



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Marco Island Shell Club Members,

I can't believe it but "season" is here again and I begin my last year as President. I will not reflect on the past, but I look forward to what this coming year will bring. Members will create magnificent shell art at each workshop and we will prepare for our holiday sale and Shell Show.

It was a fairly quiet summer as far as Shell Club was concerned, so I don't have much information to share with you. I do know that we are prepared for Workshops, Seminars and Excursions to begin, and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Marsha Prunetti - President



Editor's note: There are current vacancies for Membership Chair and Scholarship and Grants Chair. If anyone is interested in either position or if you want to ask questions, please feel free to email or telephone Marsha.

2015 SHELL SHOW CHAIR REPORT



I'm looking forward to another great MISC season! It will be fun to have everyone back and ready to participate in one of the best things happening on Marco Island! I hope you all have had a wonderful summer...full of fun and good health! As I write this little blurb, Patrick and I are on our way back to Marco after a great trip which began when we left Marco on May 1st. We cruised the ICW across the Okeechobee Waterway in Florida, up to Annapolis, MD, to the Eastern shore of the Chesapeake and are now returning South! It has been an amazing experience!

Although 2016 Shell Show is a few months off, we really do get the wheels in motion at the beginning of the season! Mark your calendars for our 3-day show - March 10, 11, 12 - 2016! We will be working on the Rules and Regs for the website - posted December 1. If you have any ideas for the categories that you would like to see happen - let me know!

Be safe in your travels back to Florida and we will see you soon!

Jae Kellogg - 2015 Shell Show Chair

Mark Your Calendars

2016 Marco Island Shell Show

March 10 - 12

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WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP



Bring your ideas and talents to the Marco Island Shell Club Workshops which start Tuesday, November 3, 2015 --- just a short, couple of weeks away. There's sure to be new projects and creative challenges designed by the talented and resourceful table leaders. Some of us will be at Workshop every Tuesday until the Shell Show March 10, 11, 12, 2016 and some of us will be there for shorter periods of time. No matter --- we need everyone working together to create Shell Art to support our Club goals and scholarships.

Organize your workshop kit, sharpen your exacto knife, pack up your glue gun and be ready to join old friends and meet new ones as we work collectively to reach our goals. The Workshop is organized as tables, each working on different types of Shell Art. The tables include: Holiday, Home Decor--Decorating, Jewelry, Critters, Flowers, Paperweights, Home Decor -- Mirrors, Wreaths, Frames. So many choices, so little time. Join your favorite table and get involved in creative projects.

If you have a new idea or have seen something interesting and creative bring it to the attention of your table leader. It would be great to have a "visiting artist" concept during workshop when Club Members demonstrate a project and lead the activity at your table.

Looking forward to catching up with current members and meeting new ones.

Wishing everyone safe travel to our island paradise.

Becky Miller / Debbie Towey — Workshop Chairs



EXCURSIONS

As your new Excursion Chair I am looking forward to an active and enjoyable season. I have been able to schedule the following for the 2015 – 2016 season:

Thursday.. 11/12.. Tigertail Beach - 8AM (low tide is 6:47). Meet in the parking lot. We will learn about live animals in the lagoon and go to the beach for shelling.

Thursday . 11/19... Naples Botanical Gardens \$14.95 per person - 9AM \$14.95 per person (pay when you arrive)

Thursday . 12/10.... Otter Mounds, 1831 Addison Court, Marco Island - 9AM. Mr. Ernest Otter created large terrace walls of large whelk shells on what was once a Calusa Indian Mound.

Friday.1/8.....South Beach (Marco Island) Shelling trip - 8:30 AM Meet at the Southbeach parking lot

Thursday.. 1/21. Florida Gulf Coast University - Tour of academic building 7 which includes the Marine Science Labs, lunch on campus, and then a tour of the Vester Marine & Environmental Science Research Field Station. Meeting time TBA.

Saturday. 1/23...Fossil Dig with Gary Smeltz, Limit 20, \$26 per person - Time TBA.

Pat Wood— Education/Excursion Chair

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



The Scholarship & Grants Committee is looking forward to another exciting shell club year, actively supporting projects for education and research.

The Board of Directors approved the committee's recommendation to support National Estuary Day in September with a grant of \$2,000 for support services and transportation from the Rookery Bay headquarters to the boat ramp on Shell Island Road. From there participants take a guided pontoon boat ride in the estuary to learn more about the

creatures living in area waters. This is always a well attended fun-filled family event which begins to generate enthusiasm and a sense of awe in young children and their parents, as it opens up a whole new world for them.

We owe a big thank you to Shell Club president Marsha Prunetti and committee member Joan Robbins who do a wonderful job on Estuary Day staffing the shell club table filled with shells and examples of area marine life. Representing the club, they chat with children and adults on the finer points of shells, shelling, and marine creatures of the 10,000 Islands. They also take the opportunity to distribute club literature regarding our activities and, most importantly, the forthcoming March shell show. Rookery Bay is very happy to provide a choice space for this station as it's one of their most popular exhibits.



Another club gift to Rookery Bay is \$2,000 for microscopes and a camera that attaches to the 'scopes. These items, used with a special projector, will allow an entire class to look at enlarged images of microscopic creatures collected in samples from surrounding waters. Since all school students in Collier County take a field trip to Rookery Bay, our gift will enhance the science and ecology education of county students in grades 3 - 7.

Paulette Carabelli just sent along this note: A very nice thing happened tonight. I was in the auditorium of the Rookery listening to a turtle report for the season just ending. At the conclusion of the meeting, Jeannine Windsor, Education Specialist, at the Rookery (full time employee) came up to me and thanked the Shell Club profusely for the camera. She is so thrilled with what it can do in the classroom and has been showing it off to teachers. She said she would be willing to come to the club and tell all how grateful she is. She just happened to be in the audience too.

Paulette

Regarding Scholarships,

The club has always supported higher education and this year is no exception! Due to a very successful shell show and the generous memorial gift of \$1,000 from the family of Mary Ciaramello, the club is continuing to support Elizabeth Salewski's doctoral research work at the University of South Florida, in the amount of \$5,000. Elizabeth will share her research news at the March, 2016 annual banquet.

A Florida Gulf Coast University graduate student will also benefit from a \$2,000 competitive research scholarship. In the next issue I will highlight the recipient and related research project.

We must also remember the club's two FGCU endowments continue to provide one \$1,100 undergraduate

tuition scholarship and one \$500 undergraduate competitive research scholarship. Details regarding the recipients will appear in subsequent columns.

In summary, due to the members' hard work and generosity of time and talent, the Marco Island Shell Club is donating \$12,600 in scholarships and grants this academic year for education and research in marine sciences in Southwest Florida!

Lastly, as of November, I'm taking on a new responsibility as the club's recording secretary. Consequently, I am leaving the scholarship and grants committee, knowing the efforts of the committee have provided many young adults with educational opportunities they otherwise might not have realized. It can also be said that research endeavors supported by the club will continue to benefit the southwest Florida region and marine sciences for many years to come.

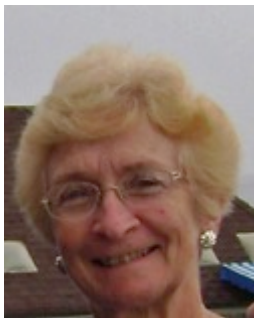
Thank you for affording me the opportunity to serve on this committee for nearly ten years. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure!

Carolyn Ginther – Scholarship & Grants Chair

Editors note: Thank you Carolyn for your colossal effort at this extremely important part of our club's activities.

If you are interesting in leading the Scholarship and Grants committee, please contact Marsha Prunetti.

SEMINARS - WEBSITE



PLEASE NOTE SEMINAR TIME CHANGE:

We will continue to meet in Disseler Hall at the United Church of Marco, 320 N. Barfield Drive, but our short business meeting will begin promptly at **6:00 p.m.**, immediately followed by the program and refreshments.

The first seminar of the 2015-2016 season will take place on **Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015** at **6:00 p.m.** Gary Lytton, former director of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, will present *Tales from the Coast: 30 Years of Adventures at Rookery Bay*. Gary studied Biology and Marine Science at Virginia Polytechnic and State University, and at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he was involved in field and laboratory studies investigating the effects of thermal effluents on fish populations in Tampa Bay. During his time at the Rookery Bay helm, the reserve grew from 9,000 acres to 110,000 acres between Naples and Marco Island.

Other seminars planned are:

- **Thursday, January 7, 2016:** Linda Shockley, full-time Marco Island resident and naturalist, will present *More of Marco's Marvelous Mollusks*, including her stunning photography of local shells. Linda's exhibits at our Shell Show have won numerous awards
- **Thursday, February 4, 2016:** Jim Cordy's topic will be *Shells of Eleuthera Island*. Jim, who resides in Merritt Island, Florida, specializes in self-collected shells of the Caribbean, and has exhibited often at our Shell Show.
- **Thursday, March 3, 2016:** Dr. Tonya Clayton will teach us *How to read a Southwest Florida Beach*.

Please check our website www.marcoshellclub.com for additional details.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Three Shell Club members were among the twenty artists selected to be part of a summer exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum--**MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS: Collier County Artists 2-D & 3-D Works**. The exhibit, which was a collaborative effort of the museum and the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts, ran from August 11 through September 19. Each artist's work featured a placard with explanations of the techniques used to create her art, and/or the inspiration for the piece or the artist's body of work.

Linda Kropp exhibited a Sailor's Valentine (her first) "inspired by the work of Jae Kellogg", and a shell flower paperweight.

Georgia Lohmeyer exhibited four pieces—two created using coiled paper strips titled *Berry Sampler* and *Herb Sampler*; and two shell flowers in shadow box frames titled *Jingle* and *Dahlia in Pink*. Georgia's placard noted that she is a Shell Club member and that "she has learned a lot about how to create shell art from this supportive and informative group."

Judy Wittwer, who "loves creating art incorporating balance, texture and colors that come from shells and other sea life", exhibited three pieces—a large mirror encircled with mussel shells, and a mermaid's clock and a musical jewelry box decorated with shells.

Editor's note: Congratulations to Linda, Georgia, and Judy.

WEBSITE

If you have not checked the Shell Club website (www.marcoshellclub.com) since last spring, I encourage you to do so. The site has been updated with a new, modern look, and additional features have been included. You will notice a tiny printer icon on most pages. When you click on it, a printer-friendly version of the page will pop up. You can also print or download information about events from the monthly calendar.

The most important change, however, is that new software is being added to the membership section and all renewals will be completed **online only** from now on. The benefit for you?? You won't need to fill in a new form every year. You will be able to login and make changes to your personal information (e-mail, address changes, etc.). The benefit for the club?? We will have an online membership database that is instantly updated, and can be utilized for email communication through the website.

IMPORTANT: This feature is not yet enabled on the website, so please **do not renew** your membership for 2016 until you are notified by email that you may do so. Detailed instructions will be provided. There will be a computer available during Tuesday morning workshops, and I will assist anyone who needs help. **NOTE:** If you are not comfortable **making a payment online** by credit card or PayPal, you will still be able to opt to **pay by check**.



Editor's note: This new view now works very well on mobile devices

Joan Robbins – Vice President/Seminar Chair/Website Chair

MEMBERSHIP



The club is in need of a Membership Chair. You could help your club immensely if you are willing to volunteer for this Chair position. Please let Marsha Prunetti know if you are interested. If you have a friend that would be willing to help you, you could hold co-chair positions and share the responsibility.

This could be you – Membership Chair

PUBLICITY



Hope you have enjoyed this first newsletter of the season. A big thanks to all who have worked during the summer to represent our club.

Please note that we have two "Chair" positions that are open. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions and help your "Club" run more smoothly.



As a special note, the Baily-Matthews Shell Museum Will Soon Celebrate its 20th Anniversary! As part of the celebrations, the Shell Museum will host events on two days in November: On Saturday, November 14, they will have a Free Day, with assorted activities offered to visitors; on Thursday, November 18 (actual anniversary date), they will be hosting an open house to members, friends, and neighbors. Keep your eyes peeled for more details on these very special dates. Feel free to visit their website www.shellmuseum.org for further details.

John Tunnell - Publicity Chair

2015-2016 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Officers

- President..... Marsha Prunetti
President Elect..... Kathy Benedik
Vice President..... Joan Robbins
Recording Secretary..... Carolyn Ginther
Corresponding Sec..... Carole Stavenas
Treasurer..... Christine Hewett

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Chairs

- Shell Show..... Jae Kellogg
Membership.....
Contact..... Carole Stavenas
Scholarship.....
Education/Excursions..... Pat Wood
Publicity..... John Tunnell
Website Joan Robbins
Seminar..... Joan Robbins
Workshop..... Becky Miller/Debbie Towey