



Sarasota Shell Club's 63rd Annual Shell & Marine Life Festival

February 5 - 6, 2027

Major and Special Awards

Entries in each category are eligible for First Place (Blue), and Second Place (Red) ribbons. All ribbons and trophies will be awarded only if the judges determine that such awards are warranted. Decisions of the judges will be final.

No exhibitors are allowed on the exhibit floor while judging is being conducted at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4.

MAJOR SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

1. **Mote Gold Trophy:** will be awarded only to an exhibit of mollusks that has previously won a major award at any shell show. Major awards for this consideration are: American Museum of Natural History, Conchologists of America, DuPont and the Smithsonian trophies. This exhibit should show excellence in malacological science, education and public outreach. It may not be won by the same exhibitor in consecutive years. The Mote Gold Trophy may be awarded from any category.
2. **Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Award:** is given to the most outstanding exhibit of mollusks (multiple specimens) at a shell show. This award is made to the amateur collector or group of such collectors responsible for the exhibit that, in the opinion of the judges, will be the most inspiring and instructive for its accurate scientific data, educational value, and attractiveness, and that will contribute most to the success of the shell show. This award will be awarded only to...
 - A. A blue ribbon or 1st place winner;
 - B. It may not be awarded to any exhibit that has previously won it in this or any other shell show, unless the exhibit has changed by at least 50%;
 - C. It may not be awarded to an exhibit by any professional specimen shell dealer, unless the exhibit consists entirely of self-collected shells;
 - D. It may not be awarded to any professional malacologist;
 - E. It may not be awarded to an exhibit receiving another major award (i.e., COA Award, Smithsonian Award, or American Museum of Natural History Award at the same show (meaning the same occasion).
 - F. It may not be awarded to a single shell entry.The purpose of this award is to advance the cause of amateur malacology by encouraging the entry of exhibits that will stimulate public interest and increase appreciation of the hobby and the scientific study of mollusks. The official judges of the shell show shall determine the winner.
3. **Conchologists of America Trophy:** will be presented by the COA to the exhibit of mollusks that the judges determine shows excellence and best furthers interest in shells and shell collecting. It may be given only to a blue-ribbon winning exhibit that has not been awarded another major award in the present show. (Shell dealers are not eligible for this trophy unless their exhibit consists of only self-collected shells).

SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

4. **Sarasota Shell Club Members Award:** will be awarded to the best scientific exhibit entered by a Sarasota Shell Club member that has not won another major trophy in the present show. This trophy may not be awarded to the same exhibitor in consecutive years.
5. **Best Self-Collected Exhibit Award :** will be awarded to the best exhibit of self-collected shells (in any category) that has not won another major trophy in the present show.
6. **Best Small Scientific Exhibit Award:** will be awarded to the best scientific exhibit (maximum length of 12 feet) that has not won another major trophy in the present show.
7. **The Charles and Violet Hertweck Fossil Award:** will be awarded to the best fossil exhibit.
8. **The Robert and Jo Ann Morrison Young Scientist Award:** will be given at the judges' discretion for the best entry in any scientific category for an entrant who has not reached their 21st birthday as of the day of judging. The recipient also receives a full family membership in The Sarasota Shell Club for the balance of the year this award is given and for the following year.
9. **The Peggy Williams Award:** will be awarded to a self-collected Florida/Caribbean (fossil or recent) exhibit.

MAJOR ARTISTIC AWARDS: will be awarded to Blue ribbon winners only

- A. **The Fran Schlusemann Best of Shell Flower Art:** from Artistic Category 1 made with shells or sea life.
- B. **Best of Art with Shell Motif:** from Artistic Category 1. Art of any medium, even if not created by the exhibitor.
- C. **The June Bailey Best of Member's Art:** From Artistic Category 1 made by a Sarasota Shell Club Member.
- D. **Donna and Tom Cassin Award:** From Artistic Category 1. Most creative in the Artistic Entry.
- E. **Nancy and Armand Marini Award:** From Artistic Category 1. Most unique use of fossil shells.
- F. **Best Miniature Award:** For the best miniature Artistic creation.
- G. **The Peter Murfitt Award:** For best use of seashells in an artistic exhibit.
- H. **Donna and David Timmermann Best of Commercial/Professional Art Award:** given to the best artistic exhibit in Category 2.

SPECIAL AWARDS: Rosettes will be awarded for:

- A. Shell of the Show** (from any Scientific non-fossil exhibit in the show except dealer Educational).
- B. Shell of Show—Self-Collected:** (from any Scientific exhibit) The shell should be designated with a star if included in an exhibit of not wholly self-collected shells.
- C. Fossil Shell of the Show:** (from any exhibit in the show)
- D. Most Beautiful Exhibit:** One award by the Shell Artistic Judges to the most beautiful scientific exhibit.
- E. Judges Special Merit Awards:** Each judge may award one at their discretion to any exhibit that did not win a trophy.
- F. People's Choice Awards:** by popular ballot vote of the Show's attendees. One award in the Artistic and one in the Scientific categories.