



Suncoast Shorelines

January-February 2023

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VOL. 39, No 3

President's Message

Happy New Year! It is that time of year where we make our New Year's Resolutions and make new plans. I have made a resolution to attend the Conchologists Of America conference in North Carolina this year. Maybe, you would like to join me.

We are excited to welcome our new members who have joined our club this past year. We hope that you will enjoy our field trips, guest speakers, and the opportunity to meet with our fellow members who enjoy a hobby like ours.

I would like to welcome our new board members Paula and Charlie Meyerriecks who came to us from the Pensacola Shell club. They have been members since 2021 and are now our new Membership Chairs. We are excited to have them join us. Betty Sheetz who has been our Membership chair is now our Treasurer. She has been a member since 2005 and has held many chair positions within our club. Our board of directors are listed below.

I cannot thank them enough for organizing our club and providing opportunities for our members to enjoy all that a shell club can offer.

We are looking forward to bringing back our annual Suncoast Conchologists Shell Show in the spring. You can look at our events listed in our newsletter.

I hope that you enjoy our newsletter, and hope that you can encourage your friends to join us. 2023 is going to be a great year!

Florida weather is warm and sunny, get outside and go shelling!

Debi McCreary
President



Suncoast Conchologists (Founded in 1984) P.O.
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Suncoast Shorelines is issued five times per year to all members. Annual Membership with emailed newsletters: \$25 Family or \$20 Individual. 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. 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.

2022-2023 OFFICERS

President: Debi McCreary

First Vice President: Sharlene Totten

Second Vice President: Steve Geiger

Recording Secretary: Marion Fuller/Vicki Eis

Treasurer: Betty Scheetz

Corresponding Secretary: Jennifer Kotimaki

2022-2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

COA Representative	Mary Ellen Akers, Carolyn Petrikin, Cheryl Jacobs
Education	Mary Ellen Akers
E-Mail	Debi McCreary
FaceBook	Cheryl Jacobs
Field Trips	Steve Geiger
Hospitality	Cathy Petre
Membership	Charles & Paula Meyerreick
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 and ZOOM	John Jacobs
Publicity	*OPEN
Raffle	Cheryl Jacobs
Refreshments	*OPEN
Website	Cheryl Jacobs

PLAN AHEAD

Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 7pm. Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club meeting held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater, Florida. Our speaker will be Richard Radigan from the *Tampa Bay Watch*. His program will be an overview of the oyster project in the Bay. (No title)
Our Mini-Box theme is-Baby/Juvenile Shells.

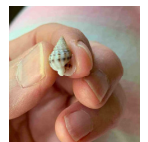
Friday, January 6, 6pm the St. Petersburg Shell Club will meet at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Florida. John Jacobs will be giving a talk on "How to Display at a Shell Show".

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7pm, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club will meet at the Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater, Florida. Join us and learn what the *wrackline* is. This program will be presented by Jeanne Murphy. Our Mini-Box Theme for tonight is- Shells that only a collector could love.

Friday, February 10, 2023, 6pm, St Petersburg Shell Club meets at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Florida. Program tonight will be the Members Shell Show.

Mini Box themes:

January: Baby/Juvenile shells



February: Shells only a collector could love!



NEGATIVE or LOW TIDES for Egmont Key

Low Tides for Clearwater

January

Friday	6 th	-0.44	6:15	AM
Sat	7 th	-0.42	6:50	AM
Fri	20 th	-0.79	5:27	AM
Sat	21 st	-0.88	6:16	AM
Sun	22 nd	-0.86	7:01	AM
Mon	23 rd	-0.74	7:43	AM

February

Sat	4 th	-0.39	6:03	AM
Sun	5 th	-0.38	6:33	AM
Sat	18 th	-0.71	5:18	AM
Sun	19 th	-0.75	6:02	AM
Mon	20 th	-0.68	6:42	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

Meet and get to know Charlie and Paula Meyerriecks, our new Membership Chairpersons. Greet them when you sign in as you enter our meeting each month. If you have a change of address, phone contact, email address or need a badge please let them know. Also, if you have friends who are thinking of joining, they have forms you may take to them. We are grateful for good volunteers. Thank you, Charlie and Paula!



In Memoriam

Veronica Mucci (6/17/33 - 10/16/22) was preceded in death by her husband, Armand and daughter, Lynn — Hinschlag. Veronica was happiest when she was out with her Suncoast Conchologists friends. She loved sharing her many beautiful shells with her family. Veronica also enjoyed making jewelry and attending craft shows with her friends. Veronica loved attending activities that her grandchildren and great grandchildren were involved in. We (the family) would like to thank Optimized Senior Living and Queen City Hospice for the loving and compassionate care they provided to Mom. In lieu of flowers we request a donation to Queen City Hospice in Veronica's name. Donations can go to Queen City Hospice, 4605 Duke Dr. Suite 220, Mason, Oh 45040.



Happy Birthday

JANUARY

Cindy Housley	January 2
Nancy Holcombe	January 5
Robert McCreary	January 9
Russ Stauffer	January 9
Shirley Anderson	January 12
Marion Fuller	January 13
Gary Petre	January 20
John Canta	January 24
Diane Young	January 24
John Jacobs	January 25

FEBRUARY

Andrea Hutchinson	February 4
Nancy Hofstad	February 7



Ronnie with Sharlene at a shell show

The Shell Clinic

This issue of *Suncoast Shorelines* features the Pear Whelk—*Fulguropsis pyruloides*. A member of the Busyconidae family, this univalve is common to our area, found from North Carolina to the Gulf Coast of Florida. This article first appeared (with a different Latin name—*Busycon spiratum*) in the first issue of our newsletter, March/April, 1989, by Bob Pierson, one of our founding members. The shell itself, like its common name Pear Whelk suggests, is pear-shaped. Its univalve shell is thin, but sturdy, and is characterized by its short, broad spire and sloping, angular shoulders. The aperture is wide, sloping to a long, straight, open siphonal canal. The surface has fine spiral sculpture patterns, with fuzzy tan to gray periostracum.

The Pear Whelk shell is creamy colored, with brown to purple broken spiral bands. This whelk's aperture is darker brown, and the lip is usually white. Pear Whelks, found in local waters, feed on hard-shell clams. The animal envelopes the clam in its foot, and by exerting a strong, steady pressure, forces the clam's valves apart. Then the Pear Whelk wedges the edge of its shell between the open valves and plunges its long proboscis deep into the soft part of the clam. Its diet is meager—about one clam per month.

Pear Whelks lay their eggs in long chains of capsules with one end anchored in the sand.

This photo of a live Pear Whelk found in Tampa Bay, was taken in our home aquarium many years ago.

Carolyn Petrikin



Field Trip News

We have two field trips coming up. They are planned for the mornings of January 21st and February 19th. More information will be given out at the next Suncoast Conchologist meeting on January 3rd.



Field Trip Fun!



Members of Suncoast Conchologists Club enjoying a field trip to Fred Howard Park (Submitted by Debi McCreary)

Pictures
from Pass-a-
Grille
submitted by
John Jacobs



Foggy Morning at Pass-a-Grille Beach



Slipper Snail



Calico Box Crab



Long Nosed Spider Crab



Tulip Snail



Small Spine Sea Star



Striped Acorn Barnacle



Beach Treasures



Chiton



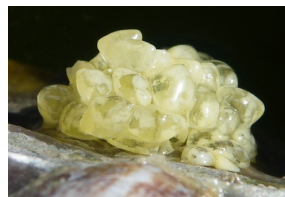
Peeking Out



Moon Snail



Florida Fighting Conch
and Tulip Snail



Egg Mass



Pen Shell and Short Spined
Sea Urchin

Shellabration 2022



We had festive music, beautiful decorations, yummy food, and fun games for all to enjoy. We even had a visit from Santa himself!!

A special thank you to all of you who helped us make this a special event.



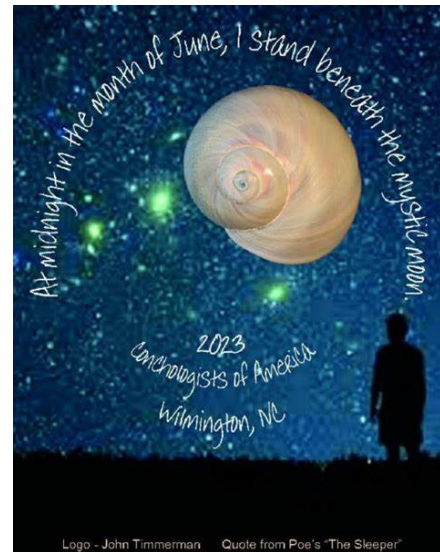
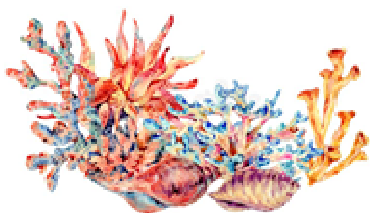
UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS

January 14-15, 2023 – 56th Annual Broward Shell Show presented by the Broward Shell Club at Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th Street, Pompano Beach, Florida, 22061 (954) 786-4111. Saturday from 10am-5pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm. Shell ID Clinic available.

• **January 21-22, 2023** – 43rd Annual Seashell Festival, Astronaut Trail Shell Club, Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Avenue, Melbourne, Florida, Free admission. Scientific and Artistic exhibits. 9am-5pm on Saturday and 9am -4pm on Sunday.

• **February 10-11, 2023** – 59th Annual Shell Show of the Sarasota Shell Club at the Potter Building at Sarasota Fairgrounds, 2896 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, FL. Hours of show are 10am-5pm. Entry donation of \$5. Questions: sarasotashellclub@gmail.com.

• **May 5-7, 2023** – Shellebration, the North Carolina Shell Show at Crystal Coast Civic Center, 2505 Arendell Street, Morehead City, N.C., 28557. Show hours for Friday and Saturday are 9am-5pm and Sunday 9am-3pm. General admission is \$5. For more information: ncshellclub@gmail.com.



• **May 31-June 4, 2023** - The 2023 COA Convention is returning to Wilmington, NC, hosted by the North Carolina Shell Club. The field trips will be on May 29 and 30. The Convention hotel is the Hotel Ballast, at same hotel as in 2014 and located in the heart of downtown Wilmington along the Boardwalk, Cape Fear River. Along with restaurants in hotel, there is shopping, dining, and entertainment within walking distance of the hotel. Hotel rate is \$154 (plus 13% tax) for 2 in a room; \$10 for each additional adult. The rate is good for May 29-June 4, 2023, and for 3 days pre/post-convention. The special rate only applies to reservations made no later than April 29, 2023. Self-parking fee is \$15 per night; valet parking \$20.



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