



A newsletter published by the  
**Sarasota Shell Club**

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

We meet on the 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm  
(September to November)  
The Green Room  
Cooperative Extension Office  
Twin Lakes Park  
6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, Fl

**January, 2026 Edition**

**President’s Message**

Hello fellow Shell-A-Holics,

The time for our shell show is almost here and, if you haven’t heard the fabulous news, we are NOT going to be in the Potter and Ken Clark buildings. We are going to be in...drum roll, please...the ROBERTS ARENA building! Ta-Da! As most of you know, the Suncoast Gun Show usually has the Robarts’ building the same weekend as our show. Well, this year they had some kind of scheduling conflict, and they canceled. The building was offered to us at no extra charge! Amazing, isn’t it?! So, your shell show committee had a big meeting last week, and we’ve got a handle on getting everything set up for being in Robart’s instead of the two smaller buildings. We have 16 dealers on board (up from 11 last year), several non-profits, and more scientific and artistic exhibits than we’ve had since leaving the Bradenton Convention Center years ago. We will have so much room this year and FOOD! The Robarts building has a concession stand. We will have food available not only for volunteers and dealers but also for the public. This means that patrons can eat and then shop some more instead of leaving to eat and opting not to return. Each dealer and volunteer will receive a voucher for food at the concession stand for lunch. The menu has a variety. Hot dogs, burgers, chicken tenders, salads, stuff like that. This is going to be great and, yes, this will spoil

us. Please, let’s all work really hard to make this the absolute BEST show ever!

I also need to mention our ongoing wait for paperwork to clear the Carefree Learner for operation. We are still waiting for the paperwork. The January 20th fieldtrip has been canceled. Megan assures us that as soon as we get the paperwork to clear the boat for operation, she and the captain will make plans for dates for makeup trips in March. Those who signed up and paid for the previously canceled trips get first dibs on makeup trips. Any spots left will be up for grabs. See you at the January meeting!

Sally Peppitoni  
President



A turn-of-the-century postcard

## Officers & Board Members

**President:** Sally Peppitoni  
**Vice-President:** Karen Huether  
**Treasurer:** Allan Banko  
**Secretary:** Blanton Rowan

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

## Committee Chairmen

**Artisans:** Debby Alexander & Guelda Wooldridge  
***The Beauii:*** Ron Bopp  
**Field Trips:** Gary Martinez  
**Librarian:** Debbie McDermott  
**Membership:** Barbara Evans  
**Shell Show:** Ron Bopp  
**Sunshine:** Debbie McDermott  
**Webmaster:** Amy Bentley

---

\***Meetings** are held on the third Thursday of the Month, September through April; note: no meetings in December or February.

\***Dues** are \$30.00 for new single members and \$40 for family members at the same address. A membership form is attached at the end of each *Beauii*.

\***Renewals** are \$25.00 for a single and \$30.00 for a family.

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE BEAUII?** Contact the **Editor** at 918-527-0589, or email Ron at [rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com).

---

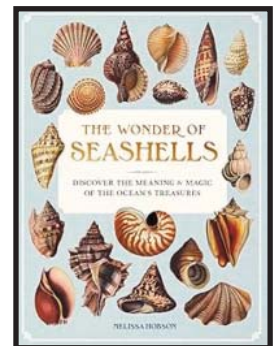
### The Shell Club's Library

Our Sarasota Shell Club Library is located at our new Artisan facility on Fruitville Rd. 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 contact Debbie McDermott at [washashore76@yahoo.com](mailto:washashore76@yahoo.com). In addition, members needing information about shells and shelling can be assisted in contact club members with relevant expertise.

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

Debbie



### Notes from Debbie

- \* **The Library is up and running again!**
- \* **Next Shell Share & ID meeting: 1/29/26, 1:30 pm in the conference room at the Gulf Gate Library**

### Artisans and the St. Pete Shell Show

On Thursday, February 12. We will be setting up for the Saint Petersburg show from 11 AM to 2 PM. We are taking this opportunity as an additional Artisan fundraiser. The sales will run Friday 10 to 5 and Saturday 9 to 3. I will be looking for volunteers to help sell, wrap, and take money. Please consider volunteering. You also will be able to see their show. The location is the Seminole recreation center  
9100 113th St. N.  
Seminole, FL 33772

## Mark your Calenders and “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 20, 2026    **Carefree Learner**, Tuesday
- January 22, 2026    Membership Meeting: **Jason Robertshaw**: “New Mote Marine Aquarium & Research Focus”
- Janurary 30, 2026    **Sanibel Island**, Friday, 9:17 am (-0.61 low tide)
- Febuary 6-7, 2026    **SSC’s “Shell & Marine Life Festival”**, at the **ROBARTS ARENA** on Fruitville Road, Sarasota
- February 12, 2026    **Set-up for the St. Petersburg Shell Show**
- February 13-14    **St. Petersburg Shell Club Shell Show**: Artisan’s fundraiser from 10 to 5 on Friday and 9 to 3 on Saturday
- February 22, 2026    **Shell Club Picnic**, Sunday 1-5 pm; Urfer Family Park, 4112 Honore Ave, Sarasota
- March 4, 2026    **Missouri Key**, Wednesday, 3:57 ?am or pm (-0.17 low tide)
- March, 2026    **Homer Rhodes/Meredith Bain**
- April 11, 2026    **FUM** (Florida United Malacologist), Bailey-Matthews Museum, Sanibel, Fl
- April 16, 2026    Membership Meeting: **Ron Bopp**: “Chasing Florida’s Fossil Seashells”
- April 18, 2026    **Jupiter**, Saturday, 3:57 pm (-0.76 low tide)
- June 7-13, 2026    **Conchologist of America Convention/Annual Meeting and Bourse** sponsored by the Sarasota Shell Club; Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Bradenton, FL

### Artisan Update

The artisans have added four new Shell Club members this month with the opening of the new studio. Excitement is in the air. We are all so looking forward to the larger Shell festival and new venue. We are expanding our sales floor, so be sure to volunteer to help with sales. We have two days to sell everything! It is all beautifully handcrafted and price to sell. Interaction with the customers will not only help with sales but possibly bring a new members. Be sure to sign up with Nancy at the time that you would like to be there. If you sign up for the morning shift you are allowed to stay all day. Thank you very very much. It takes a village.

## SPEAKER FORUM

Hello everyone, I am really excited about our Speaker for our upcoming Jan 22 general meeting which I have been working on coordinating for two years to have Jason Robertshaw coming to speak to us about Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium and to give us an update on certain research activities at the new Mote. Jason is currently the Education Program Manger for Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium.

SEP

His focus is on Public Speaking, Lifelong Learning, Instructional Design and Interactive Virtual Learning. He joined Mote in 2001 at the SeaTrek Project, a collaborative distance learning program between Sarasota County School Board, Mote Marine Laboratory, Selby Botanical Gardens and NASA.

As the Program Manager he designs, develops and delivers programs for audiences of all ages. Jason is a certified Florida Master Naturalist and is one their instructors and also coordinates the Endless Oceans which is Mote's lifelong learning program.



Jason is going to present to us some of Mote's Research Programs such as "New Crabs on the Block: Caribbean King Crabs to help with Coral Restoration and will provide an update on the brand new Mote Marine Aquarium at UTC.

I am looking forward to seeing you all for this informative and interesting Speaker Forum and wish everyone a Happy New Year

Karen Huether

## Things you should know about the Shell Club Picnic

- \* There is no Cost
  - \* Need to make reservation by no later than February 19, 2026
  - \* Reserve at our meeting in January or Guelda Wooldridge at 270-564-6927
  - \* Grilled hamburgers & hot dogs will be provided by the club (Hooray)
  - \* Begin gathering at 1:00 pm and begin eating at 2:00 pm
  - \* Bring:           A dish of food to share  
                  Your own non-alcoholic drink  
                  Your own lawn chair & outdoor games
- Location: Urfer Family Park, 4112 Honore Ave, Sarasota

### FUM

I will have room in my car to take members to FUM on Saturday, April 11, 2026.

If interested, contact Ron at:  
918-527-0589 or  
rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com

## Raffle Items

**We need Raffle Items for the Shell and Marine Life Festival (anything “Spectacular” or unusual).**

**Have something? Contact Donna at  
630-677-2071 or at  
donna.krusenowski@gmail.com**

### From Amy

The newly updated membership roster and December Beauii are up on the website as well as the flyer and a notice about the new location, on the homepage.

The next update will be after the shell show when I can post some new photos and the Jan. Beauii.

### Sarasota Shell Club Past Presidents

Jack Oberle: 1963-1965; 1968-1968; 1972-1974	Vi Hertweck: 1982-1984	Cathy Hollar: 1999-2001; 2003-2004
Louise Danforth: 1965-1967	Richard Forbush: 1984-1985	Bob Horton: 2004-2005
Franck Rinck: 1967-1968	June Bailey: 1985-1987; 1995-1997; 2002-2003	Joanne Chmielewski: 2007-2020
Thomas Robertson: 1969-1970	Bob Hansen: 1987-1988	Ron Bopp: 2010-2012
Evelyn Bradley: 1970-1972	Beverly Chouinard: 1989-1991	Dennis Sargent: 2012-2014
Charles Hertweck: 1974-1979	Bonnie Christophel: 1990-1992	Duane Kauffmann: 2022-2024
Peggy Williams: 1980-1982	Pat Amsel: 1994-1995	Sally Peppitoni: 2014-2022; 2024-2026
1988-1989; 1992-1994; 2001-2002; 2005-2007	Debra Ingrao: 1997-1998	
	Cathy Aschliman: 1988-1999	

## 2025 Holiday Party Memories

Thank you to all that attended and to those who volunteered in making this Holiday Party another great memory. We appreciate your email feedback upon my request. The Board strives to show its appreciation to the Club members and all comments will be discussed anonymously in a future Board meeting.

*Nancy Cadieux*



*Pam Desruisseaux, Linda Greiner, Debbie Smith, Blanton Rowan & her mom Frankie Simpson*



*Doug & Amy Bentley Lisa Kinney Ron Bopp, Dan & Daphne Hager in background right*



*Audrey Freeman, Guelda Wooldrige & her sister, Linda Greiner & Evelyn Martinez*



*Sharon & Gordon Fushikoshi*



*Judy Herman Frank & Sally Peppitoni*



*Donna Cassin Donna Krusenoski & Bruce Paulsen*



*Richard & Barbara Evans*



*Jacob & Irene Glzman*



*Margo Heck Frankie & Jim Grover*



*Sally Peppitoni auctioneer, Marilyn Parker & Donna Bartels*



*Laura Burgess & Conne McClure*



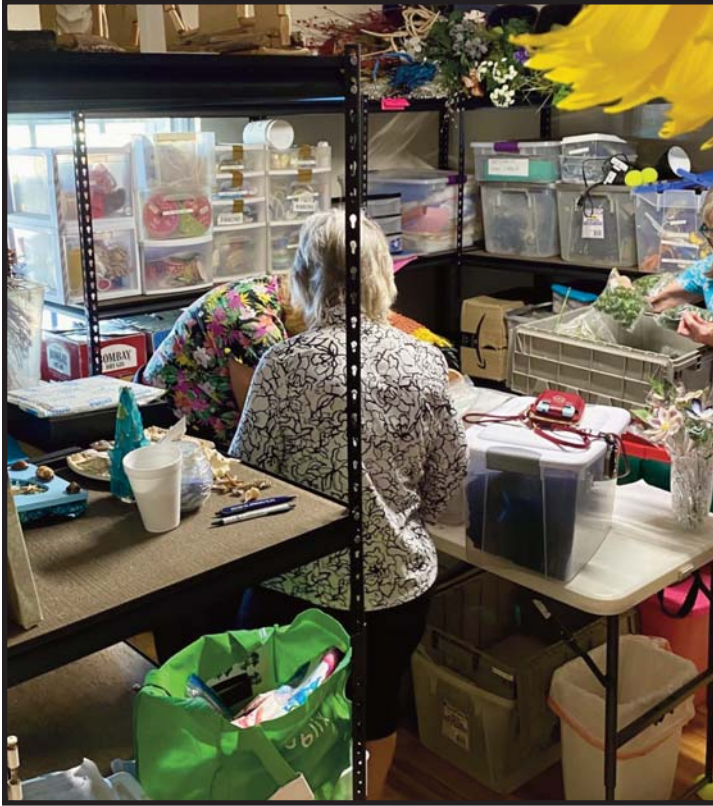
*Mark & Diane Casey*

## Additional Holiday Party Photos



## Some Artisan Photos

The artisans have been very busy unpacking to the new Club home. Duane is unpacking his science area. The library is slowly moving over. the middle room is for Club show supplies. It's been all hands on deck. Below are our Artisans enjoying and working in the new facility.



# ***OUR BEAUTIFUL SHOW FLYER***

SEND THIS TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND POST IT ON THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA. REMEMBER, IT IS ALL OF OUR MEMBERS TO SPREAD THE WORD. LETS MAKE IT HAPPEN AND A GREAT *SHELL SHOW AND MARINE LIFE FESTIVAL*

Thanks: Amy Bentley



**2026 SARASOTA SHELL & MARINE LIFE FESTIVAL**  
**Sarasota Shell Club**  
*Exquisite Shell Art*  
*Scientific & Artistic Exhibits*  
*Exotic & Rare Shells*  
*Educational Programs*  
*Raffles, Prizes and much more*

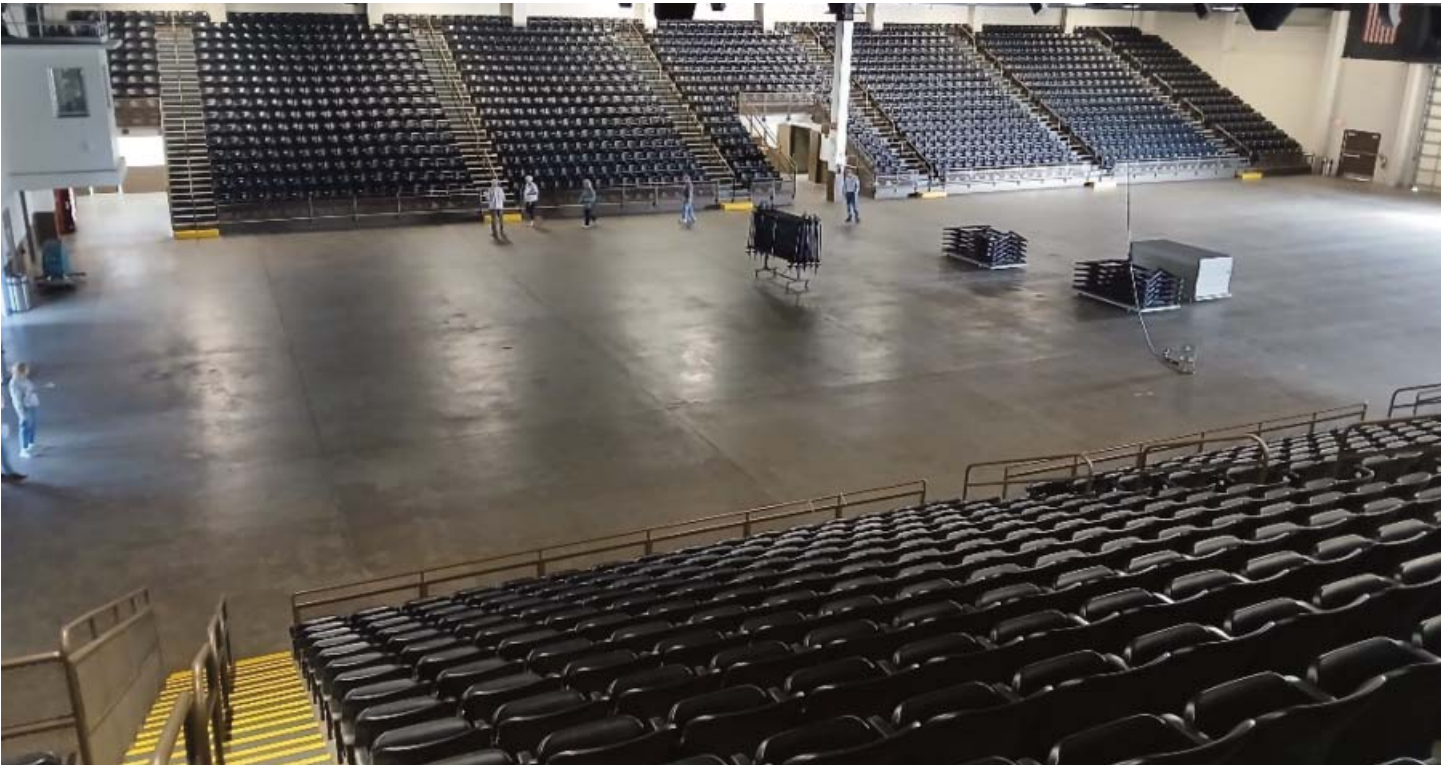
Friday      Saturday      10-5  
Feb. 6      Feb. 7      Both Days

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)

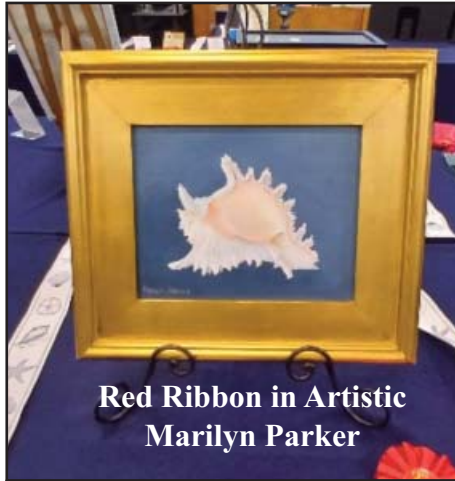
**Photos from the Donation Pickup at Peter Murfitt's House (our Christmas Shell/Tree Dealer in the past)**



**A Bird's-eye View of our Shell and Marine Life Festival Space at Roberts Arena**



**SSC Artisans (Alexander, Parker, & Wooldridge) make Great Impression at the Space Coast Show**



**Red Ribbon in Artistic Marilyn Parker**



**Best of Show Award Guelda Wooldridge**

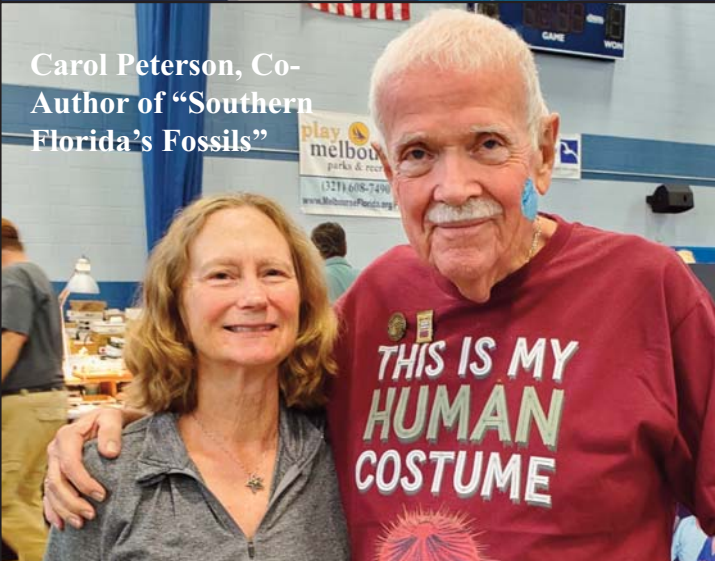
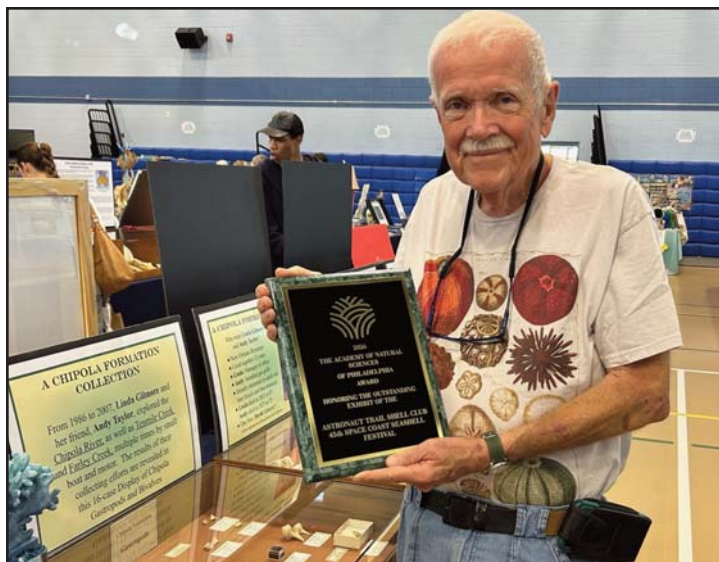


**Blue Ribbon in Scientific Debby Alexander**



**Category #26A (Jewelry/Personal Accessories) Walk on the Beach Guelda Wooldridge**

**Your Editor, first to win the Trophy (Academy Natural Sciences of Philadelphia) for the Outstanding Exhibit of the Shell Show, for his “Chipola Formation”**



**Carol Peterson, Co-Author of “Southern Florida’s Fossils”**

# Sanibel Island

## Friday, January 30, 2026



• The Sarasota Shell Club announces its January trip to Sanibel Island. The trip is scheduled for Friday, January 30. A negative -0.61 low tide will occur at 9:17 am. Participants will gather at 8:30 am at Bowman's Beach. Parking is \$5/hr. 24 hours a day. If you meet up with more experienced shellers on the trip, they will be happy to share techniques

for locating Sanibel's many treasures. While shelling is always better after a winter storm, you can almost always get a few specimens of the Sanibel 7, including fighting conchs, alphabet cones, banded tulips, lightning whelks, horse conchs, apple murexes, lettered olives, as well as many bivalve and other species.

- From Bowman’s Beach it will be easy to shuttle to either Turner Beach to the west or to Lighthouse Beach Park to the east for those wanting to scope out a different location.

- 

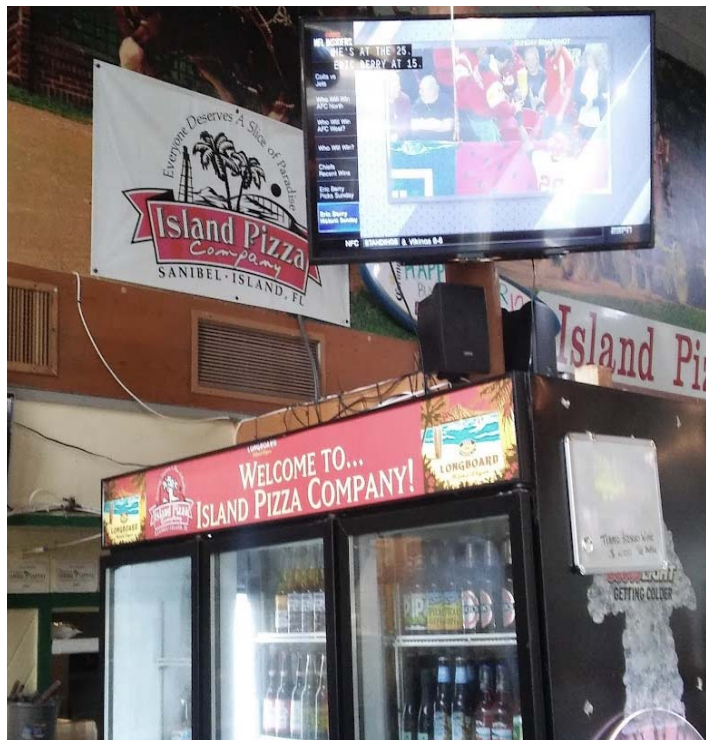


Turner Beach

- We will plan to gather for lunch at 11:30 at Island Pizza, 1619 Periwinkle Way or another location to be determined.
- The Bailey- Matthews Shell Museum is now open and offering SSC members half-off the regu-

lar entrance fee of \$25. We will plan to visit at 1:30 to check out its world-class displays. Be sure to carry your membership card as proof of membership.

- If you are interested in participating and have not already done so, please notify Gary Martinez at [yonsider@msn.com](mailto:yonsider@msn.com), or (310) 347-8942.



Island Pizza

## 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:**

**Barbara Evans  
212 Oakwood Blvd W.  
Sarasota, FL 34237**

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 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: **The Green Room, Cooperative Extension Office  
Twin Lakes Park  
6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, Fl**

Club Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</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.Sarsotashellclub.com](http://www.Sarsotashellclub.com)

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

Contact us: [sarsotashellclub@gmail.com](mailto:sarsotashellclub@gmail.com)

(To be filled in by the Membership Committee)

Renewal  New Member

Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Card  Badge ordered