

# Suncoast Shorelines

January-February 2021

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## President's Message

Welcome to the New Year – 2021. With it comes the hope that life as we have known it will return soon. I hope everyone had safe and happy holidays and that you are ready to move ahead with new adventures and programs with Suncoast Conchologists. I am sure none of us are sorry to see 2020 come to a close. It is certainly a year that will live in infamy.

In closing out 2020, I want to thank our Suncoast Conchologists Board for all the support they have given me this year to keep our club going during such trying times. Thanks also to our members who have supported the club this year through membership renewal and attendance at our ZOOM meetings and field trips.

As we begin this new year, we will continue to be cautious and look out for the safety and well-being of our members. With that in mind, we are continuing to have virtual meetings jointly with the St. Petersburg Shell Club via ZOOM until such time as it is deemed safe to meet in person. I do hope more members will participate in these meetings. Everyone who attends enjoys seeing and visiting with fellow members as well as enjoying some very interesting and educational programs.

Our first meeting will be January 5 at 7:00 pm. Member Cathy Petre will be presenting our program on the changes that have been made at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Cathy works at CMA and has firsthand knowledge of all that has been done and is now available. It promises to be an interesting and informative evening.

Remember that Suncoast Conchologists holds a membership to CMA and our club members can borrow our membership card and get in free with up to

three other people. Parking is also free with our parking card.

*Happy New Year!*  
*Nancy*

## PLAN AHEAD

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 7PM,** Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club and St. Petersburg Shell Club will have a ZOOM meeting together.

Our speaker tonight will be a member of Suncoast.

Cathy Petre will tell us what is new at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. There have been a lot of changes since our club visited last. This last year we have had some really good programs on Zoom and 2021 will be just as good. Please join us on January 5, 7PM. Information will be sent out to all members only, with instructions on how to set-up ZOOM on your computer.

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 7AM Field Trip** to North Skyway. Details in an upcoming email.

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 7PM,** John Jacobs will present his program "Shells on Stamps".

Sanibel Shell Club invites you to be a part of the 2021 Virtual Shell Show on **March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 12-3PM** on the Club's You Tube Channel. Refer to the next page for further details.

**March 20-21, 2021,** The Tampa Bay Fossil Club is having their annual Fossil Fest at the Florida Fairgrounds in Tampa.

## You Are Invited to Take Part in Sanibel Shell Club's Virtual Shell Show

The Sanibel Shell Club invites you to be a part of the 2021 Virtual Sanibel Shell Show on March 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 3 PM EST on the Club's YouTube Channel. It is free and will be a blast with educational and entertaining videos, a shell photo contest, DIY shell projects, door prizes and more! With lots of social media exposure, we think it will attract a global audience of fellow shell enthusiasts like you. Just for fun, here's a link to our YouTube channel where you can get an idea about what you can expect when you attend the virtual show. If you can't click on the links below, copy and paste them into your browser. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Nh8ee9t05s>

You can participate by entering a photo contest that will be a part of the show. Prizes will be given in seven different categories as well as a "People's Choice Award". Photos can also be submitted that will become part of a video montage shown during the event. The deadline for submitting photos is 11:30 PM EST on November 30th.

### Enter the Photo Contest

Time to look through your thousands of shell photos for that special one because your photos could be judged "Best SHELL Photo of The Show" for our virtual 2021 Sanibel Shell Show. As a fun part of the show, we're going to feature a Shell Photo Contest with seven categories. (see below) Each category will have a committee-judged winner with prizes, and then EVERYONE will vote online for the People's Choice Award for "Best Shell Photo of The Show." The winner receives a grand prize and a printable certificate for framing.

Both the photo submission process and the People's Choice voting are open to everyone. The committee will try to include ALL photos submitted in a slideshow montage on YouTube. A total of 3 digital photos, one photo per category, will be allowed per email address. The categories are:

Sanibel beach with shells	Fossil Shells
Gastropod(s)	People with shell(s)
Bivalve(s)	Funny shell(s)
Live mollusk(s)	

This link will give you all the photo contest rules. It also has the *Photo Submission Form* for entering the contest. <https://sanibelshellclub.com/sanibel-shell-show-shell-photo-contest/>

### Submit photos for two different slide shows The Sanibel Stoop

You could be in the hilarious photo slideshow about THE SANIBEL STOOP to premier during Day 1, (March 5) of the show on our [Sanibel Shell Club YouTube Channel](#). We call it the "Sanibel Stoop," but you can do the "stoop" over any shell on any beach. The photo submission is open to everyone; **one** photo per e-mail address. It's going to be really fun and so funny! Need some motivation to submit a photo? Watch our Stoop video on the web page and see the rules and submission form.

<https://sanibelshellclub.com/2021-sanibel-shell-show-sanibel-stoop-photo-request/>

### Your Favorite Shell Photo

Everyone is invited to submit ONE favorite shell photo (one per email address) for an EPIC photo slideshow video to be premiered on Day 2 (March 6) on [YouTube](#). You'll need to watch to see your photo! See photo submission rules and submission form on this link.

<https://sanibelshellclub.com/2021-sanibel-shell-show-favorite-shell/> <https://sanibelshellclub.com/2021-sanibel-shell-show-favorite-shell/>

**Please note that all photos must be submitted online using the forms on the Sanibel Shell Club's website. They must be submitted by 11:30 PM on November 30, 2020.**

If you have any questions, contact Joyce Matthys, Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club. [joycematthys1@gmail.com](mailto:joycematthys1@gmail.com)



## 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 \$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. Currently the meetings at Grace Lutheran Church have been suspended until further notice. Meetings will be held virtually by way of ZOOM.

**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/Vicki Eis

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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## 2020-2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

COA Representative	Mary Ellen Akers
Education	Mary Ellen Akers
E-Mail	Nancy Holcombe
FaceBook	Cheryl Jacobs
Field Trips	Steve Geiger
Hospitality	Cathy Petre
Library	Shirley Anderson
Membership	Betty Scheetz
Mini-Box Displays	Vicki Eis
Newsletter Editor	Cathy Petre
Newsletter Distribution	Jennifer Kotimaki
Nominating	Anita Freudenthal
Phone Contact	Betty Scheetz
Photography	John Jacobs
Programs	Sharlene Totten
Projectionist	John Jacobs
Publicity	Elda Thomas
Raffle	Anita Freudenthal
Refreshments	Cheryl Putnam
Website	Cheryl Jacobs

### NEGATIVE or LOW TIDES for Egmont Key

#### January 2021

Fri	1 <sup>st</sup>	-0.4	7:34	AM
Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	-0.3	3:32	PM
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	-0.5	3:55	AM
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	-0.6	4:42	AM
Tues	12 <sup>th</sup>	-0.7	5:27	AM
Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	-0.6	6:09	AM
Thurs	14 <sup>th</sup>	-0.5	6:49	AM
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	-0.3	2:42	PM
Tues	26 <sup>th</sup>	-0.3	12:52	PM
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	-0.4	5:22	AM
Thurs	28 <sup>th</sup>	-0.5	5:58	AM
Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>	-0.4	6:34	AM
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	-0.3	7:09	AM

#### February 2021

Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	-0.2	3:00	AM
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	-0.4	3:53	AM
Tues	9 <sup>th</sup>	-0.5	4:38	AM
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	-0.5	5:17	AM
Thurs	11 <sup>th</sup>	-0.4	5:52	AM
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	-0.3	6:25	AM
Wed	24 <sup>th</sup>	-0.3	4:25	AM
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup>	-0.4	5:00	AM
Fri	26 <sup>th</sup>	-0.4	5:33	AM
Sat	27 <sup>th</sup>	-0.3	6:04	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)



## On the Shores of Naples Beach

As many of you know by now, I have relocated to Naples, FL, but am continuing as president of the Suncoast Conchologists as long as it is feasible. While I miss Clearwater and our club members there, I am very excited and happy in my new home. I have been coming to Naples fairly regularly over the past year to visit with my college roommate and have made friends here. Also, I am much closer to my favorite shelling area – Sanibel and Captiva Islands.

My college roommate and another friend and I enjoy going to Naples Beach to watch the sunset. We take a picnic supper and just relax and enjoy watching the waves and setting sun. Well, my friends do most of the relaxing and watching. As you probably know, I cannot sit still when on a beach. I have to be looking for shells as long as there is enough light to see. Unfortunately, Naples Beach has been a disappointment as shells go – UNTIL recently.

The first week of December my friends and I went to the beach to take another young friend who had just arrived from Indiana and wanted to walk the beach. What a lucky evening it turned out to be for us. I found more shells, and quite a variety, than I had yet to see there. It was also fun educating our visiting friend on the different shells. She was quick to catch on and in no time was distinguishing between conchs and whelks and other varieties. She had quite a stash to take home with her when we left that evening. I didn't do so badly myself. My stash included a limpet and whole open scallop shells. We even got to see dolphins close to shore. Oh, and the sunset was lovely.

Nancy Holcombe



Pelicans on the pilings, shells on the beach



## THE SHELL COLLECTOR'S CODE OF ETHICS

***I realize that mollusks are part of our precious national wildlife resources, therefore:***

**I WILL make every effort to protect and preserve them not only for my own future enjoyment but for the benefit of generations to come.**

**I WILL always leave every shelling spot as undisturbed as possible.**

**I WILL take only those specimens needed for my collection.**

**I WILL leave behind the damaged and young specimens so that they may live and multiply.**

**I WILL NOT collect egg cases unless they are to be used for study and then only in small quantities.**

**I WILL NEVER “clean out” a colony of shells.**

**I WILL practice and promote these conservation rules in every way possible.**

 **Happy Birthday** 

### **JANUARY**

1—Kathy Partin

2---Cindy Housley

5—Nancy Holcombe

9---Russ Stauffer

9---Robert McCreary

12---Shirley Anderson

13---Marion Fuller

### **FEBRUARY**

4—Andrea Huthchinson

14—Deb Allen

18--- Anita Freudenthal

25---Pat Linn

## Spicy Seafood Shell Appetizers

These shells stuffed with a spicy, cheesy seafood mixture are extremely fast, easy and very tasty.

### Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups mayonnaise
- ⅔ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ⅔ cup shredded Swiss cheese
- ⅓ cup chopped onion
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 10 drops hot pepper sauce
- 1 (4 ounce) can small shrimp, drained
- 1 (6 ounce) can crabmeat, drained and flaked
- 2 (2.1 ounce) packages mini phyllo tart shells
- Paprika

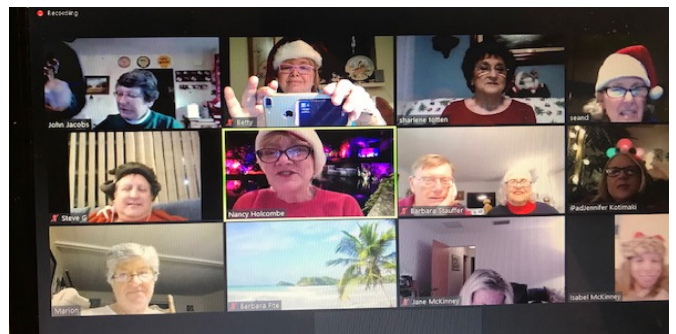


Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Lightly grease a medium baking sheet.

In a medium bowl, mix together mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese, Swiss cheese, onion, Worcestershire sauce and hot pepper sauce. Gently stir in shrimp and crabmeat.

Form phyllo dough into shells. Fill shells with the mixture.

Arrange stuffed shells on baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven 7 to 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Sprinkle with paprika before serving.



A few pictures from the November and December Zoom meetings.



# Abe and Anita Levine

By Betty Scheetz

As Membership Chairperson I know everyone in our Club except lifetime member Anita Levine who lives fulltime in Quebec, Canada. I gave her a call the other day in Canada and discovered what a lovely person she is. She and her husband, Abe, joined our club during the first year. They helped financially with the club startup by donating shells for raffle. According to Carolyn and Mary Ellen, one of his donations, a golden cowrie, was offered for raffle over several months and its sale provided the seed money for starting Suncoast Conchologists.

Anita is proud of her husband Abe who was the super collector of shells and extremely knowledgeable. She said he knew every Latin name and had a remarkable memory. Abe passed away in 2017 and donated a portion of his shell collection, over 2000 pieces (his entire collection is over 7000 pieces) to the Redpath Museum in Toronto. His was a life-long search for perfect shells for each type and he was also a collector of shells of unusual colors and shapes. Carolyn and Mary Ellen attest to the fact that he collected pristine specimen shells.

We are honored to have an interesting fellow member in Anita who still keeps up with the club through our newsletter.

The following is an excerpt from an article from the McGill Reporter by Anne Lagace Dowson. Please take a look for the full article online.

## **Abe Levine (1924-2017): The man behind Redpath's world-class shell collection**

In July 2017, Montrealer, World War II veteran and avid shell collector Abe Levine died at 93, leaving one of the most important shell collections in the world to the Redpath Museum.

By Anne Lagacé Dowson

January 25, 2018

Among the many amazing things to look at in the Redpath Museum is the colourful shell collection at the top of the stairs on the second floor. Ingrid Birker, Science Outreach Administrator at the Redpath, says visitors make a bee line straight up the stairs to see it.

"I have seen repeat visitors on Sunday afternoons who come specifically to see the shells. And they tell me that," she says. "They spend a lot of time looking at the different shapes and colours, and talk to each other about what interests them."

But what many visitors do not know is that the story behind this fabulous cache of shells is as remarkable as the shells themselves.

The collection is a gift from Montrealer Abe Levine, who died July 30, 2017, at the age of 93.

## World renowned collection

The Redpath exhibition showcases over 2,000 shells donated by Levine, known as Quebec's première shell collector. They range from a tiny pea sized green shell called Neritina to the soccer ball-sized Triton. According to Tony Ricciardi, the Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Redpath Museum, the Levine collection is one of the finest in the world.

"About 20 per cent of the collection (which, in total, comprises over 7,000 specimens) is on display. There are specimens here that have no equivalent in any other museum in the world," says Ricciardi. "Some of them are unusual in colour or shape, or have attained world-record sizes. Some were collected by ocean trawlers from depths of over a thousand feet. Some were retrieved from the stomachs of fish. One (a thorny oyster of record size) was found attached to an old German submarine."

Birker says the shells were "treasures" to Levine. "He collected only gem-quality material so the specimens are as close to perfect as you can get. And he was meticulous about the scientific data accompanying each item," she says. "We know exactly where the shells come from, what depth and what geographical locality."

What started with a small donation of about 200 shells in 1994, grew into a permanent exhibition entitled [Conchologycitus – the Abe Levine Shells](#). It commemorates Abe Levine's lifelong passion and admiration for what Levine called "the home wherein the Mollusc dwells."

Levine's widow Anita Goldman Levine, to whom he was married for 63 years, says Levine had an encyclopedic knowledge when it came to shells. "Abe knew the Latin and common names of every one of his shells. Each shell has the name inside it on a piece of paper," she says. "My favourite is the golden cowrie which Abe received as a gift from his contacts in the Philippines. It is supposed to bring good luck to anyone who owns it."

"And it also symbolizes authority" she says smiling. "Abe had it made into a pendant for me so that I can wear it."

Abe Levine wrote this poem about his shell collection donation on his 80th birthday in 2004:

"In nineteen hundred and seventy two, a shell collector I became. And since that time my life and home have never been the same. Many moments of my leisure time, I spend among my shells. As I study and admire the gorgeous homes, wherein the Mollusc dwells. Ever since I was a youngster, Redpath visits gave me pleasure, making them the logical recipients of my conchological treasure. In nineteen hundred and ninety four, I had to face the truth: That I had just turned seventy, and getting a little long in the tooth. Your shells you can't take with you and although it will break your heart. The logical conclusion is with your shells you must start to depart.

Since then I have made donations with pleasure as the number swells. The total of these donations are over seven thousand shells. McGill and Redpath have honoured me declaring this exhibit permanent. Therefore, my shell collecting hobby represents time and money well spent. As this exhibit will be permanent my shells will no longer roam. They are resting in the shelter of their final Redpath home."

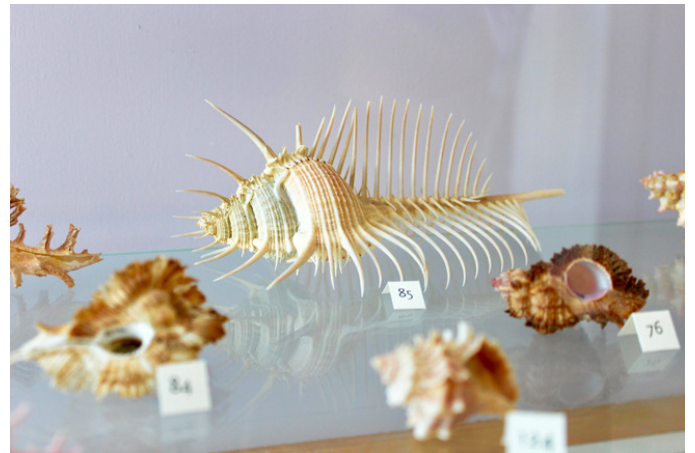
*The Conchologycitus – The Abe Levine Shells collection is on permanent display at the Redpath Museum. The collection can be viewed during Museum hours; Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. The Museum is closed on Saturdays and public holidays.*





Abe Levine and a few of the many awards he won for his gem-quality shells.

A small sampling of the Redpath's extensive shell collection.  
Photo: Neale McDevitt



Abe Levine's wife, Anita Goldman Levine, says her husband loved the strange shapes and beautiful colors of shells. / Photo: Neale McDevitt

In all, some 2,000 shells are on display at the Redpath Museum. /  
Photo: Neale McDevitt



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