



Suncoast Shorelines

May-August 2022

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President's Message

2022 has been an exciting year for our club! We met for our Holiday Celebration in December and got to see each other in person after a long Zoom vacation. We had to wait until March to get together again. I do not know about you but, I am looking forward to 2023! We are excited to have our annual picnic on May 14th! Fun games, good food, and meeting our shelly friends before we take a summer vacation. We are busy planning next year and it will be a fun filled year with our Suncoast Shell Show, educational speakers, new members, and a year filled with shelly adventures. I would like to thank our Board of Directors for all that we have accomplished this year! We have had a good time providing educational programs, fun field trips, opportunities to get together for events, and meetings. We look forward to seeing you next year. Did I mention that we have a treasurer position open? You could be a part of our team, contact me at debimccreary@gmail.com. You can invite your friends to a meeting next year, so they do not miss out on our shelly fun! Wishing everyone a cool summer and cannot wait to see you in September!

Debi McCreary
President

Plan ahead

Suncoast members join us to celebrate the club's End of Year Picnic. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 14, from 11AM to 3PM at Shelter #1, Philippe Park, 2525 Philippi Parkway, Safety Harbor, Florida, 34695.

Bring a dish to share {one person serves 6, couple serves 12. There will be a sign-up sheet with different dishes you can sign up to bring at the May meeting. We request a contribution of \$4 per person to cover the cost of the hamburgers, hot dogs or veggie burgers and buns. Mark on the sheet which meat you would like to eat and put the \$4 in the envelope on the clip board and write your name on it and paid by cash or check. John will be cooking the meat on the grill. YUMMY!!! The Club will provide the table coverings, paper plates, napkins, silverware etc. We plan to eat around NOON. You need to bring your own drink, ice, suntan lotion, bug spray if you want to go for a walk and a cushion for your tush to soften your seat. After lunch games and prizes will be enjoyed by all!!

If you did not sign up at the April 5 club meeting, call Sharlene Totten at 727-278-3396., mail the money, along with a note stating what dish you will be bringing and what meat you would like to have to eat- you can choose from hamburgers, hot dogs or veggie burgers to Sharlene Totten, 2252 Springflower Dr., Clearwater, FL 33763. Deadline is May 5.

SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC! ENJOY THE FUN, FOOD
AND CAMARADERIE !!!!!!!

Plan Ahead too

Tuesday, May 3, 7PM, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club's will have a member from Clearwater Marine Aquarium give a talk, "No Bones About It". We will have our Ice Cream Social during the break. Mini-box theme is *any* conch shell *except* the Fighting conch.

Saturday, May 14, picnic at Philippe Park, Safety Harbor, Florida. Details in the article in this newsletter.

Field Trip News

Fred Howard Park Sunday May 1st at ~ 6PM

South Skyway Tuesday June 14th 6PM

Save the Date! Shell Shows

Conchologists of America 2022 Annual Conference

Moody Garden Hotel
One Hope Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77554
409-744-4673
May 31-June 4



2021-2022 OFFICERS

President Debi McCreary
1st Vice President Sharlene Totten
2nd Vice President Steve Geiger
Recording Secretary Marion Fuller/Vicki Eis
Treasurer.....Pat Snair

E-Mail: suncoastseashells@gmail.com

Website: www.suncoastconchologists.org

Facebook: [Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club](https://www.facebook.com/Suncoast-Conchologists-Shell-Club/)

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Low Tides for Egmont Key

May

Sun	1 st	-0.27	6:34	PM
Sat	16 th	-0.61	6:29	PM
Sun	17 th	-0.04	7:34	PM
Tue	31 st	-0.33	7:01	PM

June

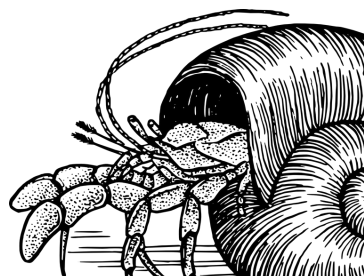
Wed	1 st	-0.31	7:40	PM
Sun	12 th	-0.39	4:46	PM
Mon	13 th	-0.60	5:38	PM
Tues	14 th	-0.70	6:32	PM
Wed	15 th	-0.71	7:26	PM

July

Fri	1 st	-0.19	10:03	PM
Tue	12 th	-0.57	5:40	PM
Wed	13 th	-0.60	6:30	PM
Thur	14 th	-0.53	7:18	PM

August

Wed	10 th	-0.34	5:31	PM
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Not as old as we thought.

Steve Geiger

Recently, some work I did with Greg Herbert was published in the journal PLOS.ONE (see links) and promoted on National Geographic's web server. Essentially, we found that my previous estimates that horse conchs (*Triplofusus giganteus*) could live 50 years or more was wrong. The work Dr. Herbert and his lab did confirm that horse conchs mature at an age of 6 or 8, and only live about 12-16 years. When I estimated the age of the largest conchs earlier, I didn't realize that male horse conch never grow as large as females, and most of the truly gigantic horse conch are probably female and females may only breed a few times in their life. Hopefully this will lead to more attention for our state shell and maybe better protections. Remember to always consider your actions if you decide you want to collect a live shell.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/one-of-the-worlds-biggest-sea-snails-at-risk-of-extinction>
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0265095>



🎂 Happy Birthday 🎂

MAY

4---Paula Meyerriecks

23---Mary Ellen Akers

JUNE

1--- Jennifer Kotimaki

6---Vicki Eis

6---Joyce Holbrook

17---Roni Mucci

25---Sara Jean Henkel

30---Murray Smith



JULY

7---Debi McCreary

7---Jami Shoop

22---Clair Beckman

29---Hugette Pittman

AUGUST

1---Pat Snair

1---Bobbe Hall

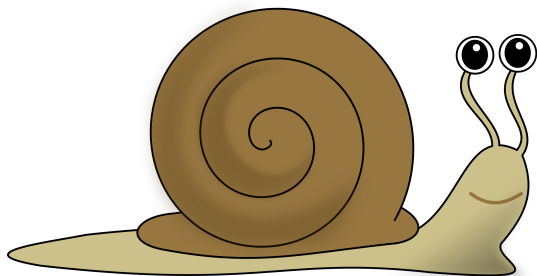
15---Bob Linn

23---Diana Read

24---Steve Geiger

26---Timothy Sherwood

29---Cheryl Jacobs





The long awaited
"IN PERSON"
meetings!!!



Richard W. Fearn, 87, passed away peacefully Friday, March 11, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in West Springfield, MA to the late Alexander and Frances Fearn and was raised in Agawam, MA where he has resided for most of his life. He was educated in Agawam High School and is a graduate of Trade School in Springfield where he majored in Automotive Mechanics. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1954, earned the rank of Master Sergeant, is a graduate of the NCO Academy in Knoxville, TN and remained active with the organization for many years. He served his country for 40 years, serving in Korea and Vietnam Conflict. Following his tour of duty in Phalsbourg,

France, he returned to his home in Agawam, continued his service in the Air National Guard while working for the Town of Agawam where he was the Master Mechanic Firefighter for 30 years and established his automotive transmission repair shop in Agawam, which later relocated to West Springfield and operated for 30 years. Richard's love of NASCAR began as a teenager and was further fueled and became his lifetime passion as the firefighter who drove the firetruck at Riverside Park Speedway. He was a Master Mechanic crew member at both Riverside Park and Stafford Speedways and a member of New England Antique Racers. Following his retirement, he became a

Florida resident for 20 years. He was a member of the Air Force Sergeant Association; American Legion in Safety Harbor, FL; Elks Lodge in Westfield; St. Petersburg Shell Club in St. Petersburg, FL; the Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club in Clearwater, FL and the Agawam United Methodist Church in Agawam where he served as a trustee for many years. Along with his parents waiting to greet him into his eternal life are his brothers, Robert Fearn and Alexander Fearn, Jr. He leaves his beloved wife of 64 years Betty Fearn; son Thomas Fearn and his wife Susan Fearn; daughter Diane Fearn Thomas and his brother William Fearn and his wife Judy. The funeral was held at the Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home Friday, March 18th followed by burial in the Massachusetts

Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Richard's name to New England Hospice, 190 Old Derby St, Suite 304, Hingham, MA 02043



Betty and Dick Fearn

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Article regarding our own Florida Fighting Conch

Upcoming Shell Shows and Events

PHOTOS from our field trip to Crystal Beach



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