



A newsletter published by the  
Sarasota Shell Club

[www.Sarasotashellclub.com](http://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

January, 2024 Edition

Happy New Year . . .

By the time you read this, 2024 will be upon us and the opportunities and possibilities of a new year will start to unfold. As we struggle to remember to put the correct year on our checks and correspondence we are reminded how difficult it is to change the habits and thoughts of the past, even as we anticipate the unfolding of a new year. But hope, while sometimes a fragile plant, can usually wiggle its way into our consciousness and give us a boost into the opportunities before us.



Well, enough high-brow philosophy. The real world beckons us and the Shell Show is only six weeks away. Fortunately many folks have been hard at work and the foundation for another successful Show has been laid. I hope all of you have provided Nancy C with your volunteer plans (and filled out your little reminder sheet).

The January regular meeting will feature a program by Clair Beckman and highlight shells from around the world. It should be a malacological feast. Also, the Carefree Learner is scheduled for two trips. Let us hope the weather cooperates this time.

Fortunately we have filled the Secretary position. But we need to have someone to take on the role of historian. And thinking ahead, we will need to have a nominating committee and officer and Board candidates in the days following the Shell Show. It is not too early to consider how you can be involved.

2024. Here we come.

Duane K



A 1915 Postcard with a pecten shell in the left upper corner!

**CHECK THIS OUT:** [www.sarasotamagazine.com/travel-and-outdoors/2023/12/sarasota-shell-club](http://www.sarasotamagazine.com/travel-and-outdoors/2023/12/sarasota-shell-club)

## 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 Krusenoski (1); Debbie Alexander (1);

## Committee Chairmen

Artisans	tba
<i>The Beauii</i>	Ron Bopp
Historian	<b>open*</b>
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 Beauii* printed and mailed it is an extra \$15.00 to your dues.

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**Contact the Editor** - email Ron Bopp at [rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com) or call at 918-527-0589 if you have something to include in *The Beauii*.

### 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

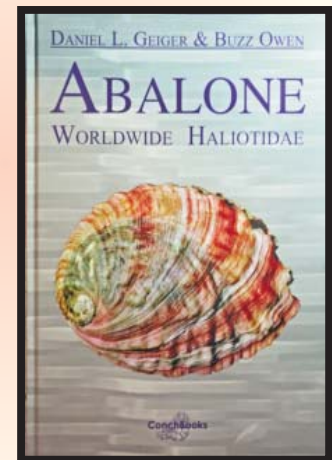
Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is on our website [www.sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.sarasotashellclub.com). For more info on some of our books, go to [www.mdmshellbooks.com](http://www.mdmshellbooks.com)

Books in the Sarasota Shell Club Library can be accessed by contacting Debbie McDermott at [washashore76@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:duanerk@goshen.edu) for more information.**

## Historian’s Report to January, 2024 SSC meeting

### 50 Years Ago

Thirty-eight members attended the January 10, 1974 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club.

The meeting was devoted to planning and preparation for the shell show: publicity, exhibits, volunteers, etc.

Mrs. Bessie Hall, a new member of the Club, gave an illustrated program on “Minerals and Fossils.”. “Everyone present enjoyed the program.”

### 25 Years Ago

Cathy Aschleman opened the January 14, 1999 meeting of the SSC. Treasurer’s report showed a balance of \$3115.45.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to Shell Show preparations.

Nominating committee comprised of Lynn Gaulin, Eileen Hansen, and Russ Person was appointed.

### Shelling Trip Update

Shelling Field Trip update: unfortunately the trip scheduled for Keewaydin in December was canceled due to inclement weather conditions. The trip to Kice on January 10th will hopefully be a more successful experience. There is still one space available. Contact Gary Martinez if interested. Information regarding the Boca Grande excursion in February and Keys trip will be forthcoming.

Gary Martinez <yonsider@msn.com>

### Shell Show Volunteers

1. Sign-up sheets will be at the January 11th membership meeting.
2. If you cannot attend the meeting, call **Nancy Cadieux at 941-228-1758** after January 7th. Please leave a message if no answer as you might not be in Nancy’s phonebook.
3. If you have no preferences and wish to volunteer, please sign up on the “Volunteers at large” form, for the date(s) and time(s) available.

### 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 a meeting. Please email or call Dona Bigham, Food Chair, at 941-932-2167 or email her at bighamde@gmail.com to inform her of your donation.

### WATER, WATER, WATER

Needed for the Shell Show are eight large (48 bottles) cases of water for volunteers and dealers. A sign-up sheet is at the meeting. The cases of water may be brought to the Potter Building on Wednesday or Thursday.

Signup sheet (right) will be at the next two membership meetings.

Cases of Water Donations	
Sign with name and email address	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
7.	_____
8.	_____

Bring to Potter Building Wed/Thur of Show

**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.

- January 10 Shelling Trip: Kice Island (see page 3 for details)
- January 11 Membership Meeting (Bee Ridge Church, Room 206)  
Speaker: **Clair Beckman**: “Shells Around the World”  
Time: 7:00 pm
- January 11 Shelling Trip: Carefree Learner  
Low tide (-0.98)  
Time to be announced
- January 16 Shelling Trip: Kice Island  
Low tide (-1.1) at 7:20 am  
Time: to be announced
- January 23 Shelling Trip: Carefree Learner  
Low Tide (-0.7)  
Time: to be announced
- 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  
Time: 9:30 am
- 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  
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 [conchologistsofamerica.org](http://conchologistsofamerica.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.

### Silent Auctions to Continue



Yes, you heard correctly . . . there will be another silent auction at the upcoming meeting. There will be displays of fossil shells offered (as seen on the left) as well as other interesting items. Cash or a check made out to SSC will be accepted.

**Scientific Entries are now in for our 2024 Sarasota Shell Show . . . we have 232 feet (34 entries) from 17 members and non-members which is more than our 2023 Shell Show.**

# The December, 2023 Membership Meeting



# The 2023 SSC Holiday Party



### 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](mailto:purplesurfseashells@gmail.com).

Lisa Kinney  
Membership Chair

**Think about this:**

*A dyslexic man walks into a bra!*

### 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:

**Be there, or be square!**

### 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>



## Frogs & Snails . . . #5



### A Snail and a Frog finding Love

In a lush, tranquil pond nestled within the heart of a verdant forest, lived a gentle snail named Sylvie. She spent her days exploring the water's edge, admiring the blooming lilies and the dance of fireflies at dusk. One serene evening, while Sylvie ventured near the pond's edge, she met Freddy, a cheerful and adventurous frog with eyes that sparkled like the moonlit sky.

Their encounter was serendipitous, as Sylvie and Freddy discovered a shared love for the shimmering reflections on the water's surface and the soothing melodies of the night creatures. Despite their differences in pace and habits, they found harmony in their companionship.

Freddy would hop around, telling tales of his daring leaps and escapades, while Sylvie would slowly glide beside him, sharing stories of her journeys among the delicate petals and droplets of morning dew. Their friendship blossomed into a beautiful bond as they explored the wonders of the pond together.

As days turned into weeks, Sylvie and Freddy realized that their fondness for each other had grown into something deeper. Their affection bloomed like the lotus flowers that adorned the pond, and they found solace and joy in each other's presence.

Their love transcended the contrasts in their nature, proving that sometimes, the most extraordinary connections emerge from the most unexpected places. With Sylvie's patience and Freddy's exuberance, they embraced their differences, creating a harmony that painted the pond with the colors of an enduring and beautiful love.

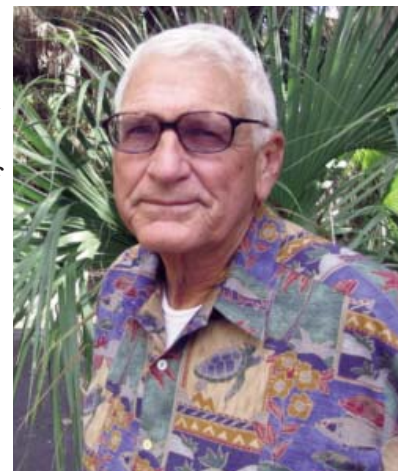
C.G.

### 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."

A signup sheet will be at the January meeting (if you can't attend, email me at [rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com)). Limit: 20 members.



### Sarasota Shell Club Members at the 2012 Annual Shell 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.



### 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 Ingraio: 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

*Let's Shellabrate*  
 60th ANNUAL SHELL SHOW 2024  
 VOLUNTEERS SIGN-UP SHEETS  
 Available at the December Meeting

*Shell Show Chairman: Ron Bopp, Vice Chairman: Sally Peppitoni, Treasurer: Allan Banko*

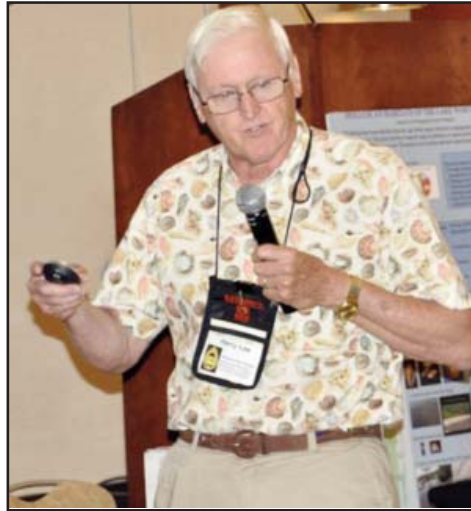
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Table/Activity</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Wed. 2/07</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>	<i>Loading truck</i>	<i>Gordon F</i>
<i>Wed. 2/07</i>	<i>12 noon</i>	<i>Tablecloths</i>	<i>Sally Peppitoni</i>
<i>Wed. 2/07</i>	<i>12 noon</i>	<i>Unloading the truck</i>	<i>Gordon F/Duane</i>
<i>Wed. 2/07</i>	<i>12 noon</i>	<i>Lunch Area</i>	<i>Dona Bigham</i>
<i>Thurs. 2/08</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Unloading truck</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>Thurs. 2/08</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Awards Table Set-up</i>	<i>Ron Bopp/Linda G</i>
<i>Thurs. 2/08</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Lunch Area</i>	<i>Dona Bigham</i>
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Entrance/Admission</i>	<i>Beverly Root</i>
	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Entrance/Admission</i>	<i>Beverly Root</i>
	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Artisans</i>	<i>Debby Alexander</i>
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Guard of the Artistic Exhibits</i>	<i>Sally Peppitoni</i>
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Club Table</i>	<i>Duane K</i>
	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>		
	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Lisa Kinney</i>
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Raffle</i>	<i>Donna K</i>
	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>		
	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
	<i>3:00 PM</i>		
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Lunch Area</i>	<i>Dona Bigham</i>
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>3:45 PM</i>	<i>Awards Table Breakdown</i>	<i>Ron Bopp/Linda G</i>
<i>Fri. 2/09</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Volunteers at large</i>	<i>Nancy Cadieux</i>
<i>Sat. 2/10</i>	<i>1:00 PM</i>		
<i>Sun. 2/11</i>		<i>Lunch Area Breakdown</i>	<i>Dona Bigham</i>
<i>Sun. 2/11</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Loading truck at the show</i>	<i>Gordon F</i>
<i>Sun. 2/11</i>	<i>11:00 AM</i>	<i>Unloading truck at church</i>	<i>Gordon F</i>

*Please contact appropriate chairman if you have specific questions about your role. Overview of the positions on the sign-in forms. Welcome new members, it's a lot of fun, no sweat, as you will be part of a team that includes other experienced volunteers.*

*Please call/text Nancy Cadieux 941-228-1758 if you want to participate and cannot attend the monthly meetings to sign-up.*

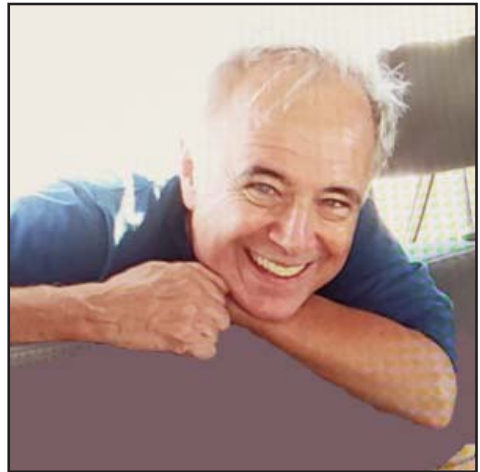
## Some Sad News

Unfortunately as this issue is ready for distribution a couple of items have surfaced that are of interest to members. First, within the last week, we have heard that Harry Lee has suffered a stroke and is now just beginning the recovery process. Many members are familiar with Harry as he has judged our show in the past as well as being the Past-President of the COA. Harry was to judge our current shell show in February. Pictured here is Harry giving a presentation at the 2013 COA convention held in Sarasota.



In the last couple of days we have been informed of the death of Alan Gettleman. Alan recently gave a talk for our club (September, 2023). Besides his expansive involvement with the COA (recently Historian but also Past-President) Alan was a friend of Mary Jo and me. He often stayed with us when in Bradenton. When Mary Jo missed out on a bid of shells (Alan had donated for use in a silent auction at a COA convention a few years ago) Alan promptly mailed over a batch of over 30 similar shells for her. He was a fan of our Goldin, Gracie, and often asked about her in our conversations.

Pictured here is a photo taken in Guaymas. He had just received a couple of very large crabs . . . later they had to be dismantled in order to carry in his luggage for the trip home.



Alan was a character as well as very well-versed about seashells especially land snails. Our mutual friend, and presenter for our January meeting, Clair Beckman, noted on Facebook today the following (thanks, Clair for letting me reprint this):

*So absent minded that in one trip he lost the car keys for hours ( as it turns out they were in his pocket during the entire very frantic search in Guaymas) then his boarding pass about five minutes before final call. Met him on a Bahamas trip that featured live land snails captured and then released and crawling all over his room. He was gentle, funny, giving, smarter than smart, and someone who talked non-stop, but had much to share. He got all the way to the bridge one trip and forgot his asthma drugs so he drove all the way to Merritt Island again and back to our place. We planned to see him on our trip to Melbourne in a few weeks and had emailed him yesterday not knowing about his death.*

## Sarasota Shell Club 2023/2024 Membership Application

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 in-jury 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.Sarasotashellclub.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sarasotafloridashellclub>  
Contact us: [sarasotashellclub@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotashellclub@gmail.com)

(To be filled in by the Membership Committee)

Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount paid	_____	Date	_____
Check#	_____	Cash	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Card		<input type="checkbox"/> Badge ordered	

**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 membership cards/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: \_\_\_\_\_