

The Beauui



A newsletter published by the
Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

We meet on the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm
(September to April)

Room 206, Albritton Center
Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church
4826 McIntosh Rd
Sarasota, FL

February, 2024 Edition

February 2024, Shell Show Month:

It takes a Village

Those Club members who have been involved for more than a few years know it well. First comes fall and the enthusiasm of setting the shell show dates and anticipating the displays and comradery which never fail to please. Next comes the realization that shell shows need planning and money. Persons step up to take leadership and plans emerge. But inevitably come December and January, bringing unease, frustration, and doubts that we can actually make it happen to the level of our expectations. Will the vendors come through, will there be enough volunteers, will we make any money, will the tables be there, can we get people to come, etc., etc. And finally arrives February and the last minute hiccups and setbacks, but also the realization that once again we are actually going to make this happen. And we will!



Due to the shell show, we do not have a regular members meeting in February. Please note the calendar in the Beauui for other club activities such as field trips. This includes the Carefree Learner trip which is currently full. If you find you cannot go, please contact Sally P so she can invite those on the wait list.

And I would be remiss if I did not make note of the passing of Harry Lee and Alan Gettleman. The Florida malacological community has suffered significant loss. Few individuals have given as much time and energy to COA, FUM, local shell clubs, shell shows, and individuals. Both Harry and Alan were great mentors to me and taught me much more than they probably realized. They will be greatly missed.

Duane K

**Our Sarasota Shell Club Members
and fans are doing it again!!!**

Shell Show Volunteers Update

Since its foundation in 1963, the Sarasota Shell Club has never had any paid employees. Our Shell Club has survived and thrived because of all its volunteers throughout those 60 years. Members have never been coerced to volunteer; the love of our Club has always been their motivator. Kudos to all of you who have signed up this year, members and friends including the Englewood Shell Club!

We only have a total of 5 places to fill on Friday & Saturday. New members, please don't hesitate, we need you and our lively chairmen will guide you, all is easy. Once you have volunteered, you will be hooked!

Call Nancy Cadieux at 941-228-1758 and please leave a message if I don't answer.

Reminders for Volunteers

Please arrive 15 minutes before your shift, register at the Entrance table. The volunteers come in free of charge both days, however friends and family accompanying them must pay the small entry fee.

Pick-up your volunteer badge near the Raffle table which is located on the right after the entrance. Make sure to notify Donna Krusenoski that you did. Please wear your badge at all times during the show even when you are not working.

Please also wear your Sarasota Shell Club blue name badge as your name won't be on the volunteer badge.

You may want to bring money as shopping is very tempting LOL.

Nancy Cadieux

Schmelz Fossil Silent Auction/Tour—register at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com by 2/7/24!

Officers & Board Members

President	Duane Kauffmann
Vice-President	Ron Bopp
Treasurer	Alan Banko
Recording Secretary	Debbie McDermott

Board Members: Nancy Cadieux (3); Amy Bentley (2); Sally Peppitoni (2); Karen Huether (2); Donna Krusenowski (1); Debbie Alexander (1);

Committee Chairmen

Artisans	tba
<i>The Beauui</i>	Ron Bopp
Historian	open*
Field Trips	Gary Martinez
Librarian	Debbie McDermott
Membership	Lisa Kinney
Shell Show	Ron/MaryJo Bopp
Sunshine	Debbie McDermott
Webmaster	Bruce Paulsen

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- * **Meetings** are held on the second Thursday of September through April at 7:00 pm.
 - * **Dues** are \$30.00 for new single members and \$40.00 for family members (at the same address).
 - * **Renewals** are \$25.00 for single and \$30.00 for family.

* If you want *The Beauui* printed and mailed it is an extra \$15.00 to your dues.

Contact the Editor - email Ron Bopp at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com or call at 918-527-0589 if you have something to include in *The Beauui*.

Important . . . Same Location New Building

Yes, we are still meeting at Bee Ridge Church at 4826 McIntosh Road, Sarasota.

However, our meetings will be in the Albritton Center, Room 206. This is the administration building for the church, and there is ample parking.

**A 2023—2024
Membership application is
attached to this Newsletter**

Library Notes

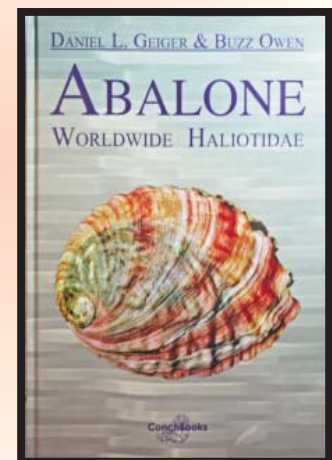
Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is on our website www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdmshellbooks.com

Books in the Sarasota Shell Club Library can be accessed by contacting Debbie McDermott at washashore76@yahoo.com.

In addition persons needing information about shells and shelling can be assisted in contacting club members with relevant expertise.

There is a whole world of seashells and marine life out there!

Debbie



Positions Needed

Our Shell Club needs members to fill the following important position. Please consider volunteering for **HISTORIAN!**

Contact President Duane Kauffmann at duanerk@goshen.edu for more information.

Historian's Report to January, 2024 SSC meeting

50 Years Ago

Twenty-eight members and guests attended the February 21, 1974 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club held at the Sarasota Bank and Trust building. The Treasurer's report showed a gain of \$200 from the Shell Show.

The majority of the meeting focused on a review of the Shell Show. Words of appreciation were noted for those involved in planning and volunteering.

Byron Riggle gave the program on the Conus of the tropics, focusing both on their beauty and their danger.

25 Years Ago

The minutes do not give an attendance figure for the February 11, 1999 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$4645.71.

Following routine business Em Sowers gave a talk on carrier shells and Barbara Myers on *Pectin jacobius*.

Artisan Update

- * The artisans are **looking forward** to a most successful show!
- * They are **prepared and excited**.
- * So many marvelous selections will be **available for sale**.
- * If any new members would like to attend an artisan session, it is held on Thursday mornings from 10 to 1 at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church. (Look for the gate entrance near the taco truck side of church property.)

**See Page
13**

WATER, WATER, WATER

Needed for the Shell Show are eight large (48 bottles) cases of water for volunteers and dealers. The cases of water may be brought to the Potter Building on Wednesday or Thursday.

DONATIONS NEEDED

In the past years, monetary donations were always made to cover the cost of cleaning the kitchen, bathrooms, and foyer in the Potter Building. Total cost last year was \$240.00. Funds are needed for this year. Donations can be made in cash, or a check made out to Sarasota Shell Club with cleaning as a notation. Checks may be mailed to;

Al Banko, Treasurer
12930 Basilica Drive
Venice, Florida 34293

Checks can also be given to Al at the show.. Please email or call Sally Peppitoni, Food Chair, at 941-720-3810 or email her at shellmaniac8@gmail.com to inform her of your donation.

Mark Your Calendars — — — Save The Dates

We look forward to seeing you at all our events. “Eyeball” this space in each issue for additions, more information or changes.

- February 8 No meeting — **Shell Show** (February 9 & 10)
Potter Building (Robarts Arena complex)
- February 17 Fossil Silent Auction Field Trip plus Collier Co. Museum plus lunch
Place; Gary Schmelz’s home, Naples (**See Page 6 for details**)
Time: 9:30 am
- February 23 Shelling Trip: Boca Grande; Guide: **Karen Heuther**
Low Tide at 7:49 am
Time: 8:00 am See information on page 10-11
- March 9 Shelling Trip: Missouri Key
Low Tide (-0.73) at 6:47 am
Time to be announced
- March 14 Membership Meeting (Bee Ridge Church, Room 206)
Speaker: **Dennis Sargent**: “My Life with Seashells”
Time: 7:00 pm
- April 11 Membership Meeting (Bee Ridge Church, Room 206)
Speaker: **Ron Bopp**: “A Tale of Two Trips”
Time: 7:00 pm
- April 13 Annual Sarasota Shell Club **Picnic** (Coquina Gulfside North Pavilion)
Details to follow in future newsletters; **Chair: Margo Heck**
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- June 11-16 **Conchologist of America Convention**
Melbourne, Florida
Convention Chair: **TBA**

To attend the convention and participate in the presentations, field trips, and silent auctions, you must be registered. Registration forms will be available soon on the COA web site **conchologists of america.org**.

The Convention consists of several pre-convention field trips, a Welcome Party, Presentations, Silent Auctions, the Banquet, an oral Auction, and the Dealers Bourse. No registration is required to attend the oral auction and the bourse. The bourse can consist of up to 10,000 square feet of space for dealers from around the world displaying a huge variety of shells and shell-related items.

Wanted:

A Sarasota Shell Club Member
wishing to accept a gift* of
100 to 200 fossil shells**
(identified and labeled***)
in order to
prepare a future shell show entry
into the Club's shell show
(or any other club's show)!

Contact Ron at
rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com
for details.

* This truly is a gift as it would take 2-3 trips to a fossil pit to acquire such a number of shells. Additionally, we can barely find pits in which to shell. And these shells have been cleaned and are exceptional.

**The club is the benefactor of a large collection of fossil material.

***While each specimen is labeled with genus and species, the recipient should validate the information with available references as well as MolluscaBase and/or WoRMS.

The January, 2023 Membership Meeting



Clair Beckman gave an illustrated and interesting talk on shelling at various international locations. Following the discussion she awarded those with the correct answers to questions she posed the audience.

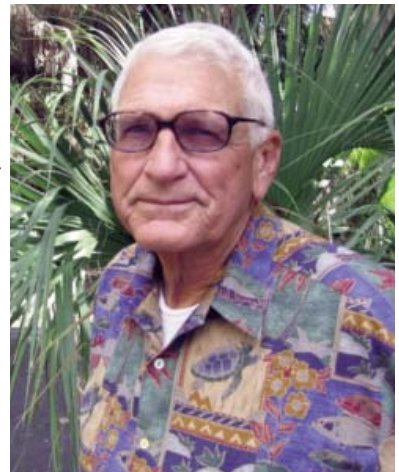
The club had its second silent auction of fossil shells—it brought in over \$60 to the treasury.

Fossil Silent Auction Field Trip

On Saturday, February 17th, at 9:30 am Gary Schmelz is opening up his home and offering a silent auction of fossil specimens including Chipola Formation seashells, bones, shark's teeth and much more. He is thinning out his collection and that is a "plus" for us.

Proceeds of the silent auction come back to the general fund of our club. Gary and his wife, Bernice, live in Naples, Florida. We will meet at a designated place before traveling to his house. Afterwards Gary has arranged for us to have lunch at an eclectic restaurant, "Cracklin' Jacks" where you can get everything from the usual to frog legs, alligator tail, and even "vittles."

Gary needs to know the number of members coming. . . please email the Editor at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com by February 7th to get your name on the list . . . some spots remaining.



A Note from the Membership Chair

Thank you to all of you that have paid your club dues for this 2023/2024 season. Thanks for your support of the Sarasota Shell Club. My email is purplesurfseashells@gmail.com.

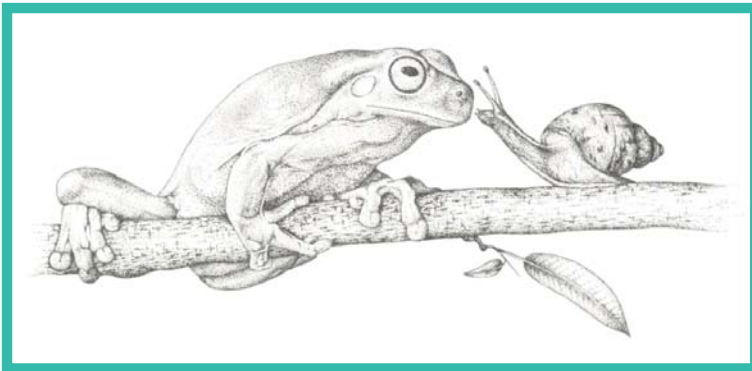
Lisa Kinney
Membership Chair

April 13, 2024 End-of-the-year Picnic

Yes, on April 13th, 2024 (that is a Saturday) the Sarasota Shell Club will have it's annual picnic. It will be at the same pavilion that we have used in the past at Coquina Beach Park. The picnic will be catered as before with members providing their favorite deserts. More details are forthcoming but now you know and set the date aside for a really great time. As a good friend has often said:

Note: Margo Heck will be coordinating this event!

Frogs & Snails . . . #6



A Snail and a Frog at a Seashell Show

The snail and frog made quite an odd pair as they strolled through the bustling seashell show. The snail, meticulously examining each shell with its slow, methodical pace, marveled at the intricate patterns and textures. Meanwhile, the frog, hopping around with boundless energy, croaked excitedly about the vibrant colors and diverse shapes of the shells.

Their contrasting approaches drew curious looks from other attendees. Some chuckled at the unlikely duo, while others admired their shared fascination with the ocean's treasures. Despite their differences in speed and mannerisms, the snail and frog found common ground in their appreciation for the beauty of the sea and its myriad of shells. And in that shared enthusiasm, an unexpected friendship blossomed amidst the seashell showcase.

C.G.

***Velcro*—what a rip off!**

Sarasota Shell Club Past Presidents

Jack Oberle: 1963-1965,
1968-1968, 1972-1974
Louise Danforth: 1965-1967
Franck Rinck: 1967-1968
Thomas Robertson: 1969-1970
Evelyn Bradley: 1970-1972
Charles Hertweck: 1974-1979
Peggy Williams: 1980-1982,
1988-1989, 1992-1994,
2001-2002, 2005-2007

Vi Hertweck: 1982-1984
Richard Forbush: 1984-1985
June Bailey: 1985-1987,
1995-1997, 2002-2003
Bob Hansen: 1987-1988
Beverly Chouinard: 1989-1991
Bonnie Christophel: 1990-1992
Pat Amsel: 1994-1995
Debra Ingrao: 1997-1998
Cathy Aschliman: 1998-1999

Cathy Hollar: 1999-2001
2003-2004
Bob Horton 2004-2005
Joanne Chmielewski: 2007-2010
Ron Bopp: 2010-2012
Dennis Sargent: 2012-2014
Sally Peppitoni: 2014-2022
Duane Kauffmann: 2022-2024

SSC members winning awards at other Florida Shell Shows



ATSC: Vicky Wall won the **Master's Trophy**.



Broward: John Jacobs won a **Judge's Ribbon**



ATC: John Jacobs won the **Best Fossil Award**.



Ron Bopp won the **American Museum of Natural History**.



ATSC: Ron Bopp garnered the **DuPont Award**.



Broward: Vicky Wall was surprised with her birthday cake.

Linda reminds you:

Wear your name badges
at the show!



Joining Our Facebook Page is Fun and Informative

The Sarasota Shell Club would like to encourage all members and their families to please use our two Facebook pages and learn more about what's going on with the Shell Club as well as in the shelling/marine/fossil shell world. Our main page and our group page have lots of information about meetings and events as well as posts sharing other fun and interesting shell-related stuff from our members and others in the shelling community. We'd especially encourage our new members to follow these Facebook pages. It's fun to be a part of a like-minded community of shell enthusiasts from Sarasota and all over the world.

Find our main club page here on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sarasotafloridashellclub/> or go on Facebook and search for the Sarasota Florida Shell Club. This is where you will find meeting information.

Our public group page is where members of the public can post their finds and other shelling fun stuff. The group page can be found at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/353766125615946>, or search Facebook for the Sarasota Florida Shell Club Public Group.

Note: The Club's New Website is coming in February!



STEM FAIR

Sarasota County Schools strives to continue our long-standing commitment to stimulating student, teacher, and public interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) with the annual county STEM Fair. The format of the 2023-2024 STEM fair will have both virtual and in-person elements. Sarasota County public, charter, and private school students, grades 3-12, are encouraged to participate in school-based STEM Fairs. Each participating school enters their top projects into the regional competition, where students in grades 6-12 may be chosen to advance to the State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) and/or the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).



For more information: <https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/STEMFair>

BOCA GRANDE

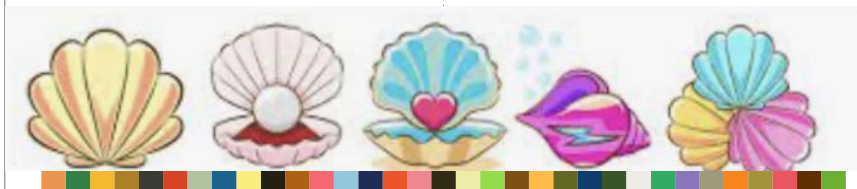
Sarasota Shell Club announces field trip to Boca Beach at Gasparilla Island State Park on Friday, February 23.



Normally good shelling for Southwest Florida's signature species

Beachcombing often yields rewarding finds, snorkeling, conditions permitting, reveals copious shell deposits just offshore, and manatees, dolphins, and other marine animals are frequently present

Boca Grande is a small community on Gasparilla Island which is known for its historic downtown, sugar sand beaches, and blue water.





- We will gather by 8:00 am in the parking lot near the Lighthouse Museum. Karen Huether will be your guide. Low tide will be around 7:49 am. Participants may beach comb in this area. Heading north leads to a seawall. On the other side is more beach combing. Be prepared to pay a \$6 fee to cross the causeway, and possibly a \$3 fee for parking. Carpooling is recommended.
- After 10:00, those wishing to have breakfast may head to Outlet Restaurant at 1251 12th St E. If you are interested in attending, please make sure your club dues are paid and notify Gary Martinez at yonsider@msn.com or (310) 347-8942. Also mention if you plan to eat at Outlet Restaurant.



Sarasota Shell Club Members at the 2015 Annual Shell Show





SSC Awards Dinner

We cordially invite you to the Awards Dinner at 5:30 pm on Friday night, February 9th. The Awards Dinner is at Bangkok Thai Restaurant, 4791 Swift Road, Sarasota, a unique Thai atmosphere and delicious food. The food and drink prices are very reasonable, and you pay for your own at the restaurant. If you have any questions, contact Beverly Root at bevroot2@msn.com or call 758-390-8002.

**Sarasota Shell Club
2024 Shell Show
Awards Dinner**

Sarasota Shell Club 2023/2024 Membership Application

☐ **New Member; Individual \$30 - Family \$40**
(Includes a membership name tag)

☐ **Renewal Member; Individual \$25 - Family \$30**

(Add \$15 to receive newsletter by mail instead of email)

Join the Sarasota Shell Club by mailing a
check, made out to SSC to:

**Lisa Kinney
17052 Coral Key Dr
Nokomis, FL 34275**

All new and renewed memberships will receive their
memberships/badges at the monthly meetings.

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Local Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____

Email address(es) _____

(Optional) Other address & phone: _____

Emergency contact & phone: _____

Month & Day of your Birthday: _____

Our Insurance Requires a Liability Release
*I agree that I am individually responsible for my safety and my
personal property. I will not hold the Sarasota Shell Club, its
officers, field trip leader(s), or property owner liable for any
damage or injury to me or my property that should occur.*

Signature required for each member joining:

1. _____

2. _____

The SSC publishes a roster with names, address and emails for our member
use only. Please check one:

_____ it is **OK** to publish my information in the roster.
_____ it is **Not OK** to publish my information in the roster.

Meeting Location: **Bee Ridge Church Community Room 206**
4826 McIntosh Rd, Sarasota, FL 34233
(On the corner of Proctor Road and McIntosh Road)

Club Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, from September
through April. Newsletters are sent out monthly.

The Artisan group meets year-round on Thursdays, 10am to 1pm – Feel free to
join us to make shell art that benefits the club.

Look for us at: www.Sarasotashellclub.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sarasotashellclub>

Contact us: sarasotashellclub@gmail.com

(To be filled in by the Membership Committee)

Renewal ☐ New Member ☐

Amount paid _____ Date _____

Check in _____ Cash _____

☐ Card ☐ Badge ordered