



Sarasota Shell Club's 63rd Annual Shell & Marine Life Festival February 5 - 6, 2027

Rules of Show

Deadline: All scientific and artistic entries must be received by December 14, 2026. Please be sure to include all information required. This includes Category Number, Category Name, Exhibit Name, number of cases and exact space needed in feet and inches. Email entries (available on our website www.sarasotashellclub.com) should be sent to:

Scientific: Ron Bopp, rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com,

Artistic: Sally Peppitoni, shellmaniac8@gmail.com

NOTE Set-Up Day: Check-in and set up is **Thursday, February 4** between 9 a.m. and 1:00 pm for **Scientific Exhibitors and Artistic Exhibitors**. Items may be brought in through the double doors in back of the Potter. **Special Note: All exhibitors must be off the auditorium floor by 1 p.m. on Thursday, as judging will commence then.** Any exhibits not completely set up by 1 p.m. will not be judged. Exhibits or displays may not be removed until 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 6.

1. Exhibits must be the property of the exhibitor...NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. Artistic exhibits that have won a trophy or first place ribbon at a previous Sarasota Shell Show cannot be entered.
3. Artistic exhibits must be the creation of the exhibitor alone.
4. Scientific Exhibits that have been entered in a previous Sarasota Shell Show can be re-entered but must be 50% different from the original exhibit.
5. Names of all exhibitors/co-contributors must appear on the entry form.
6. All exhibitors may enter only one exhibit per category, with a maximum of (6) six categories.
7. Scientific exhibits should be covered with a *HARD PLASTIC OR GLASS COVER* to protect them. Jewelry should also be covered for protection. Although the hall is secured at night, **we cannot guarantee against theft.**
8. Displays may not be more than 30 inches deep, nor backboards more than 36 inches high. **Scientific Exhibits will be restricted to 40 lineal feet.** Any unusual length or requirements for an Artistic Exhibit should be discussed with the Artistic Exhibit Chair. Scientific wrap-around exhibits may be allowed after January 27 if space allows and permission is granted by the Scientific Chairman. Space for each entry will be pre-measured and strictly adhered to. Please give exact measurements, as adequate space will be allowed between entries. If using backboards for your exhibit, the reverse side must be finished in a pleasing manner that will not detract from the exhibit on the opposite side of the table.
9. No electrically-operated devices for exhibits, such as revolving or lighted cases, are permitted without prior approval of the exhibit chairperson, as electric outlets in the exhibit areas are scarce. We strongly recommend battery-operated devices instead. The name or picture of the exhibitor may not be visible on any part of the exhibit until **AFTER** judging is completed.
10. Self-collected shells that are included within a non-self-collected category must be identified by placing a star next to each to be eligible for the Shell of the Show, self-collected ribbon.
11. Shell Art exhibitors **MUST** furnish easels for hanging entries displayed up-right (i.e. mirrors, wreaths, pictures, etc.). There will no longer be pegboards for hanging items.
12. No advertising or selling will be permitted in or about any exhibit during the show. Anyone entering Artistic Category 2, Commercial/Professional, may place their business cards near their exhibits **ONLY AFTER** judging has taken place.
13. **The Artistic Chair or Scientific Chair, in consultation with the Festival Chair, reserves the right to place exhibits in their proper categories.**
14. Any unauthorized exhibitor entering the hall or approaching the judges during judging will be disqualified.
15. Exhibitors are encouraged to consult with our judges about their entries after judging. Judges will be available Friday and Saturday during the show.
16. Suggestions or complaints concerning the show must be directed only to the Festival Chairperson (Ron Bopp). Any unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any exhibitor will be discussed at the next Sarasota Shell Club Board meeting and appropriate action will be taken, including possible exclusion from the show for a minimum of one year.
17. Professional shell dealers may exhibit only in the Scientific Self-collected or Educational categories.
18. Exhibitors who have engaged in an ongoing enterprise to sell shell related art, or who have promoted their products in the media or on the internet commercially within the 12 months prior to this show must enter in the commercial/professional category.

NOTE Show Hours! The Show will be open to the public Friday, Feb. 5 and Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also, the Sarasota Shell Club will provide coffee, bottled water and donuts each morning. Food and beverages for lunch may be purchased and the building's concession stand. They have burgers, salads and sandwiches available.