



Suncoast Shorelines

September – October 2017

PUBLISHED BY SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS

VOL. 34, No.1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this finds everyone looking forward to another Suncoast Conchologists year! We'll begin with our first meeting on Tuesday, September 5th.

During the summer, John planned two evening shelling trips---if you didn't go on one of those adventures, you really missed a great evening---very low tides, lovely weather, beautiful sunset, and trails everywhere---there were olives, cockles, starfish, king's crowns, sand dollars, whelks and more! I was especially fascinated by the many large Heart or Brown Cockles---*Dinocardium robustum vanhynigi*. (See photo below!) Our next super shelling opportunities won't return until the early morning tides this winter.

In this issue, you will find a wonderful article Mary Ellen has written about Suncoast Conchologists 2016-2017. Did you realize how much happened last year? Keep in mind, a member or members were needed to plan and help with each activity. This is what your officers do at our Board Meetings---plan and organize everything that we do during the year. And---you're welcome to join us at any of our meetings to make suggestions, share your ideas or just help!

So---hopefully many good times are awaiting us in our new year. See you Tuesday the 5th---be sure to bring your summer treasures along with your dues for 2017-2018!

Carolyn



PLAN AHEAD

Tuesday, September 5, 7:30M, Suncoast's Club Meeting. A presentation of shells from the 2017 Key West COA Convention, more shells than you could ever imagine. If you love shells, don't miss this program presented by our Suncoast member John Jacobs. Mini-box theme - "Summer Treasurers", including the 2 night Field Trips this summer.

Friday, September 1, 2017, 7PM, St. Petersburg Shell Club Meeting, held at the Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. North, Seminole, Florida

September 16-17, North Carolina Shell Club Shell Show, Cape Fear Museum of History and Science, 814 Market St., Wilmington, N.C. 28401

Monday, September 18, 7PM, Board Meeting held at the home of Caroline Petrikin. All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30PM, Suncoast's Club Meeting. Anita Freudenthal, a member of our club, will be presenting her program on "Consuming Food From The Sea And How It Can Make You Sick. Mini-box theme - "HALLOWEEN", bring shells that begin with one of the letters in this word."

Friday, October 6, 7PM, St. Petersburg Shell Club Meeting, held at the Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. North, Seminole, Florida

Monday, October 16, Board Meeting, 7PM, held at the home of Carolyn Petrikin. All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Tuesday, November 14, 7:30PM, SHELL ID NIGHT, held at Carolyn Petrikin's home.

Suncoast Conchologists, INC.

(Founded in 1984)

P.O. Box 1564 Palm Harbor, Florida 34682-1564

Suncoast Shorelines is issued five times per year to all members. Annual Membership with emailed newsletters: \$20 Family, \$15 Individual, \$10 Junior. Lifetime membership is available. Add \$5 if you would like a printed copy of the newsletters. The club usually meets the first Tuesday of every month (except June, July, August, and December) at 7:30pm, at Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Avenue, Clearwater.

Articles, comments and suggestions for publication are solicited and should be sent directly to the Editor:
spgeiger2000@yahoo.com

Closing Date for publication is the 15th of the month prior to the Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, and May meetings.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles published in the newsletter providing the original author is acknowledged, and a copy of the reprinted material is sent to Suncoast Conchologists.

2017-2018 Officers

President, Carolyn Petrikin

First Vice President, Sharlene Totten

Second Vice President, John Jacobs

Recording Secretary, Board: Mary Ellen Akers

Club: Anita Freudenthal

Treasurer, Katherine Smith

Corresponding Secretary, Elda Thomas

Email: Suncoastshells@aol.com

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🎂🎂🎂 *Happy Birthday* 🎂🎂🎂

SEPTEMBER

11—Sharlene Totten

20---Darlene Eaton

24—Sally Mitchell

OCTOBER

2—Barb Stauffer

10---Tom Borawski

21—Earl Petrikin

TIDES

Low tides for St. Petersburg.

September 2017

Fri 15 +0.28 6:02 PM

Sat 16 +0.27 6:56 PM

Sat 23 +0.50 10:41 AM

October Lows

Mon 9 +0.13 11:32 AM

Sat 21 +0.20 9:46 AM

Sun 22 +0.16 10:23 AM

But remember, the low at Egmont occurs almost 2½ hours before the low at St. Petersburg...

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html

2017-2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Audit

Katherine Smith,

Shirley Anderson

Carolyn Petrikin

COA Representative

Mary Ellen Akers

Education

Mary Ellen Akers

E-Mail/Phone Contact

Carolyn Petrikin

Facebook

Cheryl Jacobs

Field Trips

John Jacobs

Hospitality

Anita Freudenthal

& Marion Fuller

Library

Shirley Anderson

Membership

Betty Scheetz

Mini-Box Displays

Mary Ellen Akers

Newsletter Editor

Steve Geiger

Newsletter Distribution

Jennifer Kotimaki

Photography

John Jacobs

Programs

Sharlene Totten

Projectionist

John Jacobs

Publicity

Elda Thomas

Raffle

Katherine & Murray Smith,

Cheryl Jacobs

Refreshments

Joyce Holbrook

Deb Allen

Shell Exchange Tables

Katherine Smith

Website

Betty Scheetz

We appreciate every member who has agreed to help our club this year! Everyone is needed!

Summer Day Trip to Gasparilla Island State Park

July 2017

Jennifer Kotimaki

I had always heard stories of the Boca Grande/Gasparilla Island area known more for Tarpon Fishing than shelling. But I had to check it out for myself. It takes almost as long to drive down to Gasparilla Island as it does to get to Sanibel (about 2.5 hrs from Palm Harbor) once you get off interstate 75, (Exit 193), the roads become all two lane roads making the rest of the journey a bit slow but once you get onto the Island it reminds me of what the long time Florida Residents call Old Florida. The Island reminds me of a much smaller version of Sanibel, but without the Tourist & Traffic as long as you don't travel there during Tarpon Fishing/Tournament Season which is April-June. We were there on a Monday in July. The downtown is a very small fishing village. A few shops, a couple of restaurants, one ice cream shop & a very busy mini deli/general store.



A must see is Banyan Street where the Banyan Trees grow on both sides of the street making a Tropical Serene Canopy. Another resident of the Island are the green iguana's that you will notice in the park as well as crossing the roads.



There are two lighthouses on the Island. The first lighthouse you have to drive by to get to the state park & there is parking & beach access by the lighthouse as well. The Gasparilla Island State Park is home to the oldest structure on the Island, the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse, A house dwelling style lighthouse that dates back to 1890 and houses a museum/gift shop. The lighthouse overlooks Charlotte Harbor.



The currents are dangerous so there is no swimming at this beach but the rock jetty at the point is a haven for holding shells along the shore. (This is the spot that I found 3 of my favorite shell Nutmegs!)



Along with the shells we found some mini sharks teeth along the shore as well. We were lucky the day we went it was a dead calm so you could look right into the clear water along the shore but even with calm along the beach, you could see the current was strong where Charlotte Harbor meets the Gulf. A very tranquil and beautiful beach. There are picnic tables, a stilt house style bathroom and boardwalk that takes you down to the beach. It is a beach that is a bit of a hike to get to but I definitely want to visit again! The expenses to get onto Island & Park: Gasparilla Island Bridge Toll for cars \$ 6.00, plus the State Park Fees \$ 2.00 per person that you put in an envelope/box at entrance of the park.

Nighttime Shelling Adventures by John and Cheryl Jacobs

We had two nighttime field trips to the South Sunshine Skyway Bridge Rest Area, May 26th and June 24th. The tide was very low, and we were able to walk out for a good distance. Access is easy here, and no one had any problems accessing the water.



Immediately, we started seeing molluscs of varying species. Small *Melongena corona* (King's crowns) were everywhere. *Siphonaria pectinata* were common on the rocks near shore. Various shells with hermit crabs were abundant and amusing. A little further from the shore on the grasses, the small green bubble *Haminoea elegans* lived in the hundreds, if not thousands. Their shell is thin and mostly transparent. Dead shells in drift turn white quickly



Continuing our exploration of this mostly flat area, we discovered a variety of other marine life, also. Sea stars consisting of three species were found, and arrow crabs, sea birds, and shrimp



Here is a list of what was found during the two trips:
Found either alive or dead:

Bubble shells, Sand dollars, Sea stars 3 species
Lightning whelks, Kings crowns, Pear whelks
Horseshoe crabs, Moon snails, Baby's ear



Terebra, Nassarius, Marginella



Cockles 2 species, Horse conch, Banded tulip



Ceriths, Wenteltrap, Olives



Betty Scheetz also got some great people shots...

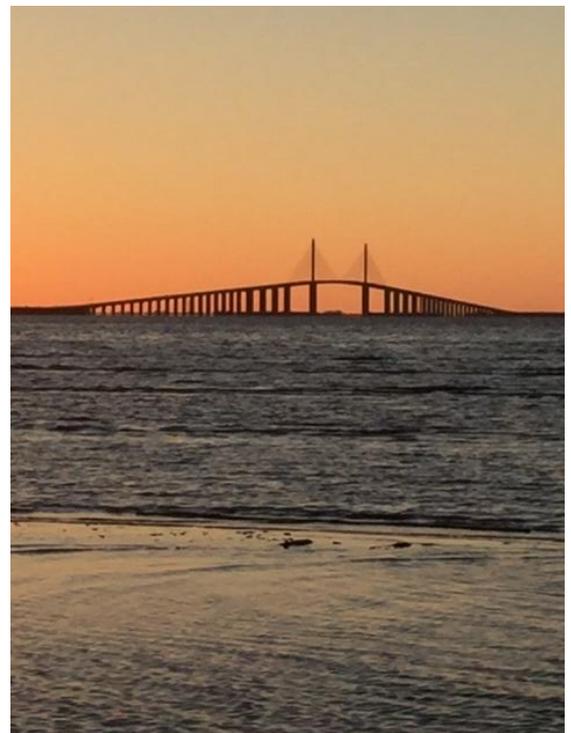
Chiton, Fighting conch, Cardita,



Sponges, Shrimp, Sunray venus clams
Razor clam, Pen shells, Merceneria clams
Eggs of moon and tulip,



...and of course the magnificent sunset



Clear blobs that may have worm eggs inside

Turnout for the trips was great, and everyone enjoyed their time on the flats. We are planning an early morning trip to take advantage of the morning low tides during winter. Enjoy the pictures!

“YOU BELONG TO A SHELL CLUB? WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES A SHELL CLUB DO?”

Have you ever had that kind of reaction when you mentioned that you belong to Suncoast Conchologists? Well, after explaining what the word *conchologist* means, you might mention meetings and speakers and snacks and pleasant folks; and your friends still look at you with pity, right? Writer decided to take a retrospective look at our 2017-18 year, and am astonished at what our club did and continues to do on a regular basis. For space limitations, I'll not mention names of who did what, or who went where, or this article would take up the entire issue!

OUTREACH: We set up a two-case local and worldwide shell display in the foyer of the Dunedin Public Library. A number of members spent the *Discover the Island* weekend representing our club at Egmont Key. Our Club is available on Facebook and the Web, and we initiated a new Club E-mail address for easy communication—suncoastshells@aol.com. We enjoyed our five-issue newsletter, *Suncoast Shorelines*. New shell ID labels were made for part of our three-case display at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and the exhibits were spiffed up as well. Annual information flyers were produced. We participated, with a display, in *Family Night* at Curtis Fundamental School. We “taught” shells for a full day, with plenty of display materials, for the *Great American Teach-In* at Dunedin Highland Middle School.

FIELD TRIPS: We visited the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, enjoyed holiday shelling at the south end of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, trekked to Williams Farm to pluck up Pliocene fossils, went to various shell shows around the state—Broward, Astronaut Trail, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sanibel; two members judged arts and crafts at two of these shows, had a special tour with Jose Leal of the upper inner sanctum of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel Island, and inaugurated “night” shelling twice at south Skyway. Members were even invited to join the Marine Science Associates’ annual Caribbean jaunt.

PROGRAMS: We learned lots over the months with presentations (enhanced with Power-Point illustrations) about the shell family, *Strombidae* (of which our emblem shell, *Strombus alatus*, is a member); revelations of the calcium innards of shells via x-rays; an exploration of the famed Monterey Bay Aquarium; exploring and shelling around Florida, the Caribbean, and even Peru; a second silent auction of part of a late member’s shell collection; helpful lessons in the post-collecting cleaning of shells; dangerous mollusks and their poison potential; and our well-loved Members’ Shell ‘n’ Share presentations at the end of the year. It is impressive and inspiring that nearly all of the programs were presented by our own knowledgeable and generous members.

MEMBERS’ MINI-BOX SHARINGS: Called Mini-Boxes to sound less-intimidating than Mini-Exhibits, how delightful were the shells and related items you brought in to share with

all of us. Our themes were *Strombus*, shell “Bling” (jewelry), juvenile (baby) shells to celebrate the New Year, shells featuring black and white, shell patterns (dots, lines, zigzag tents), and an “Anything-Goes” Bring-Whatever-You-Like fling.

EDUCATION: Obviously, one of the primary purposes of our club is to learn more about shells and the critters who make ‘em. We enjoyed an evening identifying and making labels for our mystery shells at a member’s home; we had several “Shell-Lingo” terminology-related presentations during our meetings with illustrated pass-out information; our *Suncoast Shorelines* newsletter featured numerous tidbits and educational articles by our illustrious Editor and at least eight other members; after sculling and trimming down our educational library books, we produced our updated library list; we promoted the international shell organization, Conchologists of America; we encouraged attendance at local shell shows; all meeting programs were education-oriented; and our mini-box themes, when possible, tried to enhance the program theme of the evening.

SOCIAL: We are Party Animals! We loved our refreshment breaks (thanks for bringing items to share and for contributing occasionally to the kitty), our festive Holiday Shellabration, our scrumptious Ice Cream Social, and our end-of-the-year Picnic at the prettiest shelter at Philippe Park. Despite our feasting at any possible opportunity, as we’ve gotten to know one another, we’ve endeavored to make our new members feel welcome, and we’ve tried to be supportive of one another in time of need and sorrow. We remain proud of our intrepid members who participated in Shell Shows, and delighted in their reflected glory when they won coveted awards. We have become a Shell Family ourselves!

MEMBERS: Ultimately, our shell club is its Members! Thanks to everyone who has ever served as an officer, a committee chair, a committee member, to anyone who has pitched in wherever you have seen a need, and for being with us on our annual journeys. Enthusiastic members are appreciated. Much of the foregoing could never have transpired without your generosity of spirit, time, and talents. Each one of you is a gift. We look forward to another exciting year with you, our Suncoast Conchologists Family.

And that’s what a good shell club does!!

Mary Ellen Akers

SHELLY WHITE ELEPHANTS?

Would you like to sell your extra shells or marine-related goodies? You may—at a Suncoast Conchologists meeting! Simply call Katherine (729-7655) and leave a message indicating your name and choice of month, or E-mail her Monday-Friday at ksmith@shrinenet.org before the meeting month. The charge for one table is \$3, payable at the meeting. Just think: Your extras may be somebody else’s treasures!

Several times during our May field trip, Shirley Anderson wanted to have a closer look at a shell she saw among the exposed grass



Shirley! What do you see?



A closer look!



It's a Rose Cockle!
Trachycardium egmontianum

(Editor's note – a better picture from CP from later that evening.)



Also, Shirley sent the most far-flung adventure photos, these from Coconut Point in American Samoa!



Carolyn

JOT DOWN OUR 2017-2018 MEETING/EVENT DATES!

How about “calendar-noting” our pertinent club dates for the coming year? September 5, October 3, November 7, and off-site Holiday Shellabration December 5, 2017; the 2018 dates are: January 9 (note: second Tuesday), February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, and our Philippe Park Picnic, Sat., May 12, 2018.

Spring Picnic



Member info

Meet our Newest Member:

Our newest member is Lynn Henderson, who joined in May. Originally from upstate New York, she and her husband have lived in Florida for a long time, starting in Key West, when her husband was in the Navy. They are both retired now. She started walking the beaches after several cancer illnesses and picked up shells and became interested in the beauty all around us and started collecting shells. Shirley Anderson her neighbor gave her some brochures on shells for identification. Lynn and her husband also kayak. She was amazed at the egg casings of the Lighting Whelk at the last meeting. Her phone is 727-797-7588 and email is lynnhaven@tampabay.rr.com.

And

Member changes for Directory:

Charlotte Nielsen 727-266-4216

Bill Turner 727-954-3194

SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual Dues with E-mail copy of the newsletter

Junior (under 19)	\$10.00	Life Membership:	
Individual:	\$15.00	Individual	\$150.00
Family	\$20.00	Family	\$200.00

For a printed copy of the newsletter, add \$5.00.

Our membership year begins September 1st. Please make checks payable to:
SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS, P. O. Box 1564, Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1564

Each year, ALL members are requested to complete the following info for our annual Membership Directory.

Date _____

Name(s)* _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Printed Copy of *Suncoast Shorelines*? Yes _____ No _____

Alternate address for part of the year---indicate dates and address:

Address _____ Dates-(From/To) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____ Telephone _____

List all family members included in membership: _____

Membership Category:

() Family () Individual () Junior () Lifetime

Please return this application with your check to our Membership Chairman at the Sept. meeting or mail to the above address before October 25.

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More...?



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