



St. Petersburg Shell Club
Seashell Show Rules
77th Annual Seashell Show
"For the Love of Seashells"
Seminole Recreation Center
9100 113th St N
Seminole, FL 33772
February 13 February 14, 2026



We welcome anyone who is interested in shells and shell-collecting to apply for entry in the 77th Annual Seashell Show. This will be an excellent opportunity to show-off your shells, photos, and artistic endeavors.

Entries are due by **January 20, 2026**. Send your application to the **Show Exhibit Chairman: 202 Soldier Ct, Seffner FL 33584-5764** or by email to **stpeteshellclub@gmail.com**. Reservations for exhibit space will be accepted on a first come basis.

SET UP: Exhibit set up will be Thursday, Feb. 12th at the Recreation Center in Seminole from 11AM to 2PM. All exhibits must be completed by 2PM. Judging starts at 2:30PM. The show opens Friday, Feb. 13th.

ELIGIBILITY: A committee has been established to ensure that all exhibits meet eligibility and rules requirements.

SIZE RESTRICTIONS OF SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS

30 INCHES IN DEPTH including backboards

It is suggested that an exhibit not exceed 40 FEET (maximum length of one row). If longer, exhibitor must agree to wrap around to the next row.

Artistic/Craft exhibits are limited to two entries in each category. All exhibits will be displayed on a tabletop unless the exhibit chairman is notified.

JUDGING: Judging is Thursday Feb. 12th from 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM

THE SHOW IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Friday, Feb. 13 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday, Feb 14 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

NO EXHIBIT MAY BE REMOVED UNTIL 3:00 P.M. SATURDAY

REMOVAL OF EXHIBITS AND VENDORS BOOTHS:

All exhibits and vendor booths must be removed on closing day Saturday, February 14, between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM. The Club or recreation center is not liable for exhibits left past 6:00 PM.

SHELL SHOW RULES:

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Entries must be submitted by the deadline, Jan 20, 2026. Show may fill up earlier. Space reservations will be accepted on a first-come basis. Reservations **must** be made by written application sent by mail or a facsimile of this form will be accepted if you wish to send it by email. No phone reservations will be accepted. There is no entry fee.

SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS

1. Exhibits are suggested at 40 feet maximum. This is the length of the tables in each row. If an exhibit longer than 40 feet is entered, the exhibitor must agree that the exhibit can go around a corner or from one row to another.
2. An exhibit consisting of several cases will be judged as one entry. Each exhibit is limited to entry in one scientific category. Each exhibit may be eligible for the National Museum of Natural History Award, the Conchologists of America Award, the DuPont Trophy, and the Florida Museum of Natural History Award. To be in competition for them, you must specify that you are eligible for the major awards. Check the rules to be sure.
3. Each exhibitor may enter as many categories as desired provided a separate exhibit is submitted for each category. We recommend that the same exhibit used in previous years not be entered again without visible changes, **unless the exhibit is eligible for the Florida Museum Award**. We like to present a new show to the public each year.
4. Do not put your name or picture in or on any exhibit. If a name/picture is on any exhibit before judging, the exhibit may be disqualified. Name cards will be provided by the show committee after judging is completed.
5. No shells may be removed or added to an exhibit after judging.
6. The eligibility committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any exhibit or to change an exhibit to another

category, if in their opinion; it does not belong in the category in which it was entered.

7. A small star must be placed on the label of each self-collected shell in any category, other than #4 or #10, to be eligible for self-collected Shell of the Show. If all the shells in an individual case are self-collected, then a small sign must be placed in the case saying all are self-collected. Each case with eligible shells must indicate such with either stars or a sign.

8. Exhibitors must furnish attractive, secure display cases for their exhibits. See sizes under eligibility. Bring all supplies that you need when setting up your exhibit (Scissors, Screwdriver, Tape, Pens, Paper Towels, etc.).

ARTISTIC EXHIBITS

9. Artistic exhibitors and any other exhibitors must provide their own easels.

10. Artistic exhibits are limited to 2 entries per category. All exhibits will be displayed on a tabletop unless the exhibit chairman is notified in advance.

GENERAL RULES:

11. There shall be no sale or advertisement for sale of specimen shells or artistic exhibits on the floor of the show. All sales will be confined to the concession space leased to the dealers.

12. The St. Petersburg Shell Club or the owners of the exhibit hall will not be responsible for damage or loss to any exhibit.

13. Exhibits may not be removed from the show before **3:00 PM on Saturday**. All exhibitors must be present at 3:00 PM on Saturday to remove their exhibits. Neither the Shell Clubs nor the Recreation Center will be liable for exhibits left after 6 PM.

NOTE: ALL SHELL SHOW RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED INCLUDING LENGTH, HEIGHT, AND WIDTH OF EXHIBIT.

AWARDS:

JUDGES: The judges shall be appointed by the officers of the club. At least one judge shall not be a member of the club.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AWARD

The entrant may be any private collector (or club, school or group of amateurs) who maintains a mollusk collection of their own. Not eligible are persons who are employed by a large endowed or university supported museum, or persons engaged in the sale of mollusks as a business. To be considered for this award the exhibit must be entered in categories 1 through 14.

EXHIBIT: Any subject, theme or selection of specimens may be used. The specimens used in the exhibit must be owned by the exhibitor. Professional advice in preparation of the exhibit is permissible, but acknowledgment must be included in the exhibit.

JUDGING: The exhibit will be judged on the following:

- The trophy must be given to blue-ribbon winning exhibits only.
- Attractiveness and neatness of entire exhibit 40 points
- Educational value and interest 20 points
- Accuracy of facts 20 points
- Originality of presentation 10 points
- Apparent amount of work involved 10 points

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA AWARD:

- The COA award is presented by the judges to the exhibit of mollusks which the judges feel shows overall excellence and best advances the interest in shells and shell collecting.
- An exhibit by a shell dealer or professional malacologist is not eligible for the COA trophy unless the exhibit is made up of entirely self-collected shells.
- The trophy must be given to blue-ribbon winning exhibits only.
- It shall not be given to an exhibit receiving another major award at the same show during the same year. However, it may be given to an exhibit that has won another major award at a previous shell show anywhere and/or any previous year. (Major award is defined as The Museum of Natural History, COA, American Museum of Natural History, or the Dupont Award.)
- It may not be awarded twice to the same exhibit, but there is no limit to the number of times an exhibitor may win with different exhibits.

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PLATINUM AWARD

- This premium trophy, presented by the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, CAN ONLY BE awarded to an exhibit that has previously won a major award such as the COA Award, du Pont Trophy, National Museum of Natural History Award, or the American Museum of Natural History Award. This award was established to give MAJOR AWARD-WINNING exhibitors a chance to present their exhibit for a premium award. The exhibit will be eligible for any major award other than the one that the exhibit previously won.
- Original format of the exhibit cannot be changed more than 10%. Proof of eligibility will be required. It may not be awarded to any commercial dealer or professional malacologist. You must indicate on the entry form that you are eligible for the FMNH Platinum Award and the original trophy that the exhibit won. You must also indicate on the entry blank which of the other major awards you are eligible for.

SHELL OF THE SHOW:

The most outstanding single shell from any exhibit. Every shell in competition is eligible.

SHELL OF THE SHOW -SELF-COLLECTED:

The most outstanding single shell of the show collected from its natural habitat by the exhibitor. Self-collected shells to be considered for this award that are not entered in the SELF COLLECTED category 10 or ONE SINGLE SPECIMEN SELF-COLLECTED category 4 should be indicated by placing a colored star on the identification label.

SELMA "SAMMY" LAWSON AWARD

This award is presented in memory of Sammy Lawson, in recognition of her devotion and dedication to the St. Petersburg Shell Club. Each scientific exhibit in competition is automatically entered. Exhibit will be judged on beauty of arrangement, selection of shells for color and balance, and artistic skill of the exhibitor - not just beautiful shells. It may not be awarded twice to the same exhibit, but there is no limit to the number of times an exhibitor may win with different exhibits.

DOROTHY HANSSLER TROPHY

This will be given to the best Florida-Caribbean collection entered in categories 1-14. Any exhibit not entered in the Florida-Caribbean category, must have something in the case that identifies the **total** exhibit as "Florida-Caribbean". The award may not be given twice to the same exhibit.

BETTY AND BOB LIPE BEST SCIENTIFIC LESS THAN 10 FEET

This award is presented in memory of Betty and Bob Lipe for their many years of service to the club. Any exhibit in the Scientific Division with a total length of 10 feet or less is eligible for this award. The award will be presented at the sole discretion of the judges. The award may not be given twice to the same exhibit.

ALICE MONROE EDUCATIONAL AWARD

This award is presented in memory of Alice Monroe, a person that loved to educate people about shells. The exhibit does not have to be entered in the Educational Category as any display in which the prime object is to teach is eligible. Exhibits must include information over and above labeling, to qualify for this award.

EARL CLARK ARTISTIC TROPHY

This award is given in honor of Earl Clark to the best Artistic Exhibit in Categories 17 through 23.

JUDGES SPECIAL Each judge in the Scientific or Artistic categories may award a ribbon to the exhibit of their choice.

FLORENCE KUCZYNSKI AWARD FOR PEOPLE'S CHOICE

This award will be chosen by the public. They will cast a ballot for their favorite exhibit in the show.

CATEGORIES FOR THE SEASHELL SHOW

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES (Ribbons)

In each category #1 through #23, First and Second place ribbons (Blue and Red) can be awarded if the judges determine that such awards are merited. The decision of the judges will be final.

JUDGES SPECIAL RIBBONS: Special Ribbons may be awarded by each of the judges for the exhibit of their choice.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ONE FAMILY | 13. FOSSILS |
| 2. ONE GENUS | 14. LAND AND FRESHWATER |
| 3. ONE SPECIES | 15. BEACHLIFE |
| 4. ONE SINGLE SPECIMEN SELF-COLLECTED | 16. SPECIAL |
| 5. ONE SINGLE SPECIMEN | 17. SHELL ART |
| 6. ONE REGION | 18. PHOTOGRAPHY |
| 7. FLORIDA AND CARIBBEAN | 19. WALL HANGINGS |
| 8. WORLDWIDE | 20. SAILOR'S VALENTINES: |
| 9. NOVICE | 21. TABLE ITEMS |
| 10. SELF-COLLECTED | 22. NOVELTIES |
| 11. EDUCATIONAL | 23. JUNIOR |
| 12. JUNIOR | 24. NON-COMPETITIVE |

1. **ONE FAMILY** All shells in the display from one molluscan family.
2. **ONE GENUS:** All shells in the same genus or subgenus. If a family has only one genus, it must be entered in the Family categories. Example Conus, Haliotis.
3. **ONE SPECIES:** All shells of one species, showing variation in color or form, or a growth series. Not just a lot of shells.
4. **ONE SINGLE SPECIMEN SELF-COLLECTED:** Self-collected specimen shell. Shell must be collected from its natural habitat.
5. **ONE SINGLE SPECIMEN:** Exhibit of single specimen shell from any source.
6. **ONE REGION:** Shells collected from a single location. (i.e.: a beach, causeway, Fort DeSoto, Costa Rica, Mexico, New Zealand, Florida Keys).
7. **FLORIDA AND CARIBBEAN:** All shells exhibited must have been collected in the Florida and/or Caribbean area.
8. **WORLDWIDE:** A miscellaneous exhibit of shells from several parts of the world.
9. **NOVICE:** A collector's first exhibit in a recognized shell show. This category is not mandatory for first-time exhibitors.
10. **SELF-COLLECTED:** Every shell shown must have been personally collected from its natural habitat by the exhibitor. All shells in this category will be automatically eligible for the Self-Collected Shell of the Show Award, and therefore need not be marked with a colored star. How the shells were collected should be included.
11. **EDUCATIONAL:** Any display in which the prime object is to teach. Exhibits must include information over and above labeling to qualify for this category. Includes aquaria, dioramas, habitat groups, shells cut to show structure, anatomical representations, collecting and cleaning explanations. etc.

12. **JUNIOR:** An exhibit prepared by individual or group. 15 years of age or under. Shells must belong to and be arranged and labeled by the junior(s). The age of the Exhibitor's must appear on the exhibit.
13. **FOSSILS:** Exhibit to be limited to fossil mollusks.
14. **LAND AND FRESHWATER:** Limited to land and or freshwater mollusks.
15. **BEACHLIFE:** Anything found on the beach.
16. **SPECIAL:** Subject matter associated with shells (but not eligible under # 1-15 above). Shell books, stamps, and the story of shells in art, literature, or commerce.
17. **SHELL ART:** Anything with a shell motif (paintings, drawings, needlework, and stained glass, etc.). Must be self-produced by exhibitor and not previously exhibited in this Seashell Show.
18. **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Any photograph of shells living or displayed. Must be taken by the exhibitor and not previously exhibited in this Seashell Show.
19. **WALL HANGINGS:** Mirrors, shell picture, etc. constructed of shells and/or marine materials. Must be personally created by exhibitor, and not previously exhibited in this Seashell Show.
20. **SAILOR'S VALENTINES:** Includes both double and single valentines constructed of shells and/or marine materials. Must be self-produced by exhibitor and not previously exhibited in this Seashell Show.
21. **TABLE ITEMS:** Flower arrangements, jewelry, miniatures, and other items not for hanging on walls. Must be self-produced by the exhibitor of shells and/or marine materials and not previously exhibited in this Seashell Show.
22. **NOVELTIES:** Anything that will not fit in the previous categories. Must be created by the exhibitor of shells and or marine materials, and not previously exhibited in this Seashell Show.
23. **JUNIOR ARTISTIC:** An artistic exhibit prepared by individual or group 15 years of age or under. Must be self-produced by the exhibitor and not previously exhibited in this Seashell Show. The age of the exhibitor must appear on the exhibit.
24. **NON-COMPETITIVE:** Any exhibit not to be in competition.



77th Annual Seashell Show “For the Love of Seashells”

Seminole Recreation Center
9100 113th St. N.
Seminole, FL 33772

February 13-14, 2026

We welcome anyone who is interested in shells and shell collecting to apply for sales space in the 77th Annual Seashell Show. This will be an excellent opportunity to show off your shells, snails, and artistic endeavors. Table space is now available for the 77th Annual Seashell Show. This year the 8-foot tables will be \$100.00 per table. A deposit of 50% is due with the application. Applications will be considered on a first come, first serve basis depending on size of booth. The balance will be due on Saturday morning February 14.

Application should be submitted by January 20, 2026.

Mail to **Show Exhibit Chairman: 202 Soldier Ct, Seffner FL 33584-5764**. Phone 813-309-2608.

Questions only. No applications will be accepted over the phone. A facsimile of this form will be accepted if you wish to send it by email. Shell show Chairman can also be reached at stpeteshellclub@gmail.com.

Copies of this form are available on the Shell Club Website: <http://www.stpeteshellclub.org>

SET UP: Dealers and exhibitors set up will be Thursday, February 12, 2026, from 11 AM to 2 PM.

THE SHOW IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Friday, February 13 – 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday, February 14 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

REMOVAL OF EXHIBITS AND DEALERS' BOOTHS:

All exhibits and dealers' booths must be removed on closing day, Saturday February 14 between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

I understand the guidelines and conditions and agree to abide by them. I would like to be considered as a dealer:

Business Name: _____

Owner or Agent: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____

Telephone: Cell: _____ Home: _____

Number of Tables _____ @ \$100.00 ----- \$ _____

Deposit included with the application----- \$ _____

Electricity needed Yes _____ No _____ Helpers Name: _____

Dealers are responsible for providing their own lights, cords, and tape supplies where needed. The club will only be responsible for providing access to an electrical outlet.



2026 Application for Exhibit Entry
77th Annual Seashell Show
“For the Love of Seashells”
Feb 13-14, 2026
9100 113th Street North, Seminole, FL 33772

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number: Area Code _____ Number _____
Email _____

Entry Number	Category Number	Category Name	No. of Cases or items	Total Length of exhibit Feet Inches
1				
2				
3				
4				

Brief titles for your exhibits in the same order as listed above:

Entry #1 _____

Entry #2 _____

Entry #3 _____

Entry #4 _____

The Next questions are for **Scientific Exhibitors Only**

Which exhibit is eligible for the National Museum of Natural History Award?

Circle the eligible Entry #1 #2 #3 #4

Which exhibit is eligible for the Conchologists of America Award?

Circle the eligible Entry #1 #2 #3 #4

Which exhibit is eligible for the Florida Museum of Natural History Award?

Circle the eligible Entry #1 #2 #3 #4

List Previous Award: _____

I have read the Show Rules and agree to abide by them.

Date _____ Signature of Exhibitor _____

Print your name below exactly as you want it to appear on your exhibit.

Application should be submitted by January 20, 2026.

Mail or email to **Show Exhibit Chairman, 202 Soldier Ct, Seffner, FL 33584-5764**. Phone 813-309-2608 for questions only. No applications will be accepted over the phone. A facsimile of this form will be accepted if you wish to send it by email. Shell show Chairman can also be reached at stpeteshellclub@gmail.com. Copies of this form are available on the Shell Club Website: <http://www.stpeteshellclub.org> **Please use separate copies if you have more than 4 exhibits.**