



# Suncoast Shorelines

May 2019

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To my many friends and members of Suncoast Conchologists: Yes, I've known for a while that someday the time would arrive when I'd be writing my last message as President for *Suncoast Shorelines*. This club and the shell world have become a very large part of my life during the past 35 years since helping to organize Suncoast Conchologists in 1984. There are many wonderful memories, especially of those members who have worked together to make Suncoast the successful and fun club we all know.

No president can do this alone—it takes the willingness and co-operation of many other members to help with the activities of any organization. I can't thank enough those officers—Sharlene, John, Katherine, and Nancy, as well as Elda, Mary Ellen, Betty, and Cheryl Jacobs who have served on the board with me, “pitching in” to make things “work” for Suncoast Conchologists.

Then there are Committee Chairmen—in the past three years, many of you have been willing to help us before and at our meetings to make everything run smoothly—I'm really aware of who you all are, and certainly do appreciate the many wonderful contributions made by each of you.

We all need to give a special word of gratitude to our Editor, Steve Geiger who has spent a great deal of time over the past years putting together this newsletter for us. As Steve takes over our 2nd VP Position in the coming year, I'm happy to share with you that Cathy Petre will be our new editor.

Please give our incoming president, Nancy Holcombe, your help and support as she takes over the presidency in June. During the summer—with the help of your board, she will be contacting many of you regarding next year's committees. As Past President, I'll continue as a member of our board.

*cont.*

Do have a wonderful, fun and shell-filled summer! I found these OCEAN RULES while vacationing on Sanibel several years ago—enjoy!

It's been fun—*Carolyn*

## OCEAN RULES

*Be shore of yourself*

*Sea life's beauty*

*Don't be a crab*

*Come out of your shell*

*Take time to coast*

*Make waves!*

## PLAN AHEAD

**Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 PM** St. Petersburg Shell Club Meeting at the Seminole Recreation Center  
Speaker for the meeting is Dr. Greg Herbert from the University of South Florida.

**Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 PM**, Suncoast Conchologists Club Meeting, held at Grace Lutheran Church

Mini-Box theme—a favorite shell you can hold in the palm of your hand

Members will share tales of their favorite shell or shell-collecting adventure.

**\*PLUS\***

Sharlene's Famous Ice Cream Social!

**Saturday, May 18, 11AM-3PM PICNIC!** held at Philippe Park, Safety Harbor, Shelter #1 Be sure to read the picnic article in this newsletter.

**June 17-23 Conchologists of America Convention**  
South Seas Plantation, Captiva Celebrating the Centennial of Mr. Seashell, Dr. R. Tucker Abbott

## 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: \$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](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.

### 2018-2019 Officers

President: Carolyn Petrikin

First Vice President: Sharlene Totten

Second Vice President: John Jacobs

Recording Secretary: Nancy Holcombe

Treasurer: Katherine Smith

Corresponding Secretary: Elda Thomas

**E-Mail:** [suncoastshells@aol.com](mailto:suncoastshells@aol.com)

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

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## NEGATIVE or LOW TIDES for Egmont Key

### May

Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	-0.14	6:41	PM
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	-0.26	7:21	PM
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	-0.29	8:53	PM
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	-0.40	6:43	PM
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	-0.43	7:25	PM

### June

Sat	1 <sup>st</sup>	-0.20	5:51	PM
Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	-0.39	6:30	PM
Tues	4 <sup>th</sup>	-0.54	7:57	PM
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	-0.41	6:37	PM
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	-0.35	5:39	PM

### July

Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>	-0.54	6:20	PM
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-0.63	7:46	PM
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	-0.30	6:28	PM
Wed	31 <sup>st</sup>	-0.61	6:49	PM

### August

Thur	1 <sup>st</sup>	-0.55	7:29	PM
Fri	2 <sup>nd</sup>	-0.40	8:09	PM
Wed	14 <sup>th</sup>	-0.12	6:41	PM
Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	-0.42	5:49	PM

But remember, the low at St. Petersburg occurs almost 2½ hours after the low at Egmont Key, but Clearwater Beach is very similar, about 10 minutes behind Egmont....

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

## Happy Birthday

### MAY

11—Gena Cameron  
23—Mary Ellen Akers  
27—Dianne Campbell

### JUNE

1—Jennifer Kotimaki  
6—Vicki Eis  
6—Joyce Holbrook  
17—Roni Mucci  
25—Sara Jean Henkel  
25—Mary Marsh  
30—Murray Smith

### JULY

7—Debi McCreary  
29—Huguette Pittman

### AUGUST

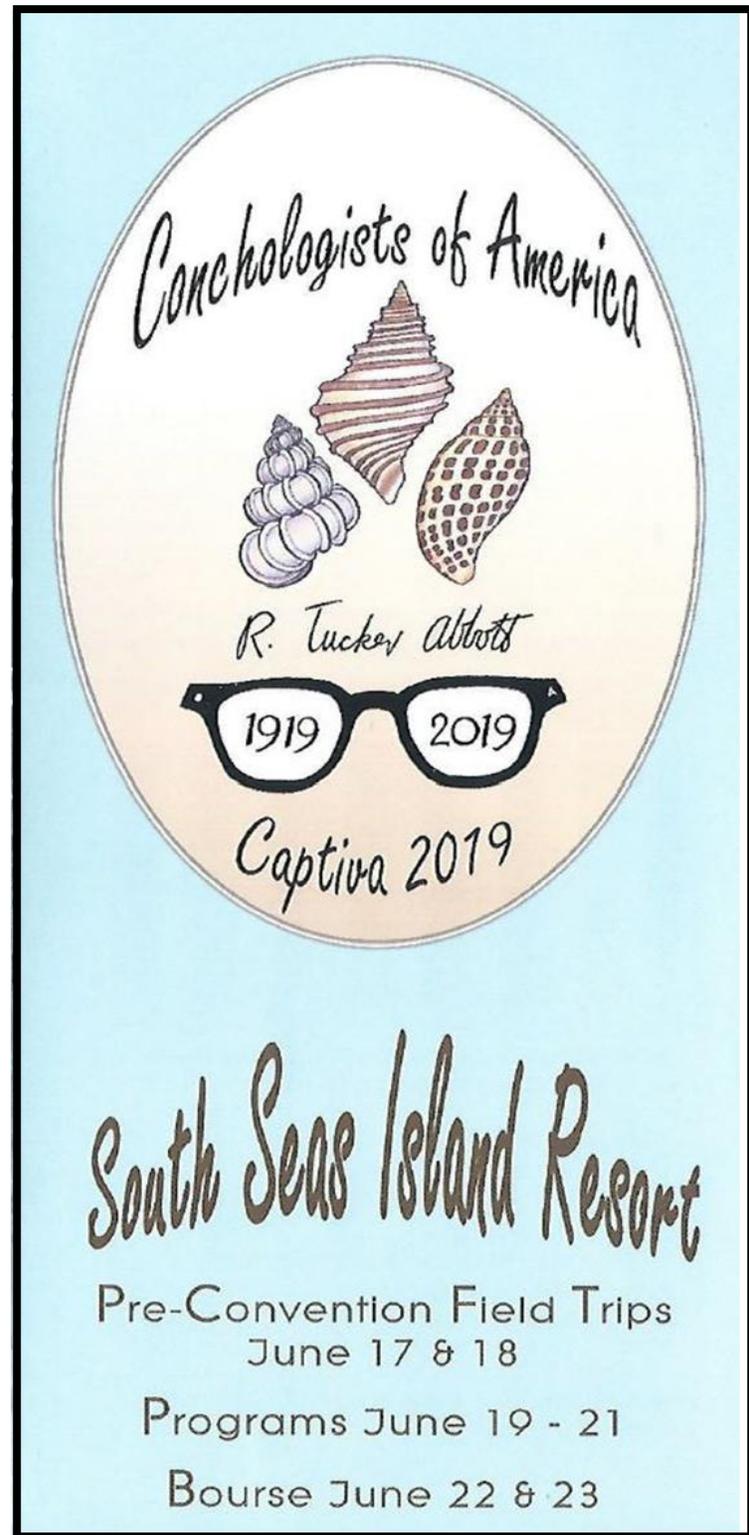
1—Pat Snair  
3—Bill Turner  
6—Christine Wells  
15—Bob Linn  
24—Steve Geiger  
29—Cheryl Jacobs

**MEMBER NEWS**

**OUR OLDEST MEMBER!**

Murray Smith, born in Suffix, England June 30, 1919, will be celebrating 100 years the end of June! Murray spent thirty-three years with the Chrysler Corporation, then served as the Charter President of Palm Harbor Kiwanis during his retirement. Now Murray enjoys being a Suncoast Conchologists member.

*Happy Birthday Murray!!*



**The cover of Captiva's COA Convention brochure designed by Mary Ellen**

## SUMMER SHELL EVENTS

### **Gulf Coast Shell Show**

June 1-2, Saturday and Sunday  
Panama City Beach Senior Center  
423 Lyndell Lane  
Panama City Beach, FL 32407  
Sat. 9-5, CDT; Sun. 10-5, CDT

### **Conchologists of America Convention**

June 17-23, Mon-Sun  
South Seas Island Resort  
Captiva, Florida

**Dealers Bourse** (open to non-registrants)  
**Saturday, 1-8PM, Sunday, 9AM-2PM**

### **North Carolina Shell Show**

August 23-25, Friday-Sunday  
Coastline Conference & Event Center  
501 Nutt Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

## PICNIC

Join us for the last event of our club year....our PICNIC! Saturday, May 18, 11AM-3PM, held at Philippe Park, Safety Harbor, Shelter #1.

At NOON hamburgers and hot dogs (no charge), cooked on the grill will be served. Be sure to mark on the sign-up sheet at the May meeting what meat you would like and what type of dish you will be bringing to share with everyone.

A game will be played before lunch (11:15AM), prizes awarded to the winners.

SHELL-O will be played after we are finished eating and more prizes will be given to more winners.

Call our incoming President, Nancy Holcombe, at 864-616-3371 if you have any questions or would like to sign up for the picnic. Deadline is Monday, May 11th.

See everyone at the picnic, join us for a picnic lunch and a fun afternoon with our Shelly friends !!!!!

## SHELL SALES AUCTION

The Diegel collection contains many of the more popular families and well as the lesser popular but equally interesting groups. Included are thousands of individual shells of Marine Gastropods, Bivalves, Cephalopods and some Chitons. The largest concentration of species and shells are in the Muricidae, Cypraeidae and Conidae, with additional concentrations on regional locations including Florida/Caribbean and Panamic Province shells. Multiples, forms, variations and freak specimens of many species are the highlight of the Diegel marine collection. A number of rarities are included.

The shells will be sold by family or group only. Please see the website which explains the process for making offers and contains images of the shells in groupings by family.

<https://diegelcollection.weebly.com/>

We also have an extensive collection of books for sale: Marine, Fossils & Land Shell topics. You will find a link to the books on the home page of the website.

Read the website information completely and carefully to understand how the collection is available and other information pertinent to making a PURCHASE OFFER. All contact information is provided on the website. Let us know if you have any additional questions.

**Offers can be made through midnight, Saturday, June 15, 2019.**



Some examples of sale lots

## Field Trip and Shell Show



**At Lighthouse Beach**

On March 8th, Pat Snair, Vicki Eis, Carolyn Petrikin and Betty Scheetz took a day trip to Sanibel for the annual Shell Show. We went to the beach by the Lighthouse but did not find a lot of shells that day. Lunch was at the Sanibel Café which has their tabletops in a display of Fossil Shells. Then on to the shell show which was fantastic! We ran into Bev Dolezal, a former president of our club. We met Bob and Pat Linn at the show who were happy they had received the COA Award on their exhibit of Worldwide Olives. A Fun Long Day !!



**Shelling Friends**



# Florida's Fabulous Land Shells

## By Alan Gettleman

Florida is well known for many colorful seashells. With over 8400 miles of coastline with numerous bays, lagoons, and estuaries, the state is famous for the abundance of great shells.

Less known are the state's fabulous land shells. Land shells curiously originated from the shells of the seas. The Pulmonates and have a primitive lung, two pairs of tentacles, and no operculum. The others are the Prosobranchs which came separately from the Nerites and another from the Periwinkles. These have one pair of tentacles and an operculum and breathe through a gill.

Land shells are found in almost every land habitat. Some climb trees to hide from predators; others climb grasses near the shoreline. Most however are found at ground level, often just below ground or underneath rocks or vegetation. The majority of land shells are less than an inch long, but that does not mean they are difficult to find. One of the most common genera of land shells, the Polygyra (Greek for multiple coiled) can be found in urban to forested regions, from the sand dunes of the shores, from moist areas near woodlands and disturbed urban cites. The Polygyra well adapted to many habitats can often be seen by the hundreds, but don't worry they are not harmful and do not eat your garden plants. They are clever enough to seek refuge climbing trees or even walls when local flooding occurs, and then quickly return to land when the water recedes.



*Polygyra septimvolva* from JaxShells

Just as shell less marine gastropods, the nudibranchs, such as the colorful "Spanish Dancers", the land mollusks have their own shell less

representatives, the not so colorful slugs. Florida has native slugs, but most often you will encounter the larger introduced European slugs which can be an agricultural pest. Traditionally an environmentally friendly way to trap harmful slugs was to leave a shallow saucer of beer near locations of slug damage. It is not known if the slugs are attracted to the beer or if the ingested libation is toxic, but presumably the slugs died happy.



Carolina manteslug, *Philomycus carolinianus* (Bosc, 1802). Photograph by [Lyle J. Buss](#), University of Florida entomology.

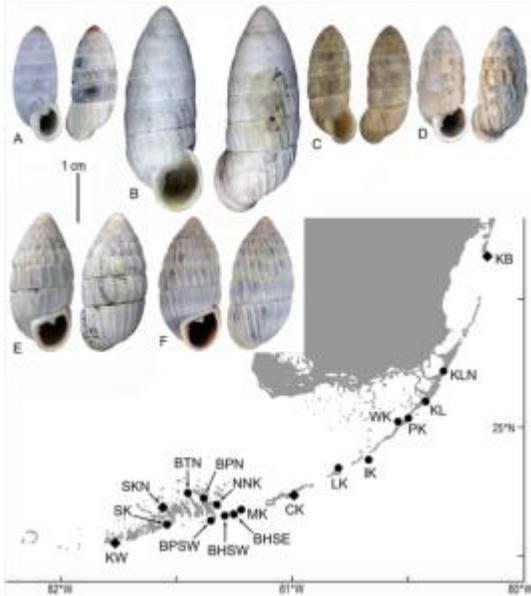
Florida's semi-tropical climate allows for mollusks from the Caribbean to happily settle here. In southern Florida and the Florida Keys, the largest of the state's land shells can be seen. The Florida Liguus shells are arboreal and live on certain species of trees. There is only one species, *Liguus fasciatus* but around sixty recognized forms which is a conchological and not a biological distinction. Nonetheless, the wide variety of patterns and bright colors for many forms make them the most popular of our land shells.



From JaxShells

Another group that migrated to Florida are the Cerion "Peanut Shells." The Cerion are found in very far southern Florida. Their habitat is very

specific, from the high tide line behind sand dunes. They tolerate some salt spray, and are not found far away from the sea. The Peanut Shells are more numerous in the Bahamas and Cuba, and some Caribbean islands.



<https://breure.wordpress.com/2016/01/13/florida-cerion/>

Florida is home to at least two notorious land shells, one native and one introduced. The native so called “Rosy Wolf Snail” is an elongate pink shell that is a carnivore on other land shells. In its own habitat it is not a problem.

The other notorious land shell is the “Giant African Land Shell” which usually goes by its old Latin name of *Achatina fulica*. This monster of a shell which can grow over five inches in length is a serious agricultural pest and strictly prohibited from importation into the United States. Occurrences of introduction to Florida in 1966 and a new outbreak in the Miami area in recent years have cost millions to keep under control.

In an incredibly stupid decision, our Rosy Wolf Snail was introduced to many areas of the tropics to theoretically hunt down the agricultural pest (oh, by the way, the *Achatina* also carries disease). The Rosy Wolf Snail largely ignored the *Achatina* and instead killed the valuable native tropical land shells. Now the Rosy Wolf Snail is an unwanted and hard to eliminate pest on those islands.

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Photos added by SPG.**



[articles.latimes.com](http://articles.latimes.com)

### CONCHOLOGY QUIZ FOR "ARMCHAIR" COLLECTORS ONLY!!!!

Q: What is the primary difference between gastropods and bivalves?

A: Gastropods cost more.

Q: What is the purpose of a snail's operculum?

A: To make it more valuable for the dealer.

Q: Name 3 general habitat types where mollusks can be found?

A: eBay, Shellauction.net, Molluscan auction.net

Q: Name 3 factors that regulate population sizes of mollusks?

A: Supply, demand, and the number of dealers.

Q: How do mollusks acquire food or nutrients?

A: PAYPAL

Q: How do mollusks find mates for reproduction?

A: See answer to previous question. (Not legal in all states.)

Q: How do you get rid of the periostracum on a shell?

A: By selling the shell, and then shipping it out.

Q: How do Atlantic Bay scallops quickly get from one location to another?

A: FedEx or Amazon Prime

Q: What is 'conchology'?

A: That Belgian guy's website!!!

Q: Name your favorite mollusk.

A: The one that I am currently bidding on.

*Reprinted from the Conch-L listserv*

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