

Tidelines

January 2024

St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc.

Founded 1936

Web site: stpeteshellclub.org

Seashell
Diamonds
75th Annual
Shell Show

February 23-24,
2024

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.



**Welcome in the New
Year with lots of shells,
good friends and good
health.**

**Enjoy all that 2024 has
to offer: Conchologists of
America convention in
Melbourne, Florida, the
Paris Olympics, an
extra day in February
and lots of great Shell
Shows in Florida and
beyond.**

A toast to you all!

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

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou (Happy New Year) in Hawaiian.

Hobbies that involve natural history are the best kind. Studying some aspect of nature leads invariably to understanding ourselves and where we came from. All life is connected. Examining one type of life, such as molluscs, leads to knowledge about their habitat, what they eat, their association with their surroundings and the other species they interact with. From a scientific point of view, you cannot have too much information on your data labels. Noting where (geographic coordinates are best), when, depth/elevation, habitat conditions, what the critter was doing at the time, and anything else relevant goes a long way towards our understanding of the natural world.

For the first time, we had a club meeting in December. Dr. Chelsea Korpany of Eckard College gave an informative presentation about Boca Ciega Bay.

Our Holiday Party took place December 15 with 21 in attendance. We had loads of food, played CROWN, and had a great time with the gift exchange.

I write this as the year 2023 draws to a close and I reflect upon the good and not so good things that have come to pass. Whatever lies ahead for all of you in 2024, I wish you safe travels, good health, and, of course, beautiful shells to hold and admire.

Happy New Year!

John

Forecast Minus Tides

January

- 6 Sat 3:01AM -0.2
- 7 Sun 3:56AM -0.4
- 8 Mon 4:47AM -0.6
- 9 Tue 5:36AM -0.8
- 10 Wed 6:23AM -0.9
- 11 Thu 7:09AM -1.0
- 12 Fri 7:52AM -0.9
- 13 Sat 8:34AM -0.8
- 14 Sun 9:13AM -0.6
- 15 Mon 9:49AM -0.3
- 19 Fri 1:56AM -0.2
- 20 Sat 3:12AM -0.4
- 21 Sun 4:15AM -0.6
- 22 Mon 5:08AM -0.7
- 23 Tue 5:53AM -0.7
- 24 Wed 6:32AM -0.6
- 25 Thu 7:04AM -0.6
- 26 Fri 7:33AM -0.5
- 27 Sat 7:59AM -0.4
- 28 Sun 8:23AM -0.3
- 29 Mon 8:46AM -0.2

February

- 4 Sun 2:25AM -0.3
- 5 Mon 3:35AM -0.4
- 6 Tue 4:34AM -0.7
- 7 Wed 5:25AM -0.8
- 8 Thu 6:10AM -0.9
- 9 Fri 6:51AM -0.9
- 10 Sat 7:28AM -0.8
- 11 Sun 8:01AM -0.5
- 12 Mon 8:31AM -0.3
- 14 Wed 10:42PM -0.2
- 16 Fri 12:04AM -0.3
- 17 Sat 1:34AM -0.3
- 18 Sun 2:58AM -0.4
- 19 Mon 4:05AM -0.5
- 20 Tue 4:56Am -0.5
- 21 Wed 5:37AM -0.5
- 22 Thu 6:09AM -0.5
- 23 Fri 6:36AM -0.4
- 24 Sat 6:58AM -0.3
- 25 Sun 7:17AM -0.2

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 Cheryl 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 Cheryl Jacobs; Annual Picnic the Board; Raffle/Door Prizes Cheryl Jacobs; Facebook Cheryl Jacobs; Webmaster Cheryl Jacobs.

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

Jan 2 Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7pm **Jerry Puigdomemnech "Ammonites"**

Jan 5 Webinar from the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium

Feb 2 To be determined

Feb 6 Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7pm

Mar 1 **Dr. José Leal** of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and Aquarium via Zoom

Mar 5 Suncoast Conchologists meeting 7pm

UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS & RELATED EVENTS

Jan 20-21: 44th Astronaut Trail Shell Show, Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Avenue, Eau Gallie, FL

Jan 27-28: 57th Broward Shell Show, E. Pat Larkins Community Center, 520 NW 3rd Street, Pompano Beach, FL

Feb 9-10: 60th Sarasota Shell Show, Potter Building at Roberts Arena, 2896 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL

Feb 23-24: 75th St. Petersburg Shell Show, Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th Street North, Seminole, FL

Mar 8-9: Sanibel Shell Show, Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort, 17260 Harbour Pointe Drive, Ft. Myers, FL

Mar 16-17: Fossil Fest, Tampa Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL

Apr 13: Florida United Malacologists (FUM) meeting, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL

May 3-5: North Carolina Shell Show

Jun 11-16: Conchologists of America Convention Hilton Hotel, Melbourne, Florida

Happy Birthdays

Birthday Shells per R. Tucker Abbott

January

9 – Robert McCreary
25 – John Jacobs
28 – Vicky Wall

February

7 – Kathy Hofstad
17 – Sandra Gann
25 – Pat Linn

January—Orange banded cowry (*Lyncina carneola*)



February—Purple sea snail (*Janthina janthina*)



COA 2024

SHELL-OLYMPICS



Conchologists of America, inc.

2024 Convention

When: June 11-16, 2024

Where: Hilton Hotel, Melbourne, Florida

To attend the convention and participate in the presentations, field trips, and silent auctions, you must be registered. Registration forms will be available soon on the COA web site 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 can consist of up to 10,000 square feet of space for dealers from around the world displaying a huge variety of shells and shell-related items.

Our December 1st Meeting

The first-time December meeting was well-received. We had Dr. Chelsea Korpanty along with her two students Samantha Cuson and Liam Fry of Eckerd College spoke about their findings concerning Boca Ciega Bay and the impact of runoff from the land into the bay. They brought core samples and shell specimens collected from the cores.



Our shoebox display was shells beginning with the letters “S” for Santa and the letter “C” for Claus. Mary Ellen went a few steps further with a shell for each letter in the name Santa Claus. “S” *Scaphander lignarius*, “A” *Aporrhais pesgallinae*, “N” *Niso aeglees*, “T” *Typhis bullisi*, “A:” *Atlanta peronii*, “C” *Cadulus carolinensis/quadridentatus*, “L” *Limopsis vaginata*, “A” *Arene vanhyningi*, “U” *Umbraculum umbraculum*, “S” *Simnia uniplicata*. Well played, Mary Ellen!



John also brought in some shells for the theme. *Thaisella chocolata* with eggs, *Cabestana spengleri*, *Pinna carnea*, *Cymbula granatina*, *Conomurex luhuanus*, and *Cellana exarata*.



Annual Holiday Party

We got together at the Seminole Recreation Center on December 15th where we had a great time. There was loads of food and no one went hungry. The gift exchange was fun as always as each recipient revealed their present. Afterwards we played CROWN (BINGO) with many great shells won as prizes.



*Wishing everyone a
Happy New Year filled
with shells, good health
and lots of smiles.*

Which Whelk Is it?

Steve Geiger

The difference between Channeled whelks, Knobbed whelks and Lightning whelks is distinct.



Photos from www.Jaxshells.org
Sinistrofulgur sinistrum (Left)
Busycotypus canaliculatus (Middle)
Busycon carica (Right)

First, lightning whelks are sinistrally coiled and both knobbed and channeled whelks are dextrally coiled (as pictured, spire up, the aperture is on the left or right, and the shell coils counterclockwise or clockwise). Lightning whelks have more pronounced coloration, their knobs are more triangular than channeled, and rarely if ever have any periostracum. Channeled whelks have more rounded knobs (especially in juveniles, below) and may have a fine hairy periostracum. Finally, the suture has a notable deep groove or channel in channeled whelks.



Pear whelks



When it comes to pear whelks, there remains in my mind some confusion. Abbott 1974 identifies the True Pear Whelk as *Busycon spiratum spiratum* (Lamarck, 1816) ranging from Texas to Yucatan. The Say's Pear Whelk (*B. s. pyruloides*) range is reported as North Carolina through the gulf coast of Florida. Finally, the Texas or Shouldered Pear Whelk (*B. s. plagosum*) range is listed as Texas to Yucatan.

True Pear Whelks are said to have a rounded weak shoulder, heavy shell, strongly spirally grooved, and interior strongly lirate (raised threads that follow the coil). Current taxonomic status is *Fulguopsis spirata*. (A – Image from Let's Talk Seashells). Say's Whelks are said to also have a rounded shoulder, but have thinner shells, weak spiral threads, and sometimes a thin periostracum. Current taxonomic status is *Fulguopsis pyruloides* (B – image from Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum). Texas Pear Whelks were said to be longer and narrower, have an elongated siphonal canal, a more pronounced shoulder with a carina (essentially like a keel or sharp edge) and a deep canal at the suture which can be square or v-shaped. Current taxonomic status is *Fulguopsis plagosum*. (C – image from Let's Talk Seashells). Depending on which guide you use, they may appear as genus *Busycon* or *Busycotypus*. AND. There are at least four other varieties proposed: *F. feldmanni*, *F. keysensis*, *F. texana*, and *F. pyruloides rachelcarsonae*. If you look at enough websites and books, especially older books, you'll undoubtedly confuse yourself. See for example, a specimen called *B. s. pyruloides* on LTS (D) which seems to be intermediate. I've collected shells like this around Tampa Bay and wondered if they were channeled whelks - *I don't think so* - and will pay more attention now. There are many other examples on-line.

Continued next page

I suspect some of the differences and confusion comes from camera angle and some from gender dimorphism at maturity (female whelks can develop a fuller, rounded whorl at maturity) and possibly changes in shape as the whelks grow (allometry). I also wonder if the flare in the suture at the aperture is more developed in a mature female? Either way, this species complex remains uncertain in my mind including defining characteristics and appropriate ranges.

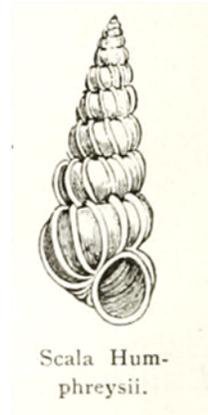
P.S. – one should never *ever* confuse whelks and figs *Ficus papyratia* (Say, 1822) (E). Atlantic Fig Snail (Photo from BMNSM)



An image from *The Nautilus* (Volume VI, No. 2) July 1892. Some remarks on New Jersey Coast Shells. By John Ford. One of the most prized specimens was this *Fulgur canaliculata*. Other “common” species included *Ostrea virginica*, *Venus mercenria*, *Mytilus edulis*, *Litorina litorea*, *Pecten irradians* and *Scala humphreysii* (a wentletrap).

Back issues of *The Nautilus* can be viewed on the Biodiversity Heritage Library website :

www.Biodiversitylibrary.org



Scala Humphreysii.

75th Annual St. Petersburg Shell Show

Get ready for the second oldest shell show in the United States. **Seashell Diamonds** will take place February 23-24, 2024 at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Florida. Scientific exhibit entries are coming in fast, so don't hesitate if you wish to enter. While we haven't been known for a large artistic showing, I'm encouraging the artisans to consider entering this show. We will be honored to have your artistic endeavors displayed here. Shell Show packets are available on the club web site at stpeteshellclub.org.

Major scientific awards will be the DuPont, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Florida Museum of Natural History, and, of course, the Conchologists of America. We are pleased to have as our scientific judges Dr. José Leal of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and Kevin Sunderland. Our artistic judge will be Linda Sunderland.

We will have a special award honoring our 75th Shell Show for any single specimen from Florida.

Help is always needed for the shell shows, so I encourage all members to participate in this year's show where possible. Sign up sheets will be available at the meetings or you can just email John Jacobs at johncheryl@earthlink.net or stpeteshellclub@gmail.com.

Presented by: The St. Petersburg Shell Club
& the Suncoast Conchologists



75th Shell Show

Seashell Diamonds

Feb. 23rd and Feb. 24th, 2024

Friday, 10AM-5PM
Saturday, 10AM-4PM



Seminole Recreation Center
9100 113th St. North
Seminole, Florida
1 Mile North of Park Blvd.

Minimum Donation of \$4
for an Adult at the door
Children under 15 Free with Adult
Teachers with ID Free

Beautiful Exhibits
Door Prizes,
Raffle Items
Shells for Sale

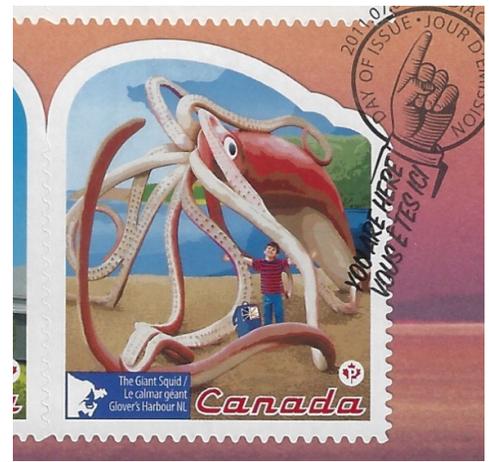
stpeteshellclub.org
suncoastconchologists.org
Facebook
E-mail: stpeteshellclub@gmail.com

Mollusca on Stamps

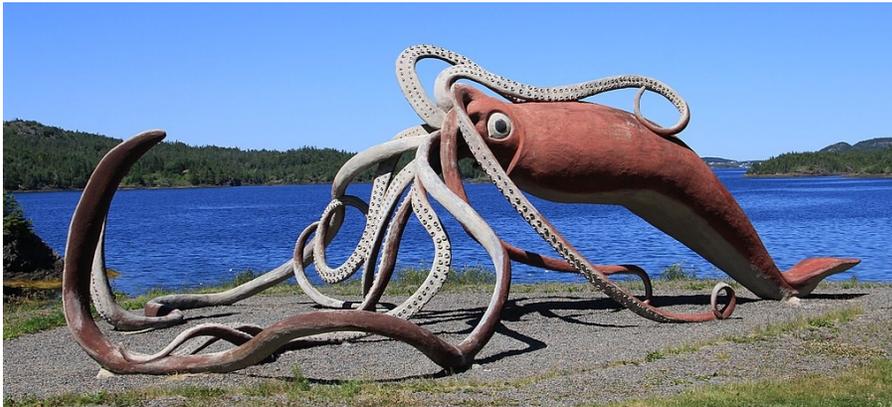
by John Jacobs

On July 7, 2011 Canada issued a set of 4 stamps showing Roadside Attractions. One of those stamps shows a replica of a giant squid. The text on the back of the First Day Cover mentions the squid being found November 2, 1878 at Glover's Harbour, Newfoundland & Labrador Province and is in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest at 16.8 meters/55 feet.

Check out the Mollusks on Postage Stamps facebook page.



Welcome sign referencing the giant squid specimen of 1878 and its recognition by Guinness World Records



The "life-sized" concrete and metal sculpture of the Thimble Tickle giant squid, Glovers Harbour (July 2017)

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium

As of May 1st, the museum is closed to renovate the damage caused by Hurricane Ian. Museum staff will also incorporate a number of upgrades to existing exhibits. So when the Museum reopens, 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.

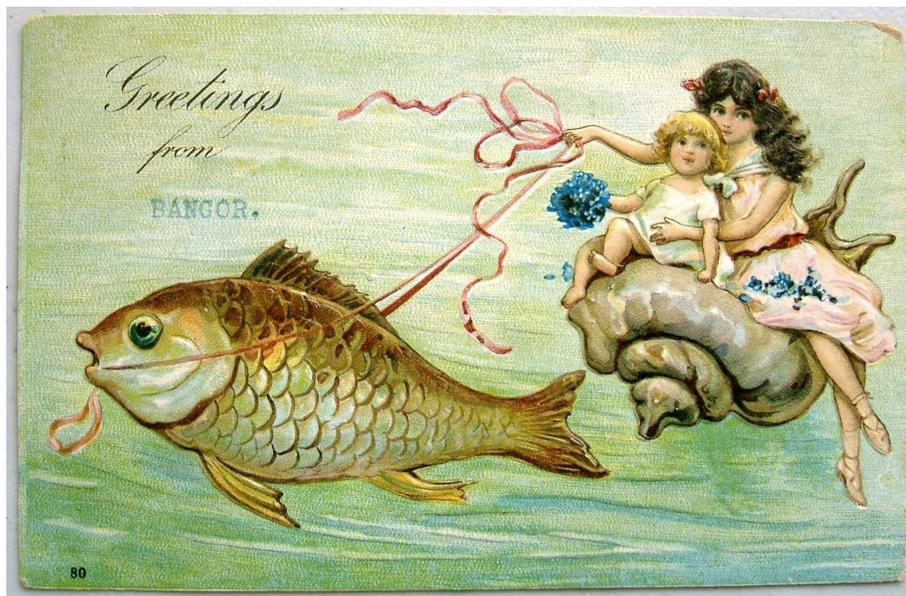
This isn't just a museum. Researchers here conduct vital research expanding our knowledge of molluscs, especially in the Florida, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean areas. If you have a specific interest and wish to examine the Museum's specimens, you only have to ask.

To me, 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.



Bailey-Matthews
National
Shell Museum
& Aquarium





Shells – Crafts – Bags – Florida Books



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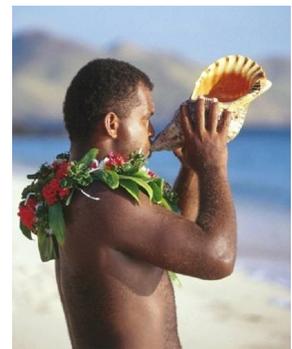
Largo FL 33771

Phone 727-360-0586

Email: shells@theshellstore.com

www.theshellstore.com

Ken Lipe & Jim the Shell Man



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.

One Stop Sheller's Supermarket

Open 10 am to 5 pm

Monday thru Saturday

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 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 \$ _____

Shell Show Awards and Ribbons Fund \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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