



Suncoast Shorelines

January-February

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VOL. 36, No.3

President's Message

Welcome to the new year – 2020. I hope everyone had safe and happy holidays and that you are ready for an action-packed new year of adventures with Suncoast Conchologists. In wrapping up 2019, I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to Sharlene Totten and her helpers – Betty Sheetz, Shirley Anderson, Cathy Petre, Carolyn Petrikin, Mary Ellen Akers – for a wonderful *Shellabration*. It was a fun evening and the favors that Cathy made are lovely additions to everyone's Christmas decor.

Our new year activities start at our January 7 club meeting with a special program presented by Nicole Seidon, a USF student in the School of Geosciences. Nicole is an excellent and informative speaker whom I had the opportunity to hear at the COA convention this summer. Make your plans now to attend our first meeting of the new year and meet Nicole.

Also, in January, Carolyn Petrikin will be announcing the winner of our shell labeling contest for November-December. We have another shell to identify and create label for in this issue. Check it out and get your label in to Carolyn by January 26 for this issue's contest.

Remember that our February club meeting is our member shell show. Check out the information in this issue on what the categories are and be getting your shells picked out and polished up to participate. I am excited that I finally have shells and a craft item that I can enter. Applications must be turned in to Sharlene Totten by January 14. You can get an application at the January meeting or by contacting Carolyn Petrikin if you do not already have one.

The new year marks the beginning of **Florida's Shell Show Season**. Be sure to check out the listing in this issue of all the shows coming up in January, February and March. Some of our members participate in these shows. I encourage all of you to attend as many of these shows as you can and support our fellow members. These shows are a wonderful opportunity to view shells, meet other interested conchologists and have a good time.

And speaking of shell shows, I want to remind everyone that COA Convention 2020 registration is now open. The convention will be June 17-20 (with field trips on June 15 & 16) in Melbourne, FL. You can find all the information, as

well as registration forms, on the COA website conchologistsofamerica.org.

Steve Geiger is planning more wonderful field trips for this coming year. Already we have had some fun shelling adventures he arranged and are looking forward to more. Check out the articles and pictures of our November and December excursions that are in this issue.

Happy New Year!

Nancy

Meet our Newest Members!

Paul and LaVonne Gysan are friends of Katherine Smith. They have enjoyed shelling all of their lives and help with the Shell Garden at St Marks where residents donate their shells. They met in college and have 2 grown children and 4 grandchildren. They especially like Florida shells but their favorite is the one Paul stepped on in the Red Sea in Egypt.



Anita Freudenthal, Marion Fuller, LaVonne and Paul Gysan

Elizabeth (Betsy) Hixon and **Ed Dillabough** joined at the last meeting and heard about us from the St Pete Shell Club. Betsy is a teacher and Ed is in medical management. They have been interested in shelling for most of their lives. Betsy especially likes the North Atlantic Cockle.

Please add to your Directory:

Paul and LaVonne Gysan

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Palm Harbor, FL 34684

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Elizabeth Hixon (Betsy)

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PLAN AHEAD

Friday, January 3, 7PM the St. Petersburg Shell Club meeting will be held at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Florida

Tuesday, January 7, 7PM is our Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club Meeting. Our speaker will be Nicole Seiden, who is a student at USF. During her presentation she will be discussing our club shell, the Atlatus.

Mini-box theme is any type of coral. Make a label if you have the information to do so.

January 11-12 Broward Shell Show

January 18-19 Astronaut Trail Shell Show, Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL. 32937

Tuesday, January 21, 7pm Board meeting held at the home of Sharlene Totten. All members are welcome to attend, just let her know you are coming.

Friday, February 1, 7pm, St. Petersburg Shell Club meeting held at the Seminole Recreational Center, Seminole, Florida.

Tuesday, February 4, 7pm, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club meeting, Members Shell Show. Set-up for exhibitors is 6:15pm -6:45pm. Details are in the Shell Show article. No Mini-box this month.

February 7-9 Sarasota Shell Show, Robarts Arena, Potter Building, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL. 34237

February 15, Florida Malacologists meeting (FUM), held at the Bailey Mathew National Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel 33957.. Registration required.

February 15 Fossil Fest, The Shell Factory, 2787 Tamiami Trail, North Fort Meyers 33903

February 21-22 St. Petersburg Shell Show, Seminole Recreational Center, 113th Street North, Seminole, 33772 See flyer for more information. →

PLAN AHEAD FOR FLORIDA'S "SHELL SHOW SEASON"

Jan.11-12 **BROWARD SHELL SHOW** Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th Street, Pompano Beach 33060

Jan.18-19 **ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL SHOW** Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Avenue, Melbourne 32935

Feb.7-9 **SARASOTA SHELL SHOW** Robarts Arena, Potter Building, 3000 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota 34237

Feb.15 **FLORIDA UNITED MALACOLOGISTS MEETING (FUM)** Bailey Matthews National Shell Museum, 3075 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel 33957 Registration required.

Feb.15 **FOSSIL FESTIVAL** The Shell Factory, 2787 Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers 33903

Feb.21-22 **ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW** Seminole Recreation Center, 113th Street North, Seminole 33772

Mar.5-7 **SANIBEL SHELL FAIR** Sanibel Community House, 21173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

Mar.14-15 **FOSSIL FEST** Tampa Bay Fossil Club, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa

Mar.19-21 **MARCO ISLAND SHELL SHOW** United Church of Marco Island, 320 Barfield Drive, Marco Island 34145



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 \$5 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.

2019-2020 Officers

President: Nancy Holcombe

First Vice President: Sharlene Totten

Second Vice President: Steve Geiger

Recording Secretary: Marion Fuller/Carolyn Petrikin

Treasurer: Pat Snair

Corresponding Secretary: Elda Thomas

E-Mail: suncoastseashells@gmail.com

Website: www.suncoastconchologists.org

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 **Happy Birthday** 

January

1—Kathy Partin

2---Cindy Housley

5—Nancy Holcombe

9--Russ Stauffer

9--Robert McCreary

12--Shirley Anderson

13--Marion Fuller

25--John Jacobs

February

4---Andrea Hutchinson

14---Deb Allen

17--Sandra Gann

19--Anita Freudenthal

23--Ed Dillabough

25--Pat Linn

NEGATIVE or LOW TIDES for Egmont Key

January 2020

Tues	7 th	-0.5	4:08	AM
Wed	8 th	-0.6	4:52	AM
Thurs	9th	-0.7	5:35	AM
Fri	10th	-0.8	6:18	AM
Sat	11th	-0.9	7:00	AM
Sun	12th	-0.8	7:43	AM
Mon	13th	-0.7	8:26	AM
Tues	14th	-0.6	9:08	AM
Wed	15th	-0.3	9:49	AM
Mon	20th	-0.5	3:20	AM
Tues	21st	-0.6	4:16	AM
Wed	22nd	-0.7	5:03	AM
Thurs	23rd	-0.7	5:45	AM
Fri	24th	-0.7	6:21	AM
Sat	25th	-0.6	6:54	AM
Sun	26th	-0.6	7:24	AM
Mon	27th	-0.5	7:52	AM
Tues	28th	-0.3	8:20	AM

February

Tues	4th	-0.3	2:49	AM
Wed	5th	-0.6	3:45	AM
Thurs	6th	-0.6	4:35	AM
Fri	7th	-0.8	5:21	AM
Sat	8th	-0.8	6:03	AM
Sun	9th	-0.8	6:43	AM
Mon	10th	-0.6	7:20	AM
Tues	11th	-0.5	7:56	AM
Mon	17th	-0.4	1:57	AM
Tues	18th	-0.5	3:08	AM
Wed	19th	-0.6	4:05	AM
Thurs	20th	-0.6	4:50	AM
Fri	21st	-0.6	5:28	AM
Sat	22nd	-0.5	5:59	AM
Sun	23rd	-0.4	6:26	AM
Mon	24th	-0.3	6:49	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

Anclote Key Shelling Trip

On Sunday November 17 we had a wonderful trip to the south end of Anclote Key aboard the Odyssey Cruise catamaran leaving from the sponge docks in Tarpon Springs. The naturalist on board was quite well versed in local lore and ecology and entertained on the ride out. The excitement built as we witnessed an exceptionally low tide, field by northeast winds but the highlight of the ride was a pod of dolphins with a newborn calf, frolicking around the end of the Anclote River channel. The ride was cool, but not too cold, and the crew was kind enough to supply some blankets for those in need.



Once there, a handy ramp led to easy access, and no need to even get your feet wet. The shell club and a few other guests quickly dispersed and there was more than enough room to roam for all on the boat that day, just cool and windy enough to keep casual boaters at home in port.



Mounds of shells of all sizes.



We had a great turnout: Jane, Deb, Vicki, Jennifer, Steve, Nancy, Pat, Sheila (a friend of the club), and 4 of the newest members John and Kathy and Ed and Betsy.



Steve

On Tuesday, December 10th we held our annual Suncoast Conchologists Shellabration. This year the festivities took place at Oriental Super Buffet in Clearwater. The food was delicious, the games were fun and the gift exchange was the highlight of the evening! Everyone had a fabulous time.

A special thank you to all the members who organized, planned, made arrangements, decorated and made sure it was a festive occasion! We are already thinking ahead to next year!



Mary Ellen leading everyone in her rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas.



Yes, this shell is waiting for you to identify, then make a label with all the info we talked about at our November meeting. The Sept./Oct shell was a *Strombus alatus*, our club emblem shell, the Florida Fighting Conch. The deadline for this issue will be January 26th. You can e-mail your label to me at ceshell@aol.com or send by US mail.

Carolyn

Shell Teeth

The ocean has lost
Her baby teeth.
They're shells
Upon the shore.

And everyday
She grows new teeth.
Each night
She loses more.

She spreads
Her teeth
Upon the beach.
I gather up a pile.

I bring them home
So I can keep
A piece
Of ocean smile.

Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

Edisto Island - A Hidden Gem

Between Charleston and Hilton Head lies a well-kept secret gem of the SC Coast. Edisto Island is a quiet, rather secluded beach town that only has houses on the Atlantic and Inlet areas and some condos on the marina side on the creek. They don't do hotels. The town boasts one old, small Bi-Lo grocery store, one gas station, a few beach shops and a few small eating places. Oh yes, there is a golf course and a bike path. Nothing fancy, just beautiful and peaceful. People come to Edisto to relax and enjoy quiet time with family and friends. Many have been coming for years. Some own homes there and others rent a cottage (which are usually large homes) every year.

This past October I was invited to join one of my dear friends and some of her family at Edisto. They have been vacationing there for over 20 years. It was a perfect time to be there—not too hot, water warm enough to wade in. Unfortunately, Dorian's impact was definitely evident in the beach erosion, but the island is coming back.

Edisto Island was settled in 1695, just five years after Charleston, SC. It was home to many large cotton plantations that produced the long staple Sea Island cotton during the "Golden Age" (1820-1860) and made the owners quite wealthy. As you know, next to shells, early American history is my thing, and there was plenty history for me to explore around the island and at the Edisto History Museum.

The highlight of my trip was getting to go to **Shell Island** – which is actually more of a large sand bar on the north end of the island. It is only accessible by boat and I found Captain Ron to take my friends and me. Now this Captain Ron did not look anything like Kurt Russell from the movie of that name, but he was just as much a character. He is very picky about whom he takes to the island but since I was a native South Carolinian, he consented to take us (for a price, of course). We met him at 9:00 sharp at his dock on the creek after driving down a one lane dirt road that went for several miles into nowhere. He, with his two young children, delivered us to the island in his skiff and gave us lots of information on the area and the changes in the last 50 years caused by the ocean moving in and development of the area for profit. He told us we could only stay for two hours on the island and made it clear that we were only allowed to bring back a one-gallon bag of shells each. Lucky me that I know how to pack a bag to the hilt and that my two friends did not want any shells so I got their bags also. Tons of shells are on this island – mostly whelks, oyster and clam shells, and cockles. We were the only three people there. What

bliss! And what a treasure trove! We had time to collect and then pick the best ones to pack in the bags to bring back.



Captain Ron



Shell Island



So
many
shells,
so
few
bags!



After Shell Island, we toured Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area. It is the former home of two large cotton plantations Bleak Hall and Sea Cloud and Indian Point which was a community for the Cusabo Indians (Edistow) who inhabited the area back to 2500 BC. Nothing much is left of the plantations and the Cusabo disappeared in 1728, but what is left along with the wildlife, plants and trees, is quite lovely to see as you drive through. The big attraction here was **Hammock Island—the boneyard beach**—which is only accessible by foot during low tide. It is a beautiful yet sad sign of how the ocean is eroding the shoreline.



Boneyard Beach



Sunrise over Edisto

North Skyway December trip

On December 15 we had a nice turnout at the north Skyway rest area. After a brief confusion created by our fearless VP, we all located the wading-in spot and enjoyed the end of low tide and start of incoming tide. In attendance were Cynthia, Debbie, Betty, Pat, Betsy (+1...), Rick and Betty, Cheryl & John, Jen, Steve and Nancy.



NH



NH



NH



SG

Tulips, bubble snails were probably dominant, and no spectacular large shells.



SG



NH

Next time we'll meet before low tide, to catch the fall. Courtney Campbell Causeway on **Sunday, January 26, 2020.**



BS

MEMBERS SHELL SHOW IS COMING!

On February 4th, Suncoast Conchologists will have its semi-annual Members Shell Show. No—you won't need a case or two of shells to put on display—only single specimens—just one shell or an item that fits in one of the categories. You may have 2 separate entries in each category. If you don't already have one, applications will be available at our January 7th meeting. To help with your identification, check out our Library List on the club's website, www.suncoastconchologists.org, then have Shirley Anderson bring the book(s) to you on the 7th.

Our show categories are:

Florida/Caribbean—Any shells entered in this category **MUST** be selfcollected specimens—no purchased, borrowed or gifted shells. You may have 2 entries, each displayed separately.

Worldwide—These shells may have been obtained in any manner—bought, traded for, won at a club raffle, received as a gift, etc. This category includes FL/Caribbean specimens.

Fossils—Obtained in any manner. Fossils can be difficult to identify—so do your best, including family and location.

Sea Life—Sand dollars, crabs, starfish, etc., obtained in any manner.

Shell Art—Created by the exhibitor—not purchased, gifted, etc. You may have 2 separate entries: Stained glass, jewelry, quilting, drawing, needlework, painting, photography.

Shell Craft—Created by the exhibitor—not purchased, gifted, etc. You may have 2 separate entries. Craft includes items made primarily of seashells—wreaths, mirrors, flowers, animals, etc.

The evening of the show, set-up will begin at 6:15; all exhibits must be in place by 6:45.

Please refer to Exhibiting Guidelines and Members Shell Show Q and A attached to your application.

All applications must be to Sharlene Totten, 2252 Springflower Drive, Clearwater, FL 33763 **by January 14th**. Questions? Call Sharlene, 278-3396.

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