



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

March, 2025 Edition

Hello All!

Spring has sprung in Florida. We had a wonderful time at our annual picnic at Urfer Family Park in Sarasota. The hamburgers were great and all the sides and desserts that everyone brought to share were super delicious! Thank you so much to Guelda Wooldridge and her husband Rickey! Guelda did all the planning to bring this together and Chef Rickey did a bang up job in grilling the burgers...Kudos!



At the March meeting, on Thursday, March 13th, we will officially present the slate of officers, as approved by the board, for the 2025-26 season to the membership. However, the bylaws require that the membership have 30 days to peruse the list so as to be able to ask questions or discuss the nominees. Therefore, I am giving you this information here and now in this issue of the Beauii so that you may all have the opportunity to think about it during the month of March in preparation for the April election.

This will be simple. It's basically the same as last year with the exception of rotation of the directors in their year of service. The following is the list to be elected:

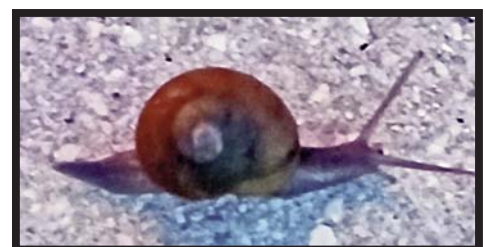
Officers: President – Sally Peppitoni, Vice President – Karen Huether, Treasurer – Allan Banko, Secretary – Debbie McDermott

Directors rotating into a 3-year term: Donna Cassin and Guelda Wooldridge

The rest of the directors will not need to be elected but will simply rotate. Directors that will rotate into a 2-year term: Donna Krusenoski and Debbie Alexander. Directors that will rotate into a 1-year term: Nancy Cadieux and Amy Bentley

I hope to see you all at the March meeting!

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

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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.
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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 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

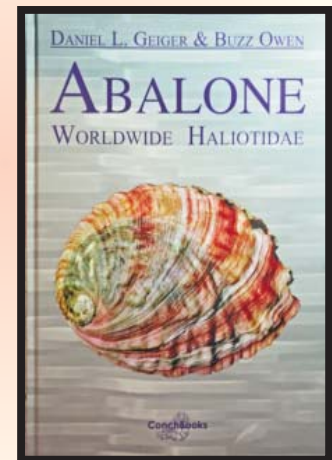
Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is on our website www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdmshellbooks.com

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



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.

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

Mar 29, 2025 **Missouri Key** (Saturday) 4:10 pm -0.23 low tide

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

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

March Meeting’s Speaker

Hi Everyone, I wanted to tell you about a really fantastic speaker, I have lined up for our SSC March 13th General Meeting at 7:00 pm. Dr. Ashley Oliphant is a retired Tenured Professor of English with teaching specialties in 20th-century American Literature, the works of Ernest Hemingway, literary modernism, and rhetoric and composition. She travels all over the United States offering interactive shark tooth and seashell workshops for children and adults and presentations about her other books. She is a long-time member of the Hemingway Society and a contributor to its conferences and The Hemingway Review. Ashley is the author of seven books. These include “Shark Tooth Hunting on the Carolina Coast”, “Hemingway and Bimini: The Birth of Sport Fishing at “The End of the World”, “In Search of Jimmy Buffett: A Key West Revival,” and her latest book to be published in 2026 “The Ultimate Shell Seeker’s Guide: Building a Better Beach-Combing Strategy”(which she will share with us the highlights in her program presentation on March 13th).



Dr. Oliphant is an animal welfare advocate in her local community. As the founder of the Humane Voters of Lincoln County, she spearheaded the successful movement to end the use of the gas chamber at her county shelter. She is the chairperson of Lincoln County’s Animal Services Advisory Board and has worked for years to help the shelter achieve and then maintain its No Kill designation.

In her spare time, Oliphant likes to hunt for shark teeth and seashells, garden, travel with her family (including her son Miller and her husband Chris), and float in her swimming pool. She has two cats, Irish Kevin and Tuna. Her lifelong dreams are to own a signed first edition of Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" and to meet Willie Nelson.

Dr. Oliphant is a lively, knowledgeable, and humorous speaker and we are really lucky to have her speak to us on her beach combining strategies in the passion of shell collecting that we all enjoy. We will have a table set up and Ashley will be bringing her books for sale which she will be able to take cash or credit. I am really excited about her coming to visit with us and looking forward to seeing all of you. Please bring your family (including kids) and friends to enjoy this Speaker presentation and interaction.

The Artisans had an excellent 2025 Shell show. Thank you to all who volunteered. Yes, it’s hard work but, made lighter for each team member by the many hands. Good job team !
We have welcomed four new members to our Thursday morning group. Looking forward to making new friends and many shell crafts.
Debby Alexander

Shell Show Photos - Loading Up



Shell Show Photos - General



Shell Show Photos - Awards - Scientific



Amy Bentley and her Shell of the Show Ribbon.



Ron Bopp won the Mote Gold and People's Choice awards.



Vicky Wall displays her DuPont Trophy and Best Self-Collected.



Dora Zimmerman displays her Judge's Ribbon.



John Jacobs won the COA Trophy and the Hertweck Fossil Award.



Linda Greiner won the Best Small Exhibit and Shell of the Show.



John Jacob's *Laemondonta clausa* won Fossil Shell of the Show



Cheryl Jacobs, Linda Green, Dave Gren and Duane Kauffmann were our judges for this show.

Shell Show Photos - Awards - Artistic



Guelda Wooldridge won the June Bailey Award (below)



“Drago the Dragon” was Guelda’s awarding winning entry



Donna Cassin’s award: Best of Art with Shell Motif



Best of Shell Flower Art Award (Jeanette Bruck)



the Donna and David Timmermann Best of Commercial/ Professional Art Award went to Sandy Powell

Shell Show Photos - Awards - Other Awards



The Artistic People's Choice awarded to Caryl Renz



The Scientific People's Choice awarded to Ron Bopp



Most Unique—Amy Bentley



Most Useful—Donna Cassin



Most Beautiful—Debby Alexander

Shell Show Photos - General



2025 Sarasota Shell Show Winners

Artistic Division

Fran Schlusemann Best of Shell Flower Art Award: “Celebration of Life” by **Jeanette Bruck**

Best of Art with Shell Motif Award: “Nautilus Centerpiece” by **Donna Cassin**

June Bailey Best of Member’s Art Award: “Drago the Dragon” by **Guelda Wooldridge**

Donna and Tom Cassin Award: “Calypso the Seahorse” by **Guelda Wooldridge**

Best Miniature Award: “Roses” by **Kathy Hofstad**

Donna and David Timmermann Best of Commercial/Professional Art Award: “Delphine”
by **Sandy Powell**

Most Beautiful Scientific Exhibit Rosette: “Worldwide Terrestrial Mollusks” by **Ron Bopp**

Artistic Judges Special Merit Rosettes:

“Broken Beauty” by **Brenda Werely**

“Turbulent Seas” by **Amy Bentley**

Scientific Division

Mote Gold Trophy: “World Wide Terrestrial Mollusks” by **Ron Bopp**

Dupont Trophy: “Bula! From Fiji” by **Vicky Wall**

Conchologist of America Trophy: “Fossil Molluscs of Hawai’i” by **John Jacobs**

Sarasota Shell Club Members Award: “Cassidae” by **Ron Bopp**

Best Self-Collected Exhibit Award: “Bula! From Fiji” by **Vicky Wall**

Best Small Scientific Exhibit Award: “Genus Harpa” by **Linda Greiner**

The Charles & Violet Hertweck Fossil Award: “Fossil Molluscs of Hawai’i” by **John Jacobs**

The Peggy Williams Award: “Growth Series (Angulate Wentletraps)” by **Kathy Hofstad**

Shell of the Show Rosette: **Linda Greiner** for *Harpa goodwini*

Shell of the Show (Self-Collected) Rosette: **Amy Bentley** for Hawkwing Conch

Fossil Shell of the Show Rosette: **John Jacobs** for *Laemodonta clausa*

The Robert and Jo Ann Morrison Young Scientist Award: “3-D Printed Land Snail” by
Jon Bopp

Scientific Judges Special Merit Rosettes:

“Prizes from the Panhandle” by **Vicky Wall**

“Forming Symbiotic Relationships in the Sea” by **Dora Zimmerman**

People’s Choice Awards

Scientific: “World Wide Terrestrial Mollusks” by **Ron Bopp**

Artistic: “Mr. and Mrs. Flamingo” by **Caryl Renz**



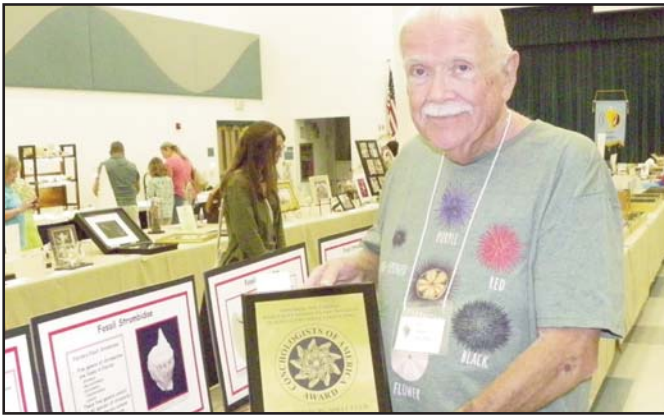
SSC Members win BIG at the St. Pete Shell Show



Guelda Woolridge won the Judge's Ribbon.



Debby Alexander won the Best Artistic Trophy for her display.



Ron Bopp won the COA trophy for his Strombidae exhibit.



John Jacobs won the National Museum of Natural History award.



Marilyn Parker with her first place trophy for her neat painting.

The 2025 SSC Annual Picnic (3/2/25)





MARCH 15 & 16, 2025

FOSSIL FEST



March 15 & 16, 2025
Sat: 9AM–5PM
Sun: 10AM–4PM

Florida State Fairgrounds
 4800 US HWY 301 Tampa, FL 33610

FOSSILS & ARTIFACTS

FOSSIL EXHIBITS - GEMS
MINERALS - SHELLS - WORKSHOPS
KIDS GAMES - FOSSIL MINE - RAFFLES
DOOR PRIZES - SILENT AUCTIONS

**FLORIDA'S LARGEST
 PREHISTORIC SHOW!**



TICKETS
 AVAILABLE AT DOOR
\$9 ADULTS
12 AND UNDER FREE!

PALEO WORKSHOPS
 Learn about Florida's prehistoric past in a FossilFest workshop! Experienced collectors will teach you how to find, identify, and preserve fossil treasures of your very own! All workshops are FREE to FossilFest attendees!

Saturday & Sunday

DISCOVERING FLORIDA'S FOSSIL TREASURES WITH TBFC'S DR. BOB SINIBALDI PHD. LEARN WHERE AND HOW TO FIND FOSSILS OF YOUR OWN, RIGHT HERE IN FLORIDA!

FLORIDA'S FOSSIL VERTEBRATES & THE FOSSIL HUNTING PERMIT WITH RACHEL NARDUCCI OF THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. IT'S CHEAP AND EASY! LEARN HOW TO GET YOUR FOSSIL PERMIT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SCIENCE OF PALEONTOLOGY.

FOSSIL IDENTIFICATION: BRING YOUR FOSSILS TO BE IDENTIFIED BY EXPERTS IN THE FIELD.

FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTING PERMIT: APPLICATIONS & RENEWALS, JUST \$5!

Be a part of the adventure!
JOIN TBFC TODAY!
tampabayfossilclub.com

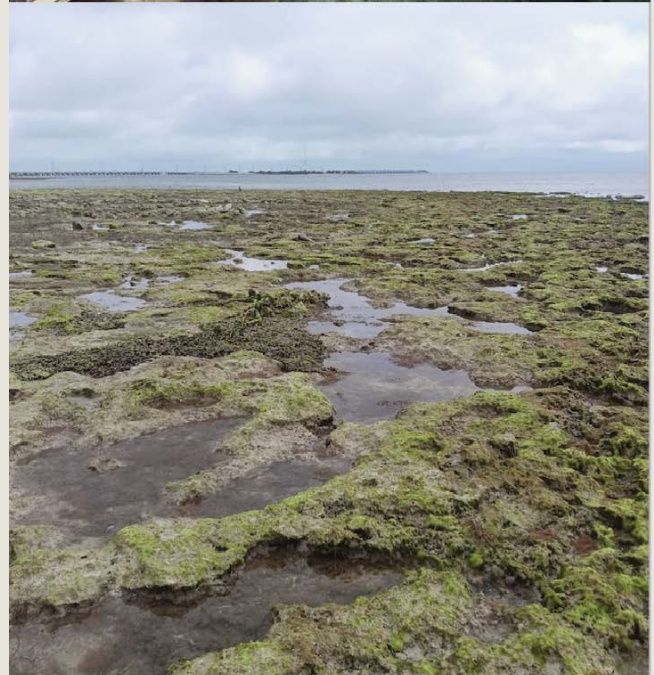
facebook 
 Instagram

SSC members, John Jacobs and Ron Bopp, are participating in this year's FossilFest.

The Sarasota Shell Club Announces a field trip to **Missouri Key** **Saturday, March 29, 2025**

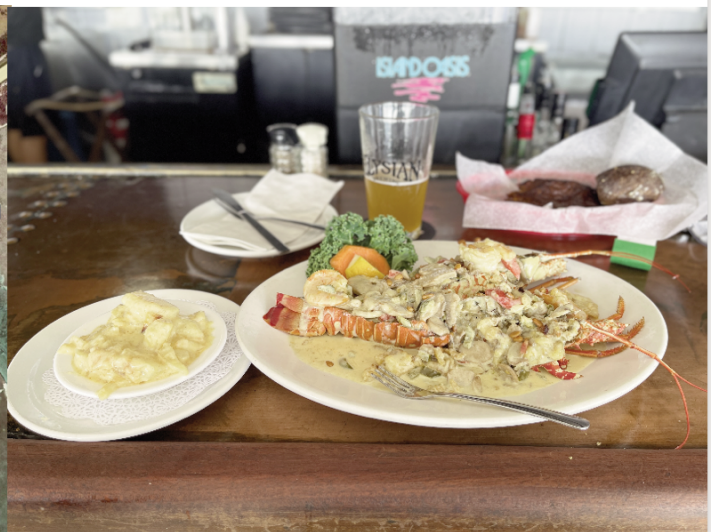


- The Sarasota Shell Club announces its March trip to Missouri Key. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2025. A negative -0.23 low tide will occur at 4:10 pm.
- There will be a number of shelling opportunities between Veteran's Memorial Beach and Horseshoe Beach as you can see in the first map.
- We will gather at Horseshoe Beach at 12:00 p.m. because there is an off-road parking lot. There is a quarry on the bay side with easy snorkeling around it in grassy sea beds.
- The ocean side may be reached by crossing the U.S. 1. It is called the iron shore because of large areas of rugged rock near the shore. Beyond the rock is hundreds of yards of shallow water for wading and snorkeling.



Iron Shore





Missouri Key

- Missouri Key is the first small island across the Ohio Key channel from Bahía Honda. Pull off the roadside on either side to park. The ironshore and the channel can be accessed by going down a bank to a sandy beach. You can wade in the channel, but the current will prevent much snorkeling. You can snorkel in the grass beds offshore.
- For those wishing to get a meal after shelling, I recommend Lazy Days in Marathon.
- For lodging, it is very expensive in the Keys in March. It will be significantly less in Homestead or Florida City. It is approximately 90 miles or two hours depending on traffic from Homestead to Missouri Key/Horseshoe Beach.
- Bring sturdy footwear; the rocks may be sharp and slippery.
- Keep yourself well-hydrated.
- Look for Queen Conchs, cowries, and other species rarely found on the Gulf Coast.

Lobster Mexicali at Lazy Days, Marathon



Make provision to keep yourself well-hydrated. Keep your eyes open for Queen Conchs, cowries, and Many other species rarely found on the Gulf Coast.

Please notify Gary Martinez at yonsider@msn.com if or (310) 347-8942 if you are interested in attending and have not already done so.

Sarasota Shell Club

THE SARASOTA SHELL CLUB ANNOUNCES A FIELD TRIP TO **ST. AUGUSTINE/ MATANZAS INLET**

Paul Jones



Paul, former president of the Jacksonville Shell Club, is a prolific collector and well-familiar with the area's best shelling spots. He has graciously agreed to be our guide on this trip.



Monday, April 28

-1.11 low tide at 3:13 pm

St. Augustine Inlet

After a fortifying meal at O'Steen's Restaurant, we will carpool to "Strombis Island." This will involve wading a channel where water could rise above waist deep for a short distance. On the flats and surrounding area we have a great chance of finding Kiener's Whelks, the orange variety of Banded Tulip, and also this is where Paul found his world record fighting conch.

In the evening we will be on our own to relax or explore the city.

We will also have some time the next morning before leaving around 2:00 pm in order to make the 14 mile drive south to Matanzas Inlet in time for the 3:33 pm low tide.

Monday, April 28

-0.59 low tide at 3:33 pm

Matanzas Inlet



Incongruous Ark

Look here for large Florida Rock Snail Shells, nerites, and other shells uncommon on the Gulf Coast. Once we are done, this will effectively end the trip. We may choose to enjoy a dinner later at one of St. Augustine's many other fine dining locations.



Sarasota Shell Club

Where to Stay

- There are many wonderful places to stay in St. Augustine. I recommend Travel Lodge and Suites by Wyndom if you want to be away from the traffic and the touristy area in the center of town. You can get an inexpensive room or a suite in a private cabin.



- Or you might consider one of the motels on Anastasia Island.

Where to Eat

- Similarly there are numerous fine places to eat. Across the road from the Travel Lodge is Brisky's BBQ, one of the best places for barbecue I've ever found.

Channeled Whelk



Sign up

- Contact Gary Martine at yonsider@msn.com or (310) 347-8942. We will accept the first 20 members in good standing to commit.



Peanut Island Debrief

On Saturday, March 1st members of the Sarasota Shell Club disembarked from the Peanut Island Shuttle to comb the island's shores for treasures.

The Experience

Gary Martinez had come the day before to camp. While snorkeling he observed many live Queen Conchs, Milk Conchs, and both Florida and West Indian Fighting Conchs. At the low tide during the night, he observed live Gaudy Natica's, Giant Tuns, and even a Milky Moon Snail crawling on the sand or in shallow water. Shellers arriving the next morning circled the island. Lisa Kinney found a small Channeled Whelk, which is not generally known to occur this far south. Chris McDevitt added some large bubble shells to his collection. Nancy Cadieux came away with her first Atlantic Yellow Cowrie. The island was jammed with boats and day visitors who were already roaming the flats before they were even exposed at low tide. Saturday is probably not the best day to visit for that reason. Most of the group was ready to head back by 2:00, well before low tide.



Gaudy Natica *Naticarius camarena*



Giant Tun *Tonna galea*



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 2nd 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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sarasotafloridashellclub>
Contact us: sarasotashellclub@gmail.com

(To be filled in by the Membership Committee)

Renewal New Member

Amount paid \$ _____ Date _____

Check# _____ Cash _____

Card Badge ordered