



A newsletter published by the
Sarasota Shell Club

www.Sarasotashellclub.com

We meet on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm
(September to November)

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

March, 2026 Edition

President's Message

Congratulations Sarasota Shell Club!

We have totally knocked the ball clear out of the field this year with our shell show! The final net profit stands just shy of \$22,000! We will be able to meet our charitable obligations (and then some) as well as cover our rental obligations for another year. Woo-hoo! I don't think we've done this well in decades. So many attendees were very complementary on the show layout and the increased room to move around. Thank you to everyone who participated to help make this show the best ever! Those of you who attended know...it was fabulous! The Robarts building was wonderful and everyone loved the space and the increase in vendors and the great non-profit organizations that attended. The exhibits were top notch and having the concessions available for food was great! I'm already excited about next year and if you weren't able to be here to attend, please plan on next February now. We have been able to secure Robarts at a reasonable rate which we can afford for the next THREE years. It's going to be wonderful for our club!

Now that I've used every exclamation point possible, I still need to mention the great picnic we had at Urfer Park. Thanks so much to Rick and Guelda Wooldridge for all their hard work to make it so enjoyable for everyone who came. The burgers and dogs were excellent, and the sides and desserts brought and shared by attendees was phenomenal. I love just socializing with everyone like this.

It's a great way to learn and share with each other.

We are starting to wrap up the season, so be aware that the April meeting is our annual election of officers for the next season. Please plan on attending, if you can, to support our leadership. The club will also vote to approve our charitable donations. The board will have a pre-approved report on what we will be donating and to whom at that time.

See you soon!
Sally Peppitoni

Recycle Your Award Ribbons

I can recycle your Award Ribbons for our SSC Shows, even if they have a date on the ribbons or writing on the back. I will even iron them!

Bring them to the membership meeting. If you can't make the meeting then contact me at luvseashells@gmail.com

Thanks . . . Linda Greiner

“The shell show and other updates are on our Website now, so take a look. . . Amy”

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.

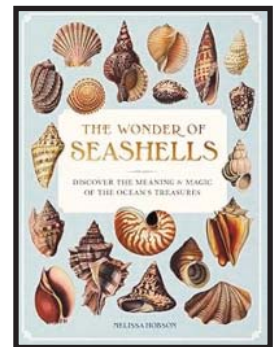
The Shell Club's Library

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.

Books in the Sarasota Shell Club Library can be accessed by contact Debbie McDermott at 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



See Page 7 for our Slate of Officers

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	

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.

- March 19, 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

Notes from Debbie

March Shell Share and ID Meeting will be on Thursday March 26th at 1:30 pm 2nd floor Conference Room at Gulf Gate Library Curtiss Ave, Sarasota. Please bring any shells you purchased at the Shell Show!

Harris Krasner

Harris Krasner, our SSC Scholarship winner from last year has submitted three to four pages detailing his research, for which we helped him with by awarding him the Bopp-Timmermann Scholarship. This information will be included in the April Issue of the Beauii. . . be sure and read!

Presentation

Club member Amy Bentley gave a one-hour presentation last month about shells and shelling in Southwest Florida to the Nature Club in her community, VillageWalk, in Sarasota. The 25-30 guests enjoyed seeing some of Amy’s self-collected shells and learning about shells and mollusks. Her huge Queen conch from the Florida Keys was of course a favorite.

Shell Club members are encouraged to share their shells and knowledge about shells, shelling and mollusks with the community. Anyone who would like to give an educational community talk or presentation may contact Amy for tips.



March 19th Sarasota Shell Club Speaker Forum Homer Rhodes/Meredith Bain

Hi Everyone, this is Karen Huether. We have a wonderful Speaker Forum lineup for our members at the March 19th General Meeting. Our main speaker is the renowned Homer Rhodes who is recognized as a worldwide expert on shells, especially land snails by his peers. Homer grew up in Coral Gables in South Florida. He spent his childhood in the Everglades with his father, who was the 1st game warden in the Park. Homer's lifelong fascination with nature moved to his focus on shells but especially land snails in particular. Homer is fascinated with land snails' variety of colors, shapes and sizes. A snail that Homer found in the Dominican Republic was actually named for him.

Homer lived in the Keys for many years and worked as an Environmental Administrator for Everglades and the Keys. Homer and his late wife Ann have traveled to all seven continents over the years where they snorkeled and scuba dived for seashells. He has also judged Scientific displays at many Shells Shows across the U.S. Homer was awarded the highest honor from the Conchologist of America organization where he received the 2016 Neptunia Award for service to the conchology and malacology community. We are fortunate to have him with us on 3/19 and if you have an opportunity to talk with Homer, you will soon find out that he is a quiet observer to the world around him and has a deep well of information and stories to tell.

In addition, we are also fortunate to have Meredith Bain with us on the 3/19 as an assistant to Homer for his presentation. Many of you know Meredith and she has spoke to SSC previously. She also has a wealth of information and skills in the world of seashells. She was the past President of Englewood Shell Club. She provides photos/videos documentation of sea life in her role with Reel Kind Shell Tours. She has recently won 1st Place in her division at the Sanibel Shell Show this March with her photography exhibition. Meredith will be providing her items from her artwork for sale during our breaks if you would like to purchase or talk to her about her skills. She is recognized as a photo journalist and has published many of her photos in many different magazines and publications. I have attached a photo of her recent work and items for sale. I am looking forward to seeing you all at our meeting and providing a rare opportunity to meet, listen and ask questions to 2 amazing individuals.



See you soon . . . Karen

SSC Picnic Photos



Many thanks to Ricky Wooldridge for his expert grilling and to Guelda for all of her coordinating and hosting of the picnic. Thanks to the club members who shared their culinary talents. Everything was so delicious. A good time was had by all. See you at the picnic next year. . . Debby Alexander



Above (left): Dawn selling flowers made by Marilyn at the St. Petersburg Shell show. The artisans had a Fundraiser table. One gentleman purchased \$180 worth of beautiful flowers and helped make it a successful sale.

Above (right): The artisans sold shell crafts at the flea market at Oakwood Manor. This following a very successful sale at the Sarasota shell festival. Fundraising for the club. Sharing our art.

WANTED: MEMBERS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA SKILLS

WANTED: Members with social media skills to join the Shell Show Publicity Committee, chaired by Amy Bentley. We need your help in publicizing the annual shell show online and on social media. If you are on Facebook, YouTube or TikTok, or any other popular social media, please join us volunteering to help spread the word about our annual show in February. The bulk of the work is during the two months prior to the show and you can help us from your home, on your own time. It takes a village, and we need your help!

Thanks. . . Email amybentley1@yahoo.com to learn more.

Slate of Officers

President:	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-Pres:	Karen Huether
Treasurer:	Allan Banko
Rec. Sec.:	Blanton Rowan
Director:	Nancy Cadieux
Director:	Debbie McDermott

FUM

I will have room in my car to take up to three members to FUM on Saturday, April 11, 2026. If interested, contact Ron at: 918-527-0589 or rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com

The Education Area at the Shell Show and Marine Life Festival was a great success!

This year, we had: a touch table, where people could handle shells, fossils, egg casings, and echinoids; Sally's fun Light Up Matching Board that illuminates when you touch the right shell and name combo; The Shell Egg Carton project; Coloring pages and books; and Puzzles(like a word search and cross-words). Everything was very well received, but the Egg Carton project really shone!

Mitch Gowland created paper strips with pictures and names of 10 shells. Each shell was in a bin at the front of the table, and participants were encouraged to find the shell that matched the picture.

75 sets of these strips were made and given out --and when we ran out of strips, children recycled them, and we gave away a small pamphlet that the pictures had been in, a giveaway from Bailey Matthews Shell Museum.

By the end of Saturday, over 100 of these carton projects had been completed, and we ran out of picture strips (AND Pamphlets)! At that point, we allowed people to take one of each shell for their carton and take pictures of a single pamphlet we held back

We allowed adults to do the project too, but 80 percent were completed by children wanting to learn more about our local shells :) in addition, 10 of the kits were completed by educators themselves, who loved the project and took pictures to make their own versions to incorporate into classroom learning :)

I view this as a huge win - because we were teaching children, adults, and adult teachers all with the same project!

From the Education area, volunteers were also easily able to direct traffic all over the venue - to Membership, Club Sales tables for both artwork and shells, and additional education opportunities from our partners this year, like Sarasota Bay watch, the fossil club, Sea Turtle Patrol, and Carefree learner.

Having EDUCATION central in the layout of the show made sense, as we are a 501.c3 non profit with an education focus.

This year, our mission of education aligned VERY WELL with our show, and the club has set a new benchmark in what our show can and should be: Family-friendly, Fun, & Educational

I was very proud to be a part of this and look forward to next year - new games, puzzles, and ideas are already in the works.

And A HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated things to the table (those mini coloring books were wildly popular!), and gathered egg cartons for us, too. We have lots of egg cartons left and will accept more - because this activity was a great hit and we plan to include it in next year's lineup too.... with different shells!



Mitch Gowland, Show Education Chair

Who is Izzy Special?



It seems that two days were not enough for me to explore and learn from all that the 2026 Sarasota Shell Club Shell & Marine Life Festival had to offer. Furthermore, there was an intrigue this year at Artistic Exhibit # 27: lobsters made with pieces of fighting conchs by a mysterious artist named Izzy Special? I finally discovered that Izzy was Daniel Hager, a quiet member who thought he had to remain anonymous as a condition for exhibiting. Little did we know that Dan, an active sheller, also loves to create with the shells he finds. Dan explained that he is unable to join the artisans because he works during the day. Dan was unfamiliar with the anonymous judging process and thought that he could not identify himself. Izzy is the name of his little dog...

Thank you Dan for your participation. Looking forward to discovering more of your creations!

Nancy Cadieux



Don't forget . . . turn in your unwanted ribbons!

Guess who found a Junonia? Our Own Nancy Cadieux!



Sarasota Members Winning at the Sanibel Shell Show



"Best Hobbist Lamp"
Debby Alexander



Fossil Display and Fossil Shell
of the Show: Ron Bopp



Fossil Shell of the Show



ARTISTIC "PEOPLE'S CHOICE"
GUELDA WOOLDRIDGE



SCIENTIFIC "PEOPLE'S CHOICE"
RON BOPP



Judge Duane Kauffmann



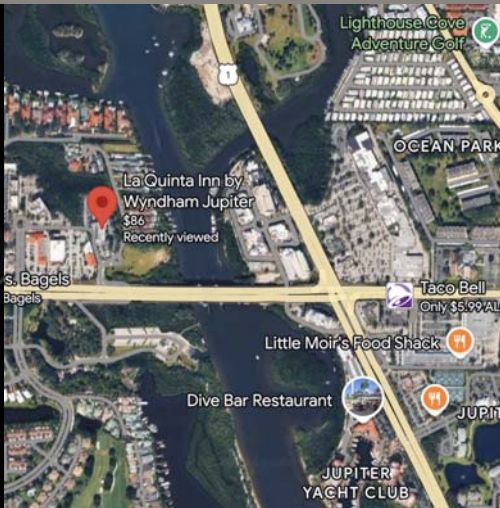
Overview of the Show

Jupiter Inlet

April 16-18, 2026



Fulgorator Olive



Jupiter Sound area



Hairy Triton

- The Sarasota Shell Club announces its April field trip to Jupiter Sound. This trip will be in conjunction with the Jacksonville Shell Club and will be guided by member Paul Jones. The area offers habitat to species seldom found elsewhere outside The Keys.
- We will begin by meeting at 1:30 pm on Thursday, April 16 at La Quinta Inn by Wyndom, 34 Fishermans

- Way, Jupiter, FL 33477
- This hotel is also recommended for those wishing to lodge in the area. From there we will drive about 3 miles to the sound for a -0.4 low tide at 2:56 pm. Following shelling, we will move to a restaurant TBD for dinner.
- A vast expanse of the inlet will be exposed at low tide. The bottom consists of firm sand with spots of shallow mud, providing a relatively firm walking surface.

- **We will reconvene on Friday, April 17** at 200 E. 13th St., Riviera Beach Marina Village, for the 9:30 ferry to Peanut Island. There is a \$25 fee plus parking. We will gather at the covered picnic shelter near the ferry landing. Snorkeling is best when the tide is high. A -0.5 low tide will occur at 3:41 pm exposing the shore around the island and offshore mud flats which require snorkeling or wading to reach across a chest-deep channel. There may be a considerable current.
- The ferry runs every 20 minutes and the last ferry returns at 5:00 pm.
- We will regroup for dinner afterwards at Carving Station Buffet, 720 US-1, Lake Park, FL 33403.
- The morning of Saturday, April 18 offers a variety of possible shelling locations to be determined, including Blowing Rocks, Coral Cove, and Phil Foster Park.
- We will determine an area that offers both snorkeling and beach-combing opportunities, and perhaps a replenishment dump.
- We will return to Jupiter Sound for the spectacular low tide of -0.7 feet at 4:28 pm.
- If you are interested in participating in all or some of these activities and have not already done so, please notify Gary Martinez at yonsider@msn.com, or (310) 347-8942.

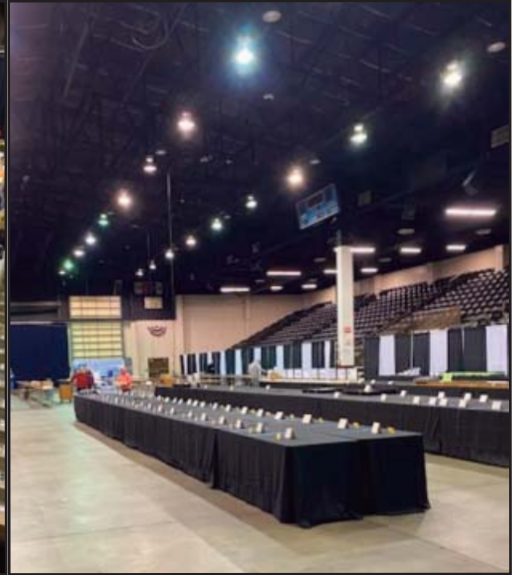
Voting for SSC Leadership Positions at the April 16th Meeting

Be there or be Square!

More of our Shell and Marine Life Show Photos



Show time



Before Show Time



Truck Loading



Truck Unloading



Pretty Artwork



A Marilyn Parker Painting

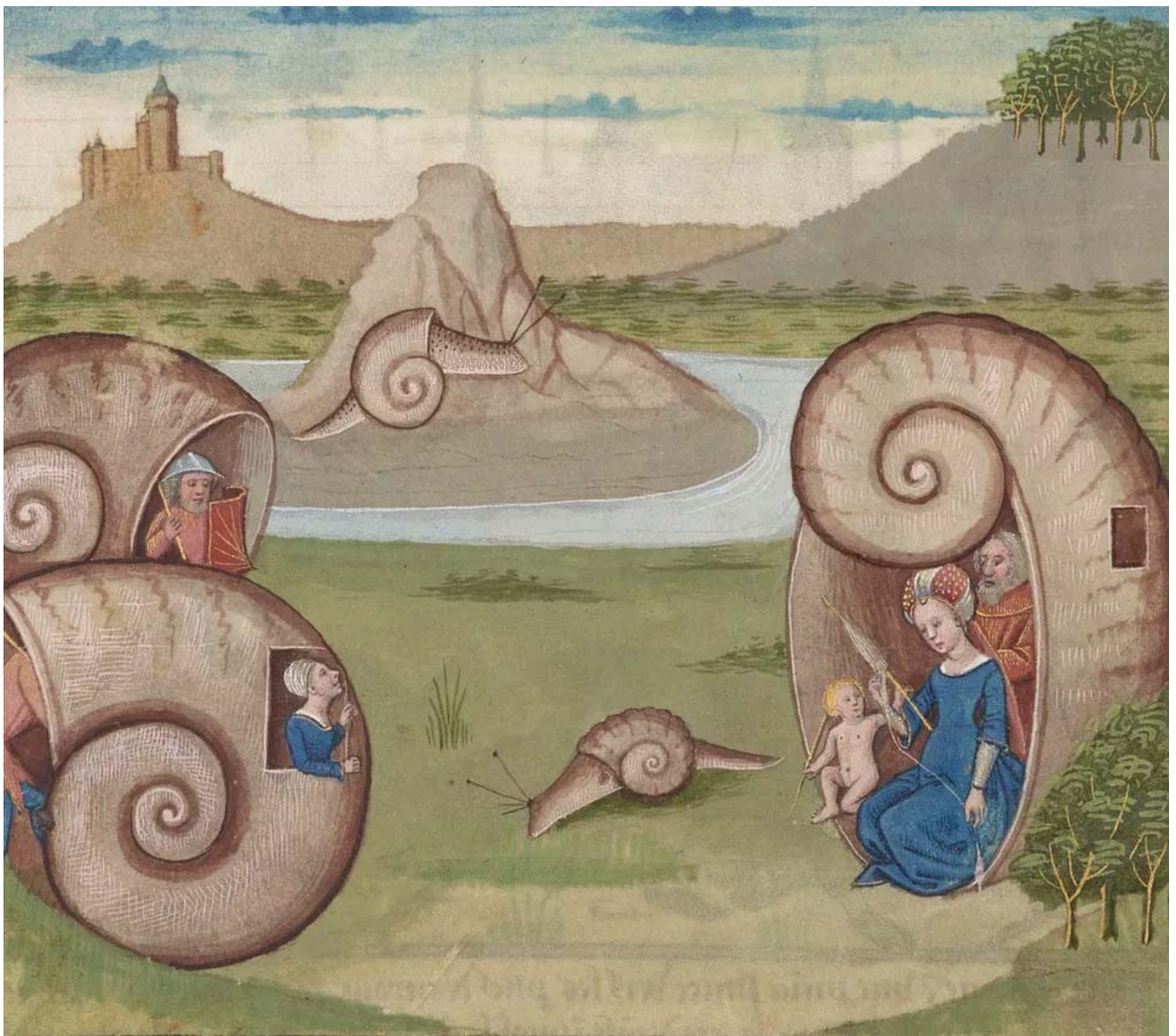


Mermaid Photo Backdrop



Four "SuperMovers"

**Snail Homes, Bog Bodies, and Mechanical Flies:
Robert Testard's Illustrations for *Les secretz de
l'histoire naturelle* (ca. 1485)**



An interesting photo from the 2/11/2026 issue of The Public Domain “Review”
“Solinus says that among the progeny of Traponee grow the biggest snails in the world, and they move quickly that it is a marvel, and the men of the country hunt and chase them as we over here hunt wild animals. And the people of the region live on their flesh. And the shells are so big that the men and women of the country live inside them.

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 3rd 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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sarasotafloridashellclub>
Contact us: sarsotashellclub@gmail.com

(To be filled in by the Membership Committee)

Renewal New Member

Amount paid _____ Date _____

Check# _____ Cash _____

Card Badge ordered