



Suncoast Shorelines

March-April

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President's Message

March winds are blowing in and let's hope they bring us some good shelling. It is hard to believe that February is gone but it is the shortest month even with Leap Year. What a busy month it was too with all the wonderful shell shows in the area beginning with our own club's Member Shell Show on February 4. Many thanks to all who participated and congratulations to all our winners. Check out the pictures in this issue. Isn't Sharlene Totten amazing? She did an awesome job not only arranging the shell show but also creating all the wonderful awards that we all wanted. (I think she should make these to sell.) **Thank you Sharlene!**

The next show up was the Sarasota Shell Show the weekend of February 7-9. I was fortunate enough to attend this show with several others from our club. The scientific and art displays were quite something to behold. We really enjoyed the show and friendliness of the Sarasota club members. Our club members Pat and Bob Linn were exhibitors in the Scientific category and won a blue ribbon for their huge display (14 cases with posters explaining) of *Abalones Around the World*. Wow! What a collection of abalones they have! I fell in love with them and ended up buying an abalone for myself from one of the show vendors.

Next up was the St. Pete Shell Show on February 21-22. This was another great show and a number of our members met and attended on Friday, the 21st. I am so happy to see the support for our fellow club members, five of whom were exhibitors—Steve Geiger, Jennifer Kotimaki, Pat & Bob Linn, Carolyn & Earl Petrikin and Sharlene Totten. I am also very happy to report that they all won awards or ribbons for first or second place on some of their exhibits. Pat & Bob, Carolyn & Earl, and Jennifer also won some very prestigious awards for their exhibits. Check out the list of their awards and see the pictures in this issue. Steve had quite a number of exhibits and won a number of ribbons. His exhibit on our club shell, *Strombus alatus*, was particularly pertinent to us. Carolyn & Earl's exhibit on *Whelks* was dear to me as I love collecting these not only here on the west coast of Florida but also on the South Carolina coast. It was a very informative display of 7 show cases with posters explaining. *Great job everyone who participated in the St. Pete Show and Congratulations on your wins!!*

Now that March is here, we have another busy month. The March 3rd meeting had a presentation by Wendy Hayward, one of our members, on reducing the plastics from our daily lives. Then on

Monday, March 9, Steve has an interesting field trip planned to Emerson Point Preserve in Manatee County. Another big shell show, the Sanibel Shell Show, is coming up March 5-7. Pat and Bob Linn will be exhibiting there. Numerous people have told me what a great show this is and I am looking forward to seeing it. I will be attending on Friday, the 6th and I do hope some of you will make an effort to attend. March 14-15 is Fossil Fest sponsored by the Tampa Bay Fossil Club at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. We have members of our club who are members of the TB Fossil Club. Let's get out and support them. And last is the Marco Island Shell Show March 19-21. Not sure if I will make that one but I am going to try since I have a close friend I can stay with in Naples.

April promises to be a calmer month. No shell shows close-by that I am aware of. Our meeting on April 7 will be Sands of Time presented by club member Debbie McCreary.

Another reminder about the COA Convention 2020 registration – the convention is June 17-20 in Melbourne, FL. There are field trips June 15 & 16. All the information, as well as registration forms, is on the COA website conchologistsofamerica.org. (This is correct address. I accidentally left off the g on this web address last newsletter.)

I want to take this opportunity to thank our club members who are presenting club programs this year and sharing their area of expertise with the club. I also thank all who contribute to making our club a success in other ways, as committee chairs and volunteering for projects. As I keep saying, this is **OUR** club, and we make it so by being active participants.

I recently saw this sign and want to share with all of you. It made me think of so many members of our club who give and share of their time and talents.

If you get, Give.

If you learn, Teach.

Happy Spring and Happy Shelling!

Nancy

Meet our Newest Members!



Elizabeth (Betsy) Hixon and Ed Dillabough with Steve Geiger

PLAN AHEAD

Tuesday, March 3, 7PM, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club meeting. Our program, "Underwater Photography," will be presented by one of our club members, Deb Allen.

Mini box theme- Pictures of seashells

Friday, March 6, 7PM, St. Petersburg Shell Club, meets at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Dr. Gregory Herbert, professor at USF will be their program presenter.

March 5,6,7, 83rd Sanibel Shell Show, held at The Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, Fl.

Monday, March 9, Field trip to Emerson Point Park (see to the right for more info.)

March 19-21, Marco Island Shell Show held at the United Church of Marco Island, 320 Barfield Drive, Marco Island, Fl. 34145

April 7, 7PM, Suncoast Conchologists meeting, Debi McCleary will present her program, "Sands of Time". Sand found in different places.

Mini-box- shelling implements used to collect or clean your treasures. Bring your purchased or hand-made tools to give everyone ideas as to what works best.

May 5, 7PM, Suncoast Conchologists meeting. Some of our members will be talking about a special story of a shell they have, an event that happened while shelling or why they love shells etc.

ICE CREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM !!!!!!! BREAK TIME

Saturday, May 16 End of the year Picnic at Philippe Park, Shelter #1, 11AM-3PM. Details to be announced. Save the date!

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

Upcoming Field Trip

Monday, March 9th we will be venturing to Emerson Point Park in Palmetto, Florida. The low tide is around 8:30am, so try to be there by 8:00am. The address is:

Emerson Point Park
5801 17th St. W
Palmetto, Florida 34221

SHELL TIP for those who are new to shelling!!

Carolyn's tip for identifying shells by their scientific name:

One of the resources to use to see if your shell's Latin name is correct is to look on "worms"---the "World Register of Marine Species."

I've always found it by scrolling down a bit after putting in a search for just "worms." Lately this hasn't been working for me. Try marinespecies.org or the title. Once you get used to using this site, you'll find it very useful! Carolyn

Congratulations are in order!

Congratulations to our centenarian member, **Murray Smith** on receiving his 50-yr award from the Shriners!



**PLAN AHEAD FOR FLORIDA'S
"SHELL SHOW SEASON"**

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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NEGATIVE or LOW TIDES for Egmont Key

March 2020

Thurs	5 th	-0.14	3:07	AM
Fri	6 th	-0.3	3:51	AM
Sat	7 th	-0.39	4:30	AM
Sun	8 th	-0.38	6:06	AM
Mon	9 th	-0.27	6:40	AM
Tues	10 th	-0.08	7:12	AM
Thurs	12 th	-0.05	8:52	PM

April

Fri	3 rd	-0.08	3:37	AM
Sat	4 th	-0.14	4:21	AM
Sun	5 th	-0.12	4:59	AM
Mon	6 th	-0.03	5:33	AM
Tues	7 th	-0.10	6:12	PM
Wed	8 th	-0.31	7:00	PM
Thurs	9 th	-0.40	7:50	PM
Fri	10 th	-0.37	8:43	PM
Sat	11 th	-0.25	9:42	PM
Sun	12 th	-0.08	10:52	PM
Thurs	23 rd	-0.03	7:08	PM
Fri	24 th	-0.08	7:46	PM
Sat	25 th	-0.09	8:29	PM
Sun	26 th	-0.06	9:18	PM

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

Sheller's Creed

The wild and natural resources of this planet have been entrusted to me for protection and preservation. Whether I wish it or not, I must account to the future for my handling of this wealth today. If I collect shells, I will do it conservatively, recognizing that destruction of the marine habitat, by whatever means, is the true enemy of the sea and its creatures.

 **Happy Birthday** 

March

April

8---Betty Fearn	14---Dick Mitchell
29--Hugo Freudenthal	15---Dick Fearn
31---Cheryl Putnam	27--Bob Marsh
	28--Katherine Smith

MEMBER SHELL SHOW WINNERS

Florida/Caribbean category



1st Place Debi McCreary Atlantic Deer Cowrie
2nd Place Jennifer Kotimaki Rose Murex

Worldwide category



1st Place Sharlene Totten Alabaster Murex
2nd Place Jennifer Kotimaki Atlantic Thorny Oyster

Fossil Shell category



1st Place John Jacobs Ancyloceratidae Family
2nd Place John Jacobs Pleistocene Fossil

Sea Life Category



1st Place Carolyn Petrikin Crown of Thorns Starfish
2nd Place Sharlene Totten Oval Branch Coral

Shell Art category



1st Place Vicki Eis Nativity
2nd Place Sharlene Totten Hinges Necklace and Earrings

Shell Craft category



1st Place Vicki Eis Christmas Tree Topper
2nd Place Vicki Eis Penguin

Members Choice Awards



Shell Art – Vicki Eis
Sea Life Painting

Shell Craft - Jennifer Kotimaki
Steam Punk Top Hat

Shell of the Show – Sharlene Totten
Alabaster Murex



The beautiful awards Sharlene made were stunning!

MORE SHOWS, MORE WINNERS!



Pat and Bob Linn

Category – One Family – Abalones Around the World
Prize – 1st Place AND Florida Museum of Natural History Platinum Award



Carolyn and Earl Petrikin

Category – Single Specimen Worldwide –
Neptunea laticostata
Prize – 1st Place AND Judges Special Award



Carolyn and Earl Petrikin

Category – Educational - Whelks
Prize – 2nd Place AND National Museum of Natural History Smithsonian Institute Award for Outstanding Exhibit AND Alice Monrow Educational Award

ST PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW



Steve Geiger
Category – Photograph
Prize – 1st Place



Steve Geiger
Category – One species – *Strombus alatus*
Prize – 2nd Place

Steve also won 2nd Place in the categories of: Fossils, Beach Life and Land & Fresh Water



Jennifer Kotimaki
Category- Single specimen self-collected-rose murex
Prize - 2nd place AND Dorothy Hanssler Award Best Florida-Caribbean Exhibit

ST PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW

WINNERS CONTINUED



Sharlene's winning entry titled,
"Pretty in Pink"



Sharlene Totten
Category – Table Items
Prize – 2nd Place

Sarasota Shell Show duPont Award winners



Congratulations to Bob and Pat Linn for winning First Place!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Membership Renewal

Shell Show Schedule, Winners and

PHOTOS!



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