



Suncoast Shorelines

May-August 2017

PUBLISHED BY SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS

VOL. 33, No.5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yes, this is your last issue of *Shorelines* for Suncoast Conchologists 2016-17 club year! I find it so very hard to believe that it was 33 years ago this summer when on several occasions, twelve of us sat down together to plan what has become "Upper Pinellas County's Shell Club," Suncoast Conchologists. Once again I find myself as your President, this summer meeting with your board members as we plan together the coming months of your shell club. There have been many wonderful memories over the years to reflect upon as we look forward to what's ahead for Suncoast.

To those of you who have been a truly active part of our group this year, I extend my grateful thanks--it takes many members to accomplish all we do. We're especially appreciative of our members who indicated a willingness to help the club on their "End-of-the Year" Surveys. Any time you have an idea or suggestion, or would like to help, I'm just a phone call or an E-mail away.

Enjoy yourselves this summer---hopefully you will find many new shells to add to your collection!

In closing, here's

**Some Advice From The Ocean—
Be SHORE of yourself
Come out of your SHELL
Take time to relax and COAST
Avoid PIER pressure
SEA life's beauty!
Don't get TIDE down
Make WAVES!**

Do have a wonderful, restful and safe summer. I'll see you at a South Skyway field trip or on Tuesday, September 5th!

Carolyn

PLAN AHEAD

Tuesday, May 2nd, 7:30PM Shell and Share – short stories by club members about their favorite shell or shelling trip. **Mini Box**--"Field Trip Finds"--any shells found on a Suncoast Conchologists Field Trip
PLUS
Sharlene's Famous Ice Cream Social!

Saturday, May 6, Women in Paleontology Day, 777 E Princeton St., Orlando, Florida 32803

Saturday, May 13: Spring Picnic at Philippe Park, Shelter #1, 11AM-3PM

Friday, May 26 7PM Night Field Trip at South Skyway--see article in newsletter.

Saturday and Sunday, June 10-11 Gulf Coast Shell Show, Panama City Beach, Panama City Beach Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane

Saturday, June 24 7PM Night Field Trip at South Skyway--see article in newsletter.

August 15-19 - 2017 COA Convention, Key West



April Patterns

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.

2016-2017 Officers

President, Carolyn Petrikin

First Vice President, Sharlene Totten

Second Vice President, John Jacobs

Recording Secretary, Betty Scheetz

Treasurer, Katherine Smith

Corresponding Secretary Elda Thomas

Club Photographer: John Jacobs

Email: Suncoastshells@aol.com

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🎂 Happy Birthday 🎂

MAY

3—Charlotte Nielsen

23—Mary Ellen Akers

25---Judy Buchalski

27---Dianne Campbell

JULY

5---Ken Munkittrick

7---Bev Borawski

11—Abe Levine

29—Huguette Pittman

JUNE

1---Jennifer Kotimaki

2---Spike Buchalski

6---Vicki Eis

6---Joyce Holbrook

17—Roni Mucci

25---Sara Jean Henkel

25—Mary Marsh

30—Murray Smith

AUGUST

1---Pat Snair

3—Bill Turner

15—Bob Linn

24—Steve Geiger

29—Cheryl Jacobs

TIDES

Minus tides for St. Petersburg.

May 2017

Fri 12 -0.18 10:29 PM

Fri 26 -0.54 10:11 PM

June Lows

Fri 9 -0.18 9:44 PM

Fri 23 -0.49 9:17 PM

Sat 24 -0.51 10:06 PM

July Lows

Fri 7 -0.11 8:57 PM

Sat 22 -0.31 9:09 PM

August Lows

Sat 19 0.00 8:07 PM

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

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

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Diane T. Campbell

350 Barbara Circle

Belleair, FL 33756

727-692-2418

MrsFishStories2017@gmail.com

We are delighted to introduce our newest member, Dianne Campbell, who joined Suncoast Conchologists at our April meeting. Dianne is a registered nurse. She lived in New Jersey and Pennsylvania before coming to Florida 26 years ago, and is a “mom” to Dylan, Kelly and Russ.

Dianne’s interest in shells began years ago, walking beaches and discovering shelly treasures first on the New Jersey shores and then in Florida at Clearwater, Indian Rocks and Sarasota.

A glance at her charming and whimsical e-mail address should give all of us a good conversation-starter the next time we meet!

New Address:

Roni Mucci

13801 Aquilla Road

Burton, OH 44021

727-512-1386

E-Mail: vmucci@tampabay.rr.com

Correction:

Deb Allen

E-Mail: spirithealer50@gmail.com

END OF YEAR CLUB PICNIC

Our picnic will be Saturday, May 13, 11AM-3PM, Philippe Park, Safety Harbor, Shelter #1. There will be no charge for the hamburgers and hot dogs this year. Sign up will be at the May 4 Club Meeting or call Mary Ellen-531-0897 to let her know you are planning to attend, plus would you like hamburgers or hot dogs. Guests are welcome--there will be a \$4 charge for each person. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, along with your own beverage and a cushion if you wish to sit on.

Lots of fun and games are being planned. It won't be a picnic without you! So mark your calendar and we'll see you at Philippe Park

Community Outreach Event

On Friday, March 24th, Mary Ellen, Katherine and Betty spent the evening at Curtis Fundamental Elementary School for Family Fun Night. We set up a table with lots of shells, mostly Florida ones for the students and parents



Betty, Mary Ellen, and Katherine

to see. We Were A Hit! Katherine welcomed everyone to our beach, and all the kids have been to the beach sometime or another, and came and looked at the shells. It was surprising how many knew the names of some of the shells and wanted to know more of them. We had horse conchs, a growth series of fighting conchs, the left-handed whelks and a box showing the coquinas' colorful shells which was very popular. The table was full of shells. Lots of parents showed interest as well. It is an important way to show that there are people with similar interests in shells.

Betty



Mary Ellen shows a shell.



Those colorful *Donax*.

More about the Conchologists of America Convention - COA 2017

We noted in an earlier issue that the Conchologists of America will convene August 15-19 in Key West, at the Doubletree by Hilton Grand Key Resort. Several Suncoast members are going to this fabled island for this fantastic event. As promised, here are more particulars.

Pre-convention field trips include several snorkeling adventures to offshore reefs, a nature trek on Big Pine/No Name Key, a guided Conch Train tour of over 100 historical and unusual sites on the island, a night-time Ghost and Graves tour, tours of the Aquarium, Truman Little Whitehouse, Shipwreck Historium Museum, a triple attraction tour, and all topped off with a dinner cruise featuring Cuban cuisine.

The opening and key-note speaker will be Wolfgang Grulke, author of *Nautlius: Beautiful Survivor*. Additional programs fill three days, and many of you have met a few of the speakers at our meetings and field trips. The welcome party will have a Jimmy Buffet theme, while the closing Cayo Hueso (Isle of Bones) banquet will feature Cuban/Caribbean cuisine. Rich Goldberg will be the final speaker.

You've heard of the numerous silent auctions (like ours – only times 10 in size, and daily) and oral auction at these conventions. This year's auctions (and next year's too) will feature the cream of the crop of a magnificent bequest to COA of the Frederic Weiss collection. Independent appraiser and dealer Donald Dan has spent 4 months and over 800 hours reviewing, cataloging, and sorting through 13,000 (!) selected specimens, choosing shells for the oral and silent auctions for 2017 and 2018; the balance are being sold. Proceeds of the COA auctions benefit the organization's educational grant programs; COA is the largest grantor of malacological grants.

After the convention concludes, the famous COA Dealer's Bourse fills the site for 1½ days. Imagine 4500 square feet filled with shells from around the world brought by dealers from all the continents. It's like having access to the inner sanctums of the best natural history museums, plus you can handle the merchandise! Prices for the treasures range from a buck or two to 100's and 1000's!

Of course, we'll be shell-saturated – we can't wait to go!

Mary Ellen Akers



Club Field Trip Information

We are scheduling 2 night time field trips. They will both be -0.5 low tides at around 8pm. We will be meeting at the same location and time for both. The first one is on **Friday May 26**, and the second will be **Saturday June 24**.

Location: South end of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, by the picnic table at the entrance to the parking lot for the rest area.

Time: Meet at 7pm so we have about an hour to shell before the low tide returns.

If you wish to bring a picnic dinner and eat before we go out, there is room there; be sure to arrive before 7 so we can go out at 7pm.

I don't know what we will find since this is our first night time trip. Bring **flashlights** and the usual--bucket or bag, gloves if you don't like touching things, old tennis shoes or beach shoes to walk in sand and muck, and **bug spray**. A change of clothes in case you get wet.

Contact John at johncheryl@earthlink.net to sign up or sign up at the May club meeting.

John and Cheryl Jacobs
Seffner, FL

April Sanibel Finds



JK

START Helps Fund SBW's New Clam Seeding Program

On Friday the 24th of February, Sarasota Bay Watch assisted the Gulf Shellfish Institute in "planting" 400,000 juvenile clams at Port Manatee. When they reach an adult stage they will help to restore depleted clam populations and promote sea grass growth. SBW is gaining experience for their upcoming restoration project. Separately SBW partner Bay Shellfish Company is raising 300,000 clams that Two Docks (a commercial clam farmer) will help them grow out. SBW will release these into Sarasota Bay to restore local clam populations later this year. The resilient (Southern Hard) clams can filter up to fifty gallons of water per day per clam over their thirty-year lifespan. The clams are resistant to red tide which they feed on. SBW is excited by the prospect of the clams improving our bays and increasing water clarity, which will in turn support healthier and more abundant sea grass.



Articles Provided by Hugo Freudenthal

Florida Maps Seagrass Health

March was Seagrass Awareness Month in Florida. The designation began in 2001, in an effort to explain to the public why seagrass was important and should be protected. Seagrass is not visible to most people and the role they play in the ecosystem is not understood. Seagrasses are grass like flowering plants found submerged in coastal marine waters. They evolved from land plants millions of years ago. Many people mistake seaweed for seagrass but their ecology, morphology and physiology are different. There are 72 different seagrass species around the world. Seven species are found off the coast of Florida.

Seagrasses are important as they provide food and habitat to numerous marine species. They help maintain water clarity by trapping fine sediment and particles with their leaves. They also stabilize the ocean bottom with their roots and help support local economies. Seagrasses are capable of capturing and storing a large amount of carbon from the atmosphere. They take carbon from the

water to build their leaves and roots. As parts of the seagrass plants die and decay, they can collect on the seafloor and become buried, trapped in the sediment. It has been estimated that in this way the world's seagrass meadows can capture 27.4 million tons of carbon each year.



Threats to seagrass include storm activity and other climate changes. The wave energy from a storm can uproot seagrasses and cause extensive damage. Floods and droughts can change

the salinity of the water which can affect their distribution. Grazing by some marine animals like the manatee is another natural factor. Humans also pose a threat through dredging and boating. Boat anchors and propellers can leave scars in a seagrass bed, killing sections of the seagrass and fragmenting the habitat. Run-off is a major problem because it can change water quality and reduce the light reaching these plants. Nutrients from fertilizers and pollution wash off the land and into the water, causing algal blooms that block sunlight necessary for seagrass growth.

The FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute developed the Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring Program (SIMM) in 2009, to protect and manage seagrasses in Florida by providing a collaborative resource for seagrass mapping, monitoring, and data sharing. They released their report in February on seagrass health and status. The researchers provide a concise overall assessment and color coded report cards of seagrass status as well as a map of the distribution of seagrass beds.

Researchers estimated there are approximately 2.5 million acres of seagrass in estuaries and nearshore waters of Florida. These are the largest beds of seagrasses found in the continental United States. This statewide reporting network has found that seagrass beds are stable and healthy in many areas, but they are vulnerable to water pollution and other stresses. There is good news--for example, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay now have more acres of seagrass than were present in 1950. In many other areas of the State, seagrass beds are generally stable or slightly increasing in area. However, recent losses of seagrass in Florida's Big Bend, Florida Bay, and the Indian River Lagoon have occurred as the result of extreme weather, heat, water pollution, and algal blooms.

To read the full report go to:

: <http://myfwc.com/research/habitat/seagrasses/projects/active/simm/simm-reports/>

In science news:

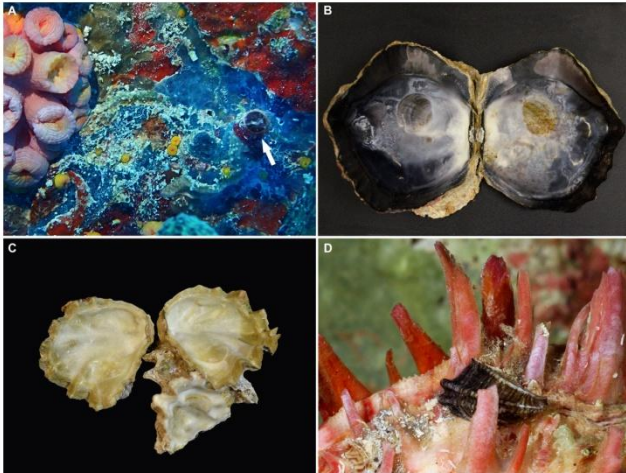
Non-native molluscan colonizers on deliberately placed shipwrecks in the Florida Keys, with description of a new species of potentially invasive worm-snail (Gastropoda: Vermetidae)

Rüdiger Bieler, Camila Granados-Cifuentes, Timothy A. Rawlings⁴, Petra Sierwald, Timothy M. Collins

Published April 5, 2017

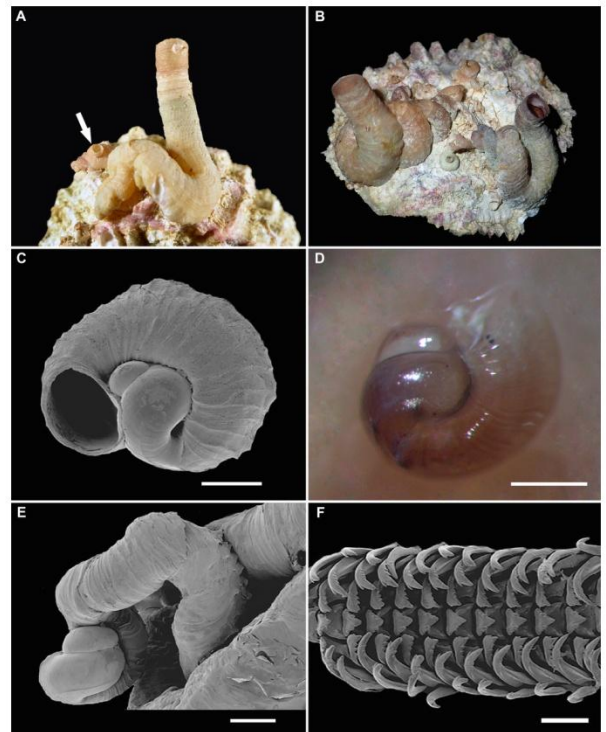
PubMed [28392984](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28392984/)

Females brood stalked egg capsules attached to their shell within the confines of their mantle cavity, and give rise to crawl-away juveniles. Such direct-developing species have the demonstrated capacity for colonizing habitats isolated far from their native ranges and establishing rapidly growing founder populations. Vermetid gastropods are common components of the marine fouling community in warm temperate and tropical waters and, as such, have been tagged as potentially invasive or with a high potential to be invasive in the Pacific Ocean. As vermetids can influence coral growth/composition in the Pacific and have been reported serving as intermediate hosts for blood flukes of loggerhead turtles, such new arrivals in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary are of concern. Growing evidence indicates that artificial reefs can act as permanent way-stations for arriving non-natives, providing nurseries within which populations may grow in an environment with reduced competition compared to native habitats. Consequently, artificial reefs can act as sentinels for the appearance of new species. Ongoing monitoring of the developing molluscan fauna on the artificial reefs of the Florida Keys is necessary to recognize new invasions and identify potential eradication targets, thereby assuring the health of the nearby natural barrier reef.



Abstract

Artificial reefs created by deliberately sinking ships off the coast of the Florida Keys island chain are providing new habitat for marine invertebrates. This newly developing fouling community includes the previously reported invasive orange tube coral *Tubastraea coccinea* and the non-native giant foam oyster *Hyotissa hyotis*. New SCUBA-based surveys involving five shipwrecks spanning the upper, middle, and lower Florida Keys, show *T. coccinea* now also established in the lower Keys and *H. hyotis* likewise extending to new sites. Two additional mollusks found on the artificial reefs, the amathinid gastropod *Cycolothyca pacei* and gryphaeid oyster *Hyotissa mcgintyi*, the latter also common in the natural reef areas, are discussed as potentially non-native. A new species of sessile, suspension-feeding, worm-snail, *Thylacodes vandyensis* Bieler, Rawlings & Collins n. sp. (Vermetidae), is described from the wreck of the *USNS Vandenberg* off Key West and discussed as potentially invasive. This new species is compared morphologically and by DNA barcode markers to other known members of the genus, and may be a recent arrival from the Pacific Ocean. *Thylacodes vandyensis* is polychromatic, with individuals varying in both overall head-foot coloration and mantle margin color pattern.



Shell morphology and radula of *Thylacodes vandyensis*

Full article at: <https://peerj.com/articles/3158/>

Our March theme "Anything Goes"



The educational in April was about patterns:



& just because....we found these at work one day...



Tampa Bay



Florida Keys

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More...?



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