



# Suncoast Shorelines

March-April 2024

PUBLISHED BY SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS

VOL. 40, No.4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air, and this is the best time to be in Florida!! We have cool, sunny, Chamber of Commerce perfect weather days. Tourists are here, roads are busy, and the beach is beautiful. I hope that you have had a chance to get out to the beaches, especially after our winter stormy days, to look for prize shells.

I hope that you were able to come to our St. Petersburg Shell Show in February. It was a great way to see beautiful shells from around the world and get a chance to purchase a few for your own collection. We look forward to having you attend our monthly educational meetings. In April, we are excited to have Dr. Jose Leal from the Bailey Matthews Museum as our guest speaker. Also in February, our field trip to Honeymoon Island was a success! A nice picture-perfect day to come out and learn about the beach and who lives on it. We will keep you informed of our future field trips.

Be sure to save the date in your calendar for our annual COA convention in Melbourne, Florida. June 11th through June 16th. I plan to be there and hope that you will be able to attend.

Get outside and spend time at the beach!

*Debi McCreary*  
*President*



## PLAN AHEAD

**Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** . St. Petersburg Shell Club Meeting, at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Florida. A Zoom meeting with José Leal. Mini-box – Mystery Shell pieces.

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Suncoast Conchologists Regular monthly meeting. Held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave., Clearwater, Florida. The program is “Mollusks are hungry, what’s for dinner?”, presented by Debi McCreary.

Mini-Box theme will be, bring a broken piece of a shell from your collection and we will try to identify the shell.

**Tuesday, March 19.** Suncoast Conchologists Board Meeting, 7 PM, at the home of Sharlene Totten. Please contact Sharlene if you’d like to attend.

**Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. 6 PM, St. Petersburg Shell Club Meeting. Our speaker this evening is Jose’ H. Leal, Ph.D. from Bailey Matthew’s National Shell Museum. His program is “The Charisma of Cowries”.

**Tuesday, April 16th**, 7:00 PM, Suncoast Conchologists Board Meeting, 7 PM

## SHELL SHOWS !

Sanibel Shell Show March 8-9, 2024

Marriot Sanibel Harbour Resort  
17260 Harbour Pointe Dr.  
Ft. Myers, FL 33908

Florida United Malacologists April 13, 2024

North Carolina Shell Show - May 3-5, 2024

Crystal Coast Civic Center  
3505 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557

Conchologists of America June 12-16  
Melbourne, FL, (see page 7)

## Suncoast Conchologists

(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: \$30 Family, \$20 Individual. Add \$10 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 7:00pm, 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](mailto: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.

### 2023-2024 Officers

President: Debi McCreary

First Vice President: Sharlene Totten

Second Vice President: Cathy Petre

Recording Secretary: Marion Fuller

Treasurer: Betty Scheetz

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Hofstad

**E-Mail:** [suncoastseashells@gmail.com](mailto:suncoastseashells@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.suncoastconchologists.org](http://www.suncoastconchologists.org)

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## Negative Or Low Tides:

### Pass-a-Grille

#### March Lows

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> -0.44 :4:43 AM

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> -0.19 8:16 PM

Thur 28<sup>th</sup> +0.08 8:52 PM

#### February Lows

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> -0.05 5:43 PM

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> -0.48 7:18 PM

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> -0.50 8:08 PM

The low at St. Petersburg occurs almost 2½ hours after the low at Pass-a-Grille.

[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide\\_predictions.html](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html)

### 2023-2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

#### COA Representatives:

Mary Ellen Akers, Carolyn Petrikin

Education: Mary Ellen Akers

E-Mail: Debi McCreary

Facebook: Cheryl Jacobs

Field Trips: Cathy Petre

Hospitality: Cathy Petre

Membership: Paula and Charlie Meyerriecks

Mini-Box Displays: Vicki Eis

Newsletter Editor: Steve Geiger

Newsletter Distribution: Jennifer Kotimaki

Phone Contact: Paula Meyerriecks

Photography: John Jacobs

Programs: Sharlene Totten

Projectionist and Zoom: John Jacobs

Publicity: Debi McCreary

Raffe: Cheryl Jacobs

Refreshments: Cindy Housley

Website: Cheryl Jacobs

🎂🎂🎂 *Happy Birthday* 🎂🎂🎂

### March

8- Betty Fearn

8- Joni Merillat

24 Carl Greenbaum

31 Cheryl Putnam

### April

14 Dick Mitchell

28 Katherine Smith

30 Susan Ford

Kudos to Cheryl and John Jacobs,  
for setting up a fabulous shell show.



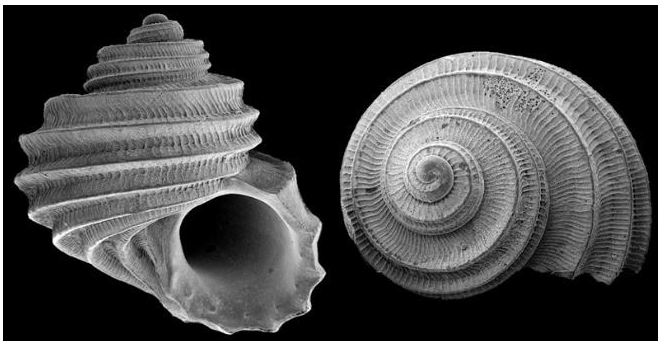
**Harry George Lee , MD  
1941-2024**



Many have heard the news about Harry's passing in January, and know the name, but if you're new to shelling, may not have known much about Harry. I wanted to share some of his history too. You can find lists of much of his work on the fabulous website run by Guildo and Phillippe Poppe ([www.conchology.be](http://www.conchology.be)), specifically

<https://www.conchology.be/?t=9001&id=23199>.

Harry was a member of the New York Shell Club and later Jacksonville Shell Club, American Malacological Union, Conchologists of America (Neptunea Award recipient), and expert on micro-molluscs (among many other varieties). Harry published frequently in many formats, including countless articles for the Jacksonville Shell Club newsletter, The Shell-o-gram (<https://www.jaxshells.org/letters.htm>) many of which could have been in peer-reviewed journals. By my count, there are something like 70 articles in 15 different journals, especially American Conchologist. He also presented talks at most if not all of the FUM meetings, and I suspect many more at other venues. Harry had a passion rarely exhibited by anyone in any pursuit, so much so that even with a career as a medical doctor he managed to name 34 new species in 18 different genera. Here are three:



*Parviturbo billfranki* Rubio, Rolán, and Lee, 2015 – [www.jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org)



*Cochliolepis differens* ; Rubio, Rolán, and Lee, 2011  
[www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org)

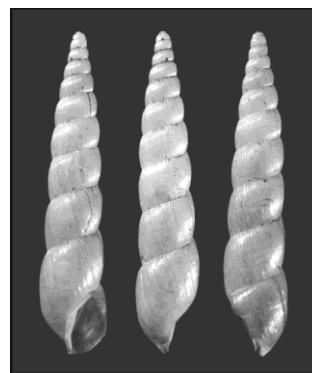


*Haplocochlias loperi* Rubio, F., E.M. Rolán & H.G. Lee, 2013  
[www.conchology.be](http://www.conchology.be) ;  
from Muesum national d'Histoire naturelle

Also remarkable, there are at least 14 different species that honor Harry. Here are a couple:



*Falsiluna harryleei* Grego and Szekeres, 2011 (dextral)  
[www.jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org)



*Mayaxis leei* Thompson  
1995  
[www.jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org)



*Monostiolium harryleei* Garcia,  
2006



## A personal trip to Pass-a-grille

*Christine Stewart*

Pass-a-grille has been very productive this year. Here's some photos from one chilly morning.



## New Members

Rick and Irene Whitney are retired and have been shelling for nine years in Florida. They self-collect and Irene likes to do shell crafts. Their favorite shells are lightning whelks and nutmegs. They also enjoy hunting, fishing, crafting and shopping. They live in Clearwater.

Pamela Brand & Gary Ostoich are in Florida 5 months of the year and she loves shelling. Her favorite shell is the Olive Shell.

Katherine Berendt lives in Clearwater and loves to shell and to learn about shells



*Drawing by Dianna Kellie*



**Club table at the St. Pete Shell Show - thx Betty**



## FIELD TRIP TO HONEYMOON



On Wednesday, February 14th, our very own president, Debi McCreary, led a nature walk and talk at Honeymoon Island. She discussed marine life, birds, sand, Mangrove trees and, of course, shells that can be found on the beach there. There were 14 people there to hear about her love of nature. That was the perfect number since it was Valentine's Day after all!



*CP and D McM*



## St Pete Shell Show entries



Christine Stewart



Kathy Hofstad



Carolyn Petrikin – 1<sup>st</sup> place Single species  
And special Judges Award



Paula Meyerriecks



Dupont Award and 1<sup>st</sup> Place– John Jacobs – Fossils



1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Sailor's Valentine  
Kathy Hofstad

Detail below



# Conchologists of America Annual Convention, Melbourne, FL

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

June 12  
Silent Auction  
Opening Ceremonies  
Programs  
Welcome Party

June 13  
Silent Auction  
Programs  
Oral Auction

June 14  
Silent Auction  
Programs  
COA Business Meeting  
Banquet

June 15  
Bourse  
Sales Tables  
Open to the Public

June 16  
Bourse  
Sales Tables  
Open to the Public

## CONTACTS

ACTING CONVENTION CHAIR:  
Wanda Coker  
979-236-5274 emptybobbins1@yahoo.com

REGISTRATION  
Patty Humbird  
979-373-8602 humbirdpatty@gmail.com

BOURSE:  
Wanda Coker  
979-236-5274 emptybobbins1@yahoo.com

PROGRAMS:  
Dave Green  
713-435-9971 Dgreen2@entouch.net

ORAL/SILENT AUCTIONS:  
John & Cheryl Jacobs  
813-309-2608 johncheryl@earthlink.net

SNAIL PARADE  
Phyllis Gray  
321-662-3378 phyllisgray75@gmail.com

TREASURER:  
Steven Coker  
979-235-7460 shellman7000@sbcglobal.net

## COA 2024 SHELL-OLYMPICS



Hilton Melbourne  
200 Rialto Place  
Melbourne, Florida

PROGRAMS: June 12-14  
BOURSE June 15-16

June 12-16, 2024 (All field trips on June 11 are cancelled)  
Hilton Rialto, 200 Rialto Place, Melbourne, FL 32901 Tel: 321-768-0200  
Contact: Acting Chairman Wanda Coker; emptybobbins1@yahoo.com  
Tel: 979-236-5274 Website: conchologistsofamerica.org



Drawing by Dianna Kellie

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also at the SPSS... 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Beach Life Kathy Hofstad



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*Submitted by Elda Thomas*



Suncoast Conchologists  
PO Box 1564  
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1564