



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

February, 2025 Edition

Hey All!

I've been thinking about our Carefree Learner trips into Sarasota Bay. We are so fortunate to have this opportunity available to us. Captain Bobby is always so helpful in getting some of us on and off the boat and is very generous with his time. However, the boat is quite old, and the Coast Guard says it must be scrapped and replaced. Megan Ehlers, who arranges our trips and works for the school district says that they have recently received a grant for \$250,000 toward a replacement because of the history and legacy involving our club. This is great news. We need to always remember that a big part of our mission is to educate upcoming generations on the importance of understanding the marine environs and how they affect our lives.



Thursday, January 30th, was our last Carefree Learner trip for the season and possibly the last on that particular boat. (Photo on page 4) During the trip, we saw much of why we like to go on these shelling trips. We saw a huge horse conch in the process of chowing down on a lightning whelk, several groups of whelks, and some groups of tulips "getting it on" to make more little whelks and tulips. I found a live tulip inside a large dead whelk laying her egg sacks. There were sea stars and sea urchins, anemone tube worms, and jellies to watch. Someone even brought back a cute little puffer fish for the viewing tanks. We even saw some dolphins feeding in the shallows on our way back to the marina. All of these things, and more, are what the students later that afternoon would be able to see and learn about.

I sometimes think we take these things for granted. Most people have never seen live mollusks in their natural habitat. Many don't even understand that the mollusk creates the shell it lives in. They don't see the interconnection of the living creatures in the water and our lives, how we eat from the sea, how we play in the sea, and how it sustains us mentally and emotionally as well as physically. If we lose understanding of our connection to the sea and the creatures in it, we lose us too.

I was lucky to have my good friend, Paul Jones, from the Jacksonville Club, come as my guest on this last trip and he was

**Our  
Shell  
Show  
is  
Near!**

suitably impressed by the variety of sea life found in our bay. He acquired lots a great shells and was very happy to have a number of comparison species to add to his collection from other areas of the state. In April, when we go on our field trip to the St. Augustine area, he has said he will take us to some good spots he knows for shelling. Can't wait for that!

Sally Peppitoni  
President

## Officers & Board Members

**President** Sally Peppitoni  
**Vice-President** Karen Huether  
**Treasurer** Alan Banko  
**Secretary** Debbie McDermott

**Board Members:** Debby Alexander (3);  
 Donna Krusenoski (3); Nancy Cadieux (2);  
 Amy Bentley (2); Donna Cassin (1) and  
 Guelda Wooldridge (1).

## Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Debby Alexander & Guelda Wooldridge
<i>The Beauii</i>	Ron Bopp
Field Trips	Gary Martinez
Librarian	Debbie McDermott
Membership	Lisa Kinney
Shell Show	Ron Bopp
Sunshine	Debbie McDermott
Webmaster	Amy Bentley

- \* **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.

**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 2024-2025

**Membership application is  
attached to this Newsletter**

### Library Notes

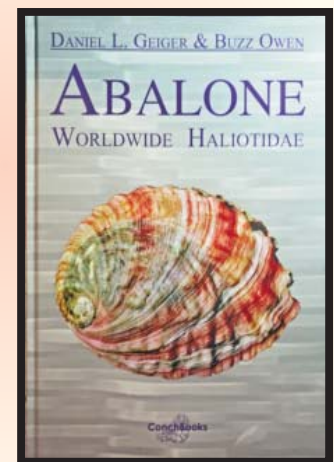
Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is on our website [www.sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.sarasotashellclub.com). For more info on some of our books, go to [www.mdmshellbooks.com](http://www.mdmshellbooks.com)

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



### Artisans

The Artisans, as the name implies, is the artistic community associated with Sarasota Shell Club. You are welcome to come and join them. All meetings are Thursdays at 10:00 A. M. The location is at Bee Ridge Church in the small building bordering Proctor Street.

**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. The shelling trips are proposals at the time of this issue.

Feb 7/8, 2025 **Sarasota Shell Show** 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Mar 1, 2025 **Peanut Island** (Saturday) 3:05 pm -0.81 low tide

Mar 9, 2025 **Missouri Key** (Saturday) 4:10 pm -0.23 low tide

Mar 13, 2025 Membership meeting: **Dr. Ashley Oliphant**: “Shark Tooth Hunting on Carolina Coast”

Apr 10, 2025 Membership Meeting: **Dr. Ron Bopp** “Shells and their Stories”

Apr 28, 2025 **Jacksonville** (Monday) 3:13 pm -1.11low tide

**Membership Chair Position**

I am looking for a volunteer to take over memberships. I work full time as a realtor and I no longer have the time to devote to the membership position. The Membership chair position involves updating and maintaining a spreadsheet when members pay and depositing checks periodically. Emails are written to new members to thank them for their membership and give some club information. Occasionally you will get email questions to respond to. Please let me know if you are interested in taking over memberships or if you have any questions.

Lisa Kinney

**Report from Artisans**

Artisans are packed, excited and ready for the 2025 show. Feel free to stop by the artisans tables. It’s never too early to Christmas shop for one of a kind coastal treasures. Beautiful items you can be happy to adopt for yourself, or Birthday, thank you, any occasion gifts.

There is jewelry, ornaments, wall hangings, and home decor.

March will be another busy month.

The artisans will be working the fair at the fairgrounds. It’s good PR for the club. We will be selling our items. Set up is March 13. The show runs 14th to 23rd. And on the 24th, we take it all down. Any club member can work the booth with the Artisans.

Look for a volunteer sign in sheet at the March meeting. Thank you

Debbly Alexander

**Education**

New member, Jet Davis, gave a spirited report on a *Chicoreus brevifrons*, otherwise known as the West Indian Murex. Next month Debby Alexander will report on the Japanese Wonder Shell.



## The Carefree Learner



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### Shelling Field Trips Update (Keewaydin)

On January 29, 19 members of the SSC made an early morning trip to Keewaydin Island with Hemingway Water Shuttle. I was proud of everyone for showing up on time. The boat was actually able to depart before 6:30 am. This placed us on the island just as dawn was breaking. It was slack tide, and the water was perfectly calm and clear.

- \* There were some treacherous spots where waders sank into the sand above their knees. This was a perfect example of why it's a good idea to keep a couple of other shellers nearby.
- \* There were some amazing finds. Chris McDevitt got a Rose Murex with a deep red hue. Mitch Gowland came up with Wentletraps and Dwarf Olives. Jet Davis found a large Horse Conch in perfect condition. Gary Martinez discovered a gorgeous deep red 6" True Tulip. Dan Hager braved the chilly water to snorkel and was showing off a bag of huge Whelks and Horse Conchs. When accused of being an "over-performer," he produced another bag! Everyone seemed to be well-pleased with their finds.
- \* After getting back to the marina several members of the group headed over to the Dolphin Bar and Grill to go over the morning's adventures while eating a delicious meal.

Remember to notify Gary if you are planning on participating in the Peanut Island Trip on March 1st. and keep your eyes peeled for the fliers for Missouri Key and St. Augustine.

Gary Martinez

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**Hooray - we have 139 Members!**

### **Frogs & Snails . . . #14**

No story this issue. . . the editor  
is taking break!

## Do Your Shells Need a Doctor?

Duane Kauffmann

Have you noted a white, moldy, or salt-like substance on any of your shells? If so, the shell doctor will quickly provide a diagnosis of **Byne's Disease**. Who would have imagined that a body, quite dead, such as a seashell could be sick?

So what is Byne's Disease (or more precisely Bynesian decay)? Described more than 100 years ago by a man named Loftus St. George Byne, the white salt on a shell is the result of improper storage. The problem is an unfortunate outcome when acidic vapor comes in contact with the calcium carbonate of which your shell is made. This corroding encounter damages the shell when the acidic vapor "eats into" the shell creating the white salt. While seldom "fatal" (that is the shell completely disintegrates into white dust), the disease will leave the shell pitted and scarred.

From whence cometh the damaging acidic vapor. From a whole range of cellulose-based materials, including, but not limited to, paper, wood, cardboard, cotton, and cork. Even at room temperature, these materials give off acidic vapors. Those are the unseen "germs" that degrade stored shells.

So what to do? If a mild case, brush off the precipitate under running water. Dry and move to a glass, metal, or plastic (e.g., rigid storage boxes or Ziploc bags) location. A more advanced case may require soaking in fresh water for a day or two before brushing and drying.

An online search will lead to a detailed Wikipedia article and a link to a very practical American Conchologist article.



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### While watching TV . . . . .

While watching TV one evening an advertisement appeared featuring furniture for a living room. But, what caught the Editor's Eye, were these interesting wall hangings. While the nautilus on the left is commonly seen on a wall the two unusual murexes were somewhat interesting to find. . . *rb*



## SSC Members at the Astro-Trail Shell Show



John Jacobs won the Fossil Award for his display of Hawaiian fossils



Ron Bopp received the COA Trophy for his Cassidae (Helmet Shells) display.

## SSC Members at the Broward County Shell Show



Debby Alexander won Best of Table Top Art with her Daisy topiary.



Ron Bopp won the Best Collectible award for his Patriotic Shells



Marilyn Parker's beautiful painting (left) was on display at the artistic portion of the shell show. Other awards to SSC members included a Best Fossil Exhibit to your Editor as well as the Fossil Shell of the Show (which was an unusual and very attractive glass globe . . . above).



**Let's Shellabrate!**  
**2025 SHELL SHOW**  
**Sarasota Shell Club**  
*Exquisite Shell Art*  
*Scientific & Artistic Exhibits*  
*Exotic & Rare Shells*  
*Educational Programs*  
*Raffles, Prizes and much more*

**Friday    Saturday    10-5**  
**Feb. 7     Feb. 8    Both Days**

**FREE shells with \$5 Admission**  
**Kids 12 & under FREE with paid adult**  
**Students age 12-18 \$3 - FREE Parking**  
**Potter Building - Sarasota Fairgrounds**  
**2896 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota FL**  
**(I-75 Fruitville Exit go west)**  
**[www.sarasotashellclub.com](http://www.sarasotashellclub.com)**

# SARASOTA SHELL CLUB ANNOUNCES FIELD TRIP TO PEANUT ISLAND

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025



Situated in Lake Worth Lagoon, and surrounded by Greater Palm Beach, Peanut Island offers a variety of marine species which is to be found nowhere else in Florida.

Unique Variety of Marine Species



## The Experience

Saturday, March 1, 2025



- With easy access from I-95, and conveniently located in the Riviera Beach Marina at the Port of Palm Beach, abundant free parking is provided for those using the ferry. Follow the signs for Peanut Island Parking. Your parking pass must be purchased at the office on the dock where the ferry loads. If you pull up next to the waterfront, you can unload your gear and purchase your parking pass before you park.
- Transportation to and from the island is provided by Peanut Island Shuttle Boat. Arrive at the ferry by 9:45 am to purchase tickets for the ten-minute ride. Rides leave and return every 20 minutes. The ferry costs \$20 per person for the round trip. The last trip back is at 5:00 pm
- A -0.81 low tide will occur at approximately 3:05 pm.
- Shells may be found by beach-combing and wading in the shallow water. It is possible to walk all the way around the island. The beach consists of stretches of both sand and rocks.

## Options

- Snorkeling around the rocks in the sheltered snorkeling area as well as in the channel is also recommended. Visibility may be best with high tide.
- The best shelling is to be found on the extensive exposed flats at low tide. It is necessary to wade or swim a channel about four feet deep and with a significant current. This is best done with swim fins or in a group.
- Camping is available. Reservations may be made by calling Palm Beach City Parks at (561) 845-4445 or by emailing [discover.pbcgov.org](mailto:discover.pbcgov.org).



## **Sarasota Shell Club General Meeting Minutes (January 9, 2025)**

**Meeting Minutes;** Forty one persons were in attendance for this meeting. Our scheduled speaker, Dr Emily Lancaster, unfortunately could not attend, and the meeting went on as scheduled.

Minutes were accepted from the previous meeting.

### **Secretary's Report: Debbie McDermott**

Welcome back to all members after the holidays! Thank you for your attendance at this meeting and for your active participation in the Club, which wouldn't exist without you!

### **Treasurer's Report: Allan Banko**

Allan reported that the Club's checking account currently totals \$8920.62, with our Money Market totaling \$8404.18. Total in all accounts equals \$28,413.52. Thank you, Allan, for all your efforts.

### **Shell Show: Ron Bopp/ Nancy Cadieux**

Ron reports that everything is on track for the impending show, and asks that all members please distribute flyers and use word of mouth to generate attendance.

Linda Greiner notes that there are 7 more awards for the shell show that require funding, and asks members to consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring an award of \$25 or \$50. Please contact Linda anytime to sponsor or for more details. YOU make a difference!

Nancy Cadieux, Volunteer Coordinator for the show, sincerely asks ALL members to sign up to help out in some way at the shell show. All hands are needed on deck! Englewood Shell Club volunteers are coming to help as well ~ thank you ESC, we love you!

### **Programs: Karen Huether**

Karen sincerely apologizes for the absence of our speaker for this month, and reminds the Club there are more amazing speakers scheduled for the remainder of this season that you will want to hear! Please join us at the next meeting in March to hear guest speaker, Dr Ashley Oliphant.

It was suggested to possibly resurrect the Shoebox Shells Project, where members bring in a shoe box of shells to share. This could take place alternate months (and speakers would still present on alternate months), would foster socialization, and is remembered as being lots of fun and very educational. This will be discussed further when the Board meets next.

### **Library Report: Debbie McDermott**

Debbie shares that the 100+ issues of COA magazine generously donated to SSC by the Englewood Shell Club have been installed in the library for member use.

### **Web Page: Amy Bentley**

Amy reports, "Nothing new on the website to share that I didn't talk about at the meeting last night. I am continuing to spread the shell show flier online, all print media have been contacted twice. We have Ron and Guelda set to do the Linda Carson TV show." Show is reported to air January 31st.

### **Newsletter: Ron Bopp**

Ron asks for any and all Beauii submissions from all members. If you have something to share, the club wants to hear about it!

**\*FRIENDLY REMINDER: THERE IS NO GENERAL MEETING IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY DUE TO THE SHELL SHOW\***

**Education: Debbie McDermott**

Debbie reports that the Ed table for the shell show is coming along nicely, and asks members to consider volunteering with her for one 3 hour shift on the weekend of the shell show. There is space for 1 more volunteer, and thank you to those who have signed up! If you can help, please notify Nancy Cadieux.

**Shell of the Month:**

\*Jet Davis presented on *Chicoreus brevifrons*, otherwise known as the West Indian Murex.

\*Debby Alexander agreed to present for the March meeting on *Thatcheria mirabilis*, the Japanese Wonder Shell.

**Membership: Lisa Kinney**

Lisa shares that the Club has 140 active members! Thank you for all you do, Lisa. Lisa also shares that her career is blooming and she would like to pass on the role of Membership Coordinator to another member. Please consider this important behind-the-scenes role. The club needs YOU :)

**Field Trips: Gary Martinez**

There are two Carefree Learner trips scheduled for January. Two spots are now available for the Jan 14 trip, and the Jan 30 trip is full. Contact Sally Peppitoni with questions. Gary reminds members that the Keewaydin trip is Jan 29th and all those attending must be paid in full by now. Please note the boat boards at 6:15 am at Rose Marina. The trip to Peanut Island takes place on March 1. If you have signed up you will receive an email about this trip. If you would like info about it or want to sign up, please contact Sally or Gary. There is also a trip March 29th to the Keys. Please contact Gary directly for more information about this trip.

**Sunshine: Debbie McDermott**

Debbie ran through the list of cards that Sunshine has sent to members by request over the past two months. A thank you card was requested to be sent to Ed Gaulin, for the donation of shell collection of Lynn Gaulin.

**Artisans: Debby Alexander**

Artisans are diligently working to fill their show tables and produce demonstrations for the show.

**Old Business:**

Next Meeting for the Board is Thursday, January 23 at 10 am at the Church.

**Nominating Committee:** Thank you to Barb and Richard Evans for volunteering as the Nominating Committee for the 2025-26 Shell season.

**End-of-Season Picnic: Guelda Wooldridge**

Guelda reminds members to sign-up for the picnic with her as soon as possible. She needs to get a head count for food, as the club has generously offered to supply the protein for this event. The picnic takes place on Sunday, March 2 from 1:00pm to 4:30 pm at the Urfer Family Park, corner of Honore and Bee Ridge.

The picnic is free to attend; please bring a dish to share, and your own beverages. No alcohol is permitted in the park. Please sign up with Guelda by February 25th at the latest.

**New Business:**

Donations of a glass bowl filled with handmade art glass seashells to the Shell Show Raffle were made by Conne McClure. Thank you, Conne!

**Door Prizes:**

Twelve really cool shells were given away as door prizes to lucky members and attendees. Thank you to all who donated any shells for door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

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**SHELL SHOW TIMETABLE**

**Wednesday, Feb 5:**

Truck loading at the Church

Unloading @ Potter Building (doors open at 8:00 am) done by 12:00 noon

**Thursday, Feb 6:**

Set-up from 9 am -12pm at Robarts

All must be out of the building by 12 noon.

Judging will begin by 1pm

**Friday, Feb 7th:**

Gates open at 8 am.

Show is from 10-5

\*\*Volunteers please arrive no later than 9:45 am

\*\*Volunteers pick up your name badge from Linda Greiner and report to your station

Awards Banquet Friday evening at Bangkok Thai

**Saturday, Feb 8:**

Gates open at 8 am

Show is from 10-5

\*\*Volunteers please arrive no later than 9:45 am

\*\*Volunteers pick up your name badge from Linda Greiner and report to your station

**Sunday, Feb 9:**

Take down happens at Robarts in the morning.

Building must be vacated by 12 noon.

Truck returns to Church and is unloaded.

Gordon returns the truck.

# Sarasota Shell Club

## 2024/2025 Membership Application

**New Member: Individual \$30 - Family \$40**

(Includes a membership name tag)

**Renewal Member: Individual \$25 - Family \$30**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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(s) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, September through April. Newsletters are sent out monthly by email.  
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