



Suncoast Shorelines

May - August 2024

PUBLISHED BY SUNCOAST CONCHOLOGISTS

VOL. 40, No.5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I cannot believe that we are near the end of our year--it went by so fast. I thought that it would be nice to review what the Suncoast Conchologists accomplished this year.

When you read this newsletter, we will be ready to have our Annual Picnic which we look forward to all year.

It has been a wonderful year. We have had monthly guest speakers and opportunities to get into our personal collections to show off our shells in our monthly Mini Box displays. We had three fundraising opportunities which included the Honeymoon Island State Park Fall Festival, our club Silent Auction from our donated worldwide shells, and a successful St. Petersburg Shell Show, that we co-hosted. At each event we had a table filled with donated shells and beautiful shell crafts donated by our club members. Our field trips included a Honeymoon Island Beach Walk Tour on Valentine's Day and a trip to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium to see our Seashell Display and to get to know our resident Marine animals.

We are excited to have grown our membership by 43 new members who all love shells as much as we do. I cannot forget our Holiday Shell-A-Bration and Annual Picnic where we all get a chance to have fun and play shelly games. As we close this successful year, I would like to thank our Board of Directors and our committee members who have made this a successful year. I look forward to what next year will bring! Until we meet again in September: get outside and find beautiful shells!

*Debi McCreary
President*

PLAN AHEAD

Friday, May 3, 7PM, the St. Petersburg Shell Club will meet at the Seminole Recreation Center, Seminole, Florida. Program to be announced.

Tuesday, May 7, 7PM, Suncoast Conchologists Shell Club meeting tonight will present several of our members talking about their favorite shell, a special experience that happened while they were shelling or what they like about shells!

Tonight at break time we will get to enjoy Ice Cream with Homemade Hot Fudge, Fresh Strawberries and all the other toppings we like on our Ice Cream.

Saturday, May 11, Suncoast Conchologists and St. Petersburg Shell Club will join together for a PICNIC at Philippi Park in Safety Harbor.

Details in an article inside this newsletter.

SHELL SHOWS !

North Carolina Shell Show - May 3-5, 2024
Crystal Coast Civic Center
3505 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Conchologists of America June 12-16



Tour of Clearwater marine Aquarium – D. Mc Creary

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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John Jacobs magic's up a last minute program in April



Negative Or Low Tides:

Pass-a-Grille

May Lows

Wed	8 th	-0.68	7:13	PM
Thur	9 th	-0.62	8:00	PM
Fri	24 th	-0.42	7:49	PM

June Lows

Thur	6 th	-0.67	7:09	PM
Fri	7 th	-0.58	7:53	PM
Fri	21 st	-0.50	7:00	PM
Sat	22 nd	-0.57	7:43	PM

July Lows

Thur	4 th	-0.55	6:23	PM
Fri	5 th	-0.52	7:03	PM
Sat	6 th	-0.44	7:41	PM
Sat	20 th	-0.58	6:49	PM
Sun	21 st	-0.58	7:28	PM

August Lows

Fri	2 nd	-0.34	6:16	PM
Sun	18 th	-0.47	6:28	PM

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

Meanderings in Nomenclature

Mary Ellen Akers

Today we'll meet three land snails who happen to have teeth in their mouths! These terrestrial gastropods no longer have gills; they have a primitive lung and are air-breathing.

The first shell is *Odontostomus labrosus* (Menke, 1828). If you wore braces on your teeth when you were a child, you dealt with an orth**ODONT**ist. Ortho means straight, and odonto is Greek for tooth. The dentist straightened your teeth! You may recall that **STOMUS**/Stoma means mouth. **LAB**ium/labia is Latin for lip, and the suffix **OSUS** (English is ous and ose) means full of.

So *Odontostomus labrosus* reads "tooth-mouth-lip-full of." A perfect description for a shell whose lip and aperture are full of teeth -- and quite a variety of teeth, which, of course, don't chew.

Why these toothy structures? Some speculate that this is a defensive tactic. A predator will be confused and deterred by this complex entryway to reach the tasty molluscan morsel! Note too, in backside view, that the fragile edge of the lip curls over slightly -- perhaps less risk of chipping. This particular shell was collected at the top of tall trees in the Atlantic Rain Forest at Alcobaca, south Bahia State, in Brazil.

Next is *Anostoma octidentatus f. depressum* (Lamarck, 1822), also from Brazil, but taken on rock outcroppings in a forest at Buique, in Pernambuco State.



We already know **STOMA** means mouth. **ANO** comes from Greek and means upward, above, up, on; and the mouth really faces upward toward the top or apex of the shell! Rather unusual -- these cuties are actually called the "up-mouth snails!" They are in the Family Odontostomidae -- does that ring a bell? And there is even a dental specialty called Odontostomatology(!) which deals with conditions affecting dental, jaw, gum, tongue, palate, and oral mucosa! TMI? **OCTI** is Greek for eight, and **DENTATUS** is Latin for having teeth. So we have upward-mouth-eight-teeth -- a very descriptive name. This particular shell seems to have only five teeth, but that number can be pretty variable, and no one seems to worry about that detail. The f. is an abbreviation for form. And **DEPRESSUM** does not imply that the mollusk is

sad because it lacks three teeth. It means squashed down; the shell is pretty flat on top, with no conical shape.

Who knows why the mollusk faces life this way? If it clings to rocks, only its backside is revealed to the world. And that backside gives no hint of its spiral pattern; rather, it shows a completely different neutral pattern of colors, but with a brown racing stripe at its suture. Camouflage? Remember the old term, Protective Coloration?



Our spectacular third example is *Labyrinthus otis orthorhinus* Pilsbry, 1910. This shell's mollusk has taken the opposite approach to life and curls downward as it matures and builds its mouth and lip. And what an impressive aperture!



LABYRINTHUS is obvious. **OTIS**, among other things, refers to hearing and indirectly to ear. **ORTHO** you now know means straight. And **RHINUS** refers to the nose (rhinoceros, rhinitis). So we have labyrinth-ear-straight-nose! The genus and specie names are fun and descriptive of an ear with its unique configuration. Writer has no idea regarding the third word or sub-specie name, unless it refers to nasal passages. And the only straight part of the shell is its keel line on its final whorl. Note too the interesting way the outer lip of the shell seems to be anchored into the shell's umbilicus! Protection?

This specimen was collected at El Valle, southwest of the Canal Zone in Panama, at 3,000 feet above sea level, and was taken under rotted logs, in June 1986.

All three -- superb names for lovely shells!

New Members

Rick and Irene Whitney are retired and have been shelling for nine years in Florida. They self-collect and Irene likes to do shell crafts. Their favorite shells are lightning whelks and nutmegs. They also enjoy hunting, fishing, crafting and shopping. They live in Clearwater.

Pamela Brand & Gary Ostoich are in Florida 5 months of the year and she loves shelling. Her favorite shell is the Olive Shell.

Katherine Berendt lives in Clearwater and loves to shell and to learn about shells

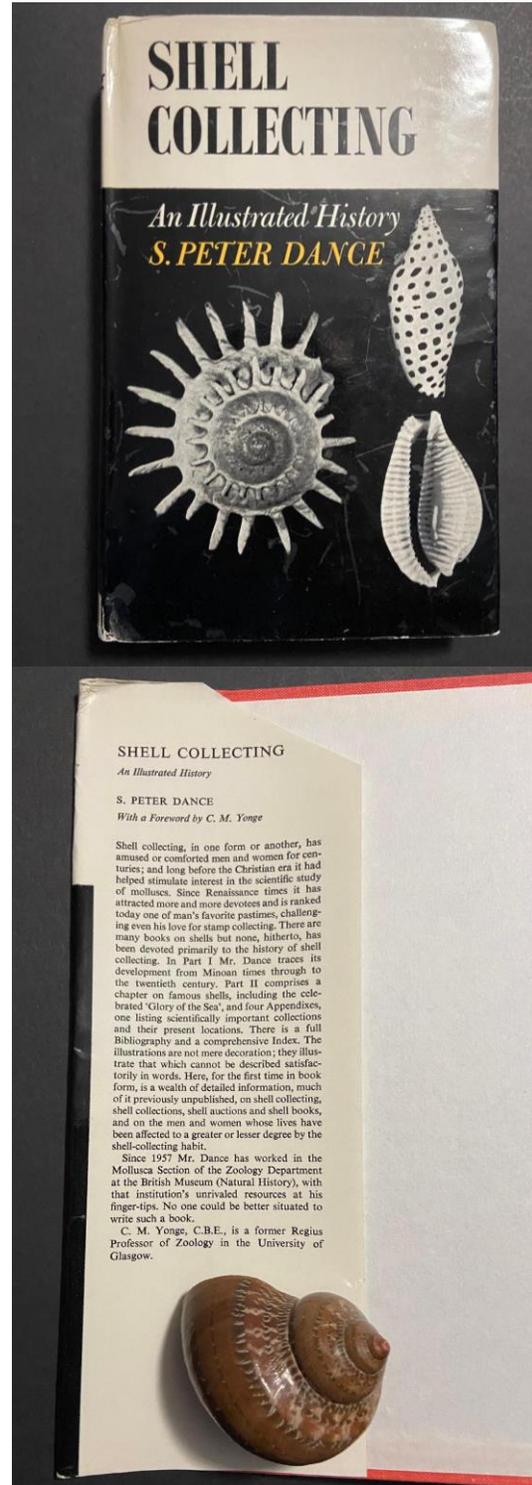
SUMMERTIME READS

BY JERRY PUIGDOMENECH

As we approach the Eve of summer break the memories of childhood with long summer days & the footloose and fancy-free plans of youth come flooding back. Of course, those cherished far away days were overshadowed by the dreaded mandatory scholastic reading assignments of dry often boring literary works and their associated book reports. While we are far removed from those compulsory readings, I encourage all of you to perhaps carve out some time and explore the vast offerings of the many long ago Sea Shell authors locked away in the yellowing pages of slowly vanishing out of print books. These antique manuscripts may not contain the most up to date information as our 21st century digital resources but they can act as a sort of “*time machine*” providing a crucial glimpse into the “*infancy of thought*” surrounding our molluscan hobby.

It’s fascinating to note that some of the concepts of these primitive writings remain tried and true centuries after they were penned while others have evolved through time. Some ideas, although rudimentary compared with today’s thinkers, can still act as a valuable road map for our own individual treks into and across the vast conchological landscape. We can easily track down any number of these historical writings via internet sources such as www.AbeBooks.com, Amazon, eBay, and perhaps my favorite www.MDMShellbooks.com (Owned and operated by one of the major forces in our hobby Mr. Bob Janowsky & his wife).

As an example, one of the treasured works that I acquired is titled **Shell Collecting: An illustrated History** written by the charismatic British author S. Peter Dance. This text highlights an extensive roster of great antiquarian conchological thinkers from the Renaissance to the 20th Century and showcases a handful of classic important and rare seashells. I’ll be discussing one of the rare shells at the St. Petersburg Shell club meeting in May. I wish everyone a safe, fantastic and enlightening summer break.



FIELD TRIP TO CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM



Photos by Shirley Anderson

Photos by Cindy Housley

Happy Birthday

May – June – July - August

May 1 Jerry Puigdomenech
May 4 Paula Meyerriecks
May 18 JoAn Cline
May 23 Mary Ellen Akers
May 28 Karen Henry
May 31 Robin Nye

June 1 Jennifer Kotimaki
June 6 Vicki Eis
Sandy Greenbaum
Joyce Hollbrook

June 11 Anthony Smotherman
June 24 Brenda Smotherman
June 25 Sara Jean Henkel
June 26 Paulette Canta
Dianna Kellie

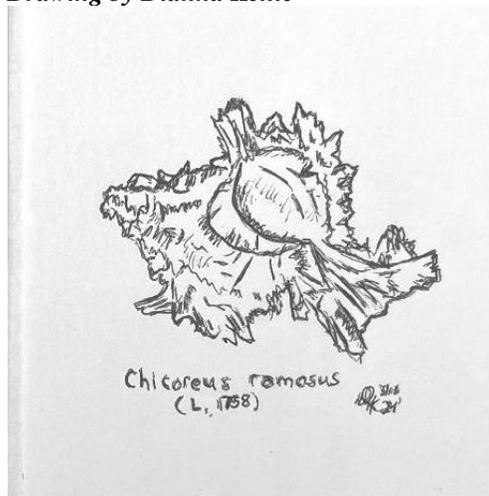
July 2 Susan Drosdzal
July 7 Debi McCreary
Jami Shoop

July 13 Barnett Bailey
Diane De Remer

July 21 Rob Totten
July 25 Katherine Berendt
July 28 Christine Stewart
July 29 Hugette Pittman
Tara Robertson
July 31 Luanne Caner

August 1 Pat Snair
August 11 Pat Dempsey
August 23 Diana Read
August 24 Steve Geiger
August 29 Cheryl Jacobs

Drawing by Dianna Kellie



April 13 Florida United Malacologists

This year's FUM was hosted by Dr. José Leal of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum at the Sanibel Community Center.

See the abstracts at :

https://www.shellmuseum.org/2024-fum

Talks included

- Dr. Harry George Lee, 1941–2024 : by Carole Marshall
Beach Species : Duane Kaufman
Neritid Snails : DePalma & Olenik
Oysters ... : Geiger , Levine, Kirby
Curation... : Gleason et al.
DeShayes : Eugene V. Coan
Conservation : Herbert & Geiger
Scaphella ... : Curry
Geometry of Cones : Leal et al.
Digitizing ... : Whitt
Jamaican Lucerna : Goldberg
Microplastics : Grossman
Death Assemblages : Hardin et al.
Cyphomas .. : Cabe and Holt Rieck
Elysia foot .. : Piper et al.
Elysia in Tampa Bay : Middlebrooks et al.
Seagrass Mollusks : Sanders et al. ...
Pompano molluscs : Opitz et al.

Conchologists of America Annual Convention, Melbourne, FL

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

June 12
Silent Auction
Opening Ceremonies
Programs
Welcome Party

June 13
Silent Auction
Programs
Oral Auction

June 14
Silent Auction
Programs
COA Business Meeting
Banquet

June 15
Bourse
Sales Tables
Open to the Public

June 16
Bourse
Sales Tables
Open to the Public

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COA 2024 SHELL-OLYMPICS



Hilton Melbourne
200 Rialto Place
Melbourne, Florida

PROGRAMS: June 12-14
BOURSE June 15-16

Tel: 979-236-5274 Website: conchologistsofamerica.org

PICNIC -Saturday May 11

Join the Suncoast Conchologists and St. Petersburg Shell Clubs for our PICNIC on Saturday, May 11. We will meet at Philippi Park, Shelter #1, Safety Harbor, Florida. We will meet from 11AM to 3PM and plan to eat at Noon. Bring a dish to share with everyone and a serving spoon. Homemade Barbeque Pork Sandwiches by Sharlene will be served on buns. Cost for the meat and all the fixings is \$5 per person. Bring your own Drink.

At the May 7 meeting there will be a sign-up sheet, write your name and the dish your bringing. There will be an envelope attached to the sign-up sheet to place your money in. Write cash or check by your name.

Deadline May 7.

After lunch we will play SHELL-O and there will be prizes awarded after each game.

Join us for a beautiful afternoon overlooking Tampa Bay, enjoying delicious food made by you, making new friends and maybe taking home a prize or two. The benches are wood, seat cushion recommended.

See you at the PICNIC !!!

Call **Sharlene** if you have any questions: 727-278-3396

Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Field Trip

Picnic - Saturday May 11

Low tides



Drawing by Dianna Kellie



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