

Suncoast Shorelines

May-August

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President's Message

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of
foolishness,
it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of
incredulity,
it was the season of Light, it was the season of
Darkness, ...”

Every time I sat down to write my message for this our last newsletter of the year, this famous quote – the opening sentence to Charles Dickens *A Tale of Two Cities* – would run through my mind. There is no doubt we are experiencing some very unprecedented and uncertain times similar to what Dickens wrote about. My hope is that this newsletter finds everyone well and staying safe. The current situation has challenged all of us to find different ways to go about our daily business – like getting groceries, working from home, attending classes, getting in touch with friends and family, traveling.

I am most disappointed that our club year came to an abrupt end the middle of March. We, the Board, had many fun plans for April and May. In addition, there is club business that is normally taken care of at our April and May meetings; business that must be done. We have been looking at how to take care of this business in the easiest way possible for all members.

- 1- Election of Officers** for the coming year, which normally happens at our May regular meeting, was done by email for the first time. I am happy to report that you, our members, were very responsive to this approach for voting. The proposed slate of officers was elected by a majority within a week of the email going out. My thanks to all who promptly responded. And a special thanks to Anita Freudenthal for chairing the Nominating Committee and collecting and tallying the email ballots.

- 2- End-of-Year Survey** – This is normally done at our April meeting. It is the opportunity for members to volunteer to help with all the business that keeps our club going as well as to provide ideas for programs and activities. This survey is very important to the Board who must plan meetings and activities. We are currently looking at a way to do the End-of-Year Survey as simply as possible via email. Be on the lookout for the survey to come to your email on May 5 (Happy Cinco de Mayo!!). And please take the few minutes necessary to reply to the survey and send it back promptly.

- 3- End-of-Year Picnic** – As I am writing this article, the picnic remains an unknown. It is scheduled for May 16 but may have to be cancelled. I will send an email to notify everyone what the plans are once it is definite whether or not we can have this.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of this year's officers, committee chairs and members for all you did this year to make our club year such a success. You are the best! I could not have made it through the year without each of you.

As we approach the beginning of summer, we will need club members to fill committee positions for the coming club year 2020-21. Your club needs you to participate in some way. It takes a lot of time and effort to continue to have our programs, field trips, refreshments, educationals, Shellabration, picnic and more. When you are asked to help, PLEASE SAY YES!!

Stay Safe!

I look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

Nancy

83rd Annual Sanibel Seashell Festival

Many years ago I read an article in Southern Living that labeled Sanibel Island the third best shelling beach in the world. Since that time, I have spent many vacations there with my daughter and friends doing what I love most—collecting seashells. Finally this year, I got to attend the Annual Sanibel Seashell Festival for the first time. What an experience! The Sanibel Shell Club goes all out for this one. People come from all over to exhibit in this show. The scientific division exhibits were most impressive and educational. Included in this division is a special category for student classes. How wonderful to see young people exhibiting. And they had some impressive exhibits for their ages. Our members Pat and Bob Linn exhibited in the scientific division, and I am happy to report that they not only won another blue ribbon but also the Conchologists of America award for their Abalone Worldwide exhibit.

Our 1st VP Sharlene Totten was one of the two judges for the artistic division. What a job that was! There were two hundred plus beautiful artistic entries. Sharlene spent a whole day judging. I was walking around amazed by all the meticulous work that had gone into the exhibits. I must say, the flowers were my favorite. I can't imagine how much time it took to create some of them.

The exhibit that really excited me and also won the People's Choice Award in the scientific division was an exhibit by Barry and Debi McBroom of shells they found on Sanibel in the three days following a December storm in 2018. What an awesome collection! I am already planning to head to Sanibel after the next big storm.

Nancy Holcombe



Sharlene, Nancy and Mary Ellen

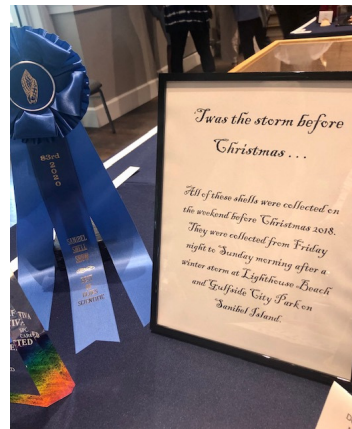


Dahlia made from seashells



Pat and Bob Linn were blue ribbon winners once again! They also won **The Conchologists of America Award!**

Sharlene Totten was one of the judges in the artistic division



The People's Choice Award in the scientific division goes to..Barry and Debi McBloom.



Barry and Debi McBroom's collection of shells after a storm

Suncoast Conchologists

(Founded in 1984)

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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

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.

2020-2021 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

Website: www.suncoastconchologists.org

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PLAN AHEAD

Tuesday, May 5, End-of-Year Survey will be emailed to all members.

Saturday, May 16, End of the year Picnic at Philippe Park, Shelter #1, 11AM-3PM. Details to be announced. Save the date and keep your fingers crossed!

Wednesday, May 20, End-of-Year surveys due.

Keep checking your email for any other updates, changes, additions or deletions.

NEGATIVE or LOW TIDES for Egmont Key

May 2020

Fri	1st	-0.02	2:02	AM
Sat	2nd	-0.1	3:00	AM
Wed	6th	-0.2	6:42	PM
Thurs	7th	-0.4	7:30	PM
Fri	8th	-0.5	8:19	PM
Sat	9th	-0.5	9:10	PM
Sun	10th	-0.4	10:04	PM
Mon	11th	-0.3	12:02	AM
Wed	13th	-0.1	6:56	PM
Thurs	21st	-0.1	6:56	PM
Fri	22nd	-0.2	7:31	PM
Sat	23rd	-0.3	8:09	PM
Sun	24th	-0.4	8:50	PM
Mon	25th	-0.4	9:38	PM
Tues	26th	-0.3	10:30	PM
Wed	27th	-0.3	11:27	PM
Fri	29th	-0.2	12:24	AM

June 2020

Wed	3rd	-0.2	5:51	PM
Thurs	4th	-0.4	6:40	PM
Fri	5th	-0.5	7:28	PM
Sat	6th	-0.5	8:15	PM
Sun	7th	-0.5	9:01	PM
Mon	8th	-0.4	9:48	PM
Tues	9th	-0.2	10:34	PM
Wed	10th	-0.1	11:21	PM
Thurs	18th	-0.1	6:04	PM
Fri	19th	-0.2	6:43	PM
Sat	20th	-0.3	7:23	PM
Sun	21st	-0.4	8:03	PM
Mon	22nd	-0.4	8:45	PM
Tues	23rd	-0.4	9:30	PM
Wed	24th	-0.3	10:15	PM
Thurs	25th	-0.2	11:02	PM

July 2020

Thurs	2nd	-0.3	5:49	PM
Fri	3rd	-0.4	6:39	PM
Sat	4th	-0.4	7:25	PM
Sun	5th	-0.4	8:07	PM
Mon	6th	-0.3	8:46	PM
Tues	7th	-0.2	9:23	PM
Sat	18th	-0.2	6:29	PM
Sun	19th	-0.3	7:11	PM
Mon	20th	-0.3	7:51	PM
Tues	21st	-0.3	8:31	PM
Wed	22nd	-0.2	9:10	PM
Thurs	23rd	-0.1	9:49	PM
Fri	31st	-0.1	5:46	PM

Continued on next page

August 2020

Sat	1st	-0.2	6:33	PM
Sun	2nd	-0.1	7:13	PM
Mon	3rd	-0.1	7:48	PM
Mon	17th	-0.1	6:48	PM
Tues	18th	-0.1	7:26	PM

There are no more minus tides thru September

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

The following article about Junonias is from the March-April issue of *Shell and Tell*, Gulf Coast Shell Club.

The Legend of the Junonia

Scaphella junonia (Lamarck, 1804)

Many, many years ago when the Seminole Indians roamed Florida there was a very beautiful Indian princess named Junonia. She was, by far, the most beautiful woman in the entire tribe. Her father, chief of the tribe, would not allow any of the warriors to even look at her.

He felt she was too good for any of them and he wanted to discourage any idea of marriage. This made Junonia very sad. Though she tried to change her father's mind he never gave in. She turned to her mother for some kind of help but she was powerless to change her husband's mind. After all, he was the chief. So Junonia began to take long walks along the beach. She had always been fond of nature and these walks brought some happiness into her life. One day as she was walking along the beach she found a very beautiful seashell. It was not like any she had ever seen. It was cream colored with dark roundish spots of brown. Many days later while Junonia was on another of her walks she met an Indian warrior from a distant tribe. Her beauty captured his spirit. He, not knowing of her father's restrictions, asked Junonia to marry him. Realizing her father would never agree, she told him no. It just so happened that this warrior was a very persistent man. For the next two months he unsuccessfully tried to change her mind. By now Junonia was deeply in love with the warrior and she was finding it difficult to cope with the situation. To avoid any further heartbreak she knew she must rid herself of this warrior. As a last resort she showed him the shell she had found on the beach months before. If he could find a shell exactly like the one she had she would marry him. Well, off went the warrior to search the beaches. A year passed with no luck. The second, third, and fourth years ended like the first, no luck. By now Junonia knew she would never see the warrior again. In fact, she believed he had given up the search. Because of her beauty and the fact that he loved Junonia so very much, he continued his search. Along about the middle of the fifth year his search ended. After a mighty storm, one of the worse to ever come off the Gulf of Mexico, he came across a shell exactly like the one Junonia had shown him. As he rushed back to show her his find he was taken in by the beauty of the shell he was carrying. When at last he reached her she realized that for him to look all those years he must truly love her. Her father, after hearing their story, was wise enough to know that they were deeply in love. The next day they were married and in honor of his bride's beauty he named the seashell he'd sought years to find, "Junonia".



Happy Birthday !!



May

23---Mary Ellen Akers

June

1---Jennifer Kotimaki

6---Vicki Eis

6---Joyce Holbrook

11---Wendy Hayward

17---Ron 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

15---Bob Linn

24---Steve Geiger

29---Cheryl Jacobs



March Field Trip



John, Cheryl, Carolyn, Earl, Marion, Steve, Nancy, Jennifer



John photographing a variety of oysters

Lightning Whelk
Sinistrofulgur sinistrum



Lightning Whelk showing its Aperature and Operculum

Whelk egg case



Pear Whelk
Fulguropsis spirata



Banded Tulip
Cinctura hunteria and its trail in the sand



Limpet, Oysters and Barnacles



Sea Hare - a mollusc w/ a soft internal shell

Common Sea Star

Rock w/Gastropod trace fossil

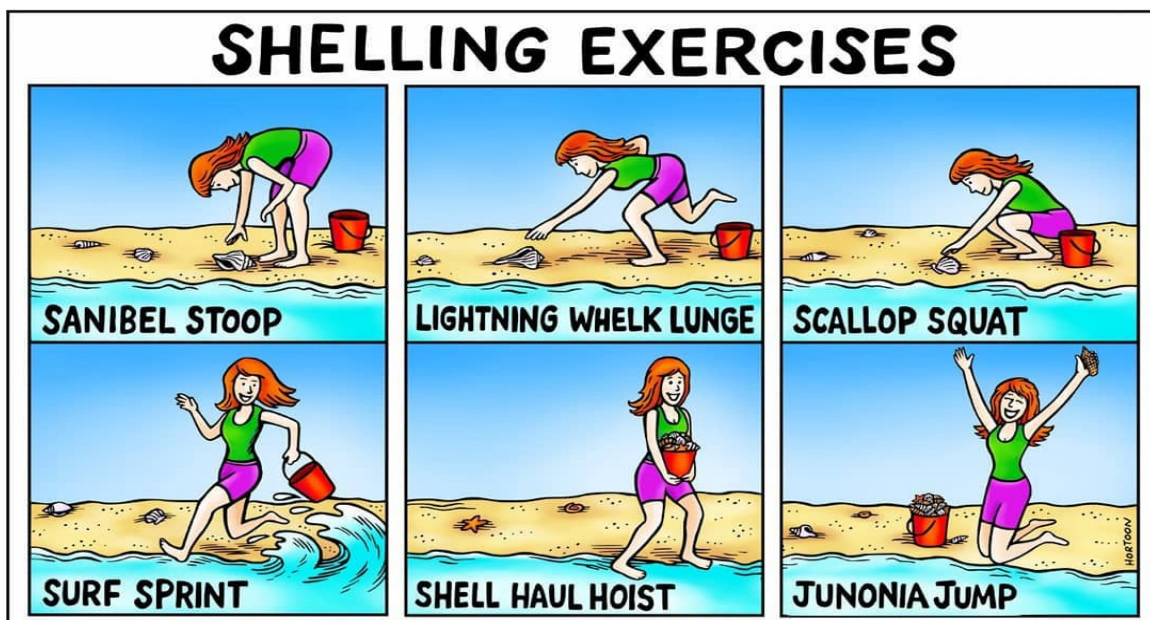
Wedding Day Gift

On Friday, March 20, 2020 I went shelling early in the day on Cape Canaveral Beach. I have shelled there many times in the past and have not found much of anything besides the common arks, slipper shells, jingle shells and scallops that are in abundance. Just as I was about to head back in I found an unusual shell. It was unusual because I have never found one on this particular beach. It was also a shell I had never found anywhere before today. The shell I found was a Wedding Cake Venus shell. It was not a big shell. It was not a beautiful shell as far as design and color. It was a spectacular find because it was found on the day of my brother-in-law's wedding. It was the perfect gift for them as they started their new life together!

Cathy Petre



Here are some exercises to help work off the excess weight we all gained from being in lockdown once we can get back to the beaches and to shelling!!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Membership Renewal

Sanibel Shell Festival, Junonia Legend and

PHOTOS!



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