



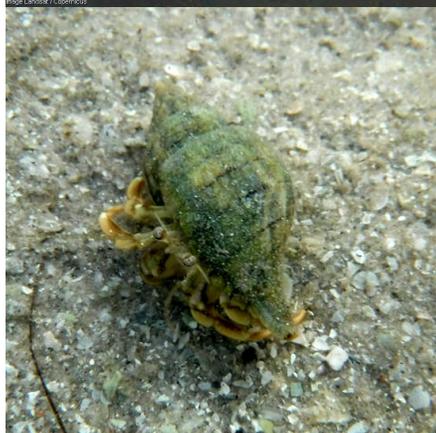
## Field Trips and Holiday Party

We've had a couple of field trips since the last newsletter. The first was to Fred Howard Park on Oct 29th, then Pass-a-Grille on Nov 26th. These are joint trips between Suncoast Conchologists and our club. Steve Geiger has been arranging the trips.

Oct 29th was a pleasant day with sunshine, calm water and comfortable temperatures.



Collecting area looking ESE



*Fasciolaria hunteria* (banded tulip) w/ hermit crab



Tiny green shrimp



Fossil sea biscuits in rocks



*Isognomon alatus* (flat tree oyster)



Uncommon orange-colored *Turbo castanea* (chestnut turban) with hermit crab



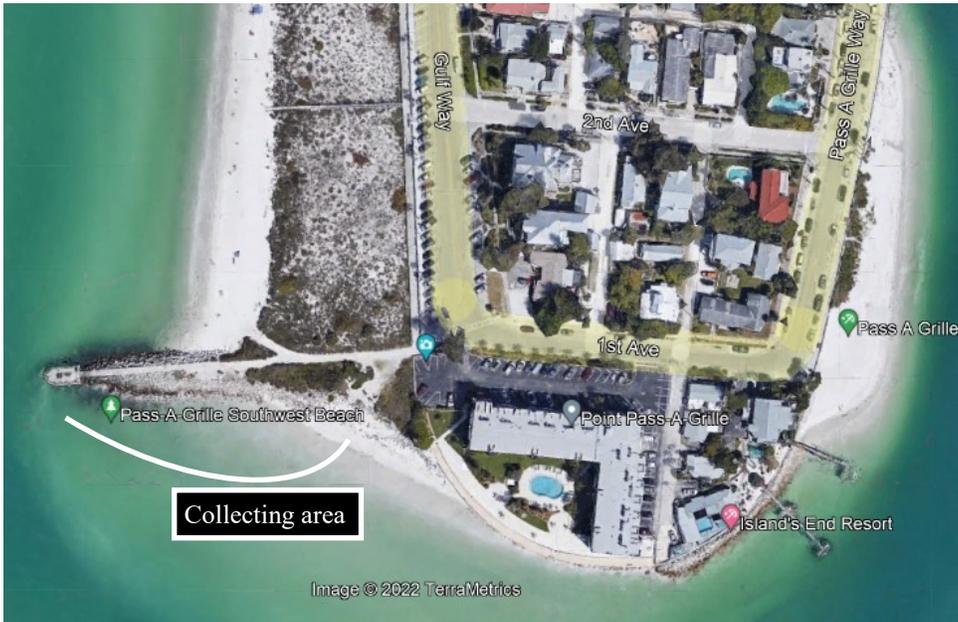
*Vokesinotus ferrugatus* (Conrad, 1846) (gulf oyster drill) with hermit crab



*Thalasseus maximus* (royal tern)

While there are moments when I can be a little foggy, this day proved it's not just me. Cheryl and I arrived at Pass-a-Grille just before sunrise on November 26<sup>th</sup>, with Steve Geiger appearing shortly thereafter. The fog was very heavy and the air was totally calm as befitted a foggy day. When it was light enough, we ventured onto the beach to find that shells were everywhere and there was a very low tide. Fighting conchs and banded tulips were "popping" up from the exposed sand. Large dead cockles and discus clams were common.

Steve had a hand dredge and at one point a small white octopus came up on the outside of the dredge. I managed to get a couple of pics of it. I'll let the photos speak for themselves. It was a fabulous trip and I plan to go back. The only problem is that starting at 8AM parking fees are \$3.50 an hour. But it would be worth it considering what we found.



5mm chiton inside a *Dosinia discus* valve.



*Hepatus epheliticus* (calico box crab)



2mm possible naticid (moon snail)



Octopus on Steve's dredge



Mostly bivalves



*Argopecten irradians concentricus* (bay scallop)

A list of what we found at Pass-a-Grille.

- Atrina rigida* (rough pen shell)
- Dinocardium robustum* (Atlantic giant cockle)
- Macrocallista nimbosa* (sunray venus clam)
- Argopecten irradians concentricus* (bay scallop)
- Dosinia discus* (disc dosinia)
- Trachycardium egmontianum* (prickly cockle)
- Chione elevata* (cross-barred venus)
- Crepidula fornicata* (Atlantic slippersnail)
- Crepidula maculosa* (spotted slippersnail)
- Crepidula depressa* (eastern white slippersnail)
- Arcinella cornuta* (spiny jewelbox)
- Oliva sayana* (Say's olive)
- Strombus alatus* (Florida fighting conch)
- Fasciolaria hunteria* (banded tulip)
- Noetia ponderosa* (ponderous ark)
- Chitons (unidentified)
- Arca zebra* (turkey-wing ark)
- Anomia ephippium* (jingle shell)
- Megapitaria maculata* (calico clam)

And several micros still to be identified.

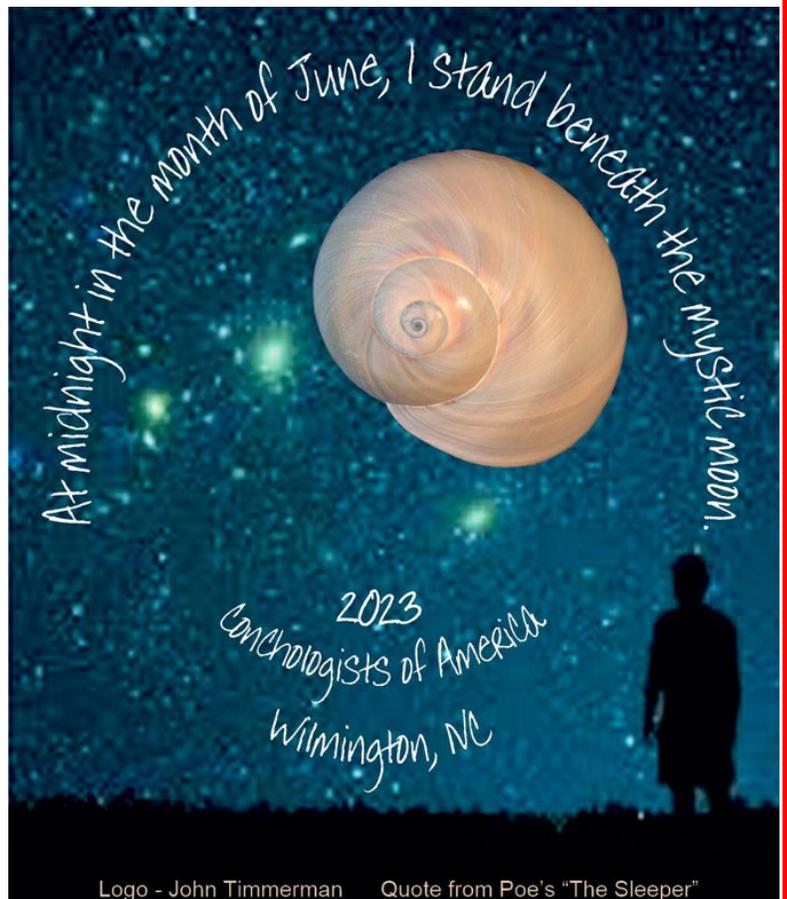


## Conchologists of America, inc.

### Conchologists of America 2023 Convention

The North Carolina Shell Club will host the convention in Wilmington, NC May 31-June 4. To attend the convention and participate in the presentations, field trips, and silent auctions, you must be registered. Registration forms are now available on the COA web site [conchologistsofamerica.org](http://conchologistsofamerica.org).

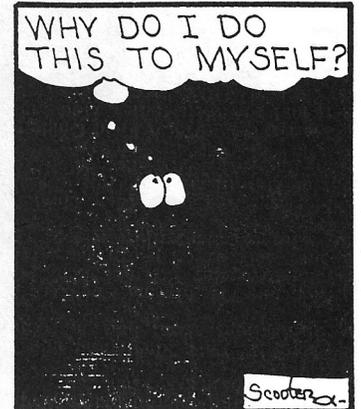
The convention consists of several pre-convention field trips, the Welcome Party, presentations/talks, Silent Auctions, the Banquet, an Oral Auction, and the Dealers Bourse. No registration is required to attend the oral auction and the bourse. The bourse normally consists of about 10,000 square feet of space for dealers from around the world displaying a huge variety of shells and shell-related items.



## Field Trips

As field trips are determined, information will be emailed to the members.

### CLAM - Scooter Beers



Scooter  
S&SL 18(9):145

## Shells – Crafts – Bags – Florida Books



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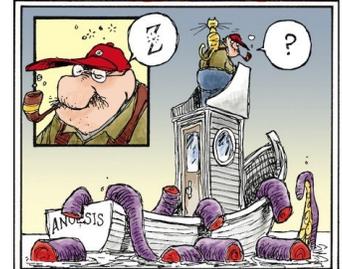
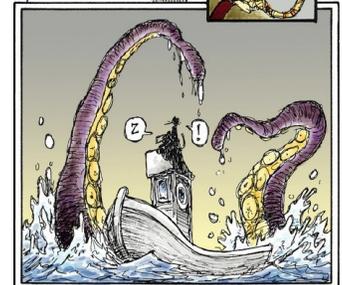
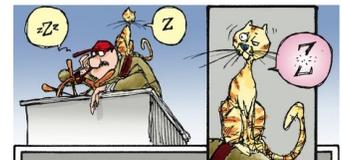
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# HAVE I RENEWED ?

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



**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 6:00p.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.

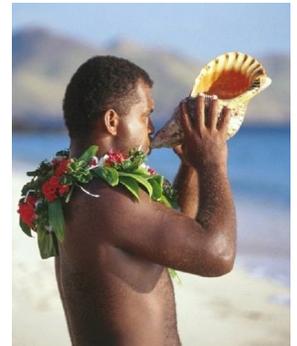
Please complete—Detach and Return

\_\_\_\_\_  
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:

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

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: [stpeteshellclub@gmail.com](mailto:stpeteshellclub@gmail.com)  
Web site: [stpeteshellclub.org](http://stpeteshellclub.org)  
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**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.