



# Suncoast Shorelines

November-December 2019

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## President's Message

Wow! November is here and that means the holidays are upon us. My how time flies when you're having fun! We're off to a good start – two meetings and a field trip. And we're just getting started. Our snow birds should be arriving over the next few months and I look forward to welcoming them in person to our new year.

The November meeting on November 5 promises to be a fun movie night. You don't want to miss this one. Unfortunately, I will miss it because I will be out of the country with my brother and only niece. (Plans were made and paid for months before I became president.) Our 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Program Chairman, Sharlene will be conducting the meeting in my place. The mini-box theme is one I was really looking forward to seeing – Shell Décor. I will send an item for display that speaks for me.

Over the last several months, Suncoast Conchologists has received a number of shell donations. Thanks to Betty Scheetz, Pat Snair, Sharlene Totten, John and Cheryl Jacobs, these shells have been reviewed, sorted, bagged and priced. They will be available for purchase at the November meeting. Be sure to bring \$\$\$ or check. There are some good bargains.

Also this month, we are starting a new contest. Look for it in this newsletter. And be sure to be at the November meeting for the Educational that will help you with the contest and also help you to prepare for our member shell show coming up in 2020. Carolyn Petrikin will be presenting *how to make correct and complete labels for shells*.

**Shellabration** is December 10. See Sharlene's article in this issue about the plans for this favorite event. Volunteers will be needed to help with preparations so please sign up at the November meeting. And don't forget to bring a gift for the gift exchange. This is always a fun part of the evening. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

At this time of year, I am reminded of all the blessings I have to be thankful for. I am particularly thankful for all the wonderful people that make up Suncoast Conchologists and the fun I am having getting to know each of you and for all the new experiences the club provides.

*Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and  
Happy and Healthy Holidays,*

*Nancy*

## PLAN AHEAD

**Tuesday, November 5, 7:00 PM**, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club Meeting. We will be having popcorn and movie night. The movie is "Reflections – A Florida Keys Experience." This DVD reveals the beauty of a local artist. It is inspired by her experiences growing up in this magical place.

The Mini-Box theme is "Shells that are not real". (For example, shells made from other materials such as glass, brass or a ceramic material to name a few.)

**Friday, November 8**, St. Petersburg Shell Club meets at 7PM at the Seminole Recreation Center.

**Thursday, November 14**, Board Meeting, 7 PM, held at the home of Charlene Totten. All members are welcome to attend.

**Sunday, November 17**, Field Trip to Anclote Key. Keep reading for more information.

**Friday, December 6**, St. Petersburg Shell Club Holiday Party at Golden Corral on Ulmerton.

**Tuesday, December 10**, Shellabration Dinner at Oriental Super Buffet.

**Sunday, December 15**, Field Trip to N. Skyway Bridge for shelling. Read further for details.

**Tuesday, January 7, 7:00pm** Suncoast Conchologist Club meeting. Our speaker will be Nicole Seiden, a student at USF. During her presentation she will be discussing our club shell, the Atlatus.

The mini-box theme is "Coral".



# 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 7:00pm, 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: [shellgirl@windstream.net](mailto:shellgirl@windstream.net)

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.

## 2019-2020 Officers

President: Nancy Holcombe  
 First Vice President: Sharlene Totten  
 Second Vice President: Steve Geiger  
 Recording Secretary: Marion Fuller/Carolyn Petrikin  
 Treasurer: Pat Snair  
 Corresponding Secretary: Elda Thomas

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 for Egmont Key

### November 2019

Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	-0.28	6:05	AM
Thurs	14 <sup>th</sup>	-0.32	6:46	AM
Fri	15 <sup>th</sup>	-0.31	7:31	AM
Sat	16th	-0.24	8:22	AM
Sun	17th	-0.13	9:20	AM
Mon	25th	-0.37	4:40	AM
Tues	26th	-0.54	5:23	AM
Wed	27th	-0.58	6:06	AM
Thurs	28th	-0.53	6:49	AM
Fri	29th	-0.40	7:34	AM
Sat	30th	-0.22	8:20	AM

### December

Tues	10th	-0.18	4:39	AM
Wed	11th	-0.36	5:16	AM
Thurs	12th	-0.48	5:56	AM
Fri	13th	-0.52	6:37	AM
Sat	14th	-0.48	7:22	AM
Sun	15th	-0.38	8:09	AM
Mon	16th	-0.21	8:59	AM
Mon	23rd	-0.23	3:53	AM
Tues	24th	-0.42	4:37	AM
Wed	25th	-0.52	5:19	AM
Thurs	26th	-0.53	5:59	AM
Fri	27th	-0.47	6:37	AM
Sat	28th	-0.35	7:16	AM
Sun	29th	-0.20	7:55	AM

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



### NOVEMBER

9—Carolyn Petrikin  
 27---Elda Thomas  
 29—Betty Scheetz

### DECEMBER

7---John Partin  
 31---Nellie Kellogg



Barb Stauffer, Kathy Partin, John Partin, Shirley Anderson



Sandra Gann and Carolyn Petrikin

## Meet our Newest Members!

At our October meeting **Sandra Gann** joined our Suncoast Conchologist Club. She heard about our club from the newspaper. She has been going to the beach and shelling most of her life. Sandra is semi-retired and has 2 children. She has previously lived in Hendersonville, NC and Land O Lakes, Florida.

**Kathy and John Partin** became members through Nellie Kellogg. They have lived in Florida for 40 years. They are retired now from being a Historian and kindergarten teacher. They moved from Kansas and love living near the beach. They have 2 children.

### What I Did on My Summer Vacation

My BFF & I have taken Beach Vacations for decades now and we've always wanted to do a Shelling Boat Trip out of Marco Island and this summer it did not disappoint!

We booked a trip through Treasure Seekers Shell Tours, the Captain & Island Guide met us at the Marina Docks in the fishing Village just outside of Marco Island city limits called Goodland Florida, Early morning we were off through the mangrove waterways to a sandy beach south end of one of the islands. It had rained a lot the week we were there and the water on the Gulf side was still choppy so we had to walk the 2 mile hike onto the beach along the shoreline through dead trees that have fallen from previous storms, but that was to our advantage with the storms from the week pushing in piles of shells! It was amazing!

So well worth what we found along the shoreline! I found a Scotch Bonnet, Rose Murex, Nutmegs, Lightning Whelks, Tulips, & literally hundreds of Fighting Conchs were rolling onto the shoreline that week.

The tours take 6 in each boat, they know the waterways very well, keep track of where we are, gave each of us water and if we were looking for a certain Shell, more than willing to guide us to the right pile so they know their shells too! I was also impressed with the Captain checking on the radar for storms and got us back onto the boat & back to the docks before it started pouring .

From our excursion experience, the boat tours in Marco Island South Florida are worth checking out . Will someday go back again!

*Jennifer Kotimaki*

## **IDENTIFY - THEN MAKE A LABEL!**



Beginning with this November-December issue of *Shorelines*, and continuing for the next 2 issues: Jan.-Feb. and Mar.-Apr., there will be a shell photo for you to identify. Write out an identification label for the shell, and then e-mail your label to me at [ceshell@aol.com](mailto:ceshell@aol.com), no later than Nov. 23rd. I'll look over all of the labels, then determine who has written the most accurate, complete label. There will be a surprise for the best label from each issue. Our thanks to Betty Scheetz for suggesting this ID Label game.  
Carolyn



## LET'S SHELLABRATE THE HOLIDAYS!

Our annual Shellabration will be held at the Oriental Super Buffet December 10<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, with our holiday dinner, fun, surprises and games for all! Plan to arrive 6:15-6:30—we'll head for the buffet at 6:45. There will be many choices of food available including an area to have your own selection grilled as well as a Sushi Bar. The cost, \$20 per person, includes your dinner, dessert, coffee, tea, or soda, tax and gratuity. Wine and beer will be available at an extra charge.

Bring a wrapped "shelly" marine-related gift if you'd like to participate in our traditional gift exchange. The value of your gift should be no less than \$10. Please label "male" or "female" if your gift is only for a guy or gal.

Each year our members are asked to contribute to Religious Community Services at the Shellabration. RCS, a local nondenominational, nonprofit agency in Clearwater, provides food, clothing, and shelter for the needy. As our annual Social Service project to the community, Suncoast Conchologists will match the amount collected that evening.

The Super Buffet, at 2456 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd., Clearwater 33765, is on the north side of Gulf to Bay just west of Old Coachman Road. To avoid the traffic, take Drew Street to Old Coachman Road (the corner of St. Pete College), go south on Old Coachman to Shelley Drive, the street just before the light. (Yes, this really is the name of the street!) Turn west—after several lots on your left you will see an opening to the back of the restaurant building with parking on either side.

Going west on Gulf to Bay, you can turn directly into the parking lot. If you're coming east on Gulf to Bay, continue just past the restaurant, turn left at the Old Coachman light, then another left at the first street, Shelley Drive. A short distance on your left, you will see the back of the restaurant building with parking on either side.

To make your reservations, bring your \$20 to our November 5th meeting, or mail to Sharlene Totten, 2252 Springflower Drive, Clearwater, 33763 no later than November 29<sup>th</sup>. For any questions, call Betty Scheetz, 787-3905.

Happy shopping to all as you look for just the right gift for our festive holiday exchange—and keep in mind—sox or scarves won't do unless they're covered with shells!!

We're looking forward to having you join us at our Holiday Shellabration—you won't want to miss this fun evening!



## PLAN AHEAD FOR FLORIDA'S "SHELL SHOW SEASON"

Jan.13-12 **BROWARD SHELL SHOW** Emma Lou Olson  
Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th Street, Pompano Beach 33060

Jan.18-19 **ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL SHOW** Eau Gallie  
Civic Center, 1551 Highland Avenue, Melbourne 32935

Feb.7-9 **SARASOTA SHELL SHOW** Roberts Arena,  
Potter Building, 3000 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota 34237

Feb.15 **FLORIDA UNITED MALACOLOGISTS MEETING**  
(FUM) Bailey Matthews National Shell Museum, 3075  
Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel 33957 Registration  
required.

Feb.15 **FOSSIL FESTIVAL** The Shell Factory, 2787  
Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers 33903

Feb.21-22 **ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW** Seminole  
Recreation Center, 113<sup>th</sup> Street North, Seminole 33772

Mar.5-7 **SANIBEL SHELL FAIR** Sanibel Community  
House, 21173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

Mar.14-15 **FOSSIL FEST** Tampa Bay Fossil Club, Florida  
State Fairgrounds, Tampa

Mar.19-21 **MARCO ISLAND SHELL SHOW** United  
Church of Marco Island, 320 Barfield Drive, Marco Island  
34145

## Upcoming Field Trip News

Anclote shelling trip will be **Sunday, November 17**.

We'll meet at Odyssey Cruises in Tarpon Springs between 10:00 and 10:15 for the 10:30 boat ride. 776 Dodecanese Blvd, Tarpon Spring, FL, 34689 The price of \$20 will allow a small tip for the deckhand. This trip will last about 2 hours with ~ 30 minutes on Anclote Key. The cost must be paid ahead of time and will not be refundable because we'll need to reserve enough spots for the group. It should be transferable. If you decide to not pre-pay, and come at a later time, we cannot promise there will be available spots on the day of the trip.

[Anclote Key & Lighthouse - Odyssey Cruises](#)



The **December field trip** will be **Sunday 12/15** at the North Sunshine Skyway. There are renovated restrooms and picnic tables but the better beach access is ~ 1/4 mile north of the restroom. It will be a -0.56 tide at around 11:00 , so we'll meet between 9:30 and 10:00 for the outgoing tide. There is about 1/2 mile of sandy beach in each direction, plus if you're willing to get wet to about your knees and maybe a little muddy, a seagrass meadow and access to a small oyster reef. It is also a good bird watching and sometimes, kitesurfing spot. Potential for large hard clams and other local favorites. There is no cost for this trip except \$1.25 toll at the Skyway.

**DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH ANY PUDDLES** on the dirt in the parking areas off the pavement.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### “PERK” FOR OUR CMA MEMBERSHIP!

Suncoast Conchologists is a member of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. As a member of our club, you may use our CMA membership card--- along with your Suncoast Conchologists membership card---for **free admission** to the Aquarium. You may bring up to seven guests with you too! Contact Nancy to arrange for use of our Club CMA Membership Card.



Clearwater Marine Aquarium is currently under construction. The expansion is expected to be completed by the end of the summer of 2020. Make sure you take the time to visit when the construction is complete. It will be "turtley" and "otterly" amazing!



## Field Trip to Vulcan Mines

On Saturday, October 12th Vicki Eis and I went to Brooksville to the Vulcan mines to search for fossil sand dollars, sea biscuits and shells. It is certainly a different kind of shelling. We met at 8:30am so we were ready to enter at 9am escorted by an employee. There are mounds of dirt with shells and impressions of shells. You have to dig hard to find some shells, so it's a prize when you do. See Steve standing on top of a mound and Vicki digging hard, in the photos.

*Betty Sheetz*



Steve Geiger



Vicki Eis



Betty Sheetz