

Suncoast Shorelines

November-December 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE November/December 2023

Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope that this newsletter finds you in a festive spirit. If you need a little help getting in the Holiday Spirit, we are busy getting ready for our Holiday Shellabration! If you are new to our membership, you will not want to miss this. Just an evening full of shelly games, gifts, and friendship. Sharlene has the details below.

Our club was invited to provide a table for the Suncoast Conchologists at the Florida State Park Honeymoon Island Fall Festival. I think that we were the favorite tent at the festival. We had so many guests stop by and look at our shells that they find on Honeymoon Island Beach and asked us about our club. We sold shells that were donated and displayed beautiful shell crafts donated and made by our members. Dianna Kellie made a beautiful tablecloth to make us look professional. I know that the guests just had to stop by and see us. Take a peek at our photos!

We have had a great year with new members joining us. As we end 2023, I hope that you have a nice holiday season however you spend it. See you next year! 2024 will be a great year for the Suncoast Conchologists.

DM



PLAN AHEAD

Tuesday, November 7, 7PM Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club Meeting. Held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave., Clearwater, FL. Our speaker will be **Dr. Anita Freudenthal**, one of our club members who will give her program on, "When Wading in the Water-is it Good or Bad Bacteria? How Do I Know?"

Mini-Box theme: Shells that start with a "C"?

Friday, November 3, 6 PM St Petersburg Shell Club will meet at the Seminal Recreation Center. John Jacobs will present his program on the Willmington, N.C. COA Convention and the Future.

Tuesday, November 20, 7 PM, Board Meeting held at the home of Sharlene Totten

All members are welcome, just let Sharlene know you're coming.

December 5, 2023, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club will have their SHELLABRATION, held at the Inverness Clubhouse, Clearwater. For details, read the newsletter article in this issue.

Friday, December 1, 6 PM, St. Petersburg Shell Club, held at the Seminal Community Center, Seminole, FL. Speaker **Dr. Chelsea Korpanty**: "Using mollusks and sedimentology to detect environmental impacts to Boca Ciega Bay.

FLORIDA SHELL SHOWS !

Space Coast Shell Show January 20-21, 2024

Broward Shell Show, January 27-28, 2024

Sarasota Shell Show – February 9-10, 2024

St. Petersburg Shell Show, February 23-24, 2024

Sanibel Shell Show – March 8-9, 2024

Florida United Malacologists April 13, 2024

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: \$30 Family, \$20 Individual. 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: spgeiger2000@yahoo.com

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.

2023-2024 Officers

President: Debi McCreary

First Vice President: Sharlene Totten

Second Vice President: Cathy Petre

Recording Secretary: Marion Fuller

Treasurer: Betty Scheetz

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Hofstad

E-Mail: Suncoastseashells@gmail.com

Website: www.suncoastconchologists.org

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 **Happy Birthday** 

NOVEMBER

5--- Laurie Boice

9--- Carolyn Petrikin

12--- Susan Thornton

18--- Suzette Keegan

27--- Elda Thomas

29--- Betty Scheetz

30--- Ann Shinnors

DECEMBER

13--- Ron Henkel

27 ---Shaun Breaux

29 - Charles Meyerriecks

Negative Or Low Tides:

Pass-a-Grille

November Lows

Wed 1st -0.18 9:13 AM

Wed 15th -0.39 7:05 AM

Mon 27th -0.55 5:58 AM

December Lows

Fri 1st -0.27 8:46 AM

Thur 14th -0.39 7:06 AM

Fri 15th -0.67 7:55 AM

Sat 16th -0.57 8:46 AM

Thur 28th -0.62 7:03 AM

Dunedin Causeway

November Lows

Wed 1st -0.28 9:14 AM

Wed 15th -0.51 7:14 AM

Mon 27th -0.73 5:47 AM

December Lows

Fri 1st -0.23 8:38 AM

Thur 14th -0.79 7:11 AM

Fri 15th -0.73 7:57 AM

Sat 16th -0.58 8:43 AM

Thur 28th -0.61 7:08 AM

The low at St. Petersburg occurs almost 2½ hours after the low at Pass-a-Grille.

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html

2023-2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

COA Representatives:

Mary Ellen Akers, Carolyn Petrikin

Education: Mary Ellen Akers

E-Mail: Debi McCreary

Facebook: Cheryl Jacobs

Field Trips: Cathy Petre

Hospitality: Cathy Petre

Membership: Paula and Charlie Meyerriecks

Mini-Box: Displays Vicki Eis

Newsletter Editor: Steve Geiger

Newsletter Distribution: Jennifer Kotimaki

Phone Contact: Paula Meyerriecks

Photography: John Jacobs

Programs: Sharlene Totten

Projectionist and Zoom: John Jacobs

Publicity: Debi McCreary

Raffe: Cheryl Jacobs

Refreshments: Cindy Housley

Website: Cheryl Jacobs

A day trip to Sanibel, Captiva and Ft. Myers Beach, October 2023

My Best Friend and I have gone to Sanibel/Captiva for decades together. This was our first trip back onto the islands and Lee County since Hurricane Ian. Even with seeing all the footage from during and after the hurricane, parts of the destruction are heartbreaking, there's spots and businesses that will never recover.

But there's hope with constant rebuilding construction throughout the area, new regrowth of plant life and each month another business opens back up from rebuilding. It is still a magical area to explore and with each month that passes some of our favorites are opening back up. The causeway is in the middle of being rebuilt when we were there in October, many work trucks and cranes to repair and rebuild damaged areas. We stopped by The Chamber of Commerce of Sanibel/Captiva to find out what restaurants are back open, the tides for the day, and to view the beautiful Shell Heart that was made by a Sanibel Shell Club Member that we had seen previous stops and it made it through the storm too!



Our next stop was the Lighthouse Beach, at each beach you pay for parking \$ 5.00 an hour, and you pay from your smart phone, given a code, they also text you when you're 15 minutes from running out of time on your digital meter, which can be helpful when you're exploring the beach. It is a comfort to see the Lighthouse still standing, the surrounding area is still a stark landscape compared to pre-Ian, but there is green growth returning, more sand has emerged in front of the Lighthouse from this year's storms. I found some murex, tulips and a multitude of cross-barred Venus clams that were rolling in along the shoreline. We saw a couple of dolphins before we left the beach too, always a good sign to see the sea life back.

The bathrooms are still under construction when we were there, they have multiple port-o-lets in the meantime.

Next, we made a stop at She Sells Sea Shells for some Bug Spray and a T-Shirt. The No-see-ums are in full-force and very bad on the island so absolutely plan ahead on that! We made a few more stops, some of our regular stops are gone, some are under construction or in a holding pattern

from insurance delays or waiting on high demand supplies. There was a mile line of construction work trucks leaving the island at 4 pm so they are constantly working towards rebuilding!



We made it to Turner Beach (Blinds Pass), our favorite spot, each beach again is all pay-for-parking by phone, and their original bathrooms are open again. We found a huge pile of shells along the rock jetty that we dug through until the sun went down, found some flat scallops (that was exciting) and I found a broken *Junonia*. Someday, I'll find my own whole one!



We ended our evening on the island at Doc Fords. It was packed, and there was a wait but everyone waiting seemed to be happy to be back on the island and the food was delicious!

Things we are all used to seeing on the island will take time to rebuild to be semi-normal again, but it's still a beautiful place to visit, explore and shell at. They need our

business and support now more than ever! If you have some time to spend, go back to the islands, please do so!

P. S. - We also explored the North end of Ft. Myers Beach - The Bowditch Point Region Park, a Lee County Park, which is also still under re-construction, but you can still visit, pay-by-phone parking. We saw sea stars, pelicans, and schools of fish along the point. The most exciting part was seeing periwinkle snails on the mangroves at the point!

I had missed seeing the ones I had always taken photographs of that lived in front of the Lighthouse on Sanibel and was so happy to see some thriving across the bay!



The famous international Bourse overflowed the ballroom on Saturday and Sunday. American dealers. Dealers from Argentina, Italy, Australia, Philippines, and Taiwan. Shell treasures from near and far. Sharlene participated with her lovely jewelry, ably assisted by Nancy. If you'd like to see more pictures, John Jacobs will give a presentation at the St Pete club meeting.



Jennifer Kotimaki



Continued from September ...The Bourse at COA



Carolina Moon is a memory -- of the above, but more than anything, a continuing and growing affection for the people involved. The attendees, and most especially the North Carolina folks. They're classy. They're fun. They're extraordinarily capable. They know how to do things. Every T was crossed. Every I was dotted. Every detail was done with Ooomph! It was a superb convention. Hugs to Jeanette and Ed and to their fantastic team! May they rest on their laurels, looking up at their beloved Carolina Moon!

Mary Ellen Akers

Let's visit the Shanghai Shell Show

Many friends are familiar with shell shows in Europe and the United States, but not many people in the United States know about shell shows in China. During the summer break, I participated in the shell show held in Shanghai, China.

The shell show lasted three days, and only the registered professional audience attended on the first day. The second and third days are free to the public. It was held in a hotel in Shanghai. There were more than 30 dealers from all over the world. In addition to Chinese dealers, there are also 11 foreign shell dealers from the United States, France, Russia, the Philippines and other countries.



Organizers of the Shell Show carefully planned the display, showing 17 world record specimens, as well as some shell series with ultra-high popularity, attention and value, protected species and other related exhibits.



The shell show also held 4 oral auctions and silent auctions; 6 shell-related programs. In fact, the program of Shanghai Shell Show is similar to the design of COA's convention. There is a welcome dinner, auctions, professional lectures, display awards, pin release, and shell selling.



Unlike the shell show in Europe and the United States, I think there are two main differences.

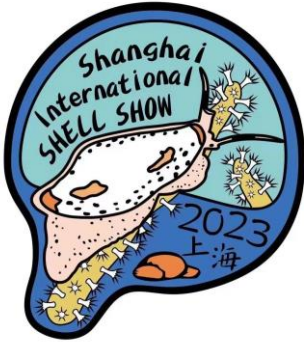
First, there were a large number of visitors in Shanghai – about 6000 in three days. The shell collection tradition in China is not long. But in the past ten years, the number of collectors has increased greatly. This is an emerging collection category in China. The traffic did decrease from the beginning of the first day to the end of the third day.



Second, people who collect shells in China are mainly young people. There were also many children at the show, and they were very crazy about shells. Some young enthusiasts have strong learning ability, and many of them are experts in a certain category.



Finally, I would like to share with you the souvenirs of Shanghai Shell Show. A pin and a commemorative medal are all designed based on *Ovula* (Genus *Primovula*) 2023 is the Chinese Year of the Rabbit. The Chinese name of *Ovulata* means “rabbit in the sea”, so the theme of the show was a pun.



Happy Shelling!

Ying Tong

PROGRAMS:

In September, Past-President Nancy Holcombe gave a talk on “Lessons from a Novice Sheller.”



In October, Ron Bopp from the Sarasota Shell Club gave a program on Florida’s fossil shells.

Honeymoon Fall Festival

Our club attended the Honeymoon Island State Park Fall festival on October 21. Our intent was to promote the club and sell some of our donated items. There were several helpers: Debi McCreary, Pat Dempsey, Diane Young, Betty Sheetz, Sara and Ron Henkle, Jennifer Kotimaki and Steve Geiger.

Dianne Kellie made a beautiful tablecloth.



SHELLABRATION - DECEMBER 5, 2023

Suncoast Conchologists members are invited to attend our Holiday Shellabration.

It is being held on December 5, 2023, 6 - 9PM at the Inverness Clubhouse, 2589 Countryside Blvd., Clearwater. Located across from the Macy's side of the Countryside Mall. Enter from Village Drive or Countryside Blvd. There will be signs and balloons at these entrances. Sign up to reserve your spot at the November 7 meeting or contact Sharlene if you cannot attend the meeting.

We plan to eat at 6:45 PM. Bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share with everyone. The club will be supplying the beverages. One of our activities this evening is our Gift Exchange, bring a Shell or Marine related gift (valued at \$15), wrapped and identify your gift as male, female or either.

Each year we collect a donation to send to Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum to help with reconstruction.

All proceeds collected will be matched by our club.

Be ready to play games, open gifts and share the Holiday Spirit with everyone.

Let Sharlene Totten know if you plan to attend by November 15, either call 727-278-3396 or email at 62coral@gmail.com .

SEE YOU ALL AT THE SHELLABRATION DRESSED IN YOUR HOLIDAY ATTIRE



Drawing by Diana Kellie

New members:

Barbara Simpson, Christy Keltner and Bo Whited, Yoko Stout, Marja Van Oijen, Jerry Puigdomenech, and Tara Robertson.

Barbara has been shelling her whole life. She is now retired and has been living in Florida for four years. She does not have a favorite shell but self collects. She says that she would consider helping on a club committee.

Marja has been in Florida since Nov., 2022. She is interested in participating in the club's programs and field trips.

Jerry is a Registered Nurse. He has lived his life in Florida and has been collecting shells for over 20 years. His favorite shell is the Violet Spider Conch.

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