



Suncoast Shorelines

January-February 2024

PUBLISHED BY SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS

VOL. 40, No.3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can you believe that it is 2024? I hope that you had a nice Holiday Season with your family and friends. Did you get a chance to get to the beach after our December Tropical Storm and King Tide? As you know, Conchologists love to get out to the beach after big storms and look for shelly treasures! I am still looking for the perfect *Junonia*!

The Suncoast Conchologists had a great year! We grew our membership with new conchologists. We had a successful Shell Show in March with 86 entries and a fun picnic at Philippe Park in May. We were invited to the Honeymoon Island State Park Fall festival to promote our club in October, and we ended the year with our annual Holiday Shell-A-Bration. I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their support and direction of our club. We have been busy planning for next year. We have great speakers lined up for our meetings, Field Trips, and opportunities to learn about your favorite shells. We are looking forward to 2024.

Our Shell Auction will occur at our February meeting. You will have an opportunity to purchase beautiful shells from around the world.

We would love to have you join us for the 75th Annual Shell Show sponsored by the St. Petersburg Shell Club and the Suncoast Conchologists. It will be February 23rd and 24th. You will see beautiful exhibits, and be able to purchase seashells from our vendors. Be sure to invite your friends to join us. You do not want to miss this!

I hope that you enjoy our Shoreline Newsletter. We are proud of it! You can get details of our future events.

I wish you and your family a Happy Shelly New Year! Get out there and look for some shells!

Debi McCreary
President

PLAN AHEAD

Tuesday January 2nd, 6 PM, 7:00 PM, Suncoast Conchologists Club Meeting. Held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave., Clearwater, Florida. The program will be about fossil ammonites by Jerry Puigdomenech Jr.

The Mini-Box theme will be:

“Shells that can resemble the Moon, Sun or Stars”

Friday, January 5th. St. Petersburg Shell Club Meeting, at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Florida.

Tuesday, January 16 Suncoast Conchologists Board Meeting, 7 PM, at the home of Sharlene Totten. Please contact Sharlene if you'd like to attend.

Friday, February 2nd, 6 PM, St. Petersburg Shell Club Meeting. program to be announced.

Tuesday, February 6th, 7:00 PM, Suncoast Conchologists Club Meeting. There will be a member's silent auction.

No Mini-box

SHELL SHOWS !

Space Coast Shell Show	January 20-21, 2024
Broward Shell Show	January 27-28, 2024
Sarasota Shell Show	February 9-10, 2024
St Pete Shell Show	February 23-24, 2024
Sanibel Shell Show	March 8-9, 2024

Florida United Malacologists	April 13, 2024
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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

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

Website: www.suncoastconchologists.org

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 **Happy Birthday** 

January

2---Cindy Housley

5---Nancy Holcombe

9---Russ Stauffer

9---Robert McCreary

12--Shirley Anderson

13--Marion Fuller

20--Gary Petre

24--Johnny Canta

24--Diane Young

25--John Jacobs

February

4---Andrea Hutchinson

7---Kathy Hofstad

9---Teri Barnett

14—Deb Allen

17—Sandra Gann

19—Anita Freudenthal

25—Pat Linn

Negative Or Low Tides:

Pass-a-Grille

January Lows

Thur 11th -0.91 7:09 AM

Fri 12th -0.87 7:52 AM

Sat 13th -0.76 8:32 AM

Tues 23rd -0.69 6:01 AM

Fri 26th -0.55 7:38 AM

February Lows

Thur 8th -0.88 6:12 AM

Sat 10th -0.73 7:26 AM

Sun 11th -0.51 7:59 AM

Sun 25th -0.62 7:10 AM

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

Gandy Bridge (& Weedon Island)

(Courtney Campbell Causeway occurs about 1/2 hour later)

January Lows

Thur 11th -1.33 9:45 AM

Fri 12th -1.29 10:19 AM

Sat 13th -1.14 11:00 AM

Tues 23rd -1.01 8:20 AM

Fri 26th -0.80 10:00 AM

February Lows

Thur 8th -1.25 8:37 AM

Sat 10th -1.06 9:54 AM

Sun 11th -0.75 10:27 AM

Wed 21st -0.76 8:03 AM

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

New Florida Species Named in Honor of Jimmy Buffett

Worm snails are unusual gastropods in that they spend most of their life as sessile organisms. Like oysters, once the larvae or juveniles find a home, they permanently cement themselves to a substrate and never move again. They feed by filtering water across their gills. Easy prey for many predators, their main forms of defense are strong low-profile shells or long, thin shells that extend deep into the sediment.

In a study by Rudiger Bieler and many coauthors, five new species are described, one of which was named in honor of the late, great, Jimmy Buffett: *Cayo margarita* n. sp. (type locality = Florida Keys). They lack a powerful operculum, but instead deploy aposematic coloration which serves as both camouflage and a warning. The authors postulate that this genus might be able to deploy a mucous net with chemical defense to deter predators.



External morphology
of *Cayo margarita*

Living organism
With layered pedal disk

Larval shell of
Cayo decussatus

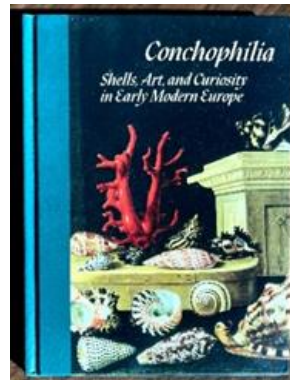
Radula of
Cayo margarita

See the entire article at:
<http://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.15854>

BOOK REVIEW

Conchophilia: Shells, Art, and Curiosity in Early Modern Europe.

Maria Ann Bass, Anne Goldgar, Hanneke Grootenboer,
and Claudia Swan



Princeton
University
Press
214 pp.
~ \$48 on-line

The authors have created a new word to describe the “passionate engagement of seashells”. This love of shells was shown to reach back to pre-historic times, as described in *The Sound of the Sea* by Cynthia Barnett. In this new book, we can learn about what can only be described as a craze in modern Europe, not unlike the fervor for tulips and orchids. This is a wonderful book if you think collectors today are over-the-top, and want to learn more about the history of collecting.



Neptune & Aphrodite
Cornelis Cornelisz
van Haarlem

Chapters include an introduction to the phenomenon, and such topics as collectors’ cabinets, still life paintings, romantic art, “dollhouses”, grottos, and the beginnings of scientific illustrations as in the following figure.

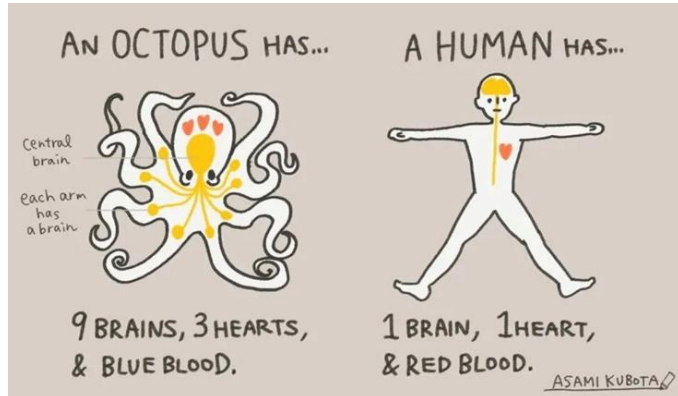
From: A Cabinet
of Natural
Curiosities
Albertus Seba
1734-1765



The "Alien" of the mollusc family

Ying Tong

In the vast ocean, there are creatures that not only look strange, but also have amazing intelligence. Many people think that they are "alien creatures" living on earth.



Octopuses belong to a huge order called **octapoda**. In terms of a broader classification, the octopod belongs to the class Cephalopoda of the phylum Mollusca. Octopuses are part of the world of mollusks--spineless but also shell-less. Octopus, squid, cuttlefish, and our favorite nautilus are all "relatives". The earliest octopus appeared in the Jurassic, 155 million years ago.

Octopuses always give people a soft and boneless impression. They indeed have no bones, therefore, octopuses are very flexible. They especially love to live in small spaces. Because of this habit, fishermen throughout history have made small clay pots to trap octopuses.



The octopus clay pots in the photos belong to the Minoan period in ancient Greece around 1500 BC and were unearthed on Crete Island in the Aegean Sea. They are now preserved in the local archaeological museum. The octopus in the photo has a gorgeous pattern, with its elastic, thick tentacles wrapped around the pot, and its

glittering eyes. The gap around the octopus is decorated with kelp and coral.



(Photographs by Ying Tong, taken at Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, Greece)

Shell Show

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

NIFTY NOMENCLATURE

Mary Ellen Akers

Shell names can drive you crazy. They often are named after people, or the place where they were collected, or even after the author's cat or something equally obtuse! If the label of such a shell becomes separated from its shell, you're sunk! Unless you are gifted with instant recall or photographic memory, you'll have to research the label name and find a good drawing or photo of the wayward shell, to be able to reunite the label and shell.

Don't lose heart! Many shells are named quite descriptively. And although their names are still Latin and occasionally Greek words, with a little sleuthing, you can figure out the meanings of the genus and/or the specie, without a dictionary.

For example, this charming shell is *Trigonostoma pellucida* Perry, 1811. It's a member of the Cancellariidae Family. According to its label, it was collected at night in tangle nets set in water between 140 and 160 meters deep, off Panglao Island, Bohol, in the Philippines.



Trigonostoma! Yikes! 12 letters! Let's break it in half. **Trigon.** Does it remind you of any other words? Pentagon, hexagon, octagon? How many sides? 5, 6, 8. Hmm. Tri -- how many sides might that be? Triangle, triple, triplets, triad, trio, tricycle. This is SO hard! Let's go wild, and guess 3!

O? I think it's tossed in there to make it easier to pronounce.

Stoma? You might remember from our educational shell vocabulary papers, that stoma means mouth or opening.

Thus -- tah-dah! Tri-gon-o-stoma means Three-Sided Mouth! That at least puts you in the proper genus! See if one of your unidentified spare shells might have a Three-Sided Mouth! Yes, there are other *Trigonostomas*, including *T. scalare* and the spectacular *T. milleri*; and they too have three-sided mouths.

Pellucida has come into English, although most of us have never used the word pellucid, which, among a variety of definitions, means clear or translucent. This whitish shell is not thick or dense; and if you hold it to the light, it is translucent.

Here is another view of *Trigonostoma pellucida*. Enjoy it's 3-sided mouth!



Drawing by Dianna Kellie

November meeting



November Program by Anita Freudenthal

Christmas party



November educational by Mary Ellen Akers

New members

Anthony and Brenda Smotherman of Palm Harbor have shelled all over Florida. Their favorite shell is the Tiger Eye. Other interests and hobbies include stained glass, quilting, and cake decorating.

Lee Bishoff of Dunedin loves to shell on Honeymoon Island, Sanibel, Venice, and other surrounding areas. Her favorite shells are the tulip, alphabet cone, angel wing, and *Junonia*.

Paul and Barbara Strong of Dunedin have been collecting shells for many years. Their favorite shell is the Conch, and other interests and hobbies include gardening, reading, antiques and sports.

Valerie Whitmore of Clearwater is a new collector. She has started collecting on Honeymoon Island. She is also interested in stained glass, crafting, rocks and gems.





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Drawing by Dianna Kellie



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