



# Suncoast Shorelines

May-August 2023

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VOL. 39, No 5

## President's Message

Summer is almost here! This is our last newsletter until we see you in September, so I thought that we could reflect on what a great year we have had.

I am excited about our new members who have joined us this year. We were able to continue with our zoom meetings and now have members from Montana, California and Virginia join us along with our snowbirds who can stay in touch with us across the miles.

We had a successful Shell Show this year with 90 entries and an opportunity to see what our members shared from their personal collections. Our Holiday Shellabration was an afternoon filled with festive shell games, yummy food, and holiday cheer. We had educational programs, guest speakers, and educational mini box displays to learn about our shells. Our field trips included trips to local low tide shelling beaches and a trip to Cedar Key for a boat ride to a local sand bar. When you read this newsletter, we will be celebrating our annual picnic along with the St Petersburg Shell Club. It is always a fun day filled with shelly games, grilled hamburgers, Golden Fighting Conch hunt, and a beautiful day at Philippe Park. We will say goodbye to each other until we meet again in September.

Our Board of Directors will be busy this summer planning a new year filled with guest speakers, field trips, a shell show, and opportunities to learn about our shells. A few

of us will be attending the Conchologists of America Convention in North Carolina. It will be my first national conference and I am looking forward to it.

It was a good year! I am looking forward to 2024 with all of you in it. I hope that you have a wonderful summer. Get outside and look for some shells on our beautiful beaches. Stay safe, and we will see you in September.

**Debi McCreary**  
**President**



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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, May 2, 2023**, 7pm, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club will meet at the Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater, Florida. Members will share their favorite shelling experiences and/or favorite shell. There will also be a silent auction.

*Mini-box theme:* Polished shells (to polish off the year!!)

At the break we will have our Annual Ice Cream Social, with homemade hot fudge and strawberry toppings and whipped cream.



**Saturday, May 13, 2023**, 11am-3pm, we will have our picnic at Philippi Park, Safety Harbor, Shelter #1. We ask that you bring your favorite dish to share. Other details will be emailed to you from Debi, our President. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April and May meetings. We will also be having the St. Petersburg Shell Club join in on the fun!!!!

More information regarding the picnic is in this newsletter.



## NEGATIVE or LOW TIDES for Egmont Key

Not the best time of year for low tides.

### May

Thurs	6th	-0.48	6:44	PM
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	-0.54	7:33	PM
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	-0.53	8:31	PM
Tue	20th	-0.44	6:51	PM

### June

Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	-0.38	6:07	PM
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### July

Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-0.63	6:45	PM
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	-0.61	7:34	PM
Thurs	15 <sup>th</sup>	-0.22	5:20	PM
Mon	31 <sup>st</sup>	-0.45	5:47	PM

### August

Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	+0.02	3:04	PM
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[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide\\_predictions.html](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html)

## Picnic Details

Join the Suncoast Conchologists and the St. Petersburg Shell Clubs for our PICNIC held at Philippi Park, Shelter #1, Safety Harbor, Florida. We will meet from 11AM to 3PM and plan to eat lunch at noon. Bring a dish to share with everyone. Don't forget your serving spoon. John will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Cost for the meats and all the fixings is \$5 per person. There will be an envelope attached to the sign-up sheet to place your money in. Write your name on the envelope along with whether you paid by cash or check. Let us know how many are attending and whether you want a hamburger or hot dog. Also, let us know what dish you will be bringing.

Before lunch we will play a game and after lunch we will play SHELL-O. Prizes will be awarded after each of the games.

Deadline to sign up is Friday, May 6.

Join us for a beautiful afternoon overlooking Tampa Bay, making new friends, enjoying delicious food made by you and maybe taking home some fun prizes. See you at the PICNIC!

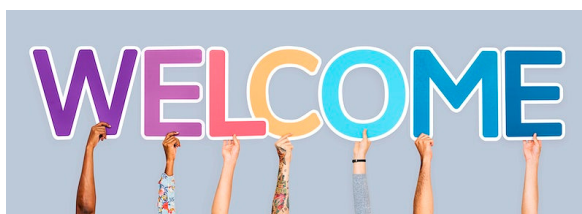
Call Sharlene if you have any questions  
727-278-3396.

## New Member Spotlight

Sandy & Carl Greenbaum    Dunedin, FL  
Sheri Schneider                Dunedin, FL

Sheri Schneider lives in Dunedin and is a HISP (Honeymoon Island State Park) Beach Steward.

Carl and Sandy Greenbaum like all types of shells. They also like birding, space exploration, theater and reading. If you have tips on where to find shells, they would appreciate your letting them know.



### May

4---Paula Meyerriecks  
18---Vicki Kramer  
22---Diane Williams  
23---Mary Ellen Akers  
28---Karen Henry

### June

1---Jennifer Kotimaki  
6---Sandy Greenbaum  
6---Vicki Eis  
6---Joyce Holbrook  
11---Thomas Luncher  
23---Anita Claussen  
25---Sara Jean Henkel  
26---Paulette Canta  
26---Dianna Kellie

### July

1---Sarah Darling  
2---Susan Rust Drosdzal  
7---Debi McCreary  
7---Jami Shoop  
15---Helen Comas  
22---Clair Beckmann  
28---Christine Stewart  
29---Hugette Pittman  
31---Luanne Caner

### August

1---Pat Snair  
1---Bobbe Hall  
6---Will Williams  
11---Pat Dempsey  
16---Christine Luncher  
23---Diana Read  
24---Steve Geiger  
26---Timothy Sherwood  
29---Cheryl Jacobs



## Members Shell Show March 2023

Submitted by Steve Geiger



### FL/Caribbean Self Collected

1<sup>st</sup> Andrea Hutchinson 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Meyerriecks



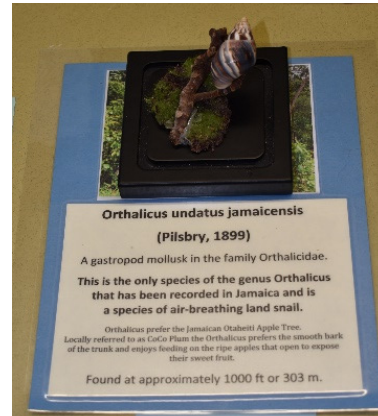
*Tidbits*



## Worldwide:

1<sup>st</sup> Andrea Hutchinson

2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Geiger



## Fossils:

1<sup>st</sup> Andrea Hutchinson



2<sup>nd</sup> Dianne Kellie



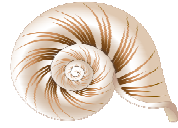


**1<sup>st</sup>** Laurie Boice



**Sea Life:**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Kathy Hofstad



**Best in Show Art:**

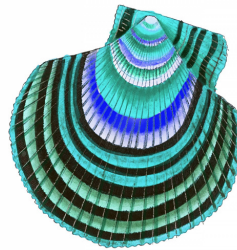
Christine Stewart



**1<sup>st</sup>** Christine Stewart

**Shell Art:**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Paula Meyerriecks



**Best Craft:**

Kathy Hofstad

**Best in Show:**

Andrea Hutchinson



**Shell Craft:**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Kathy Hofstad



**2<sup>nd</sup>** Sara Henkel

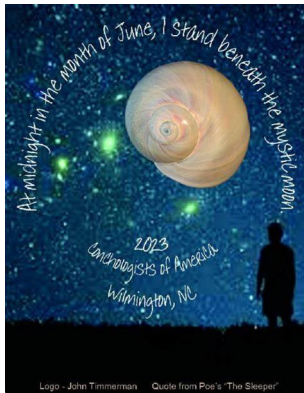


A special thank you to Sharlene Totten for the beautiful awards!

## UPCOMING SHELL SHOWS

**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](mailto: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.



**Aug 25-Sep 4, 2023** Oregon Shell Show, Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, 2330 17th St., NE, Salem, OR

**Oct 21-22** Gulf Coast Shell Show, Lyndell Conference Center, 423 Lyndell Ln, Panama City Beach, FL 32407



## Silent Auction Coming!! Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>!!

Several very cool shell related items will be out on tables or near the tables for you to bid on. Each item will have a bid sheet with space for you and other bidders to list your name and the amount you are bidding. Everyone will have plenty of time to move around the tables and place their bids. You will be able to bid on items starting at the beginning of our meeting until the end of the break. Highest bid will take home the item. Help will be provided if you need it in order to get your item home.

Each item will have a minimum bid indicated on the bid sheet as well as the increment for additional bids. Payment will be made after the close of bidding.

The auction items are from a personal collection from Donnie Hanson. The money we raise will go to our Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club for us to provide donations for various charities, funding for our shell shows, holiday shellebration and annual picnic. Donnie wanted to be sure that her shell-y items would go to the home of someone who loves shells as much as she does. She is moving to a small home in New Mexico and cannot take them with her.







### **In Memoriam: Murray Smith**

**Murray Smith**, born in Suffix, England on June 30, 1919 was 103 when he passed away on April 5<sup>th</sup> of this year. Murray spent 33 years with the Chrysler Corporation. He joined Suncoast Conchologists in 1986. For those of you who have been a member for a while, you will remember him as “Daddy”. He would sit at the table and sell raffle tickets every meeting for many years. He was a sweet man whom we all will miss. Katherine, thank you for bringing him to our meetings and being a member of our club.



## **AM I A CONCHOLOGIST ?**

A conchologist is a person who studies and collects shells, which are the exoskeletons of mollusks, including snails, clams, and other similar organisms. Conchology is a branch of zoology that deals with the study of shells and the animals that produce them.

Conchologists are interested in a variety of aspects of shells, including their structure, classification, distribution, and evolution. They may also be interested in the biology and ecology of the organisms that produce the shells.

Conchologists may work in academic or research settings, studying the biology and evolution of mollusks and their shells. They may also work in museums or other institutions, where they curate collections of shells and educate the public about their importance.

Many conchologists are also avid collectors of shells and may spend considerable time exploring beaches, reefs, and other habitats in search of specimens to add to their collections. Overall, conchology is a fascinating field that offers insights into the diversity of life on Earth and the complex interactions between organisms and their environments.

So, to answer the original question: Yes, I am!  
Do you want to be a Conchologist? See you at the beach!!  
“ Oh .... The avid collector, spending time at the beaches”

By Betty Sheetz



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